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AMERICA AND THE CANTON CRUX

U. S. Feeling Alarmed by Report of Anti-American Sentiment Due to Customs Question

LEADERSHIP IN COERCION REPUDIATED

London, Dec. 29.

The Washington correspondent of the "Times" says that a newspaper despatch from Canton, describing rapid growth of anti-foreign sentiment in South China and indicating that it is reported to be directed chiefly against Americans, has caused some concern and has been the subject of official reference.

It is explained that the United States co-operated with the other Powers in the naval demonstration at Canton primarily for the purpose of assisting maintenance of the integrity of China. The American Government was of the opinion that Dr. Sun Yat-sen's threat to seize the Customs was a direct blow at China's credit and, if allowed, would set a seal of approval upon retention of national revenues by provincial authorities, a practice which is threatening to starve the Central Government of funds.

The policy adopted by the United States in concert with the other Powers is based on reports received from Consular and other officials on the spot and it is intimated officially that such measures will be taken as may be necessary to protect the Customs revenues from seizure either by Dr. Sun Yat-sen's forces or by whoever may secure ascendancy in Kuangtung.

The "Morning Post's" Washington correspondent says that reports from China that the Chinese are contemplating a boycott of American goods because of American participation in the naval demonstration at Canton have resulted in a cautiously worded semi-official intimation that, while the American Government favours joint action by the Powers in China to protect Treaty rights, the United States will not consent to be placed in a position of assuming the leadership in coercive measures and, if that impression is created in the Chinese mind, the United States may be compelled to adopt an independent policy.—Reuter's American Service.

Hongkong, Jan. 2.

The American destroyers have returned from Canton.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Order to Bocca Tigris Forts to Prevent Approach of Foreign Gunboats

Canton, Dec. 28.

According to the local press, two American and two British gunboats have anchored in front of the Wuchow Customs House, presumably to guard the Customs against interference.

The commandant of the Bocca Tigris forts has ordered the fort guards to prevent foreign gunboats from approaching the territory of the forts.

Up to the present no new developments have arisen regarding the Customs questions, pending a reply from the Inspector-General in Peking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Dec. 30.

With regard to the reply communicated by the Commissioner of Customs at Canton to Mr. C. C. Wu, which was from the Inspector-General of Customs and not the Diplomatic Corps, it is understood that the Inspector-General informed Dr. Sun Yat-sen that the Inspectorate-General of Customs could receive instructions from no one but the Central Government.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Jan. 3.

Sir Francis Aglen, the Inspector-General of the Chinese Maritime Customs, has received telegrams from the associated Chinese bankers and commercial bodies of Tientsin, Shanghai, Hangchow, Nanking, Nanchang, Soochow and Pengpu strongly protesting against any diversion of Customs surplus funds.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DOMESTIC LOANS AND THE SURPLUS

Chinese Businessmen Becoming Anxious over Dr. Sun's Threat to Seize

A TELEGRAM TO SIR FRANCIS AGLEN

The following has been sent us by the Shanghai Bankers' Association:—

Sir Francis Aglen,
The Inspectorate General of Maritime Customs, Peking.

We beg to state that the adequacy of security governs absolutely the free circulation of national bonds; during the year, among the various kinds of Government Domestic Loans, only the 9th year loan bonds have been recently drawn once. Fortunately, owing to the fact that these domestic loans are secured by the Customs surplus, their standing has been maintained to some extent, and the bonds still circulate in the market. Nevertheless, the failure of the Government to carry out the scheduled drawings has caused great dissatisfaction among the general public.

A large part of these domestic loan bonds now circulate in the Shanghai market to serve as security for private loans, or act as negotiable instruments. They are held both by Chinese and foreigners. Should their security be in any way endangered they would become as worthless as waste paper, with the consequence of creating great disturbance in financial and commercial circles, and the loss on occasioned will not be confined to actual bondholders. The security of the domestic loans has for some time been involved with the controversy over the settlement of unsecured

THE "NORTH-CHINA HERALD" IN NEW GUISE

Readers of the "North-China Herald" will no doubt receive something of a shock on discovering the new guise in which it appears to-day. And as mankind is in the main a conservative creature, protests against the change will not be lacking.

Many reasons, however, combine to make this change imperative. Under the old system, Saturday's news could not be included in an issue which bore Saturday's date. Often, therefore, our readers were obliged to wait a week or longer for some telegram of worldwide interest. In the new "Herald" this disadvantage will disappear, and the issue will be brought up to date, without any delay in the hour of posting to subscribers.

Secondly, on account of the increasing bulk of the "Herald" in its old form, it becomes more and more difficult to print it and bind it in one section. Till recently the "Herald" consisted of four separate sections: (1) The principal news; (2) the telegraphic supplement; (3) Municipal Gazette; (4) share supplement. All these supplements will now be included under one cover and will be bound in with the "Herald," making it a complete record instead of the partially complete one that it has been for some few years.

All this, it may be thought, might have been done without changing the size. This, however, is not the case, as we shall no longer be printing on flat bed machines. Beginning with this week the "Herald" will be printed on the same presses that now print the "North-China Daily News." These presses instead of printing from a sheet, print from the reel at a speed of about 5,000 to 6,000 copies per hour.

The increased size of the "Daily News" compelled us to instal these presses six months ago and to change the size and format of that paper. Critics of course there were by the hundred, but a referendum conducted by us among our subscribers to the "Daily News" a few weeks ago showed that 75 per cent. of them now prefer the new format to the old. We hope that that will be the case with the subscribers to the "Herald."

Finally it may be mentioned that the larger page will enable us to include pictures which were previously impossible. Not only Sapajou's clever drawings, but illustrations of the growth and many activities of Shanghai should prove attractive to old residents of the Far East and instructive to readers abroad, who never hear without amazement of the modern developments of ancient China and now will have evidence thereof before their eyes.

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THE CONTROVERSY AT CANTON

Dec 29.

THE statement of Dr. Sun at-sen which we published sterday, touching the dispute er the Customs, brings mat- s one degree nearer to an en clash. In it, after re- ewing the course of events miliar to our readers, Dr. n says definitely that

his Government (*i.e.*, the Can-) has to-day issued an order to Inspector-General (a) to re- n at Canton or other places to designated all Customs re- nues collected within the terri- y of this Government and, er providing for a proportion- e share of the funds required the service of the foreign ligations charged on the Cus- s, to pay the same as may be dered by this Government: and) to refund and make good all ears of Customs surplus pay- e to the Government here since rch, 1920,"

latter being the date when previous payment to Canton its share of the Customs sur- s ceased. And Dr. Sun adds at, if the Customs offi- ls disobey, he shall replace en by others, following this ent with the ingenious argu- t that as

reign obligations, including Boxer Indemnity, are secured the revenues and not on the ldings and other corporeal perties of the Chinese Mari- e Customs,"

can certainly be no concern the Foreign Powers what cials Dr. Sun chooses to in- l in those buildings. This tement is dated December It is curious that no news at the time of writing come ny development. A Hong- g telegram of December 24 that the French sailors had withdrawn from Shameen, news from the South has so quently proved badly mis- rmed that one must regard item with reserve. An- er message said that the sular Body at Canton had rmed Dr. Sun that they ld withdraw the gunboats as as he withdrew his threats. re apparently the matter nds.

Perhaps the most interesting t of Dr. Sun's statement— the part quoted above is but fulfilment of what he told editor of this paper that he nt to do, nearly four weeks —is his assertion that the lomatic Body in their tele- m to him of December 11, itted that

treaty right has been conferred upon them to decide for what pose the Chinese Government l use funds which at the end each year shall remain at the posal of that Government after ice of the said loans and in- nity shall have been entirely vided for."

would be discourteous, to say least, to accuse Dr. Sun of quoting, besides that it ld be very silly of him to do so at such a juncture. But it would none the less be extremely interesting to know exactly what the Diplomatic Body did say, and we think it is important that they should tell us. However, they may not care about entering on a public war of words with the agile dialecticians of the South. If Dr. Sun Yat-sen were to be successful in keeping the Customs revenues or any portion of them for his Government, his example would immediately be followed by the leaders in every province, and practically the last stable piece of the machinery of China's national finances would be blown to pieces. It is, perhaps, a weak point in the Diplomatic Body's position that payments of surplus were made to Canton in 1919 and 1920, and after their suspension would probably have been renewed (at the end of 1920) had not the American Government vetoed it. The American Government's position was that, after foreign claims had been met, the Diplomatic Body should concern itself merely with the unconditional release of the surplus to the recognized Government of China. It is a pity that this attitude was not taken from the beginning. Whether the Powers should or should not recognize Peking is another question. But if they recognize any other Government than the one, as they would be doing if they handed the Customs surplus to Canton, they must recognize all, and there would follow the break up of the Customs mentioned above. In preserving these revenues and the Customs organization intact, the Diplomatic Body are undoubtedly acting in the interest of all the Chinese people.

One other aspect of this regrettable incident must be mentioned, in view of the violent attack recently made by a northern foreign newspaper upon the Hongkong Government for the part it is supposed to have played in the controversy. How far the writer expected to improve matters by "calling names" in this manner, he does not seem to have stopped to reflect. It is patent that Hongkong would be the first to suffer by any labour outbreak in Canton and must watch the situation with anxiety. But it certainly does not follow that Hongkong would deliberately go behind the back of the Diplomatic Body to "give it away." That would be a palpable disloyalty. It cannot, however, be ignored that there is a want of liaison between Hongkong and the Diplomatic Body, which did not exist in bygone years and ought not to exist now. To what extent this derives from the fact that Hongkong is under the Colonial Office and the British Legation under the Foreign: to what, that Hongkong is a single colonial administration, while the British Minister is but one of an international posse, we do not pretend to know. But the interests of both, as being wholly bound up in the affairs of China, are so largely identical, that it is of the utmost importance that both should be guided by the fullest mutual understanding.

THE A.D.C. AND ITS CRITICS

Dec. 31.

BEFORE touching on any other points in Mr. Wilkinson's article to-day we must emphatically dissociate ourselves from his attack on the writer of "Sharps & Flats." Even if the article appeared as a letter to the editor, when the latter takes no responsibility for opinions expressed, we should feel it necessary to make this disclaimer. In the case of a contributed article we are doubly bound to do so. "Concerto" will please himself as to whether he replies: but the gist of his remarks was surely nothing more than that he thought "Madame Sherry" unworthy of the A.D.C.'s steel (it is, by the way, allegedly a musical play and "Concerto" was thus perfectly within his rights in commenting on it) and that they might get something better. The "North-China Daily News" said much the same in the first place: it thought that excellent good work was put into a rotten piece. Where the bias and malice and "spiteful mudthrowing" comes in in saying so, we fail to see. As for "Fairplay," we seem to remember that his attacks were quite as much directed at this paper as at the A.D.C. We are not at liberty to disclose his identity, but we may say that Mr. Wilkinson is quite wrong in his assumptions and we are perfectly satisfied that the warmth of "Fairplay's" letters was due to genuine enthusiasm and not to ignoble motives.

It is a pity that Mr. Wilkinson has written in this vein. It cannot but strengthen an unfortunately prevailing opinion that, say what they may to the contrary, the A.D.C. do not like criticism. In an experience of very nearly seventeen years (three more than that of our contributor to-day) the present writer can recall very few occasions when an A.D.C. has been adversely criticized that there has not been a row about it. And always the same complaint, that the criticism is "not honest," "biassed." It is perhaps, inevitable in a still comparatively small community like Shanghai, that personal motives should be looked for in every disagreement. That extends to matters far beyond amateur theatricals. But we can honestly say that never, in the experience of the present staff, has the "North-China Daily News" allowed personal considerations to influence its comments, nor has it ever, consciously, opened its correspondence columns to letters actuated by private spite. It is, of course, impossible to be sure that that feeling has never played a part in the letter-writing. But every letter containing criticism of anybody or anything is scrutinized with the utmost care. No self-respecting newspaper would knowingly allow itself to be made a tool of, still less would it stoop to personal revenge on its own account.

With regard to Mr. Wilkinson's appeal to the box office as the best critic, the A.D.C. are certainly not the only theatrical organization in the world which might use such an argument, but it would not make a bad play into a good one. We know, of course, about Wagner's relying on the people to justify him, against the critics who slated him; and the people have done so and the critics been proved wrong. But for one play of which popular approbation is the judgment of all time, there are dozens in which box office earnings mean nothing but boodle for the management. Take musical comedy for instance: anybody of fifty years of age can remember the beginnings of it and the really beautiful stuff to which the freshness of the idea formerly gave birth. Gradually that idea became "played out," the wit grew stereotyped, the music thinner, display was called in to eke out invention; and now for some years past, theatrical managers at Home have been feverishly hunting about for some new mode of amusement. There is more money to be made out of "The Three Twins" and "Madame Sherry," perhaps, in places where there are not twenty theatres nightly within reach, and they are more obviously "amusing" than, let us say, "What Every Woman Knows." But the money they earn is not a proof of intrinsic excellence; it merely suggests that the average playgoer's taste is that of Polonius, that he goes to the theatre for distraction, and having seen, promptly forgets, and looks for something new. There is no question of highbrow or non-highbrow. That we are bored by "Madame Sherry" does not mean that we can enjoy nothing but Leoncavallo; we can also revel in the barbaric revelry of Sousa; that we find Calverly more amusing than "Comic Cuts" does not forbid our enjoyment of Joss Chiderdoss.

The strongest part of Mr. Wilkinson's article is his showing of what the A.D.C. have done for Shanghai, and other places as well. Herein the warmest tributes should be paid. It is a simple fact that without the A.D.C. the theatre could not be kept going, and not only is nobody in the Club a penny the better for it, but they have to put in a great deal of work; which, though possibly enjoyable on the whole, must often interfere with things they would at the moment sooner do. Moreover, in general excellence of acting and production the standard maintained by the A.D.C. is extraordinarily high, not only relatively to their status as amateurs, but actually. More and more difficult does it become to realize that the production is not the work of professional hands. And perhaps it is this which occasions the criticism. If the work of the A.D.C. were less finished, we should all be the readier to make excuses and there would be no angry letters to the paper. It is the normally high repute of the A.D.C. which causes people to complain when their talent is expended on something that appears slightly beneath them. As Smee says of the crocodile's pursuit of Captain Hook "It's a kind of a compliment." So might the A.D.C. think of their occasionally adverse critics.

ACCORDING to a telegraphic report from Mukden, Dr. Sun Yat-sen's representatives to Moscow, Messrs. Chow Chung-ping and Chu Yih-san, have now returned to China, after four months' stay in Russia. They called upon Marshal Chang Tso-lin and reported to him their negotiations with the Soviet Government.

HOLIDAY MOODS

Jan. 1.

ONCE more Christmas has come and gone. Services have been held in the churches, and festive gatherings in the homes; children have had a glorious time; gifts and greetings have been sent to friends; salaries been raised and bonuses distributed, or will be when times are better; in the hospitals the sick and the injured have been cheered; the ricsha mission and other worthy charities have been aided financially; there is a general spirit of hearty good will and to-day we shall be wishing each other a Happy New Year. For a few days, at least, Shanghai and the world in general seem very pleasant, even though we are not ready to affirm that the world is the best of all possible worlds.

But there are many in Shanghai, especially among the elderly of foreign birth, to whom the Christmas season does not bring unalloyed joy; they take part in all the festivities and are outwardly as gay as the rest, but when alone they are more than half inclined to agree with the philosopher who said that life would be endurable if it were not for its holidays. For at Christmas, more than at any other holiday, there is a recrudescence of the feeling that out here they are exiles in a strange land, where it is almost impossible to become perfectly adapted to the environment, and they long for London or for their native place, where they will be more at home and meet none but their own people on the streets. The feeling is all the stronger if their children have been sent home to be educated. What are the holidays without them? Then there are the intruding memories of the joyous Christmases spent with the friends of their youth and of all that has happened to them since. Some have prospered; others have met with adversity. Following Thackeray in his "Ballad of Bouillabaisse", it may be said that Fred has lost all his money in rubber and other speculations; Harry went the pace with a vengeance and is down and out; goodnatured George, formerly hail fellow well met with nearly everyone, is now a hard and sardonic hermit; William is a chronic invalid; John, generous to a fault when young, has become an old Scrooge whose one aim and object is to acquire money and hold it; over James and several others the grass is growing. Somehow or other the tide which at the flood carries to fame and fortune has been missed by most of them and it is now on the ebb and no one knows how soon they must put out to sea. *Eheu fugaces, labuntur anni!* The years glide away and take our friends from us and in Shanghai, for various reasons, it is hard to make new ones. Regretful memories of the past, uncertainties concerning the future, and present troubles and difficulties all combine to put the elderly in a pensive mood at the close of the year.

If the mood be indulged in rarely and care taken not to dampen the pleasure of others, no harm is done; but there is the peril that it may become habitual and that the ranks of the pessimists who live in the past and praise the past to the

foreign debts. On many occasions, the Associations have exerted themselves to strive and maintain the Customs surplus for the service of domestic loans. Lately, news has been circulated to the effect that it will be endangered in certain ways, consequently great uneasiness has prevailed in the financial market. As you are directly responsible for the proper management and safe custody of the Customs surplus and indirectly for the payment of domestic loan bonds, we cannot but request you to fulfil your duty for the good of public trust.

In view of the uneasiness of opinion of the Associations and other bodies that the domestic loans have the prior claim on Customs surplus, Note should be allowed to appropriate it for any other use. As regards the over-dues from salt surplus and wine and tobacco taxes which should have been handed over to provide for the service of domestic loans, prompt steps should be taken so that the defaulted drawings of different loans can be made up. It is our sincere hope that you will jealously safeguard the Customs surplus and strive to maintain the standing of domestic loan bonds. You have the support of the entire public in this matter.

General Chamber of Commerce.
Shanghai Chinese Bankers Association.
Shanghai Native Bankers Association.

Shanghai, Dec. 29.

Chinese Protest Against Action of Local Bodies

The Chinese press reports that various local organizations are taking the General Chamber of Commerce, the Shanghai Bankers' Association and the Shanghai Native Bankers' Association to task for addressing their telegram to Sir Francis Aglen, Inspector General of Customs, in connexion with the use of the Customs surplus as security for domestic loans.

The organizations express their surprise at the action of the Chamber and its colleagues in sending this telegram while the Government continues to issue bonds in the absence of a legal Parliament which is the only body that can legally grant permission to do so.

"Respectable citizens," they state, "not only refuse to accept these bonds but they also oppose the circulation of all such. Now, some individuals, selfish and greedy, are uniting with an illegal government in securing the benefits from the issuance of these bonds. All such sinful persons should be punished severely up to the limits of the law, but unfortunately they are allowed to be free to circulate these bonds. The better class of people, if they do not desire openly to oppose the bonds certainly should not support them. You are doing the contrary, however, and are asking foreigners to come and support you and these bonds. What are you aiming at? How can you explain the fact that you are backing up an illegal government and illegal bonds, and the fact that you have invited foreigners to come to your assistance? There must be men with brains among you, and surely all of these do not support you in your action. This is evidenced in the affirmative by protests which have been addressed to you. . . . We trust, therefore, that you will see your way to cancelling your telegram without further delay; otherwise the people will be compelled to devise some method of treating you."

CHINA'S INDEMNITY PAYMENTS

The Waichiaopu's Argument on the 1901 Protocol: Metal or Currency: Possible Advantages of Fluctuations

Peking, Dec. 28.

The Waichiaopu sent a Note to the Ministers of the eight Powers signatory to the Protocol of 1901, last evening, of which the following is a summary:—

The Note acknowledges the receipt of the Powers' joint Notes of February 24 and November 5, 1923, and explains that the delay in answering is due to the necessity for comprehensive study and to the importance of the question involved. The two Notes in question expressed the unanimous opinion that "there is no doubt whatever that the Protocol of 1901, as well as the arrangement of 1905, provide in a manner absolutely clear and indisputable that the indemnity should be paid in gold, namely, for each Haikuan Tael due to each Power China ought to pay the sum in gold which is shown in Article VI as the equivalent of one tael.

Since the foregoing expression of opinion follows closely the language of the arrangement of 1905, the Chinese Government would have little hesitation in giving their concurrence if they felt sure of the precise meaning which the signatories attached to the phrase "in gold." Judging by the context of the arrangement of 1905 as well as Article VI of the Protocol, on which it is based, the Chinese Government are inclined to the view that the said phrase cannot be correctly constructed to mean anything but the respective gold currencies of the signatories in contrast with the Haikuan Tael, which is the silver struted to mean anything but the the indemnity is stipulated.

In other words, by gold is meant not gold metal but simply gold currency. This appears clear from Article 6 of the Protocol which, while declaring that the Haikuan Tls. 450,000,000 indemnity shall constitute a gold debt, fixes the equivalent of the tael in gold not as a certain quantity of gold metal but in the currencies of the signatory Powers issued on the basis of their respective gold standards. Examination of the available records of the discussion among the signatories which resulted in the drafting of Article VI leads to the same conclusion.

THE POWERS' CHOICE.

If there is any doubt as to what was intended to be the manner of payment, it was resolved by the arrangement of July 2, 1905, which, while declaring the indemnity a gold debt, settles definitely once and for all the precise mode of payment. It provides that: "China shall make these payments calculated on the basis set forth above which fixes the value of the Haikuan Protocol Tael in relation to the money of each country either in silver according to the price in the London market, or in gold bills, or in telegraphic transfers at the choice of each Power. China may obtain bills or telegraphic transfers as best suits her interests at any place or any bank at the lowest price, or by public tender, provided the payments in gold be made to each Power direct on the due date. It is understood that China is responsible for the exact payment of transfers and bills. Each Power in accepting the present proposals must inform the Chinese Government which of the three methods cited above is the one it chooses until the debt is extinguished."

On the same day, July 2, 1905, by separate Notes addressed to the Waiwupu, the signatories indicated their preference each for itself for one or another of the three stipulated methods of payment. The selections made were as follows:—

For telegraphic transfers in their respective currencies: Belgium, France, Great Britain, Holland, Italy and the United States.

Provisionally for payment in silver according to the price of silver in the London market (but in 1906 definitely selected payment by draft): Spain.

For telegraphic transfers sterling on London: Japan.

These selections were proposed and accepted with the express understanding that they were to remain effective "until the debt is extinguished." Ever since the conclusion of the arrangement of 1906 they have been faithfully applied to the respective countries without interruption and heretofore have given no occasion for difference of views in their application.

In the note of December 28, 1922 addressed to the Ministers of Belgium, France, Italy and Spain, to whom the notes under consideration were intended as a reply, the Chinese Government did not wish either to place a new interpretation on the language of Article VI which is made clear by the arrangement of 1905, or to propose a modification in the precise mode of payment stipulated in the said arrangement. It was, and remains, the intention of the Chinese Government to continue to make indemnity payments as heretofore, each according to their own selected method, in full conformity with Article VI as interpreted and amended by the arrangement of 1905.

AN UNACCEPTABLE VIEW.

The Chinese Government does not understand that, by the two Notes under reply, the Powers desire to propose that a radical change should be established in the mode of payment. They appear, however, to intimate that the telegraphic transfers should be so effected that the proceeds would not merely amount to the fixed sums in the respective currencies of the Powers but that they should also be gold specie or the equivalent thereof in value. If this be the view of the signatories, the Chinese Government do not feel able to accept it.

The Note then deals technically with exchange fluctuations which are constantly occurring and goes on:

"If therefore, specie is driven out of circulation by currency inflation, as in the case of francs, the money that can be so purchased must be the money obtainable on the market. Such fluctuations, unfavourable as they are for the time being, do not appear to constitute a practical ground for abandoning currency as the medium of payment and for adopting specie instead, for it would be scarcely possible to determine at what stage of fluctuations in the exchange rate currency should be abandoned in favour of specie."

The Note then argues that different application of the chosen method of payment is incompatible with the accepted practice of telegraphic transfer and also contrary to the intent and purpose of the arrangement of 1905. It recalls that no sooner had the first instalment of the indemnity been paid than difference of opinion arose with regard to the precise nature and extent of the obligation which China had assumed under Article VI. The controversy was brought about by the unexpected rise in the gold exchange rate which caused a deficit in respective sums in gold currencies though China paid the stipulated amount in Haikuan Taels.

QUESTION OF FLUCTUATIONS.

China maintained that her total obligation was expressly limited to Hk. Tls. 450,000,000, with interest at 4 per cent., in the bond she signed and delivered to the Diplomatic Body. For nearly three years the Chinese Government have declined either to sign fractional bonds in gold or to make up the deficit on account of payment in silver. It was only after the Powers had subsequently agreed definitely to fix the future mode of payment applicable "till the debt is extinguished" that China consented to sign the fractional bonds stated in their respective currencies and, in addition, to pay Tls. 8,000,000 as compensation for loss in gold exchange for the years 1902 to 1904. The result was the arrangement of 1905 and the Powers made their selections on that day. China accepted the arrangement of 1905 and with it risks fluctuation of the exchange rate monthly and yearly because the Chinese Government understood that, while they might thus incur losses, they might also at times gain thereby. The Note cites the years in which fluctuations favoured China or the Powers concerned, giving details of the principal variations during 140 months.

The Note concludes that, in view of the foregoing, the Chinese Government is of the opinion that the word "gold" in Article VI and in the arrangement of 1905 cannot reasonably be construed to mean anything other than the currencies of the signatory Powers issued on the basis of their respective gold standards and that whatever exchange prevails at present or is likely to prevail in the future, favourable or unfavourable to China as compared with the Protocol rates, it cannot be considered a valid ground for placing a new interpretation on Article VI or for proposing a radical departure from the mode of payment selected by the signatories in accordance with the said arrangement.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINESE CUSTOMS RETURNS

Comparatively Small Increase in Revenue Despite Five Per Cent. Import Tariff

Peking, Jan. 3.

The Maritime Customs revenue for 1923 totalled Haikuan Tls. 63,378,000, which at the average exchange of 3s. 5¾d. equals £11,025,100.

It will be noted that, although the effective five per cent. import tariff was being enforced for practically the whole year, the revenue increased by only Tls. 4,744,000 on the previous record collection of 1922, while as a result of the drop in the average exchange from 3s. 9d. in 1922 to 3s. 5¾d. in 1923, the gold equivalent of the 1923 collection was only £37,600 more than the collection in 1922.

All ports show increases except Hankow.

The revenue of the Native Customs under the Inspector-General amounted to Tls. 4,480,-000, equalling £779,330, an increase of Tls. 162,000 as compared with 1922.

All foreign loans and indemnities secured on the Customs, including the Reorganization Loan, have been met or fully covered.

DOMESTIC LOAN SERVICE.

Of the domestic loan obligations indirectly secured on the Customs, the service of which is under the Inspector-General, those of the 3rd, 4th and 11th years were fully met. The revenue funds, however, did not permit the service of the consolidated debt to be fully maintained. While all interest payments were punctually made according to schedule, funds have been sufficient to allow only one loan drawing during the year and redemption payments are now approximately $7,720,000 in arrear.

RETURNS OF PRINCIPAL PORTS.

The following are the Customs collections for the principal ports:—

	Total. Tls.	Increase. Tls.
Harbin	1,113,000	42,000
Antung	1,566,000	258,000
Dairen	5,690,000	232,000
Tientsin and Chinwangtao	7,263,000	218,000
Kiaochow	2,659,000	431,000 (Decrease)
Hankow	4,285,000	230,000 (Increase)
Shanghai	23,904,000	2,269,000
Swatow	1,491,000 (approx.)	149,000 ((approx.)
Canton	3,842,000	577,000
Newchwang	1,178,000	213,000

—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING'S GREAT UNPAID

Peking, Dec. 28.

A special meeting of the Cabinet is being held this afternoon to allocate funds for the various ministries before the end of the year. It is believed that no distribution will be made in favour of the staffs of organizations which have been abolished.—Reuter.

The Ministry of Finance has requested the Cabinet to take action in suppressing lotteries throughout the country, no matter in what form they are issued or under what pretentious name.

PEKING'S SEARCH FOR A PREMIER

Five-Province Peace Alliance for East China

Peking, Dec. 28.

Mr. Sun Pao-chi, being disinclined to interview the political wire-pullers or to intervene in the disputes among the military leaders, is expected to abandon his former intention to take up the Premiership, which means that the present acting Cabinet will carry on till the end of the lunar year.

It is reported on good authority that Messrs. Sun Pao-chi, Wang Ta-hsieh and Wang Chia-hsiang have issued a circular telegram to the Tuchuns and Civil Governors of Kiangsi, Kiangsu, Fukien, Anhui and Chêkiang, advising them to form a five-province alliance for preservation of peace and avoidance of strife amongst their number. It is also reported that the President has telegraphed to General Chi Hsieh-yuan instructing him to do his utmost to maintain peace in the Yangtze Valley, while the Military Council has instructed General Sun Chuang-fang to cease military activities on the Chêkiang border.

Dec. 30.

The sudden withdrawal of the Ministers of Justice and Communications and the Chief Secretary of the Presidency from the Constitutional Party, of which they were members of the Board of Directors, has aroused considerable speculation among the vernacular papers.

In this connexion, Reuter's correspondent learns that General Wu Pei-fu telegraphed to the President yesterday saying that if the Government could not suppress the Constitutional Party it should at least insist on all Government officials withdrawing from it, thus leaving Members of Parliament to control that body.

General Wu's action may reveal the influence of the Tientsin faction. If so, this is the first overt step they have taken in support of Mr. Wu Ching-lien.—

The vernacular newpapers devote considerable space to the prospect of Dr. W. W. Yen accepting nomination to the Premiership on the ground that he is the only outstanding politician likely to pass Parliament.

Dr. Yen's views in that connexion are not known owing to his absence at the Western Hills.

Mr. Wang Ko-ming has apparently arranged to tide over the New Year financially. The papers therefore do not expect a new Cabinet immediately but foresee a new Government early in 1924. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE PARLIAMENT.

Jan. 2.

A mandate issued last night fixes April 14 for the preliminary elections for the House of Representatives and May 14 for the final elections. It explains that as the term of the present Parliament expired on October 10 a new Parliament must be elected. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE FIGHTING AT CANTON

Dr. Sun's Generals at Loggerheads

Canton, Jan. 2.

The latest attempt by General Chen Chiung-ming's forces to recapture Shêklung has failed.

Mr. Jue Chock-man's forces are fighting those of General Chan Chak near Macao. Both are subordinates of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and the dispute has arisen over the collection of the taxes on the sand-fields at Chinshan.

The Customs situation is unchanged. The Cantonese believe that the British Consul-General, Sir James Jamieson, should postpone his leave of absence in order to assist in bringing about a compromise on the matter, as they consider that he is friendly to the Cantonese.

The Japanese Consul-General, Mr. Amau, becomes the Senior Consul upon Sir James Jamieson leaving.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

From all this welter of fear and hope, anger, boastfulness and deprecation, the only obvious conclusion is that the world is still in a state of most uncertain transition, with signs of a general misgiving that the much advertised new ways and new ideas are not so trustworthy as the old. Clearly that thought is very prevalent in China. The determination of the gentry of Kiangsu and Chêkiang, for the second time in a very few months, that there shall not be war between their respective leaders, is most significant, leading us to hope that the Chinese people are rousing themselves to take their magistrates to task as they have done again and again in their history when conditions become unendurable. The Republic in China and the war in Europe achieved in different ways the same paradox of producing in the same people two entirely self-contradictory characteristics. They inculcated a new sense of patriotism and the detestable doctrine of self-assertion and self-expression. The revolutionists in China must be given the credit in many instances of being inspired with a high desire to improve her position in the world; but that improvement had to be according to their own pet shibboleths and with themselves in the chief places. In Europe young men went into the unconceivable horror of the trenches with the noblest self-sacrifice and returned, for their brief spells of leave, to have a good time, marry recklessly and generally behave as if there were no to-morrow; while the girls who sang songs in darkened munition factories, while aeroplanes dropped bombs about them, developed an equal indifference for all the old restrictions. When the armistice came, patriotism cooled but self-assertion held sway. Now this phase begins to give place to the older sense of mutual responsibility, which is indeed the oldest and most unvaried lesson of history. Already England has begun to learn her lesson through the wretchedness and afflictions of the peace. For that reason, perhaps, a Labour Government is not seriously to be feared. We do not care about breaking things to pieces in England and the recent election showed convincingly that the nation will not endure speculative legislation.

By far the most interesting country in the world to watch at the present time is America. The burden of that extraordinary book "The Letters of Walter Page" was that there must be the closest community of thought and purpose between the English-speaking peoples of the world. He laboured for this and unceasingly through all his embassy in London; he lectured to President Wilson on it, during his last visit to Washington, and thereby lost the President's friendship: he found an undoubted response among thousands of his fellow-countrymen; only in Government circles did he encounter apparently total indifference to the issues involved in the world war; and whereas other nations were under the impression that President Wilson was always carefully educating the American people up to the point of entering the war, the inference from Page's book is all the other way round, that it was the people who finally pushed their officials into the arena. If this reading of Page's letters is correct, then we cannot but think that since the war, American politicians have swung back to precisely that insular view of national affairs with which he battled so hard. Telegraphic summaries are not a very accurate guide to what men say and Mr. Hoover's past record would not suggest that he could really be guilty of the peculiar heartlessness of the saying attributed to him, that he suggests that America can maintain her prosperity *in spite* of the state of Europe. But it cannot be ignored that since the war the actions of American politicians would seem to have been inspired chiefly by a desire to steer clear of the affairs of the rest of the world. Against that spirit, so contrary to the broad outlook of Walter Page, it is inevitable that the strong Puritan strain in the American character will sooner or later assert itself. There is no nation in which, among individuals, the acquisition of wealth carries with it so keen a sense of the duties of charity as the American, as witness the benefactions of the Rockefeller trust, of the Red Cross and the countless endowments of educational and philanthropic institutions. It is but a question of time before this spirit takes effect on the policy of the nation as a whole and the unequalled prosperity which has come to the United States must surely hasten that time.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

South China Pirates

As more information comes to hand, the task of dealing effectively with the pirates of south China presents an ever increasing magnitude. The pirates' organization seems to be so complete as to be the work of a master brain, and hence it is little wonder that the authorities have so far been baffled in their attempts to lay the band by their heels. As an instance of the extent to which the organizattion is brought it is mentioned that the men who not so long ago carried out the jewel robbery aboard the str. Sunning are said to have taken their operations as far north as Amoy where a steam launch has disappeared entirely. All the circumstances point to the fact that she has been made away with by the band which usually works in the Canton delta. Whether the launch will turn up at some later date, found perhaps as a derelict, or whether it will be converted into a piratical craft to assist the band in their further exploits, remains to be seen, and all that is yet known is that another instance of great daring has been added to the record of the band. The remedy lies in a forcible and effective demonstration against the village in which the pirates take refuge. In the recent case of the Hydrangea the outlaws got away into Bias Bay, just north of Mirs Bay. There they probably are still. Strong measures in this locality would have a most salutary effect on piracy all through the south.

Dirigible v. Aeroplane

The unfortunate loss of the French dirigible Dixmude is certain to revive the controversy about the correct lines of aerial development. With prophetic instinct Jules Verne started it in his "Clipper of the Clouds," and events since the War have brought it into great prominence. The frequency of accidents to aeroplanes while engaged on passenger service naturally directed attention to the great possibilities of the Zeppelin type of airship, and when the British-built R4 made her epoch-making flight across the Atlantic opinion was more and more inclined to the belief that commercially the dirigible had the most in its favour. Then, however, came a series of catastrophes to airships. There was the disaster attending the craft built in England for the U.S. Government, followed by the collapse of an Italian-built dirigible in America, and the loss of the Dixmude is but the latest of an unfortunate series. In the circumstances it will only be natural if opinion veers strongly in the other direction. So far as engines of war are concerned there can be no two opinions as to the comparative efficiency of the types. Although during the War one Zeppelin made a very prolonged cruise, as far as Arabia or Egypt, the vulnerability of these airships was very early demonstrated, and ultimately aerial attacks were practically confined to aeroplanes. Moreover, their radius of action was steadily expanding, and only the armistice saved Berlin from a first-class bombardment by Handley-Pages which would have shown at how great a distance from their base aeroplanes could operate.

India's Opposite Phases

Telegrams such as those of today surely show India as a land of irreconcilable oppositions and contrasts. On the one hand there is the Swaraj element, chauvinist in the extreme and opposed to everything British and apparently a good deal that is pure Indian: on the other side of the picture is a new feud between Indian religious sects—the Moslems and the Hindus—because of a dead pig having been found in a mosque. If anything were needed to show the general artificiality of the Swaraj movement it is the incidence of these things at one and the same time. The Moslems and Hindus of Howrah, where the mosque incident took place, have become infinitely more excited over it than over the refusal of the Swaraj leaders to accept Government office under a British Viceroy, and they obviously do so for the reason that the political opposition to the British Raj is a minor concern when placed alongside certain religious observances dear to their hearts. A study of Indian conditions shows this to have been the case all throughout the Swaraj agitation. The Sikhs, for instance, gave little thought to the question of Home Rule, but their two sects, the Akalis and the others waged a bitter contest which had its climax in the Nankana massacre. Here we see what its supporters would have us believe is a great national movement for liberty, but none of the usually accepted features attend it. Religious differences are not for a single moment sunk in pursuit of the aim, as has been the case with other countries and peoples, but they are even accentuated. And if the Swaraj leaders have so little influence, there ought to be an end to pandering to them which has largely been the policy since 1919.

French Elections

No time is being wasted in getting on with the business of the new year. Following the various changes which we expect at this juncture in the staffs and personnel of firms, comes the customary notification that the French Municipal elections are at hand, polling day being fixed for January 16. Two French members conclude their term of office on this occasion, MM. P.Le Bris and A. Tulasne, and equally two foreign members, Messrs. M. Speelman and H. J. Sheridan must present themselves to the electors should they wish to continue their service. There has been no time so far to observe the state of public interest in municipal affairs, and remembering how at times in the past whole sections of the community have displayed an utter indifference, there is every reason to keep the matter in the forefront during the next fortnight. Two years ago only about 270 people out of a total of over 1,000 electors took the trouble to poll, and previous to that, when the burning question of tramways and electric light was before the public the record attained was less than 500. Last year, however, there was a decided improvement, the number voting being in the neighbourhood of 560. It was felt at that time that candidates might come forward with expensive schemes for the Concession involving ultimate heavy increases in the rates, and a hint that if those who stood for economy were not adequately supported difficulties were certain to arise, brought the ratepayers out in such numbers. We may trust that the same healthy spirit will be shown this year, for nothing can be worse for a community than the absence of interest as has so often been seen in the past here.

Shanghai's Revenue

Among the details of Customs revenue published to-day the most important so far as we are concerned is that referring to Shanghai. The total collection of duty for 1923 amounted to Tls. 23,904,000 as against Tls. 21,600,000 in 1922, an increase of over Tls. 2,000,000. but unfortunately the figures thus given are by no means illuminative of the actual state of trade. While 1922 was a bad year, the impression is general that 1923 has been worse, and there is no doubt that the Customs revenue would have shown its real state but for the fact that the "effective five cent." tariff came into operation about the end of its first quarter. The collection for the first quarter was Tls. 5,625,000, but though this was over the quarterly average of 1922. which was Tls. 5,400,000, there were signs of a heavy falling off, and only the advent of the "effective" tariff rescued the revenue from a heavy retrograde movement. If, as some authorities do, we put the old tariff as low as two and a half per cent., its continuance would have meant a drop of millions in the duty collection, and so apparently the increased rate came none too soon to save the situation. As regards the 1922 figures it is worth while to quote Mr. H. J. Brett's remarks in his report as Commercial Counsellor where he says:—

> It is difficult to reconcile the imposing figures shown in the Customs returns with the undoubted fact that from the point of view of the merchant in China, whether foreign or native, the year was one of the worst ever experienced, and that most of the firms carrying on a general import and export business incurred losses, or, at the best, just paid expenses. The explanation usually given in reply to inquiries on this point is that a very large proportion of the goods passed through the Customs in 1922 represents cargo arrived during the previous year, but detained in bond owing to the refusal of the consignee to take delivery.

It boils down to this, that whereas the trade of 1921 saved Shanghai's revenue in 1922, the new tariff saved it in 1923.

Russia's Politics

The political situation in Russia develops slowly as yet. A couple of weeks ago the news was given out that the growing difference of opinion in Moscow had caused the formation of Centre, Right and Left Parties, and the belief then expressed that this was a sign of abandoning pure Communism is borne out by the remarks of the leader of the British trade mission which has just returned from the country. He points out that the reign of Communism is definitely at an end and that a gradual return to Capitalism may now be looked for. When in addition we learn that the followers of Lenin and Trotsky, once a pair of inseparables, are in opposing camps, we may begin to hope. The idea that Capital is fundamentally a pernicious thing and that its functions are wicked was bound to be exploded in time, especially as people begin to find how much they suffered from its absence. It has required much physical anguish to drive this home to the Russian Communists, but in other parts of the world the truth has been quicker in penetrating, possibly because of Russia's plight. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald during the General Election seized upon a very convenient opportunity to drop his anti-capitalistic ideas, and it must be admitted that he did it very adroitly indeed, in a fashion that must have given the least possible offence to the extremists of his party. If present indications are correct Russia may now be expected to emerge a sane State, largely free from the evils of both Communism and autocracy.

The Soochow Creek

In our article on the Soochow Creek in this issue reference is made to the delay which its deplorable condition is causing to shipping. It ought to be added that this and kindred effects are imposing upon Shanghai a very much higher cost of living than need be. Since Manchuria made the export of its grain to Shanghai a matter of the greatest difficulty, the flour mills here have largely worked with Canadian and American wheat, and the difficulty experienced by the mills situated on the creek is simply appalling. In ordinary circumstances the wheat would be loaded direct from the steamer into lighters and sent up the creek to the mills, arriving there within a few hours. But now days elapse before the supplies reach their destination. The mills have thus to pay heavy demurrage on either lighter or steamer or both, and even then it is matter of the greatest difficulty for them to get the grain which is nedded. This demurrage adds to the cost of the flour which the consumer buys, and there is no hope of eliminating this item. To land grain at one of the wharves, load it on carts or lorries and transport it by land would be uneconomical. These mills are having a very bad time just now, while others, doing a different kind of business, are even worse off and a few have had to shut down. In exactly the same way as with grain, market produce from the country is held up so long that its price must necessarily be inflated, and so it comes about that because of an acamedic obstinacy we and our Chinese fellow residents suffer in respect of the high cost of living.

Bullet Proof

An American gentleman, Mr. Pierpont Potter, is said to be engaged in a suit for the equivalent of £4,000, damages resulting from a bullet wound. He was a salesman engaged in selling bullet-proof waistcoats, and such was his faith in them that he put the garment on with the object of demonstrating it to a customer, allowed himself to be fired at, and as the bullet went through the armour-plating he became a casualty. Hence his action in the New York courts for damages. This bullet-proof waistcoat business is a sad one, and we hardly know whether to sympathize with Mr. Potter or not. There was a type of soldier who left England during the war and crossing the Channel had another fancy sort of waistcoat which could be inflated should he be torpedoed and sent afloat. These people were very proud of them, and no doubt some of them were useful at times, but it was a source of immense satisfaction to the common or garden soldier to cross without such precautions and feel that a similar amount of money, spent on a theatre with a decent-looking girl at his side, had been so much more profitable. The same compleat soldier would generally also have a bullet-proof waistcoat, such as the aforesaid Mr. Potter apparently tried to sell, and there was unholy joy if he got a bit of shell in the leg or the face or some other spot where waistcoats do not fit. Hence sympathy with Mr. Potter on the part of infinite numbers will certainly be small.

disparagement of the present and who therefore fail to take full advantage of its opportunities, will be increased. "The world is going to the dogs, sir; it is not at all what it was in my young days." What are we to say when this stage is reached? Sympathy is out of place. The easy optimism which says, "keep smiling", only exasperates. Browning's lines, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be," etc., true as they are, sound too much as if the world belongs to the old, which is not convincing, neither can mankind be persuaded that old age is better than youth.

O for one hour of youthful joy!
Give back my twentieth spring,
I'd rather be a bright-haired boy,
Than reign a gray-beard king.

The Chinese may think differently, for with them old age has its advantages, and the past is reverenced, unduly so, for it has done much to hinder their progress. But among Occidentals old age with its limited personal experience does not count for much in these days of rapidly advancing knowledge. As long as the world is young—and it always will be so until children cease to come into it—youth with its hopes will carry the day. The elderly are wise who range themselves with the young. In the story of the Infancy it is remarkable that outside the two families immediately concerned, and the poor shepherds who may have been of any age, those mentioned were old people—the rich and wise sages still searching for a completely satisfying philosophy of life: an old man who foresaw there would be much overturning and sorrow but was convinced that the world held a new hope and so with mind at rest was ready to depart: and a very aged widow whose heart was stirred to joy by the events she was witnessing. Evidently the hope of Christmas belongs as much to the elderly as to the young. So at the threshold of another year, we wish happiness and prosperity to our readers, young and old. The world may seem to be in a bad way at present, but progress has always been like the going out and coming in of the tide and before long there must be a great change for the better.

RUSSIANS: CHILDREN AND OTHERS

Jan. 3.

HAVING been very recently before the public in the guise of a beggar, the "North-China Daily News" hesitates to importune readers further. But it cannot refrain from calling attention to the letter from Mrs. Desnitzky-Stone, which appears on another page to-day. Directly concerned with the orphans under Mme. Dieterichs's care, it indirectly presses the mute claim of all Russian refugee children, at the time of the approaching Russian Christmas, January 7. The compassion that both cases arouse is wholly devoid of the controversial aspects which have disfigured other discussion concerning the refugees. It would be impossible to imagine an institution more free from political taint than Mme. Dieterichs's orphanage. She has collected these children as if they were lost dogs and, greatly daring, has made herself responsible for them with a bravery worthy of all admiration. What they may do in self-support they are only too anxious to do; and somehow they struggle along. It would surely be pleasant to brighten their Christmas. Even more urgent is the appeal of the Russian children who come under the notice of the Refugee Relief Advisory Committee. This Committee has a soup kitchen where meals are served to the most necessitous, but its resources are very slender. A few days ago we were told that the Committee hoped to be able to do something for Russian children when their Christmas came, but the utmost hope did not apparently go beyond giving each of them a bit of bread and an orange, in addition to the usual broth. Here again one is sure that Shanghai would like to make the children's feast a little less that of the "stony-hearted stepmother." Mme. Desnitzky-Stone's address is given with her letter: she is the channel for Mme. Dieterichs's children. For the others, any contribution sent to the Refugee Relief Advisory Committee, 5A North Soochow Road, will be greatly welcomed and well used.

Turning to the larger question of Russian refugees generally we are glad to learn that good news has been received by the Committee just mentioned from the party of forty-six Russians whom it repatriated in the latter part of October. The latest report of them is from Omsk, some already in their old homes, others well on the way thither. It is interesting to mention that one man had no intention of going to Siberia. He merely wished to take advantage of the cheap trip offered to get to Harbin; and when he found there was no means of evading the guard set over the party and that he had to go on to Manchuli, he was much upset. His father, still in Shanghai, invaded the offices of the Advisory Committee, denouncing its members in no measured terms. Later on, however, a letter came from the son, written from Irkutsk, full of praise of the manner in which he had been treated by the Soviet officials and bidding his father to tell all refugees to come back to their homes as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the refugees have no money nor has the Refugee Relief Advisory Committee. One group of about fifty men from the ill-fated Eladorado recently managed to get as far as Changchun, going viâ Dairen, whence the Chinese authorities promptly pushed them on to Manchuli. But the Japanese officials at Dairen will not allow any more Russians to go that way, without a guarantee from the Relief Committee in Shanghai, which the latter is in no position to give.

There appears no doubt that the influx of refugees is at last subsiding. Until recently they were continually arriving by rail, river and sea, and from every conceivable direction, Hankow, Hongkong and Manila as well as from the north. Partly this was due to the breaking up of the concentration camps at Kirin and Gensan, whence the refugees were pushed out to go whither they would and, it would seem, with nowhere but Shanghai where they were not moved on. These supplies appear to be coming to an end and we do not understand that there are any further refugees from Russian territory direct: indeed there are already signs of the tide setting back to Siberia from Harbin. Can nothing be done to stimulate this movement? It is to be emphasized that the entire responsibility for the Russian refugees has been in private hands. From the beginning the Consular Body's attitude has been that the refugees ought never to have come here and could not be recognized; from this the Municipal Council naturally took its cue: and, as no adequate measures were taken to prevent the Russians from coming, it was left to private charity to stop their presence from being recognized in the unpleasant form of corpses on the streets. Actual experience has shown that the Russians can, and are willing to be sent to their homes, and if official agencies were exerted to assist their movement, we are certain that public subscriptions would supplement them. The greatest credit is due to the Refugee Relief Advisory Committee for all it has done. But the trouble has been that no finality to the work was visible. Now, however, a definite solution has appeared and it is not too much to urge that the authorities who allowed the Russians to come here will exert themselves to get them out.

FIRST OFFENDERS

Jan. 4.

AT a recent meeting of London magistrates there was an interesting discussion concerning the proper punishment of youthful delinquents and those brought before courts of justice for the first time. Less than a century ago, sentences of imprisonment in these cases were very common, even for comparatively slight offences. Readers of the Christmas stories of Dickens will remember Alderman Cute, the magistrate, saving to the poor heroine in "The Chimes," "You are going to be married. You will quarrel with your husband and come to be a distressed wife. Now I give you fair warning that I have made up my mind to put distressed, wives down. So don't be brought before me. You'll have children—boys. These boys will grow up bad, of course, and run wild in the streets, without shoes and stockings. Mind, my young friend! I'll convict them summarily, every one, for I am determined to put boys without shoes and stockings down." By "putting down," he meant imprisonment. No wonder it was taken for granted in those days that the children in the slums of large cities would "grow up bad," for the poverty and depravity of their surroundings, as depicted by Dickens, were appalling. When they fell into the clutches of the law, as many of them soon did, they received little mercy. No doubt the magistrates and judges who inflicted severe sentences were just and as humane as the circumstances seemed to them to warrant, yet it must be admitted there has been a great improvement in the administration of justice since their day. Human nature is better understood: it is not incorrigibly evil. The proper object of all punishment is more clearly discerned: it should not be wholly retributive and deterrent, but disciplinary and reformative. Hence at the London meeting of magistrates it seems to have been the unanimous opinion that young offenders, speaking generally, should be placed on probation and not sent to prison.

From this conclusion few will dissent. But it does not necessarily follow that all first offenders should be placed on probation in countries where law and order are not as firmly established as in England. One of our correspondents has complained of the sentence of one month's imprisonment passed on a youth guilty of obtaining money by means of a worthless cheque. Perhaps the matter has not been considered in all its bearings. During the discussion in London, in recommending clemency in the treatment of first offenders, the phrase, "consistent with the safety of the State" was used more than once. This proviso must be the paramount consideration, not individual interests, in deciding when the severity of the law may be relaxed. "In the scheme of nature, the welfare, and even the existence, of the individual, count for nothing in comparison with the preservation of the stock; so, in social animals, the welfare and even the existence of the individual count for nothing in comparison with the preservation of the community." All offences are to be judged from this point of view. As a corollary, when the State is in peril, certain offences are punished heavily which can be lightly dealt with when the circumstances are different. During a great war, a young soldier, perhaps a mere boy, exhausted by the hardship and strain of the battlefield, falls asleep while on sentry duty. He is sentenced to death. The sentence is merciless, but grim necessity demands the sacrifice in the interests of the army and the nation. So it is that at different times and places, forgery, the passing of base money, horse-stealing, sheep-stealing, have been capital offences, because these acts were deemed dangerous to the welfare of the community. Apply this to the case cited by our correspondent. Shanghai is a business community and the offences it can least condone are those which render business difficult or impossible, such as forgery, theft, fraudulent statements, and so forth. Moreover, offences of this kind on a larger scale, such as graft, robbery, misappropriation of public funds, bribery, and official "squeezing," are ruining China. Foreigners friendly to her should advocate the stern punishment of this class of offences, whether the culprits be high or low, rich or poor. Probably nearly all business men in Shanghai, foreign and Chinese, will agree that a month's imprisonment for passing a worthless cheque is not a severe sentence.

At the same time, there are many Chinese guilty of petty or minor offences, who could be wisely punished otherwise than by imprisonment. In England there are certain offences still punishable with the "cat" or lash. In Chinese yamêns many petty offenders are beaten. Why not try corporal chastisement more freely in Shanghai for small offenders? Some years ago at a foreign summer resort in China the Chinese magistrate kept good order by the use of the bamboo. Some good people objected to corporal punishment and the magistrate abandoned it. Later, the same good people came to him complaining of the increased thieving and gambling. "What am I to do?" said the harassed official. "You will not allow me to use the most effective remedy; to fine or send these offenders to prison will do no good." To quote a very old saying, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." In mental and moral development many of the Chinese are children, and should be treated accordingly. This principle is of wide application. In Lord Macartney's journey to Jehol the cook was bamboo'd by the mandarin in charge because the meat was tainted. We dare not suggest that in many a household an occasional beating of the cook, "boy," and other servants when they were bad and excessively troublesome would clear the moral atmosphere; but distracted and tired housekeepers would probably welcome it. Lastly, as criminals are made not born, it is far better to try to remove the poverty, depravity and ignorance which lead the young into criminal ways—tremendous and baffling as the task may be in Chinese cities—than to wait until a crime has been committed and then deplore the punishment.

THE WORLD LOOKING TO THE NEW YEAR

Jan. 5.

ANY philosopher could moralize on the New Year anticipations of the different countries as revealed in our telegrams a couple of days ago, but he would find it hard to extract a satisfactory moral therefrom. Berlin riots uproariously: for foreigners her festivities are too costly, but the Berliners seem to have plenty of money to spend. Can the moral be that it pays best not to pay one's debts? Meanwhile Paris announces that the situation in the Ruhr is so much improved that General Degoutte has been able to reduce the army of occupation and France has leisure to arrange an alliance with Czecho-Slovakia, which greatly perturbs the chancelleries of Europe. Are we to infer that a policy of "force force to the uttermost" triumphs in the long run? Certainly Ireland's case seems to indicate as much. A little while ago she had twelve thousand prisoners, mostly hunger-striking. They dropped this device because it made no impression on their gaolers and now there are but two thousand prisoners, and gunmen have put away their guns, and Free State ministers go about unguarded. America reports a state of unparalleled wealth. Russia begins to lift her head again: the end of the nightmare of Communism appears in sight. The Indian Nationalist Council inflicts a smart snub on Swaraj, implying that even the Babu begins to learn a little sense. Only from England comes a humbler tone. The days are dark, the past year's financial record is not encouraging; but still the King is confident "that, with God's help, the British, true to their great traditions, will face the outcome of the difficulties which are still confronting us at the close of a decade which, though memorable in glorious achievement, has been beset by much trial and suffering."

KIANGSU-CHEKIANG SITUATION

War Rumours Said by Wu Pei-fu To Be Exaggerated: Vigorous Denials All Round

According to the *"Sinwanpao"* a number of leading Kiangsu gentry have telegraphed to Marshal Tuan Chi-jui, the Anfu leader, urging him to mediate between Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan, Military Governor of Kiangsu and High Military Inspecting Commissioner of Kiangsi, Kiangsu and Anhui, and Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang, Director-General for the Reorganization of Military Affairs in Chêkiang.

The "Shanghai Journal of Commerce" reports that Marshal Wu Pei-fu, the Loyang warlord, in an interview, stated that the Kiangsu-Chêkiang situation was greatly exaggerated and had arisen because of the spread of rumours. He says, "I and Gen. Lu are connected with each other: he is my teacher, and I will not begin war on him. Without my permission, Gen. Sun Chuan-fang (Tuli of Fukien) will not dare to start warfare against Chêkiang." The "Journal," in summing up this statement, says, "So far as Marshal Wu is concerned, there will be no fighting in east China; if there is, it will be due entirely to Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan, of Kiangsu, as neither Wu nor President Tsao Kun desires fighting."

Gen. Lu and Gen. Chang Tsai-yang, Civil Governor of Chêkiang, have issued a telegram stating that they will not fight with other provinces unless they are first attacked and then they will naturally have to defend themselves.

MARSHAL CHI'S DENIALS.

In an interview with Mr. Sheng Chu-shu, manager of the Bank of Communications in Shanghai, and Mr. Sze Liang-zay, general manager of the *"Shun-pao."* Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan is reported by the "Kuo Wen News Agency" to have made the following (translated) statements:

When the proposed treaty between this province and Chêkiang was first shown to me, I could easily have declined to sign it, but I did not. Instead I personally added a paragraph which showed my desire for peace. This was that the treaty should be published and copies handed to the Consuls. If I did not desire peace I would not have added this paragraph. Then there is talk of my instigating Kiangsi and Anhui to attack Chêkiang and cause that province to suffer. This is a lie. I have no desire nor right to interfere with peace in this part of the country. If I could influence Anhui and Kiangsi after they signed the peace agreement, surely I could have influenced them long ago, so that they would not have entered into treaties of peace with Chêkiang. Really, I did my best to make my colleagues in Anhui and Kiangsi sign these treaties. So everybody will see immediately that statements to the contrary are lies and are without foundation. I have repeatedly announced my intentions and attitude towards Chêkiang, and now I once more sincerely tell you that, since the treaty, there has been no ground for warfare between Kiangsu and Chêkiang and it cannot and must not be brought about. I emphasize this—Kiangsu troops shall not cross their borders by a single step. If you do not believe me, you can ask the people of the two provinces from time to time to investigate and report to you. If there is warfare, from whence will the warfare come? Everybody will see. There will be Chinese and foreign criticisms. Then, as to the statements that I am stirring up Kiangsi and Anhui against Chêkiang. Do you think this is true? Do you think that I am such a coward as to allow others to do my fighting when I hide in the background? Do you think that I would start fighting in this manner? Is such the action of a Chun-tz (great man)? Do you think that I have fallen so low as this? To avoid these troubles and misunderstandings, there should be a general disbandment of troops. Gen. Sun Chuan-fang says that there will be no fighting so far as he in concerned. He has telegraphed to the Red Cross Society stating that there is no need for their services as he is only suppressing the bandits. Kiangsi and Anhui have their peace treaties with Chêkiang and there will be no fighting in this direction. So far as I am concerned I have given you my word of honour that I will not start warfare against Chêkiang. I will do my utmost to maintain peace and order. I will preserve my jurisdiction. Thus I think that everybody will be doing a great service if they will disband their useless troops that are maintained for causing internal friction and misunderstanding. Let the people of the two provinces investigate to see whether this is carried out, to see who is sincere and who is not. You can convey my words to Gen. Lu or his representatives. I will not retract my statements.

Gen. Sun Chuan-fang is reported by the "Eastern Times" to have instructed his agent in Shanghai to purchase 13,000 bags of rice, 30,000 bags of flour, 4,000 bags of horse food, 200 rice boilers, etc.

The Sungkiang Residents' Association is reported by the Chinese press to be establishing a volunteer force for self protection.

Earnest Assurances to Sir Robert Ho Tung from Tuchuns of

In view of the uneasiness created throughout this section of China by rumours of inter-provincial friction Sir Robert Ho Tung recently addressed communications to the military leaders of the three provinces concerned, Kiangsu, Chêkiang and observing the recently concluded pact. Re-assuring replies have now been received from all the commanders concerned. Below will be found Sir Robert Ho Tung's original telegram and the replies:—

SIR R. HO TUNG'S QUERY.

Telegram sent on December 24, 1923, by Sir Robert Ho Hung to

Tuchun Chi Shieh-yuan, Nanking,

Tupan Lu Yung-hsiang, Hangchow,

Tuli Sun Chuan-fang, Foochow.

Sometime ago I respectfully acknowledged the receipt of your letter signifying your full approval of my Peace Campaign. Besides my personal gratitude, the people of the Southeastern provinces infinitely appreciate your benevolent action to avert the disaster of war.

Newspapers here recently published reports regarding the appearance of Fukien troops on the border of Chêkiang, invalidating the peace pact between Kiangsu and Chêkiang. I believe you cannot possibly adopt any policy that is opposed to the declaration contained in your letter. I feel confident that the consideration of your grave responsibility and your sacred pledge will prevent any inconsistent action. Mindful of your past courtesies I presume to send you this telegram, requesting you to be good enough to reveal the real aspects of the situation in order to check the circulation of the alarming rumours. Your reassuring reply is eagerly awaited.

(signed) Ho TUNG.

SELF-PROTECTION IN CHEKIANG.

The following is the reply from General Lu Yung-hsiang of Chêkiang to Sir Robert Ho Tung.

Your telegram of December 24 noted. Chêkiang faithfully abides by the peace pact and concentrates its attention in preserving order and pacifying the people. Resolute and unrelaxed efforts will be made to maintain this policy consistently. I have also seen rumours published in the newspapers. Chêkiang cannot assume any responsibility for the appearance of Fukien troops within its border. The public are fully aware of the party actually responsible for pushing the belligerent preparations in Kiangsu and Chêkiang. The main fact to be borne in mind is that Chêkiang is confining its efforts to measures of self-protection and is therefore obliged to take steps to ensure its own defence. I am absolutely unwilling to infringe the terms of the peace pact. I have the honour to telegraph this sincere statement to you for your information.

(signed) LU YUNG-HSIANG.

Dec. 28, 1923.

NANKING'S PEACEFUL INTENT.

The following came from General Chi Shieh-yuan of Kiangsu:—

Your telegram of December 24 noted. During the past few months the Kiangsu province did not despatch even one soldier for offensive action. Our military force has not been increased by recruiting a single battalion or a regiment. The talk of belligerent preparations entirely lacks foundation. I hope this reply will ease your anxieties.

(signed) CHI SHIEH-YUAN.

Dec. 28, 1923.

BRIGANDAGE IN FUKIEN.

The reply from General Sun Chuan-fang of Fukien is as follows:—

Sir Robert Ho Tung.—Your telegram of December 24 noted. Owing to a recent outbreak of brigandage which is disturbing northern Fukien troops have been sent lately to effect its suppression, and this will be accomplished very soon. The report that Fukien troops have taken the offensive on Chêkiang territory is a fabricated rumour from irresponsible sources. I am advocating peace in great earnest, and will not relax my efforts. I appreciate your kind inquiries. Reply respectfully submitted.

(signed) SUN CHUAN-FANG.

Dec. 27, 1923.

DELICATE SITUATION ON CHEKIANG BORDER

Sun Chuan-fang's Contemplated Invasion Halted for Negotiations with Peking

Peking, Dec. 29.

According to various reports reaching Peking, General Sun Chuan-fang's forces are now mainly stationed on the Chêkiang border. General Sun is reported to have asked the Central Government for authority to enter Chêkiang. The only way in which the Government could comply with this request would be to appoint him Inspector-General of Fukien and Chêkiang, but as this would probably precipitate war in Chêkiang the Government has not complied. General Sun's position is now, however, that he must either cross the border or order his men to retreat, a contingency for which he has not prepared.

The main factors in Fukien are said to be General Sun Chuan-fang, who wishes o subjugate Chêkiang; General Wang Yin-chang, who is keenly supporting General Sun Chuan-fang's plans to enter Chêkiang, as the former wants control in Fukien; General Tsang Chi-ping, representative of General Lu Yung-hsiang; and General Chou Yin-jen. Generals Chang, Wang and Chou are nominally supporters of the Chihli Party, while General Tsang is an Anfuite. General Tsang was recalled from Amoy a month ago by General Lu Yung-hsiang, but he has since returned to Amoy.

The position, therefore, is that the Central Government must decide whether or not to support General Sun in his ambitions to conquer Chêkiang. With recognition of some sort from the Central Government it is said to be unlikely that General Sun will actually cross the Chêkiang border.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Proposed Surtax on Cotton

Peking, Dec. 31.

The Shuiwuchu has referred to the Cabinet the request of the Shanghai cotton traders for a surtax on the export of cotton, to serve as the basis of a loan to help the cotton interests at Shanghai. It is not likely that the Cabinet will give a ruling for some time.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING, Dec. 30.—General Sun Chuan-fang's representative, General Chi Ching-shih, arrived in Peking and interviewed the President yesterday in order to inform him regarding the actual situation in reference to Fukien and Chêkiang. After hearing General Chi's report, President Tsao emphasized that the Government desired the preservation of peace in the Yangtsze Valley.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

RAILWAY STATIONS AND BANDITS

Several Attacked by Robbers in Honan: Officials Disarmed and Powerless

From Our Own Correspondent.

Huaiking, Ho., Dec. 28, 1923.

The weather has been very mild this autumn. However, on Wednesday evening there was a light fall of snow. Moisture is very much needed for the dry dusty roads and autumn sown wheat fields. The recent snow fall was welcome and quite in keeping with the Xmas Season, and we hope that a heavy snow fall will come soon, to moisten well the dusty fields and highways. Meanwhile, the bandits are very active.

On the night of the 27th. a band of 10 or more local robbers attacked and robbed the Chinghua Station of the Tao-ching Railway. The station agent was rather roughly handled. He received a few body wounds but was not shot. The robbers made off with as much silver and copper as they could find after a careful search and smashing open all boxes and drawers containing such valuables. Chinghua police and railway station guards were conspicuous by their absence. Inasmuch as this is the third robbery at Chinghua station during the past fortnight it would seem that the police or local soldiers or station guards do not consider it their duty to be present at such times to interfere with the plans of local bad characters and robbers. On the former occasions it was the Fuchung coal yard that suffered and a little later the Oil Co. was robbed. In each case a good deal of coin was carried off.

Another station on the Taoching Railway was robbed about a week ago. Siuwu station some 80 li further along the line from Chinghua, was attacked and the robbers were unfortunately, either by arrangement or otherwise, left to carry on as they pleased. They treated the station agent roughly and secured what coin they could and departed.

For the robbers more especially than other people generally can it be said that this Xmas time is a time of Peace? Unless something is done soon to disturb their minds and prevent them from carrying out their plans without resistance there is no telling how speedily their numbers will increase and robberies of much larger proportions will be committed.

As reported earlier this year nearly all the soldiers were withdrawn from the Huaiking Military Yamen. Then, later, followed the withdrawal of some three quarters of all good useful rifles, in use by the local soldiers and police. So the present state of affairs gives reason for alarm, not because the local officials are not trying to cope with the situation but because they are left with neither men or rifles sufficient to deal with well armed robbers.

MISSIONARY MURDERED

Crime Attributed to Disbanded Soldiers

We have been informed that a cable has been received in Shanghai from the Vicariat in Suiyuen to the effect that the Rev. Achille Soenen has been shot and killed in his residence (probably) at Hokiao, which was also despoiled and plundered. The Rev. Joseph Leemans, his companion, is reported to have escaped. R. P. Van Lanschoot, the procureur at Suiyuen, is of the opinion that the murder was committed by disbanded soldiery.

The Rev. Soenen was born at Poelcapelle, West. Flanders, Belgium on April, 5, 1886. He was ordained on July 25, 1914 and came to China the following year in the month of August, when he went directly to his chosen field. He was particularly interested in evangelizing the district of Paotow and for the sake of carrying on his work had two residences, one at Hokiao and the other at Satsy—the former the most important. Paotow is the terminus of the Kingsui Railway (extension).

THE BANDIT OUTRAGE IN HUPEH

Capture of American Missionaries at Tsaoyang: Protest to Waichiaopu

Hankow, Dec. 30.

A telegram from the Siangyang correspondent of the "Central China Post" reports that bandits have captured Tsaoyang, Hupeh, and that Mr. and Mrs. Hoff have been wounded and Mrs. Kilen taken prisoner. The bandits are proceeding to Tungpeh.

A further telegram from Suichow states that three missionaries have been killed by the notorious bandit chief Lao Yang-ren.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Dec. 31.

Regarding the bandit outrage at Tsaoyang in Hupeh, information reaching the American Legation from the American Consul at Hankow is that the city was captured by bandits under the leadership of Lao Yang-jen and that an American missionary lady, Mrs. Juline Kilen, was taken prisoner, while two others, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Hoff, were wounded, but escaped. All belong to the American Lutheran Mission, which comprises seven foreigners. The date of the outrage is not given.

This occurrence is rendered more heinous by the fact that some little time ago Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan had warned missionaries in this neighbourhood of the danger of brigands operating in the neighbourhood and accordingly all the missionaries took refuge on junks and were ready to flee at a moment's notice. Subsequently Marshal Hsiao addressed a communication to the American Consul-General at Hankow advising that the brigands had been suppressed and the missionaries could return safely to their respective stations. This they did, with the result reported.

A DEMAND FOR PROTECTION.

Mr Edward Bell, in charge of the affairs of the American Legation, this morning called on Dr Wellington Koo at the Waichiaopu and lodged a strong protest, pointing out that the missionaries at Tsaoyang, relying upon the assurance of Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan, had returned to their stations, calling upon the Chinese Government to take immediate steps to secure the release of the lady missionary, and demanding that protection be accorded to the other Americans in the locality.

Later.

The American Legation this morning lodged a protest with the Waichiaopu in connexion with the capture of an American missionary at Tsaoyang, pointing out that the missionaries in that locality left their stations on receipt of warning that bandits were operating in the neighbourhood, but returned to the stations after receiving an assurance from General Hsiao Yao-nan that the bandits had been suppressed. The American Legation called on the Chinese Government to take immediate steps to secure the release of the lady missionary and demanded protection for the other Americans in that locality.

According to telegrams from Hinking, Fengtien, about 150 bandits appeared at Mouchi on the 25th instant and completely looted that village. The loss is reported to be very great. Mouchi is situated between Hinking and Hushung.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Hankow, Jan. 2.

A Chinese official telegram states that Mr. and Mrs. Hoff, the American missionaries who were wounded by bandits at Tsaoyang, Hupeh, are in hospital at Siangyang. There is no news of Mrs. Kilen, who was reported to have been taken prisoner.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

Sir Robert Ho Tung's Visit to Wu Pei-fu.: Expectations of Ultimate Success

From a Correspondent

In view of Sir Robert Ho Tung's early return to Hongkong, it may not be out of place to make a brief reference to his recent effort to bring the Round Table Conference to a reality, when he visited Loyang and endeavoured to gain the agreement of Marshal Wu Pei-fu to attend the Conference.

The impression has obtained in some quarters that Sir Robert's mission was a failure. A failure it was not, and certainly no other man has come nearer to bringing a realization of the country's position and the necessity for peace to Marshal Wu Pei-fu, than has Sir Robert Ho Tung; and the time may yet come when the Loyang chief will himself be the first to invite Sir Robert to convene the Round Table Conference.

Perhaps few people will realize what it has meant, this going afield, this "stumping the country," by Sir Robert Ho Tung in the prosecution of his peace plans. Sir Robert had realized that the best course to inspire confidence in his project would be for him to go in person to interview each leader in turn instead of communicating with them from Shanghai, provided they were ready to discuss the matter with him; and although far from being in the best of health and no longer a young man (Sir Robert is 62 years of age), he unhesitatingly embarked on the arduous enterprise. Sir Robert may well be termed an ambassador of peace. Everywhere he has been received with the courtesy and consideration due both to his name and to the noble mission, though unofficial, on which he is engaged. One result of his recent trip and what has counted for greatest gain, is that he has met the most influential Chinese, apart from the official, and they have been in every case deeply impressed by his personality and absolute sincerity.

Sir Robert is returning to Hongkong because personal interests and affairs, so long neglected, require his presence there; and as one of the Associate Commissioners from the Colony to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, he has already booked his passage for London, expecting to leave Hongkong about the middle of February.

Sir Robert leaves China with ardour undiminished and a fine optimism as to the final success of his Conference scheme. He has opened a path through many obstacles, and will return to supervise the construction of the permanent way to peace. If a full measure of success does not ultimately crown Sir Robert Ho Tung's efforts, if events shape their course by some other channel (and one can never be sure of anything in China), there will always remain the ineffaceable record and personal satisfaction that he did his best in a task, viewed as hopeless and thankless from the very outset by 99 persons out of every hundred, to which he gave of his health and time and money.

Sir R. Jones in Hongkong

Hongkong, Jan. 1.

Sir Roderick Jones, Chairman of Reuter's, arrived here this morning. Captain Neville, the Aide-de-Camp to the Governor, went on board the steamer with an invitation from the Governor to Sir Roderick to stay at Government House.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NORTHERN TROOPS IN SZECHUAN

French Motor Launch Fired on: City Looted and Rich Man Kidnapped

From Our Own Correspondent.

Fowchow, Sze, Dec. 10.

Once again we belong to the North in this great struggle for supremacy. This is the ninth time that we have changed masters in this city during as many months, and just as many pontoon bridges have been floated and then cut loose. For the past six weeks we have had one of Cheo Shi-chen's men here, Mao Lü-chang. On the morning of the 8th, General Yang-seng's troops arrived on the east side of the little river. Rifle fire commenced at once. After dinner he put over a half dozen shells just to let us know that he was there. One of them fell in the street just behind our Middle School where we are living.

Next morning at daybreak there was a fierce bombardment but they were not able to make the crossing. There was desultory firing all day. During the afternoon a little steamer or motor launch went up the river flying the French flag. She was a target for the first army but, judging by the number of shots which struck the water, was too small for them to hit. At just midnight the second army launched a fierce fusilade and crossed over. At the same time random firing was heard all over the city and the doors were requested to be opened while these fellows appropriated some things for the journey. They banged at our door for a long time but it held against all persuasion to break it in. During the which morning General Yang-seng's troops followed up the others as fast as they could go. The road leading to Lanchuan was blue with them. They certainly are not short of men or ammunition. We are hopeful that this will end the warfare here for a few months at least. Judging from the rapid passage of these fellows through this city they should soon have the enemy stranded in Thibet.

The shops closed a few days before the departure of the first army as the soldiers were trying to force military notes on the people. Early one morning last week the robbers captured a rich man who lives in the suburb here, by going to his door and telling him that a certain military official wanted to see him. He responded and they hustled him down to the river, put him in a little boat and went off with him.

LEPERS OF HANGCHOW

A Seasonable Treat for the Unfortunates

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hangchow, Dec. 31.

On Saturday through the kindness of friends sending us money we were able to give the lepers a real treat. They each got a bowl of pork, which they love immensely, and on Saturday they had what the Chinese call a "Dong Loh We" a "Rejoice together meeting," at which several hundreds were present on Pine Avenue Hill. Quite a number of foreigners were there to rejoice with the lepers.

Dr. Tsong was in the chair, and Dr. Main gave the opening address of welcome, after which Pastor Swen prayed. Vong Pao, the little blind girl, read the lesson, by reading part of the 2nd chapter of St. Luke, referring to Christmas, from memory. One of the college boys sang a Christmas Carol, and some of the lepers, men and women, sang very sweetly in Chinese "Oh, come all ye faithful." The next performance was by two of the girls in the Fresh Air Home. It was a very clever little dialogue between master and pupil, representing the ancient and modern forms of learning in China. Tsu Me who has a tubercular hip and teaches blind girls, was dressed as an old fashioned school master and was very amusing. Kyin Hsiao-tsi, a girl with weak lungs, was dressed as a modern school boy, and acted her part exceedingly well. A patient from the Fresh Air Home sang "Bubbles in the Air" in English. This was followed by a ventriloquist, pedlars selling their wares, and Tsau selling his birthright for a mess of potage. Then came a monkey performance, the monkey being a little leper boy, and several other pieces by the lepers themselves, and at the end of it all a little present of ham, peanuts and cakes was presented to each. They were as happy as could be, and greatly pleased with their own performances, which very much delighted the audience, some of whom had come a long distance to be present.

The place was nicely decorated, and many thanks are due to Dr. Wang, the doctor in charge, who superintended all, and spent a lot of time in training the lepers to do their little bit.

To the friends who enabled us to get up the entertainment we owe a debt of gratitude, and I am sure if they had been present and saw what we saw they would have felt that their money was well spent. Next year we hope we shall again have the privilege of of being their almoners. It surely is worth while giving the poor lepers a real treat once a year. They have so few pleasures in this life. They cannot go where others go, and are out off from many privileges which we enjoy, so it is rather nice that others should go to them and rejoice with them in the open air, where the entertainment was held.

THE C. M. S. HOSPITAL.

The C.M.S. Hospital had its "Dong Loh We" on Friday night in the lecture hall, and the talent manifested in every part of the entertainment quite took our breath away. We had no idea that there was such latent talent among students and nurses of the hospital. It was surely an eye-opener to some of us, and all who were present thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially the patients.

BIG OPIUM SEIZURE IN PEKING

Jehol Militarist Implicated by Culprit's Confession: An Enormous Trade

Peking, Dec. 31.

The International Anti-Opium Association states on the authority of a reliable report that a soldier happened to pass Hsi-chih-mên on December 21 with a bag on his shoulder which aroused the suspicion of an inspector of the Hai-chih-mên Customs Branch Bureau. Accordingly inspection was made, with the result that 528 oz. of opium were found in his bag.

The smuggler was taken to the inspecting office, where he stated that he is named Li Hung-cheng, one of the guards of a Jehol Militarist. Further he alleged that this militarist bought more than 80,000 oz. of opium in Jehol districts and has repeatedly sent his men conveying some of his opium into Peking.

Unfortunately for the militarist, a lot of this contraband was seized when it arrived in Peking, so for this reason the militarist hesitated for the time being to send any more, and decided to wait for a better chance when he thought the police or inspector's attention would be given to other things rather than his opium. Recently he has begun again to send his men to sell his opium in Peking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BISHOP Gennare of Hankow died on December 26 at his residence there of heart trouble after a long illness. Bishop Gennare came to China in 1891.

BANDITS' GRIM REMINDER

Young Man's Severed Ear Sent to Father: Chinese "Gordon" Wanted

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingkiangpu, Ku., Dec. 24.

After reporting a quiet autumn in this section I am sorry to report that the bandits are again very active and the Chinese in the north country say they are expecting worse things to follow. The writer has just admitted to the hospital three patients who had fallen into the hands of bandits; two of them were shot and got away, the third, a young man 20 years of age, was carried away and a ransom of $1,000 demanded for his life. This his father promised to give, selling almost every foot of land that he possessed. The money was to be paid on a certain date but the father was delayed in getting the payments and was a day or two late. The bandits then cut off one ear of his son and sent it in to him. The following day the money was turned over and a few days later he received his son. He immediately brought him here and the writer found the entire ear and a large section of skin from the side of the head gone. Skin flaps from the arm may make a fairly presentable "ear" later on.

There is another patient—a woman—here now who was shot in the leg by bandits. Her daughter and the latter's baby were carried off at the same time. A few days after she arrived, her daughter put in an appearance, having run off from the bandits but she has heard nothing of her child.

FOREIGN TROOPS WANTED.

How one wishes for a regiment of good foreign troops to come in and "clean things up" and yet, how powerless they would be; the bandits would vanish, or melt into the general population in a night. A Chinese Gordon, some aggressive foreigner, who could and would train a loyal force, could clean up this country and keep it clean. Who wants the job?

The local hospital is passing through the busiest period of its history for this time of the year. For months we have been filled to overflowing, and daily we are turning away patients for lack of room. Even now in the cold weather over 100 patients are being treated in the clinic daily.

A SOLDIER PREACHER.

Yesterday the local Presbyterian Sunday School inaugurated a new plan. For three months they had been studying the missionary activities of the early church. Yesterday afternoon the entire Sunday School, over 200 strong, divided into various bands and went through the entire city and surrounding country preaching the Gospel. It was an inspiring sight and the bright, happy faces of the Chinese as they came in last night made one realize how much they need the responsibility of telling the Gospel to others. The writer heard one man, a soldier in the local forces here preaching outside of the South gate, and the message that he had and the earnestness he showed in giving it made one's heart very happy. He has no connexion with the mission or foreigners, simply being a member of the local church, but from many sources we hear that he is daily living and preaching Jesus Christ to his companions. God is still choosing and using the foolish, the weak, the base, and the despised to confound the wise, and strong, the mighty and the noble.

PEKING AND MUKDEN NEGOTIATIONS

Peking, Dec. 31.

Gen. Chang Ching-huai arrived in Peking from Mukden on December 29 with the avowed intention of attempting to bring about a reconciliation between Peking and Mukden. Gen. Chang was entertained yesterday by Gen. Wang Huai-ching and some members of the Cabinet, and it is understood that he will return to Mukden shortly to lay a plan before Marshal Chang Tso-lin. As Gen. Chang Ching-huai no longer possesses the full confidence of the Fengtien Party, his plans have no connexion with the recent conference at Mukden.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Unpaid Diplomats Abroad

Peking, Dec. 31.

It is reported that $5,000,000 worth of treasury bonds have been floated by a foreign firm and that 70 per cent. of salaries and expenses of Legations and Consulates abroad are being remitted to-day by telegraphic transfer.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Chinese in Vladivostok

Peking, Dec. 31.

Mr. Fan Chi-kuang, Chinese Consul-General at Vladivostok, has requested the Government's permission to return to Peking and make a personal report regarding the condition of Chinese residents at that port.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE TRADE IN SMUGGLED MORPHIA

Immense Consignment Seized: Urgent Appeal that Switzerland Will Join the League of Nations Convention and Thus Checkmate the Smugglers

Peking, Dec. 28.

The International Anti-Opium Association issues the following:—

On November 14, 1923, at Shanghai, the Customs authorities seized on board the str. Atsuta Maru 500 pounds of morphia, which had been shipped from Marseilles by Veron Grauer & Co., transport agents for Jacky Maeder & Co., of Basle, Switzerland.

Switzerland is the only European nation which has not ratified the Hague Convention and consequently has a free hand to indulge the get-rich-quick instincts of her merchants.

According to the consignment labels this consignment reached Marseilles on October 23, and presumably was put on board the Atsuta Maru a little earlier than a similar consignment of 500 pounds of morphia from Basle which was seized in Marseilles on November 4. A Japanese named Miyagawa (of a firm of that name in Kobe) who was conducting these operations, was advised by the Basle firm to get out of the country after this last seizure, but being the head of a well known smuggling gang he was arrested in London and is now doing three years in gaol. It is more than a suggestion that he got clear with one consignment of 500 pounds, only for it to be seized in Shanghai. The loss of a thousand pounds of morphia valued at almost $200,000 must be somewhat of a jar to the combine.

Switzerland not having ratified the Hague Convention has not supplied statistics of her narcotic imports, exports or manufacture to the League of Nations, but her traffic must be very extensive. A thousand pounds of morphia is shown above, and in the London trial the prosecuting counsel referred to £37,000 worth of heroin which the Miyagawa gang had succeeded in exporting through Hamburg in October.

Is it not time that some form of pressure be brought to bear on Switzerland to secure her ratification of the Convention in order to throw the responsibility of future narcotic traffic upon her Government, and not leave it as at present in the hands of her merchants?—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE ATTACK ON THE PRINCE REGENT

Resignation of Viscount Goto: Accused of Socialistic Tendencies

Tokio, Dec. 27.

The Regent's assailant proves to be Daisuke Namba, a 25-year old student of Waseda University, whose circumstances compelled him to work as a labourer and interested him in Communism. He declared that he had no associates.

Namba was seriously injured by the crowd, who seized him before the police effected his arrest.

Later.

Viscount Goto is reported to have resigned, assuming responsibility for the attack on the Regent.

Viscount Goto has been accused since his invitation to M. Joffe to come to Japan of having Socialistic tendencies.

The Seiyukai threatened to introduced a vote of non-confidence in the Diet because of an allegation that Viscount Goto had supplied the murdered Socialist Osugi with funds.

Socialist centres and Viscount Goto's residence are closely guarded for fear of anti-Socialist outbreaks.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Resignation Persisted in: The Assault on Regent and Hostility in Diet

Tokio, Dec. 28.

While the Cabinet, assuming responsibility for yesterday's outrage, have formally tendered their resignation, it is quite uncertain whether this will at present be accepted. The opinion is generally expressed, however, that a change is imminent though it may be delayed over the New Year holidays. It is understood that, whatever the fate of the Cabinet, Viscount Goto insists on his resignation as "the Minister directly responsible."

On every side it is admitted that the Government's difficulties have been much augmented. The opposition, on the part of political parties in both Houses, which developed during the special session, to the reconstruction budget and the insurance payment proposals is regarded as placing the Ministry in a precarious position, and a few days ago it was believed unlikely that the Government could survive the regular session. Any weakening of the personnel of the Government from resignation at the present juncture would, it is believed, only tend to hasten the end.

The morning papers are freely commenting on yesterday's attack and all join in a chorus of congratulation on the Prince Regent's escape. They warn the people against any undue excitement.

Dec. 29.

The Prince Regent this morning returned the Cabinet's resignation, but after a further meeting the Cabinet again tendered its resignation.

Dec. 30.

Though a Ministerial change at the present moment is untimely and undesirable, with the approach of the Imperial wedding and the necessity for prompt execution of the reconstruction undertakings, says the Minister of Education, explaining the Cabinet's resignation, the outrage that took place on Thursday is so unprecedented in the history of Japan that any attempt on the part of the Ministry to evade the responsibility for it would run counter to the recent Imperial decree aiming at improvement of national thought and might also seriously aggravate the political situation.

The Minister adds that the maintenance of the Cabinet's credit demands adherence to its original decision to resign.

Though somewhat unexpectedly, the press generally regards the Government's resignation as natural and inevitable, adding credit to the Cabinet."

PRESS OPINION.

The "*Jiji*" says that the disappearance of the Cabinet would be no loss to the country since it accomplished nothing during its *régime*.

The "*Hochi*" believes that the resignation of the Cabinet as well as of the other responsible officials would be the best demonstration to the radical elements that incidents similar to that on Thursday are unbecoming to Japan and incompatible with her national life and character.

The "*Asahi*" and others are of the opinion that the Government's resignation is due rather to political reasons and hold that the Cabinet has seized a suitable excuse for retirement.

The choice of Count Yamamoto's successor is expected before the end of the year. Political circles believe that a Seiyukai Cabinet is probable.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Tokio, Jan. 1

An Imperial command to-day was given to Viscount Kiyoura to form a new Cabinet. Viscount Kiyoura replied that he would think the matter over. In an interview Viscount Kiyoura said that in view of his advanced age, 75, it was doubtful whether he could fulfil his responsibilities as Premier. He wished, if possible, not to form a Cabinet, —Eastern News Agency.

Tokio, Jan. 3.

Viscount Kiyoura has informed the Prince Regent that he is unable to form a Cabinet.

Viscount Kiyoura has apparently failed to form a Cabinet because he was unable to secure the support of the political parties in both Houses. While the Kenyukai in the House of Peers was prepared to back him conditionally the Seiyukai will not give any definite promises, except one of benevolent neutrality.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Tokio, Jan. 3.

Viscount Kiyoura, who declined to accept the Imperial command this morning, was once again honoured at 3 o'clock this afternoon by the Prince Regent who asked him to form a new cabinet. —Eastern News agency.

Tokio, Jan. 3.

Viscount Kiyoura, on a further request by the Prince Regent, has reconsidered his decision and will form a Cabinet.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

HONGKONG ROBBERS

Fierce Fight with Police: Several Casualties

Hongkong, Dec. 29.

While investigating a robbery in a Chinese house at Yaumati this morning, the police encountered five armed men. The latter attempted to escape from the building but were met by shots from the police. A fierce battle ensued in which two European and two Indian policemen and a Chinese detective were wounded, while four robbers, three of whom were wounded, were captured after a chase. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

DEATH OF A NOTED JAPANESE SCHOLAR

Tokio, Dec. 31.

The death is announced of Baron Naibu Kanda, the educator and noted English scholar.

Baron Kanda was the adopted son of the late Baron Kohei Kanda, a pioneer Dutch scholar. He proceeded in 1871 to America for study and returned home in 1884 after having graduated at Amherst College, Mass. The Baron was Professor Emeritus of the Tokio Higher Commercial School and a Member of the House of Peers.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Earthquake in Manila

Manila, Jan. 2.

Several sharp earthquake shocks between one and two this morning woke up residents. Reuter's Pacific Service.

SOCIALISTS' BURIAL DISHONOURED

Outrage at Obsequies of the Murdered Osugi and His Wife

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Dec. 17.

Not even in death have the murdered Socialists Sakae Osugi and his wife Noe Ito been able to find peace. Funeral services over the remains of these two and their strangled seven-year-old nephew, who is an American citizen, having been born in Portland, Oregon, were to take place yesterday. While most of the persons gathered to do honour to their ashes were at breakfast, a man presented himself and asked that he might be permitted to approach the temporary altar and pay tribute to those done to death by the gendarmes during the confusion that followed in the wake of the great earthquake. This request was readily assented to. The man approached the spot where the three urns containing the ashes were placed, went down on his knees, and then suddenly firing a pistol gathered the urns in his arms and rushed for the door. At the entrance he handed over the urns to three accomplices who were ready with a motor-car, and to the noise of further revolver firing and shouts from the friends of the deceased, the vehicle made away. One of the men, however, was unable to get on to the car in time and was arrested by the police.

The arrested man has refused to make any disclosures as to where the ashes have been taken to, and to repeated demands that he shall state his identity merely declared that he was a miner who detested Socialists and Socialism. The police suspect that the stolen ashes have been taken to the headquarters of the Anti-Reactionaries' Association.

The funeral services proceeded as arranged, but, instead of the panegyrics that were to have been uttered over the ashes, angry speeches, demanding vengeance on those whose sacriligious hands had stolen the ashes of the dead, adorned the obsequies for the departed.

The Socialists Osugi Sakae and Noe Ito have been regarded as martyrs even by those who do not approve of the doctrines of the Extreme Labourites in Japan. This insult to the dead will only tend to make them greater martyrs, if such be possible.

THE COURT MARTIAL'S SENTENCE.

While this scene was being enacted, Captain Amakasu, formerly connected with the Tokio Gendarmerie, whose hands squeezed the life out of the Socialist and his wife, and whose orders were responsible for the atrocious murder of their seven-year-old American—born nephew, had entered on the first morning of his imprisonment, having been removed to the penitentiary the evening previous to serve the ten-year sentence inflicted on him by the court-martial which tried the case.

The Japanese press, generally, regards the sentences meted out on Captain Amakasu and on Sergeant Mori (who was sentenced to three years' confinement as an accomplice in the murders) with unfeigned dissatisfaction. The "*Nichi Nichi*," for example, one of the most popular of the larger Tokio journals, regards the decisions of the court martial as a triumph of the military spirit over the dispensing of justice fairly. Whether Captain Amakasu or Sergeant Mori will ever serve their sentences in full can never be said. Court martial sentences in Japan have a way of lasting only until the public have forgotten things, and then the delinquents are sent to Korea or perhaps Manchuria. At least such has happenned in the past.

MARSHAL Chang Tso-lin, the Fengtien warlord, is reported by the "*Shunpao*" to have refused to allow the re-establishment of a Russian Consulate in Mukden, his headquarters.

JAPAN AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

The Murdered Chinese and Koreans: Press Demanding Daylight: Telling Figures about the Yoshiwara: How to Readjust Japan's Finances

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Dec. 17.

The presence in Japan to-day of Dr. C. T. Wang, China's special commissioner, who is here to make full investigations into the murders of Chinese during the earthquake, has been responsible for severe attacks on the Government in the Diet, one of the Opposition members terming the Chinese Mission to Japan a "gross shame and insult to Japan" and a proof of "China's distrust in Japan's judicial machinery."

Severe onslaughts were also made in connexion with the deplorable murders of Koreans during the chaos that immediately followed the terrestrial convulsions, one of the members of the Kakushin Club (an Opposition party) producing photographs showing outrages perpetrated on the bodies of men slaughtered by the Vigilantes (as the mentally ill-balanced mobs who hunted Koreans to their death were called) by the police and, in some instances, by the troops. Although the Diet has been sitting for some days, it met and continued in an atmosphere of unusual lethargy and the vigorous interpellations with regard to the murders of Chinese and Koreans have considerably tended to awaken the Government and the House. The former, in response to demands from the members of the Opposition, have replied that the murders are "under investigation," and it is gratifying to see that members of parliament and the press refuse to be bamboozled with such official casuistry. The "Yorodzu," for instance, one of Tokio's most jingo organs, which generally throws the weight of its influence in the scales favouring the Army or the Navy, declares editorially that "it is an important duty of the Government to expedite investigation into the slaughter of the Koreans, and to give full satisfaction to the suffers or their survivors; otherwise the union of the two nations can never be effected."

FIRE INSURANCE QUESTION.

Heated debates in connexion with the Government's policy regarding fire insurance are also a feature of the present extraordinary session of the Diet and opposition to the proposals and suggestions of the authorities seems to be gaining steadily both in the Upper and in the Lower Houses.

In spite of the general anticipation that insurance firms would pay a portion of the 10 per cent. solatium (which the Government was to advance to them at a low rate of interest) out of their own funds, the Government now proposes to pay the entire sum—Yen 180,000,000—out of the Central Treasury, charging insurance firms an interest rate of two per cent. per annum. Now, the current rate on Government loans is seven per cent. per annum, and so the loss of the State will be five per cent. per annum. The loan, according to the Government's plan, is to remain untouched for five years, and then to be fully redeemed only after 50 years.

The opposition to the Government's scheme is based on the enormous burden that the national treasury is called upon to bear for the purpose of aiding only a small portion of the suffers, and a still smaller proportion of the whole nation.

THE YOSHIWARA BUSINESS.

The crusade against licensed vice in Japan, of which the Tokio Yoshiwara is regarded as the model, has been resumed on the floor of the Lower House. While solons are arguing that such a system is a disgrace to a civilized nation and is a curse to the country, the rebuilding of the Yoshiwara is proceeding. It is encouraging to see that the nation is now seriously considering the abolition of a system the sordidness of which was revealed in no unmistakeable manner when thousands of women, chained throughout life to an existence more degrading than that of a slave, perished miserably in the various licensed quarters that dotted the stricken regions.

The press is enthusiastically championing the good cause of doing away once and for all with these dens of infamy that really are duller than an old-time Sunday school, and citing interesting statistics to counter the oft repeated argument that when public prostitution is abolished private prostitution and disease will increase.

The medical examination of young men for military conscription during 1922, according to these statistics, shows that of every 1,000 persons examined in the Gumma prefecture where licensed vice had been abolished, 11.13 were syphilitically affected. In Tokio, the figures were 20.63 per thousand; in Osaka 19.65; in Nagasaki, 44.78 which is nearly a half of the prefecture's young men; and in Yokohama, 19.18.

These figures are now being quoted by the press to prove that, far from the abolition of public and licensed prostitution increasing private vice and aiding in the dissemination of disease, the opposite is really the case, even in a country like Japan where the relations of the sexes are far freer than in any other country, barring perhaps China.

Other interesting statistics show that public prostitution in Japan is patronized more by the married than by the unmarried, and this, as the press argues, is ample proof that the system is both harmful and unnecessary. As of interest, some of these figures are given: A census of those frequenting houses of prostitution from 1917 to 1922 shows that the percentage of those below 20 years of age has been 0.2; those between 21 and 25 years of age, 22.7; those between 26 and 35 years, 33.8; those between 36 and 45 years, 28.6; and those between 46 and above, 11.8.

During a campaign recently inaugurated in Tokio for the purpose of obtaining signatures for preventing the re-building of the licensed quarters, interesting disclosures were revealed. Women generally were totally indifferent, such of them as were approached declaring that if public prostitution were abolished, girls of decent families would not be safe, thus registering their ideas of the wild, untamed nature of the dominant sex. Soldiers and students were also found to be indifferent, but the working classes, from whose daughters are drawn the vast majority of the victims of the shameful classes, were enthusiastic for the abolition of licensed vice.

READJUSTMENT OF FINANCE.

There is considerable complaint in and out of the Diet as to why the Government has not shown keener interest and as to why it has not exerted greater efforts towards the readjustment of finance. How to improve the straitened condition of the money market is being nervously discussed. Three methods have been suggested by members of the Diet, namely, (1) the introduction of foreign funds; (2) lowering of the Bank of Japan's discount rates; and (3) making the terms of loans granted easier than they are to-day.

There is, however, something more at the bottom of the matter, and that is the destruction of credit consequent on the September disaster. One evidence of this is to be seen in the fact that out of Yen 20,000,000 given by the authorities to two special banks—the Hypothec Bank and the Industrial Bank—for reconstruction purposes, only between five and six million yen have been made available to the public.

Steps must be taken to remove this stumbling block, otherwise there will be no real improvement in the monetary situation. One of these steps, suggested and approved by the press, is the renewal of notes made prior to the disaster.

THE BANDIT PERIL IN ANHUI

No Incentive to Round Up Lawless Men: Bright Prospects for Coming Harvest

From Our Own Correspondent.

Yungchowfu, Dec. 24.

There seems to be no more con- [illegible] up the brigands who are roaming the countryside. Word reaches here from the neighbouring province of Honan that these hordes are still in their war-paint, and that they go to all extremes, even to throwing adults and children into rivers. What sad conditions exist in these interior parts! Because the soldiers when rounding up the brigands who held the two lady missionaries felt satis- [illegible] their perilous plight they stopped short in the chase and allowed the men to clear off, thus giving them breathing space to recover, and time to revise their future programme. The following quotation from a letter from the elder of the two unfortunate ladies written soon after their release speaks volumes for the conditions into which they had come so unwillingly drawn, and which they little reckoned on as being a present-day experience to be met with when they came out to this country:—

[illegible] dropping dead, and yet we escaped unhurt. We were dragged up and down [illegible] sometimes on foot [illegible] by bushes and trees and [illegible] yet we are very tired.

These experiences are harrowing in the extreme, and the letter quoted from concludes, thus, "we feel those who have been through it know and understand those who have not never can."

The fuller account given so recently in your columns gives very graphically the terrible circumstances attending the whole movement of the unfortunate captives during their 34 days captivity, and puts into the shade anything that has yet been enacted in this country. The mere fact of a happy release having been effected, though involving the captives many times in imminent personal danger which looked at times almost certain death, should not deter the utmost action being taken in trying to subdue the whole brigand pest throughout the country.

LAXITY OF THE TROOPS.

It is a regrettable fact that the government troops do not push their action to a conclusive issue when they surround these bands and the odds are entirely theirs. It would look as if the game is not worth the candle for them unless foreign lives are involved and diplomatic pressure is kept up. There seems no possible incentive to round up these lawless men when China and China only is concerned.

I referred in a previous communication to the necessity of reducing these brigands by negotiation but only on the terms of unconditional surrender with safeguards, using the relatives of the men themselves as a powerful lever in reaching the desired end, and, furthermore, of getting to the root of the present trouble by dealing with those in authority, who should and must be held directly responsible for all arms and ammunition in use throughout the country. Correspondents have explained that these brigands have been driven to it on account of exceptionally trying economic and family conditions, and while education will do wonders along certain lines the [illegible] goes stalking through the country.

When the country settles down peacefully and tries to work out her own salvation from some of these economic incongruities brighter days may come round for the oppressed. Things are too much out of hand for anything but drastic action to be taken, and Governments cannot be exonerated from dilly-dallying with glaring facts.

BIG OPIUM HARVEST.

The prospects for the coming harvest, next spring are bright, and it is hoped that the crops showing so well out of the ground at the present time will yield a goodly harvest. With the sowing out of the wheat there has been a very widespread planting of opium, and if this crop is allowed to be reaped—and there seems to be every indication that no restrictions will be placed on the farmers getting the yield that is at present in the ground—a quantity of opium will be turned out from this North-west that will astonish people. Into the hands of the military went every dollar that was derived from the tax last crop. What of the future! Proclamations should not be used as a cloak, but what these proclamations mean should be put into action even to the very last letter of the law. Proclamations cannot exonerate people from complicity and double dealing when officials are not made to act up to their [illegible]

NEW MOTOR ROUTE.

Recently another route has been opened up by motor cars, viz., from this city to Cheng Yang Kuan 80 miles away, from which point a launch connexion takes travellers to the railway. [illegible] a goodly number of [illegible] the new mode of transportation, and this method of getting over the interior parts will be increasingly popular as good roads are established. Unfortunately the chauffeurs in charge of the cars at present drive with rather a heavy hand. This is seen in the way they keep their machines in order, or rather they only just try to keep their machines within a minimum radius of effectiveness bordering on a seemingly slender margin next door to a breakdown. They simply flood all working parts with a superabundance of lubricating oil, and it would seem that they try their best to get rid of as much oil as they can, and possibly they get some kind of commission on the amount consumed.

Recently the local schools had some trouble with their scholars, who apparently desired to get out of their necessary examinations, thinking they could carry their demands. They have been given to understand that while scholars they should be amenable to all Educational rules, and not try to be the teachers and the taught at one and the same time.

IDLE RUMOURS OF WAR

Tuchun's Message to Assembly: Flotation of Waterworks Co.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hangchow, Dec. 27.

The Tuchun of Fukien has sent a telegram to the Assembly asking them not to give heed to idle rumous about troops being sent to the Chékiang border, as it means nothing beyond what is done every year to combat the *tufei*.

The local gentry have again been interviewing the Tuban with reference to the rumours that are running wild just now, and he has assured them that he is as anxious as ever he was to do away with the tuchunate, and reduce the troops, but that, at present, this is quite impossible. He advised them to keep their hearts at rest.

The Waterworks Co. are again getting together, and are hoping soon to get sufficient shareholders to float the company. They are meeting to-day to discuss ways and means.

Hangchow is quiet, the bank discount is falling, and soon we hope for rain, which may prove sufficient to damp the ardour of the easily excited.

AN INSATIABLE OCTOPUS

How the Lamaseries Are Maintained: Country Scoured by Begging Lamas Led by Living Buddhas: Persistence Rewarded

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tachienlu, Sze., Dec. 1.

Kiangsi is not the only place in Asia that suffers from the invasion of a huge, ravenous, insatiable octopus. Minya is the name of the country formerly ruled by the King of Chala. Every year, just after the harvests have been gathered in, the Lamas leave their temples and spend a month or so visiting the different farmhouses. To make their visits more efficacious each foraging party is accompanied by a Living Buddha.

On a recent visit into Minya we crossed the arms of several octopi. The Living Buddha rides a horse: accompanying him are two other Lamas, also riding horses: more horses accompany the party to carry the good stuff home. The Living Buddha is dressed in all the regalia of his sect, a magnificent gold coloured hat covers his head; he is dressed in rich silk and usually carries some of his sacred books.

On arrival at a Tibetan farm house the two Lamas dismount, the Buddha remains on his horse and prays for blessing to fall on the inhabitants of the farm. As every house has its huge Tibetan dogs much care is necessary in approaching the establishment and before the party makes any advance the dogs are made secure. The two Lamas now produce their large Yak skin bags and beg for a liberal supply of barley to keep the Lamasery going and maintain the good fortune of the whole district.

LAXITY OF THE TROOPS.

What surprised us was the octopus like persistence of their simple foraging party. The cause of their poor brothers praying in the Lamasery was not carried lightly and move they would not from that door till some barley or flour had been deposited in the bag. The Buddha sat tight and prayed hard, the Lamas held out their bags and sought hard. Usually they were successful and a supply of barley was given. The party then move off to the next farm house.

An hour afterwards, or perhaps the following day along comes another foraging Buddha and his Lamas attack the same farm house, exercise the same persistence while the Buddha prays if anything harder, and Lamas beg with more insistence. The poor people are helpless and for the blessing that accrues they give the barley and the Lamas pass on.

The Temples throughout Minya are at present in a very precarious condition. The people are very poor, and during the past few years the harvests have been very bad; added to this the Temples have suffered from lawless bands. The buildings are falling into disrepair and the once wealthy Temples, the centre of influence in the district, are fast becoming empty buildings. The resident Lamas are taking on a new role, they are now becoming private chaplains in every village you pass. The larger Lamaseries, however, still maintain their thousands of Lamas. Litang (14,000 feet high) Tachieh, Derge and Kanze are all in a very flourishing condition. The octopus comes from the poorer Temples which receive little or no official recognition.

MILITARY GREED IN FUKIEN

Press Gang Cruelties in the Villages: Opium Sowing Forced on Farmers

From Our Own Correspondent

Kienning, Fu., Dec. 18.

All evidence indicating the real state of the country at the present time is most important in order that foreign governments may act wisely as regards their nationals. Let no mistake be made! China under the tuition of the militarists is rapidly relapsing into a savagery and want of civilization till lately comparatively rare. Unless something is done to save this great country from the adventurers who are running her all talk of extraterritoriality should be abandoned.

Under the present press-gang system, villages are raided at night, men taken from their beds with but a single garment or from the plough and allowed to perish with cold. One constantly meets women crying because their men have been taken—they know not where—and there is no one to fend for the family.

Then money must be found to satisfy these enemies of China. When all that is possible has been extorted from the commercial class, opium seed is forced on the unhappy farmers. In the Sungkihsien I know of houses where, when the packet of opium seed was not received, it was thrown in at the door with the information that the tax would be collected later.

To-day about 60 country men, each with both arms roped together, were driven by soldiers through one of the city gates which a foreigner happened to be passing. A Chinese remarked that in the time of the worst of the emperor's there was no such cruelty. A couple of soldiers rushed into the house of a butcher in search of two possible loadmen; not finding their men, they unblushingly robbed two women of $70 they had found in the house—and this in broad daylight, not in a looting bout.

Fortunately these men are moving on and we hope soon to have seen the last of them, at least for the present. Trade is almost at a standstill, at a time which is normally very busy, for the country people are afraid to come in lest they should be caught by the officers.

I have just heard in the Sungkihsien that in the market town of Weitien the soldiers went out to shoot two men who refused to sow opium. In this case the men were robbed of their victims for a friend heard of it and sent a message just in time for the men to flee. A few years ago men were actually shot for planting poppy.

I understand in Foochow that the great opposition of people and students obliged the military leaders to withdraw the abominable order; as always, the people are much in advance of their rulers in matters of morality.

A GIRLS' SCHOOL AT NINGPO

Exhibition by St. Catherine's Pupils

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ningpo, Dec. 31.

On December 27 a most interesting gathering was held at St. Catherine's Girl's School, Ningpo, when the students gave their annual concert and entertainment to their assembled parents and friends. Under the direction of the Misses Greene and Hughes a varied programme of events was enacted in a very excellent manner giving much delight to the visitors and reflecting much credit upon the teachers and scholars.

Miss Davies who has recently joined the C.M.S. staff at Ningpo was the only Westerner who took part in the entertainment, but this she did with great success in the rendering of violin solos (one of which was by Kreisler) which evoked much enthusiasm and applause from both the foreign and Chinese sections of the audience.

Among the most notable items of the other part of the programme may be mentioned the various drills;—Club, flag and wand drills which were performed with much grace and precision. The native gift of the Chinese for acting also had plenty of scope and the plays "Preach and Act the Gospel" and "The Deceiver Deceived" were very much enjoyed.

The recitations "David Livingstone" and "Baby Dear" (George Macdonald) gave evidence of the careful training of the students in reading, pronouncing and memorizing English

The impression that was left upon the visitor who witnessed this succession of pleasing performances was that here in this school a noble work is being done, one that cannot fail to awaken new and beautiful impulses in the hearts of the pupils and educate them in the things of highest import.

SHANTUNG BANDITS

As Bad as Ever: Well Organized and with Regular System of Purchasing Arms

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsinan, Dec. 26

In spite of official declarations to the contrary, banditry is still rife in Shantung. A few days ago a village in P'ing Yuan was visited by a band of about 30 who looted seven families and carried off 10 captives, one of whom was a woman.

It is said that this band have their headquarters in a town called Hokou, not far from the scene of the pillage. At this town a detachment of soldiers is stationed, but it is the oft-repeated tale—soldiers and bandits are comrades in arms.

AN INTERRUPTED WEDDING.

Weddings are supposed to be held only on lucky days. The fortune-teller who arranges these festivities in the district of Enhsien must be feeling somewhat discredited. Recently a young bridegroom was bringing home his intended partner to the paternal roof when the bridal party met a band of marauders. These stopped the procession, and hauling the principal actors out of their chairs, carried them both into captivity.

No one troubles much about these things so long as there are no foreigners taken captive. Signs are not wanting however that these local bandits are not without organization.

It is said on fairly good authority that they have a centre in Tsinan, in a disreputable district quite near to the main railway station.

The leaders come up to town to buy their guns and ammunition. They occupy what is outwardly a Chinese hotel, which is in the possession of the organization.

As this centre is outside the suburb gates there is no difficulty in getting the ammunition away by road at night, into the country districts. Where—up to the present—it is being used.

Set-Back for Filipino Malcontents

Manila, Dec. 28.

The revolutionary veterans, of whom General Aguinaldo is President, have refused to march in the parade on Rizal Day, December 30, which has been arranged as a protest against the American Chamber of Commerce and American newspapers. The veterans say that such a protest is unnecessary. Their action has been a serious set-back for the malcontents. —Reuter

SHANGHAI NEWS

UNITED STATES INCOME TAX

Protest of Americans Abroad: Chance of Remedial Measures Small

Conscientious American citizens will shortly be busy again with their annual task of filling in their income tax returns slip, the said papers arriving at the American Consulate-General on Thursday. Although there has been much agitation on the part of citizens living abroad against paying this tax, because, as they say, they do not receive the full benefits of American schools, civic institutions and church life, as well as the more intimate social relationships with their neighbours at home there has been no relief as yet in sight and it becomes incumbent on all those who wish to live up to the law as they have done in the past to go through the usual process again. The local American Chamber of Commerce—as also the other chambers in China and the Philippines—have been outspoken in their protests against the measure. Moreover, we understand, that those resident in South America have also organized opposition. Some maintain that the proposed measure of Mr. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury whereby he hopes to reduce the heavier portions of the tax and turn capital from tax-exempt securities to industry, contains also provisions for the relief of those in foreign lands but to date Congress has done nothing and with the radical elements of Congress holding the whip hand and the Democrats refusing to co-operate with the Republicans in their desire to ameliorate conditions (the Republicans having denied Wilson, as President, the assistance in similar measures) there appear to be slight chances of remedial measures being passed at the present sessions. The adherents of the bonus also are against tinkering with matters that will reduce their chances of getting what they are after and unless a compromise is effected nothing at all will be done.

THE LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL!

The only possible hope that one can see at all is that the Supreme Court in Washington may possibly declare the law, as it stands, unconstitutional, for there is a test case pending before that body filed by an American citizen residing in Mexico City with the sanction and support of the American Chamber of Commerce in that place. Even should this body declare that section of the law relating to citizens residing abroad not legal, who knows when they will arrive at their decision. Their programme is continually crowded and with matters that usually relate to a larger portion of the community, than those few who are unfortunate enough to be forced to pay income tax without actually residing on American territory.

Several Shanghai men have expressed the opinion that this year they will refrain from paying what is due to the Government because they feel very optimistic that the law will be abolished within the present session of Congress, and they think that it will be a long, long time indeed before they may expect to get a return of funds paid inasmuch as the American Treasury is notoriously slow in such matters for there is such a large amount of "Red tape" to be gone through.

Of all the forms which arrived here those to be used most are for incomes under G. $5,000, the corporation income tax and the form for incomes over G. $5,000. The alien non-resident will hardly be touched, if at all. The partnerships form is very unlikely to be used too.

EXEMPTIONS FROM TAX.

According to the law every single individual who has a net income of more than G. $1,000 must make out a form even though he has exemptions large enough to preclude his actually paying a tax. The same holds true for the man or woman living with husband or wife, either of whom may be the fiduciary head of the household if their combined income is over G. $2,000 or if one has a gross income of more than $5,000. The following items are exempt from tax—Proceeds of life insurance policies paid at death, certain other benefits therefrom, *viz*, dividends not over G. $300 from special building and loan funds, gifts not received as a consideration for services, amounts received from accident or health insurance, and from War Insurance, etc., from U. S. Government for war services, rental value of Gospel minister's residence, compensation of State or political subdivision and certain political organizations' bonds and securities with qualifications.

The biggest single deduction, however, for the individual is G. $1,000 for a single individual, upon which he must not pay the tax and for the married individual who is the head of a household, who is allowed the amount G. $2,500 exemption; in addition for each dependent under 18 years of age while for every one else who is physically or mentally incapable of supporting self another G. $400 is permitted to go by the boards. Further deductions, not exceeding 15 per cent. of the total income, are permissible if made to charitable or religious organizations. *Upon the remainder four per cent. tax is levied.* This concerns only incomes up to G. $4,000. An eight per cent. tax is levied on all income, less exemptions above G. $4,000, while beginning with G. $100,000 a graduated surtax is added—one per cent. for that figure and increasing until at incomes of more than two gold lakhs the surtax is full 50 per cent.

The following is a summary of the conditions under which returns must be made out and tax paid:—

Who must make out returns according to the law?—All single persons having an income (net) of more than G. $1,000 and all heads of families with incomes of more than G. $2,000.

Who must pay the tax?—All those who come within the law. Taxes must be paid by single persons on all sums above G. $1,000, less certain deductions and exemptions and by heads of families having incomes over G. $2,500 with certain exemptions.

Where must the tax be paid?—All who claim U. S. as their residence must pay to the Collector of Internal Revenue in their District. Those claiming China as their residence should address their returns to the Collector of Internal Revenue at Baltimore, Maryland.

Should husband and wife each pay a tax?—If husband and wife were living together on December 31, 1923, either make out the return for both or each may pay the tax for him or herself, but the same deductions may not be applied to each return (those deductions and exemptions paid in common).

Should children under 18 years of age pay a tax?—If a child has earned monies throughout the year it should be added to the income of the family and tax paid thereon.

Are dividends resulting from China Trade Act Corporations exempt from normal income taxation?—Senator Cummins, in charge of the Bill, said "The dividends received by the stockholder from the corporation are subject to full surtax and normal tax, except in the case of stockholders of citizens of China, resident in China. . . . no way of collecting anyway."

What is the date of return of forms?—Forms should be returned by March 15, 1924.

How should the tax be paid?—The tax may be paid in one instalment, at the time of filing the return or it may be paid in quarterly portions.

Are there any penalties for violation of the statute?—For making a fraudulent return, a fine not exceeding G. $10,000 or one year's imprisonment or both and in addition 50 per cent. of the tax evaded. For failure to make the return on time a fine up to G. $1,000 with an addition of 25 per cent. of the tax. For failure to pay the tax when due five per cent. of the tax plus interest at the rate of one per cent. per month.

Citizens living without America have one legal relief as provided by the law of 1921. Any income tax, war profits or excess profits paid to any foreign country or any possession of the United States may be deducted from the returns.

The U. S. Consulate-General will gladly provide those with forms who desire them.

GROWTH OF THE CHINESE Y.M.C.A.

Association's Work and the Education Movement in China

Nearly 50 guests were present at a tiffin given on Saturday by the Board of Directors of the Shanghai Chinese Y.M.C.A. at the home of the late Mr. A. O'Ben, Kiangwan Road, in honour of Captain and Mrs. Robert Dollar. A number of Chinese ladies were present.

During and after tiffin matters relating to the Shanghai Association were discussed, especially in reference to branches which, it is hoped, will be erected in the French Concession and in Pootung in the near future.

Called upon to deliver an address, Captain Dollar congratulated the local Association for the amount of work it had already done and for its excellent results.

Captain Dollar stated that he had paid a visit to the Wu-han Association in Wuchang and inspected the building which he had the honour of presenting to the young men of that city, as well as Hanyang and Hankow. He was greatly impressed by the activities of that Association and mentioned that arrangements were being made for its additional equipment in the near future.

ENCOURAGING PROGRESS.

"When I first saw the Chinese 'Y' building in Shanghai upon its completion in 1907, I thought it was large enough to accommodate the young men of this city for many years, but five years later, there was not enough space to meet the demand. That was very inspiring, impressing and encouraging, with the result that, as you know, I helped in starting the 'Y' in Wuchang. President Li Yuan-hung (then General) bought their first piece of ground. The other day I saw it in action, but it is already too small to meet the present needs of the young men of Wu-han," stated Captain Dollar.

"The work the Association is doing in China is enormous," he continued, "and the prospects of the future are full of promise and extremely bright."

Captain Dollar stated that Association work amongst the Chinese in San Francisco was very important and mentioned that he was interested in their plan to secure a permanent home.

He was greatly impressed by the popular education movement—the movement started by the Association to teach the illiterate to read and write their own language simply. If that could be continued, China would soon have an educated population. It was of utmost importance and of benefit to all. To have a real republic the people must be taught and must be able to read and write. If the people were educated and made literate, militarism would finally be abolished. Militarism was the curse of the Chinese republic, hence he would wish all success to the popular education movement. Captain Dollar stated that his sympathies were with the Chinese people and China. The situation was not very encouraging but he was certain that China would pull through. He sincerely hoped that she would.

THE Shanghai District Police Chief has issued an order to his subordinates to investigate the counterfeit bank-note question as it is becoming extremely serious, and to arrest any person who attempts to pass false notes. No mention is made in the "Eastern Times" of the name of the bank whose notes have been forged, but the denominations are given as $5 and $10, and the colours of the notes are said to be lighter than the real notes.

ENTERTAINMENT AT COUNTRY CLUB

Highly Successful Evening Arranged by the B.W.A. Dramatic Section

The Country Club was filled to its utmost capacity on Thursday for the performance given by the Dramatic Section of the British Women's Association and the large audience thoroughly enjoyed a well balanced musical and dramatic programme, the first half arranged by Mrs. Kenneth Newman and the farce produced by Mrs. Chris Wingrove. Miss Jansen opened the evening with a well rendered violin solo, Francoeur's beautiful "Sicialiano et Rigaudo," and Mr. Dumbarton followed with the songs "So Fair a Flower" and "Lady Mine" by Herman Lohr, which were enthusiastically received and encored. Mrs. J. A. Cochrane, with her impetuous, flexible cadences swayed her audience to the varying moods of Alfred Noyes' "A Song of England" and followed it with the stirring speech from Shakespeare's "Henry V," "Once more into the breach."

Mrs. Bowes-Smith charmed as ever with her fresh, sweet rendering of Landon Ronald's "Deep in the Heart of a Rose" and "The Nightingale Has a Lyre of Gold," and Mrs. Sykes gave a brilliant piano solo, the "Novelette" by Schuman, which was also encored. Mr. Meyer's song, "Stancez de Lakme" and "Der vor en Tvend nid fin Pigelil" showed to advantage not only the depth and sweetness of his voice, but also its dramatic quality.

During the interval the orchestra supplied by Mr. J. Raines played popular selections and when the curtain rose again it revealed the passage-way of a Channel steamer where the scene of the farce "Calais to Dover" by Gertrude Jennings was laid, a clever dramatization of *mal de mer*, poignantly realistic without taste. The highly amused audience saw Aunt Clara (Mrs. H. Peyton-Griffin) in a "groaning part"—effectively expressed without a single word, her sympathetic nephew Captain Pengellan (Mr. H. E. Muriel) who immediately fell in love with a widow, Lady Armitage (Mrs. Cochrane), who was still fascinating despite the perils of the passage.

It would be hard to assign the honours of the production among the actors, all of whom brought out the best points of the spirited lines. Mrs. W. Lyle as Mrs. Bilbery was an apt pupil of Coué although she failed to convince her pallid daughter Amy (Mrs. E. A. P. Wood) that she was feeling better and better every moment. The complications of plot were handled in a thoroughly satisfactory manner and the audience went away well pleased.

RETIREMENT OF MR. H. TOD

Resident in Shanghai for 26 Years

Mr. and Mrs. H. Tod sailed for England on Thursday in the str. Patroclus, after having resided in Shanghai for some 26 years, during which time Mr. Tod has always been associated with local dock companies. After some years of service with one of the companies which is now combined with the Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., he joined the Vulcan Iron Works in 1906, which latter company amalgamated with the New Engineering & Ship building Works in 1912 and with whom he remained until a few weeks ago when he was compelled to retire owing to failing health.

He was the recipient of a farewell presentation made to him by members of the Yangtszepoo Dock when Mr. A. W. Brankston, Managing Director, referred to the able and loyal work rendered by Mr. Tod during his many years of service, and to the high esteem in which he was held both by the Company and his colleagues. Reference was also made to the general regret at his departure, with which was coupled the hope that his return to England would result in restoration to health of both Mr. and Mrs. Tod who herself has been ill for some considerable time.

Mr. Tod was formerly well known in the football field having played for Shanghai, the Engineers, and the Dock elevens.

Both he and his family were well known as members of the Union Church.

MOTOR ACCIDENT ON THE FRENCH BUND

Four Russians Severely Injurde and Car Reduced to Wreckage

Four Russians, three of them brothers and another the chaufeur of a motor car, were severely injured on Saturday night when the machine crashed into an electric pole in the middle of the French Bund after midnight. The injured, Yseuloff Vikentieff, aged 24, Alexandre Vikentieff 18, Yiatcheslioff Vikentieff, 16, and Tcheslowsky' Igor, driver, have been removed to Ste. Marie's Hospital on Route Père Robert, having sustained severe bodily injurires, strained muscles and cut and broken skins. Those in the front seat must have been thrown right through the windshield, for the car had been running at a terrific rate of speed.

It is reported that the car after it rounded the corner at Avenue Edward VII while racing could not negotiate the curve and was forced into the post, but evidently the driver did not know the nature of the roads there, for the natural centrifugal force of making the turn would have swung the machine to the far side of the road, and as it was it struck the posts in the centre of the road. A motorist, who passed shortly afterwards, states that he brought his car to a stop 10 yards beyond the scene of the trouble and as far as he could see there was nothing in sight but bits of broken glass verifying the theory that the speed must have been abnormal.

Both of the wheels on the right side were smashed from the axles while the fenders were bashed in. The tonneau had broken itself loose from the chasse and several hours later one of the front lights was still burning proving that the batteries were still in condition. Otherwise it was a mass of wreckage and ruin.

WEDDING

Evans-Johnson

On December 27, Miss Ellen Boydt Allen Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, was married to Mr. Robert Leslie Evans, son of the Rev. and Mrs. A. E. Evans.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a charming dress of white chiffon velvet, caught up at the side with a train of orange blossom. Her veil was of white embroidered silk tulle, with orange blossoms, and she carried a bouquet of white roses. Mrs. Johnson, in brown velvet with hat to match, was matron of honour. The bridesmaid, Miss Bell Turnbull, wore helio colcured chiffon velvet, silver lace hat with helio trimmings and carried a bouquet of sweet peas.

The service was conducted by the Very Rev. Dean Symons. In addition to Mr. J. H. Ford, the best man, and Mr. K. C. Evans, Mr. L. G. Day and Mr. B. McCarthy, who acted as ushers, there was a large gathering of friends at the church. Master Bobby Roach was the page.

After the ceremony a reception was held at the bride's home, 168 North Szechuen Road, following which the newly married couple left for Taihu Lake, where they will spend their honeymoon.

The bride's going-away dress was of nigger brown material with French skunk collar and cuffs, and gold thread mushroom hat with Bird of Paradise trimming.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AT NINGPO

Cafes and the Carefree Feet of Revellers: A River Carnival

From a Correspondent.

Ningpo, Jan. 1.

Your many readers must have been wondering for some time why there has been no news of Ningpo's social and athletic activities appearing in the correspondence columns of your journal and, doubtless, there have not been wanting those who, envious of her glories, have hinted that, like Pome, Ningpo has had her day. It is partly to satisfy the curiosity of the former, partly to stifle the calumny of the latter that I would ask you, Sir, to allow the following short account of the recent winter season, ending as it has with all the wonted splendour of our Christmas week, to appear in your paper.

A rapid survey of the arrivals during the last three months is sufficient indication that Ningpo has been as full as ever. Never has the Bund presented a gayer and more alluring spectacle than on a Sunday morning when visitors and residents alike have thronged its merry length and gladdened its stones with the ring of joyous, lighthearted mirth. Our café has echoed to the carefree feet of revellers swinging to the latest tunes, while our rose battles and champagne sorties have evoked the most enthusiastic appreciation on all sides.

NINGPO'S SERIOUS SIDE.

It must not be assumed, however, that Ningpo has been a mere riot of sensuous enjoyment. We have also our serious side and among our more sober amusements may be remarked lectures on Chinese country life (illustrated by lantern slides), the cinema with its educational presentation of bird and insect life, fornightly gatherings of our classical dance society; and, of course, our winter bazaar.

Nor have our outdoor recreations waned in attraction. With its unrivalled facilities for every form of athletic sport Ningpo has seen its golf course congested with enthusiasts and has acclaimed the prowess shown on tennis court, river, football field, polo ground and other popular "terrains." The river carnival on Boxing Day [illegible] city.

[illegible] sketch of some of the attractions Ningpo has to offer may be the means of stimulating interest in [illegible] trying to raise for the erection of [illegible] still required is only Tls. 51,441 [illegible] 9) and it would indeed be a pity if for lack of this trifling sum Ningpo should have to bow the knee and veil the face before that select coterie of world renowned pleasure resorts among whom she has for so long stood preeminent.

[illegible] to the "Chinese [illegible] by the Chinese Government Bureau of Economic Information at Peking [illegible] at Mukden, Harbin [illegible] is believed to be the richest [illegible] mine so far discovered in the province. It is also favourably situated, being about 90 *li* from Pinkiang and about 280 *li* from Changsha, the capital. The property covers 60 square *li*. It was discovered in the late Tsing dynasty, and in 1913 attempts were made by the head of the Hunan Government Gold Mining Bureau to work it. Several shafts were sunk, but operations were suspended, and they have not yet been renewed.

WAR BREWING IN CHEKIANG

Signs of Coming Trouble: Military Movements in Progress: A Prosperous City

From Our Own Correspondent.

Lanchi, Chè., Dec. 25.

Since my last visit six years ago I find that this city has prospered in every way and trade is quite brisk in most lines. This is due to two chief causes: first to the peace enjoyed by the people and second to the improved means of communication. The express passenger boats which connect with the system of launches plying between Hangchow and Tong lu make it possible to reach here in three and half days. It is a trip well worth anyone's while to take for the scenery alone is a sight to behold. This city is now lighted by electricity and building operations are quite active. The crops look good and the weather through the middle of the day is beautifully warm.

There are signs of coming trouble for the province. Last week the rice merchants refused to buy up supplies of rice from tht farmers who brought it into the city. The reason given was that danger was brewing. Rumour says that Fukien troops have reached Changshan and that they are coming along this way. It is reported that troops from Hangchow are fastening up to resist them. The military here are busy getting all available men sent up to Chuchowfu by boat.

PIRACY ON BRITISH STEAMER

Hydrangea Looted on Leaving Hongkong: Pirates' Gifts of Oranges and Cigarettes

Hongkong, Dec. 28.

The British str. Hydrangea, voyaging to Swatow from Hongkong, was pirated last night.

The Hydrangea left Hongkong yesterday afternoon with 500 Chinese passengers and 300 tons of cargo. At about seven in the evening, at a given signal, the pirates, who were armed and were distributed over the ship as saloon as well as deck passengers, surprised the Indian guard, whom they disarmed. They then rushed to the saloon where the captain and officers were dining.

The pirates soon gained control of the steamer, which their pilot navigated to Bias Bay, where the Hydrangea was grounded [illegible] the shore. The passengers were ransacked and the steamer was looted and abandoned at four this [illegible] There were no casualties. The pirates did not harm the British officers, whom they [illegible] blanket.—Reuter's [illegible]

SOUTH CHINA'S STRUGGLE WITH PIRATES

Hongkong, Jan. 3.

The recent recrudescence of piracy, particularly the case of the Hydrangea on the night of December 27, is focussing attention on the efforts now being made to secure practical co-operation between Canton and Hongkong with a view to the suppression of [illegible] It is [illegible] every hope of co-operation materializing, which is [illegible] and good [illegible] between Hongkong and Canton accruing, from which economic benefits are anticipated. — Reuter's Pacific Service.

Japanese Train Wreck

Osaka, Dec. 27.

A train which left Tokio last night was derailed between Saita and Osaka at 1.1 this afternoon. There were over 50 casualties.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE IMMINENT FALL OF BATANG

Settlement of One Feud Leads to New Trouble: Foreign Families Isolated

Chêngtu, Dec. 12.

A grave situation is developing around Batang (Chinese Tibet). The long-standing feud between the Nankang and Kungpo lamas has been settled by the intervention of the Markham Teje and the Sungpeng Lama and the former have joined forces with the latter brigand armies, numbering over 2,000, in an attack on Batang.

Two companies only can be sent as a relief force from the small Litang garrison. The Chinese garrison holding Batang numbers only 200 odd soldiers who are reported to be demoralized and addicted to opium. Their commander, Wang Cheng-hu, has sent an urgent demand for relief to General Chen Hsia-ling, the Warden of the Marches, but he dare not send a large force for fear that the Chêngtu Governor (General Liu I-chiu) should take the opportunity to attack him. The Tibetans in Batang offered to help the Chinese garrison, but the latter, fearing treachery, refused. The fall of Batang is imminent.

There are in Batang one Canadian family (Macleod), three American families (Hardy, Duncan, Morse) and one Roman Catholic priest (Nussbaum.)—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Daily Mishaps

THERE'S nothing to equal Zam-Buk for ending the fiery pain of a scald or burn, a smarting cut or scratch or the soreness and tenderness of a bruise or sprain. Zam-Buk not only heals quickly, but prevents an injury going "the wrong way." Zam-Buk grows new healthy skin in a way never done by fatty ointments and artificial dressings.

MAKE ZAM-BUK A DAILY NEED

Zam-Buk owes its supremacy over all other forms of skin treatment to its unique herbal composition and its entire freedom from animal fats. Zam-Buk is always reliable and no Native or European household is ever complete without it.

Leg Sores & Leech Bites.

"WHILST in India I was never without Zam-Buk" writes Mr. W. L. Rayfield, from Hunter's Hill, Sydney, Australia. "I used it for my coolies' jungle sores with complete success. These septic sores, result from injuries to the legs sustained in the poisonous undergrowth. Also for leech, and mosquito bites Zam-Buk is the finest healer I know."

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THE

"ALL-IN-ONE"

Exchange Tables

The second edition of these Tables is now through the press and on sale. The success of the "All-In-One Exchange Tables," which facilitates the accurate calculation of exchange, has met with a remarkable welcome, the whole of the first edition being disposed of in 12 months.

The old-fashioned exchange table is a bulky volume compared with the "All-In-One Exchange Tables," covering the same ground. This is because so much space is occupied in the older tables with needless repetitions. The "All-In-One," although it is smaller in size and printed in larger and more legible type, covers a very wide range of exchanges, in sterling rising by sixteenths and in other currencies by the smallest quotable unit.

The following are the exchanges covered:—

Sterling into local currency and *vice versa*
Gold Dollars into local currency and *vice versa*
Yen, Hongkong or Singapore Dollars into local currency and *vice versa*
Francs into local currency and *vice versa*
Rupees or Guilders into local currency and *vice versa*
Mexican Dollars into Taels into Mexican Dollars

Examples of working are given on every page; a thumb index makes for speedy reference; and the book is bound in strong rexine. Moreover, it is accurate.

PRICE EIGHT DOLLARS

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS OFFICE

SHANGHAI

MORE WAR RUMOURS AND DENIALS

Local Merchants' Alarm: Influx of Chinese Refugees

The agitation for peace in this section of the country is to-day stronger than ever it was before, repeated rumours being circulated to the effect that the Chihli party was preparing for warfare with Chêkiang by way of either Kiangsu (which would naturally involve the Shanghai-Nanking Railway and Shanghai itself), Fukien, Kiangsi and Anhui, or *vice versa*.

These rumours, groundless as they are, have naturally caused no small amount of alarm and consternation locally and the merchants, gentry and residents are united in their demand that Kiangsu and Chêkiang shall keep the peace.

One of the latest of these rumours, issued on Sunday, was to the effect that various military commanders in the Chihli party had telegraphed to Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan (Military Governor of Kiangsu and High Military Inspecting Commissioner of Kiangsu, Kiangsi and Anhui) urging him to permit Marshal Feng Yu-hsiang (the Christian soldier, who is now Military Inspecting Commissioner of the three special areas of Suiyuan, Jehol and Charhar) to bring his troops south to attack Chêkiang. Should Marshal Feng succeed in his task, they will ask that he be granted the post of High Military Inspecting Commissioner of Chêkiang and Fukien. A similar telegram, it is also stated, has been sent to Marshal Wu Pei-fu, the Loyang warlord, but no replies have been received. According to the rumour, these Chihli men have every confidence that Feng and his men (who have been weighed and not found wanting) can succeed if the necessary permission is granted them.

The Chêkiang Residents' Association in Peking has passed a resolution which is being sent to Marshal Chi and Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang (Director-General for the Reorganization of Military Affairs in Chêkiang) warning them against warfare and stating that the first man to move his troops will be condemned by the whole nation as an enemy of the people.

President Tsao Kun and Marshal Wu Pei-fu have telegraphed to Marshal Chi and to Gen. Sun Chuan-fang (Tuli of Fukien) ordering them not to resort to military force in an attack against Chêkiang. They state that they are sending agents to Hangchow to meet Gen. Lu and discuss peace terms with him. They will urge him to unite with them under the self-government clause of the new Constitution.

NO AGGRESSIVE SCHEMES.

Meanwhile, Marshal Chi and Gen. Sun have telegraphed to local merchants denying that they have any aggressive schemes against Chêkiang. Marshal Chi states for months past he has not increased his army by a single soldier and he has not moved one man because he is afraid of causing misunderstandings which may result in trouble. Gen. Sun admits that he recently sent some troops to the north of his provinces to suppress the bandits, but denies that they were there for war against Chêkiang. As he hoped that the bandits will soon be dispersed or suppressed altogether, Gen. Sun stated that he would shortly withdraw his men to their proper stations. "I love peace," stated Gen. Sun, "and will never change my stand."

In another message to a local Chinese, Marshal Chi states that he has given his word not to fight and he will abide by his word, because his pledge was given honourably. He has not moved and will not move his men unless he is first attacked.

Gen. Lu, in a telegram denying that he is preparing for war, states: "Everybody knows that I love and want peace. There is no reason why we should fight at all. These rumours are groundless." Gen. Lu is reported to favour the statements of Gen Chi which appeared in this paper on Saturday last.

The Associated District Assemblies of Kiangsu has issued a manifesto urging all organizations in this province to demand that there shall be no movement of troops on either side. Should this wish be carried out, they state, the will of the people will be obeyed and peace will be maintained.

The Wusih Native Bankers' Guild has telegraphed to the Shanghai Chinese General Chamber of Commerce urging that organization to unite with other Chambers in requesting the authourities of the provinces concerned "to maintain the peace treaties for ever."

Meanwhile, Shanghai's population is steadily increasing by the influx of hundreds of Chinese daily, these coming here to be out of the war zone in good time.

Gen. Lu's Suggestion to Marshal Chi That They Retire from Office Together

As a further step towards effecting peace between the provinces in this section of China, we understand that a number of merchants are negotiating for a treaty of peace between Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang (of Chêkiang) and Gen. Sun Chuan-fang (of Fukien). Mr. Lin Chang-ming, former Minister of Justice, and Mr. F. M. Sah, former Commissioner of Foreign Affairs here and Director of the Shanghai Mint, have been appointed by the people of Fukien to negotiate with the Chêkiang people in carrying on agitation and propaganda for peace and in meeting with the officials concerned.

These two gentlemen, who are at present in Foochow, state, in a telegram just received, that Gen. Sun has given them an assurance that he will not attack Chêkiang and that he is prepared to sign a treaty similar to those which have already been entered into by Chêkiang with Kiangsu, Kiangsi and Anhui, all of which has his complete approval. The telegram, however, states that Gen. Chow Yin-jen, one of the Fukienese commanders, has refused to make any comment in connexion with the matter.

Gen. Lu, in an interview with a prominent Chêkiang merchant, Mr. Shen Tien-chen, states that he will abide by the peace treaties into which he has entered with neighbouring provinces and he will maintain peace and order, only defending his territory when forced so to do; that he will not start fighting or trouble of any nature as he is not a low down schemer; and that he has always hoped for the abolition of the Tuchunate and the abolition of troops. He states that he will carry out his word, and that, while he has no intention of entering provincial territory other than his own, he has the right of taking every precaution for his own defence. "I heartily approve of Marshal Chi's (Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan, of Kiangsu) statement," states Gen. Lu, "in connexion with the abolition of troops in concert with other provinces, and I endorse his statements that we must work together. But I will make a further suggestion; this is that we should retire from office together. This is for the good of the people and is not an impossible task. Let us take action rather than talk."

The members of the Chêkiang Provincial Assembly have addressed a letter to Marshal Chi demanding to know why he is ordering Gen. Sun and the troops in Fukien to fight Chêkiang. "You know we desire peace," they say, "but still you order your troops to attack us. This cannot be denied because there is always fire when there is smoke."

President Tsao Kun has received the representatives of the Chêkiang Residents' Association in audience and assured them that there will be no war between Chêkiang and its neighbouring provinces as he will do his utmost to avert this. He states that he has sent representatives south to negotiate with the various leaders for peace. The President showed the delegates Marshal Chi's telegram stating that he will not declare war, but will maintain peace and order.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Raymonde Levy

Mrs. Raymonde Levy, wife of Mr. Jack Levy, of Messrs. Sennet Freres, died at St. Mary's Hospital on Christmas night after a brief illness, peritonitis being the cause of death. The deceased lady, who only recently came to Shanghai, was but 21 years of age, and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Laffaille-Schrerb, resident in Paris. The announcement of her death was received with the greatest sympathy, and there was a large attendance of relatives and friends at the funeral, which took place at the Jewish cemetery, Baikal Road, on Wednesday of last week. Many beautiful floral tributes were sent.

Dr. Julian Petit

The funeral service for Dr. Julian Petit who was suddenly stricken by cerebral hæmmorrhage on the morning of December 31, and died on January 1, was held on Wednesday at Bubbling Well Cemetery, where friends and acquaintances completely filled the Chapel to an overflow. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. C. F. MacRae and the subsequent Masonic tributes by Rev. C. M. Drury, Chaplain, and Dr. C. J. Irons, Master, and Messrs. H. Norman, H. Holgate, J. J. Evans, H. Wiley, C. Beatty and J. Mason, his fellows in the Rotary Club, acted as pall bearers. The remains were cremated.

The deceased who came to Shanghai in 1915 has always been a prominent figure in American affair. He was born in Joplin, Missouri, in 1881 and graduated in medicine at Kansas University and Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. He was for many years city dispensary physician in that place and later U. S. public health surgeon. In Shanghai deceased was the first president and one of the principal organizers of the local Rotary Club and was one of the founders of the Acacia Masonic College Fraternity. Always a sincere and earnest Mason, Dr. Petit continued his studies in that science through the York Rite and upon completion became a member of the Mystic Shrine, being one of the first members and most earnest workers in the local Nomad Oasis. He acted for some time as the representative of Afifi Temple (Tacoma, Washington) for China. Dr. Petit was a member of the American Club, the Shanghai Club, the Columbia Country Club, the Cercle Sportif, the Rotary Club the Race Club and of the Nu Sigma Nu (medical fraternity). The greatest tribute that can be paid to Dr. Petit was that he was a friend to every one and had not an enemy in the world.

There were very many beautiful floral tributes.

Mr. H. E. R. Hunter

The news will be received with the deepest regret that the death occurred in London on the afternoon of December 31 of Mr. H. E. R. Hunter, formerly manager of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation here. Mr. Hunter had been seen by many Shanghai residents during recent months at Home, and he appeared to be in the best of health, and enjoying a well-earned retirement. Unhappily a stroke supervened on Monday from which he died.

It is not in Shanghai alone but throughout the whole Far East that the death of Harry Hunter will be mourned. It is difficult to give an adequate description of his work here, because all his relatives and most of his contemporaries are absent at the moment. His brother, Mr. Ellis Hunter, is on his way out to China after a holiday at Home, and his nephew Mr. J. E. L. Hunter is up-country. The deceased gentleman is understood to have been born in Inverness, although probably of English parentage, and it is believed that he came to Shanghai in the early 80's. He served in Shanghai, Penang and Japan ports, and his ability as a banker led to his appointment some 15 or 16 years ago as manager in Shanghai. He occupied the post at a period of great crisis, and all who remember financial conditions in the port at that time pay a tribute to his ability. For one thing the rubber boom took place, and there is no doubt that he greatly minimized the effects of the speculative orgy in which the public were anxious to indulge. In addition there was a far-reaching Chinese bankruptcy, and his ability in bringing the resources of the bank to the aid of the native finances of the port redounded to his credit. For a time he acted as Chief Manager of the bank in Hongkong, and retired in 1911.

The late Mr. Hunter was keenly interested in social events, and both during his stay here and afterwards at Home took his full share in the arduous committee work which falls to the lot of such men. Not only was he an owner of ponies, but he also acted as Steward of the Race Club while here, and with Mr. John Liddell ran a stable. It was a very great satisfaction to him to win the St. Leger in 1910 when Mr. Benbow Rowe brought Resilient home successfully. This same spirit was manifest when he retired to London. He was constantly in attendance at the Thatched House Club, of which he latterly became chairman, and he did much to carry on its traditions. The many service men from China who made use of that club during the war will remember his bluff but kindly presence and appreciate his consideration for their comfort. He had given up the pair of spectacles he wore in his office, and a monocle with a broad black ribbon gave him a distinguished appearance.

By the lamented death of Mr. H. E. R. Hunter old Shanghai residents are reminded that the deceased gentleman took a personal, active part in local sports while he was stationed here as a young man. In the early eighties some members of the bank's staff lived in a charming house on the Bubbling Well Road and there Mr. Hunter took his daily exercise with the tennis bat. But the younger generation, who only knew the deceased gentleman when he directed the affairs of the bank here, can hardly imagine him as bestriding a Mongolian pony at the races and fighting strenuously for a win. Yet he rode at not a few meetings, and at one time a local judge of jockeyship pronounced the opinion that he was the "coming jockey."

Miss D. F. Eaton

We regret to record the death on December 10 from meningitis of Miss Delta Frances Eaton, a member of the staff of the West China Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, stationed at Chengtu. Miss Eaton was in the Shanghai office for over a year and was prominent in the social work carried on by the Navy Y.M.C.A. in this city, having previously been connected with one of the largest Y.M.C.A. canteens in Paris during the War.

Mr. M. S. Wells

We regret to record the death at the age of 66 on December 22 of Mr. M. S. Wells, who for 15 years was a resident of Hongkong. Mr. Wells first arrived in the Far East to join the Taikoo Dock in the Colony. Latterly he was manager of the Hongkong Cigar Store. Mr. Wells was a Freemason and a member of the Royal Order of Buffaloes.

Mr. S. Baring-Gould

London, Jan. 2.

The death is announced of Mr. S. Baring-Gould, M.A., J.P., the well-known author and Rector of Lew-Trenchard, in his 90th year.—Reuter.

THE LATE MR. KAN CHIU-NAM

Memorial Services for Founder of Nanyang Tobacco Co.: Many Thousands Attend

Nearly 200 local Chinese organizations took part in memorial services which were held at the Town Hall on Saturday for the late Mr. Kan Chiu-nam, founder and former president of the Nanyang Bros. Tobacco Co., Ld., and several thousands of people attended. The proceedings lasted throughout the day, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The exterior of the Town Hall was decorated with a willow and evergreen pailou, lighted with small electric bulbs. Eight characters were shown, representing the words, "Memorial for Mr. Kan Chiu-nam."

In the main hall hundreds of scrolls and tablets were hung on the walls, entwined with bamboos and flowers, as well as two dozen wreaths. Over the middle of the platform was a portrait of the late Mr. Kan.

The Fuh-Tan University Boy Scouts acted as ushers, and the Lunghua and Kiangwan Orphanages' bands provided music.

At the beginning of the service in the morning, Mr. Chen Liang-yu, a prominent merchant, asked those present to rise and give three bows to the spirit of deceased. This was done in unison.

Mr. Fang-Chao-pah, acting Chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, then took the chair and outlined the career of Mr. Kan, this being similar to the report of his life which appeared in the "North China Daily News" the day after he passed away. Mr. Fang emphasized deceased's thriftiness, his industry, and his generosity. He concluded by stating that a brass tablet had been placed in the Chamber of Commerce building as a memorial for their late fellow member.

Following this speech, an announcement was made of the number of wreaths, scrolls, etc., which had been sent in, the senders' names, and the contents of their messages. A memorial song having been sung, addresses relating to Mr. Kan's life were delivered by Dr. Huang Yen-pai, Sir Robert Ho Tung, and others. Members of the deceased's family (his brother and his two sons) read messages of thanks to those who took part in the service. Music ended the proceedings.

The afternoon service was carried out on the same lines. Mr. Chu Hsia-chu was chairman and the speakers were Mr. Yang Tcheng (former Commissioner of Foreign Affairs in Shanghai), Miss May Tsu, Mr. Ma Shu-chow, Mr. Chang Ve-yung, and others.

At this service 3,000 male and female workers in the employ of the company paid their respects to their late employer by bowing thrice.

A RECENT report of the Chinese Navy states that there are 54 vessels now in active service, divided into three fleets. The first fleet numbers 11 cruisers and is stationed at the important seaports. The second fleet contains 40 vessels all on duty along the Yangtze River. Three of these are used as training ships. The Third Fleet is made up of two transports and one cruiser, which is used as an officer's training ship.

THE office of Foreign Affairs on December 20, states the "Independent News," sent a circular telegram in regard to the number of foreign nationals residing in the various provinces. It wants a complete list of all foreigners in order that due protection may be given them. The telegram follows the refusal of the Diplomatic Body to grant a request of the Chinese Government to prevent foreigners from travelling in certain part of China until order is restored.

THE SCANDAL OF THE SOOCHOW CREEK

Trials of a House Boat: Difficulties of Delivering Cargo: Improvement Delayed by Chinese Distrust

A gentleman making the trip by water to Soochow during the holidays reports a most interesting time, inasmuch as it required nearly 24 hours to be towed from the Garden Road Bridge to the Markham Road structure. The party left from near the Rowing Club at 3.30 p.m. on the Thursday before Christmas and by edging their way slowly, and cautiously taking every six inches or a foot that they could possibly manage to slip into, the laodah was able to get the houseboat as far as the Sinza Road Bridge by 11 o'clock in the morning. Here the entire group were subjected to a variety of sights and smells that only China at its worst could produce, a condition probably reproduced nowhere on the face of the globe. However, that stage was passed by dint of hard work on the part of the boatmen and in three hours more, at 2 p.m., the Markham Road Bridge was reached. Most of the congestion was then over and though much shallow water was encountered before arriving at their destination, the picnickers arrived at the walls of Soochow at eight on Saturday morning. They considered themselves extremely fortunate, however, when they saw on their arrival that many others who had gone up by train the day before expecting to find their beds, stoves and utensils awaiting them—having shipped them on the Wednesday—had to spend the night as best they could in taverns, tents and what not in lieu of their delayed houseboats. As many as 30 parties were more or less disappointed through the vagaries of the Soochow Creek and its nefarious channels.

It is needless to report that these seekers of relaxation during the holidays did not attempt to return in the same manner that they went up, but employed the foreign-managed Shanghai-Nanking Railway to get back to the Settlement. Last Monday morning the laodah of the boat which took so long to get up, came to his master and said, "Here, I am." It had taken him the best part of the week to get back. On both the up and return voyage great inconvenience was encountered above the limits of Shanghai because boats had tied up right in the middle of the channel.

It has been stated that the clearest channel could be found on this side of the waterway, while on the Chapei side congestion unimaginable was run into, though credit must be given to the Chapei police for their attempts to keep the boatmen on the move. With their batons and bamboo sticks and clubs they belaboured and flogged the boatmen, but it was of no avail. To appease in a small measure the police they would move perhaps six inches and then stop until struck again and with the swarms of small vessels of all descriptions and the larger ones too it would have required nothing less than a small army to keep them in any sort of motion at all.

SHIPPERS' STRENUOUS TIME.

This picture has been presented merely to give the casual reader and the public in general an idea, however meagre it may be, of the strenuous time shippers must experience in getting cargo through this tortuous waterway and the slowness in delivery. It requires 24 hours for a pleasure boat towed by a motor launch to navigate the creek from the Garden Road Bridge to Markham Road Bridge, how much longer will be required for hand-driven coolies to 'yuloh' a cargo sampan full of machinery, flour or general merchandise. Consider the goods from the S.N.R. terminal which are brought by land from the depot and then must be taken over this waterway to deep harbour ships and then foreign goods taken from the vessels for interior cities and towns.

A person standing on Szechuen Road Bridge during the past week must have wondered with amazement that as much as a sampan could edge its way along at all for there did not appear to be an open inch of water much less than enough for a draft boat. Thousands of small craft as far as the eye could discern were crammed into it and though Customs men at the mouth attempted to prevent further ingress, it was more the inability of the boats to enter than their efforts that stopped further congestion.

It will be remembered that several weeks ago the Chinese press reported that an organization had been formed called the Soochow Creek Improvement Association for the improvement of the Soochow Creek.

These people, Chinese, propose to raise a fund of $600,000 to dredge and improve the channel, and wish to raise it in two parts, half to come from the Shanghai merchants and the other $300,000 to be subscribed by farmers and tenants along the stream who will be benefited from the work inasmuch as their crops can be moved the more readily, and further that they will no longer be inconvenienced by having their land flooded at times of fertility and need.

AN OFFER TO DREDGE.

But that is not all. Some five years ago the Whangpoo Conservancy Board offered to dredge and clean out the bottom so that it could be used for all classes of small shipping but the Chinese were afraid of their "sovereign rights." In the meanwhile "sovereign rights" have allowed the bottom to become silted up and the channel narrowed until there is barely a modicum of efficiency remaining. Then there was a proposition that the Municipality, the Board and the Chinese themselves should each contribute a third of the cost to dredge it for a distance of 10 li to well beyond the confines of the Settlement, the remainder of the channel to be attended to by the provincial authorities; but this was also frowned upon and turned down and native papers were full of reports that the Council had bought a dredging machine and were going to proceed upon their own. The latest offer has come from the Whangpoo Conservancy Board again. It is to the effect that they will provide the full cost of the work and the machinery if it will only be permitted to proceed, but again there appear to be fears on the part of the populace that it is an attempt to grab portions of territory and assign them to the use of the foreigner.

There has been a wholehearted effort on the part of some of the Chinese officialdom and gentry to persuade their countrymen that this move is but for their own good, but so far they have met with no success. Mr. Hsu Yuen, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, is a hearty supporter of the measure and used all his influence at Nanking to assist the movement and returned with a message of hope, but that is as far as it has got. Mr. Hsu has even prepared a memorandum outlining the measure for the consumption of his countrymen and assuring them that there is nothing but altruism in the proposals of the Board. An organization has been formed of local officials known as the Woosung Conservancy Committee to assist in the getting together of all discordant elements and caring for the dredging above the limits. Certainly co-operation is doing much to alleviate distrust in the arrangements, but so far nothing has really been done, not a shovel full of earth has been removed and until this happens well it would seem probable that absolutely nothing can be done until the issue is settled—if then. Of course with Gen. Ho in power here and Gen. Hsieh in control at Nanking what chances of settlement are there?

Thousands of tons of shipping are delayed monthly and hundreds of boats are held back daily for the channel to clear. Coal, iron, machinery, flour, perishables, inflammables, cargo of all descriptions are beggaring along and are left to the play of the elements—storms and sunshine. The prejudices are immense. The feelings of the uneducated are anti-everything that may assist. Members of Parliament use the Creek for an issue to inflame their supporters along general lines. Those that do not understand are firm. But the Conservancy Commission have a fund of Tls. 500,000 which they have pledged to use purely for the benefit of the Chinese. It is time that something were done. When will light dawn?

With reference to the above article, we learn that the chief of water police has issued an order that no junks or other vessels will be permitted to remain standing in any section of the creek unless loading or unloading. Protests naturally are being lodged.

SCIENCE, ART AND LITERATURE

Formation of a Study Circle

On Saturday afternoon a number of persons interested in science, art and literature were the guests of Messrs. Arthur and Theodore Sopher at 445 Avenue Joffre, and discussed the advisability of forming a circle devoted to the cultivation of various branches of knowledge and the interchange of thought thereon.

Dr. Frederick Reiss explained briefly the object of the meeting, and introduced the principal speaker, Mr. Arthur de C. Sowerby. Mr. Sowerby referred to the work of the China Society of Science and Arts throughout the country, and left it to his auditors to decide whether the new Society should be associated with it as its Shanghai centre or proceed independently.

Mr. Sowerby further alluded to the important work in biological research now being carried on by educational institutions in this country, and read an original paper summarising the present state of knowledge of the fauna of China. His remarks were received with cordial appreciation, and the resulting discussion made it clear that those present welcomed the opportunity of attending lectures by specialists from time to time, and discussing their somewhat varied interests with each other.

COMMANDEERING LAND IN SHANGHAI

The Small Man's Complaint of Southeastern University

To the requisition of 500 mow of land by the Southeast University, the countrymen are continuing their opposition as strongly as before, because they will be thereby deprived of their only means of livelihood, comments the *"Sinwanpao."* Of the total area of 500 mow requisitioned, the owners are mostly poor people, some possessing one mow and some even less each. On his tiny land, the owner has built his dwelling house, and buried his ancestors, and managed to grow something whereby to eke out a precarious living for himself and family. The owner would be thrown into a pitiful plight if he were suddenly deprived of his little property one day and, even fairly compensated according to market value, not to mention the reduced rate arbitrarily fixed, he would find it a very difficult task to secure another suitable site on which to live and thrive, in view of the exceedingly high cost of land now ruling in Shanghai. With such a pittance as would be paid to him, (a flat rate of $500 per mow is officially announced), could he forsake his native village and emigrate, or could he buy a competency for life? Such a highhanded way of acquiring land would be tantamount to destroying the owner's house, making him bankrupt, driving him to poverty and exile, and inflicting the death sentence upon the whole of his family, not to mention the demolition of his ancestors' tombs.

Let the University authorities place themselves for a moment in the position of these small owners and reconsider this matter from a humanitarian viewpoint. We should say there is certainly an abundance of vacant waste land to be had at Nanking. Why does not the University try to meet its requirement there?

The Shanghai District Council and other public bodies, the gentry and other prominent persons should all lend their support to the appeal of the poor countrymen, since this is a matter in which not only is the latter's welfare threatened, but the interest of the public affected as well, though indirectly.

THE ITALIAN OPERA CO.

New Year Performances of "Traviate" and Tosca

The popularity of the Italian Opera Company held good even in the face of all the special New Year's Eve attractions.

The Lyceum was well filled for Monday's performance of Verdi's tuneful "Traviata." Signorina Delza made a very appealing Violetta and her solos were rendered easily and in a highly artistic and dramatic manner. Signor Gilletta as the lover, Alfredo, was excellent and the rich qualities of his voice were impressive. Signora Polastri sang the parts of Flora and Annina and Signors Bigardi, Giorgianni, Contini and Paterna appeared respectively as Germont *pere*, Castone, Baron Souphol, and Doctor Grenvil.

Whatever faults there may have been to criticize in past performances the Italian Opera Company certainly rose to the occasion of "Tosca" on Tuesday evening.

Miss Impallomeri's interpretation of the title role combined a fine and sympathetic control of the voice with natural acting. We have already had occasion to refer to the excellent singing of Mr. Chiaia. As Cavaradossi, the painter, he more than fulfilled expectations in his grasp of the magnificent opportunities afforded him. Mr. Scamuzzi, too, showed an artistic restraint and judgment which sometimes he appears to lack and the great natural strength and beauty of his voice has rarely been heard to better advantage.

"La Boheme"

All the positive qualities of the Italian Grand Opera Co. were in evidence on Wednesday when "La Bohême" was presented for the first time during this visit. Half way through the first act the orchestra became more manageable; one was able to hear Signor Giletta's magnificent voice at its most lyrical moments, but the same bad fault noticed on previous nights very nearly ruined the efforts of the singers. Signor Giletta as Rudolpho, and Mlle. Ambroso as Mimi made a charming pair, both of them being particularly good in the pathetic passages. Without exception the vocal efforts of the other principals were fully as effective, especially in the well-remembered quartettes.

"Aida"

To characterize last evening's production of "Aida" in a few short phrases one may say that the singing on the whole was excellent, the chorus *ensemble* at the conclusion of the second act was magnificent, while the duets of Aida and Amonasro, and Aida and Rhadames, coupled with the ensuing trio between the three, could hardly have ever been surpassed on an Oriental stage. For pure pathos and sympathy and a hearty fellow feeling on the part of the audience the temple dungeon scenes with Rhadames and Aida enclosed within, furnishes the most tragic event.

MME. DIETERICHS' ORPHANAGE

A Brave Little Russian Household at Siccawei and How It Manages to Live

Not far from the Siccawei Convent, off one of the narrow streets of the little Chinese village, whose name sounds like Tuzeva, Mme Dieterichs is maintaining the little group of Russian girls whom she has cared for since they were separated from their parents in the hasty evacuation of Omsk away back in 1919. She started with 46 children, but some have been restored to family or friends, so now there are only 24, including two little boys, who were mere babies at the time they joined the group with their sisters.

Mme. Dieterichs feels herself responsible for the nurture and education of these children, whose ages range from five to 15. She has undertaken to bring them up so that when they are able to return to Russia they will be of real service to their fatherland. Their first stopping place was at Harbin but economic pressure brought them down to Shanghai where they were first domiciled in Hungjao Road, but have now secured cheaper quarters in Siccawei.

The little orphanage is entirely dependent upon outside sources for its support, Mme. Dieterichs making no appeal for charity but accepting gladly what assistance is offered by those interested in the work. The orphanage is conducted with the greatest economy, the girls are taught to care for the house, to do their own washing and mending and to help in the preparation of meals. There are no servants of any sort kept, but three teachers who have been with the children throughout carry out the usual programme of the Russian gymnasium.

The girls for the most part seem well and happy, and they are receiving a splendid training in home-making as well as a good general education. Both General and Mme. Dieterichs teach and share the same fare as the others. For breakfast at eight there is only tea and bread, at noon a rice porridge, at five o'clock soup—which has meat in it only three times a week. Again at eight in the evening tea is served to give a little additional warmth before going to bed, as they have no adequate stoves.

The girls sew very neatly and will be glad to take orders for mending, plain sewing or embroidery. In this connexion it may be added that the address for a small table cover, ordered some time ago, was destroyed when part of the ceiling in their former house fell down and they are consequently unable to advise the lady who ordered it that the work is completed. If this reaches her eye, she is asked to communicate with Mrs. Desnitsky Stone, 16 Wongkashaw Gardens, Telephone W.1835, who is in constant touch with the Orphanage.

A raffle of the embroidery made by the girls has been arranged and tickets for this and also for a beautiful platinum wrist watch may be obtained from Mrs. Stone, who will also be glad to hear from any one who wants Russian lessons from a well qualified teacher, who also speaks English or from any one wishing boots made to order, as General Dieterichs has learned to make shoes of the best cut and finish. Russian riding boots are a speciality but any style can be furnished.

Those responsible for the welfare of this group are making every effort to render it as nearly self-supporting as possible, but there are necessarily many large expenses to be met and with no endowment nor any regular pledges the uncertainty of its finances weighs heavily upon Mme. Dieterichs.

INTERPORT RUGBY

Shanghai Victorious Against Hongkong

Hongkong, Jan. 2.

The interport rugby match between Shanghai and Hongkong was played this afternoon and resulted in a win for Shanghai by 6 points to 3.

The weather was ideal and there was an immense concourse of spectators, including the Governor and Sir Roderick Jones. Sir Reginald Stubbs shook hands with the players before the start of the match.

Shanghai displayed better teamwork. After 20 minutes of vigorous and even play Shanghai carried the ball two-thirds down the field. Bichard crossed far to the left but failed to convert. Fifteen minutes after half-time Bowker (Hongkong) missed a free-kick 40 yards in front of goal. McMeekin (Shanghai) five minutes later also missed a freekick. Then Shanghai displayed pretty passing, right across the field to Bichard, who scored. McMeekin failed to convert. Five minutes from time the Hongkong forwards rushed the ball over but Day failed to convert.

E. J. Dowley was injured in the knee towards the end of the match and was carried off but later returned to the field.

The visitors will play a Navy team on Tuesday.

To-morrow evening the teams are being entertained to dinner at the Hongkong Club, and on Friday they will be guests at the St. George's Society Ball.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Shanghai Defeated by Navy

Hongkong, Jan. 3.

A Navy XV this afternoon defeated the Shanghai Interport Rugby team by 16 points to 3.

The Navy had the superior team, possessing good outside men, particularly Shenton, who scored four tries, two of which were converted.

McMeekin (Shanghai) scored one penalty goal.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NEW POPULARITY OF SPORT IN FRANCE

"London Park" for Athletics on the Field of Verdun

Verdun, Nov. 14.

A standard athletic stadium, with regulation Rugby and Association football fields, running tracks, velodrome, grandstands and club house, being erected on the edge of this battered city, simultaneously with the work of reconstructing homes to provide shelter for the war victims, is evidence of the place which outdoor sports and athletics now occupy in French life.

"London Park," as the new grounds will be known, in grateful appreciation of the fact that 350,000 francs of the amount necessary for the expense involved were subscribed in London, is to be officially inaugurated by the Premier, M. Poincaré, next summer. Invitations will be sent to celebrated foreign athletes and their participation is expected greatly to enhance the ceremony from an athletic point of view.—Reuter.

AUSTRALIAN CRICKET

Melbourne, Jan. 1.

In a cricket match which concluded to-day Victoria beat New South Wales by 43 runs. The match was fought out with remarkable determination and lasted 5½ days.

Scores:—Victoria 285 (Mayne 106: Scott took 5 wickets for 107) and 412 (Woodfull 117).

N.S.W. 268 (Collins 108: Liddicut took 4 for 50) and 386 (Kelleway 98, Bardsley 74, Kippax 72).—Reuter.

Noted Boxer's Death

Minneapolis, Jan. 1.

The heavyweight boxer, Billy Miske, died here to-day.—Reuter's American Service.

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

Volunteer Corps.

Light Horse.—2/Lieut. C. Trenchard Davis M.C. to be Lieutenant.

Machine Gun Company.—2/Lieut. E. C. Baker and 2/Lieut. D. W. Leach to be Lieutenants.

American Company.—2/Lieut. E. L. McCloskey to be Lieutenant.

Chinese Company.—2/Lieut. T. Y. Chang to be Lieutenant.

Commission Renewals.—Captain H. E. Middleton M.B.E., Reserve of Officers, from 2/12/23.

Captain J. E. Murray, Medical Officer, from 30/12/23.

Education.

Extra VI Form at the Public School for Girls.—The Acting Headmistress has recommended that, with a view to encouraging pupils to remain at school for a further year after passing the Senior Cambridge Examination or to pursue a special branch of study, an Extra VI Form be established, and that half fees only be charged for attendance. It is suggested that this project should be in the nature of a reward to pupils for good work, that extra staff will not be necessary, and that the opportunity of an extra year's study under these conditions would be advantageous to pupils in assisting them to select a career. The project is approved, by way of experiment, provided that only pupils who have passed the Senior Cambridge Examination are considered eligible therefor.

Permanent Education Committee

The following is the Report to the Council on the Annual Inspection of Schools for 1923, drawn up by the Permanent Education Committee. The Report bears evidence of the care and attention to educational matters given by the Committee. The various suggestions made will, in due course, receive the Council's detailed consideration:—

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS, 1923.

The annual inspection of Municipal Schools and of those receiving grants-in-aid took place during the months of November and December. Altogether seven afternoons and one morning were spent on visitations. In as much as this constitutes a somewhat heavy tax on the time of busy men, it was never possible to have all the members of the Committee present at any one visit.

On the first and second days three members took part in the inspection, namely Dr. MacGillivray, Mr. Dawson and Dr. Hawks Pott. On the third, fourth, fifth and sixth days only Mr. Dawson and Dr. Hawks Pott were able to be present. The visitation on the seventh and last day was undertaken by Dr MacGillivray and Mr. Rowland; the latter was prevented by illness from taking part until the last day. Mr. V. G. Lyman was unable to take any part in the inspection.

In our comments on the schools we will group them according to the following order:

I Municipal Schools for European Children.
II Municipal Schools for Chinese.
III Municipal School for Indian Children.
IV Schools receiving grants-in-aid.

I.—*The Municipal Schools for European Children.*—There are altogether six schools: (1) the Public School for Boys, (2) the Public School for Girls on Yuyuen Road, (3) the Public School for Girls on Boone Road, (4) the Thomas Hanbury School for Boys, (5) the Thomas Hanbury School for Girls, and (6) the Kungping Road School for Boys and Girls. We will refer to them in that order.

(1) *The Public School for Boys.*—The members of the Committee noted with considerable interest the formation of the Cadet Corps. It was a pleasure to watch the boys at drill, and taking into consideration the short time that has elapsed since the formation of the company, the efficiency already attained is truly remarkable. Mr. Dawson and Dr. Hawks Pott inspected the company and the former made a few remarks expressing his commendation.

The Science work in this school appeared to be of a higher grade than in any of the other schools which were inspected, and might well be taken for a model.

The fact that the registration in the school showed a slight falling off from that of last year seemed to indicate that for the class of boys attending the school, the fees charged present some difficulty. Certainly, they should not be further increased.

The school is much to be congratulated on the fact that one of its students gained the Peace Scholarship.

We noticed that the Natural History Specimens in the School Museum had been well mounted and put into new cases, and we hope that this department of the school will be further developed.

The addition to the playground at the rear of the school building will be of great value for games and athletic sports.

(2) *The Public School for Girls on Yuyuen Road.*—This was the first visit to this new school, and the Committee found much to admire. The building has been well planned for its purpose, and there is but little to criticise. Some of the workmanship might have been better, but it appears to be very difficult to get as good construction now-a-days as in former times. The tile floors and the Ningpo varnish are not altogether satisfactory.

We would call attention to the following needs. There should be more space for storing coal,—the present coal house being altogether too small.

More serious than this is the need of better equipment for the teaching of science, and the enlargement of the school library.

We were pleased to learn that practically all the girls formerly attending the school in Avenue Road were in the new school, and that the total number of pupils showed considerable increase. Evidently the school has been erected in the right locality, and there will be little difficulty in filling it.

At the present time the third floor is unoccupied and we would suggest that it be utilized for a school for small boys up to the age of ten, and thus help to meet the growing need for a school for boys in this district. The management of this Department might be in the hands of Mr. Billings.

(3) *The Public School for Girls on Boone Road.*—This school, now reduced to the grade of an Elementary School, is as well attended as ever, and is evidently much needed. As the girls from the district come from less well-to-do families than those in the Western District, we believe the fees should be kept lower. In as much as many of the pupils will have to make their living, it is desirable that the education should be made practical, and we would advise that instruction in commercial subjects be given in the higher forms.

We see no reason why the girls in this school should not be taught cooking and domestic science.

At the present time much to our surprise we found that the Headmistress has to attend to all the office work, without the help of a clerk. It would seem wise to relieve her of some of the routine clerical work, so that more of her time might be devoted to the important duty of supervision.

(4) *The Thomas Hanbury School for Boys.*—In our visit to this school, we inspected the new addition. We were pleased with the Assembly Hall, and the Chemistry Laboratory, but disappointed with the Physics Laboratory. The last mentioned is so dark as to be practically useless, and some rearrangement of the ground floor would seem to be necessary.

The Department of Manual Training seems to be highly popular and well conducted, and we would favour the development of this branch of work in the other schools.

We would call attention to the fact that the roof of this building appears to require a coat of paint, and that it would be in the interest of economy to have the work undertaken immediately.

In the general efficiency and in good organization, this school stands very high.

(5) *The Thomas Hanbury School for Girls.*—Owing to the fact that we were late in arriving at this school, it was not possible to see many classes in session, but we were impressed by the excellent work in those which were visited.

It seems a great pity that such an excellent school should be so poorly housed. Year after year we have called attention to the need of a new school building, but thus far no plan for remedying the present unsatisfactory condition has been adopted. We think it greatly to the credit of the Headmistress that in spite of many handicaps, such good results have been achieved.

We were interested in seeing that the girls are taught shorthand, cooking, drawing, basket making, as well as the usual subjects in the school curriculum. It might be well to add a course in typewriting. All these girls will have to make their own living, and therefore the vocational side of education should be emphasized.

(6) *The Kungping Road School for Boys and Girls.*—This is largely a Kindergarten and preparatory school for small children. The children are bright and happy, and the class rooms are attractive. Evidently school life is made a pleasure and not a drudgery.

The building which is used for this school answers the purpose very well, but the high rent makes the cost for educating a small number of children, about fifty, higher than it should be. The Council would find it a wise economy to erect their own building in the Eastern District as it is certain that a school will be needed in this locality. If the lease on the present building is renewed it should be with the understanding that the lease would include the stable and servant's quarters on the grounds. It is an anomalous state of affairs that right next to the school building there should be a stable and quarters occupied by mafoo and family, not under the control of the school authorities.

II.—*The Municipal Schools for Chinese.*—At present there are four: (1) the Public School for Chinese on Elgin Road, (2) the Ellis Kadoorie School, (3) the Nieh Chih Kuei School, and (4) the Polytechnic School.

(1) *The Public School for Chinese.*—This school has been greatly improved in appearance by the repairs and the new coat of paint. The former masters' residences make excellent laboratories. We would like to see the Physics Laboratory as well equipped as that for Chemistry.

In this school as in the other schools for Chinese there might be more uniformity in the text books used for teaching English. It appeared that each school acted independently in this matter. One Headmaster spoke highly of a certain book, and another did not seem to know much about it. It would be a good plan for the Headmasters to confer on such matters.

In regard to the teaching of Geography, more emphasis should be placed on the teaching of the Geography of China than seems to be the case at present.

(2) *Ellis Kadoorie School.*—The new wing is a splendid addition. We would suggest that the pavement of the ground floor might be improved. A coat of asphalt would make it useful as a play shed in wet weather. It might also be provided with some simple gymnastic apparatus.

Again we were struck by the lack of uniformity with other public schools, and found ourselves wondering why there was no attempt to teach Science in this school. In modern education we realize that no education is complete that fails to give the pupils some instruction in the Natural Sciences.

(3) *Nieh Chih Kuei School.*—The increase in the number of pupils has been remarkable. There are now 360 on the roll and the maximum will soon be reached. The school is satisfying a need in a rapidly growing district.

We inspected the new wing, containing the work shops. It seems somewhat of a pity that such excellent equipment is not put to greater use. More pupils should be taking manual training and it should be a regular part of the curriculum instead of being taught after the close of the school day.

We would call attention to the fact that the latrine could be greatly improved if the surface was covered with tiles. In this way it could be kept clean and the smell would be less offensive.

(4) *The Polytechnic School.*—The school is doing excellent work and the pupils are alive and alert. It is evidently located in the right district, and the new building should be erected on the present premises.

III.—*The School for Indian Children.*—The main purpose for establishing this school was to provide education for the children of the Sikh Police employed by the Municipal Council. The idea was a good one, but has not worked out very satisfactorily. The number of children attending has been so small that the expense has hardly justified. The teacher seems to have lent himself to political propaganda, and the decision reached by the Council to suspend the school at the end of the year is a wise one.

The suggestion of the Permanent Education Committee that the expense of such a school should be a charge on the budget of the Police Force and not on the Educational Budget has been adopted. This is not a public school, and its existence is rendered necessary only because the Municipal Council wishes to encourage the Sikh Police to bring their families to Shanghai. It is therefore an expense incurred in connexion with the Police Force.

IV.—*Schools receiving grants-in-aid.*—The following schools receive grants-in-aid: (1) the Jewish School, (2) the Providence Or-Orphanage in connexion with St. Joseph's Institute (3) St. Francis Xavier's, and (4) the Institution of the Holy Family.

The Jewish School has now been moved to one of the buildings formerly occupied by the American School. This is a great improvement, but if the school is to become permanent, we think it would be advisable for the Jewish community to erect a suitable school building.

The Roman Catholic Institutions receiving grants-in-aid are carrying on a charitable work that is worthy of support, and in as much as the Municipal Council does not provide any home for orphans, or the exceedingly poor, we consider that these grants are justified.

Conclusions.—In submitting this memorandum, the Committee feels that it is somewhat of the nature of an *ad interim* report. The time has come when better provision should be made for the oversight and inspection of schools than it is possible for the Permanent Education Committee to give.

The schools are doing excellent work, but further improvement is possible in the way of co-operation, unification and adaptation to present-day requirements.

In as much as the General Education Commission has such matters under consideration further comment at this time is unnecessary.

On behalf of the Committee.
F. L. HAWKS POTT.

FAREWELL TO SIR R. HO TUNG

Chinese Chamber of Commerce Reception: Peace to Be Won Only by Deeds

[illegible] we take action not talk. If we want to have real peace in China we must be prepared to sacrifice for it," was the keynote of a reception held on Wednesday afternoon in the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in honour of Sir Robert Ho Tung.

Mr. Fang Chao-ying, acting Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, presided, and among those present were Sir Robert and his two sons, Mr. Hsu Yuan (Commissioner of Foreign Affairs), Gen. Wang Ching-chen (chief of staff to the local Military Governor), Chev. S. K. Chen, Judge T. S. K. Loh Messrs. Fu Siao-en, Pan Ching-poo, Lo King-kee, Shen Shen-ching, N. Y. Chang, S. S. Fung, P. K. Chu, S. U. Zau, K. S. Zee, W. H. Chen, and Sze Liang-zay, L. T. Yuan, and Drs. David Z. T. Yui, P. W. Kuo, T. H. Lee, and Huang Yen-pai.

The hosts of the afternoon were the Chamber of Commerce, the Kiangsu Educational Association, the Shanghai Bankers' Association, the Shanghai Native Bankers' Guild, the World's Chinese Students' Federation and the Shanghai College of Com[illegible] Southeastern University).

Mr. Fang, in the opening speech, stated that the reception was not only a welcome to Sir Robert personally, but it was a welcome to the desire for peace which [illegible] which everybody should work, and the speaker expressed the hope that Sir Robert Ho Tung would return to Shanghai in the near future to carry on the work which he is leaving behind.

Mr. Shen Chu hsu, chairman of the Bankers' Association, concurred with Mr. Fang, stating [illegible] provinces, but the provinces still at war, which wanted Sir Robert to come with his peaceful designs.

Dr. Huang Yen-pei, representing the Kiangsu Educational Associa[illegible] ancient times, when they wanted peace, advocated it, agitated for it and secured peace. When he re[illegible] abroad, said Dr. Huang, he and three other gentlemen (Dr. David Yui, Mr. C. C. Nieh and Dr. Moulin Chiang) issued a circular telegram throughout the country [illegible] and unity, but unfortunately at the [illegible] about. China's troubles were because the people only talked and did not take action.

Mr. [illegible] Liang-zay, who has consented to carry on the work of [illegible] motrow, said that the Kiangsu [illegible] bad and matters were threatening. Mr. [illegible] local journalist, has just returned to Shanghai after [illegible] Nan[illegible] and Hongkong where he met Marshal Chang Tso-lin, and Gen. Li Yuan-hung in the interests of peace. [illegible] was part of the [illegible] to [illegible] able to arrive at peace with each other, he said, what hopes [illegible] for [illegible] of this country.

Sir Robert stated that he was leaving Shanghai, but his heart was with the Chinese people in Shanghai. He wanted peace and was willing to work hard for peace, but now, owing to pressure of business [illegible] and the cold weather which has [illegible] Hongkong. He was returning to Hongkong. After going to Hongkong he was going to England to be present as one of the Hongkong commissioners at the British Empire Exhibition, but he was prepared to return immediately [illegible] if a crisis arose. He would like the conference would take place. Sir Robert stated that he was also willing to mortgage [illegible] property in order to raise funds for China.

A dinner was given by Mr. C. F. Hsu, the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs in honour of Sir Robert Ho Tung, the promotor of the Round Table Peace Conference, at the Bureau of Foreign Affairs on Sunday last. Mr. Hsu Tai-chi, formerly Governor of the Bank of China and now Vice-President of the Chinese Ameri[illegible] Bank of Commerce, Mr. C. P. Fang, President of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Shen Chu shu, President of the Chinese Bankers' Association, were among the guests. The host delivered a farewell speech and Sir Robert responded. Mr. Shen Chu-shu, the President of the Banker's Association, and Mr. P. K. Chu, General Secretary of the World's Chinese Students' Federation, also spoke. Sir Robert left for Hongkong by the President Madison on Friday.

SHANGHAI AMERICAN SCHOOL

Dedication Service

A large number of interested friends accepted the invitation of the Shanghai American School to exercises in connexion with the dedication of the new buildings in Avenue Petain on Wednesday afternoon when they inspected the three buildings already in use, the recitation building, the girls' dormitory, and the building housing the large dining hall in which the services of dedication were held.

At 3.45 an American flag, the gift of the American Legion, was presented by Mr. C. S. Franklin, Commander of the Frederick Ward Post of the American Legion, to the school as represented by Cpl. Raven in charge of a squad of American school boys, members of the American Co., S.V.C., Cpl. Raven handed the flag to the School Co. of Boy Scouts who raised it while Mr. Miller sounded "To the Colours" on the cornet and the S.V.C. squad presented arms. In presenting the flag Mr. Franklin charged the school to guard it carefully and keep it proudly flying as it stood for the traditions and ideals of their country.

After tea had been served to all guests the service of dedication was opened by a prayer by Rev. C. N. Caldwell, the "Father" of the School, whereafter Miss Louise Macklin of the Music Department then gave a violin solo. Mr. W. W. Lockwood, Chairman of the Building Committee, presented the buildings to the Board of Managers. Mr. Harold Dollar, Chairman of the Board of Managers, in accepting the gift spoke in appreciation of the untiring work of the Building Committee. Miss Beruice Austin, also of the Music Department, sang, and the Rev. C. L. Boynton, the Principal of the school, spoke of "The School and the Future," saying that the school was "too large for its clothes already" since the number of applications was already greater than could be accommodated and unless 40 or more students were to be denied admission this [illegible] temporary buildings would have to be erected or other means taken to meet the need. He then introduced Captain Robert Dollar.

SHANGHAI'S AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

In the dedicatory address Cap[illegible] Dollar touched on the rapid growth of American interests in China, of the forward outlook of the school, the wise foresight shown in choosing a plan adaptable to large development and to the interest which America was beginning to take in China both commercially and generally. The American community in Shanghai, said the speaker, has been referred to as the greatest community of Americans outside the United States.

The prayer of dedication and [illegible] were pronounced by Rev. H. N. Smith, Vice Chairman of the Board.

Mr. A. Sorensen, formerly Vice-Consul for Norway, has been appointed Sub-Manager of the Sino-Scandinavian Bank, Shanghai. Mr. Sorensen is relieving Mr. A. H. Haslund, who has joined the Board of Directors of the same bank.

CAPT. ROBT. DOLLAR AT UNION CLUB

The Great Expansion of Pacific Trade and the Future of Shanghai's Commerce

Capt. Robert Dollar was entertained at luncheon last Friday by the members of the Union Club. Mr. V. G. Lyman was in the chair, and there was a very large number of members present, British, American and Chinese. After lunch, Mr. Lyman introduced Capt. Dollar in a few well chosen words, and Capt. Dollar rose to reply. He began by expressing his great pleasure at the cosmopolitan nature of the society in which he found himself. It was a matter of great delight to him to find an institution such as the Union Club, with British, American and Chinese all co-operating.

Capt. Dollar recalled how, when he was in London some years ago, he was much struck by the formation of the English-Speaking Union, of which he became the first life member. With such unions, he said, with co-operation and with intimacy between the English-speaking peoples of the world, apart from any question of politics or alliances, war must become practically impossible. Capt. Dollar then turned to the question of China, and while expressing regret that she was not making the progress that she should, he emphasized strongly that neither was there cause for her friends to be discouraged. He recalled that it was just 47 years ago that the Woosung Railway was torn up and taken away to Formosa. There were then no railways in China, but she was now abundantly provided with them, though not so abundantly as she should be.

Capt. Dollar next spoke of the great prosperity through which America was passing. All over the country, in big cities and little villages, houses were being built, and the saw mills of the Western Slope could not turn even domestic orders. Simultaneously, there was an amazing expansion of trade on the Pacific. This was shown by the development of the harbours from Canada to Southern California, which still could not keep pace with the ships which required them. In 40 years the trade of the Pacific had increased by 636 per cent., and the tonnage now passing through the Panama canal was 3,000,000 tons more than that of the Suez canal.

China must share in this prosperity, and it was certain that she would share in it. Capt. Dollar contrasted Shanghai of 30 years ago, when nothing but little ships could come up the river, with the Shanghai of to-day, when all the biggest vessels on the Pacific could come right up the harbour. Shipping entering the port of Shanghai in 1922 amounted to 27,000,000 tons, which was ahead of Hongkong, once the leader, and second he thought, to the port of New York. There was however, still much to be done in respect of the Fairy Flats and at Woosung, but this would be done. He dwelt on the great prospects of Shanghai as the entrepot for all the peoples living along the Yangtze and its tributaries, who amounted in number to one-eighth of the world's population. Capt. Dollar then spoke with great satisfaction of the Four-Power Treaty. Before that Treaty, war between the United States and Japan had seemed to many people to be inevitable, but the Four-Power Treaty had put it back into the remote distance.

He concluded with the hope and the sure confidence that China would get over her troubles; and then bade his hosts farewell, as, he said he prided himself on letting business men get back to their offices by two o'clock.

In a New Year's message to his fellow nationals, Mr. S. Yada, the local Japanese Consul General, urges them to awaken to the fact of the importance of entering into closer relations with the Chinese people.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

PAPER HUNT CLUB

The Eighth Hunt: A Cold Day and Plenty of Water in Kiangwan Country

The last hunt of the year took place on Saturday afternoon at Kiangwan. The weather was bright overhead, but the wind was piercingly cold, and the hunters got well chilled through before they started. There were only about thirty competitors, and several of these got rather wet because the tide was in and the creeks were very full of water. The hunt was laid by Mr. H. G. Elliott over good galloping country, but the jumps were too many and too big, especially the first jump, which should not have been laid. The course lay entirely on the west side of the Woosung Railway line and the pace was slow, as the jumps and wades took it out of the ponies. The falls were numerous and the veteran Mr. A. W. Burkill took a toss no less than five times, Mr. Benbow Rowe fell at the beginning of the hunt, and Mr. N. L. Sparke and Mr. J. Liddell at the end. Mr. Wells Henderson might have secured a win; but his pony fell between the last jump and the flags, and for a brief space could not get up again. Mr. G. G. C. Harper came in first and Mr. M. O. Springfield, third, won the heavy-weight. The card reads as follows:—

1.—G. G. C. Harper on Micawber.
2.—A. J. Rea on Red Surrey.
3.—M. O. Springfield on Harry M.
4.—D. L. Newbigging on Zoulou.
5.—H. G. Robinson on Flying Arrow.
6.—A. S. Withers on Night Raider.

The New Year Hunt

In spite of the dust, which was in no way lessened by the slight rainfall of the previous week, the hunt on New Year's Day was a pronounced a success. The trail was laid by Mr. M. O. Springfield, winner of the previous event, assisted by Mr. G. G. C. Harper, lightweight winner on that occasion, and the meet was set for Pinkerton's Line, near the Long Village on Rubicon Road. Fortunately the course was not a long one as the Christmas and New Year holidays have been prolific in those contests dear to the members of the Hunt Club. The start was set at 3.30 p.m., and prompt at the hour some 110 riders were despatched by Mr. E. S. Benbow Rowe, Senior Steward. Mr. A. B. Thompson on Silver Wing came in first, thus achieving the distinction of winning both the Christmas and New Year hunts, and there was no heavyweight on the card, which read as follows:—

1. Mr. A. B. Thompson on Silver Wing
2. Mr P. Stang Pund on Nordborg
3. Mr. J. C. Greig on Mistylight
4. Mr. R. Gordon on Blazing Corn
5. Mr. D. L. Newbigging on Wyvlesfield
6. Mr. J. Offor on Buffalo

WEDNESDAY'S HUNT.

Wednesday's hunt, like that on New Year's Day, was a short one and was laid by Mr. M. O. Springfield. The day was bright, warm one and the going was not so dusty, probably owing to a much smaller field. At 3.30 p.m., riders assembled at Miss Johnstone's line and were despatched by Mr. E. S. Benbow Rowe. Mr. J. K. Brand, on The Poung Bird, was first past the flags, followed by Messrs. E. A. Brodie on Seafield and J. C. Grieg on Black Adder. Mr. E. S. Benbow Rowe, sixth, on the Deerhound, was the heavy-weight winner. The card read as follows:

1. Mr J. K Brand on The Young Bird
2. Mr E. S. Brodie on Seafield
3. Mr. J. C. Grieg on Black Adder
4. Mr J. H Liddell on Good Fellow
5. Mr. J. H Teesdale on Cape Horn
6. Mr. E. S. Benbow Rowe on The Deerhound

GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Hong Foursomes Won by Old Dock

The final of the Hong Foursomes was played at Kiangwan on Sunday between the Old Dock (C. Richards and H. R. Malcolm) and the British-American Tobacco Co. (J. B. Ferrier and A. V. Pettitt). The latter had to concede three strokes each 18 holes, and so well did the handicap work out that the match was only won on the 36th green, when the Old Dock couple were declared victors.

In the early stages of the game play went slightly in favour of the B.-A.T. In the morning Ferrier and Pettitt were three up, and they held this advantage until the 13th hole in the afternoon. The Old Dock took the 14th, being now two down, and a half at the 15th resulted, B.-A.T. two up and three to play. The 16th and 17th went to the Old Dock, so that at the 18th hole (the 36th of the match) the contestants were all square. Ferrier was just over the bunker with his drive, Richards being ahead. Malcolm with the second put Richards into the rough and then Richards played the shot which won the match. He placed it beautifully on the green, and in the extremely difficult putting contest which ensued the Old Dock won.

Hongkew Club Championship

The championship final of the above Club took place at the Hongkew Park on Wednesday, December 26, under favourable weather conditions and although there was a strong northeast wind blowing, the match resulted in a very close and thrilling finish.

The last year's champion, Mr. C. M. Sequeira, again retained the title by defeating his younger opponent, Mr. H. Collaco, but after a very hard contested game, as he was tested to his utmost ability and won the match after three extra holes had been played.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Results in Brief

FIRST LEAGUE.

S. R. C., 1; S. F. C., 0.
Police, 4; Pubic School, 2.

SECOND LEAGUE.

Lusitano, 6; Jewish R. C., 0.
S. F. C., 3; T. H. School, 0.
St. Xaviers, 1; Navy, 0.

FRIENDLY MATCH.

Interport Probables, 9; H. M. S. Durban, 1.

H. M. S. Durban Again Beaten

It is the general opinion that H. M.S. Durban's football team since coming to Shanghai has been very unfortunate. The men came here with a great reputation and a fine record of play, and their performances in Shanghai have shown that there was no exaggeration about the reports. However, they do not seem able to win. It was remarkable that so clever a team should go down before the Interport Probables on New Year Day by the big score of 9 goals to one. The score suggests a smashing defeat, but as a matter of fact it was a very close and interesting game. Six of the goals came very near the end, mostly from Goldman, who, besides being in splendid form, had the fortune always to be in the right position for a sudden change of play. Naturally, Shanghai's hopes regarding the Interport series now are very high.

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Jan. 4.

Bank's demand selling rate for £1 at 3/4⅛=Tls. 5.98 at 71.45=$8.37
G.$100 at 71⅜=Tls. 139.37 at 71.45=$195.06

Mex. Dollars, market rate	71.7
Native Interest	35
Copper Cash	252,500
Bar Silver	34 1/16
Bank rate of discount	4%
Paris on London	Frs. 87.25
New York on London	G.$4.27⅜

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/4
Demand	3/4⅛
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	71½
Demand	71¾
PARIS—	
Demand	1463
INDIA—	
Demand	231¾
HONGKONG—	
Demand	71¼
JAPAN—	
Demand	64¼
BATAVIA—	
Demand	197
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	70¾

BANK'S OPENING BUYING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/4⅝
4 m/s. Credits	3/6
4 m/s. Docs.	3/6⅛
6 m/s. Credits	3/6⅛
6 m/s. Docs.	3/7
NEW YORK—	
Demand	73
4 m/s. Credits	74½
4 m/s. Docs.	75
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1540
Closing business done at:—	
London T.T.	3/4
New York T.T.	71½

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR JANUARY.

Hk Tl. 5.44 @ 3/3⅜	£1
,, 1 @ 1370½	Frs. 15.27
,, 1.24 @ 72⅛	Gold $1
,, 1 @ 66⅜	Yen 1.68
,, 1 @ 230½	Rupees 2.57
,, 1 @ 1.50	Mex. $1.50
,, 1 @ 16.40	It. Lire 18.27

Marks and Roubles no quotation

Sino-Italian Bank Quotation

Selling Rates, Jan. 4.

It. Lire 16.60	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 4.09	Tl. 1
It. Lire 10.70	Y. 1

Week's Exchange Notes

Jan. 5.

At the close of business on the 3rd instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 23,336,000 and $31,690,000.

These figures include Tls. 5,970,000 and $18,940,000 in Chinese banks, in which there were 635 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—
2412 bars from America.
Shipments were:—
186 bars to Nanking
90 ,, ,, Hangchow
90 ,, ,, Foochow

366 bars

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—
Tls. 30,000 from Kiukiang
Shipments were:—

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—
Tls. 700,000 to Hankow
100,000 ,, Changchun
100,000 ,, Mukden
100,000 ,, Tungchow

$400,000

Shipments were:—
$100,000 to Kiukiang
$660,000 from Hangchow
380,000 ,, Nanking
50,000 ,, Wuhu

$1,090,000

SILVER.

The price of London silver on December 28 was 33 1/16d. ready and 32⅞d. forward; on Thursday the quotation was 34 1/16d. spot and 33 3/16d. forward, an advance in price on the respective deliveries of ⅛d. and 1/16d. Supplies have apparently not been plentiful. India continues to be a buyer to a small extent; China, on the other hand has on one or two days been reported as having sold. Stocks in India have decreased 50 per cent. since November 17, when they stood at 16,000 bars; on 29th ultimo they were 8,000 as wired by Reuter. Stocks of sycee since December 28 have increased by Tls. 16 lakhs, whilst stocks of dollars have increased by $4 lacks. The price of silver in America on Thursday was 64⅜, small business done, delivery San Francisco. The New York/London cross rate is 429⅜.

EXCHANGE.

The market has been steady with sellers round about T.T. 3/4d. or a fraction higher. Owing to the late arrival of silver per President Wilson the market at the close of business on Monday was firm. The quoted rate on Friday last was T.T. 3/3⅞d. which advanced to 3/4d. on Saturday and on opening on Monday dropped back to 3/3⅞d. With silver up ⅜d. ready and ¼d. forward yesterday morning, the quoted rate advanced to 3/4d. the present level, but small sellers are to be found at 1/16d. higher for cash, 3/3⅛d. January, 3/3d. February and G.$T.T. 71 Cash, 70⅛ January, 70¼ February. For Bills 4 m/s. L/C 3/4⅛d. is to be had for January, 3/3⅛d. February, 3/3⅛d. March. 4 m/s. L/C 73⅛ January, 72⅜ Feb./March.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Better Feeling in Local Yarn: Outlook for Higher Prices at Piece Goods Auctions

Jan. 5.

Two principal features of interest present themselves in the Shanghai markets this week, firstly the better outlook as far as the piece goods auctions are concerned owing to what may well be described as famine supplies, and secondly the stronger tendency of local yarn. The gratifying feature of the latter is the increased business resulting to the mills.

Apart from this there is little of outstanding importance, for the Home markets have been largely stagnant as a result of holidays. The chief point so far as exports are concerned seems to consist in a better inquiry for silk.

PIECE GOODS.

So far as piece goods are concerned the year has started no better than the old one closed, and prospects of a resumption of any volume of trade with Manchester are not bright. This is in spite of the fact that dealers are advancing their rates here considerably. These advances are being carried out on a speculative basis, principally in White Shirtings and Greys which the speculators hope to re-sell after China New Year to advantage.

In view of the fact that the shortage of piece goods will probably be still more acutely realized after China New Year, to-day's buoyant feeling is readily appreciated. Dealers are confident in the immediate future because of the fact that the statistical position shows stocks to be on practically a famine basis, and their speculations seem to be on a sound foundation in view of the very high replacement costs. At the same time the local political situation is distinctly curbing operations on the part of merchants in Chinkiang and Fukien who would probably have come into the market.

The week's auctions were the last for which payment has to be made prior to China New Year, and as a consequence of this the strength of the market was not fully apparent. Next week, however, when purchases are made with payment after the settlement, price developments ought to assume interesting proportions. At the auctions local demand was good, as was also that from the north. A good demand continued from Changsha for Whites, and Hankow, where the tightness of money seems to have been relieved somewhat, has been buying more. The Korean market is steady to firm.

In woollen piece goods there is nothing new to report.

COTTON AND YARN.

China Cotton—Raw cotton has been steady to firm during the week, with comparatively little doing on account of the holidays. The watering evil appears to be getting worse all the time, and the supplies to the mills are most unsatisfactory. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the following quotations are current:—January 47.65; February 47.80; March 47.70; April 47.70; May 47.75. Spot quotations are as follows:—

Tungchow	Tls. 48
Shanghai	,, 46
Shensi	,, 47
Hankow	,, 44

Local Yarn—Largely owing to short production by the mills local yarn has shown an improvement during the week. The absence of stocks has enabled spinners to force a moderate advance in prices all round, and quotations are from Tls. 2 to Tls. 3 per bale higher than a week ago. A moderate business has been done with the mills, and it is satisfactory to note that in the market there is generally a brighter feeling as regards the commodity. Cloth remains dull, inquiry being largely confined to delivery after China New Year. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange quotations are as follows:—January 177.50; February 179.30; March 181.30; April 181.40; May 181.70.

SILK.

The silk market opened rather firm after the holidays, and it seems as if consuming markets are at last waking up, and are sending orders, although most of their offers are still considerably below our prices.

However, a fair turnover is to registered, most of the transactions being for Lyons, whilst the depreciation of the franc rate has probably frustrated a still larger volume of business with France. Prices.

	Tls.
Szechuan fil. middle grades	1,200
Tsatlee Rls. new style Black Lion 1.2.	990
Tsatlee Re. old style K. K. Mars 1.	865

PRODUCE.

Owing to the New Year holidays the markets at Home have again been closed during most of the present week, and as a consequence no change can be reported in the local situation.

SUMMARY OF EXCHANGE—HIGHEST AND LOWEST WITH AVERAGE MONTHLY RATES

1923

The following records are kindly supplied to us by Mr. H. F. Bell:—

Month	Highest Date	Bar Silver	TT	4 m/s Credits	Lowest Date	Bar Silver	TT	4 m/s Credits	Average Monthly Rate	
January	25/26	32 1/16	3/1¼	3/3¼	3/11	31 3/16	3/-	3/1⅜	3/0⅝	
February	28	31⅝	3/1	3/3	5	30 7/16	3/-	3/2	3/0 5/16	
March	28	32 7/16	3/2	3/4	3	31 7/16	3/1	3/3	3/1⅛	
April	30	32 1/16	3/2⅛	3/4⅛	11	31 1/16	3/1¼	3/3¼	3/1 1/16	Average 6 months 3/1⅛
May	1	33 3/16	3/2¾	3/4⅜	17	32 7/16	3/2	3/4	3/2⅛	
June	19	32 7/16	3/1⅞	3/3⅝	28	31⅜	3/0½	3/2½	3/1⅛	
July	10	31⅝	3/1	3/3	31	30	3/-	3/1⅛	3/0 7/16	
August	13	31⅛	3/0½	3/1⅜	1	30 7/16	3/0½	3/1⅛	3/0 7/16	Average 6
September	21/2	32⅝	3/1⅜	3/3¼	1	30 1/16	3/0½	3/1⅜	3/1 1/16	
Obtober	2	32 1/16	3/1⅛	3/3	13	31 7/16	3/0½	3/2	3/1	
November	29/30	33⅛	3/3⅛	3/5¼	3	31⅜	3/0¾	3/2¼	3/2⅜	
December	12/19	33 1/16	3/4	3/6	4/7	33	3/3	3/4¼	3/3⅝	

Average for 1923=3/1⅜

WHOLESALE PRICES IN SHANGHAI

The Commissioner of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Markets publishes the following report on wholesale prices in Shanghai:—

The total index number for this month is 157.5 being about 0.1 per cent. higher than that in the previous month. In general the market prices are quite steady. Only metals and fuels have risen—approximately from 2 per cent. to 3.5 per cent. while building materials and industrial materials show a marked tendency to decrease. This year has the highest figure among the index numbers for the last five years which are respectively as follows:—

1923	156.4
1922	145.5
1921	150.2
1920	152.0
1919	144.7*

*The average from September to December.

Our tables of index numbers for the five years as well as for 1913 and that for this month are given below:

	Cereals	Other food products	Textiles	Metals	Fuels	Miscellaneous: Building materials	Miscellaneous: Industrial materials	Miscellaneous: Sundries	Miscellaneous: Average	Total average
1913 ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1919 ...	119.1	116.0	152.2	133.2	187.7	144.8	346.4	131.8	202.7	144.7
1920 ...	126.1	128.8	148.1	150.0	183.0	161.3	348.0	134.8	206.7	152.0
1921 ...	126.6	131.0	147.6	150.4	177.7	172.0	291.4	140.0	195.3	150.2
1922 ...	145.5	133.6	148.1	133.4	172.8	163.8	200.9	130.8	167.1	145.5
1923 ...	149.6	153.4	157.4	158.1	172.4	164.0	183.3	131.9	162.9	156.4
Last Wed.										
Dec. 1922	140.7	141.7	151.4	138.1	189.2	160.5	203.0	130.2	170.7	148.5
Jan. 1923	148.5	146.6	157.0	142.6	188.9	161.7	192.8	131.2	168.7	152.7
Feb ,,	153.5	150.2	180.9	153.0	185.5	164.7	197.3	133.6	160.7	161.6
Mar. ,,	149.2	156.2	155.7	162.5	178.5	166.1	199.3	136.5	170.1	158.7
April ,,	150.1	156.3	154.1	160.3	177.0	168 4	189.7	135.1	167.5	157.7
May ,,	154.1	159.8	154.9	162.4	169.5	162.3	177.7	134.3	160.6	158.4
June ,,	153.7	152.6	155.8	157.8	167.7	159.1	172.5	126.0	156.3	155.2
July ,,	152.8	154.4	155.9	155.8	168.1	160.9	170.8	132.8	158.1	155.4
Aug. ,,	150.0	148.5	153.8	156.8	164.2	162.4	162.9	132.4	155.5	153.1
Sept. ,,	153.2	150.3	154.8	166.9	172.2	162.9	189.6	129.7	163.6	157.5
Oct. ,,	146.1	152.9	160.0	160.8	165.2	165.7	173.0	131.7	158.9	156.8
Nov. ,,	141.5	157.4	165.8	157.9	166.0	166.3	180.6	129.5	160.6	156.1
Dec. ,,	141.2	155.8	165.7	161.0	166.4	167.2	193.0	129.7	164.1	157.3

KOWLOON'S DEVELOPMENT

China Light and Power Co.'s New Capital

Hongkong, Dec. 30.

The recent substantial rise in the China Light and Power Company's shares is explained in Stock Exchange circles by the fact that it is proposed to issue $1,000,000 additional capital to provide new machinery to cope with the rapid development of Kowloon.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Duff Development Co. and Kelantan Govt.

London, Dec. 28.

At a meeting of the Duff Development Company to-day, the Chairman, dealing with litigation with the Kelantan Government, stated that the directors hed refused the offer to settle all matters in dispute by monetary compensation of £300,000 and each party paying the costs of arbitration and litigation. He intimated, however, willingness to accept a reasonable compromise. The Chairman complained strongly of the action of the Colonial Office in supporting the Government of Kelantan in running up costs.—Reuter.

Canadian Steel for Japan

A recent message from Montreal says:—Demand for finished iron and steel is showing steady improvement in the domestic and export market. The Steel Company of Canada and the British Empire Steel Corporation have recently closed extensive orders for bars for shipment to Japan.

Gula-Kalumpong Estates

Messrs. Ilbert & Co., Ld., the Local Secretaries of the Gula-Kalumpong Rubber Estates Ld., are in receipt of the following telegram from their Penang Agents:—

Output of Dry Rubber for December 1923	85,000 lb.
Shipped	131,418 lb.
Cocoanuts	500,000 nuts.
Rainfall	6 inches

Coal Output

Messrs. George McBain have received a telegram from the manager of the Mentoukou Mine stating that the output of coal for the month of December was 14,000 tons.

Shanghai Tramways

The following is the traffic return of the Shanghai Tramways (Foreign Settlement) for the month of December, 1923, and for the year 1922, with corresponding figures for the previous year:—

	Dec., 1923.	Dec., 1922.
Gross receipts	$336,465.58	$321,002.75
Loss by currency depreciation	146,091.33	131,584.37
Effective receipts	$190,374.25	$189,418.38
Percentage of loss by currency depreciation	44.79	42.76
Car miles run	508,131	503,723
Passengers carried	11,502,656	11,197,058
	Year, 1923.	Year, 1922.
Gross receipts	$3,978,672.52	$3,597,201.86
Loss by currency depreciation	1,684,500.00	1,397,578.72
Effective receipts	$2,294,172.52	$2,199,623.14
Percentage of loss by currency depreciation	43.91	40.68
Car miles run	5,988,356	5,853,979
Passengers carried	137,854,236	126,684,226

The following is the traffic return for the Shanghai Tramways (Foreign Settlement) for the week ended January 2, 1924, with figures for the corresponding week last year.

	1924.	1923.
Gross receipts	$71,932.30	$72,089.10
Loss by currency depreciation	31,351.19	29,798.54
Effective receipts	$40,581.11	$42,290.56
Percentage of loss by currency depreciation	44.88	42.97
Car miles run	113,719	114,244
Passengers carried	2,446,873	2,498,757

OFFICIAL NOTICES

AMERICAN citizens resident in the Shanghai Consular District are informed that income tax forms for the calendar year 1923 may now be had on application to the Shipping Office, American Consulate-General, Shanghai. Requests by mail should state whether the form desired is one for an income of over U. S. $5,000 or for an income of U.S. $5,000 or less.

EDWIN S. CUNNINGHAM,
American Consul-General.

COMPANY MEETING

PENGKALAN DURIAN ESTATE (1921). LD.

Annual General Meeting

The third annual general meeting of shareholders in the Pengkalan Durian Estate (1921). Ld., was held last Friday at the offices of Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., secretaries and general managers, Mr. G. M. W. Hummel, Chairman of Directors, presiding, supported by Mr. E. C. Gill, director.

The total number of shares represented was 33,915, and five shareholders were present personally. Mr. H. V. Hummel, A.C.A. represented the secretaries and general managers, and after he had read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report, the Chairman said:—

Before passing to matters arising out of the directors' report and accounts, I propose with your permission to review very briefly the general position of our industry. It seems to me interesting to do this at the close of the first year of restriction, a year that will live long in the memories of all interested in rubber, witnessing as it has done the event that most companies, after a disconcertingly long interval, have once more earned dividends for their shareholders, which I trust and believe will be the first of a regular yearly series.

It was in the autumn of last year that the British Colonial Office became persuaded that it could no longer remain indifferent to the rubber of Malaya and Ceylon, 80 per cent. of the world's total output, being continuously sold under the cost of production at prices ever tending to a lower and lower level. The adoption of a schedule of graduated taxation, that in effect restricted export, not production, was the result. How vitally necessary this measure was to Malaya is readily understood when one notes that even last year, when the value averaged so much under cost, rubber figured in her export returns at no less than 33 per cent. of the total value.

Having only set out to secure for producers what it considered the fair economic price of 1s. 3d. London, the Colonial Office and its expert advisers are to be congratulated on the price having actually averaged for the first year of restriction 1s. 3½d., as compared with 8d. for the first nine months of 1922.

At the present time there is a good deal of agitation for some modification of the restriction scheme to secure primarily a higher price; and in the second place, a re-apportionment of production between mature and young estates, more favourable to the latter. As regards the first, having obtained for producers what was thought necessary to save the industry, it is scarcely to be expected that the Government will take any action at the present time. The second is quite a different matter, since the agitators should remember that:

First, it was only their planting and continuing planting when it was abundantly evident that production was already in excess of demand, that made restriction necessary;

Second, it is owing only to the experience acquired and heavily paid for by the older estates that these have been enabled to develop their properties on a more economical basis, secure higher yields, and effect important savings on maintenance costs;

Third, the young estates can expect to be reaping the full benefits of their lower capital expenditure, higher yields, etc., when the older, less profitable estates are ceasing operating.

DUTCH INDIES AND RESTRICTION

The one thing that keeps restriction from being a complete success by which I mean dependably securing to producers a fair return on their rubber pending a resumption of normal world trading conditions whereupon demand may once more overtake supply—is the fact that the Dutch East Indies are not only *not* restricting, but actually materially *increasing* their production. Last year the total export from the Dutch Indies was some 109,000 tons. This year it is to be expected that it will be not less than 130,000. This circumstance is the more disappointing when one remembers that practically all British controlled companies in Sumatra, as well as in Java, are restricting just as in Malaya, which means that at the present time they are only producing 60 per cent. of what they were in 1919-1920. Yet Dutch planters are converts to the efficiency of restriction. They see our point of view, and agree that it is not fair that they should profit from our self-denial, themselves making no sacrifice. They protest, however, that they would be faced with insurmountable difficulties in an attempt to enforce restriction on the native producers of the east coast of Sumatra and the numerous small islands adjacent thereto. It is, by the way, only to such native holdings that they attribute the actual increase in production. The last mail brings information that the question was to be re-opened at a conference to be held at an early date, and for the good of the entire industry it is earnestly to be hoped that the Dutch will decide the join Malaya and Ceylon.

It is now expected that shipments from producing countries for the year will total 390,000 ton. This figure is higher than originally estimated, due to the extra production of the Dutch Indies and 22,000 tons from Malaya and Ceylon, by which latter amount actual shipments exceeded authorized restriction quotas in the first five months of the year. During this time, that is, during the first half of the year, enormous capital was made out of the fact that shipments exceeded licences, by those who desired to see restriction quashed, and a return to the times of buying at less than cost of production. Admitting that a small part of the excess was the result of smuggling, the officials in charge of restriction claimed that the bulk represented pre-restriction stocks gradually being liquidated at the higher prices then ruling. Smuggling was stopped by improving the machinery of control and reorganizing the preventive service. Since June shipments have been under, rather than over, authorized monthly quantities.

The latest available figures for the year indicate that there will be no disappointment in the matter of consumption, that indeed the total will not be less than the record figure of 420,000 tons, to which America will have contributed approximately her usual 70 per cent.

It may be expected that the stocks in London and New York will not exceed 59,500 and 85,000 tons respectively, as compared with 71,000 and 90,000 on December 31 of last year, a total reduction of 12,000 tons in the surpluses on the consuming markets. It is customary to consider this stock excessive, but it is very questionable if it actually is, representing as it does only four months' requirements on the basis of this last year's consumption. Considering consumption, it is interesting to note that the present stock of 144,500 tons is the equivalent of only 25,000 in 1913.

WORLD SETTLEMENT AND PRODUCTION

I have already expressed the confident opinion that world settlement means the beginning of a demand for full production. I base that opinion on the enormous number of uses for rubber; on the consideration that what is best for the tires of the wheels of the traffic of the world, is probably best also for the roads on which these wheels move; that an ever increasing number of buildings are being floored with concrete or similar material, the noise of walking or other movement on which in a confined space is intolerable, and that rubber in the form of tiling or carpeting is by far the best, in fact the only effective medium for deadening such sounds. More important than all these is, it seems to me, that America—which is using 70 per cent. of the world's present output, and of that 80 per cent. or 235,000 tons per annum, for the tyres of her 12,500,000 motor propelled vehicles—has only 6 per cent. of the population of the world and occupies only 6 per cent. of its total area. Of such vehicles the rest of the world has only 2,000,000. There are many reasons for this discrepancy, and none of us will live to see the world with the same number of cars per square mile of territory or per thousand inhabitants as America has today. Given, however, the same opportunities to acquire, and pleasurably or profitably to use them, as America has enjoyed during the past nine years, it seems reasonable to expect a tendency towards levelling that will require cars and trucks with tens of millions of wheels and therefore tyres.

So much for the immediate past, present and future of the industry. I will turn now to the affairs of our company in particular.

The following changes in the directorate during the year have taken place. Mr. L. E. Canning resigned from the board on the February 7 and Mr. E. C. Gill took his place, and I will ask you to confirm his appointment in a few minutes. Mr. E. W. Noel, I regret to say, on November 14 also resigned on leaving for home after a period of severe illness. I am sure you will join the board in hoping that he may soon enjoy a complete return of good health.

It is recommended that the board of directors shall in the meantime comprise not more than two directors, in order that Shanghai expenses may be reduced somewhat, and resolutions giving the authority required by the Articles and halving the directors' fees for the ensuing year will be proposed this afternoon.

For the year under review the accounts cover a full period of 12 months, whereas the previous year's accounts covered only the period of seven months from the date when the company as reconstructed commenced business.

During the working period of 12 months of the accounts now before you, rubber production was continuous for only nine months up to the end of December, 1922. By this time the restriction enactment of the Federal Malay Estates had come into operation, and your directors decided to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the provisions of the enactment to close down the estate in January, 1923. The complete suspension of tapping has been giving the trees the rest which for long has been felt to be desirable, and instead of costing money this rest has been a source of considerable profit. This is because the export rights of the estate granted under the restriction enactments have been sold up to the end of January, 1924, as set out in the directors' report, at satisfactory prices.

During the period of rest, opportunity has been taken to carry out a programme of silt pitting and thinning out. Silt pitting and thinning out have long been advisable but previously impossible owing to lack of funds. Necessary weeding has also been maintained. Clean weeding has been discontinued on the advice of the visiting agent. Pests and diseases affecting the trees have been negligible. These matters you will also find commented on in the directors' report.

On closing down, the services of the manager, Major Fitzwarine-Smith, who continued to supervise the estate most efficiently up to January, 1923, were discontinued, his contract terminating about that time. Upon his departure arrangements were made for the manager of a neighbouring property to visit the estate weekly to supervise the upkeep, continued under contract and the carrying out of the programme of improvements.

A RESIDENT MANAGER

In September it was decided to instal a resident manager again, and Mr. J. A. Owen, late assistant manager of the Chemor United Rubber Co., Ld., has been in charge since that time.

Since it is now apparent that it will not be posible to sell export permits for a further period, the board has decided to commence tapping again in February, 1924, and the manager is making preparations accordingly.

You will notice from the directors' report that the whole of the estate, exclusive of building sites, swamps and waste lands, now bears mature rubber, the last 94 acres under cultivation having been brought into the tapping round during the year prior to closing down the estate. Tapping will open, however, on 360 acres only, as it has been decided to give the remaining area a further rest in the coming year. A production of 8,500 lb per month will be aimed at in the meantime. It is estimated that this can be achieved from the 360 acres only. A conservative and uniform system of tapping has been decided upon, which, together with the policy of continuing to rest a large area, is hoped will build up the future productivity of the estate.

Since rubber production was curtailed and finally stopped after restriction came into operation, statistics of production costs which can fairly be compared with those of the previous year are not available, though I may say that every effort was made during the period of production to lower costs and there are satisfactory indications in returns from the local agents that economy was achieved in various directions.

I think you will find enough detail has been given in the working and profit and loss accounts, and in the directors' report, to explain the profit of Tls. 4,008.14 on working account, and the profit of Tls. 93.14 on profit and loss account, for the year which latter reduced the debit balance on profit and loss account brought forward from last year by the same amount.

I may mention that the secretaries and general managers waived a portion of their fees for the year amounting to Tls. 1,800.

In the balance sheet you will notice we have now an issued share capital of Tls. 90,000. The advent of restriction gave considerable promise for the future of the rubber industry and your directors seized an early opportunity to issue in December and January last 21,416 shares at par, being the balance of 30,600 shares authorized for issue and offered to shareholders in August, 1921, per the agreement between the old company, its liquidator and the present company, but not taken up. This subscription enabled the company immediately to pay off a bank overdraft amounting to close on Tls. 15,000 and interest. The company has now ample capital funds for present requirements.

In conclusion, I may add that the accounts for the current financial year to date, and estimates to the end of the year, are satisfactory enough to allow the board to pay an interim dividend in respect of the year ended March 31, 1924, of taels five cents, and the same was declared some days ago, and dividend warrants will be posted to you to-day.

Gentlemen, I think there is nothing more I can usefully add to the remarks I have made, and I will now move as follows:—

"That the directors' report, and the working and profit and loss accounts and balance sheet for the year ended March 31, 1923, duly audited, be and are hereby received, approved and adopted."

The resolution, having been seconded by Mr. E. C. Gill, and there being no discussion and questions, was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The following resolutions were also moved and carried unanimously:

That the number of directors shall not be less than two or more than five for the ensuing year."

Proposed by the Chairman, Mr. G. M. W. Hummel, seconded by Mr. E. C. Gill.

"That the appointment of Mr. E. C. Gill as director of the company be and is hereby confirmed."

Proposed by the Chairman, Mr. G. M. W. Hummel, seconded by Mr. G. A. Candlin.

"That the remuneration of each director for his service be and is hereby fixed at Tls. 300 per annum for the ensuing year."

Proposed by the Chairman, Mr. G. M. W. Hummel, seconded by Mr. E. C. Gill.

"That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews, Chartered Accountants, be and are hereby re-elected auditors of the company for the ensuing year, at a remuneration for their services of Tls. 300."

Proposed by the Chairman, Mr. G. M. W. Hummel, seconded by Mr. H. V. Hummel.

The business of the meeting then terminated.

Always Carry PEPS

To Safeguard Against Dangerous Colds & Chills.

Indoors or out, always carry a bottle of Peps with you. This novel and invaluable medicine owes its wonderful potency to the fact that in the ingenious form of a compressed tablet, it brings the volatile lung-healing air of the pine forest into every home. This powerful curative agency speedily ends the worst cough, cold or chill and dispels all trouble in the throat, chest, or bronchial tubes.

* * * *

THE SURE way to keep influenza, pneumonia and other deadly lung trouble at bay, is to dissolve a Peps tablet in your mouth at the first sneeze or shiver. As the Peps medicine is *breathed in*, it goes straight to the weak spot, relieving congestion and irritation, clearing out dangerous germs.

* * * *

WHEN TRAVELLING by train or tramcar, or out shopping in the busy store or bazaar, or when visiting any crowded place of entertainment, be sure and carry a few Peps with you. They ward off the ill-effect of chills and draughts, and guard against dangerous infection from neighbours suffering from deadly throat and lung complaints.

* * * *

DURING those periodic dust storms which are veritable death-dealers to people with weak lungs, the value of Peps is self-evident. They thoroughly disinfect the throat, invigorate the bronchial glands, and keep the air-passages and lungs free from gritty dust particles and dangerous germs

* * * *

IN THE NURSERY Peps save mothers and ayahs many an anxious hour. Without the aid of harmful drugs, Peps comfort and strengthen little sufferers from croup and whooping cough. Weak-chested old folk find that Peps free the breathing and end those exhausting bouts of bronchitis and asthma

* * * *

GET THE HABIT of always keeping a bottle of Peps by your bedside. They give prompt relief from that persistent cough which keeps you awake at nights, also stop those lung-tearing bouts of early morning cough

* * * *

PUBLIC SPEAKERS, lawyers, preachers, singers, and others of similar vocation, should remember that the air of every public assembly is vitiated and poisoned with the emanations from the lungs of the multitude and the germs of many a deadly disorder. An occasional Peps in the mouth thoroughly neutralises the evil effects of this foul air and prevents hoarseness, laryngitis, etc.

* * * *

LASTLY, it should never be forgotten that Peps are particularly valuable in our climate. By regularly taking these wonderful little tablets, the dangers lurking in low night temperatures following tropical days is greatly minimised. Peps have an invigorating, antiseptic and fortifying action on the whole of the human breathing apparatus.

* * * *

PEPS are obainable in sealed bottles of chemists and dispensaries everywhere. Agent—Messrs. Wakefield & Co. (China), Ltd., S. Y. Sheng Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

HIMROD'S *asthma Cure*

GIVES INSTANT RELIEF

No matter what your respiratory organs may be suffering from—whether *Asthma, Influenza, Nasal Catarrh or Ordinary Cough* you will find in this famous remedy a restorative power that is simply unequalled.

FAMED FOR 50 YEARS

Sold in tins by all Chemists and Stores throughout the Country

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

The following telegraphic advices have been received:—

Singapore, December 24, 1923.

Smoked Sheet	48¾ cents
Jan.-Mar.	50⅜ "
Apr.-June	51½ "

Market steady but quiet.

DEBENTURES.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
S'hai Municipal Council	1903 6 to 20	26-9-22	T98¾	b T490,500	6	June-Dec.
	1904 do.	11-1-23	T98¾	c 214,500	6	do.
	1905 do.	12-5-22	T96¾	d 320,000	6	do.
	1907 do.	24-4-22	T91	500,000	6	do.
	1908 do.	6-12-23	T100	650,000	6	do.
	1909 do.	15-3-23	T99	300,006	6	do.
	1911 10 to 30	11-5-23	T99	313,800	6	do.
	1912 do.	8-1-23	T95	350,000	6	do.
	1913 do.	3-1-24	T99	310,000	6	do.
	1913 do.	3-3-23	T100	756,300	6	do.
	... 10 to 50	8-5-22	T78	500,000	5½	do.
	1914 10 to 30	3-1-23	T91	900,000	5½	do.
	1915 do.	22-9-23	T91	800,000	5½	do.
	1916 do.	4-12-23	T99½	1,400,000	6	do.
	1918 10	18-10-23	T103	507,300	7	do.
	1919 10	4-12-23	T104	1,793,300	7	do.
	1920 10	17-11-23	T105½	2,240,000	7	do.
	... 10 to 30	3-10-23	£105½	£750,000	6	do.
	1921 do.	9-9-23	$112	$1,000,000	8	do.
	1921 do.	17-11-23	T112½	T5,096,400	8	do.
	1922 do.	4-1-24	T105½	T8,000,000	7	do.
	1923 do.	3-1-24	T99	$16,000,000	6	do.
French Municipal Council†	1911 do.	8-10-23	T96	400,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914 do.	12-2-23	T88	500,000	5½	June-Dec.
	1915 do.			350,000	5½	do.
	1921 do.	20-11-23	T108½	2,000,000	8	do.
	1923 do.	17-12-23	T95	a T800,000	6	May-Nov.
S'hai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	1921 10 to 30	2-10-23	T112	2,000,000	8	June-Dec.
	1922 do.	6-6-22	T108	T500,000	8	do.
S'hai Gas Co., Ltd.	1922 do.	2-10-23	T105	T1,000,000	7	do.
	1909 do.	29-11-23	T94	e 800,000	6	do.
S'hai Land Investment Co., Ltd.‡	1905 5 to 20	31-8-22	T96½	T250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1908 do.	27-3-23	T98	750,000	6	do.
	1911 do.	26-9-22	T92	250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	" do.	27-3-23	T93	250,000	6	May-Nov.
	" do.			250,000	6	Jan.-July
	1912 do.	3-4-23	T98	250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1913 do.	3-4-23	T98	250,000	6	April-Oct.
	" do.			250,000	6	May-Nov.
	" do.			250,000	6	April-Oct.
	1914 do.	22-3-23	T98	250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1916 5 to 25	21-8-22	T90	f 500,000	5½	do.
	1922 do.	12-2-23	T95	750,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	1922 do.			500,000	6	May-Nov.
Shanghai Club	1907 20			450,000	6	do.
Country Club	1901 Perpetual			139,000	6	June-Dec.
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd.	1914 5 to 20			130,000	6	May-Nov.
	1915 do.			110,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ltd.	1906 do.			250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1911 do.	7-6-23	T93	300,000	6	do.
S'hai Hotels, Ltd.	1916 30	6-1-23	T88	g ‡ 865,000	6	do.
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd.	1923 10 to 20	27-2-23	T95½	h 270,000	6	do.
S'hai Race Club	1923 25			1,200,000	6½	Mar.-S
Cuity Dairy Co., Ltd.	1915 10			50,000	7	Feb.-Au
Hall & Holtz Ltd.	1914 5 to 20	14-10-22	$92	i 230,000	7	Jan.-July
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	1922 5 to 20	..	..	T500,000	7	Jan.-July

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment. †See also under section headed "Companies' Notices, etc."

a—Now Issuing; Redeemed or Unissued:—b—$65,100; c—$51,100; d—$34,100; e—$68,500; f—$262,400; g—$189,800; h—$12,300; i—18,900.

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-6-23	1923: July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
			lb.	b.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	5.87d.	..	..	..	..	22,000	21,000	43,000
Amberst (New)	" 500,000	Oct.	72,382	81,410	80,500	*4.34d.	..	..	..	..	..	9,784	9,784
Anglo-Dutch	£200,000	Dec.	760,000	550,000	600,000	0/6.92d.	255,500	41,000	22,200	46,000	54,600	55,900	475,100
Anglo-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,511,576	1,524,711	1,550,000	6.95d.	875,800	109,300	Nil	131 000	168,600	189,000	..
Ayer Tawah	Tls. 300,000	Sept.	369,447	58,042	360,000	†0.24.41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Batu Anam	" 400,000	Dec.	221,030	258,510	185,793	0/7.34d.	107,622	..	18,970	15,500	..	12,450	154,542
Bukit Toh Alang	" 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,645	345,000	7.54d.	57,863	27,790	27,996	25,540	30,893	26,000	196,082
Bute	" 300,000	Dec.	253,300	230,067	159,516	10.11d.	73,650	16,050	14,800	16,750	17,700	16,000	155,550
Chemor United	" 360,000	Dec.	271,636	340,794	246,192	0/7.15d.	120,022	26,020	27,275	21,250	..	26,044	220,612
Cherupedak	£35,000	Oct.	145,760	162,500	..	10.15d.	..	..	..	..	..	14,000	14,000
Chong	Tls. 675,000	June	151,923	145,338	..	11.99d.	..	18,068	16,595	18,157	18,010	15,574	86,214
Consolidated (1914)	" 375,000	Dec.	591,033	669,899	574,660	0/6.58d.	275,152	59,000	63,173	58,874	62,339	56,548	575,088
Dominion	" 350,000	Dec.	263,942	271,159	306,887	11.04d.	157,869	30,401	26,913	26,323	28,111	25,596	295,212
Gula-Kalumpong	£500,000	Dec.	1,023,600	1,113,000	1,216,000	1/0.7d.	489,000	94,000	92,000	80,000	98,000	..	853,000
Java Consolidated	£87,000	Dec.	739,726	675,800	..	7.03d.	318,400	36,900	Nil	55,800	67,300	70,000	548,400
Kapayang	" 150,000	Dec.	176,890	189,239	..	†26.90	79,495	11,203	7,550	12,425	11,782	11,648	134,113
Karan	" 250,000	Mar.	114,879	104,783	84,000	8½d.	20,421	7,028	6,974	5,989	6,023	5,574	53,209
Kota Bahroe (1921)	" 390,000	June	138,330	339,970	..	..	..	27,502	24,937	26,518	24,885	27,143	130,985
Kroewoek	£70,000	Dec.	403,730	449,000	540,000	0/7.24d.	286,800	47000	Nil	33,000	61,000	62,000	490,800
Langkat	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	842,589	943,000	975,000	Glds 0.28	..	..	..	..	..	86,800	86,800
Padang	Tls. 500,000	April	209,711	220,232	..	10½d.	22,900	14,500	16,500	12,400	17,200	17,000	100,500
Pengkalan (1921)	" 150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,253	176,088	†40.19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Permata	" 250,000	Oct.	94,303	86,299	..	0/8½d.	..	..	..	..	..	9,012	9,012
Repah	" 275,000	Dec.	27,000	68,584	240,000	1/3½	93,620	22,184	18,003	19,771	23,886	19,521	196,985
Samagaga	" 600,000	Sept.	361,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
See Kee (1918)	" 100,000	June	179,665	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	..	72,075	12,744	12,794	..	10,896	108,509
Semambu	" 300,000	Dec.	170,102	164,105	158,264	0/9.37d.	70,913	17,157	16,116	15,343	..	15,287	234,796
Senawang (1921)	" 375,000	Jan.	106,500	272,500	..	*17.35d.	109,500	23,700	22,700	24,900	28,100	23,400	232,300
Shanghai Kedah	" 400,000	Sept.	313,414	246,542	..	8.12d.	..	..	..	..	22,827	21,118	43,945
S'hai-Klebang	" 315,000	Dec.	113,355	126,106	..	0/9.35d.	52,500	11,400	10,815	9,400	8,000	8,100	100,515
S'hai-Malay	" 600,000	Dec.	413,055	373,111	392,000	..	138,620	28,777	28,225	27,909	23,850	20,336	267,717
S'hai Pahang	" 200,000	June	209,881	188,016	..	9½d.	..	15,667	18,926	18,128	20,430	15,018	88,769
S'hai Seremban	" 325,000	Dec.	176,588	173,213	..	0/8.67d.	61,592	15,434	11,871	14,589	13,998	13,650	131,134
S'hai-Sumatra	" 600,000	Oct.	661,338	679,710	650,000	Glds.0.38	..	..	..	..	..	50,239	50,239
Sua-Manggis	" 200,000	Dec.	187,000	144,880	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,200	13,500	27,700
Sungala	" 100,000	Mar.	30,279	103,757	..	†7.20	6,126	..	..	..	..	..	6,126
Sungei Duri	£40,000	June	308,073	296,568	229,000	11.61d.	..	19,900	22,700	21,954	23,302	18,774	106,636
Talping (1913)	Tls. 250,000	Dec.	705,550	167,911	99,000	**30	52,127	10,250	8,950	8,325	8,065	7,573	95,290
Tanah Merah	" 750,000	Mar.	415,000	393,900	..	7.92d.	75,700	26,000	31,000	29,500	27,500	23,400	213,100
Tebong	" 750,000	Jan.	534,590	639,838	717,725	0/7.66d.	271,000	64,000	55,500	60,000	66,500	67,000	583,000
Ziangbe	£500,000	Dec.	616,432	514,566	600,000	7.24d.	257,000	35,700	47,800	42,000	45,800	49,100	477,400

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses † Straits $ cents.

See Kee Rubber Estates, Ltd.	T	1				100,000	T1	a	Loss)T32,626	Dec.	....	....			
Somainbu Rubber Ests., Ltd.	T	1.37½	1½			300,000	T1	a	T10,425	Dec.	T0.10, 1922	20-4-23			
								c	T20,000		Interim T0.05, 1923	30-10-23			
Senawang Rubber Ests. (ord.	T	1.05			63)	300,000	T1	a	(Loss) 20,973	Jan.	....	....			
Co. (1921), Ltd. (12% Cum. Pref					67)	100,000	T1			Sept.	....	....			
Shanghai Kedah Plantations, Ltd.	T	1.10			31)	165,000	T1	a	T1,183	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	24-2-20			
S'hai-Klebang Rubber Estate, Ltd	T	0.60	0.65		15)	315,000	T1	a	T7,112	Dec.	Ord. T0.60 for 9 months ended 31/12/16	2-5-17			
S'ha Malay Rubber Estates, Ltd. ord.	T	1¾	4		22)	30,000	T10	a	T19,124		Pref. T0.40, for 6 months ended 31/12/22	31-10-23			
" 8% cum. part. pref.	T	9				30,000	T10								
S'hai Pahang Rubber Estates, Ltd.	T	1	0.85			200,000	T1		(Loss) T1,213	June	Final T0.09 (mkg. T0.10, 1916-17)	12-10-17			
S'hai Seremban Rubber Estates, Ltd.	T	0.80				325,000	T1	a	(Loss) T247	Dec.	T0.04 for 10 months, ended 31/12/23	31-3-17			
S'hai-Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ltd	T	90		90	7)	30,000	T10	a	(Loss) 230,794	Oct.	T2, 1918-19	1-4-20			
								c	T812,270						
Sua Manggis Rubber Co., Ltd.	T	3½			30)	56,000	T5	a	T6,055	Dec.	T0.25, 1919	20-4-20			
								c	T25,000						
Sungala Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T	1½	1.30		‡5)	100,000	T1	a	T4,625	Mar.	T0.10, 1916-17	12-7-17			
								c	T10,000	June	T0.53, 1922-23	12-10-23			
Sungei Duri Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T	8				40,000	£1 at T8 50	a	T22,766	Dec.	T0.08, 1919	20-5-20			
Talping Rubber Estates (1913), Ltd.	T	0.70				200,000	T1	a	(Loss) T5,801	Mar.	Interim T0.05, 1916-17 (Final, Nil)	7-12-17			
Tanah Merah Estates (1916), Ltd.	T	0.75	0.72½		32)	750,000	T1	a	T31,851						
								c	T5,737	Jan.	....	....			
Tebong Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T	1.40	1.35		‡5½)	750,000	T1	a	(Loss)T20,482	Dec.	T0.50, 1919	28-4-20			
Ziangbe Rubber Co., Ltd.	T	3½	3		12)	300,000	10s.	a	T38,757						
								c	T5,239						
COTTONS, ETC.															
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ltd. (ord.	T	12	11¼		43)	1,000,000	T5	a	T10,856	Dec.	Ord. T1.50, 1922	16-2-23			
" (8% cum. pref.	T	113	113		43)	10,000	T100	b	T1,400,000						
								c	T2,861,356		Pref. T8, 1922	16-2-23			
Laou Kung Mow C. S. & W. Co., Ltd.	T	10				20,000	T10	a	T5,134	Dec.					
								b	T120,000		Final T2, (mkg. T4, 1921)	8-3-22			
Oriental C. S. & W. Co., Ltd. ord.	T	5			60)	500,000	T5	c	T97,612						
pref.	T				3)	5,000	T100	a	(Loss) T31,045	Dec.	Final T0.50 (mkg. T1.50, 1921)	25-3-22			
								b	T200,000						
Shanghai Cotton Mfg. Co., Ltd. (Shanghai Boshoku K.K.)	T	‡5 old 40 new					T50	c	T2,050,000	June	T3.50 a/o., 1922-23	24-8-23			
								a	T50,375						
								c	T1,270,000						
INDUSTRIAL.															
British-American Tobacco Co., Ltd. (ord.	$			£5 3/32	66)	13,000,000	£1	a	£1,890,188	Sept.	Ord. Div. 1920-21, 24% free of I/T				
(5% cum. pref.						4,500,000	£1	c	£3,645,007		Ord. Interim 1921-22, 4%	30-9-22			
China Im. & Ex. Lumber Co., Ltd.	T	350				5,000	T100	a	T161,833	Feb.					
								b	T300,000		T8, 1922-23	31-5-23			
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.	H $	236½	255			20,000	H$100	c	T2,100,000						
								a	H $2,762	Dec.					
Green Island Cement Co., Ltd.	H $	26½	$26½			400,000	H37.50	b	H $470,000		H$10, 1922	27-3-23			
								c	H $879,752						
Maatschappij, &c., In Langkat	T	13	13¼			200,000	Gs.10	a	H $93,634		Final H$1.50 (mkg. H$2, 1922)	24-2-23			
								c	H $1,000,000	Oct.	Interim H$0.50 a/o., 1923	18-9-23			
								a	(Loss)T220,594		T0.50, 1918-19	30-3-23			
								c	T103,438						
Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ltd.	T	7¼	(comb. T34) 6½	(comb T34) (comb. T35)		250,000	T5	a	T24,423	Dec.	T0.25, 1922	27-2-23			
								c	T275,000						
S'hai Exploration & Development Co., Ltd.	T	14½	14¼			250,000	T5		....	Dec.	....	....			
Major Brothers, Ltd.	T	5			10)	6,000	T10	a	(Loss) T13,341	Dec.	....	....			
								a	T9,016						
John Richards & Co., Ltd.	T	10			11)	25,000	T10	c	T70,000	Dec.	10%, 1921	24-6-22			
								a	T3,130						
								c	T30,000						
Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd.	T	45			‡)	24,000	T50	a	T23,791	Dec.	T3.50, 1922	13-4-23			
								b	T50,000						
								c	T660,891						
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	T	140			‡9)	50,000	£20	a	T29,595	Dec.	(Final 1922, 20s. at Exchg., 3/2½	6-4-23			
								b	T75,000		(Interim 1923, 10s. at Exchg., 3/0½	31-7-23			
								c	T1,680,295						
STORES.															
Hall & Holtz, Ld.	$	6.90			‡16)	23,000	$20	a							
								b	$116,937	Feb.	$2, 1917-18	1-5-18			
								c							
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd.	$	30				1,200	$50	a	$10,697	Dec.	$6, 1922	12-5-23			
								c	$20,000						
S. Mountrie & Co., Ltd.	$	50			17)	10,000	$50	a	$20,282	Mar.	(Final $2 & Bonus $4 (mkg. $9, 1922-23)	2-6-23			
								c	$323,195		(Int. 6%, 1923-24	30-11-23			
Weeks & Co., Ltd.	$	11			‡50)	30,000	$10	a	$37,633	Feb.	$1.60, 1922-23	30-5-23			
								c	$210,000						
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd.	$	102			‡)	2,500	$100	a	$5,539						
								b	$20,000		$8, 1922-23	24-5-23			
								c	$250 000						
MISCELLANEOUS.															
Cuity Dairy Co., Ltd.	T	13				10,000	T10	a	(Loss)T26,956	Oct.	T0.60, 1921-22	30-12-22			
								c	T119,293						
S'hai Electric Construction Co., Ltd., "B"	T	170						a	T17,022	Dec.	Final 16s. (mkg. 40s., 1922, less I/T at 5s. 3d. in £) Coupon 22	1-6-23			
London	£1		£2 12s 0	£2 11s 0		10,000	£10	c	£114,315		1st Int. 12/–, less I/T at 4/7½d. in £ Coupon No. 23	1-10-23			
S'hai Horse Bazaar & Motor Co., Ltd.	T	50				5,400	T50	a	T18,548	Dec.	T5, 1922	20-4-23			
								c	T315,257						
Shanghai Mercury, Ltd.	T	25				3 000	T50			Apr.	T1.50, 1913-14	31-3-15			
Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co., Ltd.	T	72		73	‡63)	40,000	T50	a	T10,235						
								b	T70,000	Mar.	T4.50, 1922-23	31-5-23			
								c	T920,016						
Oriental Press (L'Imprimerie Française)	$	100				940	$100	a	$109,513						
								b	$7,000	Mar.	$10, 1922-23	6-7-23			
								c	$21,191						

For all Dollar shares quoted on the Shanghai Stock Exchange the Exchange rate is fixed at 73.

REFERENCES.

a Carried forward at last Ann. Gen'l. Meeting.
b Dividend Equalization Reserve.
c General and Other Reserves.
d Uncalled Liability £6 per sh.
e " " £10 "
f " " H $150 "
g " " H $200 "
h " " H $ 30 "
i Working Account 1922
m Working Account 1921
x Working Account 1920
y Working Account 1919
z Working Account 1919 and former years.
† Registered; or Bearer (idem. "B").
also overleaf under "Companies' Notices, etc."
** Issued Capital: 7% Cum. Pref. 24,461 shares;
Ordinary, 16,270 shares.

§ Debentures Issues also.
‡ Subject to Bonus of 20% on Contributory Marine Premium.
‡‡ Subject to Estate Managers' Commissions.
* Subject to E. P. D. and Corpn. Tax.

1—14,000 sh' unis'd.
2—70,411 "
3— 5,000 "
4— 4,000 "
5—13,182 "
7—10,761 "
8—13,000 "
9—16,470 sh. unis'd.
10—500 "
11—15,200 "
12—50,000 "
13—1,387 "
14—3,000 "
16—1,662 "
17— 3,832 "
18—5,580 "
19—184,668 "
20—15,000 "
22—10,000 "
24—70,810 "
25—125,000 "
26—60,000 "
27—8,121 sh' unis'd.
29—4,633 "
30—2,000 "
31—5,121 "
32—50,000 "
33—50,000 "
34—102,570 "
35— 200 "
36—189,000 "
39— "
41— "
43—1,000 "
46—71,522 "
(Not to be issued for less than 950 ea.)
47—3,000 sh. unis'd.
48—100,000 sh. unis'd.
50—8,175 "
54—40,000 "
55—30,000 "
56—10,834,550 "
57—6,000,000 "
59—100,550 "
60—280,080 "
61—240,000 "
62—401,044 "
63—15,000 "
64—500 000 "
65— 200,000 "
66—1,484,255 "
67—66,057 "
68—5,614 "

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COMPANIES' NOTICES. MEETINGS. ETC.

The Senawang Rubber Estates Co., Ltd.—A General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, January 14, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Shell Transport & Trading Co., Ltd.—A dividend at two shillings per share free of income tax, payable on January 2, 1924. Coupon No. 42

The Chempedak Rubber and Gambier Estate, Ltd.—The 14th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, January 17, 1924, at 4.30 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from January 14 to 17, 1924, both days inclusive.

Share Report for Week Ending January 4, 1924.

No. 241

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use A1 Code
A.B.C. 4th, 5th and 6th Editions
B. Broomhall's Imperial Combination Code
Bentley's Complete Phrase Code.
Telephone Cont. 171.

Share and General Brokers,
Land and Estate Agents,
1 The Bund,
Post Office Box No. 244
Shanghai.

Business has been very quiet on the local Stock Exchange during the past week; last Tuesday and Wednesday being generally observed as New Year Holidays.

London market quotations have fluctuated very slightly and the following are the last prices cabled to us this week

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	£	72. 0. 0	(Mean) ex. divd
" " " " " " " F.I.	"	68. 10. 0	" ex B.I.R.S.*
" " " " " " " R.I.	"	64. 0. 0	(Sellers) "
" " " " Shal. & Nanking Rly	"	65. 10. 0	"
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. "B"	"	5. 7. 0	(Mean)
Gula Kalumpang Rubber Estates, Ltd.	"	1. 13. 1	"
Shanghai Electric Cons. Co., "B"	"	2. 13. 0	"

*British Inland Revenue stamp.

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to-day is 3/4.

Shanghai, January 4, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:—

DECEMBER	29th		31st		1924 Jan. 1st		2nd		3rd		4th	
	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.
RUBBERS												
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS												
S'hai Elec. Cons. Co., "B" .. Tls.	170	..	..	..	BANK HOLIDAY (NEW YEAR)		BANK HOLIDAY (NEW YEAR)		..	..	..	..
S'hai Exploration & D. Co., Ld. ..	14½	..	..	..					..	..	..	..
Culty Dairy Co., Ld.	..	..	..	13					..	..	1.050	..
H. & S. Bank .. .. .. $	..	..	..	..					..	..		..
COTTONS												
Ewo Cotton Mfg. Ltd (Ord) .. Tls.	..	12.40	..	..					..	..	..	..
DEBENTURES												
S. M. C. 1912 6% Debs. .. Tls	..	..	..	..					99	..	..	..
S. M. C. 1923 6% Debs.	..	..	..	..					99	..	99	..
S. M. C. 1922 7%	..	..	..	..					..	..	105½	..

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, JANUARY 4, 1924.

STOCK	Last Dividend declared	Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Paid-up Value	Reserve, etc.	Financial Year ended	Last Dividend, etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.									
London	£ 12½								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp.	$ 1 050			61) 400,000	H $125	(a H $5,360,212 (c H $65,128,831	Dec.	Int. £3 for 1923 deduction of I/T	7-3-24
Chartered Bank of I., A. & C. London	£ 12½			600,000	£5	(a £222,201 (c £3,800,000	Dec.	Final 7s. & Bonus 6s. 3d. (mkg. £1 0s. 3d.), free of I/T, 1922	5-4-24
INSURANCE									
Union In. Society of Canton, Ld. ..	H $ 2324			55) 200,000	d £4	(av £437,386 (b £69,500 (c £3,574,054	Dec.	Final 16s. (mkg. 40s.) ex 1921 Work. a/c., Interim 24s. & Bonus to Contributors, 20%, ex 1922 Work a/c	28-3-24
North-China Insurance Co., Ld. ..	T 138			10,000	s £15	(av T610,687 (c T4,732,885	Dec.	Final 10s. (mkg. 30s.) ex 1921 Work a/c. and Interim 15s. ex 1922 Works. a/c.	30-3-24
Yangtsze Insurance Association Ltd	$ 250	35		43) 250,000	$10	(av $1,921,996 (aw $2,408,630 (c $4,083,242	Dec.	$2 (or T1.46) ex 1922 Work. a/c. payable in Taels at Exchg. 73	30-3-24
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ld. ..	T 22			1) 50,000	T20	(av T518,346 (aw T204,093 (c T9,361	Dec.	T1.20 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	30-3-24
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd	H $ 626	725		10,000	f H $100	(av H $2,172,375 (c H $6,649,892	Dec.	Final H $22 (mkg. H $40) ex 1921 Work. a/c., and Interim H $18 ex 1922 Work. a/c. ..	11-5-24
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld. ..	H $ 5124	5250		5,000	g H $50	(av H $631,698 (c H $3,876,385	Dec.	H $32 ex 1921 Working a/c.	28-3-24
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	H $ 127	140		20,000	h H $20	(av H $1,328,926 (c H $5,523,650	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/c. ..	26-3-24
Assurances France-Asiatique	F 500			14,000	F500	(a F101,368 (c F3,784,330	Dec.	None, Floated 1918	....
SHIPPING.									
Indo-China S.N. Co., Ld... (6% cum. pref.	H $ 38	38½		2) 120,000	£5	(a			
(def. ord. ..	H $ 140			2) 120,000	£5	(c £2,103,182	Dec.	Pref. 6s. at Exchg.—$2/4 London Warrants less I/T a/c., 1922. Def. Ord. Nil	16-6-23
Shell T'sport & Trading Co., Ld. .. (ord. 'B'	£	£23:19:6	£24:2:6	38) 30,000,000	£1	(a* £2,029,050 (c £2,000,000	Dec.	Final Ord. 2s. 6d. (mkg. 4s. 6d., 1922) "B" Coupon 41	6-7-23
(5% cum. pref.	£			48) 300,000	£10				
(7% cum. 2nd pref.	£			57) 10,000,000	£1				
Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld. (ord.	T			20,000	T25	(a T72,356 (a T470,000	Dec.	(Int. Ord. T2.50 a/c., 1923).. .. .. (Int. Pref. T1.75 a/c., 1923)	9-7-23
(pref.	T 53			10,000	T58				
DOCKS AND WHARVES.									
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld. ..	T 58	58		10) 55,700	T75	(a T102,535 (c T1,948,080	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
Hongkong & W'pao Dock Co., Ld... ..	H $ 152	154½		8) 60,00	H $60	(a H $583,680 (c H $4,081,000	Dec.	Interim H $4, 1922 .. .. Final H $5 & Bon. H $3 (mkg. H $12, 1922) ..	11-10-22 27-3-23
New Eng. and Shipbuilding Works, Ld. .. .. .. (ord.	T 6.40	6		85) 500,000	T5	(a T82,417			10-3-23
(8% pref	T 5.20			85) 500,000	T5	(b T300,000 (c T1,290,000	Dec.	Ord. T0.60, 1922 .. .. Pref. T0.40, 1922..	10-3-23
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ld... ..	T 180	179		‡4) 40,000	T100	(a T12,229 (b T200,000 (c T1,041,794	Dec.	Final T12 (mkg. T16, 1922) .. .. Int. T3 a/c., 1923	13-3-23 30-8-23
H'kong & K'loon W. & G. Co., Ld. ..	H $ 155½		160	80,000	H $30	(a H $303,494 (b H $250,000 (c H $100,000	Dec.	H. $6 & Bonus H. $3 (mkg. H $9, 1922) ..	20-2-23
MINING.									
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld. ..	£ 12/-			24) 500,000	G. $10		June	G $0.50, 1920-21	26-7-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Bearer).	T 19	18		(†64) 2,000,000	£1	(	June	Final 8½% (Coupon No. 23) free of I/T, 1922-1923	11-12-23
London	£	£3:5:6	£3:8:6						
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld. ..	H $ 5 20			200,000	£1	(a £23,613 (c £4,873	Mar.	1s. 2d., 1909-10	21-5-10
LANDS AND HOTELS.									
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. ..	T 116	114		‡) 78,000	T50	(a T25,559 (b T250,000 (c T2,166,583	Dec.	(Final T3 & Bonus T2 (mkg. T8, 1922) .. .. (Interim 1923, T3	23-3-23 26-7-23 24-7-23
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld. .. (New Reg.)	H $ 85	87	89	240,000	H $25	(a H $3,231,700 (b H $250,000 (c H $123,746	Dec.	Int. H $6 a/c., 1923	24-7-23
Humphrey's Est. & Finance Co., Ld. ..	H $ 23.60			150,000	H $10	(b H $50,000 (c H $337,363	Dec.	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.70, 1922	19-2-23
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld.	T 6			3,674	T20	(a T2,808 (c T7,000	Dec.	T1.20, 1922	24-2-23
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld. ..	T 120	120		‡3) 18,000	T100	(a T7,848 (b T20,000 (c T350,000	Feb.	Int. Divid. T3½, 1923-24	21-9-23
The Shanghai Hotels, Ld.	$ 40	50		‡45) 150,123	$7.50	(a $475,121 (c $2,465,534	Dec.	$3 on 50,000 shs; Scrip Div. 199 new Ord. shs. for ea. 123 Founders shs., 1920 Interim, $3.50 on 74,600 shs., 1921, Final, Nil..	11-6-21
Carlton, Ld.	T 53			14) 10,000	T50		Mar.	Floated April 1, 1922..	....
Asia Realty Co., Inc...	G $ 100			‡18) 10,000	G $100		Dec.	Incorporated under the laws of Delaware Ord 1922, 7%	4-1-23
Raven Trust Co., Inc. .. .. (ord.	G $ 10			**100,000	G $10			Pref. 1st gr. 1923, 11%	4-1-23
(pref.	G $ 10				G $10				
PLANTATIONS.									
Alma Estates, Ld.	T 6½	6½		70,000	£1 at T9	a T28,910	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23	19-12-23
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld.	T 0.50		0.50	‡62) 400,000	T1	T5,635	Oct.	....	....
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld. ..	T 2.90	2¼		12) 400,000	10s.	a T32,505	Dec.	T0.30, 1919 ††	7-4-20
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T 6½	6¼		4) 500,000	10s.	(a T129,151 (c T378,570	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c. 1923	14-9-23
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T 21			27) 30,000	T10	(a T16,223 (b T22,000 (c T69,960	Sept.	T2.00, 1922-23 .. .. Interim 1923, T0.50	28-12-23 15-6-23
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Ests., Ld. ..	T 1		1.10	400,000	T1	a T30,789	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	10-4-20
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T 1.12½	1.10		500,000	T1	a T20,402	Mar.	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1916-17)	25-7-17
Bute Plantation (1913), Ld.	T 0.75	0.80		300,000	T1	a (Loss)T13,076	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkg. T0.10, 1916)	29-3-17
Chemor United Rubber Co., Ld.	T 1.07½	1		400,000	T0.20	a T37,897	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	6-11-23
Chempedak Rub. & G'bier Est., Ld. ..	T 6			8) 35,000	£1 at 2/3½	a (Loss)T35,752	Oct.	2nd Interim, T0.50, (mkg. T1, 1916-17) ..	16-10-17
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T 1.40	1.40		135,000	T5	a T4,120	June	T0.20, 1916-17	1-11-17
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld..	T 2½		2¾	25) 500,000	2s.—T0.75	(a T23,192 (c T30,000	Dec.	T0.10, 1922 .. .. Interim T0.06, 1923	20-4-23 15-10-23
Dominion Rubber Co., Ld.	T 2	2		19) 350,000	T1	a T13,813	Dec.	T0.40, 1919	18-5-20
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T 9½	9		†48) 750,000	(21; 450,000 (5s; 200,000	(a (c	Dec.	2s. less I/T at 5s. in £1922, "B" Coupon 20)††	28-3-23
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee Est., Ld.	T 14	13½		8) 85,000	£1 at 2/3½	(a T64,485 (c T650,113	Dec.	Interim, T0.50, 1923	3-9-23
Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ld. ..	T 12	12½		35) 15,000	T10	(a T6,977 (c T4,023	Dec.	(T0.50, 1922 .. .. (Interim 1923, T0.50	19-4-23 17-7-23
Karan Rubber Estate Co., Ltd. ..	T 6			25,000	T10	(a T3,008 (b T30,000	Mar.	T0.60, 1922-23	1-6-23
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1914) Ltd.	T 1.05	1		390,000	T1	a (Loss)T38,263	June	....	....
Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ltd	T 13	13½		20) 70,000	£1 at T1.80	a T33,490 T69,380	Dec.	(T0.60, 1922 (Int. T0.50 a/c., 1923	17-4-23
Pamanukan Rubber Estate, Ld.	T 3½			20) 50,000			Dec.	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1915-16	7-7-16

LAW REPORTS

MERGING OF INSURANCE COMPANIES

Sanction Deferred for Examination of Actuarial Reports

Application was made to his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner at H.M. Supereme Court on Monday for the Court's sanction of the arrangement come to last year between the Shanghai Life Insurance Co., Ld., and the Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada concerning their proposed amalgamation.

Mr. H. Lipson Ward appeared for the petitioning company; Mr. A. G. Mossop for the Sun Life Assurance Co.; Mr. G. H. Wright for the China Mutual Life Insurance Co.; and Mr. Baddely on behalf of another party.

Mr. Lipson Ward stated that the petition had been made under Section 121 of the Hongkong Ordinances of 1911 and prayed for the sanction of the Court of an arrangement made between the Shanghai Life Insurance Co., its members, creditors and current policy holders, under an agreement between the company and the Sun Life of Canada dated December 20, 1922. Under this agreement the whole of the business of the Shanghai company was to be transferred to the Canadian company. Nominally the petitioning company was controlled by the China Mutual Life Insurance Co., which had filed a similar petition. After describing the procedure adopted in accordance with the provisions of Section 121, counsel proceeded to state that in respect to the interests of the various parties the Court had made an order for the holding of meetings of members of the petitioning company—creditors, holders of current policies and others concerned—which meetings had taken place. The terms of the agreement provided for the issue by the Sun Life to individual policy holders of a certificate whereby that company assumed liability to each holder. A separate account was to be kept by the Sun Life for the Shanghai business. Policies which matured between January 1, 1923, and the closing of the separate account the Sun Life undertook to pay, and also any deferred profits and cash at the rate of one per cent. of the sum insured in respect of each premium paid since January 1, 1920, subject to reduction if the consultative board thought that the profits earned did not justify such a payment.

Mr. Wright, appearing for the China Mutual company, was asked by his Lordship if the creditors were fairly represented by those who attended the meetings. In reply, Mr. Wright said that due and sufficient notice had been given the policy holders under this scheme of arrangement, and at all the meetings they were given an opportunity of voting for or against.

The Judge said he had no reason to think that he would refuse the sanction, but felt he must first of all examine the actuarial reports, and accordingly adjourned the matter until Thursday.

Combination Approved by Court

The scheme of amalgamation by the Shanghai Life Insurance Co., Ld. and the China Mutual Life Insurance Co. with the Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada was sanctioned by his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner at H. M. Supreme Court on Thursday.

Mr. H. R. Sturt, joint manager and actuary of the China Mutual and Shanghai Life Insurance Cos., having given formal evidence as to the validity of press advertisements produced, his Lordship gave his decision as follows:—

This is a petition for sanction by the court of an arrangement under Section 121 of the Hongkong Companies' Ordinances of 1911 whereby the business of the petitioning company is to be transferred to the Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada. The arrangement is contained in a lengthy agreement between the two companies under date December 20, 1922.

Directions were obtained from this Court in September last as to the holding of the necessary meetings in support and these meetings have been held in accordance with those directions and the arrangement was unanimously approved at all the meetings. No opposition was offered to the petition before the Court and in view of the duty resting upon the Court in considering this application I deemed it necessary to read the particulars somewhat more carefully.

I have to be satisfied that the statutory requirements have been fulfilled, that the officers and members in attendance at the meetings acted *bonâ fide* and were fairly representative of the *class* concerned and that the arrangement is such as a man of business would reasonably approve; and fair and reasonable as regards different claims. It is obvious that the persons concerned in a matter like this are: (1) the shareholders and (2) the policy-holders. The former are well able to look after themselves and they approve the scheme. The policy-holders have to be specially regarded and it is apparent to me that they seem not to have been at all well representated at the meetings. But no suggestion has been made to be that the whole of this matter is anything but entirely *bonâ fide* and is the result of very careful and elaborate thought on the part of all concerned. I know that many of the policy-holders would not and could not understand the nature of this scheme, and I further know that they get under it the strength of the Sun Life Company.

Then I have the report before me of three actuaries (including an independent one as required by an Act in England) as to the value of the scheme from a policy-holder's point of view, and further have the fact that this scheme has been sanctioned in the High Court in England and has the approval of the Government of India. The Canadian authorities, acting no doubt from the point of view of the policy-holders in the Sun Life Company have also sanctioned the scheme.

I have studied the scheme as far as I can, mainly from the point of view of the policy-holders, as was specially noted by Mr. George King in his exhaustive actuarial report. It seems to me that both in the matter of reserve and bonuses this class will be better off under the arrangement than before, and in addition there will be behind each policy the great strength of the Sun Life Company.

I sanction the scheme.

As regards the China Mutual, I have to note that one dissentient voice had been heard but nothing more was done to emphasize that dissent. The same considerations apply here as to the other company and I sanction the scheme.

His Lordship said formal orders would be drawn up.

STATEMENT BY THE THREE COMPANIES

Advantages of the Scheme

The Companies concerned make the following statement with reference to the above judgment.

"His Majesty's Supreme Court on Thursday ratified agreements by which the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada assumes all the liabilities and takes over the assets of the China Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Shanghai Life Insurance Company. Technically, these two China Companies are distinct Corporations, but since 1920 the Shanghai Life has been managed and housed by the China Mutual. The agreements that have now been approved affect the interests of the policy-holders of both Companies in the same way, hence they need not be referred to separately.

"Before the agreements were approved the Courts ordered advertisements to be put in the principal papers in all countries where these Companies did business so that the widest publicity should be given to the proposal. The High Court of Justice in England and the Minister of Finance for the Dominion of Canada having previously approved, the share holders and policy-holders of the China Mutual and Shanghai Life have, at meetings specially called for the purpose, also approved and the Supreme Court in Shanghai has now issued the final order making the agreements absolute. The Courts first satisfied themselves that the agreements were for the benefit of the policy-holders of all the Companies concerned.

"This merging of the principal life insurance companies transacting business in China is an event of outstanding importance, not only in China and the Far East, but also throughout the world. The Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is the largest international company, being the only one transacting a purely life business in practically every part of the world. This Company writes annually a larger amount of new ordinary life business than any other in the British Empire.

"The China Mutual, besides having a large organization in China, also operates in Japan, the Philippine Islands, Straits Settlements, Burma, Ceylon and India.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS.

"The effect of this amalgamation and the benefits thereby conferred on the policy-holders of these Companies is outlined in detail in a report of Mr. George King, F.I.A., of London, the acknowledged expert in these matters. Similar reports were furnished by the actuary of the Sun Life of Canada, the manager of the China Mutual, and Mr. Henry J. Baker, the actuary of the Metropolitan Life Assurance Society.

"These reports, briefly, show that the policy-holders of the China Companies are guaranteed a continuance of all the benefits and privileges now enjoyed, and in addition many valuable advantages are assured to them by the amalgamation. The security at the back of their policies will be considerably increased since the assets of the combined Companies will exceed £45,000,000 whereas the assets of the two China Companies amount to about £3,000,000. Also, the Sun Company's basis of valuation assumes an interest earning of three per cent., the China Companies valuing on a five per cent. basis. The practical effect of this is that reserves set up as security against the policy liabilities of the Sun Life Company are about 12 per cent. greater than those hitherto set up against the liabilities of the China Mutual and Shanghai Life Companies.

"The scale of profits paid to the Sun Company's policy-holders is enormously more advantageous than that enjoyed by the policy-holders of the China Companies. On Twenty Year Endowment policies for £1,000 issued in North China and now maturing the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is paying in profits from £300 to £600, according to the age of the policy-holder, this company having the enviable reputation of paying extremely high dividends to its policy-holders. As soon as the reserves of the China Companies are on a parity with those of the Sun Company profits accruing thereafter to policy-holders of the China Companies will be on precisely the same basis as to holders of similar policies in the Sun Company.

"The policy-holders of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada will benefit by the greatly increased clientèle and organization and the resulting economy in the administration expenses due to the accession of a large volume of business to their various divisions which will also eventually benefit the policy-holders of the merged Companies.

"It is stated that the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada intends to pursue a progressive policy throughout the Far East and with the addition of the organization of the China Mutual Life Insurance Company a very great future in the East is anticipated."

MALTESE SEAMEN CHARGED

Alleged Ferocious Assault in a Ship: Police Court Proceedings

A sequel to a dramatic fight in the engine room of a ship in port was heard at H. M. Police Court on Monday, when seven Maltese firemen, Luize Baldacchino, Carmelo Chircop, Emmanuel Zara, Emmanuel Vella, Emmanuel Sciberras, Joseph Busitill and George Gatt, were charged before Mr. G. W. King with wounding J. T. Crozier (chief engineer), J. W. George (third engineer) and W. Prior (fourth engineer) with intent to cause grievous bodily harm at 7 a.m. on Saturday morning in the str. Rio Azul.

Various implements, including a huge spanner and boiler scaler, said to have been used on the officers, were produced in Court.

Mr. A. E. Seddon appeared to prosecute.

John Peterkin, master of the Rio Azul, said that on May 7 the vessel left Barry Dock, Cardiff, at which port all the prisoners were signed on with the exception of Chircop and Sciberras, who were taken on at Port Said. Witness had had trouble with them during the whole voyage. He wished to lay a further charge of refusal to perform their duties when leaving Astoria against Chircop, Sciberras and Busitill, who had been logged. Witness was not on board at the time of the assault.

Deputy Supt. Woodfield, River Police, who carried out the arrest on board the Rio Azul, said the warrant had not been read over to accused, as Witness had not so far been able to find a Maltese interpreter. They were quite sober and calm. Nine bottles of spurious Scotch were found on their clothing. Witness knew the liquor was spurious by the labels. "The supposition is that they obtained the bottles from America," concluded the Superintendent.

TALKING EXCITEDLY.

William Prior, the fourth engineer, said that at about 7 a.m. on Saturday he went along to prisoners' quarters. They were talking very excitedly. He told them to turn to and they went down to the engine room. The second, the third engineer and the donkey man were there. Accused wanted to see the Chief Engineer before they started work. He came down half-dressed and was told by the men that they had been to the Consulate, but could obtain no satisfaction. Baldacchino started the fight when the chief arrived, striking the chief in the face. Baldacchino, Chircop and Gatt then rushed at him. Witness went to his assistance and the prisoners set upon all of them. The donkeyman came to witness's assistance, taking him into the stokehole, after which witness went on deck for assistance. He returned with the chief, second and third deck officers. Prisoners were standing in the poop and the chief engineer was subsequently found lying on his hands and face in the shaft tunnel. As soon as witness got him into the engine room, prisoner No. 2 flung a large spanner at him. After this a heavy boiler scaling tool dropped from above between the chief engineer and the chief officer.

Answering one of the accused, witness said the chief engineer had no hammer at the time. He did not use bad language. He could not use his hands, as they were in his pockets, holding his trousers up. (Laughter).

J. W. George, third engineer, said that after the altercation between the men and the chief there was a rush. Witness stepped towards them and said. "Cut that out." He was then struck on the head with a spanner by prisoner No. 5 and others. After calling the deck officers he nearly lost consciousness. He remembered nothing after that incident.

"I didn't get the chance to strike any of them, they were on top of me in a second," said witness emphatically when one of the accused insisted that he had hit them.

The donkeyman stated that he heard the row between the accused and the chief officer. On returning to the engine room, witness noticed the fourth engineer on the floor, prisoner No. 6 kicking him. The third engineer ran up the ladder followed by four men. Tools were flying about. Prisoner No. 1 was holding a hammer over the chief engineer. No. 3 had a spanner and warned witness not to interfere.

The sixth man (who interpreted) —He cannot speak English.

"He can when he likes," answered witness.

At this stage, the Magistrate ordered a remand in custody until next morning.

Accused Again Remanded

More evidence for the prosecution was heard on Tuesday.

Alexander Paton, second engineer, said that he was in the engine room when the men wanted to see the chief engineer. The latter seemed rather perturbed when witness went to his room and dressed at once in his pyjamas. He saw the fight in the engine room when the chief engineer was attacked. The men pushed witness and used a certain expression to him.

In answer to the Magistrate, witness replied that this remark was made in quite a friendly manner. He did not think the men wished to hurt him. He was knocked on the floor subsequently and it was two minutes before he got up.

The Magistrate—Have you any idea what all this trouble was about?

Witness—The men were dissatisfied, but I do not know why.

G. A. Featherstone, chief officer, said he saw the second engineer come on deck. His face was covered in blood. He sent witness went to his room and shouted out, "The firemen are killing the chief." Witness took off his coat, called to the other officers to follow him and flew down to the engine room. In the engineer room five of the prisoners were standing with their hands behind their backs and he believed they were concealing the implements. Chircop hurled a heavy iron spanner at the chief engineer. Witness ran to his assistance, and and said to him: "Chief, the whole thing is over. I am here now." He had not long said this when a long iron boiler scaler was thrown at them. It grazed his head and fell between them. After the fight he gave instructions to hoist the police flag.

A BROKEN NOSE.

Dr. W. S. Parsone said that the chief engineer was suffering from shock, a broken nose, and contusions on the back of his head and chest. His condition improved on Saturday, but on Monday he developed symptoms of concussion and there had been no improvement since.

The Magistrate—Do you think there is any danger of the chief engineer losing his life?

Witness—There is always grave danger in cases of concussion.

Mr. E. A. Bowman, second officer of the Rio Azul, having given evidence, Mr. Seddon said that it concluded his case and asked for a committal.

The Magistrate—But you cannot conclude your case without the evidence of the chief engineer.

Counsel replied that the chief engineer would not be able to come to Court before Tuesday, when the ship sails. The prisoners, he submitted, could be sent for trial on the evidence already heard and kept in custody until the Rio Azul returned three months later.

His Worship over-ruled the submission, pointing out that it was one of the strongest principles of British law and justice that a prisoner have a speedy trial before his peers.

Mr. Seddon—It frequently happens in England that a man is kept five months before the next assizes.

The Magistrate—Well that does not reflect any credit on certain people at Home. It has never happened in China.

The accused were remanded until Friday.

CORRESPONDENCE

TRAMPLING ON TREATIES.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Mr. Sokolsky's instructive article under the above heading very rightly lays down the principle that the problem of China's foreign treaties "must be presented to intelligent Chinese from their point of view," but in presenting the case for the foreigner few Chinese, I think, will be able to subscribe to what Mr. Sokolsky assumes to be facts.

Chinese and not a few foreigners conversant with China's relations with Foreign Powers will deny his assertion that "there was practically no national law in the land" at the period referred to. And even if there had been none, would that have entitled foreigners to impose obligations on China in order to facilitate their trade!

"Was it not because arrangements made with the Central Government were unenforcible," Mr. Sokolsky asks. And the Chinese will reply: "No, it was not. The Central Government encouraged resistance by ordering Canton to burn all the opium."

The "curious conduct" of China's officialdom made these treaties "absolutely necessary," affirms Mr. Sokolsky. Why! Because the Chinese authorities obstructed trade and because they collected taxes in a peculiar manner is his answer.

For several years many countries refused to trade with Russia and singular fiscal arrangements, destructive to international trade were adopted by that country and yet no other country imposed treaties on her. Why! Because no one had the power. In 1842, 1860 and 1901 foreigners had the power to impose treaties on China and they did so, but does the presence of power make them any the more just! No intelligent Chinese will admit the justness of these treaties, and until we foreigners come to look on them "from the Chinese point of view" trade and our relations with the country will suffer. Trade is all that the majority of foreigners take an interest in as regards the problem of China; but the Chinese people have many other interests, some of which are more important than foreign trade.

Foreigners have no objection whatever to the imposition by the Chinese Government or its municipal authorities of a tax on native wine shops, on turnip stalls or on factories making sedan chairs. But if a shop tax is being imposed on the house from which cigarettes are sold, foreigners raise a hue and cry because foreign trade is being interfered with and treaties are being evaded. China must do nothing which in any way interferes with foreign trade. That the moneys collected from the cigarette tax, from likin and other internal impositions go into the wrong pockets is of course perfectly well known to any intelligent Chinese, but they will rather submit to the tyranny of tuchuns and other autocrats than admit the principle of foreign interference. As a people they are not unique in such an attitude. Reverse the situation and see where it lands you. What did the French people do when foreigners wanted to rescue them from the tyranny of a newborn faith!

China certainly could become all that Mr. Sokolsky says of she would follow his advice. Japan is his model. But when that day arrives and China really becomes powerful (which means that she has a large and efficient army and navy, thousands of big guns, millions of rifles and much poison gas) what then! Supposing she uses that power in the same manner that we have used our own in the past, will justice then be done! she will then, indeed, be a Great Power, but it is questionable if her people then will be as great as they are now.

I am, etc.,
GORDIUS NIELSEN.
Shanghai, Dec. 27, 1923.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—When I saw, affixed to Mr. Sokolsky's article in your issue of 24th instant, the headline "China Trampling on Treaties," I did not wish to read the article, because instinct born of experience warned me that under such a title, there could be nothing but illogical reasonings and unjust criticisms on us Chinese. Mr. Gordius Nielsen's letter in this morning's paper, however, gave me heart, and I have since read through the article, and I must say it has made me quite sad that I was not wrong in my assumption.

It is not enough, it seems, that we have to suffer from the sins and misdoings not of our own making, but we must also, by some perverse fate, be held accountable for these same sins and misdoings. If Mr. Sokolsky would only exercise his intellectual powers a little on our behalf, he would see that we are as much, in some cases more, the victims of those alleged violations of foreign treaties as the foreign nations or merchants concerned. Take for instance, the cigarette-tax. It is we, who have to pay more for our cigarettes after this addition of a tax, and not the foreign sellers, who will be doing better and better business as the fashion of cigarette-smoking spreads wider and wider among us. Or take the Gold Francs Question for another illustration. Even suppose it were possible that the French Government would consent to receiving its future share of the Boxer indemnity in paper currency, the saving would not benefit us in the least, but it would be diverted to another channel, just as unprofitable or in all probability much more harmful.

When foreign writers lay the blame of the alleged violations to our door, we are tempted, in an exasperated moment, to ask what right the foreign nations ever had of forcing us to make these treaties with them. But recriminations of this kind never do good, but would simply raise a cloud of dust and blind the eye to the essential issue. The root of the hardships and sufferings of the people in this country and of the cause of dissatisfaction and impatience among the foreigners in China, is that China is under the heels of a gang of the most unscrupulous and selfish militarists and politicians, who by fortuitous circumstances have become the governors of the nation. They would disregard all foreign treaties if it were convenient; they make no pretence whatever of wishing to look after the interests of those who are under them. The best remedy would be for the Chinese and foreigners to get together and work out ways either of getting rid of this gang, or of imposing such restraint on them as to disable them from making any more depredations on the rights of the Chinese people and the foreigners. But if the foreigners will not help us, they must have the goodness of not losing their temper with us, who have far greater things at stake than they. If they cannot give us sympathy and assistance, they should at least be fair enough to abstain from any indiscriminate accusations.

Mr. Sokolsky holds up the example of Japan to us as worthy of emulation. But I sincerely believe that the only honourable course for China to take in regard to her foreign treaties does not lie in imitation of Japan. An honourable nation, as an honourable man, must abide by the terms of a contract, however disadvantageous they may be to it, no matter whether it has the strength to repudiate them with impunity, unless the other party to whom all the advantages accrue is willing voluntarily to rescind them from motives of justice and fairplay. And the terms of a contract should always be interpreted by an honourable nation according to the intention, expressed or understood, at the time the contract was made, and no mean advantage should be taken of a legal quibble in phrases or words, or of changes in circumstances which could not have been foreseen at that time. I cannot understand how, after the European War and the muddle Europe is still in, Mr. Sokolsky had the courage to suggest that an increase in power and strength would be a sufficient reason to override the sacredness of a treaty. It might be either that he gave us the credit of having a low standard of morality, which would be an abortion of judgment, bad enough in a man of intellect, or that his own standard of morality was low, which I cannot believe.

I am etc.,
K. C. K.
Shanghai, Dec. 28, 1923.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—I notice that in his letter under this heading, in your issue of the 29th instant, Mr. Gordius Nielsen very subtly introduces that wearisome old cry of the use of opium having been forced upon China. He does not actually say so, but I think his letter infers it.

Now I understand from my reading of the subject that actually why opium was used by the Chinese people was simply and purely, in the last analysis, because they wanted it, officialdom included. Certain of that officialdom at Peking, however, were sensible enough to perceive that its use meant the draining of China of its silver resources, by reason of the silver payments made for the opium, and this is what they rightly did not like: therefore their commendable prohibition of the use of the drug by their subjects.

The misnamed "Opium" war in fact arose out of a determination on the part of the foreign world peacefully to penetrate China for trade purposes, an aim which met with no sympathy from the Chinese Government, which regarded all foreigners with an amazing supreme contempt and which could only think of foreign countries as vassals of China; this as a result of ignorance engendered by their long isolation from the world at large.

It was to secure recognition by the Chinese government of the equality of foreigners and Chinese that war was rendered necessary. I admit we did want trade, but was there anything wrong in that? Most of our trade was moral: the opium traffic was an exception, and is a side-issue. China at that time held us all in contempt, fear and suspicion. We felt that this was without reason or rightful ground, and solely attributable to their ignorance of us, and we determined to make the Chinese realize this. Alas, that a war should have been necessary. But very soon after, the contempt was gone, fear dissipated, and the foreigner had earned the respect of the Chinese people, and they saw in trade and intercourse the opportunity for mutual benefit.

I am etc.,
SPECTATOR.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—I have several times reread "K. C. K's" letter in this morning's "North-China Daily News" and I have yet to find wherein we disagree unless it be in such personal matters as my friendliness toward the Chinese people, which I am sure that no one who knows of my work in this country can doubt, or the scale of my morality which of course is a matter of opinion.

On general questions with regard to China we agree. On the necessity of patience on the part of foreigners, we agree. On the necessity of fixing responsibility on the officials and militarists, we agree. On the impropriety of trampling on treaties, we agree. On the indecency of breaking treaties by officials, we agree. We might even agree on an interpretation of the imposition of treaties on the Chinese people were we to come together on the general hypothesis that unlimited exclusion of intercourse is the right of no nation.

Where then do we differ? "K.C.K." as a Chinese, knows that the Chinese people will ultimately overcome their corrupt officials and will wear them out until a good government is possible. I, as a foreigner, know that unless something is done soon to prevent these same officials from flouting foreigners' rights in China (and I am dealing with paper not moral rights) the foreign Powers might take a step which all friends of China hope will never happen, namely the enforcing of their rights. To avoid such an eventuality "K.C.K." and I and those who feel as we do can work together: I can interpret the foreign viewpoint to the Chinese people and wherever I have sufficient information and accurate statements, the Chinese viewpoint to foreigners. He can drive out those who as he says, have China "under the heels of a gang of the most unscrupulous and selfish militarists and politicians, who by fortuitous circumstances, have become the governors of the nation." Foreigners cannot rid Chinese of their worst officials. Whenever they have attempted such a course they have been worsted by the greater Chinese in Peking as was instanced after the Lincheng Incident when Tuchun Tien became a Marshal and when Defence Commissioner Ho Fengyu was dismissed only to be reemployed in Shanghai.

But foreigners can tell their Chinese friends what the general consensus of foreign opinion is and they can help to stave off a blow which will alike harm China and the foreigners in China. Wholesome criticism will do that. Adulation, flattery, deceit, craving for popularity, will not do that. My only object in writing is wholesome criticism, and such replies as that of "K.C.K." make the task pleasant, could he only keep off the ground of questioning one's friendship for his country because one does not see the dawn at midnight.

I am, etc.,
GEORGE E. SOKOLSY.
Shanghai, Dec. 31, 1923.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—I regret that my brief reference to the first China war should have been interpreted by "Spectator" in the sense that I wished to fasten all guilt for that incident on the foreigner. That was not my intention. The word opium was merely used for the sake of briefness and in order to fix the time when China first came into serious collision with Western Powers. But "Spectator's" reading of history is faulty, inasmuch as it was only a small and proportionately a very small, number of China's milions who at that time desired to buy opium. The rest of the nation was against the introduction of the drug for the reasons stated by your correspondent and for other and more important reasons. A controversy on this vexed question will lead nowhere, but there are other considerations, testified to by distinguished persons of recognized fairness and ability, apposite to the time, which are important for the student to observe. Mr. Cushing, the accredited representative of the United States to China, reported to the State Department as follows:

"It is impossible to deny to China a high degree of civilization, though that civilization is, in many respects, different from ours; yet the magnitude of the Empire, the stability of its political institutions, the great advancement which the Chinese have made in the arts of life, the sedulous cultivation of letters, as well as the other useful and ornamental objects of intellectual pursuit, are such as to give China as complete a title to the appellation of civilized as many if not most of the States of Christendom can claim."

This was the impression made on a man who was himself a cultured gentleman. At that time and particularly anterior to that time, foreigners coming to China for the purpose of trade had only one outlook, the commercial one. There can hardly be a doubt but that many of their methods must have shocked that portion of the native population which Mr. Cushing had in mind when he spoke of Chinese civilization. A Chinese student makes the following comment:

"A want of regard for Chinese laws characterized the foreigners who went to China in the 17th and 18th centuries. They were either adventurers or desperate characters, and, with the exception of a few missionaries, they were all animated by the sole desire to seek fortunes in a new land. It mattered little what the territorial laws required and what they prohibited; they came on a mission to replenish their purses and were prepared to leave as soon as their object was accomplished; in their opinion, it would have been disloyal to themselves to allow their conduct to be shackled by laws of which they knew nothing, and about which they did not care to know anything. A small number of them, endowed with an inquiring mind indeed manifested an interest in Chinese laws and acquired a knowledge of them; . . . Under these circumstances it is not surprising that they considered themselves as exempt from all laws."

This was the estimate of our aims and conduct at the period referred to, but 85 years ago foreigners were unquestionably of a better type than those who preceded them. Yet the tradition of two centuries overshadowed their conception of the relative positions, as it does to a large extent to-day. We are much in need of being reminded that there are other people in China besides tuchuns, bandits and rapacious officials, as so pointedly noted by "C. H. K." Our roughness and occidental impetuosity, to use no harsher term, cannot but shock the more sensitive fibre of cultured China. Even to this day few of us know or appreciate the many excellent qualities associated with Chinese civilization, for the very good reason that our knowledge of the people is almost strictly confined to the dealings we have with officials, merchants, office employees and domestic servants. How many of us have ever really associated on terms of intimacy with the people? And it is this ignorance of the most of us which makes us as blind as the Chinese themselves are when they judge us. The family circle is the only source from which to acquire knowledge of a people's culture; but as we only know, and as the Chinese people only know, what is seen and heard in the market place, our mutual appreciation—or the reverse—rests on a very inadequate foundation. Until foreigners and Chinese approach each other on terms of social equality in the intimacy of the family circle, the two races will remain apart for want of understanding. It will require considerable sacrifice of comfort and prejudice by all before such a state can be attained, but it is the only way by which frigidity, prejudice and contempt can be dispelled. When that day comes a new era will appear founded on goodwill, sympathy and appreciation of the good qualities inherent in both races.

I am etc.,
GORDIUS NIELSEN.
Shanghai, Jan. 1, 1924.

THEY have a stiff way of dealing with swindlers in Canton. According to the "China Mail" a man who went on board a steam launch at Canton and demanded "teamoney" to the extent of $60, saying that he was a detective from the Police Headquarters, was seized by the crew and taken to the Police Headquarters. After trial he was sentenced to death and promptly executed.

WANTED

WANTED, photographs of current events in Straits Settlements, Dutch Colonies, Siam, Far East and all other parts of Asia for publication in "The Indian Daily Mail," which prints a full page of pictures daily. Prompt despatch with full description essential. Best rates of payment. Write to Managing Editor, "The Indian Daily Mail," 24-26 Dalal Street, Fort, Bombay.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

BRITISH IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

Resolutions Not Binding but of a Nature that Cannot be Ignored

London, Dec. 31.

Mr. S. M. Bruce, the Australian Prime Minister, speaking at a farewell luncheon at the Colonial Institute, contested the suggestion that the Imperial Government was bound by the resolutions, "which never were resolutions", of the Imperial and Economic Conferences. To suggest that the nations participating were bound by the action of their representatives until that action was confirmed by the respective Governments and Parliaments was undemocratic and against the great principles underlying the whole of the present relations inside the Empire. Australia claimed to be a free democracy where the will of the people would always prevail.

At the Conference, the Dominions claimed that the decisions were not binding on the respective countries until they had received the sanction of the Parliaments and, holding that attitude, the Dominions were not entitled to try to force the hands of Britain or to suggest a breach of faith. But it would be tragic if effect were not given to the Conference resolutions. (Cheers.).

The Australian Prime Minister believed that it would strike a most vital blow at the unity of the Empire if the whole result of the Conference were destroyed. He believed, however, that any Government coming into power in Britain would closely examine everything done at the Conferences and do everything in its power to give effect to the conclusions of the Conferences.

Mr. Bruce continued to give a moving description of his recent visit to the cemeteries of France, warmly eulogizing the work of the War Graves Commission, which he described as one great example of Imperial unity and co-operation.

Britain's Blindness.

Dealing with Empire trade, the Australian Prime Minister declared that Britain was showing the same blindness as she showed in 1914. No one in 1914, whether in Britain or the Dominions, seriously would have suggested that in case of war the Empire would put in the field more than 100,000 men, but a conservative estimate of the Empire's contribution was 1,250,000. Some said to-day that the danger to Empire trade would be completely removed if Britain would only look to the Dominions, but the deriders of this doctrine again were of the opinion that the Dominions only would do very little. "They won't be able to do very little," declared Mr. Bruce, amid cheers. "They are able to do everything. What they could do in the arena of trade and commerce is a hundredfold greater than the amazing, wonderful things they did in the War."

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged taking the whole question of Empire development outside the field of party politics.

Reuter.

NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST

Three New Peerages: Viscountcy for Lord Inchcape: C. M. G. for Mr. T. L. Perkins

London, Dec. 31.

The New Year Honours List includes three new peerages, Sir Frederick Banbury, Sir Charles Darling and Sir Herbert Jessel receiving baronies, while Lord Inchcape is promoted to Viscount. Major Herbert Cayzer is made a baronet. Major-General Sir James Marshall Stewart becomes a Knight Commander of the Bath.

Sir Frederick George Banbury is Chairman of the Great Northern Railway.

Sir Charles Darling has just retired after 26 years as Judge of the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice.

Colonel Sir Herbert Merton Jessel served in the Army Remount Service during the war, retiring from the Army in 1919, when he was Deputy Director of Remounts at the War Office. He afterwards held the post of Controller of the Horses and Animals Disposals Board in the Ministry of Supply.

Lord Inchcape is Chairman of the P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.

Major Herbert Robin Cayzer is Vice-Chairman of the Clan Line and Member of Parliament for South Portsmouth.

Major-General Sir James Marshall Stewart retired from the Indian Army in 1920. During the war he served in East Africa, where he was specially promoted Major-General, and with the Aden Field Force. He took part in the operations in China in 1900 and in Tibet in 1903-4.

The Colonial List.

The Colonial Office list contains the following:—

Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George:—Mr. Edward Shaw Hose, Acting Chief Secretary of the Government of the Malay States. Mr. Thomas Luff Perkins, formerly Director of Public Works at Hongkong.

Knight Bachelor:—Mr. David James Galloway, Member of the Executive Council of the Straits Settlements, in recognition of public services.—Reuter.

BRITISH CONFIDENCE IN NEW YEAR

Expectation of Nine Months' Deficit of £60,000,000 to be Balanced in Three Months

London, Jan. 1.

Very merry revels at London hotels, several brilliant balls, including an assembly of 4,000 art students and others at the Albert Hall, and numerous watch-night services at the churches marked the arrival of the New Year. A novel feature was the broadcasting of the midnight chimes of Parliament's famous Big Ben throughout the country.

The national revenue for the nine months just ended shows a deficit of £60,000,000, but it is expected that this will be wiped out in the course of the next three months.

The annual statement of bills and cheques paid by the Bankers' Clearing-house last year amounts to a grand total of £36,627,592,000, a decrease of £533,869,000 as compared with the previous year. Ninety-five per cent. of the decrease occurred in town clearing. In the first three quarters there was an aggregate decrease of £1,001,572,000 and in the last quarter a satisfactory increase of £467,703,000.

King George, replying to a New Year telegram of congratulation from the Lord Mayor of London, says that he is confident that, with God's help, the British, true to their great traditions, will face the outcome of the difficulties which are still confronting us at the close of a decade which, though memorable in glorious achievement, has been beset by much trial and suffering.

The Political Situation.

The political world is reawakening after the Christmas holiday. Mr. Baldwin will return to London to-day and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald shortly afterwards. The Cabinet will meet on Wednesday or Thursday to discuss the programme for embodiment in the King's speech.

The Rothermere press has been insistently urging the Liberals and the Conservatives to cooperate to save the country from a Socialist Government, but it is declared in Liberal circles that the position has not changed since Mr. Asquith's announcement of his intentions. One paper understands that a number of men occupying responsible posts in the Empire have notified the Foreign, Colonial and India Offices of their intention to resign if a Socialist Government should come into power.

Transformation in Ireland.

Advices from Dublin agree in depicting the transformation produced in Ireland, which is entering the New Year with hope and confidence. Crime is admittedly still above the normal, but gunmen have put away their revolvers and returned to work. Ministers move freely and unprotected. There is no trace of the old tension. Only 2,000 out of 12,000 remain imprisoned and only 32,000 persons are unemployed. It is stated that the unemployed dole is shortly being dropped altogether.—Reuter.

A LABOUR MINISTRY FOR BRITAIN

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald Forming a Cabinet: Protest by London Conservatives

London, Jan. 2.

It is reported that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, who is busy Cabinet-making, has offered the Colonial Secretaryship to Mr. Sidney Webb.

More definite light has been shed on the letter sent to Mr. Stanley Baldwin by the executive of the City of London Conservative Association, which is one of the principal topics in connexion with the political situation. A meeting of the executive, including among others Sir Frederick Banbury and Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, was held to-day, at the conclusion of which they declined to divulge the contents of the letter which was sent on December 18, but made a general statement of their views, declaring that the formation of a Labour Government was contrary to the will of the people and would be highly injurious to the nation's domestic and foreign policy. Therefore, either a Conservative or a Liberal Government should be formed with the support of the other and in the event of a Conservative Ministry proving impossible, the Committee hopes that Conservatives will support a Liberal administration.

London Conservatives and Liberals.

Jan. 2.

The executive of the City of London Conservative Association has issued a statement that if a Conservative Government supported by Liberals is not attainable, it hopes that in the interests of the nation Conservative Members of the House of Commons will support a Liberal administration. The statement says that the administration of the country in these critical times by an inexperienced Government of extreme views would be highly injurious to the nation in its domestic and foreign polices.

It is understood that Mr. Stanley Baldwin, replying to the Association's representations, expressed the opinion that, in view of Mr. Asquith's speech, it was scarcely possible to approach him as the Association suggested. It is expected, however, that Mr. Baldwin will submit the representations to his Cabinet colleagues.

Labour Leader on a Dissolution.

Jan. 3.

An interesting pronouncement is made by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald in the periodical, the "New Leader."

Discussing the three-party problem, Mr. Macdonald says that a situation that restores liberty of decision to the House of Commons as a whole ought to be welcomed rather than regretted. Everything points to a continued stalemate which will loosen party bonds, members more frequently using their own judgment, and tend to curb the partisanship of parties.

Mr. Macdonald expresses gratification that Mr. Asquith's statement on the question of dissolution has received scanty support in the best-informed quarters and terms as an absurd idea that the Prime Minister can go to the King just when it suits him and, shortly after an election, to ask for a dissolution, adding, however, that it belongs to the Minister's responsibility to have his advice taken if to the best of his beliefs, supported by the evidence of by-elections, he thinks an election necessary and that the country would accept it.—Reuter.

Fall in Sterling.

New York, Jan. 3.

Sterling is quoted in New York at 4.28. The decline is attributed in many circles to the political situation in England.—Reuter's American Service.

THE NAVAL BASE AT SINGAPORE

Capetown's Rival Claims: More Important Centre and Far Less Expense

Capetown, Dec. 27.

The "Cape Times," discussing the Singapore base scheme, calls particular attention to the declaration of Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Field that the Cape route was more likely to become a still more important line of Empire communication in the future than in the past.

The journal urges construction of a large modern dry-dock at Capetown for the use of trading vessels, and in time of emergency for battleships frequenting the Cape route. It says that the costs of construction at Capetown are cheaper than at Singapore, and that for an expenditure of possibly £6,000,000 to £7,000,000, as compared with the estimated £11,000,000 for the Singapore scheme, Capetown Harbour could be equipped with a feature badly needed by the Navy and by merchant shipping.—Reuter.

BRITISH AIR TRANSPORT PROJECT

Government Agreement with Big Syndicate to Run Service to the Continent

London, Dec. 28.

The agreement between the Government and the Imperial Air Transport Company, Limited, for the purpose of operating an aerial transport service to Europe has now been issued.

The Company comprises the Handley-Page, Instone Daimler, and British Marine and Air Navigation Companies, with a capital of £1,000,000. The Company will be entirely British.

The Government is entitled to nominate two directors.

The agreement will operate next April and until the Company has repaid the subsidies it receives.

Under the agreement the Company shall maintain efficient air services from London to Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, Southampton, the Channel Isles and other approved places. A minimum of 800,000 miles must be completed annually for the first four years and 1,000,000 miles the subsequent year.

The Government subsidy for the first four years will be £137,000 yearly and after that it will be gradually reduced to £32,000 for the 10th year.

All construction necessary for the air service and all important repairs will be carried out in British territory, and all engines and accessories will be British. Only pilots enrolled in the Air Force Reserve or in the Auxiliary Air Force will be employed. The technical and administrative personnel will be British.

All aerodromes and aircraft bases of the Company will be at the disposal of the Government in national emergency.—Reuter.

GERMAN FINANCES SCRUTINIZED

Political Issues Now Thought Less Pressing Than the Economic

Berlin, Dec. 29.

It is officially announced that in view of the pending foreign negotiations the Government has decided to resume payment, for a limited period and within very narrow limits, of the costs of the armies of occupation. These payments ceased when the French entered the Ruhr.—Reuter.

London, Dec. 29.

Owing to the lull in domestic politics the papers are calling attention to the new situation in the Ruhr and the Rhineland and to the conversations between the French Government and the German Chargé d'Affaires proceeding in Paris in that connexion, as likely to bulk largely in discussions when Parliament reopens.

It is pointed out that the labours of the two committees of financial experts which the Reparations Commission has appointed promise more fruitful results than have been attained up to the present, not merely because the United States is represented on the committees, but because their approvement signifies that the Commission is for the moment freed from the political restrictions which have obscured an essentially financial problem. Nevertheless the committees' investigation of the condition of German finances is bound to raise the burning question of whether the Ruhr and the Rhineland belong to Germany.

The memorandum which the German Chargé d'Affaires, Herr von Hoesch, recently presented, while not raising the question of the legality of the occupation desires for budgetary reasons to know France's views on the question of the sovereignty of the occupied territory.

This, according to authoritative circles in Paris to-day, means that Germany is less concerned with an economic *modus vivendi* than with the restoration of Prussian sovereignty and merely designed to negative French and Belgian action.

Industrial Overtures.

Meanwhile the Paris *"Matin"* has revealed that unofficial Franco-German conversations are also proceeding in Paris where the German potash mine-owner, Herr Rechberg, has been for a fortnight bringing to the notice of M. Poincaré and other prominent personages his plan for the formation of a Franco-German industrial syndicate. He argues that such a syndicate would be the most powerful in the world, that it would provide a large sum for reparations and that it would create a solidarity of French and German interests sufficient to prevent future war. Whence Herr Rechberg derives his authority is not disclosed but, though he has secured the ear of the highest authorities in France, a telegram from Berlin to-day says that his scheme is ridiculed in Herr Stinnes's organs and the press.—Reuter.

America's Representatives.

New York, Dec. 29.

General Dawes and Mr. Owen Young, the United States representatives on the reparations inquiry committee, sailed from New York to-day.

Mr. Young said that he regarded the questions to be settled as business questions and that he only hoped that they would be approached in that spirit, with a determination to get a constructive answer speedily Reuter's American Service.

Berlin, Dec. 29.

In conformity with the demands of the Allies a representa-

HINDE CONVICTED OF EMBEZZLEMENT

Sentence of One Year's Imprisonment: Application for a New Trial

[illegible] embezzlement on two charges in the U.S. Court for China, was last Friday sentenced to serve one year in Bilibid prison. Mr. H. G. Snyder [illegible] defence and [illegible] U.S. District Attorney, [illegible] Judge on the passing of the judgment. Mr. Snyder asked that the same bail be allowed temporarily as he wished to make a motion for a new trial. Mr. Husar opposed the application, on the ground that [illegible] had been registered the circumstances were different. Mr. Snyder declared that if defendant had wished to get away he could have done so when [illegible] had waited in Shanghai for months.

Mr. Husar—The conviction makes the case not at all similar to that previously. If I had a year in prison facing me I would not allow anything like a G.$3,000 bail from stopping me to try to get away. I will ask that the U. S. Marshal take custody of the defendant.' There is always a tendency on the part of the attorney for defence (I might do it myself) in these criminal cases to ask for bail to prepare motion for another trial or an appeal, and one can never tell what may happen.

Mr. Snyder—Mr. Husar has a personal motive in making these assertions. He so stated to this Court at the time of motion to set.

Mr. Husar—There is nothing personal in this at all. It was a most despicable crime and the [illegible] was [illegible] I.

Mr. Snyder—I think that Mr. Husar's remarks are out of place.

Mr. Husar—Nothing of the kind. It was only yesterday that complaining witness called me up and said that Mr. Hinde had been making overtures of marriage again and that he said he would fix up the money all right. I [illegible] he has been pestering complainant.

His Honour—I think that bail should be increased. I will fix it at an additional G.$1,000 and defendant may have until to-morrow noon to secure it. I shall expect Mr. Snyder to mention anything untoward.

The judgment follows:

These are informations charging defendant with embezzlement of the sums of Tls. 3,000 and Tls. 2,810. Defendant admitted having received said sums from complainant with instructions, he states, to invest them "as he saw fit." The complaining witness, on the other hand, testified that these two sums represented salary received and due to her as a teacher in the French Municipal School: that upon defendant's advice she transferred the larger sum to the International Banking Corporation from another bank and left instructions for the salary due to be deposited in the same institution: that on June 16, 1922, she gave defendant two blank cheques, duly signed, for the purpose of transferring these funds from the tael account to a gold account in the said bank, the purpose being to enable him to take advantage of any favourable turn in exchange after her departure for America which took place [illegible] days later. The defendant, however, used them for the purpose of withdrawing the sums entirely from that bank and depositing them in another to the credit of Hinde Bros. & Co. (unincorporated). The money has never been repaid the complaining witness and defendant admitted his inability to repay.

We do not overlook the fact that the relation between the parties was something more than friendship. But we think the evidence wholly fails to show that they were engaged. On the contrary a letter (Exhibit 1) written after her departure clearly tells defendant that they were not.

Nor is this a case where one of the parties might have been mistaken. We can see no reason why the complaining witness should attempt to fasten this charge falsely upon one whom she had concededly regarded in the light of a suitor. Defendant's interest in establishing a different [illegible] was obvious, and considering this interest as well as the corroborating circumstances, we must find that complainant has established her claim beyond a reasonable doubt.

We feel obliged under the evidence to find the defendant guilty of the crime of embezzlement and he is accordingly sentenced to imprisonment for one year in Bilibid Prison, and to pay the costs of this proceeding.

A DEAL IN FRANCS AND MARKS

Chinese American Bank of Commerce v. F. A. Bowen

An action has been filed with Mr. W. A. Chapman, Clerk of the American Court, by the Chinese American Bank of Commerce v. F. A. Bowen, involving Mks. 550,000 and Frs. 350,000 which in Shanghai currency at the day's rate involved a net amount sued for of Sh. Tls. 61,433.32. Messrs. Shoop & Chalaire filed for plaintiff and Messrs. Schuhl & Schoenfeld represent defendant.

It is alleged that defendant agreed to purchase on July 31, 1921, Mks. 250,000 at Mks. 33.50 to the Shanghai tael, Frs. 350,000 at 7.15 on the same date, Frs. 100,000 at 7.85 on July 21, 1921, and Mks. 300,000 on December 31, 1921, at 42. It is admitted that defendant paid for Mks. 30,422.93 on February 28, 1922, and Mks. 2,359.50 on December 12, 1922, and [illegible] on December 14, 1922.

Plaintiff asked for judgment of Tls. 61,433.32 and interest from December 31, 1921.

ASIA LIFE AND AN EX-MANAGER

Expenses Dispute: Amicable Settlement Reached

The hearing in the case of the Asia Life Insurance Co. *v.* W. R. Rice in the U. S. Court for China occupied but five minutes before his Honour Judge C. S. Lobingier last Friday. Mr. S. Moss, addressing the Court, said that he wished to ask on behalf of his client, the plaintiff, that the case be dismissed with prejudice to himself, inasmuch as an amicable arrangement had been arrived at beforehand and they were prepared to pay the costs of the action. Mr. F. J. Schuhl, for defendant stated that he had no objection to a dismissal on these grounds.

His Honour ruled:—This case comes on hearing and an oral motion by plaintiff to dismiss with prejudice and to pay the costs of the action, whereof it appearing that a settlement has been effected by the parties, it is hereby ordered that the same be dismissed with prejudice and the plaintiff pay the costs.

Plaintiff alleged that between September 1, 1921, and June 10, 1923, defendant had been general manager of the company and that in December, 1922, he had been authorized to make a trip to America in the interests of the plaintiff and it had been mutually agreed that the company should pay all reasonable expenses of the journey to America. Between January and September, 1923, plaintiff had advanced to defendant G.$9,700, Mex. $3,512.64 and Sh. Tls. 3,398.23. Defendant according to the allegation admitted his indebtedness to the company of G.$2,344.66, Sh. Tls. 248.23 and Mex. $566.24 but he did not account for G.$3,421.51.

Plaintiff therefore desired that defendant make an account with vouchers and payment of all moneys not accounted for and judgment for the amounts defendant admitted he owed with interest at one per cent a month.

CLAIM FOR DAMAGED CARGO

Nanyang Bros. Successful Suit in the U. S. Court

In the United States Court for China, on Saturday, Judge C. S. Lobingier gave a written judgment in the case of the Nanyang Bros. Tobacco Co., Ld., *v.* the Green Star Steamship Co. The judgment in part stated:—

This is an action to recover for damaged cargo. The amended answer sets up several defences, but by stipulation all have been eliminated except alleged non-compliance with the following clause in the bill of lading:—"The carrier shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever unless written notice thereof shall be given to the carrier before removal of the goods from the wharf. No suit to recover for loss or damage shall in any event be maintainable against the carrier unless instituted within three months after the giving of written notice as above provided." In the reply plaintiff alleges that said stipulation is unreasonable and has been waived by the defendant. It is admitted that the required notice was furnished on September 14, 1920, but it is claimed that plaintiff cannot recover for its loss because this action was not begun until May 5, 1921. No attempt was made by defendant, during the three months following the notice of damage, to invoke the clause now relied upon. Indeed, it was not mentioned in defendant's original answer. Not until more than two years after the action was begun did defendant, by its amended answer, invoke the clause in question.

Defendant, by accepting plaintiff's notice and advising it "to wait for a reply" which does not appear to have been sent, really delayed the commencement of the action. For so long as there was a prospect of payment why should plaintiff sue? If defendant intended to deny liability he should have done so promptly and then, had plaintiff failed to bring action within the prescribed period, the clause would have been applicable. But to refuse on that ground plaintiff's recovery for a just claim, which he had reason to believe defendant was at least considering payment of, would be little short of iniquitous. The failure to invoke this clause at the end of the three months or even in the first answer indicates that it was an afterthought and not a *bonâ fide* assertion of a recognized right. The request for special findings based on the theory that this clause is a bar to recovery is consequently inapplicable, contrary both to the evidence and the law.

It having been expressly stipulated that, in the event that the above mentioned clause is not upheld, defendant is liable for damages in the sum of G.$40,000, it is accordingly considered and adjudged that plaintiff have and recover from the defendant said sum together with interest thereon from September 14, 1920, and costs.

A REMEDY FOR TUBERCULOSIS

Two Year-old Suit Resuscitated: Partnership Dispute

In the U.S. Court for China on Thursday morning the hearings of a two-year-old suit were continued, in which Dr. F. T. Kiang brought allegations against C. J. Kossl. The original case, made in September of 1921, petitioned that the books of the partnership between the two, which it was alleged had been taken by defendant should be returned for inspection. It was further stated that the secret remedy of plaintiff for the cure of tuberculosis had been taken and he asked for its return also, and for the return of some 500 bottles of the remedy said to have been taken. Plaintiff averred that defendant had gone to Chinese dealers and asked to take the bottles and then removed the labels and substituted others in their place in order to interfere with his business. He prayed for an injunction restraining him from such practices in the future. Dr. H. C. Mei appeared for plaintiff and Mr. C. S. Franklin acted for defendant.

In the interim it was decided to allow a referee to settle the difficulties and Messrs. Seth, Mancell & McClure were appointed who in turn referred four items back to the Court for adjudication. These were $1,434, a bill for advertising and printing for which they could find no vouchers in the accounts, $1,155 the value of the remedy for which the books were not clear, $800 which defendant is said to have received as salary advance and an amount of $1,000 which was said to have been paid to one Jordan. These were the matters before the Court yesterday.

Mr. E. H. Baker, an accountant for the referees, was of the opinion that the amount of the account for advertising was a just one in view of the fact that the business for that period amounted to $10,000, but under Mr. Franklin's cross-questions he declared that he was not a business expert, though he did have knowledge of advertising rates. Plaintiff declared that he had allowed $200 per month for advertising regularly in four Chinese newspapers and declared that the vouchers in question had been taken by defendant.

During the course of the examination Judge Lobingier asked—Did this tuberculosis remedy ever cure anyone?—The remedy can cure when the disease is not too far advanced, not in the severe cases.

Plaintiff declared that the credit business for eight months amounted to $8,000 and the cash business to $10,000.

Messrs. Mei and Franklin argued and judgment was reserved.

PLEADINGS were ordered by his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner at H. M. Supreme Court on Thursday in the case of Hayley Morriss and William MacGregor Western *v.* John Benavitch, a claim for Tls. 200,000 damages for alleged breach of contract, whereby plaintiffs and defendant associated themselves in the business of bullion and exchange broking. Mr. R. G. McDonald appeared for plaintiffs and Mr. R. F. C. Master for defendant.

NEW YEAR TRAGEDIES

Man Shot By Armed Robbers: Girl's Death from Motor Injuries: Two Inquests

An inquest was held on Thursday by Mr. N. A. Allman (American Assessor) and Mr. Li Sieu-mei (Chinese Magistrate), concerning the death of Zung Da-kwe, 30. The Police evidence was to the effect that deceased was crossing East Yuhang Road when a shot was fired by a party of armed robbers, with the result that deceased was struck by a bullet in his head under the right eye. He dropped down unconscious and was taken to hospital where he died. The verdict given was that deceased came to his death as the result of a bullet fired by some person or persons unknown.

A second inquest held concerned the death of Li Tsz-sz, 63, who was struck down and fatally injured by a motor car (3570), driven by a Chinese chauffeur. The Court found that deceased came to her death as the result of an accident contributed to by her own negligence and no blame attached to the chauffeur.

WE understand that the authorities of the French Mixed Court released on New Year's eve, a score of prisoners as a New Year amnesty. Sentences given in the more serious cases were lightened in more than 40 instances, the lucky ones behaving well and working hard whilst in prison.

MR. Arthur Covey, solicitor, was admitted to practice at H. M. Supreme Court by his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner on Monday. Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, the Crown Advocate, said that Mr. Covey had been admitted to practice at the Supreme Court of Judicature on November 7, 1894. He had had an official career of some distinction, having been Assistant Colonial Secretary on the Gold Coast for 11 years and in the political department of Northern Nigeria. Afterwards he practised law in Uganda. A year ago he occupied a temporary appointment at the Court—acting Chief Clerk—and, subsequently that of acting Registrar. His Lordship said that Mr. Covey was personally quite well known to him, and he was very glad to admit him to the roll of practitioners in the Court.

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BALKANS BOILING UP

Bulgaria Begins to Want Her Army Restored: Serbia Exercised in Mind

Belgrade, Dec. 30.

A grave situation between Jugo-Slavia and Bulgaria has followed a speech in the Sobranje by M. Tzankoff, the Bulgarian Premier, who referred to the treatment of Bulgarian minorities and to Bulgaria's desire to suspend voluntary enlistment in the Army. He expressed the hope that the Allied Powers would authorize the Government temporarily to recruit an army on a conscript basis.

This is interpreted in Belgrade as a demand to keep a standing army and equivalent to a challenge to the Jugo-Slavs. The Cabinet discussed the speech, after which M. Rakitch, the Servian Minister at Sofia, was telegraphically instructed to return to Belgrade to confer with the Government. Official circles are of opinion that M. Tzankoff's utterance marks a definite change in Bulgarian policy in favour of restoration of pre-war conditions in the Balkans.

The Belgrade newspaper "*Vrema*" declares that it is the duty of the Government to adopt military steps if necessary to assure future security. Other newspapers, irrespective of party, express similar exhortations.—Reuter.

AN END TO RUSSIAN COMMUNISM'S REIGN

A Gradual Reversion to Capitalism: The Possibility of Liquidating Liabilities

London, Dec. 31.

Speaking at a meeting of British businessmen in London, Mr. Marshall, the managing director of the Becos Traders, Ld., who sent a delegation to Russia last summer, headed by Mr. F. L. Baldwin, the brother of the Premier, declared that the period of communism in Russia could be regarded as ended. The present phase was a gradual reversion to capitalism. Mr. Marshall believed that the Russian Government would admit responsibility for the liquidation of Russian liabilities if rapid development of industries could be assured.

Trotzky out of Favour.

Jan. 1.

Reports from Riga state that the struggle within the Communist Party in Russia is being renewed as fiercely as ever. It is stated that the Central group are determined to drop M. Trotzky unless he unconditionally accepts their views with regard to the formation of internal groups.

The "*Pravda*" prints an official reply to M. Trotzky's recent articles uncompromisingly criticizing him and accusing him of anti-Leninism and of wilfully sowing dissension for his own tactical purposes.

One report asserts that a secret meeting of the Political Department and party leaders decided, if opposition increased, to undertake serious measures, including the arrest and banishment of leaders.—Reuter.

Panic in Moscow.

Riga, Jan. 1.

Wholesale arrests in the course of the Political Bureau's ostensible campaign against drug traffickers, contrabandists and other parasites are causing a panic in Moscow. Whole families are reported to have been banished to North Russia. Those arrested include many supporters of the new economic policy. The fact that dissatisfied workmen have been promised vacated flats is encouraging the belief in some quarters that a new attempt to return to pure communism is being made in consequence of the present agitation in political circles. Reuter.

TURKEY'S STRINGENT SHIPPING LAWS

A Ban on Foreign Pilotage, Customs Officials and Stevedores

Constantinople, Jan. 2.

Basing their action on the Treaty of Lausanne, the Turkish authorities have notified foreign shipping companies operating here that all loading and unloading operations, Customs formalities and pilotage must be performed by Moslem Turks. No Europeans will be allowed to board steamers in port in connexion with these services. Foreign shipping agents are discussing the situation.

The question of pilotage affects the safety of ships in Turkish waters as the supply of Turkish pilots is inadequate and their quality leaves much to be desired.—Reuter.

THE REBELLION IN MEXICO

U. S. Sales of Arms

Mexico City, Dec. 27.

The "Excelsior" reports that General Flores, Governor of Sinaloa and presidential candidate, has initiated a new peace move. The details of it are not known, but it is understood that they are the outcome of conferences that General Flores's emissary has had with President Obregon, General Huerta and several rebel generals.—Reuter's American Service.

A Rebel Success

Vera Cruz, Dec. 28.

The rebel headquarters announces the capture of the Federal General Gardenas, with his entire staff and 300 cavalry, at Irapuato. The remainder of the Federal column then joined the rebels.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Dec. 30.

The Government has agreed to sell a quantity of war materials to the Obregon Government of Mexico.

It is understood that this decision was prompted by a desire to aid the Obregon *régime* against the rebels.

The material involved is said to include rifles in border army depots and 10 military aeroplanes.

A message from Vera Cruz says that the garrison at Tuxpam has joined the revolutionaries. It is claimed that this is important not only because of the field reinforcements it has provided but because it yields to the revolutionaries the control of the entire oil region of which Tuxpam is the port.—Reuter's American Service.

Honduras Getting Gay.

Washington, Dec. 29.

The armoured cruiser Rochester has been ordered to Ampala, Honduras, until the situation quietens. The reasons given are, firstly, that Mexican Huertists are reported to be active in Southern Mexico, secondly, reported disturbances in connexion with the recent Honduran Presidential campaign, and, thirdly, that Honduran troops have crossed the Nicaraguan border and committed depredations.—Reuter's American Service.

A Protest from Huerta

Washington, Dec. 31.

The de la Huerta faction has filed with the State Department a formal protest against the sale of war material to President Obregon. The State Department and the War Department continued the discussions with regard to the sale of war material. The exact quantity has not yet been disclosed but apparently it will be confined to rifles, ammunition and aeroplanes, because the sale of cruisers or other men-of-war, even if President Obregon asked for them, would be impossible owing to the Washington Naval Treaty.

Jan. 1.

Opponents of the Government's Mexican policy propose to introduce a resolution in the Lower House on Thursday calling on Congress to investigate the sale of United States arms and ammunition to the Obregon Government. Undoubtedly a sharp debate in the Senate will follow. It is expected that points will be raised that such a rule is illegal and will establish a precedent likely to disturb future peaceful relations between the United States and Latin America.—Reuter's American Service.

Oil Commandeered by Rebels

Mexico City, Jan. 2.

The tanker San Antonio, belonging to the Mexican Eagle Oil Company, has arrived at Tampico after being escorted by a rebel gunboat into Vera Cruz Harbour, where it was relieved of 8,000 barrels of oil for the railways controlled by the revolutionaries. The tankers San Leonardo and Santa Alicia of the same line were also taken to Vera Cruz to provide the rebels with oil, of which they are in great need.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Jan. 3.

Officials in Washington admit that the Mexican revolutionists have made considerable headway, but express the opinion that the Obregon Government will finally win.

The sale of arms to President Obregon is proceeding. All protests were apparently too late. A fierce debate in Congress is expected.

A British man-of-war has arrived at Puerto Mexico.—Reuter's American Service.

HOPE FOR DIXMUDE NOW GIVEN UP

Officially Reported Lost at Sea: Body of the Commander Alone Recovered

Paris, Dec. 27.

The Ministry of Marine this morning had received no news of the Dixmude.

The Maritime Prefect of Toulon has received news that squadrons of Army aeroplanes have left Tuggurt to reconnoitre the desert.

Later.

A despatch from Algiers states that outposts in mid-Sahara report seeing the Dixmude drifting at Insala towards Hoggar.—Reuter.

London, Dec. 28.

The French dirigible Dixmude (ex-Zeppelin L-72) is now officially reported in Paris to have been lost at sea.

The airship, with a crew of 50, left Toulon a week ago on a cruise over Algeria. It encountered storms, the supply of petrol was exhausted and it drifted helplessly for days.

Later.

The mystery of the Dixmude has not yet been cleared up. The Paris telegram declaring that the airship's loss at sea had been officially announced now appears to be at least premature.

Reuter's correspondent in Paris transmits the text of the Ministry of Marine's *communiqué*, which does not mention the loss of the airship though it confirms the news of the finding of the body of Lieutenant de Grenadan, the commander of the Dixmude, by a fisherman six miles from the shore near Girgenti.

Reuter's correspondent in Rome adds that a thorough search of the coast was resultless. No trace of any other body or aeronautical material was found.—Reuter.

Paris, Dec. 28.

The Italian authorities state that the body of the commander of the French dirigible airship Dixmude has been picked up by fishermen near Girgenti.

France has accepted Italy's offer to convey Lieutenant de Grenadan's body to Toulon on board an Italian warship.

Dec. 29.

Verisimilitude is lent to the theory that the Dixmude exploded over the Mediterranean by the fact that Lieutenant de Grenadan's watch stopped at 2.50, at which time the stationmaster of Sciacca and other railwaymen stated that they saw a light over the sea like two balloons on fire and falling into the sea.—Reuter.

Tunis, Dec. 29.

The fishermen at Sciacca stated that before discovering the body of the commander of the Dixmude they found two wires in their nets, presumably belonging to the structure of the airship, and also declared that on the night of December 21 inhabitants saw rockets fired to the south of San Marco. Other fishermen found wire in their nets, apparently part of a wireless headpiece.—Reuter.

Deep Sympathy in Britain.

London, Dec. 29.

It seems now to be generally and regretfully assumed that the Dixmude was lost at sea and the report that the airship had been seen by natives over the Sahara is erroneous. French warships have been ordered to search the neighbourhood where the body of the commander was picked up. The theory telegraphed from Paris is that owing possibly to shortage of petrol, the commander, in spite of the dangerous weather and wireless warnings, decided that the best chance lay in trying to reach the home base near Toulon and had almost crossed the Mediterranean when the disaster occurred. It is suggested in some quarters that the airship may have been struck by lightning. The fact that none of the homing pigeons on board returned is regarded as a confirmation of the theory that it was a sudden disaster.

The morning papers deeply sympathize with France and acknowledge that airship navigation has received another serious setback, illustrating the great difficulties and dangers involved, but they declare that this must not lead to abandonment of such pioneer work as represented by the Burney scheme.

The King's Message.

The King has sent a message to President Millerand (expressing the very deep sympathy of the whole Empire in the loss of the gallant crew of the Dixmude. Sir Samuel Hoare and Sir Hugh Trenchard on behalf respectively of the Air Council and the Air Force have sent messages of condolence to the French Minister of Marine and the Chief of the Naval Staff.—Reuter.

Story of Survivors

Paris, Dec. 30.

The "*Matin*" publishes with all reserve a telegram from Tunis stating that a sailing vessel which has arrived at Sfax reports having seen off Chebba, at a place which she was unable to reach, a raft bearing three men who were supposed to be survivors of the Dixmude. A tug was immediately sent out to investigate.

Later.

It is reported from Tunis that competent authorities deny the existence of the raft which was reported to have been seen off Chebba. No trace has hitherto been discovered of the missing members of the crew of the Dixmude.—Reuter.

DEFEAT OF INDIAN EXTREMISTS

Rejection of Swaraj as Complete Independence: Debate on Asiatic Federation

Cocanada, Dec. 31.

The National Congress to-day overwhelmingly rejected an extremist resolution to define Swaraj as complete independence.

After a lively debate, the National Congress accepted by 775 votes to 205 the Subjects Committee's recommendation to refer to committee the Indian National Pact calling for a federation of Asiatic peoples "for the emancipation of Asia." The Congress declined to treat in a similar way the Bengal Swarajists' Hindu-Moslem pact, which was rejected.

The Council of the Swaraj Party passed a resolution containing demands to be presented to the Government calling for the immediate establishment of a full and responsible Government. As a preliminary to this, the Council suggests that the elected members of the legislatures should demand from the Government the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Gandhi and all political prisoners, suspension of oppressive laws, and the summoning of a conference of which the elected members of the Legislative Assembly, the Congress and the Government will each elect one-third. This conference will determine the principles of a constitution for India, including a declaration of rights and full control of legislation, administration and the finance services by the Legislatures. The decision of the conference will then be submitted to a new Legislature to be elected on a wider franchise which will finally frame the constitution to be presented to Parliament. The resolution will be considered at a meeting of the Swarajist Members of the Legislature at Lucknow on January 9.—Reuter.

Denial of an Afghan Liaison

Cocanada, Jan. 2.

In a statement before the Committee of the All India Congress to-day, Mr. Shanukat Ali denied that he and his brother, Mr. Mohamed Ali, had acted as agents of the Amir for the purpose of founding a Moslem Empire, in India. He alleged that the Government was at present provoking a fight with Afghanistan and added that, if war were declared, Mussulmans would start civil disobedience. The Ali brothers begged the Hindus to do their utmost to prevent war and suggested that a deputation of Hindus, including Mr. Gandhi, and prominent Mussulmans should visit the frontier and discuss matters with the Afghans.—Reuter.

The National Congress has concluded after deciding to appoint a board for the purpose of popularizing the use of khaddar or homespuns throughout India. The Congress passed a resolution expressing the opinion that the sufferings of Indians abroad cannot be remedied until Swaraj has been achieved.

Mr. Mohamed Ali, in his final speech, dwelt on the prospect of attaining Swaraj during the ensuing year.—Reuter.

The Frontier Murders.

Delhi, Jan. 2.

It is reported from Landak that a Shinwari tribesman concerned in the murder of Major Finnis in Baluchistan has been captured. Four others are still evading the vigilance of the militia.—Reuter.

Suggestion of Republic

Cocanada, Dec. 27.

Presiding at the Indian National Congress, Mr. Mohamed Ali advocated organized non-co-operation. He welcomed the attempt to establish an Eastern federation for understanding among Asiatic peoples. He declared that if Mr. Ghandi were not released within a year to receive the Swaraj charter, they ought to unfurl the flag of the Indian Republic.—Reuter.

PARIS, Dec. 27.—The Greek str. Andros, on board which M. Venizelos will sail on Saturday for Greece, brought to Marseilles a delegation to meet him.—French Wireless through Reuter.

ROME, Dec. 30.—It is announced that the Italian columns in Tripoli have gained three brilliant victories over the rebel Mahallas in the zone between Misurala and Nalut. The rebels left many dead on the field and also considerable booty.—Reuter.

[illegible] of the Government to-day handed to the President of the Inter-Allied Military Control Commission a Note apologizing for the arrest, injury and molestation of three members of the Commission.—Reuter.

The Ruhr Sabotage.

Aix-la-Chapelle, Dec. 29.

The Belgian court martial trying the cases of sabotage on the Regie railways since the occupation of the Ruhr has sentenced Menzel, the principal accused, to penal servitude for life. Five others have been condemned to death *in contumaciam*. —Reuter.

Improved Finances and Lower Floating Debt Since Use of Rentenmark

Berlin, Dec. 30.

Since November 15 when the Rentenmark was first issued, Germany's floating debt has decreased from 191,600,000,000,000,000,000 paper marks to 96,900,000,000,000,000,000 paper marks. According to [illegible] statement in the Ministry of Finance the indebtedness of the Reich to the Reichsbank may now be regarded as discharged. Since the Reichsbank no longer discounts Treasury bills and the Reich's expenditure and revenue do not yet balance, the Reich is obliged to raise credit from the Rentenbank. This credit on December 20 amounted to 770,000,000 Rentenmarks, apart from 200,000,000 Rentenmarks used to redeem the floating debt. —Reuter.

The Duesseldorf Riots

Duesseldorf, Dec. 27.

The court martial trying the Green Police in connexion with the disturbances in October, arising from the Separatist movement, to-day sentenced Herr Grutzner, the Prefect of Police, to expulsion and 20 years' hard labour. Others were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment up to 10 years' solitary confinement.—Reuter.

BERLIN TOO COSTLY FOR FOREIGNERS

Germans Flaunt their Affluence in Lavish Festivities: French New Year Forbearance

Berlin, Dec. 31.

There were little signs of Germany's deplorable financial position on the eve of the New Year. The streets were packed with hilarious crowds and the restaurants were filled with people flaunting their affluence and regardless of the high prices. The hotels have arranged festivities on a lavish scale. Ninety per cent. of the guests are Germans, since most foreigners have fled from the city, owing to its expensiveness.

Herr Marx, the Chancellor, in a New Year message to the nation, refers to the steps recently taken by the Government, coupled with those which will be taken shortly in connexion with international differences. In conclusion, the Chancellor hopes that the bulwarks of hate and mistrust which are separating Germany from other nations may be torn down.—Reuter.

Paris, Dec. 31.

In view of the improved conditions in the Ruhr, the Government has authorized General Degoutte to reduce the army of occupation. Troops equivalent to three regiments already have left for home.—Reuter.

[illegible] Jan. 1.—Sir Pelham Warren [illegible]—Reuter.

[illegible] Dec. 28.—An official telegram from Kabul reports that a force of Afghan regulars and tribesmen encountered a band, reported to include the Landi Kotal murderers, near Mkhtanau. There were a number of casualties on both sides. The murderers escaped.—Reuter.

FRANCE'S HOPES FOR FINAL PEACE

President Millerand's New Year's Day Address at the Elysee

Paris, Jan. 2.

The newspapers quote the words spoken by the President of the Republic to the Diplomatic Corps at the New Year reception at the Elysée. "I hope," M. Millerand said, "that this year will be one of reconciliation and final peace; this reconciliation and final peace France desires with all her heart."

The "*Temps*" declares that the generous words of M. Millerand express exactly the unanimous sentiment of France. At the beginning of 1923 the President of the Republic said that France would no longer allow herself to be deluded and that in order to obtain the execution of the Treaty she would know how to act. France has acted with Belgium. That action has triumphed and faithful to her original idea, France only wishes to make use of the victory to obtain respect for her rights and definitely to establish peace.

The "*Journal des Debats*" notes that the wishes expressed yesterday show more confidence than those of last year. It has taken an entire year to prove to Germany that she was rebelling in vain against the execution of the Treaties. Still it is not quite certain that Germany is really yielding. — French Wireless through Reuter.

FRANCE'S FINANCIAL STATUS

Fall of Franc Not Justified: Speculators Warned Against Costly Lessons

Paris, Dec. 27.

The "*Journal des Debats*" says that the Minister of Finance, M. de Lasteyrie, and the reporter of the Senate Finance Committee, M. Beranger, have arrived at the same conclusion, namely, that the fall of the franc is not justified either by an exact appreciation of France's financial status, by chimerical fears of the subject of inflation which France is determined to avoid, by systematic misunderstanding of the work accomplished towards restoration, by France's expenses in the devastated regions, or by the unreasonable contagion of fear which is drawing small speculators into a path at the end of which they will receive a costly lesson as happened to those who, in the opposite manner, believed until the end in the recovery of the mark. The newspapers emphasize particularly the passage in M. de Lasteyrie's speech in which he says: "Our loans are diminishing and France has reimbursed to Spain, America and Japan Frs. 1,100,000,000 at the current exchange.

The Chamber has adopted the bill with regard to increase in rent and has sent it back to the Senate. The Chamber later resumed the question of the fixing of the number of Deputies.

In order to prevent speculation in wheat the Government has decided that the annual decree, given according to the advice of the permanent section of the agricultural council, will fix the minimum and maximum price of wheat, which the Customs duties are intended to protect.—French Wireless through Reuter.

FRENCH ELECTIONS

Living Costs and Financial Matters to be Main Issue

London, Jan. 1.

The fact that M. Poincare, on the sole occasion when he was forced to intervene in a debate outside his chosen sphere of foreign politics, received a rebuff in the Chamber of Deputies, namely, on December 21, on the decision to refer to committee the Public Servants Pay Bill, lends interest to the forthcoming elections in France, in which the cost of living, depreciation of the franc and the financial policy of France will generally be the main issue. It is noteworthy that the Chamber has just passed a Bill reducing the number of Deputies from 626 to 577, in spite of Government opposition. The agricultural districts will have 57 fewer Deputies and the industrial districts eight more as the result of the redistribution.—Reuter.

FRENCH COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT

Big Efforts to Secure Independent Wool and Cotton Supplies

Paris, Jan. 1.

M. Loucheur, in a speech on the Colonial policy of France, deprecated the dependence of France on Britain and the United States for wool and cotton. He declared that it was undoubtedly possible for the French colonies to furnish France her supplies of wool and cotton. The Ministry of the Colonies recently appealed directly to those interested. The Tourcoing Chamber of Commerce had sent Merino sheep to Madagascar, where, after a rainy season, it would be possible to say if they were becoming acclimatized. Similar experiments were being tried in the valley of the Niger and also in Morocco. M. Loucheur estimated that in ten years France would be largely independent of foreign wool imports.

The question of cotton production was more difficult. A vast programme of irrigation between the Niger and the Oubangus was being studied, but it must be years before it could be realized. Irrigation had been undertaken south of Timbuctoo, Over 3,500 acres of cotton were already being cultivated and the first results were excellent. The Ministry was negotiating with the manufacturers of France in connexion with the development of cotton-growing in Dahomey, the Ivory Coast and Guinea, where eventually two-thirds of France's requirements might be produced.—Reuter.

THE LITTLE ENTENTE'S FRENCH LOANS

Great Britain's Inquiry: An Alliance Dividing Europe

Paris, Dec. 27.

As an outcome of President Masaryk's visit to France in October, a treaty has been drafted between France and Czecho-Slovakia providing for close co-operation in political, economic and military spheres, and especially aiming at maintenance of the new status of Europe under the Peace Treaties. The treaty will be signed in a few weeks' time.—Reuter.

Paris, Dec. 28.

That the alliance between France and Czecho-Slovakia may eventually prove a bridge between Paris and Moscow is the opinion of a number of French newspapers which declare that Dr. Benes, in the course of the negotiations, expressed the opinion that as Soviet Russia would shortly be recognized by a British Labour Government, France and Czecho-Slovakia might immediately do likewise.—Reuter.

London, Dec. 31.

Reuter understands that the British Government has been inquiring of the Little Entente Governments how far the liens to which Poland, Yugo-Slavia and Rumania are subject, as succession States, are likely to be affected by the loans recently concluded between them and the French Government.

Surprise is expressed in diplomatic circles in London that Czecho-Slovakia has become involved in an entangling alliance with France which is bound eventually to lead to a division of Europe into two armed camps with Britain and Scandinavia looking on.

Italian opinion is most perturbed about the alliance, which will mean consolidation of the Little Entente and will possibly obstruct the projected Italo-Russian Entente.

France's loans to Poland, Yugo-Slavia and Rumania have received much attention in the French newspapers, which believe that Britain is about to take action on the matter.

The "*Temps*" asserts that Britain means to raise the whole question of inter-Allied debts and contends that the fact that the Little Entente nations must arm themselves in self-defence does not prove that they are able to pay old debts.

The "*Journal*" contends that France's loans are purely Treasury operations serving a general interest.

The "*Homme Libre*" says that if the Little Entente is compelled to arm, it is solely because of the British Government's policy of blindness.—Reuter.

AMERICA'S RECORD PROSPERITY

Production, Expenditure and Savings all Larger: Debt £232,000,000 Lower

New York, Jan. 1.

America is ringing out the old year with peals of jubilation over the prosperity of the country.

Mr. Herbert Hoover, the Secretary of Commerce, agrees with the conclusion of the Federal Reserve Board that "the American people produced more, spent more and saved more in 1923 than in 1922. Their consuming power is still increasing. The New Year promises to be one of full employment at high wages."

Though the nation purchased most of its enormous output of motorcars, the bank balances of depositors show that this failed to stem the rising tide of savings. Except for the wheat-growers, Mr. Hoover suggests that America can maintain her prosperity in spite of the state of Europe. The trade balance in favour of the United States in 1923 was roughly £70,000,000, which was paid by the importation of about £60,000,000 in gold and silver. The National Debt was reduced during the year by £232,000,000.

Mr. Hoover declares: "Taking the country as a whole, we have never in history enjoyed a higher standard of living and comfort, nor so great a degree of commercial efficiency as to-day." He holds that the world situation is hopeful in view of the initiation of negotiations for settlement of the German problem.

All great cities of America are celebrating the passing of 1923 regardless of expense. New York hotels and restaurants sold seats to 50,000 diners at an average of two guineas per cover.—Reuter's American Service.

Official Predictions.

Washington, Jan. 1.

The President and several members of the Cabinet welcomed the New Year with words of high promise.

President Coolidge, in his message to the nation, said: "The nation has made a record of gratifying accomplishment. There is every reason to believe that advancement will continue in the coming months."

Mr. Andrew Mellon, the Secretary of the Treasury, in a statement, said that he looked with confidence to a prosperous 1924. "I am convinced that, if the tax reduction proposals are enacted and the sound policy of retrenchment and expenditure is continued, the coming year will witness a steady improvement in the favourable conditions which have already begun to make themselves felt."

Mr. Hoover, the Secretary of Commerce, in a message, sees a hopeful foundation for the New Year in the high degree of economic recovery of America, Asia and Africa and the undoubted progress of Russia, the Balkans and the Near East. He said that the economic world had not yet felt the full impact of the occupation of the Ruhr.

During 1923, Government receipts totalled $4,164,000,000 about $500,000,000 more than the previous year. Expenditure was $3,888,000,000, leaving a net balance of $276,000,000.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Jan. 1.

It is estimated that nearly 10,000 people lined up outside the White House this morning and that President Coolidge, who looked very well and cheerful, was shaking hands, according to the New Year custom, for five hours continuously.—Reuter's American Service.

ITALIAN CAMPAIGN IN TRIPOLI

Arabs Severely Defeated by Punitive Expedition: War Materials Seized

Rome, Dec. 29.

Considerable fighting is reported from Tripoli, where Italian white and native troops have been engaged in a punitive expedition against Arab rebel chiefs. The latter had made their headquarters at Benuilid, some 250 miles inland from Tripoli. About 4,000 soldiers were employed in this operation, which was crowned with complete success. The rebel forces were broken, their strongholds captured and a considerable amount of war materials seized. Fascisti volunteer militia were here employed in warfare for the first time, and an official *communiqué* makes special mention of their bravery under fire and in trying conditions.

Operations were begun on December 15, when five columns set out for the interior, two for Misurata, two for Zliten and one for Garian. These five columns advanced by different routes through a trackless desert, encountering natural difficulties of all kinds, chief among which was scarcity of water. Running fights were carried on against flying detachments of mounted Arabs, who harassed the columns and threatened to cut their communications continually throughout the long journey.

After upwards of six hours' fighting, when contact was made with the rebel main body, the Arabs fled, leaving many dead and wounded on the field and abandoning much rich booty.

Several Prisoners Rescued.

In Benuilid several Italian prisoners, who had been captured by the Arabs several years before, were set free. Among the prisoners there was also a "globe trotter" whose name suggests that he is either American or British, though this cannot yet be said with certainty, as no further description of him is given in the reports from Tripoli.

Italian Losses Slight.

The Italian losses during the whole operations were very slight. Up to the present only one officer and 16 men are reported to have been killed, and two officers and about 100 men wounded. The booty includes six field guns, five machine guns, several hundreds of rifles, thousands of rounds of ammunition and several scores of horses and camels. To the Italian losses must be added many who fell out on the way owing to sickness. Such cases were specially numerous in one of the columns which encountered such cold that water froze in the barrels in which it was being transported. The difficulties of transportation were so great that 7,200 camels and mules were required to carry supplies for this relatively small body of men.—Italian Wireless through Reuter.

Brussels, Dec. 29.—King Albert through the Japanese Ambassador has congratulated Crown Prince Hirohito on his escape.—Reuter.

tute discrimination against a friendly nation.

The proposed new immigration law contemplates restricting immigration to two per cent. of the number of each country's nationals resident in the United States in 1890 instead of the present law of three per cent. of those residing in the United States in 1910. The proposed measure will bear very heavily on the South European countries whose nationals formed a smaller proportion of the population in 1890 than in 1910.

Mr. James J. Davis, the Secretary of Labour, recommends selection of immigrants at the port of embarcation with special reference to the economic needs of the United States and to exclude all who are unable to become citizens under American laws before sailing.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DEATH OF BUILDER OF THE EIFFEL TOWER

Paris, Dec. 28.

The death is announced of M. Eiffel, constructor of the Eiffel Tower.

M. Alexandre Gustave Eiffel was born in 1832. He built the Eiffel Tower in 1889, and the bridge over the Douro, the Viaduct of Garabit and the Aerodynamic Laboratory at Auteuil.

M. Eiffel was formerly President of the Civil Engineers of France Society and was an honorary member of the Mechanical Engineers' Institution of London.—Reuter.

Acquittal of Germaine Berthon

Paris, Dec. 27.

The acquittal of the anarchist girl, Germaine Berthon, is hailed by the Communist press as a victory for the Republic, a blow at Fascism in France and vengeance for the death of M. Jaures. On the other hand *"L'Action Francaise"* denounces the verdict as a crime, while the majority of the moderate journals deplore the result of the trial. It is noteworthy that the Advocate-General, after claiming the full penalty of the law without extenuating circumstances, recalled that M. Plateau was a Christian and would have pleaded extenuating circumstances, as did his bereaved mother. The Advocate-General associated himself with that plea. —Reuter.

Indian Frontier Murder

Allahabad, Dec. 29.

Captain Standen, of the 2nd/9th Jats was shot dead, on December 22 at Jandola in Waziristan by a sepoy who ran amok.—Reuter.

Victims of Bolshevism

Riga, Dec. 28.

It is reported that the Khan of Khiva has died in a Bolshevist internment camp.—Reuter.

The Fire on the Moldavia

Fremantle, Dec. 27.

The fire on the Moldavia has been extinguished. No. 3 Hold is being pumped out. A portion of the cargo will be landed. The hull is apparently not damaged.—Reuter.

The Pope's Authority

Rome, Dec. 28.

With regard to the conferences at Malines, a high prelate at the Vatican declared that an agreement was difficult in view of the wide differences. The Vatican itself preferred to keep out of any conversations aiming at reunion unless the Anglicans really wanted more than simple friendship between the Churches and were willing to recognize the supreme religious authority of the Pope.—Reuter.

Trotzky's Resignation

Riga, Dec. 28.

It is persistently rumoured that M. Trotzky has tendered his resignation from membership of the Communist Central Committee in consequence of his colleagues' attacks. It is added that, although his resignation has not been accepted, M. Trotzky refuses to withdraw it.—Reuter.

Court-Martial on U. S. Naval Officers

Washington, Dec. 2.

The naval court-martial to-day passed sentence on Capt. Watson and Lieut. Hunter, commanders of the destroyer squadron which crashed on the rocks on the Californian coast several months ago. Captain Watson has been reduced 150 numbers in the promotion list and Lieutenant Hunter 100 numbers.—Reuter's American Service.

Honduran Debt to be Liquidated

Tegucigalpa, Dec. 27.

The Honduran Government has signed an agreement for payment of the Honduran debt on a basis of £20,000 for each £100,000 bonds issued between 1867 and 1870. Loans totalling £5,398,570 were contracted during that period for the purpose of building a transoceanic railway, but the scheme failed. No interest has been paid since 1872.—Reuter's American Service.

British-Brazilian Finance

Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 31.

The British financial Mission, including Mr. E. S. Montagu and Sir Charles Addis, has arrived. It will confer with the Brazilian Government with regard to economic questions connected with the investment of British capital in Brazil.—Reuter.

Sugar Production in England

London, Dec. 29.

The intention to embark on an important scheme of sugar production in England was announced at a representative meeting today of agriculturists at Nottingham.

The Chairman stated that four big shipowners had agreed to find the capital of the company, which was erecting a factory at Colwick with a view to cultivating 5,000 acres in 1924 and 100,000 acres in 1925.—Reuter.

Prohibitionists Disappointed

New York, Dec. 29.

It is understood that proceedings have been dropped against the Englishman arrested in connexion with rum-running on December 24. New York prohibition officials believed that this arrest would lead to the discovery of a very large rum-running conspiracy as documents were found which were thought to contain the names of bootleggers in every part of the country. —Reuter's American Service.

Steamship Company's Troubles

New York, Jan. 1.

The United States District Court to-day appointed a receiver for the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Line, better known as the Ward Line, plying between New York, the West Indies and Central America. The firm's liabilities are estimated at $2,000,000. The assets are said to exceed liabilities, but owing to abnormal shipping conditions throughout the world the line, according to the complaint of the petitioning creditors, lacks funds to meet outstanding obligations and floating indebtedness.—Reuter's American Service.

Anglo-American Engineering Enterprise

London, Dec. 29.

A new Anglo-American engineering company has been formed at Barrow which will specialize in designing, building and equipping complete power plants. The capital of £500,000 is being provided equally by Vickers Ld., and the International Engineering Corporation of New York.—Reuter.

Soviet Press Censorship

Riga, Dec. 27.

Alarmed by the excitement arising from the publication of Opposition articles in the *"Pravda"* the Political Bureau has authorized M. Zinovieff to examine copy before publication. —Reuter.

The Dutch Cabinet

The Hague, Dec. 31.

The leaders of the Right parties of the Second Chamber, MM. Nolens, Rutgers and Schokking, have asked the Queen's permission to decline the task of forming a Cabinet.—Reuter.

Reciprocal Copyright

Washington, Jan. 1.

The United States and Canada have agreed to a reciprocal copyright arrangement which will come into effect to-morrow. Citizens of the United States may obtain copyrights in Canada under Canadian copyright law and Canadians *vice versa*.—Reuter's American Service.

Destructive Avalanches

Geneva, Jan. 1.

In consequence of the heavy snowfall, Switzerland is experiencing the biggest avalanches for a century. Five persons have been killed and 28 injured in five days. Sixty buildings have been destroyed, many forests swept away, large numbers of cattle killed and communications interrupted.—Reuter.

Tinplate Combination

London, Jan. 1.

It is reported from Swansea that a combination variously estimated as representing 40 to 60 per cent. of the tinplate industry is being completed. It is proposed to amalgamate several merchant firms to form a central selling agency for the whole output of the works controlled by Messrs. Richard Thomas & Co. and of the Grovesend Tinplate Company recently acquired by Richard Thomas & Co. It is understood that it is proposed to register a new company with a capital of £1,000,000 to handle the output of nearly 230 mills.—Reuter.

Resignation of Greek Government

Athens, Jan. 2.

In the National Assembly to-day Colonel Gonatas, the Prime Minister, announced the resignation of the Government.—Reuter.

Smuggled Japanese in Australia

Melbourne, Dec. 31.

The Federal authorities captured two luggers which landed six Japanese in Queensland. The magistrates ordered the men's deportation as prohibited immigrants and sentenced the Japanese captain to six months' imprisonment and the first and second mates to a month's imprisonment. Reuter.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

LABOUR PARTY AND THE CROWN

Combination of Other Forces to Check a Socialist Administration

London, Jan. 3.

In a speech at Tamworth to-day dealing with Mr. Asquith's contention that the Crown could refuse Mr. Ramsay Macdonald the authority to dissolve Parliament, Mr. Frank Hodges declared that Labour believed that it could consummate a programme through the British Constitution.

He believes that the Crown will not impede democratic aspirations, but if back-stair influence shatters that belief, then it will be goodbye to political evolution and we should drift on to the rapids of revolution.

In conclusion Mr. Hodges said that the Labour Party had profound faith in the impartiality of the King which no political intrigue should be permitted to destroy.—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S NATIONAL DEBT

London, Jan. 4.

Treasury figures show that the aggregate national debt on March 31 was £7,842,000,000, an increase of £100,000,000 as compared with a year earlier, attributable to capitalization of arrears of interest due to the United States and to an increase in the nominal debt through conversion operations.—Reuter.

EUROPE DIVIDED IN ARMED CAMPS

French Alliance with Czechs Defended in Paris: League to Counter Germanism

Paris, Jan. 3.

The apprehensions of the British and Italian press that the Treaty between France and Czecho-Slovakia will ultimately divide Europe into two armed camps have evoked replies from the French press.

"Le Journal" envisages as a result of the Treaty a new Europe based on the Franco-Belgian and Little Entente alliances and improved relations between Poland and the Baltic States. The paper says that the coming conference in Belgrade and the Esthonian and Latvian Customs Union are steps in the same direction. *"Le Journal"* is of the opinion that the logical outcome of the new situation will be moves in the direction of Russia.

The *"Echo de Paris"* declares that the aim of France to organize the Continent against any attempt at hegemony will be achieved if the small States in East and Central Europe consolidate permanently outside Germanism.—Reuter.

Bulgar-Serbian Tension.

Sofia, Jan. 2.

The Yugo-Slav Minister, M. Rakitch, has left for Belgrade taking the full text of the speech by the Premier, M. Zaukoff, on December 30, which caused anxiety in Serbia as M. Zankoff expressed desire for a reversion to the system of conscription in Bulgaria. It is hoped that M. Rakitch, who is a strong supporter of friendship between Serbia and Bulgaria, will succeed in clearing up the misunderstanding. Reuter.

*** This speech dwelt on Bulgaria's absolute need to possess an army again—Ed.

THE RUHR TRADE

French Claims to Be Carrying through the Bulk of Export Programme

Certain German newepapers have alleged that the agreements reached between the German industrialists and the M.I.C.U.M. cannot be executed owing to the inability of the Franco-Belgian Railway Regie to restore normal railway traffic in the occupied territories. It is stated, however, that the programme laid down for the loading and despatch of fuel by land and water for the period between December 23 and 30 was 263,800 tons. In spite of abundant falls of snow and the cessation of traffic on the Rhine and in spite of frost, 203,331 tons were loaded, namely, 99.75 per cent. of the programme laid down. The exports to France, Belgium and Italy for the month of December amounted to 1,300,000 tons of fuel for reparations, 70.20 per cent. of this tonnage being loaded and despatched. The programme for general traffic for the period between December 23 and 30, including reparations coal, provided for the loading of 114,200 tons per working day. A total of 101,000 tons was loaded per day, namely 602,510 tons in the week, representing 87 per cent. of the programme laid down.

The deficit of 13 per cent. on the provisions of the programme was due in great part to the difficulties raised by the administration of the Imperial Railways in the Cologne district. As the *"Koelner Tageblatt"* realizes, the Administration of the Reich Railways has no right to continue longer to the detriment of Rhineland interests and principally those of Cologne, the struggle in which it has engaged with the Regie on the question of prestige.—French Wireless through Reuter.

VENIZELOS IN GREECE

But Not to Stay: Only Until Country's Emergency Is Satisfactorily Met

Athens, Jan. 4.

M. Venizelos arrived yesterday, Colonel Plastiras and other officers went out to meet the steamer. M. Venizelos declared that he did not intend to remain long in Greece, but he would endeavour to help the country out of its present difficulties.—Reuter.

FATAL EXPLOSION IN ILLINOIS

Corn Products Factory Blown up: Many Killed, Wounded and Missing

Peoria, Ill., Jan. 3.

A terrific explosion believed to be due to ignition of dust in a corn products factory in the neighbouring town of Peking resulted in many persons being killed and injured. The explosion was followed by a fire which spread to the adjoining buildings and burned fiercely, preventing access. Eighty persons have already been taken to hospital.

Seventy-six persons were employed on the night-shift in the building where the explosion occurred. Hitherto only 28 are known to have escaped. The physicians fear that many of those in hospital will succumb to severe burns. Survivors say that there were two explosions in rapid succession, the second being the more severe.—Reuter's American Service.

Peking, Ill., Jan. 3.

The corn products company states that the casualties in the explosion were 35 dead and six missing. Eleven are probably fatally burned and 31 others are injured.—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. NATIONAL DEBT

Reduction of Nearly 4,000 Million Dollars

Washington, Jan. 4.

The United States Government debt on January 1 totalled $21,589,160,000, a reduction of $3,889,431,000 since the peak date, September 30, 1919, and a reduction during 1923 of $859,206,000. Reuter's American Service.

SHIPPING REVIEW OF PAST YEAR

Increased Cost of New Ships but Decreased Prices for Second-hand Tonnage

London, Dec. 27.

The annual report of the ship-brokers of the Australian Commonwealth Line, Messrs. Turner, [illegible] for that [illegible] prices for second-hand tonnage [illegible] coast 10 a ton, chiefly owing to [illegible]

[illegible] breaking up market has been the [illegible] Germany, Italy and Holland being the principal buyers.

British and foreign tonnage totalling 755,101 tons was laid up in the United Kingdom up to the quarter ending October 1. Of this 727,134 tons was British-owned, an increase of 45,999 tons as compared with that on July 1.

The outstanding auction of the year, in which four 8,000 ton vessels built at Hongkong were acquired by British shipowners for £155,000, with two 5,100 ton ships, built at Shanghai, for £96,000 each, showed a loss which must have been considerably over £1,000,000.

The earthquake in Japan resulted in a demand for second-hand tonnage up to 9,000 tons and a large number of boats found to and in Eastern waters [illegible]. Reuter.

A PAGEANT OF EMPIRE

Prince of Wales's Suggestion: Great Display to Be Held in Wembley Park

Arising from the suggestion of the Prince of Wales, steps are being taken to organize a pageant of the Empire at Wembley.

A special meeting of representatives of the Dominions was held at the War Office to-day when a preliminary discussion was held regarding the form of the pageant.

It is understood that special features suggested comprise early explorers, the glories of the Elizabethan period, Blake's exploits, the development of transport, the history of India, the early settlement of Canada and Australasia, missionary enterprise, [illegible] discovery of South Africa and the development of sport, etc.

Another feature which is being organized is a demonstration of rough riding in the Stadium.

The [illegible] will shortly make a tour of the Dominions and also the Sudan to obtain a characteristic exhibition from each. Reuter.

GOAT GLANDS AND RENEWED YOUTH

Austrian Scientist's Belief in Future Construction of Men Like Engines

Vienna, Nov. 14.

M. Max Thorek, the scientist who has become famous for his experiments in transplanting animal eyes, is also an expert in transplanting glands. But in a recent lecture he has discouraged the idea that the old may be made young again without fail.

He says it is sometimes possible not to improve the physical condition of persons who become aged before their time, and declared that his experiments with [illegible] and ox have proved that it may be possible some day to construct men on the new lines that engines and motor cars. Reuter.

Paris, Nov. 15.

So great has become the demand for chimpanzees, wanted for the operation of grafting and for purposes of scientific experimentation, that the Governor-General of French West Africa has prohibited the capture, keeping, buying or selling and export of the animals throughout the colony.

Chimpanzees, the animal nearest to man, have been particularly useful for experiments with the [illegible] and for this reason they were taken to Europe, but they rapidly succumbed to the rigours of the unaccustomed climate.—Reuter.

BLACK SEA TRAGEDY

Big American Freighter Lost with all Hands in Violent Gale

[illegible] damaged shipping in Turkish waters, particularly in the Black Sea where the big American cargo boat, Conejos, with a cargo of manganese ore from Batum foundered with all hands. A wireless message was picked up by the British steamer, Molesey, which said: "The Conejos is sinking fast. Hold No. 1 is full of water and the bow is awash. Have received no response to calls for help."—Reuter's American Service.

WIRELESS WONDERS

A Week of Amazing Achievements: Widely Successful Broadcasting

London, Dec. 28.

Wireless listeners in London equipped with only simply crystal sets to-night were delighted to hear quite clearly operatic selections, organ and pianoforte solos and a series of addresses broadcast from the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, station as the result of successful picking up on high ground outside the metropolis and retransmission from the London broadcasting station.—Reuter.

London, Dec. 31.

The fact that Middelburg, Cape Province, heard the London broadcasting concert on Saturday evening and Sunday morning is hailed by the papers in London as the most amazing achievement in a week of wireless wonders. It is pointed out that, as transmission of the concert from Pittsburg which was heard in London began at 11.45 p.m., South Africa must have heard Pittsburg via London. Concerts and speeches broadcasted by Paris were successfully heard in London yesterday evening, which is encouraging broadcasters to continue experiments aiming at substitution of wireless for land lines which are at present used simultaneously with broadcasting programmes.—Reuter.

Montreal, Jan. 1.

It is announced that the Canadian National Railways are arranging to equip their trans-Continental trains with wireless receiving sets and to establish broadcasting stations.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 1.

Broadcasting from Glasgow has been heard at Flandreau, South Dakota, 4,700 miles away, and also at Minneapolis. Reuter.

RUBBER FOOTWEAR

The New Fashion Thought to Create Useful Demand

London, Dec. 30.

There appears, says the financial editor of the Observer, to be an outlet for a further very considerable quantity of crêpe rubber as soles for every kind of footwear. That use for this purpose is progressing is shown by the fact that one Mincing Lane broker sells over 1,000 tons weekly solely for footwear while another ships 10 to 12 tons weekly to the United States for the same purpose. It is understood that the boot and shoe trade is taking great interest in the product.

As a paying proposition plantation crêpe rubber is proving very popular in South Africa, while applications come daily from Australia for agencies, and the special department of the Rubbergrowers' Association dealing with crêpe rubber is inundated with inquires from Continental cities. The British War Office recently ordered 40,000 pairs of Army rest shoes with crêpe soles. It is understood that a larger contract will be placed shortly.—Reuter.

PROPOSED AIR FLIGHT TO NORTH POLE

Disagreement Between Experts: Comdr. McCrary's Proposed Dash from Alaska

Washington, Jan. 2.

Various rumours are afloat in connexion with the visit of Commander McCrary, the commander of the airship, Shenandoah, to confer with Government officials with regard to the proposed flight to the North Pole next summer.

For example, it is reported that Commander McCrary has disgreed with Herr Heinen, the German air expert, and also with Mr. Weyerbacher, the American constructor, both of whom favour a flight to the Pole.

It is understood that Commander McCrary prefers to sail along the Pacific Coast and anchor at Alaska where he will prepare for the final dash.—Reuter's American Service.

AUTOMATIC STEERING

New Invention to be Tested on World Cruise

London, Dec. 29.

The Cunard liner Laconia leaves New York on January 15 on a world cruise to demonstrate the possibilities of the automatic Sperry gyro steerer, with which she recently successfully accomplished a trans-Atlantic voyage.

She will proceed via the Panama Canal, calling, amongst other places, at Yokohama, Shanghai, Hongkong, Batavia, Singapore, Rangoon, Calcutta, Colombo and Bombay.—Reuter.

U. S. MERCHANT MARINE

Government Schemes to Stimulate Activity

Washington, Dec. 28.

In response to President Coolidge's request, Senator Jones, Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, has recommended to the President extension of the United States Coastwise Shipping Laws to the Philippines, separation of the Emergency Fleet Corporation from the United States Shipping Board, compulsory co-operation between American railways and shipping, and also a survey of needs for a permanent American merchant marine.

Senator Jones denied ever having expressed the opinion that extension of the Shipping Laws to the Philippines would contravene existing treaties.—Reuter's American Service.

THE U. S. NAVY

Test Manoeuvres Ordered

Washington, Jan. 2.

Mr. Edwin Denby, the Secretary of the Navy, has ordered the mobilization of the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets and has scheduled the largest manoeuvres ever held for January and February, including 15 battleships. The manoeuvres will be held in the Caribbean Sea off Panama to determine the possibility of quick mobilization of the joint fleets by means of the Panama Canal in the event of a threat by an enemy fleet in the North Atlantic. The Navy Department says that the aim is to test the effectiveness of co-operation of the Army and Navy to keep the Canal open in emergency conditions.—Reuter's American Service.

SIR A. GEDDES RETIRING

British Embassy in U. S. Filled by Sir Esme Howard

London, Dec. 29.

The Foreign Office announces that Sir Auckland Geddes has resigned as his doctors have advised him that the state of his eyes does not permit immediate resumption of work in Washington. Consequently Sir Esme Howard, the Ambassador to Spain, has been appointed Ambassador to the United States, and Sir Horace Rumbold Ambassador at Madrid.

It is understood that pending Sir Esme Howard's arrival Sir Auckland Geddes will return on a brief visit to Washington to make the necessary arrangements for his departure and to bid farewell to his numerous friends. Reuter.

London, Jan. 2.

Sir Auckland Geddes left for New York on board the Majestic to-day to clear up affairs and to bid farewell to his friends in the United States.

Sir Robert Horne also left for New York this morning on a five weeks' business trip.—Reuter.

THE U. S. AMBASSADOR TO LONDON

Arrival of Mr Kellog

London, Dec. 30.

Mr. Kellog, the United States Ambassador in London, arrived at Plymouth to-day on board the President Harding. He was welcomed by the Mayor of Plymouth and Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Phillimore, the Commander-in-Chief.

In an interview Mr. Kellog said that the economic and political chaos existing in many parts demanded very tolerant and broadminded statesmanship especially of the Great Powers. He believed that relations between Britain and the United States would grow more friendly as time went on. He would do his best towards this end.—Reuter's American Service.

AMERICAN LABOUR BANKS

Trade Unions Preferring to Handle Their Own Capital

New York, Dec. 31.

An interesting industrial development is the rush of American labour unions to establish banks and to furnish their own capital.

Two labour banks have been established in New York in the last nine months and two more will start business in January. Twenty others have already been founded elsewhere in America and 20 more are about to open.—Reuter's American Service.

IRELAND'S ARMY

Reorganization Proposals

Dublin, Dec. 30.

It is announced that the Free State Government has decided to reorganize the army, taking the French Army as a model. The Ministry of Finance has decided that military expenditure must be limited to £4,000,000 and the result of the reorganization will be a standing army of about 20,000.

A special training college will be established with a view to expansion in case of emergency.

The heavy demobilizations which have already occurred, combined with the release of over 10,000 prisoners, are likely to put a severe strain on the labour market but this will be met to some extent by the proposal of the Dail to grant immediately £2,000,000 for emergency works, chiefly on roads. Reuter.

DUNLOP RUBBER CO. SENSATION

Issue of Writs Against President and Several Directors

London, Dec. 31.

As an outcome of a special committee's inquiries during the past 18 months into the position of the company as disclosed by the balance sheet of 1921, a sensational circular has been distributed to the shareholders of the Dunlop Rubber Co., calling an extraordinary meeting for January 8 to endorse the action of the directorate in issuing writs against the President and also a number of past and present directors of the company.

The circular states that Sir Arthur Du Cros, the President, has issued a writ against the company asking for a declaration that the agreement under which he has been drawing a salary of £12,000 a year, tax free, is binding upon the company. Mr. Alfred Du Cros and Mr. George Du Cros have also instituted actions in respect of their agreements. The company is defending all three actions.

The present position of the directors of the company is that only five of them, Sir Eric Geddes, Sir George Beharenell, Sir Guy Granet, Mr. Szarvasy and Mr. Tait, are, in the opinion of the company's counsel, entirely unaffected by the report of the inspectors. Some past and present directors, against whom, as the result of the findings of the report, the counsel has advised that writs should be issued, have made proposals for a settlement. The directorate encourage the settlement of all cases, considering it to be in the best interests of the shareholders that, as far as possible the claims of the company should be adjusted by negotiation rather than by litigation. Settlements will be rendered more difficult if the report is published. Therefore, the directorate ask the shareholders to leave these grave matters in their hands. The reorganization carried out will amply safeguard the interests of the shareholders, who are invited to pass a resolution of confidence at the meeting on January 8.

An appended circular is a statement showing the company's profit for the 18 months ended December 31, which is estimated at over £1,250,000.—Reuter.

SERIOUS FLOOD IN PARIS

Seine Overflowing its Banks

Paris, Jan. 2.

The Seine has risen to six metres above normal and is still rising. It has reached the disastrous flood level of 1910. The capital is already beginning to flood, necessitating the closing of the D'Orsay and Invalides stations. The situation in a number of suburbs is serious. Families have been driven from their homes. Provisions are being distributed by boats, notably in Rueil, where rafts have replaced tramcars.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 2.

Owing to the precautions taken, the rise of the Seine is not causing serious apprehension. Yet it is expected that at the end of the week there will be a depth of seven metres at the Pont d'Austerlitz. Flooding of the cellars of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has necessitated the operation of pumps. In the suburbs some houses have had to be vacated. Boats are maintaining communications.—French Wireless through Reuter.

ITALIAN IMMIGRATION IN AMERICA

Washington, Jan. 2.

Italy has made representations opposing the Immigration Bill now under consideration by the Immigration Committee, contending that further limitation of Italian immigration on the basis of the 1890 census would consti-

over administration of the Oriental freight and passenger business of the Admiral-Oriental Line which has been administered by the Pacific Steamship Company.

China was represented at the three-day convention of the Pacific Foreign Trade Council held at Portland. The China Club of Seattle was in charge of the luncheon and staged a programme of songs and dances by Chinese girls and a motion picture showing the engineering feats of straightening the Yellow River in China. Miss A. Viola Smith, assistant trade commissioner at Shanghai, was one of the speakers.

PROTECTION IN BELGIUM

No Out-of-Work Problem

The Antwerp correspondent of the "Morning Post" writes:—

A Sabbatical calm that rounds off a compulsory eight-hours' working day which prevails here, and is the culmination of the British saint honoured on the Continent under the title of the Demain Anglais, is brooding over Antwerp. Officials, business men, and all others who can manage it have left town for the week-end after packing away the dry bones of statistical information secure in their office pigeonholes. So that I must wait until I reach Brussels to-morrow before attempting to present an official statement of trade and trade conditions as they exist behind the Belgian tariff wall.

For the problem now confronting Great Britain, Belgium, as a noted economist said to me to day, is a country well worth studying. Like England, Belgium is incapable of attempting to grow her own foodstuffs, and, like England again, she has an important export trade, consisting chiefly of worked iron, though recently she has been building up a notable radium industry that has reduced the price of radium salts on the market by 50 per cent.

"Belgium," the economist continued, "is suffering with other countries in the general slump in trade, and were it not for the protection afforded us by our tariff, I feel convinced that we should have an out-of-work problem to face comparable with that which has prevailed in England, but infinitely more serious politically, because there would not be the same sense of discipline as in Britain. Our leading economists, who regard Free Trade as the ideal, recognize that it would be an admirable solution if each country developed that branch of industry for which it is best suited, but we recognize that the epoch has not yet arrived when the lion lies down with the lamb, and we know that we are living in a world of reality.

FRANCE'S EXPERIENCE.

"There was a time when France was not only a believer in Free Trade but also practised it. She realized, however, that her policy was against her national interests, and she abandoned Free Trade for Protection, with the result that French commercial ships have a great advantage in French ports. What we can say definitely here, is that under a system of Protection, despite trade conditions that are universally adverse, we are free of the problem of unemployment. Owing to the German occupation we know what that problem means. Apart from the crushing cost to the State it results, as we found, in creating an incapacity for work that is permanently disabling to the nation. And this has obviously to be avoided at all costs."

The suggestion that a tariff of itself must tend to discourage enterprise and to raise prices is peculiarly well illustrated in the opposite direction by the case of Antwerp. The port has had many vicissitudes, and has been on more than one occasion the sport of international politics, but in recent years, despite the world condition, its rate of development has been significant. In 1913 the tonnage of boats entering and leaving Antwerp amounted to a total of some 13,000,000. By 1921 the pre-war position had barely been regained, with a total of 12,000,000. Last year it had been surpassed, with 15,000,000, and this year it is anticipated that between 18 and 20 million tons of shipping will have used the port. The repairing trade has also been a factor of prime importance that has greatly contributed to the well-being of the port.

A NEW INDUSTRY.

Another industry, a new one, established on the outskirts of Antwerp, is that of the extraction of radium ore. The deposits of the ore were found in the Belgian Congo, and these are now coming into Antwerp to be extracted in the huge works nearby. The output will in the current 12 months have totalled some 50 grammes, with the result that independently of Protection a virtual national monopoly has been established for Belgium. The result has not been a limitation of output destined to keep up the price, but a widespread distribution of radium has brought the cost down by 50 per cent.

GAMBLING

The Two-up Schools: Clergyman's Visits

At an inter-Church discussion on gambling held in the Lithgow Methodist Church, Australia, the Rev. Professor M'Intyre opened the discussion. He said that in Australia gambling was the worst evil, not drink. Taking the Australian in general, he was a remarkably sober man compared with the populations of some countries, but gambling seemed to have got into the bones of the Australian people. It had attained such dimensions that many seemed to think all they could do was to accept it as a fact. There was no evil, however great, which the Church should accept as a permanent condition of things. There was a strenuous time in front of the nations, and the world was only going to be saved by those who believed in honest work. There was no hope for a community which hoped to get rich by impoverishing others, by taking something from them and giving nothing in return.

The Rev. David Brandt (Chalmers Church, Sydney) said there were various forms of gambling; there was the two-up school. He did not dress like a clergyman, and he sometimes visited two-up schools, which were numerous in Surry Hills. Two-up was the fairest form of gambling. We had not adequate law enforcement. The police would raid a two-up school or a Chinese gambling resort, but the Government ran the best gambling school in the totalistator. Recently there had been 23 consecutive days' racing, exclusive of Sundays, in the metropolis, and there were 200 days' racing in Sydney and environs during the year. There was an immense amount of poverty in Sydney, because the women gambled on pony races. Their husbands earned good wages, but the money went in betting. In the Government workshops there were bookmakers' agents amongst the workers.

RUSSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

More Violent Attacks on Great Britain: Kalinin's Outburst

The Bolshevist leaders and the members of the Soviet Government have once more, writes a Russian Correspondent, renewed their attacks on Great Britain. The President of the Russian Soviet Union, Kalinin, in a speech made at a conference of textile workers held at Ivanovo-Vosnesensk, near Moscow, in giving a "general review of the international situation," violently attacked the British Government and the British nation in terms as abusive and insulting as those used by Rakovsky.

The British Government, Kalinin assured his audience, is on the eve of collapse and Great Britain is faced with the menace of a genreal rising of all her Colonies against the metropolis:

The struggle of the native populations of the British Colonies against exploitation by the British bourgeoisie is ending in a complete defeat of the latter. In India, Egypt, and Ireland the British Government has been forced to surrender to the native bourgeoisie, but everywhere the extreme revolutionary elements are obtaining the upper hand. Growing unemployment in England itself, the loss of practically all her foreign markets, and the success of the Labour and Communist movements are placing the present bourgeois British Government in a very precarious position. This state of affairs has been clearly realized by France, which is gradually taking upon herself the part of ruler of world-policy.

Kalinin, therefore, advised his audience to cease to look upon Great Britain as a decisive factor in international politics, and declare that Soviet Russia must throw in her lot with England's enemies—with that group of European Powers which will be formed as the result of French hegemony in world politics.

PROVOKING POLAND.

Of Soviet Russia's foreign policy the most significant feature at present is her attitude to Poland. It would appear that Moscow is determind to provoke some sort of "incidente" in which Poland will be involved.

In its issue of November 2 the Moscow *Isvestia* publishes what purports to be material evidence of the ill-treatment by the Polish authorities of Soviet Russian citizens in Poland, of alleged cases of the shooting by Polish frontier patrols at Russian soldiers on the territory adjoining the Russo-Polish border, and of assaults by Polish officials on Russian women.

The *Isvestia* in a leading article, demands from the Soviet Government the "taking of immediate and energetic steps for the protection of Soviet citizens," and expresses the hope that "Poland will be given definitely to understand that the behaviour of the Polish authorities many have as its consequences Soviet reprisals against those Polish citizens who are residing on Russian territory."

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FROM THE FOUR WINDS

HUMOUR AT THE ELECTIONS

The "Tame Candidate" and Inexperienced Politician: Six Horny Handed Sons of Toil

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Nov. 16.

It needs must be a cheery soul to get humour out of a General Election, yet there it is for those who watch. This is the time for the "Tame Candidate." All Parties keep a few on hand. I remember going to a meeting years ago and listening to one recounting his experiences in what struck me as a very humorous fashion;

> I suppose—he remarked—I have fought more elections than most men. In the words of the Apostle Paul I have fought frequently with the beasts at Ephesus but unlike the Apostle I am bound to admit that on the whole the beasts have had the best of it.

In other words he was retained at short notice to fight any hopeless constituency. His expenses were paid and he served the purpose to retain in the contested area workers and speakers of the opposite side who might have gone elsewhere.

These are the days too, when the inexperienced politician comes into his own. He sails confidently into the Party Offices and remarks "I want to fight a seat." The organizers treat the request very much as you would—if a booking clerk—treat a man who remarked "Third class ticket Westminster Bridge." You say "Ah, yes." Paying your own expenses!" Then like the booking clerk you reply if the rejoinder is "Yes I have no money to-day"—you recognize the banana adaptation—"Nothing doing. Good morning. Mind the step." On the other hand if the reply is "Yes but it mustn't cost *too* much," the organizers cheerfully turn up the record annd remark "Well now there's Loamshire. Excellent seat. Good chance. Majority against us last time 7543. Hard work. Find your [illegible] will recommend Captain Brown [illegible] wants to learn his job. The experience will be worth all the money you'll lay out. Try it!" So off he goes and for the next three weeks lives at the rate of two years and discovers that an election is a cross between a dogfight and a prayer meeting.

This week various M.P.s had callers at the House. In one case six horny-handed sons of toil sailed into the House and sending in for their member—a Unionist—asked if he could get them all into the Gallery to listen to the debate. "You have as much chance, as an iceberg in h— of doing it," he replied, "there's such a crush. But come and have a drink and a chat." So he stood them all a whiskey-double-and soda and as they parted one [illegible] "We're going to put you at the bottom of the poll this time and no mistake. We admit you're not a bad member but our man's going in." The M.P. being a sport offered to take them on with a 2 to 1 on his own chances but they would not [illegible]

[illegible] all manners a chance to turn off the select prize tap abruptly. They point out that such help might be misunderstood. I fancy, nowadays, the old fashioned custom of paying for votes is gone. There are too many voters. It was a very different when Mr. Henry Mathews, the famous Tory yet as he then was, stood for Dungarvan as nominee of Ireland. His agent suggested that when his Excellency met a little liquid refreshment might not be amiss. Mr Mathews agreed. At the end of the contest there was produced a bill for "Whiskey—£247.13.8." Mr. Mathews protested feebly—vigorously. His agent witheringly remarked "Sure and if ye want to squaze the pippin ye aren't the man for Dungarvan." Mr. Mathews used to start his election campaign by a prelude somewhat on these lines:

> "Gentlemen. You see before you an old man. It is probably the last time—here he had a Caruso sob in his throat—that I shall ever have the opportunity, the pleasure, the honour of addressing you at a public election. We shall not therefore probably meet again. But, . . . etc. etc. etc."

He always fired this off. I suppose, nowdays, elections are harder fought. Still most people with Lord Carson who, having been asked whether the abuse levelled at him when in Ireland he was conducting the Crown prosecutions did not perturb him—replied "Sorr, abuse is the manure on which men's reputations grow." Still it is better have this sort of thing than the reproaches of an organisation such as the Party Executive who in the days of Sir George Kekewich formally complained to the whips that he did not spend enough money in the constituency and would they change him.

THE GLOOMY DEAN

A Frank Labour View

By Our Labour Correspondent

Manchester, Nov. 21.

Of all the dispiriting experiences possible to men and women of moderate intelligence there can be few to equal that of listening for the first time to those celebrated preachers whose names have become household words as a result of the boosting they have obtained in the popular press. It has been our ill fortune to listen at some time or other to most of those preachers and prelates whom the "Daily Mail" and the Sunday press acclaim as prophets and seers. Only those who have had a like experience will realize from this admission of Tupperesque platitudes, bad biology, pseudo-science, and cheap philosohpy we have endured. Yet we have persisted.

The Rev. L. P. Jacks Editor of the "Hibbert Journal," and Principal of Manchester College, Oxford, has been the only exception to the depressing average. He has been the one piece of jade in a desert of soapstone. To listen to him was like hearing the voice of Conrad in the forest of Tarzan of the Apes. And L. P. Jacks is not popular, in the sense that Father Bernard Vaughan, or the present Dean Inge is popular. The surprising fact that his fame had a firm basis in intellect and character was a Christian miracle more impressive to us than many in the New Testament.

Spell-binders of the type of General Booth and Spurgeon passed away with the passing of popular belief in a lake burning with fire and brimstone. Resonant orators like the late Father Bernard Vaughan were referred to with the half smile that we accord our popular comedians several years before they realized that we were not frightened nor impressed by their threats and perorations. And even Billy Sunday appeared to realize that whatever his raucous vulgarities might achieve among the contemporaries of Mr. Babbitt, they would be wasted on an English audience.

THE DISCORDANT NOTE.

The press periodically recognises the problem of why our churches are empty. Every clergyman and minister has put opinions on the subject and takes this opportunity of airing them. For the true answer they should go to the non-religious churchgoer. No one with a sense of humour and a reverence for religion can attend a church service in an ordinary Anglican church in England without being impressed with the hallowed associations of the building, the beauty of the prayers and the sacred music, and the dignity of the ceremonial. And then in nine cases out of ten the whole spiritual experience is marred by the ascension into the pulpit of an ill-read, prejudiced, and insincere preacher, who inflicts on his helpless hearers either a sermon based on the assumption that the first chapters of Genesis are a literal statement of fact, or an attempt to torture scientific discoveries into evidences of the essential truths of Christianity. For thirty minutes he has his unfortunate victims entirely at his mercy. There is no chance of answering back, or asking for a more exhaustive explanation of this or that problem that was skated over so swiftly.

What is wrong with our churches is the clergymen. People are not carried away and converted to-day by the appeals that reached the unsophisticated hearts of our grandparents. Preaching is out of date. It is a relic of the times before the average man could read. To study evidence to-day it is best to have it in print before you to read slowly and carefully. All of which brings us to Dean Inge.

THE TRAGEDY OF A PESSIMIST.

It was the good fortune of the "gloomy Dean" that at the time when the yellower press in Great Britain lifted up its agonized voice and demanded in the name of "anti-waste" that all the promises made to the workers should be broken, that they should be given less wages than before the war, and that in the interests of the country and "big business" their trades unions should be smashed up, and their hours of labour increased, his discourses at St. Paul's should be in exactly the same strain. In the case of the yellower press it was just another stunt, but in the case of the Dean it was a case of what Old Bill used to call "wind up." As might be imagined the popular press welcomed this clerical ally, and in a few weeks Dean Inge was one of that august body of notables whose opinions are published on every question of great and little importance. Since then he has continuously experienced the dreadful quandary of having to be pessimistic on every subject—in the same way that a comedian is always expected to be funny or a tragedian always tragic if his popularity has been won in either of these rôles,—and at the same time conceal from his admirers the awful truth, namely, that his pessimism was only a passing phase and that his unanticipated rise to fame has completely cured it.

DISILLUSION.

It may be imagined from unflattering opinion of the gloomy Dean that we did not expect very much when we attended his recent lecture on "Sin and Modern Thought." Somehow we had made a mental picture of him as a heavy-jowled, thick-set individual, a corpulent Savonarola, and we were surprised to find him a spare common-place looking man with a thin nervous face, and an exaggerated Oxford drawl.

He said that the problem of evil was one that he could make no pretensions to solve. It had been said that if God was omnipotent and permitted evil He was not good; if He could not prevent it, He was not omnipotent. For himself the problem was beyond him. He welcomed the growing disbelief in eternal punishment, but thought that much of modern sentiment on that subject was flabby and insincere. We had no right to do what we liked in the belief that there would be no reckoning after death. If it was true that death did not change us, but only transplanted us into a region where we could only be what we had become, there could easily be eternal punishment. Sin was a relative matter dependent on the degree of temptation and the environment of the sinner. The feeling of self abasement caused by a sense of sin appeared to him to be disproportionate to its cause so long as we confined our opinion of God's purpose to the insignificant part we had to play in this life, but it was not so if we assumed that we were immortal spirits here on probation. From this he drifted on to a denunciation of those preachers who still asserted that the story of Adam and Eve was to be taken literally. It was, he said, a beautiful symbolic story.

DREADFULLY MISUNDERSTOOD.

The whole of this queer hotch-potch was interspersed with innumerable "ifs," and "it seems to me," and almost every sentence—all badly read from a long Ms.—was carefully constructed to provide a retreat if it should be subject to criticism. If the modernists were slated they were also flattered; if the old beliefs were attacked, they were also defended; if the spirit of the age was wrong and dangerous, it was also to be excused. We came away saddened that a purveyor of such inanities should be accepted as a teacher by the Church. Dean Inge is neither agnostic nor atheist, neither Christian nor Buddhist. Should Kipling's picture of the after life be a correct one, we figure him flying forever by the side of the rejected Tomlinson, wagging his arms about in futile gestures as he eternally explains that some mistake has been made and he has been dreadfully misunderstood.

OUR BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER

Ugly Incidents During Longshoremen's Strike: Return of Red Cross Ladies from Japan: Bishop Roots' Resignation: Geological Finds from Mongolia

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, Nov. 29.

Begun six weeks ago, the strike of Vancouver union longshoremen is still on. About 1,100 from the ranks of organized labour are temporarily idle owing to the strike but the same number of others who responded to calls when "open shop" on the waterfront was declared by the shipping federation are helping to keep cargoes moving to and from ships' holds. The strike-breakers are working inside a cordon of pickets which is unbroken day and night and through which they must pass to get to and from their work. There have been ugly incidents and a number of arrests. The shipowners have managed to get some of their cargoes, principally of lumber, loaded aboard ships for the Orient and elsewhere by having the lumber placed on barges in their own yards, then towing the barges to other coast points in the vicinity where freighters await the cargoes. The dispute concerns wages and working conditions generally but settlement of the strike is hindered by the two sides standing firm on recognition by the shipping federation of the longshoremen's union, which the former declare to be very red and with which they will not negotiate.

ARRIVALS FROM ORIENT.

Among recent arrivals here from the Orient were Mrs. Annie M. Stabler and Miss Isabel M. Jaffrey, of the British Columbia Red Cross Society, who left Vancouver at a moment's notice with relief supplies for the stricken districts of Japan and who arrived there 18 days after the disaster. Besides bringing back a fund of interesting stories of their experiences they returned with photographs of a first aid station established by the Japanese Red Cross at Kobe. With Mrs. Stabler and Miss Jaffrey in the photograph is Miss H. A. Macfarlane of Shanghai, matron of the International Hospital at Kobe, also Miss Clarke of Shanghai.

Mr. Harry Leon Wilson, of Monterey, California, author of 'Ruggles of Red Gap' and other stories, is back on this coast after spending the past six months in China and Japan gathering material for future stories. Returning to China after spending six months in England with his family was Mr. H. G. W. Woodhead, O.B.E., editor of the "Peking and Tientsin Times." A recent passenger from Quebec to Liverpool, on the Empress of Britain, was Captain W. E. Kent, with Mrs. Kent, of Shanghai.

Advices from Ottawa report the passing at the age of 81 years of Mrs. T. W. Anglin, widow of Hon. T. W. Anglin, a member of the Canadian House of Commons from 1867 to 1888. She leaves four sons, Mr. Justice Anglin, of the Supreme Court of Canada, being among them, and two daughters, Margaret Anglin, Canada's leading actress, and Mrs. T. Hutchins, who resides in China.

The Rev. and Mrs. E. R. Baker, missionaries of the China Inland Mission, sailed to-day on the Empress of Asia for their station in China.

CHINESE CONSUL'S PROTEST.

Mr. Lin Pao-heng, Chinese consul in British Columbia, in a strongly worded telegram addressed to the Speaker of the British Columbia Legislature, protested against the contents of a bill now before the Legislature. The passing of offence for Chinese to employ white girls or Indians in restaurants owned or operated by them. He stated that the bill was not warranted and was an unfair racial discrimination.

BISHOP'S RESIGNATION.

According to advices from Dallas, U.S.A., the House of Bishops, after first accepting the resignation of Bishop Logan Roots of Hankow, China, voted to reconsider this action and next day decided to defer acceptance of the resignation, if at all. Bishop Roots had resigned in order to accept a position on the Christian Council in China. Bishop Thomas F. Gailor, of Tennessee, was instructed to proceed to China to survey the situation of the church there and to report to a meeting of the national council next February.

FINDS IN MONGOLIA.

Mr. Frederick K. Morris, member of the Roy Chapman Andrews party, the third Asiatic expedition of the American Museum of Natural History, was a recent arrival in Vancouver from China. The noted geologist brought specimens obtained by the expedition in Mongolian deserts. Among them were first proof to the world of science of a dinosaur's egg, skeletons of the Titanotheres, formerly the missing link in the great race of reptilian monsters of a pre-historic age, and other fossilized remains of paramount importance. Mr. Morris reports phenomenal success by the mission. Discoveries of remains from the age of reptiles included 10 skulls of deratopsians, a dozen good skeletons of the reptile creatures and about 25 eggs in three nests of brilliant red sand found in Central Mongolia. Mr. Morris, who was married last December to Miss Florence Eddows, of New York City—who went to China for the ceremony—expects to return with Mrs. Morris to China in 1925.

TRANS-PACIFIC TRADE.

Chinese are to a great extent giving up rice for flour and wheat, and although they do not buy the highest grade they seem to prefer the Canadian grain. This is the belief of Mr. George C. Dew, Asiatic freight agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Canada's trade with the Orient is steadily increasing each year and has been so good this year that not one of the Canadan Pacific ships has left Vancouver without a full cargo. The business of importing from the Orient has been fairly heavy and steady throughout the year. Christmas goods are a little heavier than last year.

The Canadian Robert Dollar Company, Vancouver, have taken

In conjunction with moon on 29th (day of last quarter).
Rises on 1st at 1.43 a.m.;
" 16th at 0.48 a.m.

VENUS VISIBLE FOR 2 HOURS AFTER SUNSET.

Venus, now in Capricornus, is becoming more and more brilliant, and may be observed in the southwestern, skies for 2 hours after sunset. On the evening of the 9th the planet will be in close proximity to the moon, then 3 days after new, a circumstance allowing favourable observation of both until they are lost in the dim haze of the horizon.

CANOPUS LOW DOWN ON SOUTHERN HORIZON.

As the earth passes in January and February on the southern part of its orbit, some of the constellations of the Southern hemisphere become visible to us in the North. Among these is Canopus, a brilliant star in the constellation Argo. Canopus is near the horizon, and may be observed low down passing the meridian from 10 p.m., to midnight.

SQUARE OF PEGASUS NOW CONSPICUOUS TO WEST.

The great square of Pegasus is a prominent figure in the western skies during this month. The names of the stars are Alpheratz, which belongs also to Andromeda, then the 3 others called respectively Algenib, Markal and Scheat. All are of the second magnitude, and well visible in a small power telescope. The group may be observed at 9 p.m.

THE HYADES AND THE PLEIADES.

The Hyades and the Pleiades are two beautiful clusters of stars situated between Pegasus and Taurus. The former group forms a distinct V in the sky, with Aldebaran, a fiery red star of the first magnitude at the upper corner. The Pleiades, or the Seven Sisters, are further to the north. The cluster contains much nebular matter, worlds in formation, and six stars visible to the naked eye. Alcyone is the brightest of the group. The cluster passes on the meridian at 9 p.m.

THE A. D. C. AND ITS CRITICS

Some Facts and Counter-Criticism

By E. S. Wilkinson.

Now that "Madame Sherry" has made her farewell bow to the Shanghai public I am able to say a few words with regard to the criticism that has flowed so freely through your columns. I have, in fact, been asked by my Committee to clear the air by some sort of official announcement, but I do not feel inclined to couch my thoughts in official words and greatly prefer to inform the public of the facts as I see them in plain unofficial language.

The Shanghai A. D. C. is one of the oldest institutions of the port and the last thing that it should fear is criticism so long as it is honest. The main point about the recent criticism is that its honesty seems open to question.

"Fairplay" looks to me like a disgruntled journalist with a bad attack of Anglophobia. He seems to have hurled his charges at a British newspaper with the certainty of hitting another British institution on the rebound. He gives me the impression of having prepared his attack many months ago, and that this attack would have inevitably been launched even if the A.D.C.'s latest production had been the greatest success or the greatest failure ever seen.

I picture the writer of "Sharps & Flats" as a pale young person with a penchant for the piano and an abysmal ignorance of all else connected with the stage. He begins his denunciation of the A.D.C. by quoting a paragraph recently produced in the N.-C. D. N. This paragraph was a slightly warped version of a conversation between a member of the A.D.C. Committee and a member of the N.-C. D. N. staff. The intent of this conversation was merely to explain that the A.D.C. could not always count on the highest class of play for production. It never was intended as an admission that "Madame Sherry" was a bad play or one that should be apologized for. And yet the writer of "Sharps & Flats" deliberately quotes this paragraph as a statement of the A.D.C. Committee. This writer then proceeds further to illustrate his ignorance and uttter lack of moral stamina by suggesting that the A.D.C. should embark upon a policy of piracy and dishonesty under the cloak of the Copyright Acts. Does this immoral person know that there is not one member of the A.D.C. Committee who would conceive the idea of carrying out what he dares to suggest? The A.D.C. has never yet produced a musical comedy without either buying the rights by private treaty or paying the production fees to the holders of the rights. "The Dairymaids" was purchased by private treaty and the acting fees paid to the holder of the Eastern rights. "Tom Jones" was procured from London and full acting fees paid to Chappell & Co. In the case of the "Belle of New York" rights were purchased in good faith from America and the Club was subsequently threatened with an action which was finally withdrawn. "Madame Sherry" was purchased in America (cost Gold $300) by private treaty.

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"Sharps & Flats" then proceeds to point out to the A.D.C. the sort of play which they should produce. He may be interested to know that last year the Committee cabled to London asking for a number of those he mentions in addition to "The Little Michus," "Tom Jones," etc. In reply, a cable was received "Can secure 'Tom Jones' only." Does this writer think that the Committee is also composed of Sharps & Flats? Does he suggest that they should embark upon a career of crime and burgle the safes of those who hold the rights of these plays? The Club as I know it will always welcome suggestions from anyone interested and competent to assist in its efforts, but it has not yet fallen to the level of the common thief.

His next suggestion calls for Gilbert & Sullivan. These talented authors wrote, if my memory serves me right, about ten well-known operas of which the A.D.C. has produced six, three of them twice. Of the remaining four, "The Mikado" has never been played by the A.D.C. for obvious political reasons; one of the other three was to have been played last year but was withdrawn when the Committee heard that a professional Company was coming to play Gilbert & Sullivan. The same applies to the present season when the same Company again booked dates but subsequently withdrew them. But apart from these facts, is the A. D.C. to become a stock Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company, with about ten plays to choose from, to please every penny-a-liner who quotes them because he knows of little or nothing else? Men of the "Sharps & Flats" type might be invaluable to the local A.D.C. if they had the grit to put into action what they suggest with a pen, but they generally prove utterly incompetent when it comes to a test of deeds against words.

THE SUGGESTION OF BIAS.

Criticism is requested, expected and respected. It is the greatest free advertisement that a producer can find. But to be of any service to the public it should at least be intelligent and free from bias. I can claim more than 20 years experience of the amateur stage and have never quarrelled with a critic yet. But if the critics are going beyond their job and wish to quarrel with the management of the Theatre, the writers of plays who have already been most efficiently criticized years ago, and other kindred matters which are none of their business, then I fail to see eye to eye with them.

As an example of the value of the criticism indulged in by the genius who is responsible for "Sharps & Flats" let me quote the following passages concerning the Italian Opera Company which appear in the N.-C. D. N. of December 28. "Sharps & Flats" says: *"the same old répertoire 'Il Trovatore,' 'Rigoletto,' "La Traviata" etc., is announced. It is time these early Verdi Operas were given a rest."* The critic who attended the Company's first performance writes in the same issue: *"The crowded state of the Lyceum Theatre on Boxing Night proved the popularity of the Italian Opera. The tuneful nature of Verdi's "Rigoletto" was very much in evidence."* Now, any sane man who reads these two sentences in the same paper must conclude either that the writer of "Sharps & Flats" is an incompetent ass or that the Shanghai public is a herd of fools. On the evidence before me I am inclined to the former conclusion. If there are competent men on the staff of the paper able to deal with musical and theatrical matters, why foist the brayings of an ass on the public? That there are competent men available I have no doubt, as many recent criticisms have shown that the writers had intelligence and knowledge of their subject. The gentleman who referred to our priceless dancers as "peglegging the same old steps" must have been blind, but he nevertheless wrote a most capable and amusing criticism of the play under discussion. I wonder if some of our local writers could not be persuaded to study the methods of "The Playful Stallite" in "London Opinion": his criticisms are capable, trenchant and amusing, but he never displays bias or malice.

LONDON'S SOLUTION.

One of the greatest of London Managers whose worst failures were consistently praised and whose greatest successes were equally consistently damned by the best critics in England, solved the problem by withdrawing all invitation to the Press, and told its representatives they could come and see his shows if they paid for their seats, but he did not wish to know what they thought about them. I am far from advocating this view in Shanghai as I value the opinion of the few intelligent and educated journalists we have among us. But I would like to put some bar against the views of jealous and vituperative ink-slingers being foisted on the public in the guise of genuine criticism. With all due deference to the few men who have written clean and thoughful criticism in the past few years I prefer to put my faith in the greatest critic of all. I refer to the Box Office. After all, for every alleged Highbrow who writes to the papers there are five hundred or more plain men and women who want an evening's amusement. If you would like the opinion of this critic here are some recent results:—

Play.	Nett Profit.
"Ann"	$1,756
"Pirates of Penzance"	2,324
"Passing of the Third Floor Back"	2,207
"The Three Twins"	4,893
"The Skin Game"	2,636
"Tom Jones" (Ex. donations)	2,114
"What Every Woman Knows"	420

The worst play of the lot (in my opinion) makes the biggest profit, and possibly *vice versa*, but I happen to be a business man and I must bow to the superior knowledge of the Box Office. The high-souled contributors to your columns will ask me why; and I will try to explain.

WHAT THE THEATRE STANDS FOR.

Does the average theatre-goer in Shanghai ever ask himself what the Lyceum Theatre is and what it stands for? It is a community theatre, free of all syndicates and financial interests, ready to welcome any professional Company that will come to amuse the community. It is probably the best equipped theatre on the China Coast and can therefore give its public the best value for its money. This theatre costs about $5,000 per annum more to keep up than its income from visiting Companies can produce. The Council and the ratepayers do not provide one cent of this deficit: it is entirely made up by the efforts of the small band of amateurs who work for weeks or months at a time to produce plays. There is nothing to apologize for in their efforts: visitors, both amateurs and professionals, wonder at the efficiency of their productions. The Committee who are responsible take no credit for the results but they cannot help being proud of them. Shanghai not only leads the amateur dramatic world of the East but it provides plays, costumes and scenery, to many other ports. Nobody who takes part in his work gets or expects one cent of pay, they just carry on and say nothing. Without them the theatrical life of Shanghai would be dead. By way of thanks the critics come and throw mud and there are no flowers by request.

Please do not misunderstand me; nobody is such a fool as to expect columns of fulsome flattery. Honest criticism is the spice of an actor's career. He works for the good and if he gets the bad instead, he tries again to do better. But let criticism be honest. Let it be intelligent. Do not let it consist of the backbiting spite of the disappointed advertising agent or the venom of the man who, having tried to shine, has failed and wishes to point to all others as failures.

THE EXPENSES BILL.

Does Shanghai realize that every year the A.D.C. must pay its rent to keep the theatre going and if it fails then the theatre and its attendant Trust will fail? That the support of visiting Companies is so poor that the Club itself must make good the deficit? That this can only be done by producing three plays per annum at a reasonable profit? That every comedy costs about $3,000 and that every musical play costs about $8,000 to produce? That the Committee responsible for all this has to think ahead, and if it cannot find the play to fit its highest ideals it must take the next best thing and make the most of it? That the Club always gives first choice of dates to visiting professionals and thus puts itself at a disadvantage?

After putting these questions let me give you some idea of the money that has to be spent on a production before the curtain goes up.

Here is a typical bill for a cheap three-act comedy:—

Theatre Rental, Light and Heat	$500
Costumes	800
Scenery and Properties	300
Orchestra	250
Advertizing	300
Printing, books etc.	150
Sundry Expenses	200
Total	$2,500

Here are similar costs for a Musical Comedy:—

Theatre Rental, Light and Heat	1,450
Costumes	4,500
Scenery and Properties	1,000
Orchestra	1,000
Hire of Band Parts etc. (incl. Fees)	500
Advertizing	1,200
Printing etc.	150
Sundry Expenses	1,200
Total	$11,000

It may interest the public to know that under the A.D.C.'s lease of the theatre the Club has to pay rent for its own productions and it naturally has to pay the considerable item of lighting and heating. The "Sundry Expenses" shown above look high but it must be remembered that when fifty or sixty young people are kept in the theatre for half a day at a time they have to be fed. All these items mount up in an alarming manner and none of the above estimates are extravagant. Is it to be wondered at that the Club responsible for these productions has to look on the financial side when it produces plays rather than pander to the few critics whose taste probably represents five per cent. of the public who pay money into the Box Office. In the "good old days" before the introduction of Fire Regulations when the theatre had no financial obligations, the "giants of the past" produced anything they wanted and often spent thousands of dollars more than they received; those days are past and financial considerations are now a big factor in the Club's activities.

NO SOCIAL CLIQUISM.

Perhaps if these facts are intelligently considered the Press will give its work of criticism to men who know something of their subject. I can say without fear of contradiction that the Shanghai A.D.C. has for half a century held itself open to receive all comers who can contribute to its efficiency. Far from being a social clique it is the most democratic institution in Shanghai. It measures its helpers by one standard only—efficiency. It pretends to nothing in the nature of high-souled perfection but it does jealously guard its reputation for honesty and decency and not even the whining of a half-baked musician (I refer to the talented author of "Sharps & Flats") can make it depart from those ideals.

The Shanghai A.D.C. has no complaint to make against the support which has been given by the Shanghai public. Shanghai always has supported its A.D.C. and the Shanghai public have always been the most generous and kindly critics. Perhaps it is the knowledge of this fact that gives me the courage to write so freely on this subject. On the other hand I have no apology to make for the fare that the A.D.C. has served to its supporters. When a private Club can give its friends such shows as "The Skin Game," "The Passing of the Third Floor Back," "Tom Jones" as well as Barrie Plays and Gilbert and Sullivan (within reason) it has little to apologize for. No organization in this world can maintain the peak of perfection for ever.

The Club is more anxious today than it has been during the 14 years I have known it, to deserve and keep the good opinion of the Shanghai community. No single word of thoughtful and helpful criticism will be wasted or ignored. But the spiteful mudthrowing of ignorant and incompetent writers who are given the freedom of the Press is neither kind nor helpful and contributes nothing to the good of a community which has to provide 50 per cent of its own amusement.

*** This article is dealt with in a leading article to-day.

A NEW YEAR HYMN

The following hymn is by the Rev. William Darwent, father of the Rev. C. E. Darwent now of Tientsin, but, of course, well known in Shanghai. The author of these verses is now in his 94th year.

God has kept his promise
Through the vanished year,
Never has he left us
Through all hope and fear.
When the times did threaten,
And the storms were out,
He, the great unfailing,
Led us safe about.

What tho' now 'tis over,
Shall it be forgot?
All the priceless blessings
Bearing on our lot?
Swift our lives are passing,
Swifter, let us run,
Till we reach the glory,
And the crown is won.

Are we any better?
Have we served him well?
Have we grown more holy?
Let our conscience tell.
Over all our failings
May his mercy rest,
Pardoning our offences,
Taking what is best.

We would brightly enter
On this new-born year,
Strong in God, and fearless
As to what is near.

Christ has made our pathway
Clear, and clean, and bright,
And has gone before us,
Leading into light.
Saviour! Rule the nations,
Banish war and crime,
Let the glad day settle,
Even in our time.
Then peace, like a river,
Flowing but to bless,
All the world together,
With its sweet caress.
Come, Lord Jesus! Hasten,
Bring the longed-for day.
Then earth shall be heaven,
As thy Word doth say.
Nothing shall offend thee,
All shall then be blest,
Christ shall see his travail,
And all be at rest.

WILLIAM DARWENT (1830——)
Bognor, Sussex,
England.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

A CURE FOR CRITICS OF CHRIST

Notes of a Sermon Preached by the Rev. C. E. Darwent in Union Church, Tientsin, Sunday Evening, December 9

Text: Lamentations II.9. "Her king and her princes are among the nations where the law is not."

Jeremiah had something to complain about—something real, not fancied. The Holy City had been destroyed—the city on the site of Abraham's sacrifice, of the great king and Psalmist, David, of Solomon. The temple was gone and all that it meant. The promises of God seemed to have gone by the board. The site of their loved city was a desolation and a byword. More than some capital cities Jerusalem was the nation. Its whole life was wrapped up in her and now she was a ruin. "Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars." The conqueror had done his work thoroughly. "How does the city sit solitary! How is she become a widow!"

Those old cities were often built to cover as small a space as possible, so that the walls might be as small as possible in circuit and they would need fewer men to defend them. So these cities were full up with people, nice and lively as a crowded city is with plenty of life going on. As one of the prophets says, the city in the great day of the Lord "shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets." Those ancient peoples liked it. They had no worrying "traffic problem." They took their time in getting about. They didn't expect, as we foolishly seem to do, that the streets of a city can ever be as free to move about in as the streets of a village.

But the most dreadful thing for her king and priests is not that the gates of Jerusalem are sunk into the ground, that her streets are naked of people and she sits solitary like a widow. All that is no doubt very bad, very distressing for her king and princes. But there is on top of it something much worse. "*Her king and her princes are among the nations where the law is not.*" No doubt Jeremiah means the law of Moses and what he says is, You have come under heathen law instead of under the truer, milder more humane law that God gave to Moses. I dare say that, without being aware of it, we of the present day get a wrong view of the law and of the Mosaic legislation. We read so much of its *abuse* in the age of Christ that we are apt to think very poorly of it. We read of its externalities, its washings, its "tithing of mint, anise and cummin" that we are apt to think that it was one of God's mistakes ever to have given it. But that is doing it a gross injustice. Never judge anything by its abuse. Remember that the Law of Moses was 2,000 years ahead of its age. Its whole aim was lighter than the finger of the law of the other nations. In the 2,000 years from Moses to Christ abuses had arisen as they will but, make no mistake about it, the Law of Moses is marvellous for its justice and mildness. Blood revenge was a feature of the time.

Moses appointed cities of refuge for the slayer. Did any other code? A man might redeem his house that he had sold in his distress, if within a year. Was any other code so merciful? Is ours? No. You had not to be a mean dog and scrape up every ear of wheat in your harvestfield and every olive. No, you had to leave them "for the poor and the stranger." Beautiful provision of the great God of heaven! I doubt if He admires our patent reapers that lick up everything. Usury was, I think, forbidden under the law and cleanliness was enjoined. There were all kinds of commandments far ahead of the times, to say nothing of the Holy God who gave the Law and who loved His people and blessed them—one God, instead of the mixed up tangle of absurdities that figured as the gods of the nations.

Now, says Jeremiah, you—the king and princes—are away from all the humanities and justice and tenderness of this Law of God and you are "among the nations where the Law is not" but where laws harder and more cruel are in force. Likely enough, they had groused and complained about the Law of Moses. Now, says the prophet, you have something to grouse about in "nations where the law is not." Now you know about it. You will be wishing yourselves back under the just Law that God gave you. If you had only known when you were well off you wouldn't have been where you are now—in heathen lands and under heathen law. Now you know what you have lost. They may have complained that the Law was too strict, that it required too much prayer and worship and sacrifice. Now, says Jeremiah, you have something worse than the ruin of your gates and bars to weep over; you are under the arbitrary will and caprice of a lawless despot and you wish yourselves well back again in Jerusalem. You would give your eyes to be back.

What has all this to do with us? Everything, as I think I can show. To-day there are two classes of critics of the Christian religion and Church. Both find no end of fault with it but we will take them separately. There is the Church itself. How many of its members who have sworn fealty to the Lord do nothing much else but discredit Him? Some think it an act of piety to hold that the world is so bad after all these years of Christian teaching that nothing can be done for it till He comes again. The present dispensation has been a ghastly failure, according to them. And apart from these people there is a general admission that Christianity hasn't been the success it reasonably ought to have been because there is still sin in the world on a large scale.

This autumn I have read in a weekly religious paper to which I subscribe the reports of the annual meetings of the various British religious bodies and it has been in one way a trial, a big dose. "The state of Europe," "The War," "The Consequences of the War!" Poor Europe! One would think all the prayers and preachings of the Gospel in Europe had been wasted breath; that the churches, whether cathedrals or "Little Bethels," had all been built in vain. How Europe catches it! As if the saints and apostles and Christian poets of Europe had nothing to show for their sowing in tears and heroisms in the service of Jesus! Then there is the sarcasm of the unbelieving critics. According to most of them the Gospel has done nothing or little; they point out many evils which ought to have disappeared long ago if Christianity is a divine effort to save the world with the power of God in Christ behind it to make it effective. They have a variety of agencies which they think would be more effective, such as education.

REPLY TO THE CRITICS.

Now, what is our reply, if we are so wise, to all this? Just exactly the idea of this prophet, Jeremiah, in regard to the king and princes of Judah. Only in stead of "Law" insert the word "Gospel" in the text: thus, Let all these people go and live "among the nations where the Gospel is not." Just let them go to the nations and tribes where there has never been any preaching of the Gospel at all—where the New Testament has no influence or very little. Let them go where the story of Christmas is not known and the tragic and moving story of the cross is not known at all; where there are no Bible classes, no Sabbath Schools, no cathedrals, no parish churches, no Little Bethels, then there would be a lightning cure in all these miserable Christians and clever theorists of impotent abstract gospels. Aye, we should see them hurrying by the quickest steamers back to poor old Christian Europe. They would know all about it if they would only go for a spell "among nations where the Gospel is not." It would cure all Christians of all their grousing and dismal jeremiads, and would do a world of good to the literary and aesthetic unbeliever who sniffs at the Son of God, His blood and His love. Aye, they talk about "means of grace." Yes, indeed, this would be a "means of grace" to both classes of dishonourers of our Saviour. They would find that a corner in the most disordered state in Europe is a paradise compared with a palace "among the nations where His word is not and has not been preached," where no one has read His great Sermon on the Mount, where His figure is unknown and gracious revelation of the Father has done nothing to ameliorate the innate sin of man. They would have to double their insurances in such lands, if they could get anyone to take them at all. A couple of years in any country where no Christian law is known, where the Christian value of life and man is not the standard! As a fact, you find that all the unbelieving critics take precious good care to live in and "among nations" where the Gospel is known.

Let us consider a few of these lands. We will begin if we can find them with lands where the Gospel is entirely unknown and no influence, even collateral, has gone out from Christ into the life of the tribe or nation. We may take the centre of New Guinea. I have just read a review of a book of travel in the interior by a hard case of a traveller there. He blesses his lucky stars that he got out at all. There you get human nature "uncontaminated" by the errors of Christianity. Yes, headhunting and all the rest. There are the purely native parts of Africa. Let them go there. As a writer on Africa has said "The history of Africa is drenched in blood: bloody human sacrifices on all occasions, besides witchcraft and all the rest of grovelling superstitions." A spell with old Chaka, the Zulu, would have made such people pray God to take them back to Christendom. Then there is Thibet. It is all very well to publish morocco leather bound copies of the "Light of Asia" in which Buddhism is idealized. But what is Thibet? Generally it is lousiness, filthiness, blank superstition, devil dancing and worship, ignorance and fatuity. Yes, it is true, as Wendell Holmes is reported to have said in words to this effect, "If you can find ten square miles of the earth fit to live in where Jesus Christ is not known at all, I will give up my case."

THE CASE OF RUSSIA.

We may now look at a country of which the rulers seem to be violently anti-Christian though the mass of the people have retained their faith and many have died for it. I mean Russia. Russia has fallen into the hands of bitter and relentless enemies of Jesus. Here is a country where at present as far as the rulers go "The Gospel is not." A few critics of Christ, like Mr. Wells, visit Russia as "specially conducted" trippers—so-called investigators—and have all they see carefully cooked for them. But even they, I notice, seem quite glad to get back to Christendom that still acknowledges Christ as Lord. They do not want to settle where "the Gospel is not." Let them settle in Russia and talk as freely about its rulers as they do under the shadow of St. Paul's, they would know about it. Yes. They would soon find that where the Son of Man is spit on, murder becomes rife. Now we come to a land of which it cannot be said, that the Gospel is unknown but where it is not operative to any extent in its public and social life. I mean China. Why is it that rich Chinese in Peking build sumptuous houses in Tientsin? We rightly call them "funkholes." It is because Peking and other interior places "where Christ's law is not" are not as safe as in Tientsin where Christian law does prevail. The Hon. Bertrand Russell seems to think Chinese civilization is, in some respects, superior to our's. Well, let him build a villa in Honan or somewhere in the interior, as some people want us all to do, and come wholly under Chinese law. He would find out that a cottage in West Ham is better than a sumptuous villa in Honan. All these laudators of Chinese civilization live in the foreign settlements or get back as quickly as they can out of it to Christendom. China! There is the scandalous case of Mr. Elly Widler, one of my old Shanghai Boys' Brigade Boys who still holds the record for the high jump for boys on this coast—it is some 5 ft. 9 in. There he is engaged in legitimate business, yet captured, not by bandits but by an official and thrust into a filthy prison and starved on rotten food. What is the use and where is the justice of the lie that "these things happen in the west." No they don't. In Christendom there are no generals with thousands of troops who yet let bandits in thousands rob and murder under their noses. People who talk as if the Bible, as if Christ had done nothing to create respect for man and law will have a sore time of it when they all "stand before the judgment-seat of Christ" to give an account of themselves, I have in my hand a cutting from a recent paper. An unhappy place called Likwanchiao has been bandited—"2,000 casualties"—and I read of people being soaked in paraffin and set on fire. Yes, it would do good if some of the pundits of culture who come round the world lecturing on the defects of Christian civilization were to have a spell at Likwanchiao and in scores of other wretched Chinese cities. No doubt there are some outrages in Christian lands but the difference is huge. In our lands the law is operative. Here it isn't. It is all pretence.

THE SOWER OF CHRISTIANITY.

There is no time to go into the whole subject of all that the west owes to the Bible and to Jesus Christ. His words, His spirit, His personality have so inter-woven themselves with the thought and everyday life of the west that all these miserable critics seem unaware that nine out of ten subjects of thought and action are what they are through Him. Our commonest presuppositions are not Teutonic, not Celtic but Christian. Christ's idea of things are of the very air we breathe. Take the value set on man as man. Where do we get that? From this that Christ died for us. "Thy brother for whom Christ died" is Paul's standard of value, and it is ours. Honour to women, to children, to the poor and miserable are wholly Christian. Pity for the useless cripple is Christian. I read lately in a book by one of these high-browed superficial unbelievers of his method of dealing with aborigines of lands like Australia. He would give them 20 years to civilize themselves, then "by methods known to us" finish them. That is, put them in lethal chambers like mangy dogs. Yes, as soon as His "law is not," man soon shews what he really is. We talk about "western civilization." Its proper name is *Christian* civilization. It is absurd to suppose that all modern amenities, discoveries and improvements in the means of living have originated in Christian lands and that never the less Christianity has had nothing to do with them. Why is the east learning from the west? Because the west has had the Christ of God, the Son of Man, the Saviour in it. The power of Christ is always at work cleaning away sins, even in lands where He is not openly acknowledged. They cannot keep Him out. Chinese have denied to me that the destruction of baby girls has ever been practiced in China. They know it has been but they are ashamed to admit it. I have no doubt that *hara-kiri*, or bowel gashing will soon disappear from Japan. Why? Because of the pressure of Christian ideas of man though Japan is not yet a declared Christian land. We have not to measure the power of Christ by the number of individual conversions that take place but by the constant leavening of the life of the world, by the sweetness, the grace, the humanity, the truth, and love of the Saviour. His kingdon is always coming because he is always present.

CHINA'S SKIES FOR JANUARY

By Sirius.

2 Earth in perihelion, 10 a.m. Distance from Sun 91,341,000 miles.
3 Mars in conjunction with moon, midnight. Mars 4°.4 S.
Mercury attains its ascending node, 4 a.m.
4 Moon in perigee, 6.0 p.m.
Jupiter in conjunction with moon, 9 a.m. Jupiter 4°.5 S.
6 New moon ●, 8.34 p.m.
Slight cold sets in, Hsiao-han 小寒
7 Mercury in conjunction with moon, 7 p.m. Mercury 1°.6 S.
9 Venus in conjunction with moon, 4 a.m. Venus 3°.2 S.
13 Mercury in inferior conjunction with Sun noon.
14 First quarter (moon) ☽, 6.30 a.m.
16 Moon in apogee, 0.5 p.m.
18 Occultation of Aldebaran in Taurus, 4.6 a.m.
21 Sun enters Aquarius 3.20 p.m.
Severe cold commences Ta-han 大寒
22 Full moon ○, 8.43 a.m.
23 Saturn in quadrature, 3 p.m.
24 Mercury stationary in the heavens, 7 p.m.
Neptune in conjunction with the moon, 8 p.m. Neptune 1°.4 N.
29 Last quarter (moon) ☾, 1.39 p.m.
Saturn in conjunction with moon, 3 a.m. Saturn 2°.1 S.
31 Mars in conjunction with moon 2 p.m. Mars 4°.9 S.

PHASES OF THE MOON.

	Day.	Hour.	
New moon	● 6	8.34 p.m.	Peking time
First quarter	☽ 14	6.30 a.m.	
Full moon	○ 22	8.43 a.m.	
Last quarter	☾ 29	1.39 p.m.	
Moon in perigee	4	6.0 p.m.	
„ apogee	16	0.5 p.m.	

RISING AND SETTING OF THE SUN AT INTERVALS OF 5 DAYS.

	Rises	Sets
1	7.0 a.m.	5.7 p.m.
5	7.1 a.m.	5.10 p.m.
10	7.2 a.m.	5.14 p.m.
15	7.1 a.m.	5.18 p.m.
20	7.0 a.m.	5.23 p.m.
25	6.58 a.m.	5.28 p.m.
30	6.55 a.m.	5.32 p.m.

In January, the mornings increase 5 minutes in the latter half of the month, and the afternoons 25 minutes, making a total of half an hour for the latitude of Shanghai.

ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPAL PLANETS.

MERCURY.—An evening star, visible in the first week of the month. Attains its ascending node on the 3rd; in conjunction with moon on 7th; in inferior conjunction with the sun on 13th; stationary on 24th.
Sets on 6th at 6.16 p.m. (1h. 6m. after sunset).

VENUS.—An early evening star in Capricornus, moving later on into Aquarius. Visible for over 2 hours after sunset, low down in the S.W.
In conjunction with moon on 9th (3rd after new).
Sets on 1st at 7.14 p.m.;
„ 16th at 7.45 p.m.;
„ 30th at 8.18 p.m.

MARS.—An early evening star in Libra, advancing at the end of the month into Scorpio.
In conjunction with moon on 3rd and again on 31st.
Rises on 1st 3.3 a.m. (3h. 57m. before sun):
„ 16th at 2.50 a.m.;
„ 30th at 2.38 a.m.

JUPITER.—A morning star in Scorpio, north of Antares. In conjunction with moon on 4th.
Rises on 1st at 4.40 a.m.;
„ 16th at 3.45 a.m.;
„ 30th at 3.12 a.m.
(3h. 43m. before the sun).

SATURN.—An early morning star in Virgo, visible from midnight till sunrise at the end of the month.

to be a tragedy or a crime.

Under existing conditions the maintenance of the burlesque is profitable to the official caste. The perpetuation of disorder is profitable to those in office and dear to all aspirants; and the existing state of chaos gives perfect liberty to those who have pet theories to work out or fight out, like Wu Pei-fu and Sun Yat-sen, to experiment to their hearts' content at the expense of China's peace and the expense of those who have relations with China. The restoration of peace and something like Government therefore depends very largely upon finding a way of making disorder unprofitable to the troublemakers, a thesis which the writer has stated before and which he shall have reason to reiterate so often before he is finished that it will be very monotonous. Incidental to this root desideratum, however, there are a number of very obvious conditions to the reunification of China and the re-establishment of peace.

PEKING'S BANDITS AND OTHERS.

Somewhere, in Peking or elsewhere, a Government must be set up which will inspire trust and respect throughout the country, so that no party or element will have a legitimate excuse for withholding either financial, military or moral support. One cannot expect the provincial satraps, in their independent position to remit money to Peking when they have reason to believe that this same money would be squandered more recklessly by the Peking parasites than by their own. One cannot expect to re-establish the ancient prestige of Peking in the provinces while Peking's officials have neither the physical nor the moral force to command respect.

The demoralized army, useless alike for national defence and for the preservation of internal order, must be reduced to a minimum before there can be any hope of reforming it and making a compact national army of it. Five divisions of the right kind of troops could restore order in China within a year. One hundred and twenty divisions of armed coolies and uniformed tufei are simply so many useful beasts of burden gone wrong.

To make possible the disbandment of troops a first essential step is the discouragement of banditry. The disbanded soldier who has never known any real discipline in the ranks, now has two alternatives when he leaves the army. One is to go home and work and the other is to turn bandit until he is reinlisted. The first essential towards the restoration of order is to eliminate the second of these alternatives so that when the soldier leaves the army he will have nothing more attractive to do than hunt for work. All this talk of providing soldiers with public work or of opening new fields of colonization to soldiers is criminal nonsense at this juncture. The first task before the military who really want to reduce their armies is to use what forces they have to make banditry so horribly unprofitable that no disbanded soldier will think of turning to it if he can find honest employment. After that, if there is not work for all, it is time enough to talk of new public works and of soldier colonies on the frontiers.

THE CHINESE LOVE OF PRETENCE.

Of course the military commanders will never disband their half trained, half paid, truculent, half-bandit, and wholly useless hordes of armed coolies until they have to. The Chinese are very fond of form and shadow; very fond of "face" and bluff. The magistrate making an official progress through his bailliwick would rather have a hundred recruited beggars, whom the whole world knows to be beggars, carrying his insignia of office than ten decently clad and efficient bodyguards of his own. The Chinese diplomatist would rather be Minister of Foreign Affairs in a Government internationally recognized, though its edicts carried not beyond the city walls, than a provincial commissioner of foreign affairs in a province enjoying millions monthly in revenues and commanding general respect through a perfect administration. The Chinese General would, by the same token, rather command ten divisions of wholly useless and generally mutinuous ruffians with sticks in their hands than one division of the world's best troops with the most modern equipment. While this spirit prevails it is wholly useless to talk of disbandment. This spirit has first to be broken.

Bandit suppression is another task which no official will ever undertake seriously until he has to. First of all the bandits make good recruiting material. Secondly they do not bother the officials much but prey upon the people. Thirdly, it pays to have the soldiers making fein's at the bandits which they do not follow up, because the bandits then abandon their loot in opium and specie which the soldiers seize, thereby enriching themselves at the indirect expense of the people, so that they do not have to be paid so often.

Finally, no military commander wants to tax the endurance or strain the loyalty of his soldiers in bandit suppression when he may be called upon at any time to use the full strength of his cohorts for his own political advancement. Armies, under the modern pernicious system in China have come to be the personal political weapons of their commanders like the voting following of a Chicago ward boss. The strength of these armies must not be dissipated in the public service or they might fail the big chief when his personal interests were at stake. Until this attitude is made unprofitable there is no chance of peace and order in China.

THE POLITICAL SCAVENGERS.

The establishment of a decent Government in Peking which no provincial could conscientiously refuse to support is so much a matter of personality, plus diplomatic attitude, that it is an extremely delicate subject at this juncture. One of the first essentials to such a Government is the elimination of the riff-raff. Tsao Kun's people realize this and are busy working towards such elimination, but the joke of it is that when all the riff-raff is eliminated there will be no one left but Tsao Kun, whereupon Tientsin will have another distinguished resident. In all China there are only two men in line for a dictatorship, benevolent or otherwise, who are not encumbered with huge followings of political scavengers. They are Wu Pei-fu and Chang Tso-lin. Wu Pei-fu does not want the responsibility and has not the executive ability to rule the country if it were thrust upon him. Chang Tso-lin's record is against him. China simply would not tolerate him and, if he were established in Peking, his egotism and selfishness would ruin him within a few months. Tuan Chi-jui and Sun Yat-sen would be hopelessly lost and helpless without their retinues of evil geniuses whom the Chinese people would not abide for a fortnight at this juncture. The immaculate Peking Government is conditional upon the will of some fighting individual with administrative ability and the still rarer ability to discipline his "gang" to seize the capital and cleanse it. Not only is the fighting individual with administrative ability conspicuously lacking at this moment, but the will to live up to responsibilities and discipline the riff-raff does not exist in the minds of the few courageous fighters now adorning the Chinese chequer board. The bearing of the diplomatic attitude upon the state of Peking is most important, but has another place in this discussion. It need only be added, in surveying the existing field, that while neither Wu Pei-fu nor Chang Tso-lin is now encumbered with the political followings which are the curse of other leaders, neither could establish himself firmly in a dictatorship without using as allies a great horde of pernicious military freebooters who would expect the chief to perpetuate the special prerogatives of their class established under the Republic. There is therefore little immediate hope for the evolution of an immaculate Peking Government enjoying anything like authority before the fundamental conditions essential to good order have been met. It all leads back to the original thesis: that disorder must be made unprofitable, etc., etc.

SOLUTIONS BEFORE THE PUBLIC.

The major schemes hitherto broached for the restoration of peace and unity in China all fall under the following heads:—

Reunification by force under the "one strong man."

A conference of the big leaders under the moral check of public opinion.

The restoration of the Manchu monarchy.

The erection of a new dynasty.

Peaceful evolution under the new constitution.

A federation of autonomous provinces.

Foreign intervention.

In the writer's humble opinion no one of these suggestions can be wholly rejected and yet no one of them offers a complete solution. The arguments for and against each would fill a library and would then satisfy no one. An outline of these may serve, however, to stimulate discussion which is what we need if there is to be such a thing as intelligent public opinion.

(To be Continued)

THE FOUR FIGHTING BUDDHAS OF THE CHIHLI PARTY

(八金剛), *the four chin-kang or big idols usually found and supposed to stand guard at the entrance of a Buddhist temple).*

There are various signs of mutual distrust and jealousy noticeable among the Chihli partisans, remarks the "Shanghai Journal of Commerce." It has been for some time recognized that three distinct factions hold sway in the Chihli fold, to wit: the Paoting, Tientsin and Loyang factions. General Wu Pei-fu, the Loyang leader, is admittedly the one enjoying the strongest military backing. Having emerged victorious from many a military conflict, he has acquired a proud and overbearing manner in his dealings with not only his inferiors, but also his equals.

General Wang Chen-ping, the Tuli of Chihli, is the bulwark of the Tientsin clique, (although Tsao Jui is the real leader.) Wang, having successfully waylaid the Presidential train and secured the Presidential seals and rendered other signal services in connexion with the election of Tsao Kun, was soon appointed Tuli of Chihli as well as Deputy Inspector-General of Chihli, Shantung and Honan; but being still subordinate to Wu Pei-fu, he is by no means satisfied. His chief ambition is to gain the power of control over the norther section of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway.

NANKING'S CRUMPLED ROSELEAF.

Besides these three factions General Chi Hsieh-yuan, strongly ensconced at Nanking, has always thought himself to be the sole trustee as regards affairs in and concerning the southeastern provinces. His promotion to the Inspector-Generalship of Kiangsu, Anhui and Kiangsi has whetted his ambition to such an extent that he is reported to be casting covetous eyes on Chêkiang. In this direction, his aggressive policy is, however, somewhat thwarted by Wu Pei-fu, who considers himself to be the senior among Tsao Kun's counsellors (he often speaks of himself as the eldest son of Tsao Kun), and who has been consistently advocating an alliance with Tuan Chi-jui and Lu Yung-hsiang. Wu is said to have assured a deputation from Chêkiang that no one would have the temerity to attack Chêkiang without his consent, which assurance sounds in the ear of Chi Hsieh-yuan like a challenge to his authority, since Chi has always regarded the southern section of the Tsin-pu Railway and all regions in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River as solely within his sphere of influence, while Wu, being Inspector-General of Chihli, Shantung and Honan, has really had no right to meddle in his (Chi's) affairs

HUPEH'S METEORIC RISE.

Then there is General Hsiao Yao-nan, Tuchun of Hupeh, whose meteoric rise to power has been chiefly due to Wu Pei-fu's patronage and who should of course belong to the Loyang faction. But his appointment to be Inspector-General of Hunan and Hupeh has raised his position to the same level as that of Wu Pei-fu. Although Hsiao appears outwardly to be as willing as ever to defer to the wishes of Wu, yet sometimes he finds it hard to suppress a rising feeling of revolt when Wu, accustomed to treat him as his subordinate, is issuing orders or making decisions without consulting him in the least.

These four leaders are popularly known as the four fighting Buddhas of the Chihli Party. Although Wu Pei-fu of Loyang, Wang Chen-ping of Tientsin, Chi Hsieh-yuan of Nanking and Hsiao Yao-nan of Hupeh are all apparently serving their chief Tsao Kun as loyally as of yore, it is nevertheless an indisputable fact that the Chihli Party has split itself into many petty factions, each working for its own interest or for that of its leader without any guiding principle and regardless of the common good; and that they will some day inevitably fall out and then we may see the end of the Chihli Party, is a foregone conclusion.

THE Kiangsu Educational Association (one of the strongest organizations in China) has lodged a protest with the authorities against the establishment of a long-distance telephone service between Nanking and Shanghai as they fear that the service will be used as a mortgage for a new provincial loan.

A SYSTEM of house tax is being considered by the Peking Municipal Council whereby there will be three classes of houses. Those of the first-class will be charged at the rate of 30 cents per room per month, the second-class 20 cents and the third-class 10 cents. Buildings of more than one storey will be counted as 10 rooms irrespective of the number contained. The levying of such a tax on the homes of foreigners has not yet been decided upon.

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SHANGHAI HONGKONG

CHINA'S SEARCH FOR PEACE

Can She Hope to Find It? The Causes of Her Falling to Pieces: Facts to Be Faced Before Remedy

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Dec. 25.

This is the season when the minds of all good Christians ought to turn, not lightly but quite solemnly, to thoughts of peace. A good many million so-called "heathen" have been sending out telepathic (one is almost inclined to crowd more into the word and write it telepathetic) prayers for [illegible] past without regard to season and would probably find it difficult to wish more ardently at one time than at another for the restoration of order in the Middle Kingdom. Foreign traders, bankers, [illegible] consuls and diplomats in China all pine for the restoration of order and watch every movement that appears to open a way to peace with such ardour that they are ready to commit any indiscretion in the pursuit of this Will o' the Wisp. If there was ever a Power which fostered disorder in China as a policy, it has long since buried that policy under a mountain of regrets. As a stimulus to peace thoughts Sir Robert Ho Tung has lately spent a great deal of time and energy in an attempt to bring all the disturbers of the peace in China together in a conference upon which public opinion would be focussed with such intensity that they would be forced to come to some agreement or confess that they had no desire for peace. As a further stimulus at this season a contemporary has offered prizes for the best peace programmes. There cannot be too much agitation along these lines, nor too much discussion whether intelligent or otherwise. From a confusion of opinions and expressions of opinion an orderly programme may well be evolved to which all thinking men in China, whether Chinese or outsiders, can adhere. Unless a plan is evolved through discussion of many plans public opinion will never advance beyond a vague yearning which the fathers of disorder in China can safely ignore and peace in China will have to await the slow and painful political evolution of order. Neither the people of China nor the outside world has the patience for this.

The writer of this article, like scores of others who make it their business to think about Chinese affairs, has worked out no panacea for China's ills. Some of the causes of disorder are, however, apparent and it does no harm to review them. Some of the conditions essential to the restoration of order are also fairly apparent. Some of the means by which these conditions may be met can also be pointed out. That these things are worth pointing out, however clumsily, is the writer's apology for entering upon what will probably be a long and tedious dissertation.

DIRECT OPPONENTS OF PEACE

[illegible] squarely it must first be understood that there is a fair-sized army of persons in China who do not want peace, nor reunification, nor the establishment of a respectable Government capable of maintaining order throughout the country. Some of these persons do not want peace on any conditions because they know that there would be [illegible] on [illegible] made an efficient Government. Others want peace on condition that they or their cliques are the absolute masters of the provinces and that they shall monopolize all the privileges, perquisites, powers and profits which Governments enjoy under the "Republic." These conditions are not consistent with the establishment of a permanent and efficient Government because these persons are for the most part wholly unfit to build or manage such a Government. These conditions are therefore unacceptable to the Chinese people and to the outside world. In addition to these two classes there are comparatively unselfish and unambitious persons in positions of great power who have mapped out their own roads to the re-establishment of order, have evolved their own peace plans, often opposed to the ambitions and peace plans of everyone else and who will not consider for a moment the possibility of restoring order in any way but their own. These three classes include practically every military commander, every politician in office and every political agitator of any influence in China. All of these are either wholly opposed to peace or are unwilling to consider peace except on terms acceptable to themselves only.

The men who do not want peace on any condition are the camp followers and parasites of men like Tsao Kun, Sun Yat-sen, Tuan Chi-jui and of each and every Tuchun, because they know that any respectable Government of whatever nature would eliminate them as an essential to its own respectability and permanence. Every Chinese in touch with public affairs knows who these men are in each camp, so there is no need to create bad feeling by making a list of them. The perpetuation of disorder is absolutely essential to the continued power and profit of a great number of persons in both Tsao Kun's and Dr. Sun's camps, for instance.

SPECIAL PRESERVES.

Chang Tso-lin would never consider any scheme of reunification in China which would not leave him absolute monarch of the Three Eastern Provinces. Tang Chi-yao, under certain conditions, might agree to acknowledge the sovereignty of Peking if he were left to rule his own domain as a feudal prince. Chi Hsieh-yuan would never yield absolute obedience to any Government. He is pleased to be the supporter of Peking because he needs Peking's support, but he is not the servant of Peking either as a military commander or as a governor. No matter how clean and benevolent a Government is established in Peking, Canton or elsewhere, he will continue to keep the pot boiling, to foment political conspiracies and feuds and to advocate such piffle as provincial autonomy (meaning autonomy for Chi Hsieh-yuan) until he sees some chance of stepping into his objective, the Presidency, when he, like Tsao Kun, will become a pious advocate of reunification—under himself. No one, in or out of a conference, will ever be able to persuade Dr. Sun Yat-sen and General Wu Pei-fu that they are not "called" to reunite China by force. Each claims, with genuine fervour, to yearn for peace; but each firmly believes that there can be no peace in China while the other is above the sod. Each is ready and willing, in the interest of eventual peace of course, to drain China dry in order to eliminate the other and a lot of lesser lights.

While all these promoters of disorder in China remain in positions of power, or continue to hope for power or continue to believe that in carrying on civil war they are working for China, peace seems very remote indeed. To bring the prospect of peace into the foreground it is obvious that China's whole official caste will have to be disciplined in some way. Some will have to be eliminated, others converted either by suasion or force, but in a more general way the fundamental problem of the restoration of order in China is how to force all the fathers of chaos in China to want peace, to make disorder as unprofitable and as uncomfortable to the official caste as it now is for the Chinese people and for foreign traders. Any scheme which does not take this fundamental problem into consideration goes wide of the mark and is wholly superficial. One must always bear in mind that a great majority of the men now wielding power in China will not find peace and reunification desirable except under the most stringent coercion, whether moral or physical, and in evolving a scheme for the restoration of order one must provide for such coercion in one form or another.

The events and tendencies which have wrecked efficient Government in China, disorganized the army, built up the Tuchun system, made promiscuous civil war profitable, promoted wide spread banditry and pauperized the Peking Government, are fairly familiar to all foreign residents, but a review of suggested cures for this state of things has to be prefaced by a review of causes to make a complete picture.

CHINESE NOT HOMOGENEOUS.

The Chinese people are not nearly so homogeneous as most Occidentals think. The original Chinese in the lower Yellow River valley were surrounded by non-Chinese people of a hundred breeds. Very few of these came into the Chinese amalgamation voluntarily. China was built up into a great union by successive conquests and each accretion was cemented to the whole, partly by a mixture of blood which partially obliterated racial and linguistic differences, but much more through the cultural invasion which followed every invasion by force of arms. This cultural cementing process is still going on and, in a round dozen Chinese provinces is by no means complete. Until very recently nothing resembling a national consciousness or a national spirit existed in China. On the contrary, there has always been a powerful centrifugal force at work in China, fostered by prejudices based on the consciousness of racial and linguistic differences, which has had to be periodically checked by force. Each successive dynasty since the time of Ch'in Shih-huang, builder of the Great Wall, has had to reconquer China and reassemble the flying fragments. The Emperors of each successive dynasty have ruled first as conquerors and then as cultural high-priests and then as the fathers of a large family—the "four hundred million brothers." The Chinese people have under each successive dynasty been first the conquered slaves, then the worshippers and then the children of the Emperors. It was upon these conditions that unity and respect for authority in China have always been built and upon no other. China has never been united in recent centuries through the common consent of its varied factors, or through a common race consciousness or through a common national feeling, but through a common fealty to the reigning Emperor inspired either through fear or respect. Officials throughout the Empire were obeyed and tribute was paid them because they were the personal delegates of the Emperor and therefore shared to some degree his holiness as conqueror, cultural high-priest and all-father of the 400,000,000.

WHEN THE MANCHUS FELL.

It was along these traditional lines that the Manchus conquered China, fathered in the outlying fragments which had broken off, became cultural high priests and fathers of the people. In the latter two rôles they continued to rule long after their real military force had been spent. In the middle of the last century the prestige of the dragon throne received such rude shocks that if it had not been for the tradition of Imperial holiness, the Manchu Dynasty would have been overthrown. The Taiping rebellion was put down, not by the Manchus but by Chinese armies under Chinese generals, assisted by foreigners. The great Moslem rebellion in the Northwest was suppressed by a Chinese general. The French and British forces invaded Peking and forced the Emperor to fly to Jehol. The outcome of the Chinese-Japanese war was a tremendous humiliation to the Manchus and gave great impetus to the growth of anti-dynastic secret societies throughout the country. The Boxer war struck the last blow at Manchu prestige, after which the Dynasty did nothing but attempt to conciliate its many enemies within the realm and started to slide inevitably to its doom. The Revolution of 1911 found the whole nation ready and willing to see the Manchu rulers hounded out of the high places, but really no more ready for the overthrow of the traditional Imperial system and the substitution of a democracy than at the end of the Oun, T'ang or Mongol dynasties. This is a truth which most foreigners, the writer among others, has had to learn since the event when the great majority of us were ardent Republicans and were delighted to find China, as we thought, emerging from darkness into a full appreciation of the blessings of the Occidental brand of democracy.

What the vast majority of the Chinese people were really ready for and willing to concur in at the time of the revolution, was a change of dynasty and not a change of system or an obliteration of old traditions. They did not expect nor want a Republic, because not one in ten thousand had the slightest conception of what a Republic was or how such a Government's affairs were ordered. Not one high official in a hundred had any idea what democracy meant. They haven't now. It happened, however, that the hotheads who took the lead in the anti-dynastic movement were imbued with foreign ideas of democracy and because they had the courage to take the initiative their ideas prevailed. It also happened that Yuan Shih-kai saw an opportunity in the Revolution to get rid of his disreputable and discredited Manchu masters and to make the modern Peiyang army which he had created the ruling element in China and therefore allowed the revolutionaries to win and saw fit to cede them a certain amount of "face."

YUAN'S GREAT MISTAKE.

The only mistake which Yuan Shih-kai made was in crushing the Manchus first and in trying to crush the revolutionaries afterwards. Had he used his Peiyang army, then a solid and invincible organization, to crush the Republican revolution and had he then removed the Manchus, he could have established a new dynasty without much if any fighting and would have satisfied the real aspirations of the Chinese people who really wanted fresh blood in a new native dynasty as opposed to a worn out line of degenerate aliens. By pretending to be "president," by heaping honours upon the half-baked Republicans, by tolerating a parliament of the wild-eyed in Peking, before attempting to set up his dynasty, Yuan Shih-kai gave unlimited "face" to the promotors of the imported and wholly misunderstood "isms" and allowed time for a whole lexicon of imported republican cant to be translated into Chinese and to be made sacred shibboleths within the official caste. Thousands of nobodies in every province in China who memorized this lexicon of cant attained official positions. Thousands of petty persons who could show that they had worn officer's uniform on the revolutionary side were given lucrative administrative posts. The poor old chaps brought up in the imperial mandarinate were utterly bewildered but hastened to conform. They bought foreign clothes, learned to shake hands and to doff their bowler hats gracefully, quickly acquired the necessary republican vocabulary and found that it paid. They, like the upstarts, rose as they could never have hoped to have risen under the Empire. So, when Yuan Shih-kai tried to set up his new dynasty, he found not only the new upstart element against him but that a vast majority of the old boys, who had learned that ignorance, impudence and anarchy—alias democracy—paid, were also determined that real authority and respect for authority should not be restored. These are all home truths about China which the majority of us have fought against believing for many years but which later developments have proved up to the hilt.

THE UPRISING OF THE TUCHUNS.

After Yuan Shih-kai's death, in the late spring of 1916, the next strongest man in the Peiyang military clique took over the control of China's affairs and promptly took the one essential step towards the disintegration of China and the demoralization of the army. He called a Tuchun conference. Immediately after the Revolution certain provinces had come under the control of revolutionary militarists while others had been put under the control of Peiyang militarists by Yuan Shih-kai. The provincial administrations had become military in opposition to China's most sacred traditions; yet the old idea of receiving Peking's mandates with hesitant fingers and of "trembling and obeying" was by no means dead. This idea Tuan Chi-jui killed by calling the first conference of provincial military governors, the first Tuchun conference. The military small fry, who had risen to titles and emoluments beyond their dreams under Yuan Shih-kai, were actually invited to Peking to help to frame Peking's policy. They naturally went back to their provinces with the idea that Peking could not do without them, could not replace them and that Peking therefore owed them a living. These ideas were further fostered under the presidencies of Feng Kuo-chang and Hsu Shih-chang. Peking not only neglected to exact tribute from the provinces, but actually bought their continued allegiance through liberal subsidies paid out of the proceeds of Japanese loans—the loans of the notorious Nishihara series. Under such conditions the Tuchuns regarded their appointments as governors as rights of *carte blanche* exploitation. They overtaxed their provinces, keeping the entire proceeds and remitting nothing to Peking, and at the same time insisted upon receiving funds from Peking for the payment of their troops, which were no more units in the national army but bands of personal retainers over whom Peking had no control except at the pleasure of the Tuchun. If the Tuchun of Hupeh was moved to Shantung he took his personal army with him. If Peking demurred, he sat where he was and declared his independence, defying Peking to move him.

"PSEUDO."

Without reviewing modern history further, this brief outline of events and tendencies will suffice to show what is the matter with China and why. Before the Republicans and other liberals rise upon their hind legs and start wailing the constitutionalist wail, it might be well to state that this is not an argument for monarchical restoration. Not because a restoration might not be a good thing at that, but because it is not at the moment practicable—worse luck—since so many professional scoundrels have discovered how to make capital out of their adherence to a pseudo-republicanism. Most of the "isms" in China are pseudo-something-or-other. Chinese militarism is pseudo-militarism because militarism implies before anything else discipline, compact organization and loyalty; and because these happen to be the things that are most conspicuously lacking in the disrupted Chinese army. Democracy is pseudo-democracy because only one out of ten thousand individuals in China has the slightest conception of either the rights or the duties of an individual under a democracy. China's sovereign rights are pseudo-rights because neither the official caste, nor the people nor the nation as such (not to mention the various figure-head Governments) has ever done anything to earn or merit sovereign rights. The Chinese Government is most obviously a pseudo-government because it does not govern, does not collect taxes, does not pay debts and does not discharge treaty obligations. Constitutionalism is bogus because no one except those in whose favour the various constitutions have been written (namely, the writers) ever read them or pretend to understand them. In short the whole performance of Government in China is a farce, when it does not happen

WOMAN'S PAGE

NEW THROUGH AND THROUGH

O new, new hope! O sweep and scope
Of the glad, unlying seal
You are new, new, new—with the promise true
Of the dream isles to be.
—R. HOVEY.

By Elizabeth Pepys.

After the joy and sparkle of the Christmas holidays there comes to most of us a bit of a let down, a certain feeling of sad satiety. Not physical repletion, although it is true that in general we have "tried all *hors-d'œuvres*, all liqueurs defined, judicious drank and greatly daring, dined" which may have much to do with the *blasé* attitude to life which we adopt with dying December.

1923 is now over. Whether it has been good or bad there is little time left in which to improve it. Instead we look eagerly forward to 1924 and its vague promises in the hope that it will bring a stay to the "strain of the sameness grim," and while we mark time waiting for the forward march of the New Year we inwardly resolve that it shall be a better sort of twelth-month than the last.

When a boon it is that the institution of the New Year and the Fresh Leaf and the Balanced Account has taken so firm a grip of the imagination. What a gift the future is, how glorious a lottery the misty to-morrows! Logically, as well as sentimentally, every day is a fresh beginning; but when all of our world is beginning over again with us there is a great cumulative surge of resolution which sweeps along as if on a tidal wave.

Wherefore, Dearly Beloved, let us not gibe at the despised New Year resolution for there is still considerable motive power in the contagion of mob psychology and why not use it wisely, lining up for individual and community advances easily possible if undertaken with the zest which comes of a vivid outside stimulus combined with personal idealism. Only let it not be said of us as Bliss Carmon says of "The Mendicants:"

Hopeless or witless! Not one heeds,
Is lavish Time comes down the way
And tosses in the suppliant hat
One great, new-minted gold To-day."

VANISHED OLD LADIES

The Youthful Silhouette Holding the Stage

By Elizabeth Pepys.

"Of course a woman of thirty wears only gray or black because by then she has either met him or lost him." In the American Lady's Memorial, dated 1840, this is given as the unvarying rule of conduct. Indeed, the words are capitalized to stress the propriety of such behaviour, the Quakerish raiment underscored to mark the meekness of adventure. Women of a certain age surrendered quietly their chance of romance. They had nothing further to expect.

Thus Margaret Emerson Bailey introduces her poignant study of Mrs. Whitman and the poet Poe, the Dove and the Raven as she names it; but somehow the opening sentence starts us to contrasting the time when a woman of 30 had definitely done with romance with the present period when many of the modern heroines of realistic novels do not begin their careers until after that age.

When it comes to styles one almost thinks that there are no such things as old ladies any more unless one is a very *grande dame* wishful to accentuate one's dignity or an uncompromising rigid member of the older generation such as figure in Gertrude Atherton's "Black Oxen." Every costume seems to have been designed for the super-emaciated mannequin who must keep herself trained down as rigorously as any jockey. The lithe slim line of youth is apparently the only line of beauty.

HOW TO LOOK SLENDER.

Having decided that nowadays nobody is old, the undesirable fact remains, however, that some figures do look old in that they have ample and matronly curves instead of the angular outlines of our popular beauties. To affect the virtue of slimness if we have it not, a few hints towards mitigating the alarming tightness of the latest models, which certainly were never intended for the portly are herewith bestowed.

The straight, tube-like silhouette may be obtained by drapery cunningly adjusted, a cape-back, the softly floating panel, a vaguely enveloping sash, the apron, loose tunic or the division of the gown into a skirt and tunic blouses. The short cape must be carefully ballanced or else it fails in its mission. The general idea of these devices is to give an entirely flat effect and it is only when in motion or from a side-view that the cape is disclosed as a separate entity.

The long floating panel, bias-edged, is favoured by Worth and those hanging panels in lace are pretty additions to dancing frocks. In tulle of a contrasting colour with the gown they are charming when attached to the

THE PILLAR OUTLINE.

shoulder. The afternoon models, too, which have a slight flare at the side take away that exaggeratedly tight effect and still give the straight line in the main, while there are many indications that the full bell shaped skirt will return.

OPEN SEASON FOR SHANGHAI BACHELORS

Big Game Making for Cover:

By Elizabeth Pepys.

As every Shanghai maiden and doubtless most of the eligible men about are fully aware, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-four is a Leap Year wherein the gentler sex, usually so timid and shrinking, may with propriety lay aside the *rôle* of clinging vine and appear as the huntress Diana, with bow and spear. Verily Leap Year is a marvellous agency for the equalization of the sexes.

Still as Bernard Shaw, H. L. Mencken and other ungallant gentlemen have pointed out, woman is often the pursuer even in years which are not divisible by four, so man may after all be in not much greater jeopardy during the coming twelve months than he has been before. If men ever read Woman's Pages—and many superior intellects do—they might learn of plots and stratagems aimed against their single state. The ingenuity of high-salaried syndicate writers like Dorothy Dix, Beatrice Fairfax, or Mildred Champagne struggles to disclose to millions of feminine readers the world around: "How to Wear A Wedding Ring" "Why Men Like Widows," or "The Way to the Altar."

A recent article by Dorothy Dix, however, is disappointing. Writes she:

"There is no cut-and-dried follow-this-rule-and-you-cannot-fail way of doing it, because every man, so far as women are concerned, is a bunch of individual idiosyncrasies, and tastes, and prejudices, and must be approached in a different way, and worked by different methods. There is no standardized master-key to the masculine heart."

Hardly a sporting way to accept the challenge of her announced subject, which is "How to Win a Husband." Any inquiring maiden who had bought the paper on the strength of the headline would be justified in demanding her money back. How is she to know what sort of a man she has fixed her affections upon unless she be sufficiently expert in the newest fads to "psyche" her best beloved?

USEFUL HINTS.

But Dorothy goes on with a few suggestions which we haste to broadcast for the good of girls in general instead of keeping them strictly for our own use as we naturally desire to do. "Some men," says Miss Dix, "are won through their eyes. The only thing that appeals to them in a woman is beauty.

A woman's looks are all-in-all to such men, and the only way a woman can win one of them is to be better-looking than her rivals, or else develop such hypnotic powers that she will be able to make him see her as she wishes him to see her, and not as she is."

Not being able to outdistance beautiful rivals, the burning question with us is: How learn hypontism? It hardly seems a subject to be acquired by correspondence and we know of no local practitioners. Mme Palermo seems able to do anything, so it might be well to consult her.

The second type of man according to Dorothy's classification has to be jollied into falling in love with a girl. There are men who never care for any woman unless they know that she cares for them. They like to be flattered, caressed."

Easy as far as it goes but one must be sure the diagnosis of character is correct for as the author later remarks:

There are many other men who are won by a jolt instead of a jolly. To be flouted by a woman rouses their combative instinct and makes them determined to win her. A slap in the face will do more to arouse such men's interest than a kiss would.

SHALL SHE FLATTER OR FLOUT?

Which method is a girl to pursue. To choose wrongly spells failure. To our humble way of thinking we should feel that one is likely to make a fatal error, and if we might differ slightly from a recognized authority we might suggest that the Shanghai Diana study her own type rather than that of the man she wishes to ensnare. Let her say seriously to herself: "Am I a born flatterer or a natural flouter? In my sub-deb days when I refused to attend a rugger game with the next door boy did he take my hated rival and bask happily in her society thereafter, or was he plunged in gloom, only emerging to buy me sweets and beseech my company upon the day of the big match? When I told the first genius I ever met how I adored his poems did he ask to dedicate his next volume to me, or did he remember an engagement with the man across the room?" Unflinching self-examination should reveal the method best suited to her hand.

THE PURSUING WOMEN.

Miss Dix proceeds to state that many men are to be won by women making themselves necessary to them. Some men like to be pursued, and will marry any woman who will stalk them down. Other men prefer to be the hunters. They like coy, illusive women and any woman who appears to run away from them can convince them that she is the Great and Only One.

The tactics to be used depend upon the man and the opportunity, for there are many men of many minds, and they all have a different mind about women.

Which, after all, leaves us pretty much where it found us, doesn't it, except for the emphasis upon the fact that you cannot catch all fish with the same fly. There seems to be grounds for the belief that a nervous man or one of determined character will be able to withstand the perils of 1924 and for the ladies it offers the excitement of difficult quarries, so to the pursued or the pursuing of both sexes, let us only say: with Kipling's Jungle folk Good Hunting!

"SWEARING OFF"

The Favourite New Year's Sport

By Elizabeth Pepys.

Over the egg-noggs of Tuesday some interesting data was collected on that popular amusement known as New Year's Resolutions or more frequently "Swearing Off," and much light thereby thrown on the characters and aspirations of our friends. Of course even more light was let in upon the subject by some of their confidences after

FULNESS CREEPS IN OVER ONE HIP.

midnight the previous evening, but those shall be respected as confidential.

A "DUD" CIGARETTE.

The first move in the right direction was reported by an airy damsel who as she maintained that she was "off fags," waved a lighted cigarette to punctuate her remarks. "Looks that way," we remarked cynically, following with our eyes the blue-grey spiral left by her gesticulating weed. "Sure thing," she responded, "there's nothing to this—no niccotine, that is. The French pharmacy has them, for people like me who don't want to look conspicuous because they know enough to give their lungs a rest occasionally. Besides it is more a habit of my hands, anyway. I like to have something to play with."

"What am I giving up"—this from a modishly attired young person, "Why, nothing. It's dead wrong to give up anything. Sacrifice, and abnegation and repressions are out of date. They are positive sins in 1924, not even negative virtues. I'm going in for everything, just as hard as I can, and I shan't give up a thing unless it's taken away by superior force."

"Something in that," assented her escort." I once said I'd give up cocktails. Never suffered so much in my life as the week I forewent them nor drank so many in the week that followed."

THE REFORMED BOOK BORROWER.

"Now why do you always emphasize the swearing-off side of things," asked the Sweet Young Thing, blushingly conscious of having no failings to correct, "My resolution is to return on January first all the books I've borrowed during the past year."

"That's easy enough," spoke up her brother scornfully, "but I'll wager you haven't enough nerve to ask people to return all the books you've lent them. All you do is to grouse about them at home!"

An awkward silence ensued for a moment, as we all examined our consciences, till the hostess broke the embarassing stillness by saying, "Probably I'm one of the offenders,—I never can remember where I got a book unless the owner's name is writ large therein. Suppose you raid my shelves and help yourselves to any volumes that are yours. You might make a pile of any that have strange names in them too. Hereafter I, too, will have an annual 'Help-yourself-to-your-own-book' day in the manner of our American cousins."

ADJUDGED SOCIALLY BANKRUPT.

"As for me," declared another as she sipped her beverage daintily. "I shall neither abjure my faults nor invite new virtues. I shall simply rid myself of worries by declaring a voluntary bankruptcy on all social obligations, especially on correspondence. Owed letters will be redeemed at the rate of one picture post card per letter, preferred creditors being those who write the newsiest screeds. Dinners will be negotiable for one cup of tea and calls are completely washed out. It is such a delight to face my friends a free woman!"

"My resolve," spoke up one whose face glowed with purpose, "is to have a coat hanger for every garment that can possibly be hung up and a dozen over for company. You know how irritating their absence is, and how one never thinks to have the wooden ones properly covered. We all have our fancies. I mean to have 1924 a luxurious year so far as coat-hangers are concerned. Why deny oneself any harmless pleasure?"

And so ran the refrain from grave to gay at all the samplings we attended until one decided that it was plainly manifest New Year's Day was a wonderful time for stock-taking and that despite several riotous resolves we heard voiced Shanghai was bound to be a brighter and better spot for at least several days after the glorious first.

HOME HUMOURS

An Elizabethan Drama.

Faithful Servant: My Lords, the King is hanged!

Queen: Then farewell, Life! [Drinks the posion.]

Villain: Ha! Ha!

Hero: Defend thyself, dog! [Villain falls.]

Faithful Servant: Mistress, I follow thee! [Stabs himself.]

Heroine: Dead! dead! O heavy tidings! [Dies.]

Hero: What, gone, Clarinda? Then die, Florando! [Falls on his sword.]

[Curtain.]

—SELECTED.

No Cause for Alarm.

Barbara's little white, bull terrier, selfappointed traffic policeman, stood in the middle of the street and barked loudly at an approaching motor. The driver kindly slowed up, whereat Barbara reassured him thus:

"He won't hurt you, Mr. Chauffeur, really he won't."

—"HARPER'S MONTHLY."

The Golf Widow's Revenge.

All summer he had been playing golf, leaving his faithful spouse at home, a golf widow, but now the golfing season has ended and he has come back to the bosom of his family. Silence greeted him as he entered the door. The faithful wife was not there. Searching the empty rooms he found a note pinned to the parlour lamp shade. It read: "I have learned Mah Jongg." That was all, but it was enough. "Good heavens;" he cried, "a Mah Jongg widower!"

—"BIRMINGHAM HERALD."

THE BOOK PAGE

GIOVANNI PAPINI

His "Life of Christ"

By [illegible]

"If God will but grant me strength and leave me my sight." A touching, human sentence. If the conditions are fulfilled, Giovanni Papini intends to write another book on a sublime topic, the story of the Mother of Christ. In this aspiration are expressed poignancy and feeling. His eyes are meanwhile opened: he hopes they will remain so. Knowing the nature of man, individually and in groups, to advance, reach culmination and then decay, which is repeatedly evidenced in history and experience, he realizes that what he fears, but what at present may seem absurd, might at a future date be a very formidable actuality.

From being an extremely unorthodox person, who in his early days did not scruple at uttering the most unthought of and original blasphemies, he has become a man with a vision. Grace was given him to write a remarkable book, remarkable under any circumstances, even considered apart from his record to date. Since it was published (the English version only came out this year) this prolific writer has added at least one other book to his list of creations, "Four and Twenty Minds." (Harrap: 10/6). There is recurrence of his former weakness: conceit due to undoubted high talents, which however can never fully atone for it, appears present. His summing up of the score or more great names is bizarre, patronising, playing to the gallery. Shakespeare, Maeterlinck and others are caricatured cleverly but carelessly, if truth is of any importance. But the mental and spiritual state of Papini when he wrote his 'Life of Christ' resembles not a little that of the Wilde of 'De Profundis.'

THE FIRST BEATITUDE.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit," must not be taken to refer to the simple, the foolish, and the idiotic, Papini healthily reminds us in his study of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus did not particularly summon imbeciles and dullards to the Kingdom. Nor does mere social poverty constitute a passport. It must be vised by a transformation of the soul. The poor in spirit are those who are painfully aware of the moral indigence in which they and the majority dwell. To Christ the highest intelligence consists in understanding that intelligence alone is not sufficient.

Touching Satan, the author of this "Life" writes powerfully. Only the spiritually pure are tempted by Satan. The others do not notice his existence; they habitually obey him from afar. He need never approach: they fling themselves into his arms even before he has called them.

Papini is slightly hysterical in [illegible] to Rich Man. This unfortunate person, he tells us, "has chosen to live in hell, has bartered away his salvation [illegible] he's a mummy, black, deaf, dumb, blind, [illegible] and much more. Complete renunciation of wealth is the sole course. Thus our Fords, Stinneses and Leverhulmes [illegible] might take up street-sweeping. Is Papini at the Square corner selling matches yet?

A noticeable literary fault is Papini's [illegible] already intelligible and beautiful. He adds words which are superfluous and sometimes absurd. Thus, describing the woman with the alabaster box of ointment which she poured over the head and feet of Christ, he informs us:

"She has no napkin of fine linen, and her rose is all unworthy to touch the flesh of her Lord: but suddenly she remembers her hair, her long, beautiful hair that has been so much admired for its silkiness and beauty. Quickly she loosens her braids and removes pins and combs: and the blue-black mass falls about her [illegible]."

The expansion is pretty, but a trifle ridiculous. Why not a few more touches of the imagination? What about the colour of the [illegible] and a short additional list of adjectives about her long, beautiful, silky, blue-black hair?

THE TWO MYSTERIES OF THE TESTAMENT.

This Italian certainly absorbs our attention when he relates in his own way the incidents of the period which followed the Flagellation in the Temple, ('the Temple, the Academy, and the Bank were against Him'). The two Great Mysteries of the Bible he describes as the prayer of Jesus in the Garden after the Supper, and the Mystery of Judas.

He explains them as far as he is able thus: Jesus, when he cried "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me," thought not to avoid the necessary and logical conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount, but sorrowfully of the schisms and persecutions which would follow [illegible] 'false interpretations of His Gospel by cavillers, captious disputants, visionaries, counters of syllables, weighers of the imponderable, separators of the indivisable, whose learned arrogance disembowels vital things and cuts them to pieces under the pretence of resurrecting them.'

As for the mystery of Judas, he mentions two or three theories why Judas, that particular disciple and man, was the person who had to bear the undying stigma. One is that Judas lost faith in his Master; another, that he believed but thought to force his Leader's hand by compelling Him to assert Himself; a third that knowing somebody had to betray Jesus, he took it upon himself, as a form of great expiation. It remains to us "least" ones a mystery.

QUALITIES OF PAPINI'S WORK.

It is needless to dwell on the superior attractions of a book like this one over the more hackneyed phrases of an at the same time excellent work such as Farrar's "Life of Christ." New viewpoints are given. Proofs that Christ really returned to the earth after three days are outlined. Paul, whose Corinthians was written in A.D. 58, testifies to it, and many were yet alive then who had been among the '500 brethren' or the others who are purported to have seen Him after the Resurrection, who could have disputed the point if Paul's declaration in any way erred from the truth.

Papini's work has excellent qualities. Its chief fault is perhaps expansiveness, which is oft-times out of place, if beautiful as mere description, and a certain lack of restraint, exemplified in the somewhat perfervid [illegible] which acts as an Epilogue to the book.

THE LAST OF THE VIKINGS

THE LAST OF THE VIKINGS. By Johan Bojer. Hodder & Stoughton. [illegible] from the Norwegian by Jessie Muir).

The translator of foreign languages deserves and, it is to be hoped, enjoys our perpetual gratitude. For the task is one of insuperable difficulties. These difficulties are not confined to the details of word expression, differences of idiom, differences of syntax, in languages. Probably the greatest obstacles in translation are in the different attitudes of mind, spiritual outlook, in peoples. The [illegible] task is to make his own people see with the eyes of a foreigner. It is impossible of complete realization. The work of the translator, in face of this impossibility of achievement, commands admiration. Of course the work is not done hopelessly. Nothing can be carried on without hope. The great incentive is to transfer as much as one can of the expression to another medium. No work of art can be the same in two mediums. But it is vastly interesting to try to translate a painter's idea into music or poetry; and the attempt would be appreciated by a blind man. So with languages. It is a matter of art. A work of art is individual expression, *original creation*. It cannot be translated. The attempts are interesting, but rather as [illegible] of the foreign artist than as translations of his work. That is why no translations live for us as works of art. The exceptions that may be advanced will probably be found to be in all cases new creative work built upon the inspiration received by the author from the foreign work. The outstanding example is Edward Fitzgerald's so-called translation of Omar Khayam. It is in fact an original creative work of art inspired by the Persian.

This book, so carefully done by Jessie Muir, carries the interest that must attend the attempted promotion of new perception. But it has also the inevitable drawbacks. It cannot give complete comprehension of the author's vision. The nebulous effect is bound, sooner or later in the reading, to weary. The tale of the fisherman of Lofoten is a simple one with no exciting events to thrill the reader. Or, if some of the events are exciting in the original, the thrill is lost in the translating. Style, distinction, apparently have to go too. Before we are halfway through the book we feel, as the blind man may feel on hearing a picture put into verse, that we had rather satisfy ourselves with the original creations that we *can* get than strain in the clouds after something we know we can never really apprehend. Is it ungrateful to let the thought of what we are missing spoil our appreciation of what we obtain? Perhaps. Certainly it is not Jessie Muir's fault if what she gives us of Johan Bojer only irritates because we cannot have the whole of him. However, since a translator is necessarily self-abnegatory, she may feel her aim is served in making us want more.

John Lofting.

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THRUMS

Clever Stories of Scottish Village Life

"Bracken and Thistledown." By Robert W. Mackenna. John Murray. 7/6 net.

This is a book of excellent short stories. It seems that there is a new demand for short stories published in collections. If all were of the standard of these the demand would need no explanation. For not since Barrie wrote his tales of Thrums have we had such stories of Scottish village life. Many people consider the short story as an adjunct to the novel-writer's craft, an offshoot, even a waste product. But probably most writers would assert that the moulding and finishing of a short story is a more difficult operation than the writing of a full length novel. The easy-going methods which are permissible in the novel cannot be adopted in this work. The short story comes under much more severe criticism. The outline and the details all come within the same focus of critical vision. Consider the few that live in fame, as compared with the number of novels. Yet there must have been many more short stories than novels written in modern English. And those which remain in the mind are very few. W. H. Hudson's "El Ombu" probably none who has read it [illegible] forget. Conrad's [illegible] and "Youth:" [illegible] "The Lost God:" perhaps [illegible] a dozen more and the number is told.

These tales of R. W. Mackenna's are not all of an equal merit. How should they be? But they have an attribute in common which at once commends them and assures the book being read with pleasure from beginning to end. That is their humanity. The characters are all living people. One feels they must have been taken from life whole with all their foibles, all their failings, nothing suppressed or exaggerated. One or two of the stories are marred by the obtrusion of the author's own religious views, but in most cases the characters are developed naturally and stand without any outside propping. The best tale in the book is probably the one which tells of the Smith's young son who stayed away from church on the Sabbath on account of a "sair heid" and was discovered afterwards by his father to have gone fishing. The righteous Smith goes in search, cutting a stick on his way to thrash the boy with. On coming upon him playing a salmon he is so excited that he shouts instructions and assists in the completion of the landing before giving the boy his thrashing. The story is told extraordinarily well, without a false note anywhere.

Another excellent tale is that of the shoemaker who has a reputation for parsimony and is found after his death to have been giving a hundred pounds a year to the education of poor boys in memory of his own little son who died.

Altogether it is the best collection of short stories we have had for many a long day.

John Lofting.

ROMAN LAW

A Study By His Honour Judge Lobingier

"The Evolution of the Roman Law from before the Twelve Tables to the Corpus Juris." By Charles Summer Lobingier.

The author, who is the well known judge of the United States Court for China, has in this compact volume of convenient size dealt with the subject of which he treats very ably. The chapters in succession summarise and illustrate the evolution, development, continuity and final culmination of Roman Law in the famous codes of Justinian.

As the author states, it is the only system of law which has completed the full normal stages of development *viz.* infancy maturity and decline. As a natural corollory it furnishes a source of knowledge and inspiration to those who point out, with a view of alteration, the inequalities of the present system of law known to the various civilized countries of the world; in particular it is a concrete justification of the views of the advocates of codification. The Roman Law is the basis of the legal systems of the continent of Europe and the Latin States of South America and has largely influenced those Mahomedan States whose conquests included lands in Asia Minor, Africa and Southern Europe. Though it has not been the source of the two great Anglo-Saxon systems of law—English and American—still many of the conceptions of Roman Law can be traced in those systems and comparison is of undoubted utility.

The subject therefore is of vast interest and education generally beyond the classes of jurists and lawyers to whom it is of the first importance.

This volume is an excellent text book for those desiring to get a primary understanding of Roman Law. It does not claim to be more than, if one may say so, an introduction to the subject, but it fulfils its object in laying a groundwork and stimulating the reader to peruse intelligently the works of the famous commentators of various nationalities who have written on the subject and whose opinions are freely quoted by the author.

We would however desire to offer some suggestions to the author which in our opinion might increase the utility of his book. In the first instance he might with advantage illustrate in the opening chapters, and in fact throughout the book, much more fully, the many resemblances between the Anglo-Saxon and Roman systems of law; and secondly there might be omitted with advantage some of the very numerous quotations from the Institutes of Gaius.

These however are but slight blemishes in our opinion in an otherwise excellent book which we recommend to the perusal of our readers.

G. Carfax.

REALISM WITHOUT REALITY

"Life's Antagonisms." By Harry Tighe. Thornton Butterworth, Ld. London.

The reviewer's detached point of view is a difficult one to maintain after having to traverse the three hundred and more pages of "Life's Antagonisms," as this book has been named in apt ineptitude. One wearies of reading *cliches* over and over, but when they are used *malapropos*, one becomes exasperated. Moreover, poor English and a halting style could be the more readily pardoned if the story itself had any attraction. It has not. It is a scrappy account of the lives of two entirely uninteresting lower middle class families in London, who marry, breed, engage in shop keeping, and die—some of them—after a series of petty family quarrels and much nagging amongst themselves. . . . There is no particular ending to the book and certainly no plot.

The stuff of which realism is made is all here. Possibly some devotees of that school may find the book worth reading, since, obviously, Mr. Tighe found it worth writing. But it is realism without reality, or form, or breath of literary life.

Olivia Price.

Mrs. STRATTON-PORTER'S SMALL BEER

"The White Flag." By Gene Stratton Porter. John Murray. 1923. pp. 387. Price 7/6 net.

This book is characterized by a certain physical liveliness. The authoress reminds one of the lady of nursery rhyme who took it out of Dobbin Gray, the borrowed pony: "She whipped him and she slashed him and she rode him through the mire." Mrs. Gene Stratton-Porter treats her characters in a similar way. Within a very few pages she has pitched the village idiot into the water butt for no particular reason, and distributes punches and whippings around with a liberal hand. She has to relieve her feelings by continually jerking her marionettes, and a generation reared on the kinema will rejoice in one who, unlike Henry James and the introspectivists, abhors a vacuum.

After introducing a heroine to win the heart, Makala, a quite delightful girl, she pursues her with misfortune relentlessly to the last page but one of the book, while Jason, who figures for the hero, after a long struggle with fate, disqualifies himself for sympathy by an inexcusable mistake which inspissates the gloom. It is conceivable that America's plutocracy could produce such a devil of a man as Martin Morland the banker, but his vile doings could hardly have been kept secret so long in a village where, as everyone knows, ears are long and tongues are free. How the descendants of Pilgrims and pioneers tolerated this tyranny of mere money both in school and court house passes belief. Indeed, if Mrs. Stratton-Porter wielded the realistic pen of a Zola her book would be a terrible indictment of her native land. She is ready enough with accessory details which show an observant eye within the limits of the obvious, but her treatment of the larger matters is clouded with sentimentality. Her sympathy with Marcia is not very convincing, and her half admiration for "junior" because of his good looks is out of place. There is no doubt a good deal of cleverness in the book, but it is not literature.

A.N.R.

The North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE

WEEKLY EDITION OF THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

(Tzu-lung-sin-cha chou kan 自 林 新 字 報)

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"The scheme is doing more to cement friendship with our Chinese friends than columns of newspaper articles . . ." — "N.-C. D. News" Correspondent

PEKING'S UNPAID AND BANNERMEN

Ancient Armourers, Bowmakers and Archers in a Bad Way: Tls. 2 a Month Before

NOW 17 COPPERS LESS SQUEEZE

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 4.

Among other feats which the Ministry of Finance accomplished at the end of last month, was the payment to the Manchu reservists of the Eight Banners resident in Peking of a nominal 17 per cent. of one month's pay. The average pay for the able-bodied males on the old military lists was Tls. 2 a month, which now would be little more than a nominal pension, but would serve if paid in full to relieve distress in the families of thousands of ricsha coolies, policemen, day labourers and others without any sort of employment. A few years ago, however, the Government decided that taels were old-fashioned and substituted dollars for taels, so that the average pay on paper is now two dollars. Later a dollar was reckoned at 100 coppers, so that Tls. 2 or $2 amounted to 200 coppers or about one dollar. In paying 17 per cent the Ministry of Finance therefore paid 17 coppers, or a trifle over eight cents on each nominal tael. On even this miserable dispensation there is considerable squeeze as the money passes through various hands down to the humble recipients. The writer yesterday met a shabby young man who was acting as caretaker in an old graveyard of one of the Iron Capped Princes who said that for his nominal one month's pay of one tael he had received six coppers. Back pay is of course ignored and forgotten and these miserable doles are only granted on the modern and old New Year days, and on the 5th and 8th Moon festival days.

The whole system is of course a farce and should either be radically reformed or summarily abolished. As military units, the Eight Banners long since ceased to exist. Ninety-nine out of every hundred men on the lists have never had a weapon of any kind in their hands unless they have served in the police, the gendarmerie or the army. The lists comprise archers, bowmakers, spearmen, armourers, cavalry and artillerymen (the artillery supposedly being old muzzle-loading cannon). None of the men own any of these weapons unless as heirlooms. None have horses unless they happen to be cartmen. The men in even the small units have never seen each other. The officers of this generation have never seen their men.

HEREDITARY COLONEL INSCE. AGENT.

A sprightly young aristocrat, who is an hereditary colonel and makes a living as a fire insurance agent for a foreign firm, recently confessed to the writer that, to the best of his knowledge, he had never seen a member of his rank and file. Yet he sends in to the Ministry of Finance a monthly pay roll with a large seal on it in all solemnity.

If the periodical doles amounted to anything they might be regarded as a laudible Government charity. Obviously the payments are not sufficient to relieve any real suffering among Peking's innumerable poor Manchus and are not made in a spirit of charity. They are only kept up to provide jobs and squeeze for some petty sub-bureau and for the little Manchu banner offices.

Peking, Jan. 10. According to an unconfirmed report, Marshal Wu Pei-fu has suggested that Gen. Ma Chi be appointed Tuli of Hunan, should Gen. Chao Heng-ti persist in his refusal to cancel the autonomy of the province. Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE CANTON CUSTOMS REVENUE

Protests Against Interference Pouring in to Inspector-General in Peking

NO FOREIGN BOYCOTT AS YET

Peking, Jan. 5.

Sir Francis Aglen, the Inspector-General of the Chinese Maritime Customs, has received further telegrams strongly protesting against any misappropriation of Customs surplus funds from Chinese bankers and Chambers of Commerce of Hankow, Chinkiang, Changshu (Kiangsu), Nantungchow and Yangchow.

These show that the Chinese protests are not confined to the treaty ports but are widespread throughout the commercial centre of China.—Reuter.

Canton, Jan. 3.

Cantonese merchants are showing no signs of a boycott of British and American goods so far.

Everything is quiet on the East River and the military operations show no important changes. —Reuter.

Peking, Jan. 5.

Dr. Schurman, the American Minister, left for Canton yesterday afternoon, after which he will return to Peking.—Reuter.

AMERICA'S ATTITUDE.

Peking, Jan. 6.

In reply to questions regarding the alleged semi-official statements anent the Canton situation, Reuter learns from the American Legation that Mr. Hughes, the Secretary of State, replying to inquiries in that connexion, informed the American Legation that the State Department had nothing to do with them and knew nothing of them. The policy of the United States is in no way changed. The State Department considered that solidarity among Powers with regard to the Canton Customs was essential and the American Government refused to deal with anyone but the Peking Government. —Reuter.

DOMESTIC BONDS AND THE SURPLUS

Chinese Bankers' Public Protest against Interference by the Militarists

RESULT OF THE THREAT FROM CANTON

A declaration has been drawn up by the Shanghai Chinese Bankers' Association and the Bankers' Association of the various Provinces with reference to the threats recently current on the part of particular militarists in the country to lay hands on the Customs Surplus. It is in the following terms:

From the first year of the Republic to the present day our Government has issued Domestic Loan Bonds of different kinds amounting to no less than $498,000,000 *in toto*. Less a portion of about $219,000,000 already redeemed, there are still circulating in the market $379,000,000. Of such bonds the main source of final redemption as well as current payment of interest depends upon the Reserve Fund, and the security of the Reserve Fund rests on the Customs Surplus which is entrusted to the custody of the Inspector-General of Customs, Sir Francis Aglen, by the Chinese Government.

During recent years the circulation of the Domestic Loan Bonds has become much widened whereas they have been freely bought for investment by many Chinese and foreigners. Heretofore, whilst the northern militarists repeatedly strived to lay their hands on the Customs Surplus, the people of the whole country spared no endeavours in their protest. Since the Consolidated Loan Service was established in March, 1921, such security has so far been firmly fixed and should not be interfered with. Lately, however, it is reported that the militarists of the south are contemplating a claim on the Customs Surplus. That the Customs Surplus represents the Reserve Fund of the Domestic Loans is a fact well known to the whole nation. By whomsoever or whichever party, it may under no circumstances be seized nor even temporarily appropriated for any other purpose than what is designated. Anyone violating this condition will be regarded as a public enemy. Moreover, as the bonds are in circulation in the market, the bondholders represent innumerable Chinese as well as foreigners. If any one is allowed to seize the Customs Surplus it means the seizure of the security of the Loan Bonds. And should such action be permissible great injury will be done to the interests of all the bondholders.

Since our Associations represent many financial organizations of this country and especially as the Shanghai market is the centre of international trade, we fear that any misappropriation of the Domestic Loan Reserve Fund will greatly endanger Chinese as well as foreign financial and commercial interests. As we cannot well be silent we have wired to the Chinese Government and to Sir Francis Aglen strictly to safeguard such fund from beginning to end and we hereby publish this announcement in performance of our duty and for the information of all concerned.

Shanghai Chinese Bankers' Association
Bankers' Associations of The Various Provinces.

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PASSENGERS

INWARD

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, December 25. From Ningpo. Mr. H. A. Powell.

Per str Hsin Peking, December 26. From Ningpo. Mrs [illegible]

Per str. Hsinfung, December 26. From Foochow. Doctor J. Reid

Per str. Suiwo, December 26. From [illegible] children, one Officer and 10 Naval Ratings

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, December 27. From Ningpo. Mr. R. B. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Maingot, Miss Milligan, Mr. Tonen.

Per N.Y.K.S. Kaga Maru, December 26. From Seattle, etc. Mr. and Mrs [illegible] Sugg, Masters W. T. Sugg, R. W. Sugg, Messrs. J. F. Hein, and T. Kikuchi.

Per N.Y.K.S. Nagasaki Maru, December 21. From Japan Miss E. M. Wiser.

Per str. Woo ung, December 28. From River Ports. Mrs. Piguet.

Per str. Suiyang, December 28. From [illegible]

Per str. Hsin Peking, December 28. From Ningpo Sir Ernest Wilton and [illegible]

Per str. Kiangan, December 29. From River Ports. Rev. D. Miquany.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, December 29. From Ningpo. Mr. R. S. Benjamin, Mr. H. K. Macpherson, Major V. R. Bachundt.

Per str. Kutwo, December 29. From River Ports [illegible] Mrs. A. H. Stoker, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Stone and three children, Mrs. L. Grant, Miss Shamples.

Per str. Kaiping, December 30. From Chinwangtao. Mr. A. Haas.

Per str. Szechuen, December 30. From Amoy. [illegible]

Per str. Loongwo. December 30. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Rosenoff, Mr. and Mrs. Petrenko, Mrs. Govekovsky, Miss Streetoluloff, [illegible]

Per str. Chusan, December 31. From [illegible]

Per str. Wenchow, December 31. From River Ports. Rev. Lindstrom.

Per str. Kwangtee, December 31. From Hongkong. Capt. F. N. Troupe, [illegible]

Per str. Ngankin, December 31. From River Ports. [illegible] G. Kirkham, Miss B. L. Mecker.

Per str. Kanchow, January 1. From Hongkong via Swatow. Miss K. [illegible] Mr. W. E. [illegible] Mr. G. Clark.

Per str. Hsin Ningshao, January 2. From Ningpo. Mr. J. Jessen, Mr. F. Petersen.

Per str. Kiangshun, January 1. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]

Per str. Poyang, January 2. From River Ports. Mr. Trimer, Mr. Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. [illegible], Miss [illegible], Miss Williams.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 2. From Ningpo Rev. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. A. Jacobs, Mrs. Robbins, Miss Mayhew, Mr. J. B. Jordon and Party 20, Miss E. Leitao, Miss G. N. [illegible] A. Leitao, Messrs. C. and J. Remedios, Messrs. C. and L. Souza, Miss M. Carneiro.

Per G. L. S. Glenliffer, January 2. From London. Miss [illegible] Mr. D. [illegible], Mr. [illegible]

Per str Lunsho January 2. From River Ports. Mr. [illegible], Miss O. [illegible], Miss A. M. [illegible], Mrs. S. [illegible], Miss Woodger, Mrs. Abercrombie.

Per str. Kiangwo, January 3. From River Ports [illegible] Mr. R. W. [illegible]

Per P. & O. S. Khiva, January 3. From Kobe. Mr. A. S. Mould, Mr. R. S. [illegible], Mr. E. [illegible]

Per str. Luchow, January 3. From Hongkong. Messrs. [illegible] and Wright.

Per str. Hsinchi, January 3. From Foochow. Mr. T. G. N. Giffen, Mr. R. Schwob, Mr. J. L. Ford, Mr. E. Gossard, Miss H. Gossard, Mr. J. A. Collins, Miss H. Collins, Misses E. and M. Billing, Miss E. Smith, Master H. [illegible], Miss R. Stevenson, Master [illegible] Pfeng, Misses B. and M. Lacy, Mr. R. C. Goertz, Miss E. Goertz, Mr. A. Parker, Miss Bissonete.

Per P. & O. S. Kashgar, January 3 From London. Mrs. Masseurs and two children, Mr. A. Mellor, Capt. and Mrs. McKendrick, Miss Birks, Miss Bourne, Miss Gosse, Miss Campbell, Mr. J. Clarke, Mrs. Mudie and two children, Mr. S. Sherwin, Mr. J. Addis, Mr. G. Bennett, Mr. R. Dalgetty, Mr. S. Keyze, Mr. E. Trodd, Mr. V. Lerald, Mr. A. Mills, Mr. P. Anderson, Lt. Comdr. Jones, Mr. A. Lester, Mr. A. Ranft, Mr. D. Brown, Mr. E. Levelu'k, Mrs. K. Cull and two children, Mr. J. Tabor, Mr. and Mrs. E. Aitkin, Lt. E. Beazley, Mr. and Mrs. J. Inwood and child. **From Malta** Mr. E. Leach. **From Colombo** Mr. S. Bond, Mr. A. Knight, Mr. J. Ritchie. **From Marseilles** Mr. D. Stewart. **From Penang.** Mr. A. [illegible] **From Singapore.** Capt. D. Lees, Mr. Evanhecis, Mr. W. H. Perrey, Mr. W. B. Moyshou. **From Hongkong** Mr. W. Higging, Mr. W. A. Claxton, Mr. K. H. Martin, Mr. W. E. Hargreaves, Mrs. A. Percival, Mr. A. Tebedany, Mr. A. J. Anderson, Mr. F. B. Pitcairn, Mr. E. Hewett, Mr. G. Mackenzie, Mr. E. Hiyama, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Cole, Mr. L. McNicoll, Mr. H. Gilmore, Mr. Tessier.

OUTWARD.

Per str. Tungtiug, December 28. For Chinkiang.—Miss J. Cumming.

Per str. Hsin Peking, December 28. For Ningpo.—Mr. G. V. Monk, Mrs. Robbins, Miss Mayhew, Mr. J. H. Jordan and party (3).

Per str. Suiyang, December 29. For Hongkong—Mr. R. Whitmore. **For Swatow.**—Mr. Persen.

Per str. Woosung, December 29.—For River Ports—Mr. Sopp, Mr. W. V. Austin, Capt. A. C. Thomson, Mr. Sherwin, Mrs. A. Terrible, Mr. W. F. [illegible]

Per str. Yingchow, December 30.—For Hongkong—Miss A. Clough, Mr. J. C. Saunders.

Per str. Liangchow, December 30. For Canton—Mr. F. L. Smith and two children, Miss Lucas.

Per str. Tatung, December 31. For Wuhu—Mr. C. Gray.

Per str. Hsin Peking, December 31.—For Ningpo—Mr. A. Gomas, Mr. R. Leitao, Mr. A. Leitao, Miss C. Souza, Miss L. Souza, Miss C. Remedios, Miss L. Remedios, Miss M. Carneiro, Miss E. Leitao.

Per str. Ngankin, January 1.—For River Ports—Mrs. Panoff, Mrs. Oshiverkhon.

Per str. Szechuen, January 2.—For Swatow—Mr. F. A. Johnson.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 2.—For Ningpo—Mr. C. H. Layers, Miss [illegible] Miss A. Hussey, Miss A. [illegible]

Per str. Poyang, January 3.—For River Ports Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Vollenweiver.

Per str. Kanchow, January 4.—For Amoy—Mr. J. H. Richards, Mr. Anderson. **For Hongkong** Mr. V. Kevr.

BIRTHS

ALSTON.—On December 25, 1923, at the Memorial Hospital, Nanking, to Mr. and Mrs. John Alston, a daughter.

REBSAMEN.—On January 1, 1924, at St. Mary's Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Rebsamen, a son.

SPENCE.—On January 4, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. W. Spence, a son.

STEWARDSON.—On December 31, 1923, at Dr. Fearn's Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Stewardson, a son.

WALKER.—On December 29, 1923, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Walker, a son.

WILSON.—On December 28, 1923, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. E. P. B. Wilson, a son.

DEATH

REIN.—On January 3, 1924, at Dr. Fearn's Sanatorium, Shanghai, Elna Johanne, beloved wife of Bernt O. F. Rein, aged 30 years.

SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month	Barometer 9 a.m.	Barometer Att'ed Therm.	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min	Weather conditions
Dec. 28	30.51	53.1	N N E	2	45.2	42.3	46.4	43.2	O.
,, 29	30.75	46 8	N W	4	27.8	24.5	34.3	25.9	R.
,, 30	30.67	44 2	W N W	3	26.1	21.5	35.1	22.3	O.
,, 31	30.57	44.6	W N W	1	31.1	27.3	42.6	19.0	R.
Jan. 1	30.47	44.6	W	1	35.8	31.8	49.5	25.3	R.
,, 2	30.55	45.2	W N W	1	35 8	32.8	50.2	25.5	R.
,, 3	30.38	45.7	W S W	2	41.9	38.3	54.4	29.1	R.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date	Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1923	Minimum 1922	Maximum 1923	Maximum 1922	Rainfall Inches 1923	Rainfall Inches 1922
Dec. 28	33.0	38.5	48 8	55.0	0.17	Nil.
,, 29	27.0	35.6	40 8	55.0	Nil.	Nil.
,, 30	24.0	40.0	35 0	59.8	Nil.	Nil.
,, 31	25.8	34 0	42.4	51.8	Nil.	Nil.
	1924	1923	1924	1923	1924	1923
Jan. 1	30.0	34.0	19 2	43.0	Nil.	Nil.
,, 2	31.0	25 6	49 8	34.6	Nil.	Nil.
,, 3	35.0	20.0	58.2	34.4	Nil.	Nil.

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BRIGANDAGE AND THE CUSTOMS

Jan. 5.

No follower of Chinese affairs can fail to be impressed by the unfavourable showing of the returns of Customs revenue for 1923. Ostensibly showing an increase of about four and three-quarter million taels, these receipts when submitted to a simple analysis reveal, if not an actual decline in China's trade, at any rate no advance.

A few figures are necessary to make the position clear, but they are of no difficult nature. The revision of China's tariff up to an effective five per cent. is equivalent to an increase of twenty-five per cent. on the whole returns. On imports that pay an *ad valorem* tax, there is of course no change in the scale. Such goods represent twenty per cent. of the total imports. In the year 1922 the total revenue from imports was roughly Tls. 30,000,000: as shown above, a fifth has to be deducted from this for *ad valorem* goods; so that the anticipated twenty-five per cent. increase in revenue would be collected only from Tls. 24,000,000, this realizing an additional six million taels revenue.

The effective five per cent. duty, however, only applied to goods shipped after January 17, which means a three months delay in respect of the most distant countries. And naturally with the impending increase in duty, there was a great speeding up in all countries to get as much cargo shipped before the 17th as possible. It is calculated, therefore, that a deduction of a million or a million and a half taels must be made from the expected increase in revenue, which thus comes down, on the basis of the 1922 returns, to five millions, or perhaps four and a half. In other words, increased duties, and not increased trade, have produced the additional Tls. 4,744,000 in 1923: and when we remember that this advance is recorded on the whole revenue, which also includes export and coastwise dues, the only possible conclusion is that China's imports have been sadly falling away.

For some years past it has been retorted, to all who complained of brigandage and lawlessness in China, that, nevertheless, her Customs revenue continued to go up. This has been the stock argument of the persons abroad who think they are doing China a service by representing her as she ought to be rather than as she is. But this argument they will not now be able to use. The everyday experience of the foreign merchant, that dealers have been chary of buying and holding large stocks, because of the prevailing uncertainty about them, is borne out by that irrefutable index, the Customs returns. Civil war and brigandage are killing China's trade.

Two morals are to be drawn. First, that this revelation of the effect of bad government on the nation's commerce immensely strengthens the case of the Diplomatic Body—if any strengthening were necessary—for not permitting Dr. Sun Yat-sen and other provincial chieftains to make ducks and drakes with the Customs revenue. Secondly, that until China's politicians show that they can so govern her as to enable the effective five per cent. to prove the benefit it was meant to be, it would be sheer folly to grant them a further surtax; and the Powers should therefore take full advantage of the reservation on the time of this surtax coming into effect, which the treaty signed at Washington wisely secured. To allow Chinese officials to impose further taxation on trade, under the conditions of misgovernment prevailing, is merely to hit the merchant without doing an atom of good to China.

THE DOMINIONS AND EMIGRATION

Jan. 7.

THE news that the Canadian Government is giving special rates across the Atlantic to immigrants from Great Britain directs fresh attention to the important question of Empire settlement. Britain is no doubt over-populated, and there are thousands of people in the "old country", either unemployed or at best only making a bare living, who would almost certainly do well if their gifts and energies could be transferred to lands where population is scarce and opportunities of advancement more abundant.

Various schemes have been proposed for bringing out a large and constant stream of people from Great Britain to the overseas dominions and some of them are already in operation. Part of the necessary expense is borne by the Dominions, but it is not at all certain that they are bearing their fair share. One aspect of the situation appears to have escaped the notice of a good many people. The Dominions are doing excellent work in providing houses for, at any rate, a portion of Britain's surplus population; but it must not be forgotten that those who receive any measure of assistance from the overseas Governments are more or less picked men and women. They have to be sound in body and mind, and give proof of having a certain amount of capability and intelligence, the sort of people who, given a decent chance, are likely to "make good." This, of course, means that they have had to be educated at the expense of the British taxpayer; they have been taught a trade or profession and during their training have had to be supported by their parents or friends in Britain: in very many cases they emigrate before they are in a position to refund to their native land all that has been spent either of public or private money on their behalf. In thousands of cases the Dominions get the advantage of the "finished product" while the Motherland has paid all the cost of preparation and training.

More than this, while England sends her best abroad, she gets in exchange people who should never be admitted. Not long ago we read of two vessels lying outside an English port; the one was filled with sturdy hard-working men and women seeking new homes overseas and driven in most cases to do so by the lack of employment at Home, while the other boat brought specimens of the worst scum of Europe coming to settle in Britain, their minds full of the fantastic notions of revolution and their lips ready with the catchwords of continental agitators and outlaws. If the Dominions are to get all the best type of British workers, they should bear the fullest possible share of the expense of "settling" them. But it is deplorable that nothing can be done to keep these British born skilled workers in their native land. They are people who cannot be replaced in a day. Apart from those who go to the Dominions, thousands are emigrating to the United States and thus giving the latter country no small advantage in industrial and commercial competition with Britain. And while she needs to keep her best workmen, Britain might well bar her doors against the alien interloper.

THE NEW CYCLE

Jan. 8.

MOST foreigners have been so busy wishing each other the compliments of the season during the past few days that there has almost been a neglect of what the Chinese are now beginning to look forward to. With their New Year, a short four weeks distant, opens a new cycle of 60 years, and the manner in which it is being regarded is an encouraging feature of the general situation in the country. Tradition suggests that the first year of the cycle will be one of prosperity, with bounteous harvests, cheap rice, peace and all the advantages of good trade, and these prospective features are already reacting favourably upon the community. After one of the worst years in modern business history—which we believe tradition led them to expect—they are in some measure making preparations for a better state of things, and if they can conjure up such an outlook in depressed, materialistic Shanghai, it seems safe to say that elsewhere their views of the future will be still more optimistic. The sentiment is one which ought to be encouraged in every possible way, for its influence on business is bound to be favourable. If one merchant takes his courage in both hands and after months of cautiously feeling his way launches forth more or less boldly on the sea of commerce, he inevitably sets others in motion also.

The thought must have occurred to Chinese, just as much as it has to foreigners, that the carry-over of bad trade from 1923 is going to make it difficult to inaugurate the new cycle auspiciously. The Customs revenue returns are of a nature to deter even the boldest from seeking fresh commercial perils during 1924. We have already pointed the moral to be drawn from the Customs returns for last year, it being obvious that on the old basis this would have shown a bad slump compared with 1922. Moreover the revenue of 1922, although a record, by no means represented the real state of trade in the country, being probably as much due to the overtrading which characterized the post-armistice period as anything else. While that overtrading will be subject of regret for days yet to come, the question may fairly be asked at this juncture whether with only a comparatively slight difference in its condition China could not readily have absorbed all the goods imported during that period as well as giving the utmost scope to all the new industries which the situation brought into being. From every quarter we incline to think, the answer will be strongly in the affirmative, and only the stultifying effect of internal conditions has prevented it. So long as the mills of Shanghai could not get material such as fine Shensi cotton delivered to them because the roads were in the hands of bandits and soldiers, and because the yarn of the mills and the imports of the Treaty Ports could not be exchanged for this cotton and other products for the same reason, there was the nearest thing to a deadlock.

It is obvious that the difficulties noted above have to be overcome before the new cycle can be ushered in on the note of prosperity which is hoped for and anticipated in Chinese business circles. If at the moment we are unable to point to better conditions of Government, which would mean a ruthless campaign against bandits and strict disciplinary measures against militarists and their half-armed mobs, we have yet to realize the wonderful capacity of the Chinese for carrying on trade when people of other nations would find themselves paralysed by the political conditions. So, should harvests be bountiful there may be an interesting development. A year ago, for instance, foreign merchants here acquired the habit of saying that the Chinese would never be able to pay the very much higher rates for goods which Home firms have now to ask. Yet the past twelve months have shown such increases in tael values of many commodities that there ought to be every hope that China will once more be one of the most valued markets which manufacturers can have. It is true that in too many instances values at Home have outstripped by far what Chinese consumers have so far been able to offer, but the fact of supplies in so many departments of commerce being now on a famine basis in the ports has brought about a state of higher prices which has surprised even the optimists. This, too, at a time when almost everything has been against prosperity in trade. We do not yet see that prosperity, but in view of the sentiment of the Chinese towards this new cycle of years and the hopes they have of it, it is surely worth while on the part of foreigners here to assist in giving it adequate scope.

OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

Jan. 9.

IN their moments of candour, the majority of people will plead guilty to a greater or less curiosity concerning the affairs of others, and when it is possible to represent such curiosity as a virtue great is the joy. Moreover it comes practically to a virtue when official publications are found to deal with other people's business in a fluent and free manner, and there is this additional merit, that the aforesaid publications at once lose the tediousness usually attending documents issuing from government offices and assume a mantle of human interest. These reflexions are induced by the receipt of the "Shanghai Market Prices Report" for the April-June quarter, which has been published by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Markets, the organization which compiles the monthly index numbers of wholesale prices in Shanghai. It may be mentioned, by the way, that a great deal of misunderstanding appears to exist with regard to the Bureau, the people who seek information concerning its work almost invariably approaching the Revenue Office of the Municipal Council. It has no connexion with the Municipal Council, but is a department of the Central Government which inaugurated it in 1919. The report just issued deals with many commercial aspects of importance both to foreign and Chinese merchants, and while certain generalizations have to be expected it is noteworthy how much particularization there has been. In the course of an article such as this we need not specify the different brands or chops of goods to which reference is made, but in spite of this a sufficient indication may be given to show the public the intimate lines on which the report runs.

One of the first points to attract attention is a note respecting the price of wines. For the first two months of the quarter, we learn, imports were small in quantity and the market remained steady. June, however, was a month of heavier imports, but at the same time the condition of the country became more unsettled than previously. Outport customers ceased placing orders and so the market assumed a declining tendency. For instance, we are told, one well-known brandy dropped in price from $27 to $24, while certain brands of champagne, gin and mineral waters also came down. We do not know that connoisseurs would altogether admit the right of grape juice to come into the category of wines, but here it is, and in contrast to alcoholic beverages seems to have become dearer. While on the subject of luxuries we must quote one delightful paragraph which reads like a wholesale condemnation of the Chinese taste in tobacco:—

Cigars: Recently native and German products are very abundant and the market is exceedingly dull. Tobacco shops take a great delight to sell German and native products, since they can get more profit out of these two kinds. Consumers welcome them mainly because of their decoration.

Of course the Chinese were by no means the first to discover that the glittering gold band has

TAMING THE YELLOW RIVER

A Wonderful Modern Engineering Feat: $30,000,000 Damage in One Flood: A Permanent Safeguard for $1,500,000

China is a land of wonders and as so many of them are centuries old and therefore have a romantic interest attaching to them, it is quite possible that an achievement to-day that may be as great as any of them may be passed by with scant notice. Such, for instance, as the taming of the Yellow River. In fact, some might say that it is just like modern utilitarianism, with a few months of skilful engineering work, to replace [illegible] old-standing and sensational headline as "China's Sorrow" [illegible] to believe that, as a direct result of the work completed last year there will be more joy and affluence amongst the peasantry living near the great river in Shantung than ever there was sorrow or poverty caused by the breaking down of its banks. Then again, comparatively few people, unless they are engineers, though they can understand that the Great Wall and the Grand Canal are monumental works, can appreciate also that they are marvellous examples of construction. Still less, if a layman stood on the new bank of the Yellow River and watched the water flowing by in a channel where it might have been running for centuries, would he appreciate what had been achieved. The Culebra Cut arouses a minor enthusiasm in the ordinary traveller and he becomes somewhat more demonstrative when he sees the great locks, but the vast lakes which were a feature of the constructional work of the "canal" through the isthmus of Panama are just pretty stretches of water.

ENORMOUS DESTRUCTION.

The damage caused by "China's Sorrow" in the loss of lives and property through the ages is incalculable, but it will be recalled that, in August, 1921, the river broke through its northerly dyke at Kungchiapa, flooding portions of five *hsien* and making more than a quarter of a million people homeless. Over 500 towns and villages were destroyed and the material loss must have amounted to many millions of dollars, to say nothing of the loss of life and the sufferings of the people from the resultant famine. The work which has just been completed cost $1,500,000: it has stood very severe tests and is believed by experts to be thoroughly reliable and to be all that is required at that particular part, which is the most dangerous. One estimate of the damage done in 1921 which has been accepted as certainly not too high gives a loss of from twenty to thirty million dollars. Comparing one year's loss in one section with the amount required to make that section safe, one gets a remarkable illustration of how much could be done to make the whole of the Yellow River permanently safe if an amount equivalent to this one loss were spread over a number of years in conservancy work.

A work such as the conservancy of the Yellow River cannot successfully be undertaken by starting operations with a knowledge only of things as they are at the moment. The more that can be discovered of past happenings, even in prehistoric times, the more likely is success to be achieved. The Asia Development Co. was responsible for the clever engineering feat accomplished last year and Mr. P. P. Whitham, the President and General Manager, tells a very interesting story of the development of the region, based on data their engineers have collected.

AN EVER-CHANGING RIVER.

The great northern plain of China, embracing a large part of five provinces, has been built up by deposits carried down by the Yellow River. During the [illegible] years of history recorded, the [illegible] has been changing, when the Huangho has occupied both [illegible] the Gulf of Chihli and at other times into the Yellow Sea. There are indications that on one occasion it emptied into the Lower Yangtze. For nearly 1,000 years prior to 1853 the Huangho entered the Yellow Sea a short distance south of Haichow, but in that year a break occurred near Kaifeng and the river found the course to the Gulf of Chihli that it now occupies.

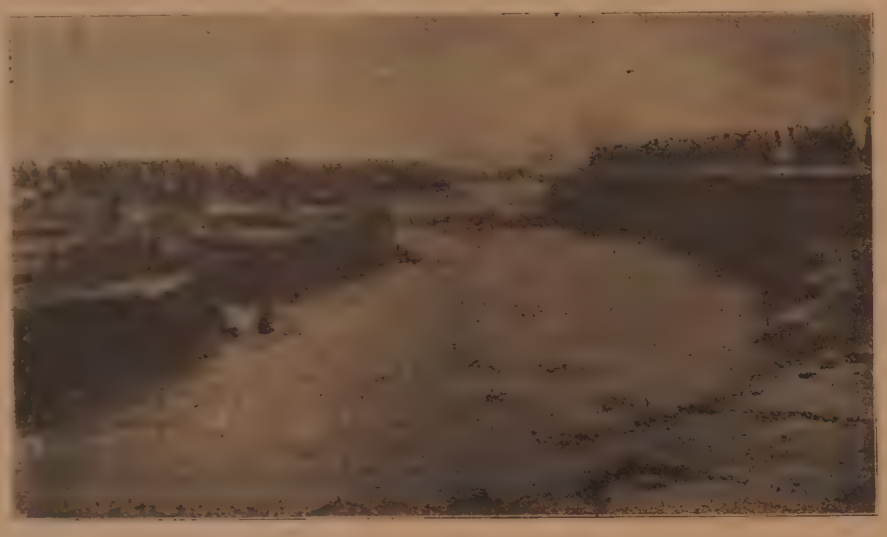
There is a plausible theory to the effect that at one time the Shantung mountains formed an island, the great northern plain then being a shallow inland sea, which was turned into land by the deposits brought down by the Huangho. As a matter of fact, the process of building up the land in the northern plain was not completed when the early Chinese settlers appeared on the scene more than 4,000 years ago. Nature not having completed the job, the people who occupied the Huangho plains have been in trouble almost continuously, in spite of much ingenuity displayed in combating the forces of the river.

The most destructive break in the Yellow River dyke since 1853 also occurred near Kaifeng, in 1878. A large part of the river flowed southeast into the Huai River basin, causing loss of life and great destruction of crops and other property. The first attempt to close the breach failed, but the following year, conditions being especially favourable, the break was successfully repaired at a cost of about Tls. 6,000,000. This was one of the few occasions in history when a major breach was repaired. The Chinese engineers, beginning with Ta Yu (Yu the Great), 4,000 years ago, down to recent years, have done remarkably well, considering what they had to work with and the limited hydraulic knowledge available. However, they never succeeded in more than a temporary control of the Huangho. In 1923, modern science and engineering were applied to the problem for the first time and the fact is of interest not so much because a major break was repaired but because it points the way to a scientific control of the river systems in China.

On referring to the first two plans printed with this article, it will be seen how the river broke through the main north dyke, in 1921, at the bend of which Kungchiapa forms the lower corner, spreading out over the country and causing enormous havoc, as already described. It was decided then that something really sound must be done and after several months of negotiations on November 20, 1922, the Asia Development Co., Ltd., contracted with Hsiung Ping-chih, Civil Governor of Shantung, to repair the break at a cost of $1,500,000. The Shantung officials, through their representatives in Peking, applied for financial assistance from the International Famine Relief Committee and secured a grant of $360,000 in aid of the work. The remainder, $1,140,000, was raised by the Province and all payments were met promptly on due dates. The work was started on December 1, 1922, and the diversion of the river into the new leading channel took place on May 15, 1923. By July

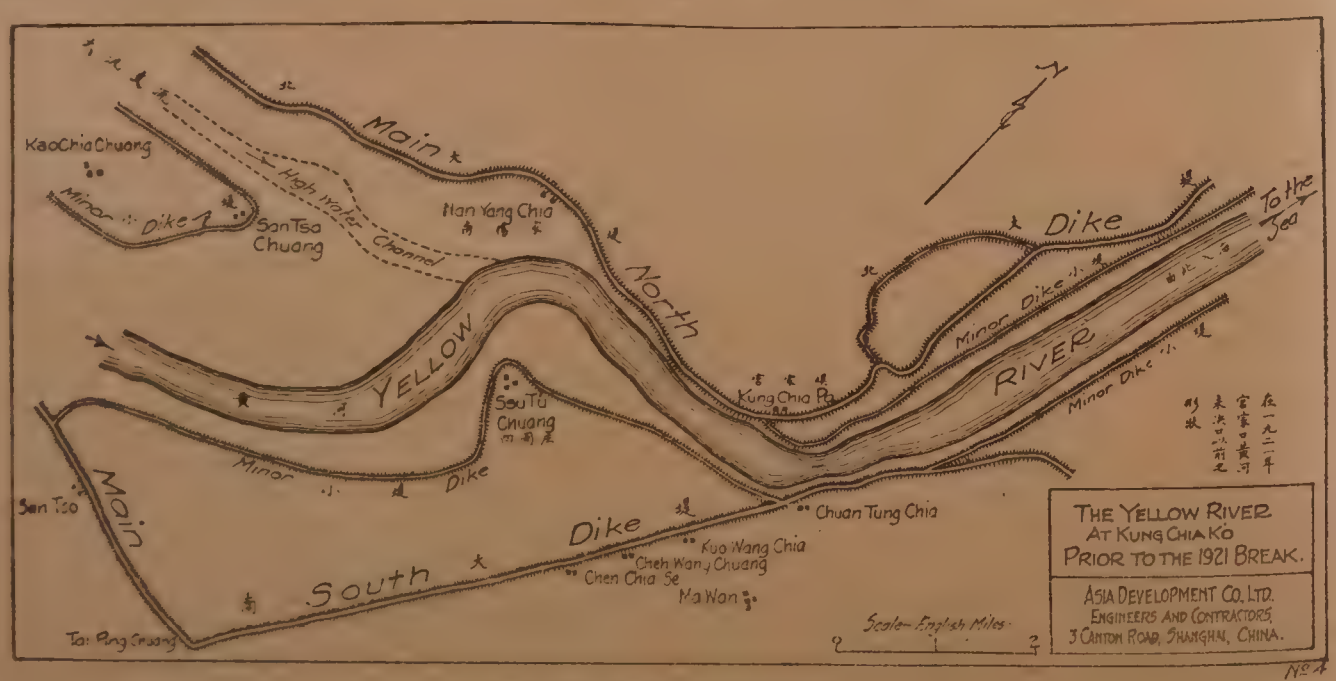
(*Continued on Page 48.*)

A view of the operations when damming the river, giving a good idea of the magnitude of the work.



The new channel when the barrier was cut so as to let the water through.

The new channel on the day after it was opened, with the water flowing smoothly through to the sea.



The Yellow River in its old bed

young friend argues that the people must disband the soldiers. There should be a general strike of students, labourers, and merchants, and a universal strike against all taxation, so as to persuade or compel the militarists to subject themselves to the civil power. Perhaps the people ought to do this, but the advice reminds one of the saying that it is useless for the sheep to pass resolutions in favour of vegetarianism while the wolves remain of a different opinion.

The next important question is what is to become of the 1,370,000 soldiers when they are disbanded? To let them loose without any occupation or means of subsistence would only make the social condition of the country worse. Productive occupations of some sort must be provided for them, and again it is the people who must come to the rescue. Among the occupations suggested are road-building, including railway and highway construction; the opening of mines in the various provinces; farming: many parts of China now barren can be made cultivatable by means of irrigation; forestry: it is estimated that one-third of the area of China can be afforested, and there is the further advantage that afforestation may prevent floods in the future; colonization: there are large tracts of unoccupied areas in Mongolia and Sinkiang which are colonizable and this would bring distant territories into closer relation to China proper. Where is the money to come from for all these enterprises? This important question is rather airily *disposed of*. "The question of financing this plan need not disturb us. There will be means enough if the attempt is tried." One practical suggestion is that the labourers employed in building railways and in mining should be given shares of stock in addition to their regular salaries. The reverence which the Chinese have for "scraps of paper" is not to be derided, but it is pathetic.

The fact is, China is the very "sick man" of the Far East. As an ancient Jewish prophet said of his own people, "the whole head is sick and the whole heart faint; from the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness." In such a political plight the mere palliation of symptoms accomplishes little. While disbandment of the army is advisable it would not do away with the general political corruption. Get rid of the Tuchuns and other hungry officials will appear on the scene, probably even more exacting and voracious than the military. A sensible patient desperately ill would call in a wise, capable physician, place himself unreservedly in his care, and would not wildly protest against "encroachment upon sovereign rights" if he was compelled to do whatever was necessary to restore him to health. In this connexion the history of the restoration of Austria is most instructive. But China is not willing to call in wise physicians. Dropping all metaphor, her inevitable fate seems to be that indicated by the Chinese sage long ago when he said that it is only by the teaching of calamity and sorrow that a nation learns the wisdom and righteousness that belong to its peace.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Our Beautified Bund

Following his visit to China Mr. Bertrand Russell took it upon himself to be uncomplimentary about certain foreign elements in the place. He said something about the foreign quarter of Shanghai as being an example of ugliness and efficiency, whereas to him the Chinese City represented beauty and much of sentimental import. Then, as now, our Bund was in a transition stage and there were more unfinished than completed buildings probably; but even had it not been so, we doubt whether he would have thought it worth while appreciating. To men of grosser clay, however, the newly fashioned Bund gives satisfaction the more it discards its swaddling clothes. The last bit of scaffolding was removed from the frontage of the "North-China Daily News" building some days ago and we believe that everyone agrees in liking the appearance. Then a great deal more of the Hongkong Bank has just been displayed to public view and it impresses, while already the dome becomes a landmark. It will be years before the Bund is finished; but if the architects continue to do their work properly it ought to be one of the world's noted thoroughfares in spite of all that Mr. Bertrand Russell thinks to the contrary about our style of doing things. Nevertheless this palatial way brings with it certain disadvantages, for the stranger within our gates as often as not fails to recognize the style in which we do business. Within the past year, shortly after one of the new buildings had been opened, an American visitor entered the doorway and after a scrutiny of the hall turned to the Chinese porter with the query, "Say, guy, where's the grill room in this hotel?" No doubt a compliment, considering what hotels have attained to nowadays

A Conservancy Success

The figures which we publish this week showing how at lowest low water there is a through channel giving a depth of 30-ft. at the mouth of the Huangpu may not at first excite the imagination of the man in the street, but to those who have followed Conservancy operations here since their inception they convey a great deal. It means that very great success has attended the work inaugurated almost a score of years ago, and it carries the mind back to what the river was in the first decade of the century. Then there were the Ship and Junk Channels, and Gough Island became an island no more. In order to know the river better the engineers went 20 or 30 miles above Shanghai with instruments for measuring depths, tides and flow of water, and at length it became to all intents and purposes possible to tell what the once wayward channel would do in any given circumstances. When we think that from 1900 onwards the port of Shanghai was gravely threatened, its very existence at stake because of the silting up of the approaches, we begin to realize how much we owe to the skill and patience of the engineers who tackled and carried on the work of conservancy. It is to be hoped that the increasingly good results which we now see will make a due impression on other cities dependent on similar communication with the sea and so ensure that a courageous and enlightened policy will be the order throughout China.

East and West

"K.C.K.'s" entry into the discussion of China's treaties and the trampling thereon did not quite prepare us for the charming letter he sends to-day. He writes as one who would practise what he preaches and has taken the trouble first to study his text. His feeling that he does not particularly admire foreigners as a whole, but none the less numbers some of them among his best friends, is the experience of many of us in respect of other nationalities. In the case of China the problem is complicated by the barrier of the most difficult language and literature in the world and, as K.C.K. observes, by different standards of comfort and etiquette. This applies not only to westerners and Chinese, but through all grades of society. We do not bother ourselves as to how a man made his money: but if he wears the wrong sort of tie or matches the wrong boots to his raiment, he is beyond the pale. It is not that such acts are wrong, but that they imply totally different standards, which in turn mean ignorance of each other's catchwords and stiffness in intercourse. With the Chinese too, the average foreigner is awkward because he does not know what to talk about, what will interest the other; and no doubt the feeling is mutual. Yet there are very few foreigners who, with any knowledge of the Chinese, are not loud in praise of them and we believe that they in turn find foreigners not so black (or should we say red?) as they are painted, on actual experience. The moral is to mix as much as possible, just as a man learning a foreign language must talk for all he is worth, undismayed by mistakes, and the end will be better understanding and sympathy. To which letters like K.C.K.'s help not a little.

Discovering Shanghai

The various messes of the Municipal Police are chuckling tremendously over one of the innumerable Franconia stories. When one of the tenders arrived at the Customs Jetty a certain Inspector was on duty there for the purpose of seeing that even from the palatial Franconia there should land only such persons as could be depended upon not to besmirch the fair name of this innocent city. He is a true born son of Scotia and happens to be one of those who are inordinately proud of the splendid education all Scotsmen suffer from. To him there approached a lady with the remark:—"I don't know, young man, if you speak English, but if it happens that you do, will you tell me the way to the Astor House?" Suppressing his astonishment, he replied, as a polite Watsonian should:—"Certainly, madam. Straight down this road and turn to your right over the bridge. And then, lassie, ye gang richt in." Or something like that. By this time another Shanghai man was in fits of laughter and the lady, turning upon him, indignantly remarked:—"Well, how was I to know? I come to an Oriental country for the first time, and how should I know he wasn't a Chinaman?" Since when the Inspector's companions in mess have positively refused to speak to him in anything but Chinese, and he has been voted by all to be a singularly good looking Chinese.

U. S. Silver Interests

In view of this week's telegram stating that American interests are engaged in an effort to gain more control of silver than hitherto, we cannot do better than refer readers back to our issue of November 14 which contained an exhaustive and illuminating article on this very subject. In view of the large production of silver in the United States it is perhaps only natural that in many quarters there should be something akin to resentment because of London's control of the market, and equally that from time to time there should be attempts to wrest it from the British capital. The value of the article we published, which had previously appeared in the "Engineering & Mining Journal Press", was enhanced by the fact that it was from the pen of an American, Mr. Carpel L. Breger. He showed how American attempts in the past to gain control of silver had failed, and coming to the complaints made against London disposed of them drastically. While American producers suggested that London bought their silver at the lowest rate, India complained that she could never obtain any except at the highest rate, whereas Mr. Berger pointed out that what London did was to adjudicate the price of the metal in the fairest way possible. One striking paragraph in the article deserves again to be emphasized:

> It is those three machinery appliances—cheap money rates, exchange centralization, and superlative brokerage organization (largely the first) that made, make, keep and will keep London in control of the world's silver market. Her imperial trade necessities require that she keep a grip on the silver exchanges, viâ silver. Similarly, the London market rules wheat, cotton, and other commodities which Britain does not produce, but which the machinery of British finance and cheap money permit Britain to "carry," and dominate.

There has been talk for months in America of this silver protection association, but it is gathered from Mr. Breger's article that it will have almost as many enemies as friends in the country.

The Peace Prize

Neither in American nor any other circles here are any particular hopes raised by the award of Mr. Edward Bok's prize for a practicable plan to prevent war through cooperation of the United States with other nations. The author of the plan, who has now received $50,000 for his work, has come to the conclusion that the best way is to bring about a working arrangement with the League of Nations. He stipulates conditions which we do not yet know, and if the American legislature agrees to them, he will receive another $50,000. The "if" is one of the most colossal we have known for a long time, for so many American politicians have put themselves on record against the League and against any anything implying entanglement in European affairs that nothing short of a miracle is likely to produce majorities sufficient to get the plan carried through. We know, of course, that the League has many warm friends in the United States, but everything since Versailles has shown that its opponents are more numerous, and their attitude has not been modified by recent developments in Europe. A man like M. Poincaré has just as bitter critics in America as he has in Germany, and certain British statesmen have not been spared there either. So long as these critics retain their voices and their following, it can only be expected that the prejudice against active participation in politics with European nations—which seems a *sine qua non* for world peace—will remain.

Genius and Longevity

Genius is often associated in the popular mind with disease and short life. We even recollect reading an article written by a medical man who tried to prove from the illegibility of his signature that Shakespeare was afflicted by a certain disease. Inasmuch as genius is so much out of the common experience of men and is so often associated with an unconventional manner of living, it is perhaps not surprising that plain men and women, dwelling entirely in a prosaic world, should seek for an abnormal cause for a phenomenon to them so difficult to explain. Most of these theories, however, do not bear examination. Take, for instance, the question of longevity. Last Sunday, at the Municipal Orchestra's concert, impressed *prima facie* by the dates given for birth and death in the case of each composer, we were led to a closer examination with a view to computing the various ages. The result was astonishing. In a programme of only six composers, who were certainly not selected for reasons of longevity, we discovered two octogenarians—Saint Saens and Thomas, aged 86 and 85 respectively—a septuagenarian, Liszt, aged 75, whilst of the others Puccini who is still alive is 66, Rinsky-Korsakoff was 54 and Borodin 53. This completes our list, but of others composers we recall that Handel died at the age of 74 whilst Sir Edward Elgar still enjoys life at the ripe age of 67. Turning to painters, we find that Michel Angelo died at 89, Leonardo da Vinci at 67, whilst among writers may be noted Goethe, who was 83 ere he "shuffled off this mortal coil," and Milton, who breathed his last at 66. Such instances of longevity do not suggest a close connexion between genius and disease.

The Lost Dixmude

Various theories have been advanced from France to account for the loss of the airship Dixmude, one that she was caught in a storm, having failed to pick up the meteorological reports, another that she was struck by lightning, a third that she came to grief because of a shortage of petrol. So far, however, there has been silence respecting the inherent weakness of these gigantic craft. The Dixmude was probably about 600 ft. in length—that is the envelope, which is made rigid by the use of metal beams and girders, naturally of light weight. Inside this envelope is a series of ballonets which, filled with hydrogen—helium as yet being too expensive for general use—provide the lifting power. Unfortunately no means has yet been devised to make these partitions absolutely air-tight, and sooner or later an appreciable escape of hydrogen is observed. In such circumstances, with the object of maintaining the rigidity of the structure, air has to be pumped into the compartments, and the propelling engine is fitted with a device to operate the pumps. Should for any reason the engines be put out of action, it will be seen that the compartments in the envelope will become more and more deflated, and the strain on the metal work, now lacking its former internal support, will become enormous. Ultimately the breaking point is reached, the whole structure crumples and there is an end to the machine. In the case of the Dixmude it is more than doubtful whether it can ever be ascertained what the actual cause of diasaster was, but in considering what airships have to contend against the above possibility must not be lost sight of.

The Canton Compromise

For weeks past Dr. Sun Yat-sen and General Chen Chiung-ming have been hammering each other in Kuangtung. Only a short time ago the tide of war had turned in General Chen's favour and his army reached the outskirts of Canton, when, apparently, his blow seems to have spent its force. Since then there has been little fighting, for Chen Chiung-ming discreetly withdrew and the two armies have probably been doing little more than watch each other. Now there is talk of compromise between the two leaders, and so apparently all the fighting has been in vain. It is a case of history, especially military history, repeating itself. Nations have fought for years in the past without reaching a decision and through sheer weariness both sides have given up the struggle, while as often as not commanders, with all the strategical and tactical advantages possible in their pocket, have agreed to an inconclusive peace rather than risk a final appeal to battle. A knowledge of war's uncertainties has spoiled many a general's career through inducing an untimely timidity. There is no doubt that the best thing for the majority of China's militarists would be a fight to a finish and all the consequences thereof, but in the light of history we cannot blame the Kuangtung factions if they now seek an easier way of settling their differences. The unfortunate phase in this case is that they do not seem to be compromising for peace but with the hope of a more ambitious war.

PEKING, Jan. 10.—The Ministry of Education has issued an order that, owing to the absence of Chancellor Tsai Yuan-pei in Europe, Dr. Chiang Mon-lin has been appointed Taili Chancellor of the Government University of Peking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

among certain people more influence on their choice of a cigar than all the virtues of the leaf itself, but it is one of the things worth while bearing in mind in studying the psychology of business. To proceed, however. We learn that the felt hats imported by a particular British firm have the largest sale of any in Shanghai, but little business was done in the summer. We see also that the sale of handkerchiefs, usually at its greatest in the summer, underwent a considerable decrease. Such items could be multiplied indefinitely from the report, but enough for the moment.

Although perhaps not of the same human interest, other features have probably a greater general importance. One is the growing consumption of native-manufactured goods which we see exemplified in articles such as towels, cotton shirts and underwear, and socks and stockings. Regarding the last mentioned the report says that the market is full of Chinese products of fine quality and moderate price which are almost able to replace foreign imports. The same with regard to Chinese matches, the sale of which has increased so enormously in the past few years that nearly the whole demand of inland cities is furnished by native factories. "In fact," says the report, "there is no need of foreign matches." A different story, however, is told in respect of other and very important commodities. China, it is pointed out, is rich in timber resources, but owing to difficulties of transportation and poor methods of manufacture, the market is full of foreign timber. Equally is the country well dowered with mineral resources, but except for coal very few of the minerals are of any direct use to the people. On account of poor methods in metallurgy most of the ores are sold to foreign countries and China buys manufactured products from them. Young China has for quite a long time been excited over such a state of affairs, but, of course, the remedy is in the hands of the Chinese people. The notes given above will show that the report of the Bureau may be regarded as a useful adjunct to the Customs publications, and it will not be out of place to congratulate the Commissioner of Markets on his interesting work, which incidentally he places at the disposal of large business houses, schools and other institutions both in China and abroad.

FRENCH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Jan. 10.

ALTHOUGH less than a week hence, the Municipal elections are exciting little activity in the French Concession. Four seats have to be filled, those vacated by Messrs. Le Bris, Tulasne, Speelman and Sheridan, and so far only four candidates have come forward. M. Tulasne is not offering his services again, but the other three are, and for M. Tulasne's seat a candidate has been found in M. Fano. All appearances at the moment indicate that there will be no actual contest, but the French method of doing things differs so much from ours that this fact should give no ground for apathy on the part of the ratepayers. One of the two French candidates is due to serve for two years, the other for one only, and the same is the case in respect of the foreign candidates, and the voting on the day of the poll will decide who of the four are to remain in office for the longer period.

At the present juncture the absence of special activity on the part of the public may quite well be taken as evidence of satisfaction with the work of the Council during the past year. The candidates elected a year ago had for their platform strict economy, no increase in the rates, improvement of the electricity and water services and development of the Concession commensurate with the needs of the population but not beyond. The same spirit has animated the whole Council, and we see the result to-day. In spite of increased expenses due to road and other extensions, meaning heavier Police and Public Works bills, the ordinary budget has been balanced. To do so in the circumstances of the case was no easy task, and only the very conservative financial policy of the Council, which kept a strict watch on all expenditure, enabled it to be done. The result has been to avert any increase in the rates. In constructive work the record is equally satisfactory. Most of last year's Council meetings were devoted to discussions with the Tramway & Electric Light Company (which has also the monopoly of water), and it is known that these were of a very arduous description. Finally the Council decided to adopt drastic measures in order to see its policy carried out, and it declined to pay bills amounting to Tls. 25,000 to the company. Following this struggle the company came into line with the wishes of the Council, and is now engaged on a programme which should meet the needs of the case. Immediate betterment of the electricity supply can, of course, not be expected, but the Council has positive guarantees that within the next year the voltage will be satisfactory throughout the Concession, not only for street but equally for private lighting. The company is now carrying out an extensive programme adequate to the growing needs of the place, including the installation of a group of Diesel engines of 3,000 K.W., which ought to be completed and in running order by the end of 1924. In its contract with the makers the company has offered a very high premium —20,000 francs per week—for delivery before contract date, and preparations are being made to order another group of equal power. Several additional transformer stations are to be constructed immediately in various parts of the Concession to ensure a better distribution, and due to the insistence of the Council the company has spent Tls. 500,000 on new copper feeders to better the voltage.

As stated, the work of the Council so far as electricity is concerned will not come to fruition for some time to come, but in the case of the water supply definite progress has already been made, so much so that for years to come the position of the Concession should be completely satisfactory. During the past Municipal year the water tower in Route Ghisi has been completed and with other additions the result noted in the previous sentence has been achieved. The present members of the Council in conjunction with the candidates now before the public have similar constructive policies in their minds, and the intention is to pursue them during the coming twelve months. In finance their policy will be a conservative one, with a veto on what appears to be unnecessary expense and waste, while the discussions with the Electric Company will be continued with the object of ensuring that the full requirements of the Concession are met. At the same time development of new roads will continue on the programme, and this is a matter which ought to call for attention by the ratepayers. Not so long ago there was the hint of a very ambitious scheme for extensions in what is known as the extra-Concession, and it had to be pointed out that this involved a capital outlay for which no immediate return was visible. The present policy of the Council is to lay out roads only where building is taking place, and in this way the convenience of the residents will be consulted as well as economy assured. Such policy is endorsed by the candidates for office, three of whom have been active in its pursuit for the past year.

A PROPOSED COTTON SURTAX

Jan. 11.

A MESSAGE from Peking received a few days ago contained the news that cotton traders in Shanghai had asked for the imposition of an export surtax on cotton, the proceeds "to serve as the basis of a loan to help the cotton interests at Shanghai." The request went to the Shuiwuchu which referred it to the Cabinet, and we are informed that it is unlikely that a ruling on the subject will be given for some time to come. As there have from time to time been requests to Peking from the Chinese cotton interests of Shanghai for assistance, this present proposal must be regarded as of importance, although it will be seen that only a very indefinite statement is made as to the application of the proceeds of the surtax. About a year ago, it may be remembered, Chinese spinners here sought to have an embargo on cotton exports imposed, as they were suffering from a shortage of supplies, but an examination of the conditions then ruling showed how little such a measure was called for in view of their previous operations in the raw material. Since then, we believe, further appeals for assistance to the industry, which is admittedly suffering from the severest depression, have been forthcoming, and it would have been only natural to conclude that the surtax suggestion had been put forward with a similar end in view. Inquiry in well-informed circles does not support this view, and the statement is made that the intention is to devote the proceeds to the work of cotton improvement under the auspices of the South-eastern University at Nanking. On the face of it this is an admirable object, but the surrounding circumstances call for a very careful investigation.

When some five years ago the foreign mill-owners of Shanghai resolved to inaugurate the work of improving cotton grown in China, it was suggested to Chinese interested in the trade that they should equally co-operate and provide a proportion of the funds required. Although lavish in promises, that financial co-operation by the Chinese was never forthcoming and the foreign interests had to bear the burden of the work, and they have been doing so ever since. The work at Nanking University succeeded in impressing the Chinese so strongly that subsequently they brought into being a similar scheme of operations under the auspices of the South-eastern University, and there is no doubt that it has been productive of good results. What must strike everybody is that one great effort would surely have been better than two separate ones working towards the same end, and now, when it is proposed on the part of the Chinese mill-owning interests that one should be subsidized by Government we are surely entitled to have the other point of view brought to notice in as strong a manner as possible. First of all it must be emphasized that China owes her modern cotton industry to foreign enterprise, and that the Chinese who later entered into it did not, to start with, assist in the fostering of this particular phase of it. Secondly the demand for Chinese cotton from abroad has been of material assistance in promoting the cultivation of the staple in the country, and the present proposal is to penalize this source of consumption for an object which originally did not commend itself to those who now make the suggestion of a surtax. And it should be remembered that when an industry is in its comparative infancy, as is cotton spinning and weaving in China to-day, there is nowadays always a cry for Government assistance, but it has generally been found that the industries of the greatest benefit to any country are those which have fought their own battles without artificial aid.

The normal export duty upon cotton comes roughly to four mace (local currency) a picul, and we learn that the present proposal to the Shuiwuchu is that the surtax should be a mace and a half. In recent years the export of cotton has varied considerably in quantity, but an average for the past five years would be about 500,000 piculs. At a mace and a half this would yield Tls. 90,000 per annum. Had there been such enthusiasm for cotton improvement five years ago and a sum of this magnitude been forthcoming, there is no saying what developments would already have taken place in cotton-growing in these districts, but unhappily nothing of the kind has been the case. Nanking University has done great work on the small subvention which it has been within the power of the foreign mill-owners to offer, but there has been no fund in any way commensurate with this suggested subsidy. Why there should be this enthusiasm for cotton improvement at the present moment is, however, not too hard to realize. Cotton is very dear just now, in fact many mills find it ruinously so, and if the price can be brought down it will help matters considerably. An embargo on export would be the best thing, but the proponents of this have on a previous occasion been defeated. The next best thing is obviously an export supertax, made the more attractive because of the public-spirited suggestion behind it, and there may be a faint hope that it will gain official sanction. The Treaty Powers, however, will certainly have something to say on the subject, Japan in particular as the largest consumer outside the Republic, and it is easy to envisage the question as one inconvenient in a high degree for the Cabinet.

DISBANDMENT OF CHINESE SOLDIERS

Jan. 12.

THERE can be no progress and prosperity in China until all in the land, high and low, are compelled to submit to the law and to observe the good traditions and customs which knit together Chinese society. At the present time Chinese armies are the greatest cause of the general lawlessness. As to the Tuchuns, or military governors of provinces, President Li Yuan-hung said in 1922:

"During the last ten years the militarists have made use of their military strength to bully the government, taking advantage of its weakness. Extorting money from the people they have fattened themselves, building up their fortunes out of the ruin and devastation of the public. They have made fearful sacrifices of the lives of their troops in order to obtain glory and to acquire more power. The people are living in continual fear and consternation."

None can deny the truth of this statement. The private soldiers in their way are just as bad, for nearly all, when the opportunity presents itself, are bandits and robbers. What is to be done? Disbandment seems the only course but it has many difficulties. In political matters we are not much inclined to consider the opinions of the student class, but in the last number of "St. John's Echo", the magazine published by the faculty and students of St. John's University, Shanghai, there is a carefully written article by a student which deserves attention. He has read all that has been written on the subject by foreigners and Chinese, and at the least what he says may serve the useful purpose of letting us know what many of the more intelligent of the Chinese are thinking.

There are nearly 1,370,000 soldiers in China. Very many are men from cities and towns who had become "beggars, idlers, tramps, rogues, robbers or bandits" because too lazy or incompetent to follow their former occupations. As soldiers they remain morally what they were before. The remainder come from the country having been forced to enlist in order to escape the hunger and death threatening them in time of flood and famine, or because their fields were becoming barren and uncultivatable or did not yield a living after the excessive taxes had been paid. All the soldiers are mercenaries, neither knowing nor caring what they fight for and without a spark of true patriotism. When their wages are paid, which seldom happens, they receive seven dollars a month; they are ill-fed and ill-clothed. As the armies serve no useful national purposes they should be disbanded. The first question is, who is to disband them? The Tuchuns will not do it. The Central Government is powerless. Foreign nations will not interfere. Our

KIANGSU-CHEKIANG IMBROGLIO

Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan in Favour of the Neutralization of Shanghai

"I heartily agree to the proposal to declare the district of Shanghai neutral territory and favour the removal of all troops from its vicinity. I favour the proposal of Chinese and foreigners in Shanghai for the removal of the Kiangnan Arsenal, and, should the Sung-Wu District be restored to Kiangsu, to which province it rightly belongs, I will follow public opinion in either having the Arsenal removed or later transformed into some kind of industrial works. The people will have to decide this for themselves."—Thus spoke Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan, Military Governor of Kiangsu and High Military Inspecting Commissioner of Kiangsu, Kiangsi and Anhui, in an interview with a special representative of the "North-China Daily News."

NO WARFARE LIKELY.

In discussing the political situation, Marshal Chi stated that he did not believe there would be warfare in this section of the country. He urged the writer to try to impress upon the people of Shanghai the futility of believing war-scare rumours which were intended to draw him into a conflict with his neighbouring province. "Kiangsu will not attack Chêkiang," he stated. "Why should we? There is no ground for such an attack. We will certainly have to defend ourselves if attacked, but I can assure you that there will be no military movements on our part until we are actually attacked. We are not going to the initiative in such a fight because it will not be for the benefit of the people in whose interests we are trying to work. Neither I nor my military leaders want to fight Chêkiang and Chêkiang does not want to fight us. I have given my word of honour not to begin fighting and I will keep my word. I am not one who easily breaks his word. Why I am the subject of constant attack I cannot tell and I cannot understand why some newspapers in Shanghai are trying to force a fight between me and Chêkiang. I have been afraid of causing misunderstanding and troubles, so I have not for the past four months moved a single soldier nor have I increased my army."

GEN. HSU KUO-LIANG'S DEATH.

Questioned in regard to the appointment of a Director of Shanghai and Woosung Native Constabulary in succession to the late Gen. Hsu Kuo-liang, Marshal Chi said that this was a matter which was under the control of the Civil Governer of the Province of Kiangsu, Mr. Han Kuo-chun.

Gen. Hsu Kuo-liang's death and its cause was an open secret, continued Marshal Chi. Gen. Hsu was in the way of a gang of official opium smugglers. He tried to stop the smuggling but met with little success. In fact, his efforts to expose those connected with the affair resulted in his death. He managed, however, to report the affairs of this official gang to the Civil Governor just before his death and made it plain that those in charge of the affairs of the gang wanted the money for war purposes and wanted to murder him. Without this opium smuggling income, they would be unable to carry on warfare. Marshal Chi drew attention to the fact that Gen. Hsu's murderer was still alive and had not been tried publicly.

He then referred to the neutrality of Shanghai and made the statements mentioned above, suggesting that all troops at present here be removed forthwith and that no new troops be permitted to come here. He suggested further that this district be placed under police control (which was civil jurisdiction) and nothing else.

"I look upon the Russian problem and the arms problem in Shanghai with the greatest concern," said Marshal Chi, "because both are growing more serious and menacing daily. There are now thousands of Russian refugees in Shanghai and many of them are a danger to the Chinese and foreign residents there. It is high time that some action should be taken to repatriate them. Strong action should also taken to suppress the importation of arms and ammunition, large quantities of which are being brought into Shanghai daily from the Russian vessels at Woosung and from other places, and distributed to various military and political parties for continued warfare, as well as to robbers, *tufei*, bandits, and all kinds of undesirable persons. Strong action should be taken immediately to cope with the situation."

MURDER OF FATHER SOENEN

A Crime Prompted Only by Desire to Embarrass Local General

Peking, Jan. 5.

Later reports from Suiyuan state that 40 disbanded soldiers entered Father Soenen's residence without warning, shot the priest and then looted the house. The reports do not mention other looting.

The outrage is attributed to a desire to embarrass Gen. Ma Chi as apparently there was not the slightest animosity against the priest. The French Legation has protested to the Waichiaopu.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

The Procureur of the Belgian Mission sends us the following details of the crime:—

On December 25, after supper, when Father A. Soenen and Father J. Leemans were in their house at Hokiao, four men entered and asked for medicine. Father Soenen got up to go and fetch some, and Father Leemans, with no suspicion whatever of what was to happen, strolled out of doors.

Suddenly he heard gunshots in Father Soenen's room and then a regular fusillade began around the big door of the house and in the village to frighten Christians and prevent them from coming to rescue. Hidden by the darkness Father Leemans watched, powerless, the pillaging of the house and residence, which lasted for an hour. When the murderers departed, he ran in to find Father Soenen mortally wounded in the forehead, breast and stomach. He administered the Sacrament and cared for him as best he could all night. At 8.45 next morning the martyr passed away. He was buried on the following day.

The authors of this wholly unexpected crime were some 30 or 40 disbanded cavalrymen.

BATANG CAPTURED BY TIBETAN RAIDERS

Assurance to American Missionaries: Town at the Mercy of Outlaws

Peking, Jan. 7.

It is reported from Chungking that Tibetan hordes captured Batang on November 17. The leaders have assured the American missionaries, who are the only ones there, that they will not be molested.

The American Consul at Yunnanfu on December 23 received a telegram from Likiang saying that bandits had captured Batang. A party of American missionaries recently arrived at Yunnanfu with the intention of going to Batang, but was stopped by the Consul.

Batang has for years been at the mercy of Tibetan outlaws operating in Chinese controlled territory, who are in no way connected with Tibetans of Tibet proper.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A BOLSHEVIST CRY FROM CANTON

Manifestos to Proletariat of Five Powers from China Agitators

We are in receipt of the following two manifestos from the "Citizens' Association of Diplomacy for the Canton Government of China on the Revenue Surplus" and give extracts uncorrected.

TO THE WEAK NATIONS OF THE WORLD!

"Brothers and sisters! We are in the same camp of weak nations. We should fight hand in hand against the exploitation and oppression on the part of the imperialist states which have formed an imperialistic united front in the struggle against the liberation and nationalist movement not only of China, nor of Asia but of the weak nations of the world.

"The imperialistic America, England, France, Japan, and Italy work energetically in the matter of give and take, in close co-operation with the small clique of notorious feudalists, bankrupt bureaucrats, and profiteerly politican which are the important political factors in the militarism regime. They support the counter revolutionist clique for a reign of feudalism in every corner of China. They get the revolutionary government, the only government that fights for the interest of the population against the clique as a whole, bound hand and foot in her hour of hard of counter-revolutionist and struggle of re-actionary miltarists, by holding unpaid the revenue surplus that she should have. They oppress the revolutionary faction in China in the form in which they have oppressed you. They let the civil war live long through the support of dollars and guns to the reactionary Peking Government, that has not shot workers to dead, imprisioned students, killed-people delegates, closed press and done dozens of evils at the sacrifice of people interest. They create fight in China among different factions, but with peace in their lips. They turn to pieces the mask of friendship. They hold out aggressive hands openly. They rob.

"The Canton government gets in close touch with the imperialists states right now in a spirit not of peace but of struggle. The battle ships of America, of England, of Japan, of France and of Italy Station in Pearl River in the form of armed demonstration. The time comes when you should stand firm for the right of China. Get up!

"Forward to the make-up of an anti-imperialistic united-front of weak nations of the world against the exploitation."

TO THE PEASANTS AND WORKING CLASS OF AMERICA, ENGLAND, FRANCE, JAPAN, AND ITALY ON THE REVENUE SURPLUS.

"The peasants and workingclass of America! The imperialistic capitalist America has broken open her mask in the relation between China and America. The so-called Open Door means the turning of China into a free marcket for the open robbing work by the blood-soaked imperialists of the world. The policy stands not for the interest of the Chinese toiling masses but for the interest of America, and not for the interest of the peasants and workingclass of America, but for the interest of the capitalists and bourgeaisie class of America.

The capitalist Democrats and Republicans find ways for their capitals into China with the slogan of "Good friend to China." But what means good friend when this month witnesses the fact that the American battle ships station in the Pearl River in Canton in the form of armed demonstration on the taking of Revenue Surplus to the administration of the Canton Government? The Republican administration fights not for the interest of the peasants and workingclass of America, but for the interest of the bank-capitalists of America. You should stand in opposition to the Republican Administration in her relation to China, especially in her participation in Chinese affair.

"The peasants and workingclass of England! The Conservative Party policy gives harm and no good to the peasants and workingclass of England in regard to her policy to China. The policy of participation in Chinese Affair on Revenue Surplus will result in a rising of economic boycott movement. The peasants and workingclass of England have everything to lose and nothing to gain in the armed demonstration.

"The peasants and workingclass of France! The imperialist French government has given an oppression to your brothers and sisters in Germany in the taking of Ruhr, and the imperialist France oppress Chinese toiling masses in a military way.

"The workingclass of Japan! China remains in a state of feudelism. The feudelistic militarist clique oppress the masses in co-operation with the imperialistic Japan and with the world imperialists at large. The Canton government under Dr. Sun Yat-sen fights for the overthrow of the work of militarism and imperialism in China.

"The workingclass of Italy! You should fight against the Facist Government in her participation in the military oppression on the Canton government, the government that works for the freedom of the toiling masses of the Far East.

Canton, China.

QUIETIST SOCIETY OF CHEKIANG

Meditation and the Sacred Books Membership Eagerly Sought

From Our Own Correspondent.

Shaohing, Chê., Jan. 2.

The Dong Shan Dzwe is in a flourishing condition in this district. Representatives go about securing new members. In genera the claim is presented in the following manner. First of all a recital is made of the names of the prominent people who have already joined. Then attention is called to the different places in which societies have been established. Casual mention of the cost of joining is followed by a discussion of the advantages of such periods of meditation as the society encourages. In city and country the membership is large. On passenger boats members are very active in preaching the merits of their order. In Hangchow a book room is maintained which does a thriving business. The circulation of literature is very large.

The Dong Dzwe is an eclectic society composed largely of officials and ex-officials who are attempting to preserve all that is good in Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism. Its source of strength is in the use which it makes of the Sacred Books of China and its emphasis upon meditation.

Once more the sound of the beaters of spirit-money is heard. For several weeks the men were out on strike. Although a large number of men were involved the strike was carried out without disorder. The men gained their contention for an increase in pay, but the wise ones say that most of the increase goes to the strike leaders and that the men will be but little better off than they were before.

MANGLED VICTIMS OF BANDITS.

One of our number who returned from Hangchow this morning reports a most distressing incident at the river bank opposite Nansinchiao. Great crowds of people ware gathered around the badly mangled remains of a bandit victim. One man was dead and another badly injured. From the somewhat jumbled account received it appears that the outrage occurred not far from the great road where hundreds of people pass each day.

CAPTAIN BRANDT'S MURDERERS

Fresh Details of Upper River Outrage: Bandits on Board Ship as Passengers

Fresh news has been received regarding the death of Capt. F. J. Brandt, master of the str. Tzesui, owned by the Hanyang Co., whose ship was boarded by bandits and looted and he himself murdered with two Chinese. When a "North-China Daily News" representative called at the Robert Dollar Co. yesterday morning he learnt from Mr. C. A. Perkes, who had just received a fresh cable, that the body of Captain Brandt, which had been thrown overboard, had been recovered and information was being sent to the Captain's wife to that effect.

"How was the surprise effected?" asked our representative.

"I have not the full details of the story to hand yet," replied Mr. Perkes, "but apparently it was carried out in the usual way. On these boats the Chinese simply crowd on and receive their tickets after they get on board. Probably, the bandits boarded the ship as ordinary passengers with concealed arms."

In addition to the Chinese reported killed Mr. Perkes stated that two Chinese had been wounded.

A Reuter's message from Ichang dated January 6 gives the following version of the story:—

"The str. Tzesui, which sailed on January 1 for Chungking and anchored on the night of January 4 at Kuochiacheng, 30 li below Fungtuhsien, was attacked by brigands, who killed Capt. Brandt and a shroff, throwing both bodies into the river. They also wounded one quartermaster, one passenger and one coolie.

"The extent of the losses will not be known till after an examination has been made.

"The steamer proceeded to Chungking to-day in charge of pilots."

COLLEAGUE OF CAPT. PLANT.

Capt. Brandt, who was born at Hongkong, was 45 years of age. He was for some time an engineer at the docks and also has been an engineer employed by the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co. and most of the other lines plying the China coast. He joined up with Capt. Plant about 14 years ago and was associated with him until the latter retired, when he succeeded him as master of his ship.

The deceased captain was a keen footballer, having played for the Engineers and the Recreation Club as fullback.

An interesting sidelight was thrown on his character by his brother, Mr. R. J. Brandt with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.

"Capt. Brandt was always a daredevil and absolutely reckless. He had often been warned, for he took no means of protection and, curiously enough, unlike most others who did the run, had never had a single shot fired at him.

"On two or three occasions, however, there were reports that he had been captured and once he was said to have been shot."

Capt. Brandt married about 10 years ago, and leaves a wife and three sons.

Few Further Details

Ichang, Jan. 8.

Later information says that the brigands travelled on board the Tzesui from Wanhsien and started their attack on the ship at 10 o'clock in the night.

Capt. Brandt's body is reported to have been recovered. The shroff's body was not thrown into the river. One more Chinese has since died.

An assistant river inspector, travelling down the river on board the steamer Pakiang, met the Tzesui, heard of the tragedy, transferred to the illfated vessel and took her up Chungking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MR. H. P. KING has been elected a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

PEKING'S POLITICAL PARTIES

Mr. Wang's Interview With Marshal Wu: Government's Neutral Attitude

Peking, Jan. 4.

Gen. Wang Chang-yuan, who accompanied Mr. Wang Ko-ming to Loyang, leaving here on January 1, has returned to Peking. It is expected that Mr. Wang Ko-ming will return to Peking very soon.

According to unofficial Chinese reports, Mr. Wang sought an interview with Marshal Wu Pei-fu in order to explain the attitude of the Government regarding the various political parties into which the House of Representatives is grouped, particularly the membership in the Constitutional Party of the Ministers of Communications and Justice and the Chief Secretary of the Presidency, about which Marshal Wu recently telegraphed to the President.

It is asserted that Mr. Wang gave Marshal Wu an assurance that the Government intended to follow a neutral policy in regard to these groups in future, explaining that the establishment of the Constitutionalists was necessary to prevent the complete domination of the House of Representatives by Mr. Wu Ching-lien. As Mr. Wu had ceased to be a factor in the House there was no longer any need for organized opposition.

LIMITED RESOURCES.

These reports add that Mr. Wang also wanted to explain to Marshal Wu the limited resources of the Ministry of Finance and the impossibility of the Government handing over the funds he asks for to meet the expenses of the Szechuan expedition and the operations in Hunan. Finally it is said that Marshal Wu gave a sympathetic hearing to Mr. Wang, with the result that a complete understanding on these matters was reached.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MR. WU CONVALESCENT.

Peking, Jan. 4.

According to messages from Tientsin, Mr. Wu Ching-lien left hospital before the New Year and took up his residence at Tsao Park, the home of Mr. Tsao Jui. Bodyguards for the protection of Mr. Wu are reported to have been supplied by Gen. Wang Chen-ping and Gen. Yang I-teh.

Gen. Chao Heng-ti, Commander-in-Chief in Hunan, has sent Gen. Tsao Li to Loyang to report to Marshal Wu concerning the cancellation of Hunan's autonomy. Gen. Tsao will come on to Peking after interviewing Marshal Wu.

A reception is being held at the Spanish Legation this afternoon in honour of Senor Vicente Blasco Ibanez, the famous Spanish novelist now visiting Peking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Dr. Yen and the Premiership: Probable Retirement of Acting Ministry

Peking, Jan. 6.

Some of the Peking Chinese newspapers state that Dr. W. W. Yen will undertake the task of forming a Cabinet within a few days, but official quarters consider that this is not likely and express the opinion that it would take Dr. Yen some weeks to select a cabinet.

It is generally stated that President Tsao is in favour of appointing Dr. Yen Premier, and according to a fairly reliable source Marshal Wu Pei-fu has now telegraphed to the President urging the appointment of Dr. Yen. Political circles point out, however, that the main difficulty in the way is the nomination of Mr. Sun Pao-chi, which has not been withdrawn, but it is believed that this difficulty would be overcome by Mr. Sun formally declining to accept the Premiership.

Meanwhile it is foreseen by the Chinese press that Mr. Kao Ling-wei and his Acting Cabinet will retire before the Chinese New Year. It is considered most probable that Mr. Wang Ko-ming will be a member of the next Cabinet.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Mr. Sun Nominated by Large Majority in House of Representatives

Peking, Jan. 9.

At the conclusion of an informal meeting this afternoon the House of Representatives held a formal meeting which passed the nomination of Mr. Sun Pao-chi as Premier.

Three hundred and five Members were present, of which number 283 voted, 250 in favour of Mr. Sun. Ten votes were irregular.

It was resolved to report to the President on the matter this evening. As the Seal of the House is still in the hands of Mr. Wu Ching-lien, it was resolved to use the Senate's seal.

The nomination must go to the Senate, which will probably vote on it on Friday.

It is expected that the present Acting Cabinet will resign *en bloc* to-morrow.

ACTING CABINET RESIGNING.

Jan. 6.

The dispatch from the House of Representatives reached President Tsao Kun this morning, whereupon the President sent the Chief Secretary of the Presidency to Mr. Sun Pao-chi to report the action of the House. There seems to be no doubt that Mr. Sun Pao-chi will accept the Premiership.

The Members who yesterday thought that it would be necessary for the Senate to pass the nomination have since discovered that the Constitution does not require such procedure, so the President can issue a Mandate accepting the resignation of the Acting Cabinet and appointing Mr. Sun Pao-chi as soon as he likes.

Several Cabinet lists and much other propaganda are circulating, but it is officially stated that such lists are premature. Mr. Sun Pao-chi has not yet selected the Ministers. The resignation of the Acting Cabinet Ministers will probably reach President Tsao Kun this evening.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Jan. 10.

With regard to the personnel of the Sun Pao-chi Cabinet, rumour is rife that Mr. Liang Chi-chao will be appointed as Minister of Justice, Mr. Hsiung Hsi-ling as Minister of Finance, Mr. Wang Yu-chi as Minister of Home Affairs, Dr. W. W. Yen as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Wu Yu-lin as Minister of Communications.—Eastern News Agency.

The Withdrawal of the Police Guards

Peking, Jan. 6.

The House of Representatives is holding an informal meeting this afternoon, which will be attended by all parties. The two items on the agenda are: Discussion regarding withdrawal of the police guards and restoration of the Parliament Guards, and selection of January 7 for the next formal meeting.

Admiral Yang Ching-hsiu, who was recently appointed Commissioner for Coast Defence of Fukien and Kuangtung, arrived here yesterday and was received in audience by President Tsao this morning. Marshal Wu's delegate, Gen. Li Tso-min, was received by the President this afternoon. He submitted a report regarding affairs in Hunan and Szechuan.

The Ministry of Finance has paid the Manchu House $100,000, part of the regular allowance.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DR. SUN'S NORTHERN EXPEDITION

A Move to be Made at Once: Hunan and Honan Troops to be Mobilized

Canton, Jan. 5.

Last night, at the headquarters of Dr. Sun's troops, an important meeting was held with leaders of the Canton Government as well as commanders of the Cantonese troops present. As a result of the meeting, resolutions were unanimously passed that a stable national Government be established, that Dr. Sun Yat-sen be designated as President, and that the scheme for the subjugation of the North be put into force without delay. According to sources near to Dr. Sun, his plan of despatching expeditionary forces against the North was originally to be executed after completely defeating Gen. Chen Chiung-ming, but owing to the fact that General Chao Chih, Chu Tung-feng, Pah Wen-wei, Chen Kuang-ta and Tan Yen-kai recently arrived here and urged Dr. Sun to effect the subjugation of the North without delay, and in view of the strained relations between Fengtien and Chihli, and between Chihli and Chêkiang, it has been decided first to mobilize the Hunan and Honan troops into Kiangsi Province as a preliminary step towards the subjugation of the North.—Eastern News Agency.

Conferences with View to Compromise Gen. with Chen

Peking, Jan. 8.

Canton telegrams report that Gen. Chu Tung-feng (Anfuite), Gen. Pah Wen-wei, Gen. Chang Kuang-kuai and Gen. Hsieh Yuan-han arrived there on December 25 and that they have since had many conferences with Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

It is also reported that negotiations with a view to a compromise between Dr. Sun and Gen. Chen Chiung-ming are proceeding in Hongkong.

It is reported that Dr. Sun has made any agreement with Gen. Chen conditional upon the latter leading an expedition against the North in which his (Gen. Chen's) troops would participate and also upon Gen. Chen issuing a circular telegram to the provinces denouncing President Tsao Kun and Marshal Wu Pei-fu.

A big conference was held at Canton on January 4 and was attended by more than 40 prominent personages. The conference is reported to have reached a decision to support Dr. Sun's plan to send an expedition to the Yangtze.

As a preliminary it was resolved to employ Gen. Tan Yen-kai's force of about 12,000 and to collect and equip the scattered forces of Gen. Chen Kuang-yuan's 12th Division who are still in Kiangsi. If an agreement with Gen. Chen Chiung-ming should be reached he would be placed in supreme command with instructions to take Hunan and Kiangsi.

The financing of the proposed expedition, however, proved a difficulty which none present could solve.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. SUN

Canton, Jan. 7.

"I have decided to establish a national Government and am now making necessary preparations," stated Dr. Sun Yat-sen in the course of an interview with a representative of the Eastern News Agency. As a result of Mr. Yeh Kung-cho's visit to Chêkiang and Mukden, a triangular alliance is now well under way, Dr. Sun said, and a decision having been reached for the subjugation of the North, Southern expeditionary forces are soon to be despatched to Kiangsi. It is also expected, Dr. Sun added, that Hunan, Honan, Anhui and Shansi will also simultaneously rise in revolt against Gen. Wu Pei-fu.

THE QUESTION OF THE CUSTOMS.

Dr. Sun went on to state that with regard to the Canton Customs question, he had an interview yesterday with the American Minister to Peking, as a result of which the Minister could perceive the rightfulness of the demand of the South and declared he would take the trouble to mediate in the question. Such being the case, Dr. Sun said he believed that the question would be settled amicably before long.—Eastern News Agency.

THE CUSTOMS CRUX AT CANTON

Will Dr. Sun Take Action?—At Present No Hint that Force Will be Used

From Our Own Correspondent.

Canton, Dec. 31.

Since the sending of the demand to the Commissioner of Customs in Canton for the handing over to the local authorities of the Customs funds on December 19, there have been no abortive steps taken by Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Government. His demand for the handing over of the money for transmission to the Inspector-General in Peking stated that if a favourable reply was not obtained from the latter in 10 days, *i.e.*, by the 29th ultimo, Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Government would take over the Service, dismiss the officials and appoint new ones, or else set up another Custom House. There is no hint that force would be used and it is unlikely that any will be used.

During the last few days there has been a good deal of propaganda spread both in Canton and Hongkong in the form of leaflets urging the people to do their utmost to force the Powers to give the Customs Surplus to the South, and in some cases even urging a boycott of English and American goods. At the same time big public meetings, attended chiefly by Labour and student elements, have been held. Processions have also been arranged to demonstrate the determination of the people to obtain the Surplus.

One of the largest parades took place on the 24th. The procession, which consisted of representatives of many Labour unions and students from a large number of the schools, marched through the principal streets of the city, carrying banners and attended by bands. The prime mover in the organization of the people is the M.P., Mr. Hsieh Ying-po. Throughout these demonstrations and meetings the local government officials have advised the demonstrators to be careful not to provoke any Diplomatic complications.

LULL IN THE FIGHTING.

For the past few weeks there has been little, if any fighting. All attention has been centred on the question of the Customs. The Constitutionalist forces appear to have the situation well in hand, and now it is being proposed that the Hunanese troops of Tan Yen-hai should be sent back to Hunan to attempt to drive out Chao Heng-ti. It therefore would appear that local military circles are quite satisfied with the state of affairs.

The Commander of one of the Yunnanese Divisions, Gen. Yang Ting-pi, met his death the other day under circumstances which are not known for certain. He was arrested on suspicion of having embezzled funds intended for the pay of his troops, and it is believed that he was drowned whilst trying to escape from his guards whilst on the way to the place where he was to be tried.

AMERICANS residing in China will have until June 15 to make their returns under the income tax law. The U.S. Treasury Department ruling 3284, permits this but reminds those who are affected if the tax is paid in instalments, that at this date two quarters are due and payable.

AUSPICIOUS NEW YEAR IN ANHUI

For Once a Period of Peace: An Exciting Battue of Bandits by Soldier's

From Our Own Correspondent.

Pochow, An., Jan. 1

I am glad to be able to report all quiet on this bright New Year Day. It has been so in the main for two or three months—in fact the departure of Lao Yang Jen and his crowd seems to have been the signal for settling down to better order. It seems also quite certain that the local military people have determined to tackle their job more seriously than they have done for a long while. I have made three trips into the country in the past month or more, two of them to Jungcheng where I found the north and south gates open for the first time for more than a year. This was done, I learned, just after that pest, Lao Yang Jen, had been removed.

I heard while in Jungcheng that a fight had occurred between six doubly armed bandits and a band of local soldiers not very long previously. The six men were pursued into a temple compound, the soldiers in one room and the bandits in another, but in such relation that neither could damage the other much. The soldiers finally succeeded in setting fire to that part in which the bandits were and then stationed themselves so as to shoot down each as he emerged. They had killed five, when, as the captain of the soldiers stooped to get a gun off one of the dead bandits, the last of the six pulled a revolver from under his gown and shot the captain dead. The soldiers had thought this man unarmed and did not mean to kill him, but after this performance, you can be sure they did not spare him long.

OPIUM THE ATTRACTION.

This incident shows how rapidly the soldiers can dispose of these fiends when they really wish to do so.

While quiet reigns, to the joy of everybody, people are afraid that it will not last long for much more opium is planted than last year and everybody says that it is largely for the prospective wealth in the opium that the bandits organize. Only this week I heard that deputies were here from Anking ostensibly to destroy the poppy, but people generally are convinced that the intention is only to frighten them so that when a little later, the deputies come to assess taxes the people will be the readier to pay up. I hear that in Jungcheng the officials are already assessing some ground at $40 per mow.

I would emphasize again if people of other nations wish to inspect the opium situation they should not wait later than the latter part of April or early in May. At that time it will be perfectly apparent what it is and still early enough to succeed in destroying the crop.

HIGH WAGES AND PROSPERITY.

People seem quite happy, if not grateful for the excellent crops of the past year. Quantities of grain are rushing south and further west where so much ground was under opium as seriously to affect the output of grain. Prices are far higher here than they ought to be but for that condition, and thus all wages are much higher than ever before here and the people seem generally in better condition than when everything was so very cheap. Better conditions are also reflected in much more building and of a better class than I have ever seen before here.

MRS. Sun Yat-sen on New Year's Day pinned medals upon the breasts of the bodyguards who saved her life when Dr. Sun Yat-sen was overthrown by Gen. Chen Chiung-ming and his men some 18 months ago, states the "Journal of Commerce."

CANTON'S INIQUITOUS TAXATION

Innumerable Levies for Military Purposes: Clashes Between Troops and Civilians: Many Businesses Suspended: An Opium Monopoly

Canton, Jan, 5.

The year 1924 opens in Canton without the excitement expected. For a time it was thought here that Dr. Sun Yat-sen would attempt at the beginning of the year to replace the present staff of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service in Canton with a new one designated by him as a reply to the refusal of Peking to allot to Canton the share of Customs Surplus from Kuangtung. The Commissioner of Customs in Canton, however, has been instructed by Peking to acknowledge no other authority than Peking relative to the Customs issue, thus ignoring the order of Dr. Sun to the Commissioner to retain the collection here in Canton instead of remitting it as usual to the Inspector-General. As it is unlikely that Dr. Sun will carry out his threat to seize the Customs House, for the preservation of the integrity of which six foreign Powers have stationed gunboats in Canton Harbour, the American and other governments are gradually withdrawing their naval forces. The anti-foreign agitation staged in Canton a fortnight ago to influence the Customs Surplus issue is not being followed up, as the merchants and the better element among the Cantonese do not believe that any unreasonable means should be employed for an end which does not appear important towards the re-unification of the Republic.

ADDITIONAL WAR LEVIES.

The Cantonese rose early on New Year's morning to find themselves heavier taxpayers. Among the long lists of war-taxes for the benefit of the military *régime* are included the following; a surtax of 25 per cent. on ricsha and motor-car service; $3.20 a day a table for playing "sparrow" games; a tax of 30 cents for distributing every 100 circulars on the streets, and a charge of 50 cents to two dollars for every gun-carrying permit, every person possessing arms of any description being compelled to take out a permit, with penalty for infringement of this regulation of a heavy fine or imprisonment. Several other taxes are being enforced and collected by individual commanders or troop units.

New taxes proposed in Kuangtung include special licences for the sale or manufacture of wood alcohol, matches, rubber soles, and other articles. Another item being mentioned is a special tax on the sale of sugar.

DIFFICULTIES OF COLLECTION.

Magistrate Jue Chock-man of Heungshan and Commandant Chan Chak of the Kuangtung River Defence, both under the Canton military *régime*, had a clash over the collection of certain taxes during the last fortnight, the fighting spreading from Chinshan to Shekki. The troops of these chiefs looted several towns and burned one to the ground. Dr. Sun, being a native of the Heungshan district himself, is investigating the matter. It is understood that the present conflict is the fourth one since the return of Dr. Sun to Canton last February, and in every case it has been one of Dr. Sun's followers trying to take advantage of another in Heungshan.

On account of the war the price of rice in Canton is at present exceedingly high. Paddy is being sold at $7 a picul and husked rice of the best quality at $11 and above.

SILK INDUSTRY STIFLED.

The silk factories in Canton are suspending operation as a protest against double taxation, throwing more than 10,000 operators out of work. The factories were ordered to pay their likins in advance some months ago, when the Government was in need of cash, upon an understanding that subsequent payments would be made only against receipts issued by the Bureau of Finance. Now the Department of War has taken over the collection of the silk likin and is ignoring the previous arrangements by which all silk dealers have paid much in advance.

In similar case to the silk dealers, the restaurants in Canton may have again to suspend business to avoid the annoyance caused by rival tax collectors, which is greatly detrimental to their business. The Civil Governor of Kuangtung has authorized one syndicate and Gen. Chu Pei-teh of the Kuangsi army another to collect war-tax from the same source. The syndicate backed by the militarists is enforcing its collection by arresting the shopkeepers refusing payment. The restaurant-keepers are in favour of the syndicate authorized by the Civil Governor of Kuangtung, but nowadays in Canton armed troops are everything and civil authorities nothing.

A BLESSING IN DISGUISED

Internal war and destruction of cities in Kuangtung are in some respects a blessing in disguise. Shiuhing City, a scene of recent engagements, will be rebuilt in accordance with a modern plan, and the old wall will be demolished forthwith. Upon reconstruction, a municipal government will be installed to administer the affairs of the city. The leading citizens and gentry of Shiuhing are behind the scheme.

MILITARY OPPRESSION.

The province of Kuangtung is still divided up amongst the militarists, Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Hunanese mercenary forces are occupying the upper part of the North River territory with the Yunnanese in the lower section. Both have ordered the Kuangtung Yueh-Han Railroad to charge an extra passenger rate of 30 per cent. and to increase its freight tariff by 20 per cent. for their support. They thus realize from $2,000 to $3,000 daily exclusively for themselves, aside from whatever may be received directly from the war-chest of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. The West River above Samshui is within the sphere of influence of the Cantonese troops friendly to Dr. Sun.

EXORBITANT RAILWAY FARES.

At Wuchow, Kuangsi, up the river, Dr. Tai En-tsai, a son-in-law of Dr. Sun, is presiding as Superintendent of Customs and Commissioner for Foreign Affairs. On the West River below Samshui and along the Canton-Samshui Railroad Yunnanese troops are stationed, the troops having taken over the management of the line, the tariff of which is exorbitantly high. From Canton to Samngankiu, a distance of but three miles, a third-class fare of 25 cents is being collected. In the Linchow circuit of Kuangtung the Northern and Kuangsi troops opposed to Dr. Sun are in control. The southwestern districts of Kuangtung and the island of Hainan on the southern coast are being controlled to a large extent by forces friendly to Gen. Chen Chiungming. Eastern Kuangtung up to the present is still in the hands of Gen. Chen Chiung-ming.

AN OPIUM MONOPOLY.

Mr. Yang Sae-narm, also known as Mr. Yang Wai-bun, former Chinese Consul at Honolulu and more recently Commissioner of Finance of Kuangtung, has been appointed by Dr. Sun Yat-sen as director to inspect the sale of opium. It is understood that the opium traffic will be given over to a syndicate as a monopoly, with a stated revenue to be paid annually to the Government.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

(Delayed.)

A movement is developing in favour of reorganization of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's General Headquarters, Dr. Sun resuming the Presidency of the Government, styled "the Government of Consolidated China."

Dr. Sun has called for popular support for a Northern Expedition against Peking and also for reunification of Kuangtung finances.

Shensi provincials residing in Canton view unfavourably the sale of the Shansi and Shensi Joint Guild's property to enable the financing of Shan-Shen military expeditions.

The Customs Administration is carrying on without interference.

The National Kuomintang Convention will open at Canton on January 15.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING DAY BY DAY

No Provincial Help for Peking: Bandit Raids on a Railway: Russian Recruits Chinese

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 7.

It will be remembered that some little while ago the Government "ordered" the provinces to remit surplus revenues to Peking for the support of the administration and that the first rebuff came from Shensi. The majority of the provincial leaders addressed in this circular appeal did not reply at all. Kiangsu has now replied, however. Tuchun Ch'i Hsieh-yuan and Civil Governor Han have notified Mr. Wang K'o-min that Kiangsu's finances are low and that they have nothing to spare. They promise to study the problem, but close by admonishing Mr. Wang not to send any more appeals of this character. The exact measure of Tsao Kun's control over this wing of the Chihli party is therefore of the amount which he had been able to collect in revenues—which is nil.

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The Chinese press reports that during three successive bandit raids made in the vicinity of the Ch'inghua end of the Tao-Ch'ing Railway in Honan the railway police and the local defenders of the law were conspicuously absent. On December 27 the bandits raided and looted Ch'inghua station after having seized and bound all the railway employees. Hsiuwu station, on the same line, was also looted. The Honan authorities recently withdrew all the garrisons from this district and when the soldiers departed they took with them three-fourths of the police rifles so that the majority of the police are unarmed and take to cover when the bandits appear.

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Tuchun Sun of Kirin alleges in a message to the Peking Government that a Russian named Hata-fu-ko is recruiting Chinese soldiers in the Tungning district and already has more than 2,000 enlisted. The Tuchun says that he sent an agent to object but that the Russian sent him about his business in an abrupt manner. The Government is therefore asked to make representations to the Soviet Mission in Peking and to warn Mr. Karakhan that if recruiting is not stopped the Tuchun will send an expedition against this person Hata-fu-ko.

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It was announced some little time ago that an experiment in local self-government was to be made in Peking, commencing from the first of this year. Police, gendarmerie, public works and other institutions, all more or less independent now, would be subordinated to this new municipal government so there have naturally been strenuous objections and the Government has announced the postponement of the experiment till April.

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According to the *"Ch'en Pao,"* Wu Pei-fu is planning another invasion of Kuangtung under Shen Hung-ying, who is now in Kuangsi, and wants Kiangsi and Hunan each to contribute one division and one brigade to the expedition.

Conditions would not seem to warrant such an exploit now. Kiangsi has not a division and a half of respectable troops and Hunan is on the defensive, while Shen Hung-ying's northern correspondents say that he has no more than 3,000 troops about him and has little ambition to return to Kuangtung, but would like to sit on the Kuangsi-Hunan border, whence he could conveniently raid several provinces from time to time as opportunity offered.

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Mr. Wu Ching-lien, the notorious Speaker of the Lower House, who recently fled to Tientsin after the acting Premier, Mr. Kao Ling-wei, had removed the parliamentary police and substituted municipal police for them, has recently been telling interviewers that he is preparing to go abroad and tour America and Europe. He still holds the parliamentary seals, much to the Government's satisfaction, because the Ministry of Finance can refuse to pay the members their salaries until the seals with which the receipts are chopped are recovered. Many of the members are now clamouring for the return of their own police, but the Premier says he will not permit them to function again until he has received a petition signed by a majority of the members.

CHINESE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Courteous Reception in England

London, Jan. 6.

The Chinese Industrial Commission, headed by Mr. Chang Chien, Junior, arrived to-day from France. The Mission will remain in Britain for three weeks. It will specially investigate coal-mining, the cotton industry, the agricultural credit and hydraulic works.

Mr. Chang Chien, interviewed by Reuter's representative, stated that the Commission had gathered valuable data which would prove helpful to China as giving a correct idea of the commercial and industrial situation abroad. —Reuter.

London, Jan. 7.

The Chinese Industrial Mission to-day visited the London docks. They will meet at the Chinese Legation to-morrow representatives of British manufacturing houses, officials of the Overseas Trade Department and of the Port of London Authority and representative Chinese residents in London.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 8.

The Chinese Industrial Commissiner, Mr. Chang Chien, JR., interviewed by a representative of Reuter's Agency, said that he was impressed by what he was seeing in England and he was especially grateful for his courteous reception.

The Commission to-day inspected the Underground Railway developments and the improvements in motor transport. A reception in their honour at the Chinese Legation was attended by prominent British and Chinese personages, including representatives of the Foreign Office.—Reuter.

Advancement of Anglo-Chinese Trade Co-operation

London, Jan. 10.

Mr. Chu Chao-hsin, presiding at a dinner last night at the Chinese Legation in honour of the members of the Chinese Industrial Mission, expressed the hope that the visit of the Mission would advance Anglo-Chinese trade co-operation. He looked forward to seeing a similar mission from Britain visiting China.

The guests included representatives of the Department of Overseas Trade, the London Chamber of Commerce and of the leading industrial firms.

The High Commissioner expressed gratitude to Britain and hoped that there would be everlasting friendship between Britian and China.

Sir William Clark said that the Department of Overseas Trade was glad to co-operate with the Mission.

Sir John Jordan said that the history of Britain and China was one of the finest in the world for honesty. He had great hopes for China. It was necessary to stabilize the situation, but the economic position would influence the political situation.

The Chief item of the Mission's programme to-day was an important conference with Sir William Clark, the Comptroller-General of the Department of Overseas Trade. The morning was spent in inspecting road-making and factories. Afterwards there was a private lunch given by the British Industrial Federation.—Reuter.

PRIEST'S PLUCKY ACT

Routed a Robber Horde With a Shilallah and a Few Followers

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kanchow, Ki., Dec. 28.

The city of Lungnan in the extreme south of this province has had a very severe time lately. Some 10 days ago it was invaded by about 200 more or less bandits, who had previously paid extremely unwelcome visits to one or two rather well-to-do families a few *li* from the city. Having entered the city, they immediately began bargaining and, I presume, this not turning out successfully, they started to set the place on fire, daring anyone to come to the rescue on pain of being shot. Something like 20 shops were demolished in this way. A great deal more damage would doubtless have been done, but for the presence of mind of a priest, a native of the Green Isle of the West, who when he could bear it all no longer, took his shillalah in hand and with a few of his followers put to rout these invaders, and ordered the populace to come to the rescue of the burning buildings. This they at once did, and the conflagration was stopped.

It was a brave act and should be long remembered in that place, as in case anyone in that crowd had fired one shot there is no telling what might have happened.

Kanchow has again been treated to a change of protectors, there having arrived during these last days a goodly number of the Tuchun's troops. One of these told me a few days ago that they were here for the protection of the city and were not going south. Strange as these are the troops which were got rid of some time ago in case of certain eventualities.

MORE MILITARY EXACTIONS.

During the last week or so there have been several visits paid to wealthy establishments in this city, resulting in the firms being relieved of a considerable amount of ready money. These visitors are armed with a certain kind of weapon which only certain high officers can carry, thus making the circumstances appear rather strange. There has been no public mention of these happenings —those concerned have just had to take it lying down.

Quiet prevails outwardly, just now, but everyone fears the spring when there is said to be fun in store for this district. Trade could not be more depressed, all boats are now commandeered and are not at present wanted, but are to await orders, which is very hard on these boat people. The schools have been shut since the summer, owing to the presence of the troops. This is a very great mistake and one which will be felt by the whole district in the future.

BANDITS' CAPTIVE RELEASED

Peking, Jan. 10.

The Rev. E. W. Schmalzried reached Tung-jih on January 7. He was thin and wasted, but otherwise was alright. Local Chinese paid 18,000 strings of cash for his ransom.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BEAUTIFUL AND BUSY WUSIH

The Great Mill-Centre of Kiangsu Set in Fairy-land Surroundings

From Our Own Correspondent.

Wusih, Jan. 4, 1924.

Though founded about 900 years ago, it is only within the last 18 years, or since the building of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, that Wusih has assumed a place of any importance in the eyes of the foreign residents in China.

Prior to 1906, the only Western influence was represented by one cotton mill, one Western-trained Chinese physician, two mission stations, with Chinese only in residence, and a large Roman Catholic Mission outside the North Gate.

Wusih is fortunate in its situation, both from an aesthetic and a commercial point of view. Just behind the city is the beautiful Wei San, or sacred mountain, at the foot of which lies "The Second Most Famous Spring under Heaven," a most lovely garden, and some interesting temples. Many poetic myths are connected with this mountain and its environs. Wusih also is within an easy ricsha ride of the Great Lake, and many residents of Shanghai know the charm of week-ends in that portion of "up country." The region abounds in charming temples and groves.

THE COMING OF THE MILLS.

From a commercial angle, the Grand Canal has always been a factor in the prosperity of Wusih, and the coming of the railroad put the city very definitely on the map as a business centre.

From the one mill of 20 years ago, we have now grown to over 30, including cotton, silk, flour, and fabric dyeing. The latest addition is a large cement mill, now under construction.

The stone bridges in and about the city are rapidly being leveled to allow the passage of rickshas and ricsha roads extend in all directions into the neighbouring country.

Soon after the revolution, a new gate was cut through the wall, rendering access to the railroad easier to the dwellers within the city. A few years ago a portion of the wall near the East Gate fell down, and rumours were rife that the wall would all be taken down and a motor road built round the city. But to the relief of those who love the beauty and the haunting sense of mystery of the old brick wall it has been decided merely to take advantage of this partly open breach to a new water gate which is now in process of construction.

Missions are represented by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, and Baptist Churches. All of these missions have schools and churches and the Anglican has in addition maintained for the last 17 years a steadily increasing medical work, which is housed in a modern hospital building. This mission also includes the S. N. Pott Memorial Orphanage, the land for which was given and the cost of building and maintainance assumed and faithfully carried out by Chinese Christians of that Church.

A USEFUL TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

A recent development of great interest is the Wusih Technical School under the auspices of the Southern Methodist Mission. This plant undertakes and executes to the great satisfaction of its patrons building contracts, furniture making, and various industrial activities. It also has a delightful toy shop.

St. John's Alumni School is an interesting institution of Wusih. It was opened six years ago and has graduated two classes into St. John's University.

The local Chinese feel no apprehension with regard to the present political unrest. They expect war in the spring, but do not anticipate fighting near Wusih.

Rain or snow is greatly needed and the canals are very low, but the winter wheat looks flourishing and the general air of prosperity which distinguishes this city is distinctly in evidence.

PROTECTION OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN CHINA

Peking, Jan. 7.

In view of the fact that upward of 80 bandit outrages have been committed since the Lincheng incident, and for fear lest some serious diplomatic issues may be created, the Waichiaopu has wired to the provincial authorities, instructing them to take steps for the protection of foreign residents and to make a report thereon. The Waichiaopu has also ordered the provincial authorities to notify foreign Consuls once more, throughout the country, of the districts in which foreigners are prohibited to travel.—Eastern News Agency.

SHENSI'S MASKED BRAVES

Fresh Wave of Lawlessness in the Province: Foreign Refugees in the City

From Our Own Correspondent.

Sianfu, Dec. 28.

Sianfu has been kept in a flutter of excitement for some time by the news that Lao Yang-jen with his robber army is in the hills in the south of Shensi. The people of this province well remember the awful havoc wrought by White Wolf about 10 years ago, and with the report that Lao Yang-jen is another of the same kidney, much concern has ensued. Foreigners have been instructed by the authorities to see that their colleagues in the affected area are removed to a place of greater safety, and at present some refugees are in the city.

It would seem as if there were a new wave of lawlessness in the ascendancy, for the districts to the south and east are infested with *tufei*, so much so that men are afraid to leave their homes even for a short period, lest during their absence, a visit may be made to their villages by these masked warriors of the night.

CARNAGE AT KAOLIANG.

Kaoling, a town 23 miles to the north, has recently been a scene of carnage. Gen. Tsao Chun-fu, who was formerly the officer in command in this area, departed about a year ago to aid Wu Pei-fu in Honan. Recently, however, he returned to Kaoling, with the intention of taking a large draft of Kaoling men back to Honan. But this plan did not quite meet with the approval of the officers and men concerned, with the result that there was a fight. The clash of arms, unfortunately took place in the city. As was inevitable, much damage was done and many civilians killed in the fray. Gen. Tsao is said to have brought with him a *ying* of soldiers. I believe he had to return whence he came, with these alone, or all that was left of them.

The winter so far has been wonderfully mild, and well it is that it should be so, as everything necessary to sustain life is so terribly dear. The poor must be having a desperate struggle to exist. Snow or rain is anxiously awaited by the farmers.

Chinese Gift to Hongkong University

Hongkong, Jan. 9.

Mr. Fung Ping-shan, a merchant and banker, has donated $50,000 to the general funds and $2,500 to the library funds of the Hongkong University.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING, Jan. 7.—Five southern warships arrived at Tsingtao yesterday. It is reported that Marshal Wu Pei-fu intends to use them as the nucleus of a special squadron which will be stationed in the Gulf of Pechili.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NAVIGATION IN THE UPPER YANGTZE

Accidents Owing to Shallow Water: Japanese Boycott Almost Abandoned

Ichang, Dec. 29.

The low water season brings with it its own difficulties in the navigation of the Upper Yangtze, as some of the steamers have already found. The Yungkiang happened to hit a rock and lost a propellor, as well as having her rudder bent. She managed to have the rudder straightened out here, but had to wait till a new propellor came from Shanghai. She has now gone up again, but it is thought that she will only ply between Wanhsien and Chungking for the remainder of the low water season.

The Kikin was very anxious to make one more trip to Chungking and left here when there was only about four feet of water. She is just a little bit longer than the winter ships and she found that she had attempted one trip too many. Above Wanhsien, when trying to turn, she struck a rock and lost rudder and propellor. Fortunately nothing more serious happened and the captain managed to bring her down here again all right. She has now gone to Shanghai for the winter.

It will be remembered that the N.K.K.S. Tehyang Maru was in trouble when the 1st Szechuan Army took Chungking and drove Gen. Yang Sen out. She has lain here ever since with the exception of two or three trips with kerosene to Wanhsien. But the other day, having heard that Gen. Yang Sen is now master of the upper river, she changed her colour in a night and has now left for Chungking. In her disguised condition it is hoped she will be able to get through all right.

COMPETITION IN SALT TRADE.

There is very little heard of the Japanese boycott now, and the steamers of the N.K.K. are very busy carrying salt from Hankow to Shasi and Ichang. This is the salt that is being sent here in the hope of driving Szechuan salt out of the market. There is going to be a tussle for the trade, but the Szechuanese have themselves to blame, for through soldiers and brigands the demands on the salt junks have been so extortionate that they could no longer engage in the trade. It is now learned, however, that the Szechuanese are determined to hold on to this market, and so salt is said to be coming down, which they are prepared to sell here at a considerable loss to themselves. Then in the spring the arrangements which were made last summer for the transport of salt by steamer will again be brought into force and it is expected that this will keep the market. But if the Tuchuns and others are financially interested in Tientsin salt coming here, it will be very hard for the Szechuanese to hold their end up.

THE TRAFFIC IN OPIUM.

The opium trade continues to flourish. An Ichang branch of the International Anti-Opium Society has been started and the committee wished to arrange for a popular demonstration against the nefarious traffic. Personal visits were made to the schools, asking for co-operation in such an event; but the military got wind of the invitation and sent word to the schools that they should not take part in the procession and no one turned up to make arrangements.

The price per lamp was formerly reported to be $1 per month, but it should have been $3. Even this taxation goes to the military and it is learned from good sources that neither the magistrate nor the local police get a cent of all that is raised from the opium trade.

BANDIT ACTIVITIES.

The China Inland Mission here had a letter from Chungking a few days ago, in which it was mentioned that communication had been received there from Kueiyang, the capital of Kueichow, stating that a missionary and his little boy had been taken by bandits in the far-off province. No confirmation, however, has been received of this report.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

HUPEH'S TERROR OF BANDITS

Peking, Jan. 3.

Despatches from Hankow report that in the interior districts there is much alarm as to the activities of the bandits, especially those of the notorious Lao Yang-jen. When this brigand leader was driven out of Hupeh into Shensi he met other scattered bandit forces who joined him, with the result that he has returned into Hupeh with a greatly increased following, burning and plundering as they go. Tsaoyang was visited by him at the end of the year and despoiled for the second time, the previous visitation having been in August last. Reuter.

POPPY CULTIVATION IN FUKIEN

Planting of Seed Enforced by Military Authorities: A Doubtful Report

Peking, Jan. 4.

The International Anti-Opium Association has received the following telegram from the Right. Rev. Bishop Hind:—

"Foochow, Jan. 3: Kienningfu reports widespread distribution of seed by military and enforced cultivation of opium especially in Chingho, Sungki and Pocheng counties. All classes of civilians indignantly protest and earnestly ask your assistance."

The Association issues the following:—

"In a recent issue of the Peking *"Yi Shih Pao"* the following appears in Chinese: "The Waichiaopu telegraphed to the Civil Governor and Commissioner of Foreign Affairs of Kiangsu saying that an English deputation headed by one named (? Tower) has just finished the investigation of poppy planting in Chêkiang and other places, and will proceed in a few days' time to the different districts of Kiangsu for the same purpose. Thereof take due notice."

Neither the British Legation, the Waichiaopu nor the International Anti-Opium Association have any knowledge of such an investigation under foreign supervision.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

OPIUM ON PACIFIC SHIPS

Japanese Offenders and Others

Peking, Jan. 3.

The International Anti-Opium Association issues the following:—

Several of the trans-Pacific liners of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha have been subjected to heavy fines at San Francisco lately because of opium being found concealed on board. The traffic is said to have been especially brisk since the earthquake, and the *"Kobe Shimbun"* reports that one of the liners has been subjected to a fine of $152,650. The total of the fines inflicted on this company since July last year is $235,400 (gold) according to the same paper.

During 1923 the China Pacific Mail (a Chinese company) went into liquidation largely as the result of opium fines imposed in San Francisco which amounted to over $250,000 gold.

Some Japanese papers allege that the U.S.A. is endeavouring to drive Japanese vessels off the route, and suggest that other vessels are operating freely in opium, but that only the Japanese are seized. This is entirely untrue as seen by the instance of the China Mail.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Cattle Disease in China

Peking, Jan. 3.

It is understood that the Government has decided to submit regulations governing the prevention of contagious disease among cattle to Parliament for ratification.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PROPHET OF NEW CHINA AT NINGPO

Lecture by Former Governor of Kuangtung on the Three Aims of Modern China

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ningpo, Jan. 4.

Ningpo has been honoured by a visit of Gen. Hu Han-ming who delivered an interesting speech to a great audience in the theatre in Railway Road.

Gen. Hu, formerly civil governor of Kuangtung, is one of the chief movers of the Nationalist Party and the Southern Government and his speech threw much light on the aim and end of the section he represented. He began his speech by comparing a weak nation to a sick man; since the latter must receive special medical attention, so a weak nation needs the special support of its people.

To the people of nations like England or France patriotism is not enough; being strong themselves, their regard must pass beyond their national boundaries, the good of general humanity must be their care and international welfare a great part of their concern.

Thus a healthy man who only takes care of himself may justly be deemed selfish, while a sick man must not only be self-regarding but should really receive help from others.

Now (Gen. Hu continued) China is in the latter condition and as a consequence the Chinese have need to be highly patriotic. A patriotic man, however, is of little use unless he is guided by a fixed principle. Of all the patriotic parties of China to-day, the speaker maintained that the Nationalist Party alone had a fixed principle, the principle covered by Dr. Sun Yat-sen's "Three Aims of the People" viz "The People's Peace, the People's Right and the People's Living"

Dealing with the first of these, Gen. Hu said that under the Manchu *régime* the chief question was a racial one between the Manchurians and China Proper, but since the establishment of the Republic it has been between the Chinese and other races of the world, mostly the Japanese and the Western peoples.

Until the Chinese nation has taken its proper place among the civilized nations of the world this first aim can never be fully realized.

With regard to the second aim, Gen. Hu laid it down that there should be a clear line drawn between central and local governments in China. In the central government system there should be five independent sections: namely, the legislative, the executive, the judicial, the civil service examination section and the censorate. As to local government, the district should be the unit.

The last but not the least of the three aims concerns itself with the people's livelihood, upon which all Chinese students of economics should concentrate. This was necessary for the good of the country in general and the welfare of the poor in particular.

In this speech Gen. Hu expounded Dr. Sun Yat-sen's political theory so lucidly, that, in less than two hours he had given of it a complete *résumé*. The students of most of the colleges and schools of the city were present at the meeting, the Ningpo Methodist College, the Fourth Middle School and the Fourth Normal School fully represented.

BANK FUNDS EMBEZZLED IN MANILA

Manila, Jan. 10.

Lucio Torralba, a former bookkeeper in the local branch of the Yokohama Specie Bank, has escaped to Macao after alleged embezzlement of amounts from the Bank variously stated at between 168,000 and 400,000 pesos. It is alleged that the defalcations had been in progress since 1921.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

intendent of the Metropolitan Police; Mr. N. Akaike, to be Vice-Minister of Home Affairs; Mr. Fumio Goto, to be Director of the Police Bureau.—Eastern News Agency.

PRESS DISSATISFACTION.

Tokio, Jan. 8.

Commenting on the formation of the Kiyoura Cabinet, the press, expressing its dissatisfaction with the Cabinet, is of opinion that it is feared that the Kiyoura Cabinet will open the way for aristocracy and arouse class animosity. The *"Asahi"* says that a serious political confusion will, it is feared, be created some day as a reaction of the monopolization of political power by this small portion of the peerage. The *"Jiji"* writes that the rash and unconsidered action taken by a section of the peerage is greatly regretted. The *"Yomiuri"* states that it is to be regretted that the new Cabinet can not be looked forward to, though the accusation that the Kiyoura Cabinet places its stand upon a political party in the Upper House may be withheld for the time being.—Eastern News Agency.

Tokio, Jan. 9.

The following appointments were officially published to day:

Lieut.-Gen. Ichisuke Tsuno, to be Vice-Minister of War; Mr. Raizaburo Hayashi, Vice-Minister of Justice; Mr. Chinjiro Matsuura, Vice-Minister of Education; Mr. Narakichi Yoneda, Vice-Minister of Communications; Mr. Noboru Okano, Vice-Minister of Railways; and Mr. Sakio Tsurumi, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.—Eastern News Agency.

THE EARTHQUAKE MURDERS IN JAPAN

Peking, Jan. 8.

Dr. C. T. Wang, interviewed by a representative of the "Peking Daily News," said: "Several hundreds of Chinese were murdered during the earthquake. Some were killed by mistake and others were murdered either intentionally or because of hatred." Dr. Wang did not know what action the Government will take. With regard to the report that he went to Japan to negotiate with Japan regarding Russia, Dr. Wang said that his business was to negotiate with Russia and not with Japan over Russia.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUNDS.

Tokio, Jan. 8.

The balance of $4,500,000 of American Red Cross funds has been handed over to the Japanese Emergency Relief Bureau by the American Chargé d'Affaires. One-third of this amount is for direct social service, one-third for the construction of a hospital and the balance for the endowment of the hospital.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

C. P. R. WAR MEMORIAL IN HONGKONG

The Unveiling Ceremony

Hongkong, Jan. 8.

In the presence of distinguished personages, including Admiral Sir Arthur Leveson, General Sir John Fowler and the Bishop of Victoria, the Governor to-day unveiled a beautiful war memorial in the form of a bronze tablet to the members of the staff of the Candian Pacific Railway Service who fell in the War.

The ceremony was most impressive. Representatives of both Services were present. After a dedicatory service the Last Post was sounded.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MORE than two million horsepower is being generated in electricity from the waterfalls of Canada. Because of this, Canadian industries are conserving coal on a broad scale.

THE MASSACRING OF KOREANS

After the Earthquake in Japan: Government's Slowness to Make Proper Amends

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Dec. 28.

Accusing "high officials within the Government who formerly served in Korea and who anticipated serious consequences to arise from the mistaken policy they pursued while in that country" of having circulated exaggerated reports relative to alleged crimes committed by the Koreans immediately after the earthquake; waving duplicates of the telegrams the Home Office sent out to prefectural governors on this subject immediately after the earthquake; and blaming the administration of Korea generally since the annexation as being the true cause of the misunderstandings that have ever occurred between Japanese and Koreans and which resulted in the wholesale massacres of Koreans in the early days of September, Mr. Ryutaro Nagai, a member of the Kenseikai (Opposition party) made startling revelations in the Diet, in the course of an interpellation regarding the slaughter of Koreans.

THE OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.

In exposing the fatal official messages which resulted in such terrible repercussions on the unfortunate Koreans living in the quakestricken areas, Mr. Nagai also coupled a demand that the Government should express "heartfelt regret and do its best to give relief and consolation to the bereaved families of the unfortunate victims, because such would be not only what justice and humanity dictate, but is also in accord with inborn human sentiment."

Among the official warnings read in the Diet by Mr. Nagai was one sent out on Monday, September 3, at 5.30 a.m., addressed to the Governor-General of Korea, Admiral Baron Saito, the sender being the Director of the Metropolitan Police Bureau. This message reads as follows:—

> "Some Korean residents attempt to commit incendiarism, bomb outrages and other criminal acts, taking advantage of the situation caused by the earthquake. Tokio-fu has already been placed under martial law. Such being the case, you are requested to exert strict control over the Koreans at home and to check the departure of Koreans for Japan."

A second message was despatched, also by the Director of the Police Bureau, an hour later, addressed to the Adjutant of the Kure Naval Station, to the following effect:—

> "Please telegraph to the Governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture to the effect that Koreans are going to act in a disorderly manner. In Tokio, they are showing much activity, attempting to set fire to houses and to throw bombs. In view of this situation, martial law has already been proclaimed over Tokio-fu. You are requested to see that the authorities of your prefecture keep all Koreans coming to Japan under strict surveillance prohibiting the landing of Socialist Koreans. At the same time you are requested to keep a strict watch over low-class Koreans arriving from Shanghai and take such steps as the occasion may demand."

A third telegram, sent out the same day, also by the Director of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, addressed to the commanders of all naval stations, reads:—

> "Please telegraph to the Governors of all prefectures thus:—Koreans are trying to attain their sinister ends by setting houses on fire in many places, taking advantage of the situation created in and around Tokio by the earthquake. In Tokio some Koreans have been carrying bombs and petroleum and setting houses on fire. Tokio is already placed under martial law. Such being the case, you are requested to keep a strict surveillance over all Koreans and exert strict control over their movements."

FORMER CABINET BLAMED.

The instructions to the prefectural Governors were thus not sent direct, but through naval stations. These cables were filed on September 1 and 2, although despatched through the naval wireless station at Funabashi on September 3, and consequently it was not the present Cabinet which sent them out, but the previous one, of which Dr. Midzuno, who was formerly Civil Governor of Korea, was the Home Minister Mr. Nagai thus thinks that the former Cabinet should bear a great share of the blame for the massacres of Koreans, since Dr. Midzuno, as Home Minister, authorized the sending of these cables.

The prefectural governors who received the telegrams transmitted the purport of these instructions to the district offices under their respective jurisdiction which, in their turn, conveyed them to the towns and villages under their jurisdiction. These instructions, which were thus broadcast, led to the formations of corps of Vigilantes.

WHERE WORST SLAUGHTER OCCURRED.

In certain prefectures, the local officials improved on the instructions of the Home Minister, and this was particularly so in the Saitama Prefecture where the worst slaughter of Koreans took place. The Japanese population of this district received telephonic (where available) and written circulars to the following effect:

> "There is great fear that many of the Koreans who have committed crimes in Tokio and Yokohama may come here, and as the present police force of the city is not sufficient, each town and village is asked to take up guard duty in co-operation with the local members of the Ex-Soldiers' Association, the Fire Brigade and the members of the Young Men's Societies, and that suitable action be taken when deemed necessary."

Thus the organization of the Vigilantes would seem to have been largely prompted by officialdom, and Mr. Nagai insisted that the authorities responsible for sending these instructions shall be impeached, beginning with the former Home Minister.

PREMIER'S ADMISSION.

Count Yamamoto, the Premier, has publicly stated on two occasions that the killing of Koreans was due largely to the wild canards regarding them which were being circulated with an assiduousness that was worthy of a far better cause. On September 12, in a press interview, he declared this to be so and again at the commencement of the present session of the Diet. If canards were at the bottom of these murders as the Premier admits, Mr. Nagai wanted to know why the Government now refuses to take responsibility for the groundless reports which the authorities themselves set afloat.

In concluding his speech, Mr. Nagai remarked: "It is a moral duty of the present Cabinet to express heartfelt regret over the slaughter of the Koreans and to console the bereaved families of the unfortunate victims. If, on the contrary, the reports of Korean misdemeanours were founded on fact, the Premier should tell us who is responsible for the feelings of the Koreans towards Japanese having become so dangerous. I believe that the Japanese authorities in Korea, the Governor-General in particular, must answer for the changed sentiments of the Korean people. In spite of the fact that it is its bounden duty to make reparation, the Government has hitherto done nothing to express regret, to disclose the truth of the regrettable affair or to do anything for the families of the innocent murdered. Even to an interpellation of a member of the House on a previous occasion, the Government has made no response."

THE CHINESE CASE.

It was generally expected that, once the Diet came into session, the disgraceful incidents that occurred during the earthquake would be fully aired. As a matter of fact, so far, only two members have broached the question of the murder of Koreans and Chinese—Mr. Nagai of the Kenseikai and Mr. Tagochi, an Independent. On the contrary, there has been much praising of Captain Amakasu, the gendarmerie officer who murdered Saka Ohsugi, the well-known Japanese Socialist, and his wife and whose instructions were responsible for the murder of their seven-year-old, American-born nephew, which incidentally indicates that the Diet, upon which devolves the duty of correcting the misdeeds of the authorities, is hardly alive to its responsibilities. The proposal made by Mr. Taguchi for an expression of regret by the Diet in connexion with the murders of Chinese and Koreans was treated with silent contempt by the Legislature.

While there has been some exposure of the wrongs done the Koreans, there was little evidence of a concrete nature in regard to the slaughter of Chinese.

ONLY FAINT INTEREST EVINCED.

When asked in the Diet whether Dr. C. T. Wang and his party were here on a mission of investigation into the number of Chinese killed and to find out whether these were murdered by Japanese mobs, Baron Ijuin, the Foreign Minister, curtly denied that Dr. Wang was on any sort of a mission here. Your correspondent called on Dr. Wang the same afternoon, and Dr. Wang told him that he was really here to inquire into the killings of Chinese after the quake.

Considerable pressure is being put on the Japanese press by the authorities and quite a number of subjects have been listed as matters on which discussion is prohibited, the penalty for violating this regulation being instantaneous suppression. The Diet is the only body that can expose the deplorable occurrences that have occurred for some time past, but the Diet is in a state of lethargy worse than that of any previous Diet.

PHILIPPINE ANTAGONISTS OF GEN. WOOD

Fantastic Charge of Graft

Manila, Jan. 5.

Charges published in the United States that Governor-General Wood has been using his official position to influence the exchange rate of Chinese taels through the Philippine National Bank and that he has also been permitting his backers in the 1920 campaign to recoup their losses through investments here have evoked the following from Governor-General Wood:—

"I hope there will be a full and complete investigation, the sooner the better, and that they hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may. The only member of my staff with Philippine investments is one constabulary officer who has a few shares in the Davao plantation."

Sources near to Governor-General Wood have made a statement that the charges that Governor-General Wood benefitted through the speculation of his son, Lieutenant Osborne C. Wood, are a baseless falsehood.—Reuter.

Japan and Tsingtao

Peking, Jan. 6.

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Tsingtao has telegraphed to the Government calling attention to the action of the Japanese Consulate there of sending out police patrols on the pretext of protecting Japanese merchants. The Chamber calls on the Government to protest to the Japanese Legation. — Reuter's Pacific Service.

Japanese Mine Explosion

Sapporo, Hokkaido, Jan. 6.

More than one hundred miners are entombed and are believed to be dead owing to a gas explosion in a coal mine at Utashinai near here. Nine are known to be dead and 12 fatally injured.—Reuter.

Another Big Fire in Japan

Tokio, Jan. 8.

Last last night, the Medical College of the Tohoku University, with the exception of the hospital attached thereto, was burnt down. The total damage is estimated at some Y.500,000.—Eastern News Agency.

AN AERONAUTICAL ENTERPRISE

Offer of 'Planes by German Firm to a Chinese Military Leader

The following are extracts from a letter addressed by a representative of a number of German industrial works of first standing, including "aeroplane-works of unexcelled products," to a leading Chinese military leader and a provincial governor. The latter, in transmitting the letter to us, states that he is not in the field to purchase arms, ammunition or aeroplanes either for military or commercial purposes. When the country is at peace, the military leader in question may bring up the matter of the purchase of aeroplanes for commercial purposes with the local gentry who shall decide, but while there is trouble in the country he absolutely refuses to take the matter up.

Extracts of the letter follow:—

"Your Excellency ruling over such a great part of China is surely in need of quick communication with all places within your provinces and therefore I beg to be allowed to offer the aeroplanes of my German firm, of which I enclose a few fotos—photos——. The pattern as shown is easy to steer, very light, with splendid motors, very fast, all in all the best of this kind what German workmanship produces.

"My firm makes several different kinds of aeroplanes as the intentions and purposes of the buyers require it, but all are proved by experts, for the chief of the firm as well as all his constructing engineers are men of highest skill and experience as they served during the great war as flying officers of the army.

METHODS OF ACQUISITION.

"Perhaps your Excellency allow me to make a suggestion. There are three ways of acquiring these aeroplanes:

"1. Only to buy same. The price for one as the photos show is $9,000, besides freight from Hamburg to China.

"2. To buy some and order at the same time a German mechanician and a German expert flyer, to serve Your Excellency as instructor for becoming Chinese officer-airmen.

"3. To buy some and to start a factory of aeroplanes at....., which would be not very expensive, as parts would come from Germany, with my home firm together.

"If Your Excellency would place an order for a few such aeroplanes as shown on the pictures by telegraph I can guarantee arrival of two machines, an mechanician and an expert flyer from Germany, to be here at ..... within three and a half months. The rest of the order a month later.

"Letter or orders from Your Excellency will reach me through the German General Consulate at Shanghai.

TRAINING IN GERMANY.

"Finally I beg to be allowed to make a fourth proposal:

"If Your Excellency would despatch one of Your Excellency's flying-officers with me to Germany I promise to introduce him personally to all industrial works and factories which he himself likes to inspect, not only to my firm, as we Germans are filled with the desire to sell our Chinese friends only the best that we produce and the kind of goods which the Chinese want themselves.

"Our principle is: Come and See and choose the Best.

"By this way Your Excellency have the surest guarantee of getting the quality and the kind Your Excellency want."

CAPTAIN A. L. Gordon of the Blue Funnel steamer "Lycaon" was the recipient on his arrival here on the 1st instant of a letter of thanks and a very handsome piece of silver suitably inscribed, from the Chinese Earthquake Relief Committee and the Chinese Life Saving Association of Kobe and Osaka. This was presented to him on behalf of the Chinese refugees rescued, amongst others, by himself, officers and crew during the earthquake at Yokohama on September 1, 1923.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE PRINCE REGENT OF JAPAN

Carriage Window Smashed by Bullet Fired Near the "Tiger Gate": Would-be Assassin Badly Man-Handled: Elaborate Police Precautions: Cabinet Held Responsible for the Crime

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Dec. 27.

For the first time in the more than 3,000-years' history of Japan, an attempt was made to assassinate the Heir to the Throne. The regular session of the Diet was to be convened today and His Imperial Highness, the Prince Regent, graciously consented to officiate at the ceremony and to read the Imperial message. Accompanied by several officials including Viscount Iriye, Grand Chamberlain to the Prince Regent, who was seated in the same car as the Prince, the procession left the Akasaka Palace, where His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales lived during his stay in Tokio, at 10.35 a.m., the scarlet painted and chrysanthemum-embossed car of His Imperial Highness leading. The roads were packed with dense crowds who cheered the Prince as he passed, His Imperial Highness responding to the people's ovations by a salute and a graceful low bow.

As the cars swung round the Toranomon (Tiger Gate) bend, which is situated near the Old Russian Embassy, two men suddenly jumped out of the crowd, one of whom levelled a stick-pistol at the Prince's carriage and a shot rang upon the air. The bullet smashed the glass window, grazed past the Prince's neck and passed out through the other window. Viscount Iriye was badly cut about the face by the flying glass, but the wounds are believed to be superficial ones.

The Prince's chauffeur immediately put on speed and the machine flew round the corner, skidding at a very uncomfortable angle. At the moment the bullet was fired, His Imperial Highness was bowing to the multitude. If such had not been the case, the result would have been too dreadful to contemplate.

CROWD SEIZES ASSAILANT.

The would-be assassin of Japan's Heir to the Throne was immediately seized by the crowd who clamoured to have the man instantly lynched. He was badly man-handled before a strong force of police and gendarmes practically tore him away from the grasp of the infuriated onlookers. Your correspondent was on his way to the Foreign Office, which is a few hundred yards from Toranomon, and was a spectator of the attempted assassination.

His Imperial Highness proceeded to the Diet as though nothing had occurred, convened the 48th session of Japan's parliament, read the Imperial Message in a clear, distinct and sonorous voice and then returned to the Akasaka Palace. He received several high officials who afterwards reported that the Prince conversed cheerfully with them and was quite composed.

The news was immediately flashed to Numadzu where the Emperor and Empress are spending the winter.

CABINET RESIGNS.

The immediate result of the dastardly attempt to kill a very popular young Prince was that the Chief of the Metropolitan Police immediately resigned on the ground that he was responsible for the policing arrangements and that any hitch, in whatever manner it happened, was his fault.

The immediate rumour following the attempted assassination was the not unusual report that the perpetrator was a Korean. Your correspondent was detained by the police and not allowed to move until more than a half-hour had elapsed. The same was done to the rest of the crowd who were in the neighbourhood of Toranomon at the time.

Later in the afternoon the entire Cabinet resigned, but the Prince Regent bade the Premier carry on till further instructions had been received from His Imperial Majesty the Emperor. The resignation of the Cabinet is really a matter of form, but as the present Cabinet has as Home Minister Viscount Goto, whose flirtations with Soviet officials is well known and as the would-be assassin was of distinct radical tendencies, the present Cabinet is held responsible on the ground that the attitude of the Home Minister towards the Soviet officials has been responsible for the dissemination of radical propaganda.

WOULD-BE ASSASSIN A JAPANESE.

Immediately after the confusion that followed the shot fired at the Prince Regent, the report spread that the perpetrator of the deed was a Korean. In view of the recent massacres of Koreans during the chaos that followed the earthquake, it was feared that a Korean, stung to desperation, might possibly do some such rash act.

Your correspondent hurried to the Metropolitan Police Station whither the would-be assasssin and an accomplice were taken, and there elicited the fact that the evil-doer was a Japanese. The room just opposite the chamber in which the foolish man was being put through the third degree was packed with newspaper camera men and press reporters and the slightest opening of the door resulted in the lighting of magnesia flares as the press photographers attempted to get the first "picture scoop" of the man who wanted to take the life of Japan's future sovereign.

EXTRAS SUPPRESSED.

Extras telling of the attempt on the Prince's life were out in the streets a few minutes after the deplorable occurrence, but these were suppressed by the Police as fast as they appeared. In the afternoon, however, the Press Bureau of the Imperial Household Department issued a statement to the effect that an attempt had been made on the life of the Heir to the Throne, and thereafter the papers were allowed to print the occurrence and the details.

That the Police had some presentiment that something dangerously unusual might possibly occur seems to be borne out by the elaborate precautions that were taken, at least in the number of police and gendarmes patrolling the streets. I have seen 5,000 police collected in an area of less than two acres in the neighbourhood of the Diet when the Suffrage Bill was being debated in previous years, and noting that to-day there were even more police than then, I remarked to a Japanese friend that I was not aware that the Diet was going to debate the suffrage issue on the very day the two Houses of Japan's parliament were convened. He assented to my remark and declared that the Suffrage Bill was not on the agenda for the opening day. A few minutes after this conversation came the attempt on the Prince's life.

MARRIAGE THIS MONTH.

His Imperial Highness is to be married to Princess Naga-ko Kuni on January 29, and preparations are already in hand for the royal nuptials. As a result of the earthquake disaster, the ceremonies, while solemnly impressive, will be shorn of a great deal of the magnificence that would otherwise have characterized the wedding of the Heir to the Throne. The nuptial knot will be tied in the sanctuary of the Imperial Palace and after the solemnization of the marriage, the Prince Regent and his bride will return to the Akasaka Palace in the same automobile. The Emperor and Empress will not be present at the ceremonies, and the newly-wedded couple will leave on January 31 to visit their Majesties at Numazu. After a short stay in Tokio, the royal couple will proceed to Western Japan where a portion of the honeymoon will be spent. Princess Nagako, after her marriage, will be known as the Crown Princess.

Punishment of Officials

Tokio, Jan. 7.

The following officials, who are held responsible for the incident involving the outrage committed by Daisuke Namba upon the Prince Regent, have been punished as under:—

Mr. S. Tsukamoto, ex-Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, has been reprimanded; Mr. T. Okada, ex-Director of the Police Bureau, is to have his salary reduced by 10 per cent. for two months: Messrs. Kurahei Yuasa, ex-Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police, M. Shoriki, Chief of the Section of Police Affairs, and K. Hirota, Chief of the Atago Police Station, have been dismissed.—Eastern News Agency.

THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL PALACE BOMBED

No One Hurt: Bomber Arrested

Tokio, Jan. 5.

There was a demonstration tonight outside the Imperial Palace, which is not now occupied by the Imperial Family. A bomb was thrown by a Korean, but it did not explode. It is reported that the man arrived from Shanghai this morning. Three bombs were found in his possession and he was arrested on the spot.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Jan. 6.

It is becoming more apparent that the bomb-thrower was prompted by a desire to protest against the formation of a House of Lords Cabinet, though the police declare that he is a Korean. A veil of mystery is shrouding the affair.—Reuter.

Decided Movement in Japan Against Imperialism

Tokio, Jan. 6.

The Korean attempt, combined with the recent attack on the Prince, now indicates that there is a decided movement in Japan against Imperialism and is causing a greater sensation than the earthquake.

It has been revealed that a Korean plot was discovered recently at Shanghai to assassinate the Prince Regent on his wedding day.

Speculation is rife regarding the drastic measures that will be taken to prevent further attempts. Sensational developments are expected.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

RELIGIOUS FANATICS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jan. 9.

Two thousand religious fanatics are terrorizing Surigao. They have killed two police and five constabulary and abducted two school teachers. The constabulary is being reinforced.

Later.

It is learned that the total number of victims is 19, including a captain and a lieutenant of the constabulary who were slain yesterday.

Governor-General Wood has ordered 100 constabulary to Surigao from Manila.

It is said that the fanatics are nearer 1,000 in number than 2,000.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE NEW JAPANESE CABINET

Baron Fujimura, Well Known in Shanghai, as Minister of Communications

Tokio, Jan. 4.

The Kenkyukai, the majority party in the Upper House, have agreed to support Viscount Kiyoura, who is proceeding to form a Ministry, the members of which will chiefly be drawn from the Kenkyukai, according to a "*Nichi Nichi*" extra edition.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Tokio, Jan. 5.

The Kenkyukai Party this morning submitted Viscount Kiyoura's tentative Cabinet as follows. It is believed that it will be approved to-day.

Home Affairs, Dr. Rentaro Mizuno;
Foreign Affairs, Baron Yoshiro Fujimura;
Finance, Mr. Kazuye Shoda;
War, Gen. Masataro Fukuda;
Navy, Admiral Kantaro Suzuki;
Justice, Mr. Kisaburo Suzuki;
Education, Mr. Senshi Egi;
Agriculture and Commerce, Viscount Toshisada Maeda;
Communications, Mr. Kenjiro Komatsu;
Railways, Count Yenkichi Oki.

Mr. Kisaburo Suzuki was formerly Vice-Minister of Justice and is now the Procurator-General.

Viscount Toshisada Maeda was Minister of Communications in the Kato Ministry.

Baron Yoshiro Fujimura is a business executive and a former director of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha in Shanghai and London. He has never held political office before and has been a Member of the Upper House since 1918.

The tentative Cabinet is composed of four members of the Kenkyukai Party and four members from the Minority Parties. The Ministers of War and the Navy are not Members of Parliaments.

Later.

The Cabinet outlined this morning has been accepted. Its installation will probably take place on Sunday.

Viscount Kiyoura this morning visited Viscount Takahashi, the President of the Seiyukai Party, and Viscount Kato, the President of the Kenseikai Party, asking for the support of both Lower House parties. He has made a statement that no party can carry on without such support. Neither Viscount Takahashi nor Viscount Kato would promise to support the new Government.

The consensus of opinion is that the Cabinet will live only until after the imperial wedding. The selection of Baron Fujimura is viewed with amazement as it is an unprecedented action. Heretofore the Foreign Minister has been chosen from an exclusive group of trained diplomats, but now an amateur has been selected.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Jan. 6.

Owing to strong opposition to Baron Yoshiro Fujimura, Viscount Kiyoura will hold the post of Foreign Minister as well as that of Prime Minister for the present. The Cabinet definitely decided upon to-day is as follows:—

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Viscount Keigo Kiyoura;
Home Affairs, Dr. Rentaro Mizuno;
Finance, Mr. Kazuye Shoda;
War, General Issei Ugaki;
Navy, Admiral Kakuichi Murakami;
Justice, Mr. Kisaburo Suzuki;
Education, Mr. Senshi Egi;
Agriculture and Commerce, Viscount Toshisada Maeda;
Communications, Baron Yoshiro Fujimura;
Railways, Mr. Kenjiro Komatsu.

Gen. Ugaki is at present Vice-Minister of War.

Admiral Murakami is a Member of the Admirals' Council.—Reuter.

Tokio, Jan. 6.

Baron Keishiro Matsui, Ambassador at large, at 7 p.m. to day consented to be Minister for Foreign Affairs under the Premiership of Viscount Kiyoura. It has been definitely decided that the inauguration ceremony of the Kiyoura Cabinet will be held tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock.—Eastern News Agency.

Tokio, Jan. 6.

Baron Keishiro Matsui, the former Ambassador to France, has accepted the post of Foreign Minister.—Reuter.

Viscount Kiyoura Faced With Complications: Changes Due to Party Objections

Tokio, Jan. 6.

Viscount Kiyoura, newly appointed Premier, in forming his new Cabinet, at first made Mr. Yeigi Arimatsu undertake the business of bringing the Kiyoura Cabinet into being. Owing to opposition, however, on the part of the Kenyukai, the majority party in the Upper House, Viscount Kiyoura resolved to decline the first Imperial command for the formation of a new Cabinet, but as a result of the second Imperial command given him by the Prince Regent, Viscount Kiyoura immediately proceeded to form his Cabinet, this time causing the Kenyukai to choose the Cabinet members, and Viscount Aoki and Dr. Rentaro Midzuno being solely engaged in this task.

Though the *personnel*, with Dr. Rentaro Midzuno as Minister of Home Affairs and concurrently as Vice-Premier, was thus originally decided upon, the Cabinet makers were at a loss where to place Baron Yoshiaki Fujimura and finally decided to transfer him to the portfolio of Minister for Foreign Affairs. This decision having been met with strong opposition by the other Cabinet members and diplomatic circles a deadlock ensued. To make matters more complicated, the entry into the new Cabinet of Mr. Senshi Yegi having become a *fait accompli* through the good offices of Count Ohki, there appeared one surplus member on the *personnel*, with the consequence that Count Ohki, taking the responsibility upon himself, declined to join the new Cabinet.

ELEVENTH HOUR CHANGES.

Notwithstanding the above complications, the *personnel* was at length settled, with Mr. Kenjiro Komatsu transferred to the post of Minister of Railways and Baron Fujimura to the office of Minister of Communications. On the suggestion of Gen. Tanaka, Lieut.-General Ugaki, Prince Regent, have been punish- to Minister of War, and Admiral Murakami has been given the portfolio of Minister of the Navy through the recommendation of the Naval and Military State Councillors.

The *personnel* of the Kiyoura Cabinet thus chosen, with a vacancy of the portfolio of Minister of Foreign Affairs, was submitted to the Throne, but with the approach of the Imperial wedding, Viscount Kiyoura, being desirous of filling up every post of his Cabinet, suddenly commenced negotiations with Baron K. Matsui, asking him to take up the vacant portfolio. Now that Baron Matsui has consented to comply with this request, the new Cabinet has been completely settled. — Eastern News Agency.

Jan. 7.

This morning at 11 o'clock the installation ceremony of the Kiyoura Cabinet was held in the Imperial Palace. Count Yamamoto, ex-Premier, and Viscount Goto, ex-Minister for Home Affairs, have been specially accorded by the Throne the treatment due to their late offices.

Simultaneously with the formation of the Kiyoura Cabinet, the following appoointments were officially published:—Mr. Chinjiro Matsu-ura, to be President of the Bureau of Legislation; Mr Itta Kobashi, to be Chief Secretary to the Cabinet; Mr. Asakichi Yasukochi, to be super-

The average number of labourers employed for the seven months of construction was about 7,000, and the greatest number employed at one time reached 23,500 men. At one time 12,000 were at work in the leading channel alone. Famine conditions in Shantung had passed, so it was not easy to secure sufficient labourers, and though good pay was given it was necessary to develop a large recruiting organization to obtain the men.

The company made a special effort to look after the health and welfare of the workmen. A hospital with medical service was established and sanitary rules were enforced, for which purpose a special semi-official sanitary inspection corps was organized, these precautions no doubt helping to produce the splendid health record. With an average of more than 7,000 labourers over a period of seven months and a maximum at one time of more than 23,000 men, only three deaths occurred from sickness.

C. L. C WORK REPEATED.

With the co-operation of the General Committee of the Y. M. C. A. an experiment was made which turned out very satisfactorily, the Y.M.C.A. undertaking a work among the thousands of labourers somewhat along the lines of that performed with the Chinese Labour Corps in France. Messrs. Charles C. Shedd and Henry Tan were assigned to the Yellow River encampment and their efforts contributed much to the success of the project as well as to the comfort and welfare of the men. The mission organizations in the field assisted the Y.M.C.A., in particular the Rev. R. E. Grecning, of the British Baptist Mission, Chowtsun, who contributed not a little of his time to the work.

The river was diverted on May 15 1923, and all the dyke protection and other works were completed and officially accepted miles of land were reclaimed and on October 20. Then 1,800 approximately 250,000 people reoccupied their homes. Crops were planted in June and a bountiful harvest was reaped in the Autumn. Much credit is due to the progressive Civil Governor of Shantung, Hsiung Ping-chih, for putting this work through and financing it. All the payments were met promptly. On the contractors' side, special credit should be given to the chief engineer, Mr. L. Fred Patstone, for his able handling of the big job.

BISHOP ROOTS

His Work in the National Christian Council

In view of the fact that the House of Bishops in America has not accepted the resignation of Bishop Roots from his diocesan responsibilities as Bishop of Hankow, the Chairman and Secretaries of the National Christian Council wish to state their position as follows:—

1. That the position which Bishop Roots has taken in the National Christian Council since his first call has been explicitly stated by himself and recognized by the Council to be subject to the action taken by his own Church, and that he has been giving a large part of his time to the diocese pending a decision by the Church.

2. That the decision of the House of Bishops does not carry with it Bishop Roots' withdrawal from the work of the National Christian Council.

3. That Bishop Roots has not, as a matter of fact, withdrawn from the National Christian Council.

4. That pending a final settlement of the matter Bishop Roots is continuing to carry his work as diocesan Bishop and will carry it until some other arrangement is made, giving only a minimum of his time to the National Christian Council.

The Chairman and Secretaries are very hopeful that a plan may be discovered whereby Bishop Roots can continue to serve the National Christian Council while retaining the full support of the Episcopal Church.

ANOTHER BANDIT ATROCITY

Little Boy's Ear Cut Off

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingkiangpu, Ku., Dec. 31.

Four or five days ago I wrote telling you of having just admitted to the hospital a youth who had had one ear cut off by bandits. Yesterday a man came with his little nine year old boy whom he had just received back from the bandits and who had also had one ear cut off. The father paid $6000 (six thousand dollars) for his release but the money was not forthcoming quick enough. The mutilating of captives is evidently becoming more common to hasten the delivery of the ransoms.

THE SHARE BOOM IN HONGKONG

Unprecedented Appreciation Accompanied by Frenzied Speculation

Hongkong, Jan. 5.

The most recent among the group of companies controlled by Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co. to boom is the Green Island Cement Co., Ld., the shares of which stood at $26 last month and appreciated to $30 to-day, with a keen demand for forward delivery.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Hongkong, Jan. 9.

A scene relatively to be compared only with the height of the rubber boom in London is being witnessed to-day outside the Stock Exchange premises. The frenzied appreciation of the shares of the group of local companies, of which Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. are General Managers, is reaching its zenith with a further phenomenal advance in Green Island Cement shares, the quotation of which was 26½ for buyers on the opening day of the New Year and reached 40 this morning. Excited biddings for forward purchases are lifting up the rates by leaps and bounds.

Bears for March are reported to have been badly squeezed. More than one firm of jobbers are reported to have netted a quarter of a million during the week's boom. Experienced persons regard the condition of the market as perilously speculative and are forecasting a crisis in the near future. The March settlement is expected to be crucial. The aggregate appreciation within the week runs into several millions of dollars and is without precedent in the history of the local Stock Exchange.

Later.

The shares of the eight companies, mostly local industrials aggregating $25,000,000 paid-up capital, have appreciated by $14,000,000 from December 31 to date. The advance is wholly without precedent.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A PEACE ENCOURAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Peking, Jan. 6.

A group of Members of Parliament, mostly representing the three Manchurian Provinces, have organized a Peace Encouraging Association with the object of working for peace between the Central Government and the Manchurian Provinces. The Association, which is being inaugurated to-day, will in a day or two issue a circular telegram setting forth its aims, while representatives will be despatched to Mukden to talk over the situation with Gen. Chang Tso-lin. Among the promotors of the Association are Messrs. Wang Hung-shon, Ku Chia-yin and Pi Wei-yuan.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

LOYAL NAVY'S LACK OF FUNDS FOR EXPENSES

Peking, Jan. 6.

Admiral Li Ting-hsin, Minister of Navy, gave a reception last evening at the Naval Club in honour of Admiral Yang Ching-hsiu, Commissioner for the coastal defence of Fukien and Kuangtung. Admiral Yang has come to Peking in the hope of persuading the Government to furnish funds with which to pay the expenses of the naval force which recently declared its loyalty to the Central Government.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TIDING OVER THE NEW YEAR

Peking, Jan. 6.

Mr. Wang Ko-ming returned yesterday from Loyang and attended a meeting of the Cabinet in the afternoon, at which he submitted plans for tiding over the new year. Press reports declare that Mr. Wang's visit to Loyang was most successful, an understanding having been reached whereby there will be no Cabinet change before the New Year.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING, Jan. 7.—The Government is reviving Mr. Chang Kung-chien's former scheme to declare the Kokonor district a special area for agricultural development where people of overpopulated regions will be assisted to settle.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPANESE TRADE WITH CHINA

Tokio, Jan. 10.

The Finance Department announces that for the month of December Japan's trade with China amounted to Y. 16,370,000 in exports and Y. 18,760,000 in imports, the balance being Y 2,380,000 in favour of imports, and that the total amount of Japan's trade with China for the last year is Y. 246,510,000 in exports and Y. 176,570,000 in imports, the former exceeding the latter to the amount of Y. 69,930,000.—Eastern News Agency.

JAPANESE STEAMER IN DISTRESS

London, Jan. 4.

The steamer Empress of Russia wirelesses via Alaska that the Japanese steamer Kyosei Maru, bound for Yokohama from Victoria is in a sinking condition at Lat. 49.30 N. Long. 174.10 E. The Empress of Russia is proceeding to her assistance.—Reuter.

Manila, Jan. 5.

The motorship, Nakashima Maru, from Japan to the Pelew Islands, has arrived at Tarragona, Davao, after drifting for many days owing to engine trouble. The crew of six suffered great hardships. There were no casualties.—Reuter.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—The "Daily Mail" urges the Government to announce in the King's Speech the withdrawal of the Singapore scheme.—Reuter.

THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE EAST

Varnishes, Enamels, etc.

Large Stocks Kept in China

Wilkinson, Heywood & Clark

SHANGHAI—HONGKONG

HIMROD'S ASTHMA CURE

Over 40 years ago the late Lord Beaconsfield testified to the benefits he received from Himrod's Asthma Cure, and every post brings similar letters to-day.

FAMED FOR 50 YEARS

Sold in this by all Chemists and Stores throughout the Country. BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

"BECHSTEIN"

Concert and Miniature Grands

USED BY THE GREAT ARTISTES

ROBINSON PIANO CO./LD.

Taming the Yellow River

(Continued from Page 45.)

15, 1926, the work of diverting the river and closing the breaks was completed, and successfully too, as has been proved by the fact that the works stood the tests of the high flood waters which came down in the latter part of July and the first half of August.

The third and fourth plans will show the method of turning the river, closing the break, cutting off a huge bend in the old river's course and diverting the stream through a new and straight course of about three miles. The river broke through at a very short bend. In order to straighten this out a new leading channel, 6,000 ft. in length, was excavated across the bend, 500 ft. in width and from 12 to 15 ft. in depth. A portion of the excavated material was used to build "A" dyke, about 200 ft. wide on top. The ordinary dyke is from 30 to 40 ft. wide on top. The most difficult problem was to dam the river and divert it into the leading channel. This was accomplished by first building a timber pile trestle or temporary bridge across the river, which at that time was 800 ft. wide and had a maximum depth of 25 ft. Oregon pine piling and timbers were used. Upon this trestle light railway tracks were laid and by means of push cars the rock for the dam was transported from the storage piles and dumped into the river, 13,000 *fang* of rock being required. When the rock had been brought up close to the top of the water, on May 15, the river was let into the leading channel and by the next morning about two-thirds of the water flowed that way. Nearly two months more were required finally to seal the dam and make it completely watertight.

SUCCESSFUL TESTS.

The groin shown on the plan was built for two purposes—one to direct the river into the leading channel and the other to cause silt to be deposited in front of the dam. It served both these purposes well and now a large mass of earth has accumulated in front of the dam so that when the high water passes it will be dry land. The dam stood the tests of the floods without leaking a drop of water. A channel about 900 ft. wide was excavated extending from the lower end of the leading channel a distance of seven miles down stream. This scouring channel was for the purpose of securing a proper hydraulic gradient and served its purpose satisfactorily, as the river flowed freely on to the sea. "D," "A," "B" dykes and the dam thus form the new main northerly dyke of the river. As a secondary defence, "E" dyke was built, joining the broken ends of the old dyke where the river broke through. "C" dyke was built at the request of the Yellow River Bureau, with the idea that eventually they may widen the channel at that section by removing the point of the bend in the old dyke. The leading channel was not large enough to carry the flood waters of the river, so it was arranged to break the small former dykes, "F" and "G," and dig a small channel to the south of the "spoil-bank." This would have assisted in washing away the "spoil-bank" and have enlarged the channel to a size which easily would have carried the flood waters. On several occasions the company attempted to do this, but the people from the south side beat and drove off the company's labourers, in spite of orders to the contrary from the officials. The south side interests prevented the cutting of the local dykes until after the first water had come and subsided. As a result, a terrific strain was put on to the new 600 ft. wide channel which had to carry the entire flood waters of the Yellow River. It is not likely that ever before in its history has the river flowed through such a narrow space.

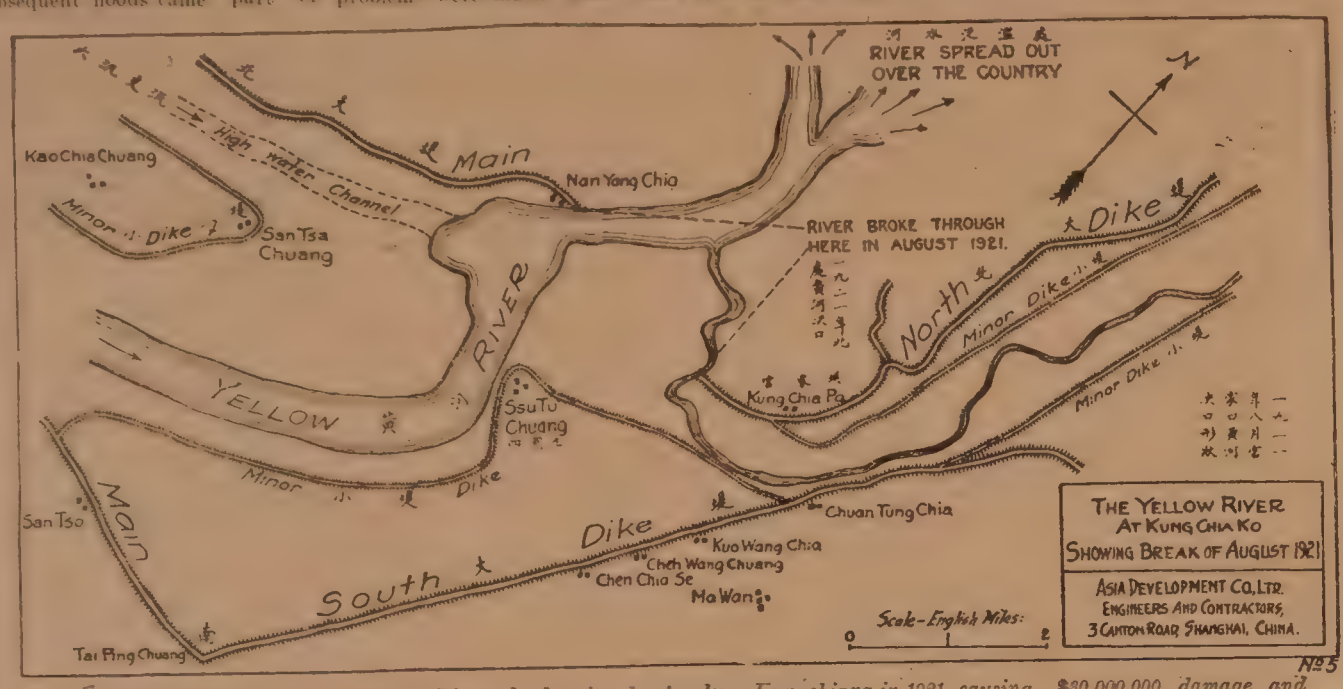
The water quickly widened the river to more than 1,000 ft. and to a depth of from 25 to 40 ft. A slight reverse curve developed, causing the rushing water to cut into "A" dyke along the downstream portion. However, the dyke being 200 ft. in width the river cut without causing danger until the channel became sufficiently large to carry the water easily, after which scouring practically ceased. In the meantime, the company, as a safeguard, reinforced the farther side of the dyke. After the first high water, the local dykes, "F" and "G," were cut so that when subsequent floods came part of the water flowed on that side. During the time the river was enlarging the leading channel, many false reports were circulated in the papers to the effect that the dykes had broken or that the water had gone over the top. Actually, never was there any danger of this. The dykes built by the company are larger and higher than the old dykes. During the floods the water came within 2 ft. of the tops of some of the old dykes, but the new dykes were from 6 to 10 ft. above the water.

SOME BIG SIDE ISSUES.

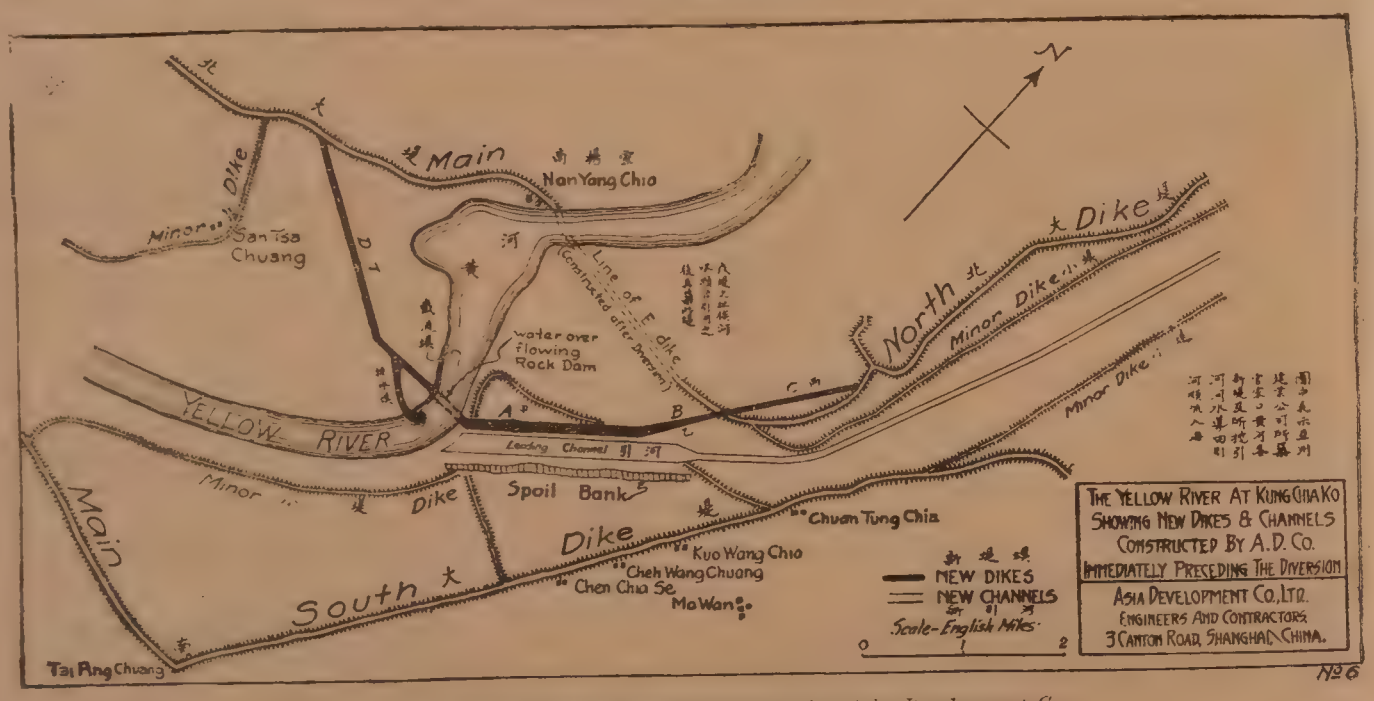
The transportation and labour problems were much more difficult than the purely engineering considerations. For instance, 14,000 *fang* of rock were transported to the works from near Tsinanfu, a distance of over 100 miles. Four hundred native boats had to be assembled for this purpose, as it had to be done after the spring thaw and within the short time of less than three months. All the heavy supplies were shipped by the river.

For quick communication motor cars were used. In 1922, the Asia Development Co. built a motor road from Chowtsun, on the Tsinan-Tsingtao Railway, a distance of 40 miles to the south dyke of the Yellow River. As soon as the contract was signed, the company put labourers to work re-conditioning this road, and from its termination the south dyke was used for the remainder of the distance of 37 miles to the camp at Kungchiakow. A maintenance crew was employed continuously keeping the road and the top of the dyke in a usable condition. Although it was a dirt road, the trip of 77 miles frequently was made in three hours. A Dodge car, a Ford car and a Ford combination truck and bus were used in this transport service.

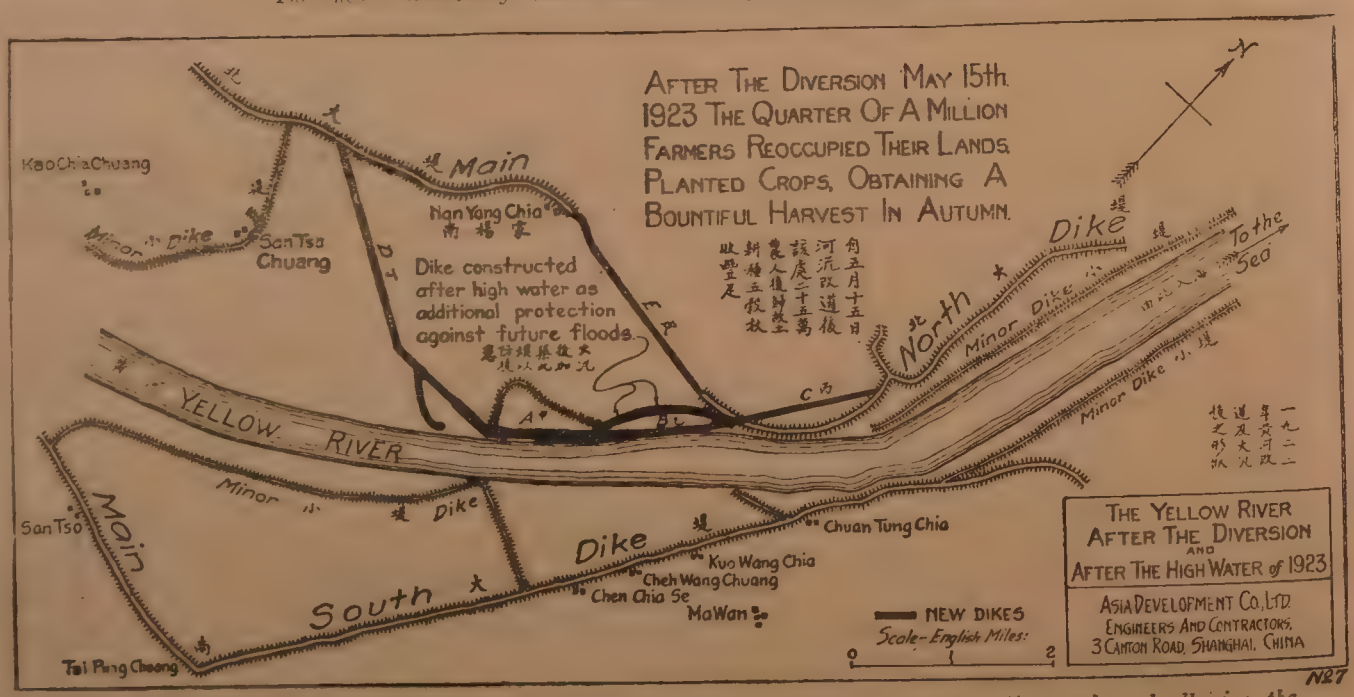
The labour problem resolved itself into human engineering.



A plan showing how the Yellow River broke its banks above Kungchiapa in 1921, causing $30,000,000 damage and the loss of thousands of lives.



The new conservancy works constructed by the Asia Development Co.



The new straightened and shortened course of the Yellow River, assuring the safety of the people and allowing the reclamation of much land.

THE MOTOR ACCIDENT ON FRENCH BUND

Condition of Russians Improving: New Story of the Affair

It has been ascertained that the condition of the Russians who were injured in the smash-up on the Bund early on Sunday of last week is better. Though one of the cadets has a compound injury and fracture of the leg, no serious results are anticipated. The chauffeur also has a badly injured leg, but one of the cadets got off with no injuries whatsoever. It now appears that the gentleman to whom the car belongs, had dismissed his driver at the French Club and told him to return later about midnight, and that in the meantime he had gone off and taken some of his cadet friends for a drive and was evidently returning them to their quarters on Avenue Joffre when the accident took place, which according to an authentic report happened because a ricsha got in front of the fast speeding machine. In avoiding the ricsha the driver went into the post. Examinations have proved the wrecked car valueless.

OBITUARY

Mr. O. R. Walter

His friends were very sorry to hear of the somewhat sudden death of Mr. O. R. Walter, a familiar figure in the Settlement for many years and a man who was universally popular. Mr. Walter came to Shanghai about 20 years ago and at one time was submanager of the Sino-Belgian Bank. Later he was admitted to the Shanghai Exchange Brokers' Association and he remained an exchange broker up to the time of his death. He was a very keen and clever musician and displayed particular ability as an organist. He was the organist at St. Joseph's Cathedral and the German Church for many years. Deep sympathy is felt for Mrs. Walter and her two daughters. She only arrived in Shanghai a few days before her husband's death, bringing with her their elder daughter, who had just finished her education.

The funeral service at the Bubbling Well Cemetery on Monday was conducted by Pastor Muller and was attended by a large gathering of friends.

A TRIBUTE TO THE DECEASED.

A correspondent signing himself "A.R." asks us to publish the following tribute to the late Mr. Walter:—

I beg permission to use the columns of your valued paper to place before the community a loving testimonial in memory of a good man, who has closed his eyes to eternal slumber—Otto Richard Walter—Dick Walter, as so many of us knew and called him. We laid him to rest this last Monday, and when the earth closed over him, it closed over a man of singular sweetness of character and soul. His family mourn the loss of a loving husband and father, his friends the death of a staunch and ever helpful comrade, his business associates that of a man of the highest integrity. But there are in Shanghai hundreds and hundreds of men and women who never knew him, but who owe him a debt of lasting gratitude, to whom he brought solace in the hour of sadness, courage in the hour of trouble, joy in the hour of adversity. They are all those who worship in St. Joseph's Cathedral and in the German Lutheran Church.

Year in, year out, Otto Walter every Sunday and holiday was to be found in the organ loft of these churches, giving his time and his splendid musicianship to the glorification of God's worship. During 14 years he never missed a service. Often he was weary in body and soul, often his friends advised him to take a much needed rest and always they received the same answer: "I must play the organ on Sunday and I cannot go away."

And he did not do this for gain, but only for the love of his art and for the glory of God.

And the sweetness of his music entered into his very soul and became part of the man. I doubt if any one ever heard him say one bad word about any man or woman. If he could not say anything good, he kept silent. In a world full of strife and hatred, he set an example of kindness and goodness.

He was not an ordinary man, good, but devoted to his own family and interests only, like most of us, but he gave himself freely and unstintingly to the common weal. I am only speaking for all those whom he served so unselfishly, when I say that life is poorer for his having died, but that his memory will live in the hearts of many who will always remember him as one of "God's own gentlemen."

MR. LINEBARGER'S TRIP TO EUROPE

Some Interesting Features of Long Travel

Mr. Paul Myron Linebarger after visiting some 20 countries during the last 18 months, returned to Shanghai on Monday by the M.M.S. Amboise.

Mr. Linebarger states that the most interesting features of his long travel was first the visit to the great ruins of Baalbeck in French Syria, and second, his witnessing the coming in of the motor car buses from Bagdad to Damasous.

According to Mr. Linebarger this connecting up of Bagdad with the European railroads is an event of great importance, since it brings the East and the West so very much nearer. At the present time for £50 motor fare one can get to India some three weeks earlier than by Suez. The journey is very safely accomplished in two days running, with no night travel on account of fear that the Bedouins will take advantage of the helplessness under motor-light conspicuousness. There are very few blow outs since the way is over a desert of level dirt, although a sort of a cactus sometimes gives them tire trouble.

Mr. Linebarger waited for two motor-cars to come in, and although the travellers were rather worn out, they were delighted with the trip.

In the event that a car does not come in on time the Royal Air Forces go out and look for them. The drivers are all seasoned service men from the old British forces and are sanguine that they are pioneers in a transportation development which when fully established will be of momentous value to both the East and the West.

THE RUSSIAN SHIPS AT WOOSUNG

The wholesale trade in arms and ammunition seems to be passing through a period of depression locally, the Russians at Woosung still having a quantity of goods not yet disposed of on Wednesday a party of Chinese, in foreign dress, visited two of the vessels and were cordially received as prospective purchasers without any question being asked as to their identity or where they came from. The guns, field and machine, rifles, hand grenades, wireless equipment, etc., were duly exhibited, and the desired information having been obtained, the visitors discreetly withdrew without laying too much stress on the question of purchase. It was observed that the vessels, after their long anchorage in the river, present none too pleasing an appearance, and are overcrowded with men and boys.

This visit seems to indicate that those in charge of the vessels are ready to do business with all and sundry, and accordingly it becomes more urgently necessary that official action should be taken.

THE FRANCONIA IN SHANGHAI

Many Sightseers from Different Lands

The Cunard liner Franconia, chartered by the American Express Co. for a world-tour, arrived at Woosung on Monday afternoon at one o'clock. About 100 of her passengers landed by tender in Shanghai just before dark.

Among the passengers who are going round the world on this vessel are citizens of the principal European countries,—France, England, Germany, Italy and Russia—but the bulk are from America.

Mr. P. W. Whatmough, general agent for the Cunard Line in America, is making the cruise, also Sir Edgar Bowring of St. John's, New Foundland. Mr. Thomas E. Kilby, former Governor of Alabama and Mrs. Kilby, Mrs. John Winston and Miss Marguerite Winston (Mr. Winston is a large owner in the Bradbury mines in Mexico where there has been so much trouble of late), and Mrs. Amelia Bixby and her two sons, David and Stephen, (California pioneers) are also numbered among those on the passenger list.

Special arrangements of transportation were made to facilitate transit throughout the Settlement. Motors ,cars, and ricshas, at least 200 of the latter were on hand to serve the guests on the shopping and shorter sight-seeing tours.

The Franconia, of 20,000 tons displacement, has been chartered by the American Express Co. for five years and has been entirely remodelled under their direction in order to be fit especially for these world cruises. Details have been altered so that nothing shall be lacking to the comfort and convenience of those who desire to see the world *de luxe*.

Having left New York on November 15, the vessel has kept well to her time-table and arrived at Woosung 12 hours in advance. She will be back at her starting point on March 17.

ROBBERS FOILED BY AMAH

Three or four Chinese attempted to commit an armed robbery at 36 Kashing Road on Tuesday, but despite the fact that they cut a telephone wire to prevent communication with the police, they were obliged to leave without obtaining any plunder. One of the robbers was armed with a pistol, another had a knife.

Entrance into the premises, which belong to a widow, Dzung Sze, was effected through the front door. The men went upstairs intending to enter the bedrooms, but the attempt was foiled by the prompt action of an amah who closed a trap door. Retracing their steps it is alleged that the robbers bound with string the hands of two servants who were sleeping on the ground floor, while they decamped without stealing anything. No alarm was raised, consequently the police knew nothing of the affair until 55 minutes after the gang had left.

ITALIAN OPERA COMPANY

"Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci"

"Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci"—a combination dear to the hearts of all opera-goers—drew a large crowd to the Lyceum Theatre last Friday, and an audience which appreciated in no half-hearted manner the dramatic value and the exquisite melodies of these popular operas. In "Cavalleria Rusticana" the rôles of Santuzza, as sung by Signorina Impallomeni and Alfio by Signor Scamuzzi, stood out pre-eminently, while in "Pagliacci" Signor Chiaia made an impressive Canio and Signorina Ambroso both as singer and actress took the part of Nedda very convincingly. The swift-moving tragedy with Signor Scamuzzi as Tonio, Signor Bigardi as Silvio and Bernaroli as Arlecchino was given with force and expression and well merited the enthusiastic plaudits of its hearers.

"Trovatore" and "Ernani"

The Italian Opera Company under the management of M. Carpi, on Thursday presented "Ernani," another of Verdi's works in the best manner of the company. "Il Trovatore" who rendered the evening before and earlier in the week "Aida" and in each of them the tragedy came in the last act. It would be a boon to Shanghai music-lovers to be able to enjoy a sympathetic harmony, feel a spirit of melody and undergo an emotional reaction without always being reminded that death is ever omnipresent. Death is but the end of life and comes once in a lifetime to each and the normal human being is not continually thinking of his departure from this sphere. Let us have something not tragedy. If a company coming to Shanghai could include in its répertoire light opera or lyrics it would find a merited approval.

As has been said before the chorus work of the company is good and the individual work of Scamuzzi and Chiaia pleasing to the average listener, so much so that some of the others lose by comparison. The two former as Carlos, King of Spain, and the other as Ernani, the bandit chief sung their difficult rôles in a manner which showed their training.

To-morrow evening Giordano's "Fedora" will be the attraction. Russian characters are portrayed and the first act is set in the land of snow, but the rest of the action takes place in Paris and Switzerland, the suicide, Fedora, praying that she be forgiven.

WEDDINGS

White—Fuller

A quiet but very pretty wedding was solemnized at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Tuesday afternoon by the Very Rev. Dean Symons, when Mrs. M. A. Fuller became the bride of Mr. Edmund S. White, D.S.O., of the Hankow International Export Co

The bride, who was given away by Dr. H. Chatley, wore a gown of beige brocaded georgette, with a cape and hat to match. She was attended by Miss J. McGeachie as bridesmaid, and Messrs. Belton and Copley acted as best man and usher, respectively.

Toscani—Chadderton

St. Joseph's Church, artistically decorated with white chrysanthemums, poinsettias and arches of waving bamboo, was the scene of a pretty wedding on Saturday afternoon, when Miss Helen Chadderton, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Chadderton was married Mr. Steno Toscani, of the indoor staff of the Chinese Maritime Customs. The Rev. Father MacDonald took the service.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a becoming gown of white silk lace skilfully draped over satin crepe, the skirt caught up with orange blossoms. The long sleeves were banded with white fur and a long embroidered tulle veil completed the costume which was designed and made by the Salon Bella. White carnations formed the bridal bouquet. The maid of honour, Miss Katheen Lynch, was picturesque in peach-coloured taffeta, with flounces of silver lace, a wreath of silver leaves for the hair and a posy of tea roses. The bride's mother wore grey silk trimmed with blue and carried a shower bouquet of pink carnations.

Mr. A. C. Hyde Lay attended the bridegroom as best man and the ushers were Messrs. C. Chadderton, brother of the bride, and C. T. Hall. After the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents, 33 Yangtszepoo Road, which was prettily decorated for the occasion with poinsettias and bamboo. Mr. and Mrs. Toscani received their many friends beneath a bamboo arch from which hung a floral bell of green and white. On leaving for the honeymoon, which is be spent in Hangchow, the bride wore a three-piece suit of brick-red gabardine, with hat to match.

CHRISTMAS IN THE ORPHANAGE

A "Real Dinner" for the Little Russian Girls

On Monday, the date which Russians still observe as Christmas, the little orphanage of Mme. Dieterichs near Siccawei Convent, celebrated the Nativity with joy and thankfulness to the friends whom they have found in this strange country. At half past nine in the morning, in the simple little chapel which has been fitted up in the central hall of their Chinese home, the Christmas service was sung, with candles burning before the sacred ikons which have shared their exile from "holy" Russia.

The religious devotion which seeks expression through the ritual of the Greek Orthodox Church seems a very natural and simple accompaniment of the Russian life, the traveller there in former years being impressed by the shrines found everywhere, little chapels in the railway stations, holy pictures in every store and hotel room. Therefore it was not surprising to hear that these children had been insisting upon keeping the fast which precedes the Yule-tide holidays, denying themselves even the meagre fare they usually have.

But on Monday they had a real dinner. Only fancy, a dinner with meat! Not a turkey-pheasant-capon 10-course dinner, but a substantial meal, with meat. The emphasis they placed on that phrase brought out the unusualness of the event. At six o'clock the tree was lighted and a very few invited guests assembled. The girls were in Russian costumes, embroidered by themselves. Some one had lent a gramophone, and it was seldom idle. They sang the old folk songs and trod the intricate measures of the Russian dances. They received simple gifts, and exclaimed and laughed and cried over them and were thoroughly happy. At seven they had tea, with sandwiches and cake and fruit, and then more songs. Truly a wonderful Christmas and behind it all the reassuring thought that through the generosity of friends in Shanghai and the outports the support of the Orphanage is assured for perhaps four months to come.

THE FUNERAL OF MRS. B. O. F. REIN

The funeral took place at Bubbling Well Cemetery last Friday of Mrs. Rein, wife of Mr. Bernt O. F. Rein, manager of Messrs. Wallem Co.

There was a large gathering of friends at the cemetery. Mr. F. J. Blom, Mr. O. C. J. Gad, Mr. C. Knipschildt, Mr. G. S. Jensen, Mr. S. Froland and Mr. R. Johanessen acted as pall bearers. The deceased lady's husband and Mr. H. J. Wallem were the chief mourners.

Many beautiful floral tributes were sent.

SIR Robert Ho Tung left for Hongkong last Friday by the M.M.S. Paul Lecat. Among those who said farewell to him on the jetty were Mr. Hsu Yuan, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, a representative of the local Military Governor, and deputations of students from the Fuhta University, the National South-eastern University, and Chinese Girls' School.

SHANGHAI NEWS

THE TRAINING SHIP HWAHJAH

Reception Held To Explain To Cadets the Object of the Trip

At a reception held on board the str. Hwahjah on Saturday, Marquis Li Kuo-jeh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the China Merchants' S. N. Co., and Rear-Admiral C. C. Hsu, adviser to the company on navigation matters, addressed the Chinese cadets about to depart on a year's tour of the world for a course of practical training in seamanship.

The ship has been lent for the purpose by the Ministry of Navy and the cadets number about 40 in all, 15 of whom are naval midshipmen while the remainder are students drawn from Nanyang College, St. John's University and Soochow University who have had theoretical tuition and must round off their training with practical work. The ship will be commanded by Capt. B. W. S. Pritchard, who has had 42 years experience of the sea. With

MARQUIS LI KUO-JEH.

him are associated Chief Officer Elvidge and Chief Engineer W. Dryden, who have been colleagues of Capt. Pritchard's for the past eight years.

Upon the arrival of the party at the ship's side they passed through two lines of cadets drawn up on the quayside. The reception was held in the dining saloon of the vessel and among those present were:—Mr. Fu Siao-en and Mr. Shuo Tse-yu, directors of the company, Mr. K. T. Gaston Li, secretary of the Naval Hydrographic Dept., Woosung, Mr. Li Tsung-je, Wuhu manager, Mr. Chang Tsung-tso, Chinese secretary of the company, Mr. Eric Moller and his secretary Mr. V. Xavier, Mr. C. A. Perkes, representing the Robt. Dollar Co., Mr. E. Morris and Capt. H. Le Yang, who retires from the command of the Hwahjah.

THE SPEECHES.

Marquis Li, addressing the cadets, dwelt on the great importance of the enterprise. Capt. Pritchard, he pointed out, was a man of many qualifications who took a great interest in the project which opened up a great future for Chinese cadets. He promised them equal treatment when well qualified for seamanship. They must not think the life on board too strenuous but must work hard and be faithful to the men who had put the enterprise on a good footing. In conclusion, he exhorted them to bring the project to a successful conclusion as it was a matter of national interest.

Rear-Admiral Hsu gave as one of the reasons why China's international status was so low her inferior position in mercantile marine. China had no charts made by her own nationals but depended on those made by other countries. She could not navigate her territorial waters because she had not her own national pilots. She had no observatories, no port examiners, no ship's officers. It was for reasons such as these, among others, which made foreigners seek extraterritoriality and other treaty rights. Such a state of affairs existed in no other country. The China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co., therefore, proposed to send cadets abroad to study the methods of other nations to find out wherein they differed from China's. The students must prove themselves worthy of the promoters' energy both in the eyes of the passengers on board and by gaining the esteem of the general public. They must pay close attention to the manifold duties and qualifications required for steamship officers—questions of maritime law, ship construction, commercial relations and matters of international importance. It was only by understanding such questions thoroughly that they would be able to pass the examinations they would have to undergo on returning from their trip.

NO FOREMAST DUTIES NOW, BUT—

Capt. Pritchard drew a picture of the rough method of training in force when he first went to sea. At that time it was the custom to set cadets to do all the dirty work of the ship such as "cleaning brass work, greasing masts and holy stoning decks and much worse than that." He did not propose to put them through the same course but he expected them always to assist the officers and crew in mooring and unmooring ships and making themselves generally useful when not receiving instruction in other ways. He warned them that it was to their own interest to do their best as he had been requested from time to time to report on their individual progress. They were there to learn a noble profession and he hoped one day in the near future to see them officers and masters of ocean going ships of their own country.

He impressed on them the necessity for discipline and respect for superior officers and the fact that they were not on a pleasure trip but out to study hard. When they became officers they must be sure never to give to others work which they could not do themselves. In conclusion, he hoped that they would treat him as a friend and if they were in any difficulty they were to bring the matter to him and he would endeavour to help them to the best of his ability.

After the speeches group photographs were taken on deck of the cadets and those present for the occasion. On leaving the ship Marquis Li and Rear-Admiral Hsu were given three hearty cheers by the cadets assembled on the quay.

An interesting paper on the stamps of Cape Colony was given by Mr. J. A. Smallbones before the Philatelic Society at the Royal Asiatic Society's on Wednesday. After the paper [illegible] 70 sets of stamps [illegible] by Mr. D. Fraser, Times" correspondent at Peking, were put up to auction. The total amount realized was $65 and the most spirited bidding occurred over a set of eight Chinese 1894 issue which, starting at 25 cents, reached $9

EPIDEMIC OF MOTOR THEFTS

Cars Rifled of Spare Parts: Future Attitude of Insurance Companies

An epidemic of motor car thefts has been enveloping the public of Shanghai for the past six months and after suffering a welcome relapse through the late fall seems to have been revived again with the advent of colder weather. The petty larcenies have fallen off to some extent by reason of the vigilance of the police though occasional thefts of gasoline and spare parts occur in various stands for parking throughout the Settlement.

It will be remembered that a Hupmobile roadster belonging to Mr. E. W. Torrey was stolen from the road fronting one of the cabarets in the Western District last summer and after a complete description of the missing vehicle had been published in the "North-China Daily News" the police of the French Concession located it on Rue Montauban the next day in a considerably damaged condition. It was thought at the time that a shipment of opium had been introduced to the vicinity of Shanghai *viâ* the Soochow Creek and that the theft was manipulated to provide a means of conveyance. On December 16 Mr. Torrey's motor was again stolen.

The owner had attended the concert given by the Municipal Orchestra in the Town Hall and had left the Hupmobile at five o'clock parked securely, as he thought, on Kweichow Road between Nanking Road and Kiukiang Road. At the conclusion of the entertainment he had gone across the road to do some Christmas shopping and after a few minutes returned to the spot where he had left the car, but no car was there. The police were notified as were the insurance agents and a thorough search was instituted, but nowhere in the Settlement nor in the French Concession could the missing motor be located. It was only after several days that a report was received from the City authorities that a vehicle answering the description of the lost one had been standing near the Arsenal and a constable from that police came to the insurance office and told of the find. He was asked if the car would run and he replied. "No, it won't walk." With some trepidation a motor lorry was despatched to bring it in to a garage.

Upon examination it was found that a *few* parts were missing namely, the electric starter, the battery, magneto, spare tyre and bracket, side curtains, lamps both front and rear, wiring (copper) and all the brass fittings, as well as the fuses. Further investigations disclosed that the horn had been broken and the control levers too—everything that could be quickly lifted had been removed and such portions that stood in the way of quick removal of valuable instruments had been smashed to facilitate the theft of the remainder. "It was well cleaned out," stated an expert. The total cost of replacing parts and repairing the broken ones runs well into two ciphers with a preceding digit of more than five. It seems that the thieves worked in haste for they failed to remove the four rims and tyres, or else they were well satisfied with the loot as it was.

A DARING THEFT.

This theft was particularly daring in that it took place at a crowded thoroughfare and at a time when many people were about and before darkness had actually set in.

Another gentleman reported that during the first week in December his car had been taken from near the Victoria Theatre, while he was inside attending the performance, again at a time when many other motors were in the vicinity and when many people were nearby. However, in this instance the property was recovered the next morning, the machine having been left on the Bund just opposite the Palace Hotel. Though the thieves had plenty of time, as it would appear, to get away with extensive plunder, they only removed the speedometer, the battery and the starting handle, and they were not in the best of fortune in this case, for the speedometer was already broken probably beyond easy repair.

Still another theft has come to light, though the details are meagre. A small car had been taken from within the Settlement to Chapei and after as many spare parts were taken off as could easily be removed, had been left at the roadside in a badly damaged condition. After some persuasion the Chapei authorities permitted it to be brought to its rightful owner though in this, as in the others, none of the stolen pieces have been recovered.

The insurance companies have in the past been more lenient as to premiums on cars that have been owner driven, because they considered such machines less likely to be broken or damaged than those driven by Chinese chauffeurs. But with the changing conditions it is doubtful whether this procedure will be continued for it has been owner driven cars that have been taken and not those where an attendant has been left in charge. It is highly advisable, according to the representative of a leading insurance company, for owners to provide some means of safe locking their car, not only with the key to the switch, for Mr. Torrey's machine last autumn was so locked when stolen. The suggestion has been made that the gear lever be locked, rather than the switch inasmuch as in the latter instance a grounding of the wires because a magneto was present rendered this lock valueless. An inexpensive hinge lock has been designed by local men which can be easily applied and manipulated, which nothing less than a file, a bolt clipper or a key fitting the lock can circumvent. Though many have been so advised and recommended to procure one it is stated that but one owner has followed out the suggestion. Should this method be found inconvenient by any individual, it is a very simple matter to provide a length of chain, not more than three feet being necessary, and a padlock, which can then be wrapped round the front axle and the steering gear or round the axle and the spokes of any wheel. This is a matter to the interest of each owner to tend to, not only for the sake of preventing the theft of his own car, but to let the thieves know that a united effort is being made to prevent further repetitions of these cases. Otherwise, if more cars are stolen, it is axiomatic that rates of insurance will increase.

WOOSUNG OUTER BAR

Record Depth at Extreme Low Water

The maps of the Whangpoo Conservancy Board now show for the first time a through channel depth of 30 ft. at lowest low water in the reach in the Huangpu mouth where formerly the Woosung Outer Bar was. The importance of this result will be at once apparent to the shipping community, and the table of records given below will indicate how much the port has benefited from these operations. The records available are as follows:—

1858	19 ft.
1871	24 ft.
1887	22 ft.
1900	13 ft.
1906 (immediately before start of Conservancy work)	15 ft.
1910-12 (on completion of Shanghai side breakwater)	21 ft.
1914 (on completion of Pootung side breakwater)	27 ft.
1920	29 ft.
1923	30 ft.

MR. T. ADDIS, the eldest son of Sir Charles Addis, arrived in Shanghai last week. Mr. Addis, who was educated at Oxford and is a barrister, is joining the firm of Messrs. White-Cooper, Master & Harris. During the war he served with the Field Artillery, subsequently being attached to the Trench Mortars.

ENGLISH AUTHORESS IN CHINA

Mrs. Alec Tweedie on a Hurried Trip Through the Country: Some of Her Impressions

Mrs. Alec Tweedie, one of England's distinguished women, versatile in her accomplishments and winning in her personality, has been making a rapid trip through China on her way round the world, prefactory to returning next year for an extended residence in the Far East. When seen at the Kalee Hotel yesterday morning by a representative of the "North-China Daily News" Mrs. Tweedie said that while she might publish some sketches of her world-circling tour, they would be simply the impressions of an interested traveller and that upon her return she should hope to get into intimate touch with life of China which interested her greatly. She left for Hongkong on Wednesday night.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

When asked whether she had been able to do any painting in China, for Mrs. Tweedie is an artist as well as an author, she replied that she had hastily sketched bits glimpsed from the railway carriage, taken a few colour notes in Peking and elsewhere or made a few drawings hoping to be able to work them up later for an exhibition in London. After covering 50,000 miles from the Himalayas to Central Africa during two and a half years she exhibited 300 water colour impression-sketches at the Alpine Gallery, Bond Street, in July, 1921.

Mrs. Tweedie is a great traveller and many of her publications are concerned with different countries which she has visited, especially Mexico, Italy, America, Iceland, Norway and Finland. Her active war service finds reflexion in "Women and Soldiers" and "A Woman on Four Battle Fronts." Early in the war she collected money to put up over 40 Y.M.C.A. huts, sent half a million books to France and received the Navy League Special Service Medal.

A GOOD TRAVELLER.

Mrs. Tweedie's home has always been a hospitable centre, not only for extensive entertainment during the war but to all interested in the varied interests wrich appealed to her. As a member of various government committees she has been closely in touch with different foreign representatives and one of the pleasantest things about this visit to China, she said, has been the renewal of friendship formed with China's diplomatic envoys to England. "Everywhere along the line they have been waiting to entertain me, to give me an insight into China which I could never have obtained otherwise. On Wednesday evening when I stepped from the Peking express, Mr. Li, son of Lord Li Ching fang, the former Chinese Minister to Great Britain, was waiting for me and took me off at once to see the great actor Mei Lan-fang. To-day I shall have tiffin with him and meet more of China's leading men in an informal way."

One of Mrs. Tweedie's hobbies is ice-sports on which she has written considerably. Although a devoted home-maker and mother of two sons, the younger of whom was killed near Ypres in 1916, she has made time to serve on numerous committees of the International Council of Women, on philanthropic and charitable objects, and the Pension Fund of the Authors' Society. She is a Members of Council Victoria League; Life Member Overseas League; on the Councils of the Women's Institute; Divorce Law Reforms Union; Cremation Society; C.B.C.; Professional Classes War Relief Council; Eugenics Society (retired); Vice-President Women Journalists (London); Vice-President Navy League, and the like

CORRESPONDENCE

THE LIBEL ON SZECHUAN MISSIONARIES.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In regard to my article which appeared in the issue of December 20, I have a letter from Mr. Yard which I am glad to quote, in reference to the two "Advocates." He says:

"There is no relation between the two papers whatever except that they are both Methodist publications. Dr. R. Y. Lo is Editor of The Chinese Christian Advocate and I am Editor of The China Christian Advocate. One is in no way a translation of the other: in fact very seldom do the same articles appear in both papers.

The original article which has stirred up all this discussion was first published in the Chinese Christian Advocate. Dr. Lo gave to both Dr. Rawlinson and myself an English translation of the article. Dr. Rawlinson apparently published it or commented upon it as it stood. Having been a missionary in West China for 12 years I knew that the facts as stated by the prominent evangelist were not true and that sentence was cut out from the article when it appeared in The China Christian Advocate. If you had taken the pains to read that paper you would have discovered that this offending bit was left out. . . . ."

When the offending article first appeared in the "Recorder" as an editorial from the "Chinese Christian Advocate" I was not aware of the existence in Shanghai of *two* "Christian Advocates." On being informed of the fact some weeks later I borrowed a copy of the English edition and found there what was apparently the identical article that was quoted in the "Recorder." In not comparing it word for word with the quotation I failed to see that Mr. Yard had cut out a sentence. I very much regret the error. In assuming that the "Chinese Christian Advocate" was the paper of which he is editor I have unwittingly done Mr. Yard an injustice, for which I am glad to offer a sincere and public apology.

I am etc.,
T. B. GRAFTON

Haichow, Dec. 26, 1923.

MENCIUS UP TO DATE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Well over 2,000 years ago the famous Chinese sage Mencius (Mang-Tze) wrote as follows about conditions in China at that time:

Quotations from Legge's "The life and works of Mencius":

"A host marches (in attendance on the ruler), and stores of provisions are consumed. The hungry are deprived of their food, and there is no rest for those who are called to toil. Maledictions are uttered by one to another with eyes askance, and the people proceed to the commission of wickedness. Thus the royal ordinances are violated, and the people are oppressed, and the supplies of food and drink flow away like water. The rulers yield themselves to the (bad) current, or they urge their (evil) way (against a good one); they are wild; they are utterly lost."

And then again:—

"Sage kings cease to arise, and the princes of the States give the reins to their lusts. Unemployed scholars indulge in unreasonable discussions. The words of Yang Choo and Mih Teih fill the empire. If you listen to people's discourses, you will find that they have adopted the views either of Yang or of Mih. (Now), Yang's principle is—"each one for himself," which does not acknowledge (the claims of) the sovereign. Mih's principles is—"to love all equally," which does not acknowledge (the peculiar affection due to) a father. But to acknowledge neither king nor father is to be in the state of a beast. Kung-ming E said, "In their kitchens there is fat meat. In their stables there are fat horses. But their people have the look of hunger, and on the wilds there are those who have died of famine. This is leading on beasts to devour men." If the principles of Yang and Mih are not stopped, and the principle of Confucious not set forth, perverse speaking will delude the people and stop up (the path of) bevevolence and righteousness. When benevolence and righteousness are stopped up, beasts will be led on to devour men, and men will devour one another."

Truly history repeats itself. If you replace "rulers and princes of the states" by "Tuchuns," "Scholars" by "M.P.'s and other politicians," "Yang" by "the man in the street" and "Mih" by "the quarter-boiled republicans" we have present day conditions before us. Sage kings or rather sage Tuchuns are as scarce to-day as they were then. Even the causes of Bolshevism were apparently not unknown to good old Mencius.

Let us hope that someone or other will soon appear who will be able to grease the wheels of history and produce repetitions of better times than those of which Mencius wrote. We all are, or have been, "in ze consomme," as the French say, and there is still hope also for China, which only 15 years ago was still a good place to live in.

I am, etc.,
HOPEFUL.

Shanghai, Jan. 4, 1924.

CHINA AND THE TREATIES.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR.—A reply from Mr. Gordius Nielsen was expected, as none who would dare cross swords with him may hope for an easy victory, if victory may be permitted at all, where his is the versatile pen opposing. But I have little to say further on the subject to him, since I also am particularly averse to a controversy on a question which, as he says, is vexed and which will lead nowhere. I have gained the admission I sought, which is that Mr. Nielsen is not one of those critics of the so-called opium war who fastens "all guilt for that incident on the foreigner." My letter was more of a feeler than anything else. All I wanted was an admission that it was not simply the hateful drug traffic that caused the war, but greater issues. No, opium was no more than an incident in the cause of the conflict.

Of these larger issues, an eminent authority on things Chinese says, speaking of the Chinese people: "In all their intercourse with their fellow men, they had mainfained a patronizing, unfair, and contemptuous position, which left no alternative but withdrawal from their shores, or a humiliating submission that no one feeling the least independence could endure." Perhaps a spirit of humble submission should have been shewn, and we should have withdrawn from their shores? I feel unable to answer, though to have withdrawn would seem to have been a chivalrous thing to do.

Mr. Nielsen is unquestionably right when he says that many of the foreigners' methods must have shocked the Chinese; but were they any more shocked than we were when we learned of the text of an Emperor's decree (in accepting a British embassy) written to King George as from an overlord to a humble vassal, which contained the amazing statement that "the distinction between Chinese and barbarian is most strict"?

I admire Mr. Nielsen's eulogy of the excellent qualities of the Chinese as much as I have always admired those qualities themselves. I think highly of the Chinese and hope it may ever be possible for me to be so minded.

I am called upon to make answer to "K.C.K." and I would briefly say that I quite appreciate the distinction between theology and religion, and that I will not accept his challenge to prove to your readers "that there was no religion in China before missionaries came," for the simple reason that I heartily agree that there was. I am a staunch admirer of the ethics of the Chinese, born of that charitable regard for the truth of the excellent maxim that "All within the Four Seas are brothers." In mentioning the introduction of Christianity to China, I had simply in mind to instance that here was a case, at least, where the motives of the foreigner were not wholly bad, as some would have it. Nor did I mean to class his "sausage" with "obnoxious opium." But may I ask why, if the "sausage" trade was a "moral and legitimate" one, should the Chinese have refused to eat of them?

I am. etc.,
SPECTATOR.

Shanghai Jan. 4, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Some of your readers might think it a divagation from the point at issue that Mr. Gordius Nielsen, in his letter appearing in your yesterday's paper, should write about social relations in a discussion of treaty rights. To me, it is another illustration that Mr. Nielsen is one of the few foreigners who take pains to go to the root of the matter.

There are foreigners in China, whose opinion of the Chinese people as a whole is none too flattering, but who nevertheless will not suffer any stigma to be cast on the few Chinese friends whom they know well and to whom they are attached by long associations and mutual services. On the other hand, among the Chinese, there are some, like myself for one, who have no exalted idea of the foreigners as a class, and yet who reckon among their best friends and regard as gentlemen in every sense of the word, quite a few foreigners. The simple explanation of this paradoxical state of mind is that "we cannot be just even to our neighbours unless we love them." In the best of us, whether foreigners or Chinese, there is a tendency to magnify the mote in the eyes of others and to drive a hard bargain with those who are weaker than we. This partial moral blindness and this streak of a bully in our composition can only be held in check by affection and respect, and we can conceive an affection and respect for the people of a different country race, only when we really know them either by personal experience through the means of social intercourse, or by serious studies in their literature, arts and sciences.

The spread of western education among the Chinese has done a great deal towards removing one of the chief obstacles in the way of free and equal social intercourse between Chinese and foreigners, namely the ignorance of Western languages and customs. A new class of Chinese has sprung up who have business dealings and other reasons of association with foreigners and who can meet the foreigners on equal social footing and can invite their foreign friends to their homes, where only, as Mr. Nielsen rightly points out, friendships should be made. But in the homes of most of us, there are still traces of the 150 years of Mongolian Reign combined with the austere tastes inherited from the Puritan Ages of the Sungs, that will be disagreeable to the comfort-loving and highly hygienically sensitive Westerners. Love of creature comforts is said to have made an empire; the lack of them in the Chinese houses has certainly stood in our way of getting into more intimate terms with our foreign friends. There have been, however, in the recent years, two very significant developments in the social lives of Chinese and foreigners which will go a very long way to break down the barriers that exist between the East and the West. I mean, the efficiency Chinese athletes have acquired in foreign sports and the eagerness foreigners are showing in mastering the skill of mahjong. The convivial bond is the chief instrument of society; when people can play together, it will not long before they can be friends together

But it will be only meeting the difficulty half way if the efforts of gaining a better understanding are confined to the Chinese. If they are to bear the full result, foreigners must also emulate the Chinese in their attempts. For those who have no opportunity of coming into direct or frequent contact with the Chinese, a good substitute would be for them to study the Chinese people in their literature, arts and sciences. In this respect, a caution is necessary to avoid disappointment. Whoever undertakes to make these studies must have no thought of making money by them. Dr. Giles of Cambridge University once told Mr. Ku Hung-ming that he had lost money by studying Chinese. There may be many people like Dr. Giles who will study the Chinese literature, arts and sciences for the love of the thing, but who are unable to afford like Dr. Giles to lose money by it. I would suggest to those foreign countries which have not yet decided what to do with the balance of the Boxer Indemnity, that the best use they can make of it would be to set it aside to help these people of their own to study Chinese, and I would venture to assure them that they would reap greater profits out of it than spending it on educating Chinese in western knowledge.

There is a fashion in everything, even in the making of friends. The more cultured classes on both sides would take the initiative to cultivate intimate relation, between foreigners and Chinese, the others will follow. When the day comes that equal and free social intercourse between the two peoples are a matter of course and the acquiring of the knowledge of Chinese literature and arts is no longer the self-set task of an ardent few, it may also be the last day of imposition of treaties by superior brutal force. As Mr. Nielsen says, the work involved will mean a sacrifice of time and even money, but the harvest in view is worth the labour and trouble.

I am, etc.,
K. C. K.

Shanghai, Jan. 5, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The bearing of the Chinese authorities and people at the time was no doubt such as appears from the passage which "Spectator" quotes, with the reservation that they exhibited such conduct towards a hundred foreigners and not towards the rest of their fellow men. That is a huge exaggeration. But I believe that the majority of students of the period will agree that the conduct of the Chinese authorities was not surprising.

What would "Spectator" say if Chinese living abroad would attempt to imitate the foreigners of 1837? Would they not have to withdraw from the countries wherein they live or submit to humiliating conditions?

I am, etc.,
GORDIUS NIELSEN.

Shanghai, Jan. 7, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Mr. Nielsen has evidently read into the words "fellow men," the meaning "fellow countrymen as well as foreigners." This was not the meaning of the authority I quoted. He is here referring alone to foreigners: otherwise wherefore the "withdrawal from their shores." i.e. the shores of China?

Mr. Nielsen limits the foreigner in China to "a hundred"; but the true position is better realized if it is made clear that "a hundred" represented all foreigners.

I am not so sure as Mr. Nielsen is, that "the majority of students of the period will agree that the conduct of the Chinese authorities was not surprising." Of course what was a surprise in those days, nearly a hundred years later may appear a very different thing.

I am by no means a defender of expediency at the sacrifice of all other qualities; but certainly expediency had to play a large part in the dealings of the foreigner with the Chinese nearly a hundred years ago. We know one another better now, and there is less call for the dictates of expediency to determine a course of action. Both foreigners and Chinese can now have regard for the finer feelings engendered of a better knowledge of one another.

I am, etc.,
SPECTATOR.

Shanghai, Jan. 9, 1923.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The leading article in the "North-China Daily News" of January 29 deals with the Canton Customs issue. I agree with practically every word you say therein. I do not however agree with the censure you have passed on your Tientsin contemporary.

The attitude of the Hongkong Government if one can rely on what one reads in the newspapers seems, to say the least of it, silly.

However the Hongkong Government are not the only offenders.

Sun Yat-sen can thank the British for many things. It was a British doctor who saved his skin many years ago in London.

Again it was the British who saved his skin when last he cleared out of Hongkong. If I am not much mistaken, he left Canton for Hongkong on a British gunboat and Hongkong for Shanghai on the Empress of Russia.

On his arrival at Shanghai he went to his residence in the French Concession, where the French Police afforded him all protection.

And he has shown his gratitude, has he not? In 1914 the same Dr. Sun Yat-sen showed his gratitude to Britain and her Allies by trying his hardest to persuade the Japanese to join hands with the Germans, as he put it, in order to drive the British out of Hongkong and the French out of Indo-China.

We cannot afford to back up Sun Yat-sen or any other party in China. The only Government we ought to know is the Peking one, being the only one the Foreign Powers recognize. Dr. Sun tells us that the Peking Government does not represent the people. May I ask Dr. Sun how many out of China's provinces would recognize him?

Even inside his beloved Canton the majority of the people would certainly rather see his heel than his toe.

I have so far never read of anybody in the Chinese Press clamouring to have Dr. Sun elected President for the whole of China. Even supposing that the people of China were allowed to vote without outside interference, I wonder very much if they would elect him.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen has been given too much advertisement already. He should be treated in the same way as a naughty child. And if that were done, it would conform with Chinese ethics.

I am, etc.,
BAMBOO.

Up country, Jan. 2, 1924.

KIANGSU-CHEKIANG IMBROGLIO.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—Certain remarks made by Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan, reported by your representative in the "North China Daily News" of the 8th instant, cannot fail to cause uneasiness in the minds of those who hope that peace will be preserved in this part of the country. The marshal has already several times asseverated his pacific intentions and this determination to remain quiescent he now reiterates in the interview with your representative. Moreover, he asserts as his belief that the neighbouring province of Chêkiang "does not want to fight us."

"WHERE FRIENDSHIPS ART MADE"

The New American Club: U. S. Minister on American Solidarity and Cordiality

The corner-stone of the new American Club building was laid on Thursday at noon in the presence of a large gathering of members, the general committee and representatives of the Consular Body and Municipal Council. Dr. John G. Schurman, the U. S. Minister, was the official guest and carried out the appropriate ceremonies.

Assembled on the makeshift platform surrounding the stone were gathered, in addition to the speaker, Messrs. de Ross, Dyer of the local Consulate, S. Barton, H. M. Consul-General, Edwin S. Cunningham, U. S. Consul-General, S. Yada, Japanese Consul-General, T. O. Tsukasaki, Swedish Consul-General, N. Aall, Norwegian Consul-General, Lodge, U. S. Legation, of the American Club, Mr. Ely Anderson, Mr. F. W. Seccomb, past president of the club, Mr. W. T. Findlay, president of the three clubs, Messrs. W. A. Adams, past secretary, O. P. Spier, secretary, E. C. Stocker, Vice-president, several directors, Mr. V. G. Lyman and Mr. A. Bassett.

A large battery of motion picture men and still cameras gathered at favourable points of vantage as did representatives of the press.

Shortly after the hour Mr. E. C. Stocker advanced to the edge of the platform and with a few short words regretted the absence of Mr. J. H. Dollar, President of the Club, and gave a [illegible] of the activities of the Club.

It was, he said, barely half a dozen years since the Club had been organized with about 100 members at the old premises at 33 Nanking Road. In 1921, the Committee found it necessary to prepare plans for a larger and more spacious establishment.

Finally after a lengthy search they decided on the present site on Foochow Road, just opposite the Municipal Building, for their new home.

Commenting on the new building the speaker said that it would have all the conveniences of the most modern club in the capitals of Europe and America, and one which would be easily able to accommodate a much larger membership.

In presenting the silver trowel to Dr. Schurman, Mr. Stocker expressed his great pleasure in being able to intercept the Minister on his Northern trip, if just for the few moments necessary to add the finishing touches to the pivotal block.

THE MINISTER'S SPEECH.

After speaking of the pleasure it gave him to be present on such a memorable occasion, Dr. Schurman said it was to him symbolic of the development of the American community in Shanghai. When he first came to China 25 years ago in 1899 (on Washington's Birthday) the number of his fellow citizens was small indeed but now the local population [illegible] around 3,500, a splendid increase.

"This growth has been paralleled in Tientsin, Peking, Hankow [illegible] in connection. There are now 200 Americans resident in the [illegible] Shanghai as a business centre. As this growth is symbolic of that [illegible] so in similar manner for all China.

"It is here that American friendships are made, here it is where the spirit of good fellowship will be fostered and promoted. I look forward to one great community here in China, developed through such intercourse. The spirit shall be united and [illegible] and exchange with the Legislature in the United States.

"We Americans in China, in Tientsin, Hankow, Yunnan and all other ports must develop a common policy, a community of interests throughout the country. What I want to see is all Americans working together and keeping to the common wise policy, to maintain a unified policy transmitted to Pekin. That is what I want. I will pledge the Legation and the Government at Washington, as far I can, to look after you and assist you in this united programme. We are one family united, sailing in one boat and we must go ahead.

Turning to the metal block he expressed his pleasure and said, "Stone of the American Club I now pronounce well and truly laid," and smiling to the movie men, "Has trowel I shall cheerish and hand to my children."

IMPORTANT BANKING MERGER

The Asia Banking Corporation to be Absorbed by the International

The announcement was made in Shanghai on Thursday of an important merger between two American banks well known in the Far East. The news arrived by telegram from New York as follows:

"Asia Banking Corporation has entered into an agreement for the sale of its assets and business to International Banking Corporation subject of approval of its stockholders and a special meeting of such stockholders has been called to act upon such sale. A subsequent announcement will be made as to the date when its business will be transferred the International Banking Corporation. It is felt that this action will be helpful to American banking interests in the Far East."

This constitutes the most important banking amalgamation which has affected China for some time. The International Banking Corporation was started in 1901, and its capital is G.$50,000,000 with surplus of G.$5,000,000. The capital of the Asia Banking Corporation, which opened its office here at the beginning of 1919, is G.$4,000,000. Both banks do a large business locally and have branches throughout the Far East, while the International [illegible] on its work still farther afield.

Pending further advices from New York it is impossible to say how soon the effect of this merger will take effect. It is anticipated that the meeting of stockholders of the Asia Banking Corporation in New York will be held at a very early date and immediately after that steps will be taken to transfer its business to the International Bank.

RUSSIAN REFUGEES' CHRISTMAS TREAT

A Distribution of Food and Toys at the Community Kitchen

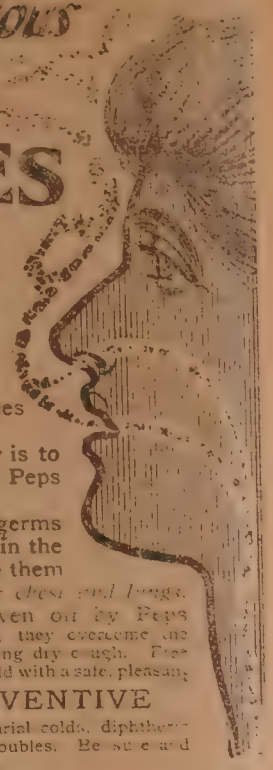
Seven hundred and fourteen Russian refugees received extra Christmas food parcels at noon on Monday the Russian Christmas according to the old calendar, at the Community Soup Kitchen, now in a building kindly given by Mr. Rangel, off the end of Szechuen Road. The additional gift was not elaborate but, when a person has been eating only one real meal a day, consisting of [illegible] a little meat and vegetables, half a pound of black bread and some tea, to have a meat pie, an apple, an orange, [illegible] makes a real festivity of what otherwise might [illegible] Eight hundred children were included in the distribution and they received simple toys as well.

This soup kitchen was started by the American Red Cross and supervised by a committee of ladies from the Community Church. When the Red Cross [illegible] withdrawn, the Refugee Advisory Committee took up as support the [illegible] continuing their [illegible] The Community Committee has supported this work, which is conducted with the utmost frugality and special Christmas contributions, which will be acknowledged later in detail, made it possible to provide this extra food. It may be mentioned, however, that Japanese friends gave 100 lb. of shelled peanuts and a large quantity of rice cakes. Another gift made it possible to add a little tea to all food rations given out to families.

The soup kitchen, which began its operations on North Szechuen Road, in quarters kindly lent by the Christian and Missionary Alliance, next moved to rooms near Darroch Road, when it was no longer possible for the Alliance to give them space urgently required for their own use. This location proving unsuitable, the committee found it very difficult to secure quarters and were very glad to accept Mr. Rangel's kind offer of an outbuilding on his property.

Through long residence in Russia, Mr. Rangel became much interested in its people and since July, 1923, has been feeding a number of refugees from funds of his own and money collected from friends and raised from lawn parties and the like. Many of these refugees have now found positions but there are still 32 who receive one meal a day from the kitchen, but have a special dining room of their own. The Rangels are housing two Russian families and also allow the Union of Army and Navy men space on their premises for their bakery which is making the bread used in the Community Kitchen and sold to members of the Union at practically cost price.

Beware Infectious THROAT TROUBLES



When your throat feels raw, sore and inflamed, you may be sure that the trouble is due to infectious germs. These infest our dust-laden atmosphere and especially the fetid air of mosques, and churches, and all concert rooms, theatres, meeting halls and conveyances where people crowd together.

The best and most effective remedy is to occasionally dissolve in your mouth a Peps infection-killing tablet.

Just as you *breathe in* the dangerous germs of throat disease, so you must breathe in the Peps remedy to reach and exterminate them before they can carry trouble *into the chest and lungs*. The soothing, germicidal vapours given off by Peps quickly allay the inflammation and soreness, they overcome the hoarseness, difficulty in swallowing, and irritating dry cough. Free from all harmful drugs Peps provide young and old with a safe, pleasant

IDEAL REMEDY & PREVENTIVE

for coughs, colds, night chills, influenza, malarial colds, diphtheric colds, tonsilitis, laryngitis and other throat troubles. Be sure and ask for Peps the real infection-killing tablet.

Of chemists and [illegible] everywhere. Agents: Messrs. Wakefield & Co. (China) Ltd. S. Y. Soo's Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

Get PEPS To-Day

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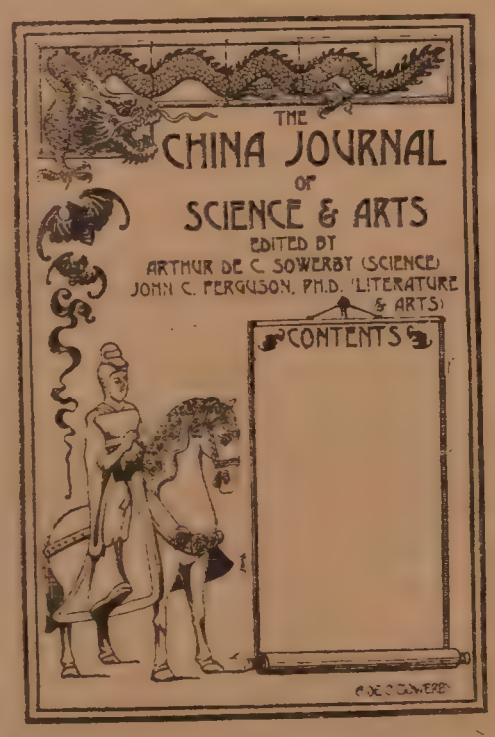

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COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Jan. 11.

Bank's demand selling rate for £1 at 3/3⅛=Tls. 6.13 at 7.18=$8.54

Bank's demand selling rate for G.$100 at 70=Tls. 142.86 at 7.18 =$198.97

Mex. Dollars, market rate	72.025
Native Interest	09
Copper Cash	252,500
Bar Silver	33⅛
Bank rate of Discount	4%
Paris on London	Frs. 88.10
New York on London	G.$4.28½

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/3
Demand	3/3⅛
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	69¾
Demand	70
PARIS—	
Demand	1438
INDIA—	
Demand	229
HONGKONG—	
Demand	72¼
JAPAN—	
Demand	64½
BATAVIA—	
Demand	192
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	72½

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/3⅜
4 m/s. credits	3/5
4 m/s. Docs.	3/5½
6 m/s. credits	3/5½
6 m/s. Docs.	3/6
NEW YORK—	
Demand	70½
4 m/s. credits	73
4 m/s. Docs.	73½
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1515
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/3⅛
New York T.T.	70

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR JANUARY.

Hk Tl. 5.44 @ 3/3⅝	£1
„ 1 @ 1370½	Frs. 15.27
„ 1.24 @ 72⅛	Gold $1
„ 1 @ 66⅜	Yen 1.68
„ 1 @ 230½	Rupees 2.57
„ 1 @ 1.50	Mex. $1.50
„ 1 @ 16.40	It. Lire 18.27
Marks and Roubles no quotation	

Sino-Italian Bank Quotations

Selling Rates, Jan. 11.

It. Lire 16.05	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 4.02	Tl. 1
It. Lire 10.00	Y. 1

French Bank Rate

Paris, Jan. 10.

The Bank of France has raised its discount rate one half per cent. to 5½ per cent.—Reuter.

Week's Exchange Notes

Jan. 12.

At the close of business on the 10th instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 23,350,000 and $31,550,000.

These figures include Tls. 6,800,000 and $16,540,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 517 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—

1,377 bars from	America
1,104 „ „	London
2,481 bars	

Shipments were:—

259 bars to	Nanking
175 „ „	Hangchow
434 bars	

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—

Nil

Shipments were:—

Tls. 1,150,000 to	Hankow
400,000 „	Hangchow
350,000 „	Nanking
80,000 „	Foochow
30,000 „	Dairen
Tls. 2,010,000	

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—

$900,000 from	Chinkiang
600,000 „	Hangchow
520,000 „	Nanking
380,000 „	Ningpo
300,000 „	Wusih
170,000 „	Foochow
30,000 „	Kashing
$3,200,000	

Shipments were:—

$1,200,000 to	Dairen
900,000 „	Hankow
400,000 „	Tientsin
300,000 „	Tungchow
290,000 „	Kiukiang
150,000 „	Changchun
100,000 „	Soochow
$3,340,000	

SILVER.

The price of London ready silver has declined 1⅛d. during the week and forward 1/16d., the quotation on Thursday being 33⅛d. spot and 32⅝d. forward, as against 34 1/16d. and 33 3/16d. for the respective deliveries on the 3rd instant. India and China have both bought and sold, China operations were most likely on account of speculators whose exchange position is reported to be about square or probably slightly overbought. The price of silver in America on Thursday was 63½, small business done. The New York/London cross rate comes as 428⅝.

EXCHANGE.

Business has been very quiet during the week. Very little export paper has been offering, which is rather unusual at this time of the year in view of the near approach to China New Year. The closing quoted rate on Friday last was 3/4d., but dropped on opening on Saturday to 3/3¾d., opening unchanged on Monday, it went down to T.T. 3/3½d. in the afternoon and shortly after opening on Tuesday the rate dropped to T.T. 3/3¼d. at which it remained till Wednesday, when the opening rate was 3/3d. the present level. The market is steady with small sellers at ⅛d. over the quoted rate for cash. Gold $ T.T. is quoted 69¾, but there are small sellers at 70 for cash, and T.T. 69¾ January. 4 m/s L/C are quoted 3/4d. January, and 4 m/s L/C G.$ 72 January.

LONDON BULLION

Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co.'s Report

The report on the London bullion market issued by Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co. under date November 28 states:—

Gold—The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue on the 21st instant was £125,940,915, as compared with £125,858,740 on the previous Wednesday.

Indian and Continental demand still continues on a small scale, and it is probable that most of the fair amount of gold on offer this week will go to the United States of America.

Gold valued at $7,330,000 has arrived in New York from London.

The Southern Rhodesian gold output for October, 1923, amounted to 52,019 ounces, as compared with 57,144 ounces for September, 1923, and 54,670 ounces for October, 1922.

The gold reserve of the Federal Reserve Bank is showing no tendency to increase. The "Times" New York correspondent under date of November 23 thus comments upon the gold reserve of the Bank:—" . . . . It is now nearly $4,000,000 less than at peak in June, though since then the country has imported $140,000,000 and produced about $20,000,000. Most of the gain has gone back into general circulation in the form of gold certificates. Federal reserve notes, which they partly displace, decreased by $40,000,000 in the week."

We give below figures relating to Indian trade (private account) for the month of October last:—

(In lakhs of rupees)	Exports.	Imports.
Merchandise	2,555	2,060
Gold	½	244
Silver	31	254
(In lakhs of rupees)	Net Exports.	Net Imports.
Merchandise	495	—
Gold	—	243½
Silver	—	223
Tottal Net Exports		26½

RUSSIAN GOLD COINS.

The Russian Soviet Government is engaged in reminting the whole of the gold reserve against the chervonetz issue (which amounted on the 1st instant to ch. 8,693,707.7) into a chervonetz gold coin nominally equal to 10 roubles, and containing 119.4826 grains of pure gold—equal to £1-1-1½d. or $5.14½ as compared with the mintage rate of the sovereign and the dollar. The obverse has a vigorous figure of a man sowing grain, on his left is the rising sun behind a plough and on the right factories with smoking chimneys. The reverse has in the centre the sun's rays behind a wreath of wheat-ears encircling a sickle and hammer. The rim is lettered, not milled, and, altogether, the coin is of a pleasing appearance.

SILVER.

China has been the dominating factor during the week, and considerable purchases have been made for early shipment. These consignments will reinforce the very large shipments from San Francisco and elsewhere. The steady tone of the market, arising from these purchases, has been accentuated by the firmness of the value of the U.S. dollar. China sales have been made of silver for forward delivery. The Indian Bazaars have both bought and sold and there has been some bear covering.

The amounts of silver on the way to China are so large that it would not be unreasonable to expect a measure of redundancy when the settlements usual at the Chinese New Year are completed. In that event, it will be interesting to watch what is going to become of the speculative stock now accumulated in Bombay—whether the up country demand will absorb it without any setback of prices, or whether difficulty will be experienced in the process of unloading.

The Austrian Minister of Finance has announced that, subject to the approval of the National Assembly, the Government will shortly put into circulation a silver "shilling" of the value of 10,000 Kronen. Other coin will be struck of 20,000 and of 5,000 Kronen. He stated that the object was to encourage frugality and saving, and that the name of the coin was prompted by a desire to revive an old German word universally applied to a piece of money, and to avoid any term which might be considered to possess political meaning.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Greater Strength of Piece Goods Indicating Substantial Rises after China New Year

Jan. 12.

Several important features have developed in the local markets during the present week. Piece goods have shown great strength at the auctions, and the indications are that after China New Year we may expect to see a great advance in prices. In the meantime, however, the difference between Shanghai and Manchester is too great to allow of any business worth mentioning.

Chinese cotton has remained steady during the week, but there has been more movement both in yarn and cloth.

More activity is being shown in the export market. While inquiries for produce have been received, these are entirely overshadowed by the business which has been put through in silk, the latter showing a big advance in volume compared with recent weeks.

PIECE GOODS.

The outlook in piece goods has brightened considerably during the week. Demand from many quarters has been noted, which may be put down to several causes. In the first place money is easier, and accordingly speculators and dealers have had the opportunity to give freer play to their ideas of prices. Goods bought at this week's auctions do not require to be taken up until after China New Year, and the hoped-for better financial facilities have been a factor to induce a larger volume of business. In addition the continued strength of the auctions for several weeks past has given great confidence, for dealers realize the shortness of stocks here and have undoubtedly come to the conclusion that there is no chance of any break in prices in the immediate future.

The statistical position is all in favour of higher quotations, for stocks here are only about half of what they were a year ago. At that time they were regarded as being very small, and in comparison they must be considered today as on an absolutely famine basis. Such conditions strongly support the view that we shall see important price developments after the settlement. Meantime, however, dealers are not in a position to place any but the smallest orders with the manufacturers, as too great a margin still prevails.

Auction clearances have been good during the week, and the shortage of stocks is emphasized by the fact that a considerable proportion of the Greys which have been purchased will be cleared before China New Year. In certain lines the position is so strong that speculators are finding it difficult to compete with dealers who have orders in hand.

Woollen Goods.—This department of business continues dull, and whatever purchases are made are on a speculative basis. The Home market continues steady at the late rise, and no concessions in price appear to be offering.

COTTON AND YARN.

China Cotton.—Steady during the week, China cotton has closed somewhat easier. Not a great deal has been offering. The quotations on the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange are:—January 47.25; February 47.30; March 47.40; April 47.55; May 47.55; June 47.55. Spot quotations are as follows:—Tungchow 48; Shanghai 46; Shensi 47; Hankow 44.

Local Yarns.—A certain amount of demand for yarn has been forthcoming during the week, but business put through with the mills has been of comparatively small dimensions and at unchanged prices. Interest centres in events after China New Year. Small sales of cloth have also taken place, but as with yarn the tendency is to wait until after the settlement. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the prices current are as follows:—January 177.60; February 179.60; March 181; April 181.40; May 181.50; June 181.30.

SILK.

During the week an active business has taken place in silk, both for America and Europe and prices of certain silks have even registered some considerable advances. Local stocks have been reduced by about 2,500 bales, and dealers are therefore again more confident.

	Tls.
Steam fil. middling grades	1360/1420
Szechuan fil. middling grades	1200/1260
Tussah fil. best	735/780
Tsatlee Rds. new style Blue Dragon, Fly. Horse	1145/1175

PRODUCE.

Sesamum Seed.—Little interest is shown. Holders in China continue to value their cargo at rates above the ideas of Home buyers who are confining their interest to afloat parcels.

Groundnuts.—There is a steady demand from Europe but at reduced prices. Future prospects of the market seem uncertain.

Wool.—American buyers are purchasing steadily from Tientsin, but locally the lack of supplies has resulted in prices here for Shanghai grades being nominally quoted at prohibitive levels.

Feathers.—Unchanged. Local stocks of merchantable qualities are low and holders in the country are at present evidently determined to hold out for higher prices than the parities of limits from Home markets.

Goatskins and Hides—Supplies are small as yet and in view of the situation in U.S.A. prospects of business with that market are at present decidedly remote.

Raw Furs.—Some small forward contracts have been made for sundry raw skins, the season for which is drawing near.

CHILE-CHINA TRADE

Chilean Consul in Shanghai

The Chilean Government has appointed Don Alejandro Arce as a special representative in China to establish direct trade between this country and his own, most of it formerly having passed through Japan and America. One steamer already is running on the direct route and more soon will be put on, with Shanghai as the eastern terminal and Chile's representative proposes to establish his head office here. Attention chiefly will be concentrated on nitrate of soda, which is Chile's most important export, and is being sold in ever-increasing quantities all over the world. There also will be an attempt to develop the export of China silk and cotton to Chile.

HONGKONG SHARE BOOM

A Comparison of Prices

The following cable quotations were received on Thursday by Messrs. Benjamin & Potts from their agents in Hongkon:—

		Quotations Jan. 4.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats	H.$ 53	47½
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves	H.$185	152½
Hongkong Docks	H.$170	153½
Hongkong Trams	H.$ 25¾	24¼
Hongkong Hotels	H.$ 27	25
Hongkong Lands	H.$ 96	88
Green Island Cements	H.$ 42	26¾

Hongkong Bank Dividend

The local office of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation is in receipt of telegraphic advice from its head office stating that, subject to audit, the Directors will recommend at the forthcoming meeting:—

A final dividend for the year of £3 and bonus of £2 subject to deduction of Income Tax.

Added to Silver Reserve, 10 Lakhs.

Write off bank premises account, 10 Lakhs.

Carried forward to next year, 33¾ Lakhs.

Royal Dutch Petroleum Extensions

The Hague, Jan. 5.

The Royal Dutch Petroleum Co. is about to instal 41 large new tanks at Curacoa with a capacity of 1,268,000 barrels. They will be ready in October.—Reuter.

Cuticura Heals Rashes
Bathe with plenty of Cuticura Soap and hot water to cleanse and purify. Dry lightly and apply Cuticura Ointment to soothe and heal.
Soap 1s., Talcum 1s. 3d., Ointment 1s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. Sold throughout the Empire. British Depot: F. Newbery & Sons, Ltd., 27, Charterhouse Sq., London, E.C.1.
Cuticura Soap shaves without mug.

Under these circumstances the recommendation that the district of Shanghai shall be declared neutral territory seems wholly unnecessary and even dangerous to that peace which it is so desirable to preserve. If neither the new Chekiang [illegible] intention of violating the territoral rights of the other, the setting apart of this particular zone [illegible] certain to be resisted by Chekiang which is vitally interested in preserving the district under its sway. Anyone familiar with recent developments [illegible] must surely know this. Besides, who is going to guarantee the inviolability of the neutral zone? A guarantee by the two military leaders would clearly be absurd inasmuch as one of them at least would have broken the existing pacific compact between them if hostilities broke out, and he would therefore in the nature of things treat the other compact with similar contempt. The Central Government has no power whatever to ensure the neutrality, which could only be made effective by the introduction of troops by the Foreign Powers.

One must deal with the situation as it really presents itself and not as interested parties would like it to be. The internal troubles which have harassed China during late years have brought about certain abnormal conditions in the distribution of authority which cannot be changed at the moment without fighting or until a readjustment of authority takes place in a general settlement. For some years the native city of Shanghai and the Arsenal, which geographically form part of and formerly were under the jurisdiction of the province of Kiangsu, have been under the jurisdiction of Chekiang. The pacific marshal of Kiangsu now advocates the removal of the arsenal and the troops garrisoned there.

Do people realize that the mere suggestion of such a step aims a vital blow at Chekiang and that it is a direct challenge to Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang? If Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan desired trouble he could have hit on no better [illegible] removal of the arsenal and the troops would be equivalent to cutting off Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang's right hand, and neither that military satrap nor Gen. Ho Feng-ling would willingly submit to such an amputation at the present time.

For the sake of completeness it may be of interest to mention that, although the conditions are such as described, the arsenal is still under the administration of the Board of War. It manufactures war material and sells it with great impartiality to various contending tuchuns including Wu Pei-fu, Chi Shieh-yuan and Lu Yung-hsiang as long as they pay cash for what they get.

I am etc.,
GORDIUS NIELSEN.
Shanghai, Jan. 9, 1924.

THE STATE OF GERMANY.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR.—Mr. Joseph Rice in the "N.C.D.N." dated December 20 is a new champion of the Germans. That of course is his business. As a Briton, I, however, take strong exception to his remarks to the effect that the Britons are gluttons compared with the Germans.

To say the very least, this is a gross libel.

In all Continental caricatures of the Briton, he is invariably pictured as a lean, bony individual and according to the Germans themselves, the mental and bodily superiority of the Briton to the German is because the average Britons (at least [illegible] per cent.) do not over-eat themselves.

Probably the majority of the business men in the City of London have a luncheon which simply consists of a ham sandwich, and, if the funds allow it, a pint of ale with it.

The German [illegible] on the other hand never miss a big meal at noon. The English dinner (the working classes only have supper) is to my mind not big enough to feed a canary. When home on leave I personally, after having lived East of Suez for some 20 years, could never get enough in the ordinary boarding-house meals.

If any of your readers in pre-war days have taken a meal at the local German restaurants, they would probably feel quite astonished at the several pounds of various kinds of chow a German can put down. Hence the fact, that a German is always caricatured either as a beer barrel or a leg of pork with a turned up moustache.

The Germans have even invented two separate words for the verb "to eat." One is "essen" and is used by those, (and they are in the minority) who can plead guilty to eating like the ordinary human being. The other is "fressen," used when speaking about the way the average Germans eat.

Mr. Rice's remarks re Lloyd George are childish. Needless to say had we lost the war, we would not have been as well off as now, but even had we lost it, we would not have come to the state Germany, as stated by Mr. Rice and others of the same faith, is in. None of us would have let our politicians or our war profiteers bring us to such a state.

When Mr. Rice tells us that there are no people starving in England, he is unfortunately talking through his hat.

The words of Queen Victoria carry us no further. I have certainly also at times enjoyed myself in Germany like many other people. Had Queen Victoria been able to visit Peking, I should say, she would have enjoyed that as well.

That Mr. Rice is of Anglo-Saxon descent makes no difference to the argument. Mr. or Herr Houston Chamberlain was the son of a British Admiral. He, however, found Germany a far nicer country than England, and the Germans far nicer people. Good for England that there are only very few of that breed.

In conclusion the unemployment figures of Britain are far greater than those of Germany and taxes in Britain higher than in Germany. Now then!

I am, etc.,
TROUSERS.
Up-country, Dec. 25, 1923.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR.—I see in this morning's paper that "Trousers" (and his wits), are "up-country." Probably he dwells in a region where the aborigines have some of them already commenced to hear that there has been a bit of a quarrel, or war, or such-like, in Europe, but I dare swear that he, as a relatively superior intelligence, has sensed the fact that active [illegible] operations are practically over.

Three-quarters of the space occupied by this correspondent's letter is devoted to refutation of the [illegible] opposite of one of my statements. I said that eating is the German foible; and the fact that despite this, the consumption of meat in Germany has fallen to a mere fraction of its pre-war amount is incontestable proof of great privation in Germany, especially when it is remembered that there was much less margin or overplus above the limit of subsistence in pre-war Germany than in England or France. "Trousers" devotes himself to showing that the Germans love to eat, and gives himself up, unrestrainedly and offensively, to the licentious employment of a few of the hateful and petty banalities, the ignorant mendacities, and grotesque grimaces—the outworn, stale and effete Ministers of War-propaganda—with which we are familiar.

I see no controversial point properly raised in this letter, "Trousers." It is true you utter a denial or so, but a bare, unsupported contradiction is not enough. If it be a simple-minded inference of yours that because the Germans love eating better than the English, therefore German people are necessarily better fed than the English—if this be your assumption, then I say that it is new, startling, but hardly important as an economic thesis. Truth to tell, Homunculus, your confusions are immense, pervasive. You must pardon me if I have no wish to delve more deeply and generally into such inexhaustible, if interesting, topics as Queen Victoria, Lloyd George, Stewart Houston Chamberlain, etc., etc.

I am, etc.,
JOSEPH W. RICE.
Shanghai, Jan. 9, 1924.

AT the request of the Minister of Finance, Mr. Wang Ke-min, President Tsao Kun has issued a Chihling Mandate forbidding the issue of so-called savings society bonds, reports the "Journal of Commerce."

THE ROMANTIC STORY OF ZAM-BUK

World Search for Rare Herbs Used in Great Skin-Cure

It is not commonly known that countries so far apart as China and Spain, Japan and England, and Tasmania and France, have to be searched for the right species of herbs which are used in the various processes of manufacture of the natural healing balm bearing the world famous name of ZAM-BUK. These herbs are, many of them, rare and costly, and neither skill nor expense is spared to see that they are gathered just at the right season of the year when their natural juices and medicinal contents are at their best.

Zam-Buk is the only true successor of those herbal balms used by the gladiators of Ancient Rome: with this important advantage—Zam-Buk, in addition to its pure and rare herbal composition, has behind it twentieth century medical knowledge and manufacturing skill. This knowledge and research have brought Zam-Buk to a pitch of perfection probably never equalled in the annals of healing. It instantly soothes pain, swiftly allays swelling and inflammation, expels deep-seated disease, and grows new, healthy skin.

The different medicinal qualities in Zam-Buk are beautifully balanced: the healing side with the antiseptic, the soothing with the germicidal; it is penetrative yet not to stimultating, and has just the right lubricity for removing superficial swellings, sprains and pains.

Thus Zam-Buk is a useful reliable, and highly concentrated medicinal product specially suited for use in hot climates and it may be applied with the perfect confidence and knowledge that it is a refined herbal skin balm and not a pore-clogging "dressing" or ointment composed of rancid animal fats and crude mineral drugs.

Zam-Buk's unequalled power and effectiveness is thoroughly proved in cases of eczema, Dhobie's itch, prickly heat, ringworm, piles, ulcers, boils, abscesses, foot sores, poisoned wounds, scalp diseases, etc. Its swift antiseptic healing makes Zam-Buk indispensable for burns, scalds, cuts, insect bites and stings, etc. Of chemists and dispensaries throughout China and The East or from the Agent, Messrs. Wakefield & Co. (China), Ld., S. Y. Sheng Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

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The Most Valuable Remedy ever discovered.
Effectually cuts short all attacks of SPASMS. Checks and arrests these too often fatal diseases:—
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The only Palliative in NEURALGIA, GOUT, RHEUMATISM, TOOTHACHE.

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A·HAPPY·BABY·MAKES·A·HAPPY·MOTHER
Mrs. S. W. says: "I myself derived great benefit from Glaxo during the months before Baby was born, and was always in perfect health."

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If the greatest privilege of motherhood is to be yours; if you would know the joy of having Baby dependent on you alone for health and strength, make sure now that you will be *able* to nurse him yourself.

Very many mothers who could not otherwise nurse their babies have been enabled to do so by taking Glaxo themselves every day. Taken regularly two or three times a day (both before and after Baby's arrival), Glaxo enriches and stimulates the flow of breast milk, and maintains the mother's strength without taxing her digestion.

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The safest, purest form of milk for every milk purpose

Write to The British Medical Imports Co., 432 Kiukiang Road, Shanghai for Free Sample of Glaxo and booklet.

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With Assets totalling Taels 10,165,190.33

AGENCIES THROUGHOUT ASIA

Policies free from all unnecessary conditions and restrictions. Reduction of Premiums for Home Residences

HEAD OFFICE: SHANGHAI

Singapore, January 9, 1924.

Smoked Sheet	49⅜ cents
Jan./Mar.	51¼ ,,
Apr./June	52½ ,,

Market steady but quiet.

DEBENTURES.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
S'hai Municipal Council	1903 6 to 20	26-9-22	T98¼ b T490,500	6	June-Dec.
	1904 do.	11-1-23	T98¼ c 214,500	6	do.
	1905 do.	12-5-22	T96½ d 320,000	6	do.
	1907 do.	24-1-22	T91 500,000	6	dc.
	1908 do.	6-12-22	T100 650,000	6	do.
	1909 do.	15-3-23	T99 300,000	6	do.
	1910 do.	11-5-23	T99 313,800	6	do.
	1911 10 to 30	8-1-23	T95 350,000	6	do.
	1912 do.	3-1-24	T99 310,000	6	do.
	1913 do.	3-3-23	T100 756,300	6	do.
	,, 10 to 30	8-5-22	T78 500,000	5½	do.
	1914 10 to 30	9-1-23	T91 650,000	5½	do.
	1915 do.	22-3-23	T91 800,000	5½	do.
	1916 do.	4-12-23	T99½ 1,400,000	6	do.
	1918 10	18-10-23	T103 507,300	7	do.
	1919 10	4-12-23	T104 1,793,300	7	do.
	1920 10	17-11-23	T105½ 2,240,000	7	do.
	,, 10 to 30	3-10-23	£105¼ £750,000	6	do.
	1921 do.	9-9-23	$112 $1,000,000	8	do.
	1921 do.	17-11-23	T112½ T5,096,400	8	do.
	1922 do.	9-1-24	T105½ T8,000,000	7	do.
	1923 do.	11-1-24	T99 T6,000,000	6	do.
French Municipal Council	1911 do.	8-10-23	T96 400,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914 do.	12-2-23	T88 500,000	5½	June-Dec.
	1915 do.		350,000	5½	do.
	1921 do.	20-11-23	T108½ 2,000,000	8	do.
	1923 do.	17-12-23	T95 T800,000	6	May-Nov.
S'hai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	1921 10 to 30	2-10-23	T112 2,000,000	8	June-Dec.
	1922 do.	6-6-22	T108 T500,000	‖	do.
	1922 do.	2-10-23	T105 T1,000,000	7	do.
S'hai Gas Co., Ltd.	1909 do.	29-11-23	T94 800,000	6	do.
	1903 6 to 20	26-9-22	T98¼ b T490,500	6	June-Dec.
	1904 do.	11-1-23	T98¼ c 214,500	6	do.
	1905 do.	12-5-22	T96½ d 320,000	6	do.
	1907 do.	24-1-22	T91 500,000	6	dc.
	1908 do.	6-12-22	T100 650,000	6	do.
	1909 do.	15-3-23	T99 300,000	6	do.
	1910 do.	11-5-23	T99 313,800	6	do.
	1911 10 to 30	8-1-23	T95 350,000	6	do.
	1912 do.	3-1-24	T99 310,000	6	do.
	1913 do.	3-3-23	T100 756,300	6	do.
	,, 10 to 50	8-5-22	T78 500,000	5½	do.
	1914 10 to 30	9-1-23	T91 650,000	5½	do.
	1915 do.	22-3-23	T91 800,000	5½	do.
	1916 do.	4-12-23	T99½ 1,400,000	6	do.
	1918 10	18-10-23	T103 507,300	7	do.
	1919 10	4-12-23	T104 1,793,300	7	do.
	1920 10	17-11-23	T105½ 2,240,000	7	do.
	,, 10 to 30	3-10-23	£105¼ £750,000	6	do.
	1921 do.	9-9-23	$112 $1,000,000	8	do.
	1921 do.	17-11-23	T112½ T5,096,400	8	do.
	1922 do.	9-1-24	T105½ T8,000,000	7	do.
	1923 do.	11-1-24	T99 T6,000,000	6	do.
	1911 do.	8-10-23	T96 400,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914 do.	12-2-23	T88 500,000	5½	June-Dec.
	1915 do.		350,000	5½	do.
	1921 do.	20-11-23	T108½ 2,000,000	8	do.
	1923 do.	17-12-23	T95 T800,000	6	May-Nov.
	1921 10 to 30	2-10-23	T112 2,000,000	8	June-Dec.
	1922 do.	6-6-22	T108 T500,000	‖	do.
	1922 do.	2-10-23	T105 T1,000,000	7	do.
	1909 do.	29-11-23	T94 800,000	6	do.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
	1905 5 to 20	31-8-22	T96½ T250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1909 do.	27-3-23	T98 750,000	6	do.
	1911 do.	26-9-22	T92 250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	,, do.	27-3-23	T93 250,000	6	May-Nov.
	1912 do.		250,000	6	Jan.-July
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.	1913 do.	3-4-23	T93 250,000	6	June-Dec.
	,, do.	3-4-23	T98 250,000	6	April-Oct.
	,, do.	11-1-24	T94 250,000 g	6	April-Oct.
	,, do.		250,000	6	April-Oct.
	1914 do.	22-3-23	T93 250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1916 5 to 25	21-8-22	T90 f 500,000	5½	do.
	1922 do.	12-2-23	T95 750,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	1922 do.	10-1-24	T93 500,000	6	May-Nov.
Shanghai Club	1907 20		450,000	6	do.
Country Club	1901 Perpetual		139,000	6	June-Dec.
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd.	1914 5 to 20		130,000	6	May-Nov.
	1915 do.		110,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ltd.	1906 do.		250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1911 do.	7-6-23	T93 300,000	6	do.
S'hai Hotels, Ltd.	1916 30	6-1-23	T88 h 805,000	6	do.
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd.	1923 10 to 20	27-2-23	T95½ h 270,000	6	do.
S'hai Race Club	1923 25	7-1-24	T100 1,200,000	6½	Mar.-Sept.
Culty Dairy Co., Ltd.	1915 10		50,000	7	Feb.-Aug.
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	1914 5 to 20	14-10-22	$92 h 230,000	7	Jan.-July
	1922 5 to 20	.. ..	T500,000	7	Jan.-July

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment. †See also under section headed "Companies' Notices, etc."

a—Now Issuing; Redeemed or Purchased:—b—Tls.65,100; c—Tls.51,100; d—Tls.34,100; e—Tls.68,500; f—Tls.262,400; g—Tls.189,800; h—Tls.12,300; i—$18,900.

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
			lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Auna	Fls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	8.87d.	..	22,000	21,000	25,000	68,000
Amberst (New)	,, 500,000	Oct.	72,382	81,440	80,500	*8.34d.			9,784	9,236	19,020
Anglo-Dutch	£200,000	Dec.	760,000	650,000	600,000	0/6.92d.	364,700	64,500	55,900	60,000	535,100
Anglo-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,511,575	1,521,711	1,550,000	6.95d.	1,116,100	163,600	189,000	183,000	183,000
Ayer Tawah	Fls. 300,000	Sept.	369,417	68,012	300,000	†0.24.41		..			
Batu Anam	,, 400,000	Dec.	221,030	258,510	185,793	0/7.31d.	142,992	..	12,450	8,200	102,712
Bukit Toh Alang	,, 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,645	345,000	7.54d.	139,189	30,893	26,000	26,000	222,082
Buto	,, 300,000	Dec.	253,300	230,067	159,516	10.11d.	121,250	17,700	16,600	18,800	174,350
Chemor United	,, 360,000	Dec.	271,636	340,794	246,192	0/7.15d.	194,558	..	26,044	25,800	246,412
Chempedak	£35,000	Oct.	145,760	162,500	..	10.15d.			14,000	16,700	30,700
Chenz	Fls. 675,000	June	151,923	145,338	..	11.09d.	52,730	18,010	15,574	15,700	102,014
Consolidated (1914)	,, 375,000	Dec.	591,033	680,890	574,680	0/6.58d.	166,199	62,349	56,543	58,552	633,632
Dominion	,, 350,000	Dec.	301,042	271,150	300,867	11.04d.	211,506	28,111	25,596	27,925	323,140
Gula-Kalumpang	£500,000	Dec.	1,023,606	1,113,030	1,215,000	1/0.7d.	755,000	98,000		85,000	938,000
Java Consolidated	£85,000	Dec.	739,736	675,800	..	7.08d.	411,100	67,995	70,000	72,000	620,400
Kapayang	,, 150,000	Dec.	176,890	139,239	..	†20.90	110,683	11,782	11,648	12,597	146,710
Kuran	,, 250,000	Mar.	114,879	104,783	84,000	8½d.	41,012	6,623	5,574	6,858	60,067
Kota Bahroe (1921)	,, 390,000	June	138,330	339,970	..	..	78,957	24,885	27,143	29,933	160,918
Krowcock	£70,000	Dec.	493,730	449,000	549,000	0/7.24d.	366,800	61,000	62,000	59,000	549,800
Langkat	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	843,589	943,000	975,000	Gld4.0.28			86,900	92,500	179,300
Padang	Fls. 500,000	April	209,711	220,232	..	10½d.	66,300	17,205	17,000	20,000	120,500
Pengkalan (1921)	,, 150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,253	176,088	†10.19	..	..	..	..	..
Permuta	,, 250,000	Oct.	98,303	86,299	..	0/8½d.			9,012	..	9,012
Repah	,, 275,000	Dec.	27,000	68,584	440,000	1/3½	153,578	24,886	19,521	20,200	217,185
Sarangata	,, 600,000	Sept.	381,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
See Koe (1918)	,, 100,000	June	179,663	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	97,613	..	10,896	12,000	120,509
Semanon	,, 300,000	Dec.	179,192	164,105	158,264	0/9.37d.	119,529	..	15,267	10,300	245,596
Senawang (1921)	,, 375,000	Jan.	106,500	272,500	..	*7.35d.	180,900	28,100	23,400	21,700	254,000
Shanghai Kedah	,, 400,000	Sept.	313,414	246,742	..	8.12d.	..	22,827	21,112	23,650	67,627
S'hai-Klebang	,, 315,000	Dec.	113,352	126,106	..	0/9.35d.	84,115	8,000	8,400	8,500	109,015
S'hai-Malay	,, 600,000	Dec.	413,633	373,111	392,000	..	223,531	23,850	20,336	21,439	289,156
S'hai Pahang	,, 200,000	June	209,881	188,016	..	9½d.	52,721	20,430	15,618	12,204	109,973
S'hai Seremban	,, 325,000	Dec.	176,588	173,213	..	0/8.67d.	103,486	13,998	13,650	15,900	147,034
S'hai-Sumatra	,, 650,000	Oct.	661,338	670,716	650,000	Glds.0.38	..	..	50,239	61,102	111,341
Sua Manggis	,, 200,000	Dec.	182,000	144,880	..	..	..	14,200	13,500	..	27,700
Sungala	,, 100,000	Mar.	30,271	165,757	..	17.20	6,126	..	..	..	6,126
Sungei Duri	£10,000	June	308,073	296,598	220,000	11.61d.	64,560	23,302	18,774	19,773	126,409
Taiping (1913)	Fls. 200,000	Dec.	705,550	107,011	90,000	*$30	79,652	8,065	3,573	..	95,290
Tanah Merah	,, 750,000	Mar.	415,000	395,000	..	7.92d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,800	234,900
Tebong	,, 750,000	Jan.	634,590	630,838	717,725	0/7.66d.	450,500	66,500	67,000	72,000	656,000
Zlangbe	£750,000	Dec.	616,432	514,566	600,000	7.24d.	352,500	45,800	49,100	46,200	523,600

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses † Straits 8 cents.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
			lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
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Amberst (New)	,, 500,000	Oct.	72,382	81,440	80,500	*8.34d.			9,784	9,236	19,020
Anglo-Dutch	£200,000	Dec.	760,000	650,000	600,000	0/6.92d.	364,700	64,500	55,900	60,000	535,100
Anglo-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,511,575	1,521,711	1,550,000	6.95d.	1,116,100	163,600	189,000	183,000	183,000
Ayer Tawah	Fls. 300,000	Sept.	369,417	68,012	300,000	†0.24.41		..			
Batu Anam	,, 400,000	Dec.	221,030	258,510	185,793	0/7.31d.	142,992	..	12,450	8,200	102,712
Bukit Toh Alang	,, 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,645	345,000	7.54d.	139,189	30,893	26,000	26,000	222,082
Buto	,, 300,000	Dec.	253,300	230,067	159,516	10.11d.	121,250	17,700	16,600	18,800	174,350
Chemor United	,, 360,000	Dec.	271,636	340,794	246,192	0/7.15d.	194,558	..	26,044	25,800	246,412
Chempedak	£35,000	Oct.	145,760	162,500	..	10.15d.			14,000	16,700	30,700
Chenz	Fls. 675,000	June	151,923	145,338	..	11.09d.	52,730	18,010	15,574	15,700	102,014
Consolidated (1914)	,, 375,000	Dec.	591,033	680,890	574,680	0/6.58d.	166,199	62,349	56,543	58,552	633,632
Dominion	,, 350,000	Dec.	301,042	271,150	300,867	11.04d.	211,506	28,111	25,596	27,925	323,140
Gula-Kalumpang	£500,000	Dec.	1,023,606	1,113,030	1,215,000	1/0.7d.	755,000	98,000		85,000	938,000
Java Consolidated	£85,000	Dec.	739,736	675,800	..	7.08d.	411,100	67,995	70,000	72,000	620,400
Kapayang	,, 150,000	Dec.	176,890	139,239	..	†20.90	110,683	11,782	11,648	12,597	146,710
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Kota Bahroe (1921)	,, 390,000	June	138,330	339,970	..	..	78,957	24,885	27,143	29,933	160,918
Krowcock	£70,000	Dec.	493,730	449,000	549,000	0/7.24d.	366,800	61,000	62,000	59,000	549,800
Langkat	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	843,589	943,000	975,000	Gld4.0.28			86,900	92,500	179,300
Padang	Fls. 500,000	April	209,711	220,232	..	10½d.	66,300	17,205	17,000	20,000	120,500
Pengkalan (1921)	,, 150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,253	176,088	†10.19	..	..	..	..	..
Permuta	,, 250,000	Oct.	98,303	86,299	..	0/8½d.			9,012	..	9,012
Repah	,, 275,000	Dec.	27,000	68,584	440,000	1/3½	153,578	24,886	19,521	20,200	217,185
Sarangata	,, 600,000	Sept.	381,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
See Koe (1918)	,, 100,000	June	179,663	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	97,613	..	10,896	12,000	120,509
Semanon	,, 300,000	Dec.	179,192	164,105	158,264	0/9.37d.	119,529	..	15,267	10,300	245,596
Senawang (1921)	,, 375,000	Jan.	106,500	272,500	..	*7.35d.	180,900	28,100	23,400	21,700	254,000
Shanghai Kedah	,, 400,000	Sept.	313,414	246,742	..	8.12d.	..	22,827	21,112	23,650	67,627
S'hai-Klebang	,, 315,000	Dec.	113,352	126,106	..	0/9.35d.	84,115	8,000	8,400	8,500	109,015
S'hai-Malay	,, 600,000	Dec.	413,633	373,111	392,000	..	223,531	23,850	20,336	21,439	289,156
S'hai Pahang	,, 200,000	June	209,881	188,016	..	9½d.	52,721	20,430	15,618	12,204	109,973
S'hai Serembau	,, 325,000	Dec.	176,588	173,213	..	0/8.67d.	103,486	13,998	13,650	15,900	147,034
S'hai-Sumatra	,, 650,000	Oct.	661,338	670,716	650,000	Glds.0.38	..	..	50,239	61,102	111,341
Sua Manggis	,, 200,000	Dec.	182,000	144,880	..	..	..	14,200	13,500	..	27,700
Sungala	,, 100,000	Mar.	30,271	165,757	..	17.20	6,126	..	..	..	6,126
Sungei Duri	£10,000	June	308,073	296,598	220,000	11.61d.	64,560	23,302	18,774	19,773	126,409
Taiping (1913)	Fls. 200,000	Dec.	705,550	107,011	90,000	*$30	79,652	8,065	3,573	..	95,290
Tanah Merah	,, 750,000	Mar.	415,000	395,000	..	7.92d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,800	234,900
Tebong	,, 750,000	Jan.	634,590	630,838	717,725	0/7.66d.	450,500	66,500	67,000	72,000	656,000
Zlangbe	£750,000	Dec.	616,432	514,566	600,000	7.24d.	352,500	45,800	49,100	46,200	523,600

Sehawang Rubber Ests. (ord. Co. (1921), Ltd. (12% Cum. Pref.	T	1.05	1.02½	1.07½	63)	300,000		T1	a (Loss) 20,075	Jan.	....
Shanghai Kedah Plantations, Ltd.	T	1.10	1.10		67)	100,000		T1			
S'hai Klebang Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T	0.60	0.65		31)	400,000		T1	a T1,183	Sept.	T0.05, 1919 .. .. ..

COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

The Senawang Rubber Estates Co., Ltd.—A General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, January 14, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Chempedak Rubber and Gambier Estate, Ltd. The 14th Annual General Meeting will be held at No 10 Canton Road Shanghai, on Thursday, January 17, 1924, at 4.30 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from January 14 to 17, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Subject to audit, the Directors will recommend at the forthcoming meeting:—

To pay a final dividend for the year of £3 and bonus of £2 subject to deduction of Income Tax.

To add to Silver Reserve, 10 Lakhs.

To write off bank premises account, 10 Lakhs.

To carry forward to next year, 33⅓ Lakhs.

The Tebong Rubber & Tapioca Estate, Ltd.—A General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, January 23, 1924, at 11.45 a.m.

The Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estate Ltd.—Holders of 5/- in the £ paid shares who have not paid the Call advertised by Call Letter dated October 15, 1923, are reminded that same is payable on or before January 15, 1924, and that all calls unpaid on that date will bear interest at the rate of 10% per annum from that date until the date of payment.

The Cheng Rubber Estates, Ltd.—An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at No 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, January 21, 1924, at 4.30 p.m.

Share Report for Week Ending January 11, 1924.

No. 24 2

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use A1 Code
A.B.C. 4th, 5th and 6th Editions
H. Broomhall's Imperial Combination Code
Bentley's Complete Phrase Code.
Telephone Cent. 171

Share and General Brokers.
Land and Estate Agents.
1 The Bund,
Post Office Box No. 244
Shanghai.

The local share market opened this week with a little more life in evidence but rates generally do not show any marked tendency to improve at the close to-day. "Rubbers" have been more in demand but buyers are reluctant to pay more than to-day's quotations while the price of rubber remains only steady. "Cottons" opened with a fair enquiry but close easier. Langkats, Shanghai Loan and Shanghai Excavation are all wanted at prices which seem attractive. Hongkong & Shanghai Bank shares have improved to $1,060. Buyers during the week. Yangtsze Insurance, Shanghai Docks, S. & H. Wharves, Lands and Shanghai Gas Co. are all wanted at higher prices.

London market quotations have improved slightly throughout the week and the following are the latest prices offered to us by cable this week:—

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	£ 72. 0. 0	(Mean)
" " " " " " R.I.	69 0 0	ex B.I.R.S.
" " " " " " R.I.	64 10 0	(Sellers) "
" " " " " " R.I.	64 5 0	(Mean) cum "
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co., "B"	8. 7. 6	"
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ltd. (Fully)	1 13 6	"
" " " 5/- pd.	0. 8. 0	(Buyers)
Shanghai Electric Cons. Co., "B"	£ 13. 3	(Mean)
Shell Transport & Trading Co., "B"	3. 15. 9	(Sellers)
British-American Tobacco Co., "B"	5. 0. 7½	"
Chartered Bank of I. A. & C.	10. 11. 3	"
Mercantile Bank of India	12. 0. 0	"

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to-day is 3/3.

Shanghai, January 11, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:—

JANUARY	5th		7th		8th		9th		10th		11th	
	Cash	Mar	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar	Cash	Mar.
RUBBERS												
Anglo-Java Est., Ld. .. Tls.	..	..	6½	6.90	6.60	..	6½	7	..	..	..	..
Ziangbe Rub. Co., Ld. .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8½	..	..	..
Sungei Duri Rub. Est. Ld .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8½	..
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS												
S. & H. Wharf Co., Ld. .. Tls.	180	..	..	..	..	..	72½	..	..	..	73	..
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd. .. "	72½	..	72½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hall & Holtz, Ld. .. .. $	..	..	6.90	..	..	..	2/4½	..	..	..	..	..
Singapore Trams .. .. .. £	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1065	..	..	..
H. & S. Bank .. .. .. $	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
COTTONS												
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. (Ord) .. Tls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12½
DEBENTURES												
S. M. C. 6% 1923 Debs. .. Tls.	99	..	..	..	99	..	99	..	99	..	99	..
S'hai Race Club 6½ %,, .. "	..	..	..	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S. M. C. 7% 1922 Debs. .. "	..	..	..	105½	..	105½	..	105½	..	..	..	..
S'hai Land 6% 1922 ,, .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98	..	..
S'hai Land 6% 1913 ,, .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98	..

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

January 29, Tuesday. February 26, Tuesday. March 25, Tuesday.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, JANUARY 11, 1924.

STOCK	Last business done.	Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Paid-up Value	Reserve, etc.	Finan. year ended	Last Dividend etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.									
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Cor.	$ 1,065	1,060		61) 40,000	H $125	(a H $83,350,214 (c H $65,123,831)	Dec.	Int. £3 for 1923 deduction of I/T††	7-3-23
Chartered Bank of I., A. & C. London	£ 19½			600,000	£5	(d £224,201 (c £3,000,000)	Dec.	Final 7s. & Bonus 6s. 3d. (mkg. £1 0s. 3d.), free of I/T, 1922	5-4-23
INSURANCE.									
Union In. Society of Canton, Ld.	H $ 232½			55) 200,000	d $4	(ae £137,386 (c 600,000	Dec	Final 16s. (mkg. 40s.) ex 1921 Work. a/c., Interim 24s. & Bonus to Contributors, 20%, ex 1922 Work a/c	26-5-23
North-China Insurance Co., Ld. ..	T 138			10,000	c £15	(ae T610,687 (c T4,782,885	Dec.	Final 15s. (mkg. 50s.) ex 1921 Work a/c. and Interim 15s. ex 1922 Works. a/c.	30-6-23
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ld. ..	$ 25½	26½		45) 250,000	$10	(ae $1,921,999 (ae $2,405,635 (c $1,003,212	Dec.	$2 (or T1.46) ex 1922 Work. a/c. payable in Taels at Exchg. 73	30-5-23
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ld.	T 22			1) 50,000	T20	(ae T518,346 (ae T204,093 (c T9,301	Dec.	T1.20 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	30-5-23
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.	H $ 626	725		10,000	f H $100	(ae H $2,172,375 (c H $0,649,892	Dec.	Final H $22 (mkg. H $40) ex 1921 Work. a/c., and Interim H $18 ex 1922 Work. a/c. ..	11-5-23
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld. ..	H $ 550			5,000	g H $50	(ae H $631,693 (c H $3,870,385	Dec.	H $32 ex 1921 Working a/c.	28-3-23
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H $ 127	140		20,000	h H $20	(ae H $1,325,920 (c H $5,223,750	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/c. ..	26-4-23
Assurance Franco-Asiatique	F 500			14,000	F500	(a F401,365 (c F3,734,330	Dec.	None. Floated 1919	....
SHIPPING.									
Indo-China S.N. Co., Ld. .. (6% cum. pref. / def. ord.	H $ 38 / H $ 140	38½		2) 120,000 / 2) 120,000	£5 / £5	(a £2,187 (c £2,105,152	Dec.	Prof. 6s. at Exchg.—$2/4 London Warrants less I/T a/c., 1922. Def. Ord. Nil	15-6-23
Shell T'sport & Trading Co., Ld. .. (ord. / 5% cum. pref. / 7% cum. 2nd pref.	"B" £ £		£3:19:6	£4:2:6	38) 30,000,000 48) 300,000 57) 10,000,000	£1 £10 £1	(a* £2,029,050 (c £5,000,000	Dec.	Interim 2s., free of I T. Coupon 42	5-1-24
Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld. .. (ord. / pref.	T 75 / T 53			20,000 / 10,000	T25 / T58	(a T22 (c T470,000	Dec	(Int. Ord. T2.50 a/c., 1923) .. .. (Int. Pref. T1.75 a/c., 1923)	9-1-23
DOCKS AND WHARVES.									
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld. ..	T 88	95		10) 55,700	T75	(a T102,335 (c T1,515,998	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
Hongkong & W'pao Dock Co., Ld.	H $ 154½	153½		60,000	H $50	(a H $583,650 (c H $1,081,695	Dec.	Interim H $3, 1922 .. .. Final H $5 & Bon. H $3 (mkg. H $12, 1922) ..	11-10-22 27-3-23
New Eng. and Shipbuilding Works, Ld. .. .. (ord. / 8% pref.	T 0.40 / T 5.20	0½		85) 500,000 / 85) 500,000	T5 / T5	(a £42,417 (b T300,000 (c T1,290,000	Dec.	Ord. T0.00, 1922 .. .. Prof. T0.40, 1922..	10-3-23 10-3-23
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ld.	T 180	181		‡4) 40,000	T100	(a T12,229 (b T200,000 (c T1,041,791	Dec.	Final T12 (mkg. T15, 1922) .. .. Int. T3 a/c., 1923	13-3-23 30-8-23
H'kong & K'loon W. & G. Co., Ld. ..	H $ 155½	152½		80,000	H $50	(a H $250,000 (b H $250,000 (c H $100,000	Dec	H. $6 & Bonus H. $3 (mkg. H $9 1922) ..	20-2-23
MINING.									
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld. ..	£ 12/-			24) 500,000	G. $10	——	June	G $0.50, 1920-21	26-7-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Bourse). London	T 19	19		††64) 2,000,000	£1		June	Final 5s% (Coupon No "23") free of I/T, 1922-1923	11-12-23
Rand Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld. ..	£ H $ 5.20	£3:0:0	£3:9:0	200,000	£1	(a £23,613 (c £1,573	Mar.	1s. 3d., 1909-10	21-5-10
LANDS AND HOTELS.									
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. ..	T 116	116½	118	‡) 78,000	T50	(a T25,559 (b T250,000 (c T2,166,533	Dec.	(Final T3 & Bonus T2 (mkg. T3, 1922) .. .. (Interim 1923, T3	23-3-23 26-7-23
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld. .. (New Reg.)	H $ 90	88		240,000	H $25	H $3,221,700	Dec.	Int. H $6 a/c., 1923	24-7-23
Humphrey's Est. & Finance Co., Ld. ..	H $ 23.00			150,000	H $10	(a H $250,000 (a H $123,746 (b H $50,000 (c H $557,903	Dec.	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.70, 1922	10-2-23
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld.	T 6			3,874	T20	(a T2,808 (c T7,090	Dec.	T1.20, 1922	24-2-23
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld. ..	T 120	120		‡3) 18,000	T100	(a T7,548 (b T250,000 (c T350,000	Feb.	Int. Divid. T3½, 1923-24	21-9-23
The Shanghai Hotels, Ld.	$ 40	50		‡45) 150,123	$7.50	(a $475,121 (c $2,465,534	Dec.	$3 on 50,000 shs; Scrip Div. 199 now Ord. shs. for ea. 123 Founders shs., 1920 Interim, $3.50 on 74,000 shs., 1921, Final, Nil ..	11-6-21
Carlton, Ld.	T 53			14) 10,000	T50		Mar.	Floated April 1, 1922	....
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	G $ 100			‡18) 10,000	G $100		Dec.	Incorporated under the laws of Delaware Ord. 1922, 7%	4-1-23
Raven Trust Co., Inc. .. .. .. (ord. / pref.	G $ 10 / G $ 10			**100,000	G $10 / G $10			Pref. 1st gr. 1923, 1½%	4-1-23
PLANTATIONS.									
Alma Estates, Ld.	T 6½	6½		70,000	£1 at T9	(a T28,940	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23	19-12-23
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld.	T 0.50		0.50	‡62) 500,000	T1		Oct.	....	....
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld. ..	T 2.90			12) 400,000	10s.	(a T32,505	Dec.	T0.30, 1919 ††	7-4-20
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T 6½	6.60		4) 500,000	10s.	(a T129,151 (c T375,570	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c. 1923	14-9-23
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T 21	22½		27) 30,000	T10	(a T16,223 (b T22,000 (c T69,960	Sept.	T2.00, 1922-23	28-12-23
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Ests., Ld. ..	T 1	1.03½	1.07½	400,000	T1	T30,789	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	10-4-20
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T 1.12½	1.07½	1.12½	500,000	T1	T29,402	Mar.	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1916-17)	25-7-17
Bute Plantation (1915), Ld.	T 0.75	0.85	1	300,000	T1	(Loss) T13,076	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkg. T0.10, 1916)	29-3-17
Chenor United Rubber Co., Ld.	T 1.07½	1.05		400,000	T0.90	T37,697	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	6-11-23
Chempedak Rub. & G'bier Est., Ld. ..	T 6		39)	35,000	£1	(Loss) T13,435	Oct.	2nd Interim, T0.50, (mkg. T1, 1916-17)	16-10-17
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T 1.40	1½		135,000	T5	T4,120	June	T0.20, 1916-17	1-11-17
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld. ..	T 2½	2½	2½	25) 500,000	2s.—T0.75	T23,192	Dec.	T0.10, 1922	20-4-23
Dominion Rubber Co., Ld.	T 2	2		19) 350,000	T1	T30,000		Interim T0.00, 1923	15-10-23
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T 9½	9½		‡48) 750,000	(21;450,000 5s;200,000	T13,813	Dec.	T0.40, 1919	13-5-20
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee, Est., Ld.	T 14	14½		8) 85,000	£1 at 2/3½	T54,465	Dec.	2s. less I/T at 5s. in £1922, "B" Coupon 20) ..	28-3-23
Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ld. ..	T 12	13		35) 15,000	T10	T650,113	Dec.	Interim, T0.50, 1923	3-9-23
Karan Rubber Estate Co., Ld.	T 6	4½		25,000	T10	T6,977 T4,023	Dec.	(T0.50, 1922 .. .. (Interim 1923, T0.50	19-4-23 17-7-23
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1921), Ld. ..	T 1.05	1.05		390,000	T1	T3,908	Mar.	T0.60, 1922-23	1-6-23
Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ld.	T 14	14½	20)	70,000	£1 at T1.80	T30,000 (Loss) T16,284	June	(T0.60, 1922	17-4-23
Padang Rubber Co., Ld.	T 6½			50,000	T10	T35,490 T55,350	Dec.	(Int. T0.50 a/c., 1923	7-9-23
Penggelan Ayer Estates (1924), Ltd. ..	T 5.10			150,000	T1	T2,410	Apr.	T0.05, 1919	3-5-20

LAW REPORTS

A WIFE LOCKED UP IN HER BEDROOM

More Stories of Life at the Crest: Half Share in Cafe Valued at $10,000

The action brought by Lloyd E. Brown against Frank H. Hyde, proprietor of the Crest Hotel—a case which his Honour Judge Grain described (when the matter first came before him) as due to a wrangle between two women and which never should have been brought into court—was continued at H. M. Supreme Court on Monday, Mr. Reader Harris informing his Lordship that the parties had been unable to arrive at a settlement. The case for the defence was accordingly proceeded with. Plaintiff (formerly manager of the Crest Hotel) claimed, under a contract in writing, three months and 19 days' salary, at $500 per month $1,816; and three months and 12 days' board and lodging, at $250 per month, together with $151 costs.

Mr. Tycho Wing appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Reader Harris for defendant.

Mr. Reader Harris, in opening the defence, alleged that plaintiff had been negligent in carrying out his duties as manager, had used insulting language, and had behaved in such a manner as to endanger the licence of the hotel. On April 20, plaintiff struck his wife a blow which rendered her unconscious and defendant had to assist in carrying her to her room at the hotel, and on another occasion he went to the Del Monte during business hours and had to be fetched back. One night Brown and his wife returned to the hotel at 12.30, demanded that dinner be served, and, on being told that it was too late, went to the defendant's room, where plaintiff used abusive and threatening language. Brown asked to be paid off and to be allowed to go, and Hyde agreed. The two then left the room, and a few minutes later defendant went downstairs and found everyone in the garden, where Mr. and Mrs. Brown were quarrelling fiercely. Some sheets and a quilt were hanging from Mrs. Brown's window, and she appeared to have got down into the garden by this means. When defendant spoke to Brown about the incident, the latter told him to be careful or he might find himself in hospital. Mrs. Brown was in a raving temper and defendant decided to fetch the police, an Inspector coming on the scene and conducting Mrs. Brown, who had continued to rave, out into Avenue Haig, where she calmed down. The Inspector told defendant that if such incidents were repeated he would lose his licence.

A $10,000 HALF SHARE.

In this way, said counsel, the conduct of the Browns had been injurious and prejudicial to the interests of the hotel. Counsel suggested that the whole trouble arose in connexion with a proposal that plaintiff should purchase a half share in the business. He agreed to do so for $10,000, and paid $100 down, it being understood that he would complete the purchase within a month. He failed to do so and asked for a 10 days' extension, which was granted. At the end of that period, he was still unable or unwilling to complete the purchase, then suggesting that he should be allowed to pay the balance by instalments from his salary. This proposal was refused, and the refusal was the cause of the ensuing trouble. From that time onwards, plaintiff began to neglect his duty, and little annoying incidents occurred, culminating in the bed-room window scene.

Inspector P. Kersulec, of the French Police, who was called to the Crest on the occasion described, stated that Mrs. Brown was raving and yelling and appeared to have been drinking. Brown was doing his best to quiet her.

Mr. Wing pointed out that, according to law, misconduct on the part of a wife did not constitute misconduct on the part of her husband.

Defendant gave evidence bearing out his counsel's statement. Speaking of the occasion when (he alleged) plaintiff struck his wife and rendered her unconscious, witness said this was because of Mrs. Brown's jealousy of her husband dancing with one of the Russian girls. When she saw him in the ball room she went to the bar and ordered a brandy and soda, drinking this and calling for another, which the bar boy refused to serve. Her husband then came in and struck her. Witness denied that he backed out of the proposed half-share agreement upon finding that it might be a bad bargain for him.

Three Chinese witnesses were called to support defendant's story as to the conduct of Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

THE CONTROL OF A WIFE.

Counsel then addressed his Lordship, who asked Mr. Wing whether he went so far as to say that a master could not break the contract of an employee whose wife went on the premises and created a disturbance.

Mr. Wing—It depends on the circumstances. It may be so, but in this case plaintiff cannot be held responsible for what happened. He did everything possible to keep her quiet.

Counsel went on to say that apparently defendant regarded his manager as a menial servant without power or discretion to do the smallest thing except stand on his hind legs in the ballroom. It was a natural thing for him to go and see what was doing at a rival establishment. Plaintiff was not responsible for the garden scene. It might not have been the best thing to do, but clearly he had locked his wife in her bedroom for the sake of peace and quietness.

His Honour announced that he would give judgment in a few days' time.

BANK'S CLAIM FOR TLS. 8,000

Defendant's Offer of Arrangement

His Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner had before him on Monday a claim by the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank against Messrs Schiller & Co., for Tls. 8,187.18, money lent, with interest at 8 per cent. Mr. G. H. Wright appeared for plaintiffs and Mr. P. W. Goldring for defendants.

Mr. Goldring informed the Court that the bank held certain land which had now been taken over by the Municipal Council, and as soon as negotiations were completed defendants would be able to come to some arrangement with the Bank. They consented to judgment for the amount claimed.

His Lordship gave judgment accordingly, with 8 per cent. interest to date, and costs.

THE REPUTATIONS OF LITIGANTS

Supreme Court Judge's Comment When Asked to Read a Detective's Report

In H. M. Supreme Court on Thursday, before his Honour Judge Grain, Dr. R. A. Thompson brought an action against C. P. Rakusen, of the Oculists' Institute Co., 49A Nanking Road, to recover $50 for shares and $79 for services rendered.

Mr. Reader Harris appeared for defendant.

Plaintiff told his Honour he was suing for money due for the time he was a partner in defendant's business. He gave defendant $50 for shares and stock in the business, and was a partner from February 10 to April 10 last year. Witness also engaged an oculist. There were from 10,000 to 12,000 shares, and defendant sold witness 50 of them at $1 each, witness paying the money and obtaining a receipt. Shortly afterwards he left defendant because he found him to be the biggest thief and swindler in Shanghai.

ALLEGED BLACKMAIL.

Mr. Harris—Your Honour, that is the whole of plaintiff's case. It is what he has brought it for. He only came into court in order that he might make that statement. He has simply brought this case for purposes of blackmail.

Plaintiff—That is not true. He is exactly what I have said he is.

Mr. Harris—Would you like to see the detective's report upon yourself?

Plaintiff went on to say that the money claimed was due to him because he dissolved the partnership. Upon leaving, he wanted the money for the shares back again because he was not getting any retainers or profits from the business. There were no shares issued. Of course, when he left the business he wanted his money back. The $79 was due to him on an arrangement he had with defendant with regard to the oculist, having guaranteed that he would be paid money received from patients whom he attended. This money, however, was paid to defendant and he had refused to hand it over, saying that he did not understand. The oculist had not been paid, and witness was claiming because he was now in partnership with him and considered the money to be his also.

His Honour pointed out that in these circumstances it would be the oculist who should claim against Rakusen.

Witness—The oculist is now my partner, and I guaranteed him the money.

WHEN SHARES GO WRONG.

His Honour—I do not see on what grounds you want your $50 back. You have your receipt for them, and if they are now of no value that is your misfortune.

Plaintiff—Well, the business is paying nothing and I want my money back.

His Honour—There are lots of us who want our money back when our shares go wrong, but we cannot get it and have to put up with our losses.

In answer to Mr. Reader Harris, plaintiff said that a receipt for the shares was sent to him by chit book and he gave defendant $50 next day, in cash, but no one saw him do so. Witness admitted that he issued a writ for and took into court three Chinese employees who sued defendant for $20 wages.

His Honour observed that he did not see that plaintiff had made out a case at all.

Mr. Harris—That is so, your Honour. The whole thing is malicious. Plaintiff has been suing Rakusen and trying to ruin his business in every way. His only reason for coming into court was for the purpose of making the statement he has made, and I would ask your Honour to intimate to the reporters that it should not appear.

His Honour replied that he could not direct the reporters in the matter, but added that he had always found the discretion given them was well used.

Mr. Harris—Plaintiff knows that he has got no case. I can prove that the $50 was never paid, though plaintiff was always saying he would send a cheque.

His Honour (to plaintiff)—You have taken shares which you say are worth nothing now, but that cannot be helped. Here is a receipt duly signed and it refers to an agreement entered into between you.

A DIFFERENT PART OF ACTION.

Plaintiff—I never had the shares.

His Honour—It may be a matter for an action for fraud, if the shares were fraudulent or you were fraudulently persuaded to take them.

Plaintiff repeated that he had not got the shares.

His Honour—Then it is an action for delivery of shares. As to the $79, there is no evidence the oculist has not been paid.

Mr. Harris—Your honour has said that it might be an action for fraud, but I take it you do not mean on the evidence before the court this morning.

His Honour—Oh, not at all. (To plaintiff)—You have made out no case whatever.

Plaintiff—I would like your honour to read evidence of this man's reputation which I have obtained from detectives in America.

His Honour—I do not want to hear it. If I spent my time inquiring into the reputation of people coming to this court I should have to sit here all day long. Judgment for defendant, with costs.

MALTESE SEAMEN'S OUTBREAK

Thrilling Story of Attack in the Str. Rio Azul: Chief's Narrow Escape

When the hearing was resumed by Mr. G. W. King at H. M. Police Court of the charge against the seven Maltese firemen of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm three engineer officers of the str. Rio Azul, the prosecution withdrew their case against Emmanuel Vella, George Gatt and Emmanuel Zara. They were discharged. The other four prisoners, Luizo Baldacchine, Carmelo Chircop, Emmanuel Sciberras and Joseph Busitill, were further remanded.

Mr. A. E. Seddon (prosecutary) said that he had been in conversation with Dr. Parsons, and learned from him that the chief engineer's condition was precisely the same. It was unlikely that he would be able to give evidence for several days. The prosecution had finally come to the conclusion that the charge against Zara, Gatt and Vella had not been proved. There had been no evidence to show that they actually struck any of the officers. The other four were clearly implicated and counsel applied for a remand in their case until the chief engineer was well enough to come to Court. His ship was sailing on or about Monday next.

In reply to the Magistrate, the master of the ship, Mr. John Peterkin, said he would be unable to leave port without the chief engineer. He would be obliged to wait here until that officer recovered.

Remarking that the whole situation was most unfortunate, no definite evidence having been heard against the three men counsel had just referred to, the Magistrate said they would be discharged and the other four prisoners remanded until Monday. He would then attempt to deal with them summarily, unless the chief engineer were to die before then, in which case they would of course have to go before the Chief Justice.

Accused Convicted

Proceedings were continued on Monday.

The Chief Engineer, Mr. J. T. Crozier, who came from hospital to give evidence and appeared to be in a weak and nervous condition, told a story which showed that an ugly tragedy had narrowly been averted on board the Rio Azul. He stated that about 7 a.m. on the Saturday morning in question the second engineer looked in to his room and said that the men wished to see him. Witness promised to go below an hour later, but the officer returned with a message demanding witness's immediate appearance in the engine room, otherwise the men would not "turn to." Wearing only his trousers and a pyjama jacket, witness at once went below, and asked the men what they meant by sending for him at that time in the morning. Chircop, acting as spokesman for the whole engine-room staff who were standing around, said: "We have been to the British Consul and he has told us that you are the cause of all the trouble, and that you are the man we ought to get at."

THE ATTACK STARTS.

"I told them not to talk rubbish," witness continued, "whereupon the first accused spoke something in Maltese to the second, who slightly nodded his head, whereupon the first man dealt me a severe and violent blow in the face. I went down on my knees and, upon trying to rise, I received another severe below on the back of the head, numerous blows being then rained on my head and body. It seemed as if somebody had jumped on my head, and I lost consciousness. When I recovered somewhat, and was being assisted out of the place, a spanner flew past me, and I am almost sure it was thrown by Chircop. This seemed to clear my brain and, thinking another attack was about to take place, I took up a hammer, determined to use it and to sell my life as dearly as possible; but the chief officer said that it was all right, and that the men had scattered. At that moment, however, two scaling scales were hurled down the tunnel."

THE ENGINEERS ON DECK.

Witness went on to say that, upon being assisted to the deck, he there saw three of the accused and another man, armed, and told them to lay down their weapons, as they were on their way to the officers' quarters, possibly for an attack. Chircop, who carried a big spanner, said, "Yes, we'll put it down! We'll put it into a — head." This was all witness remembered of the affair.

In reply to his Worship, witness said he never attempted to strike any of the men before this trouble started, and he could give no reason why he should have been specially singled out for attack, as appeared to have been the case. There had been some discontent, and it was known that the men were going to see the Consular authorities, but no one knew what for.

The accused did not question the officer, and two of them admitted the evidence: one saying that he struck because complainant had called the engine room staff "a lot of rubbish," and another admitting that he pushed one of the officers (who was going to complainant's assistance) out of the way, but could not remember if he kicked the officer.

HEAVIEST POSSIBLE SENTENCE.

His Worship, after reviewing the facts of the case, passed the heaviest sentence the court had power to give, *viz.*, three months with hard labour for each of the accused.

THE PEACEMAKER

The Usual Reward of Good Intentions

A Sikh rough and tumble in Avenue Road on Tuesday afternoon led to the appearance of three of the participants before Mr. G. W. King on Wednesday. In the case of Chanan Singh and Beer Singh, charged with having been drunk and disorderly. Inspector Sinclair said that he saw them fighting in the midst of an appreciative crowd of Chinese—several hundreds of them—the two men rolling on the ground and pulling each others hair and beards. The fight having been stopped, they went quietly to the police station.—Fined $5.

Gulam Nabi, who summoned Juan Singh for having assaulted him, told his Worship that while the fight was in progress he ventured to intervene, telling Juan that if the man whose beard he was pulling died Juan might be hung for it. Juan responded by hitting witness of the head with a big stick.

His Worship—You simply acted as peacemaker?

Witness—Yes.

His Worship—And you got what the peacemaker usually gets.

Defendant was fined $5, and the whole party warned that the bill would be heavier if they persisted in these street displays.

THE Chinese press notes with satisfaction the results of the female operators in the Nantao Telephone Co., stating that the venture has been very successful and the operators are being sent to other stations to teach other women the work.

Company Meeting

THE CHENG RUBBER ESTATES

Extraordinary General Meeting

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above-mentioned Company was held last Friday.

Dr R S Ivy presided, supported by Messrs A K Craddock, Hugo Reiss and A J Welch (Directors), and Mr C J L Stewart, representing the Secretaries and General Managers. The total number of shares represented was 19,950.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen, The circular convening the meeting has been in your hands for the requisite period and fully explains the reason why your directors recommend writing down the Company's capital as outlined, and the reconstruction of the Company for the benefit of its shareholders.

The usual method of reconstruction that has hitherto been employed here has been to liquidate the old company and to float a new one, shareholders in the old company exchanging their shares for shares in the new company of a smaller face value. The method of reorganization that we now propose is different, although the ultimate result will be exactly the same, and it has the great advantage of saving a large percentage of the fees and expenses incidental to liquidation and reflotation, and more especially that expensive item of transferring title deeds.

The procedure will be as follows:—Instead of liquidating the present company, whose issued capital is Tls. 675,000 in 135,000 shares of Tls. 5 each, we are asking you to consent to each share being split up into five shares of the nominal value of Tl. 1 each, of which you will retain two shares in exchange for each present share of Tls. 5, surrendering the other three shares to the company. This will have the effect of reducing the issued capital from Tls. 675,000 to Tls. 270,000, thus leaving Tls. 405,000 unissued. Of this Tls. 405,000 we are asking you to take up Tls. 27,000, that is one new share of Tl. 1 for every five old shares you hold, which will provide sufficient money to enable the company to pay off all its debts and place it upon a dividend paying basis. It will probably never be necessary to issue the remaining 378,000 shares, but as we are not liquidating the company or reducing its authorized capital they have to remain in existence in the company's books.

The issued capital of the company as it now stands is much too large to admit of the payment of adequate dividends in the altered conditions of the rubber industry. This company, as you are aware, has not paid a dividend since 1917; prior to that it paid dividends:—

	s. d.
in 1912 of 5 per cent the average price realized for its sales being	4 8
1914 of 4 per cent	2 3
1915 of 8 per cent.	2 0
1916 of 8 per cent.	2 4½
1917 of 4 per cent.	2 4

and I am afraid that without reconstruction, shareholders cannot except to receive anything in the way of dividends for some considerable time, as it will be necessary to accumulate a reserve to meet any emergencies that might arise. During the past two years the secretaries have very kindly made advances to enable the company to meet part of its liabilities, but we cannot always expect them to do so, should the necessity arise.

Your directors feel that your best interests will be served if you agree to give up a portion of the paper value of your shares, the market quotation for which has been for years past under Tls. 2 per share, so that by your consenting to exchange your present Tls. 5 shares for two shares of Tl. 1 each, you will be getting more than the equivalent market value, with the prospects of receiving dividends and placing the company in a sound financial position.

That is all I have to say, but before putting the resolution which is proposed by myself and seconded by Mr A. K Craddock, and which I will ask you to pass, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions you may put forward. The resolution reads:

"That each of the existing 135,000 shares of Tls. 5 each in the Company's capital, numbers 1 to 135,000 inclusive be divided into five shares of Tl 1 each, and that three out of every five shares of Tl 1 each resulting from such sub-division be surrendered to the Company for future issue and that 270,000 shares of Tl. 1 each resulting from such sub-division and not surrendered be credited as fully paid up and be numbered 1 to 270,000 inclusive and that out of the 405,000 shares of Tl. 1 each resulting from sub-division and surrendered to the Company 1 share of Tl. 1 each be offered for subscription at par to each member of the Company in respect of every five old shares of Tls. 5 held by him, but if the reduction of issued capital proposed to be effectated hereby shall not be confirmed by the Court on or before June 30, 1924, this resolution shall on that day be void and of no effect and this resolution shall be conditional on a scheme of arrangement between the Company and its members for giving effect to the provisions of this resolution being adopted and sanctioned under Section 121 of the Companies' Ordinance (Hongkong), 1911."

Should the above resolution be passed by the requisite majority it will be submitted for confirmation as a special resolution to a further extraordinary general meeting and such meeting will be held on Monday, January 21, 1924.

The resolution was carried.

PEKING, Jan. 9. It is reported that the Cabinet has approved the plans of Mr. Wang Ko-ming, Minister of Finance, to issue [illegible] bonds secured on the Peking Octroi. According to an unofficial report, it has been suggested that the service of these bonds shall be placed under the Inspector-General of Customs.—Reuter.

SEVERAL members of Parliament have addressed themselves to Kao Ching-wei protesting against the reported leasing of the grounds of the Temple of Agriculture for a period of eight years for tree and plant cultivation. The Parliamentarians object to the rental figure, claiming that there is something underhand in the deal. At the same time they advocate the use of the property as a workshop for the poor.

DESPITE the recent protest filed by the Ministers in Peking for Japan, Great Britain and France, the military authorities of Hunan Province are still intervening in the salt administration of that province. Consequently, the foreign Ministers concerned have once again demanded that the Chinese Government exercise more strict control, pointing also to the seizure of salt revenue in October last by the military authorities of Hunan. It is reported that the seized salt revenues of Hunan amounted to $800,000 in September and $520,500 in October.

MR. Ernest Bruce Smith, first officer of the str. Leung Kwong was found dead in his cabin at Hongkong on December 30 last with a bullet wound in his head. It is thought to be a case of suicide owing to mental derangement. At the time of the discovery the vessel was lying at her wharf, opposite the new Fire Station. The late Mr. Smith had been engaged for many years on the China Coast as a ship's officer, and was well known in the Yangtze district. He was formerly in the service of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, but latterly he has been employed on river boats running in and out of Hongkong.

Sports and Pastimes

GOLF

Junior Golf Club Championship

The annual championship of the Junior Golf Club was contested at Hongkew Park on Sunday morning. C Richards and C. Hopkins participated, the former winning at the 27th hole by 10 up and nine to play.

PAPER HUNT CLUB

The Kiangwan Hunt

The paper hunt on Saturday resulted as follow:—

1—A J Rea on Hairpin.
*2—W. D. Fiddes Wilson on Blazing Corn.
3—R Moon on Dreamland.
4—H Maitland on Grey Cloud.
5—C G S. Miller on Accelerator.
6—J H Teesdale on Cape Horn.
*Heavyweight winner

A LADIES' HUNT.

Another ladies' hunt took place on the same afternoon, beginning at Burnham Beeches and ending in Billy Cautts's line.

Miss Billy Cautts, riding astride, came in first and Mrs. Sparke was the first in of those riding side-saddle.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Tientsin Interport Match

We are informed that the Tientsin Rugby Football Club has now decided definitely to send down a team to Shanghai for an Interport encounter during the Chinese New Year Holidays.

The Tientsin team will leave for Shanghai on Tuesday, February 5, and it is expected that the Interport match will take place on Saturday, February 9.

Cricket in Australia

Melbourne, Jan. 5.

Victoria beat South Australia in a cricket match concluded today by 98 runs.

In their first innings Victoria made 221, Ponsford contributing 81. Whitty took five wickets for 49. In the second innings Victoria scored 357, Ponford making 159 by graceful and brilliant batting lasting three hours and 23 minutes. Love contributed 106.

South Australia made 309 in their first innings, Arthur Richardson contributing 144 and Victor Richardson 100. Liddicut took six wickets for 62. In their second innings they scored 171, Hartkopf took five for 56.—Reuter.

British-American Yacht Championship

New York, Nov. 29.

British yachtsmen have challenged America to a series for the British-American Cup, emblematic of the international six-metre yacht championship, to be held off Long Island next summer. The challenge was sent to the Seawanhaka-Corinthian Club, which is expected to accept. The series probably will be held in September.

The trophy has been competed for annually since 1921, alternately in British and American waters. British yachtsmen have triumphed twice in the contests so far, winning in 1921 and this year, when the races were held in the Solent, while this country scored in the 1922 event, held off Oyster Bay.—Reuter.

THE Vladivostok authorities are levying a tax on consignments of goods and on passengers leaving Vladivostok, for educational purposes. The object of the tax is excellent, but it will be impossible to bring up the children with an open mind on the subject of free trade.

Municipal Gazette News

Shanghai War Memorial.

With regard to an application from the Shanghai War Memorial Committee, requesting the Council to contribute half of the cost of the foundations and bunding of the Memorial site, provided that the French Council will do likewise, it has been decided to reply expressing acquiescence. The total amount required is Tls. 16,823.38, of which the Council will pay one-half.

Motor Omnibus Services.

Correspondence with the Shanghai Ratepayers' Association, in continuation of that published in the Gazette of May 14 last:—

Shanghai, November 13, 1923.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by my Committee to call your attention to the request in my letter of April 26 for information regarding the comparative contributions to the Public Revenue of the Railless Tram Service and the lately sanctioned Motor Bus Service which information the Council did not feel disposed to give.

My Committee would now refer the Council to the letter of the Shanghai Electric Construction Company of August 30, appearing in the Municipal Gazette of October 11, wherein they state that the contribution per omnibus works out at only about half the amount of the contribution per Railless Tram.

My Committee feel that if the above figures represent in any degree the existing conditions of the terms it is of the utmost importance the public should be informed of the reasons which influenced the Council to grant such favoured terms to the Motor Bus Company, involving, as they do, such a heavy loss to the public.

My Committee requests that this letter shall be printed in the Municipal Gazette for the information of the Ratepayers.

CAMPBELL HENDERSON,
Secretary, Shanghai Ratepayers' Association.

E. S. B. ROWE, Esq.,
Acting Secretary,
Municipal Council.

Council Chamber,
Shanghai, December 12, 1923.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 13, continuing your previous correspondence on the subject of the relative contributions to revenue by trams and motor buses.

In reply, I am directed to point out that with reference to the final sentence of the first paragraph of your letter, the information available was communicated to you in my reply of May 7.

I am directed to repeat that tram services, even in the form of railless cars, cannot properly be compared to motor bus services; the former constitute a practical monopoly in that the overhead equipment precludes any similar service being run on that particular thoroughfare, whereas, several services of the latter may be run over the same roads, wholly or in part.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. S. B. ROWE,
Acting Secretary.

CAMPBELL HENDERSON, Esq.,
Secretary,
Shanghai Ratepayers' Association.

Mixed Court Report for November.

Jurisdiction.—During the trial of Lee Dah-sung for the attempted murder of General Hsu, who died after the trial, application was made on behalf of the Chinese Government that the accused should be handed over for trial to the Native Authorities on the ground that the pistol was bought and the crime planned outside the Settlement. The Court, however, overruled this plea because the crime had actually been committed within its jurisdiction and sentenced the accused to execution, which was, as is usual, to be carried out by the Military Governor.

Opium.—During the month the Assessors and Magistrates came to the conclusion that the infliction of fines in the majority of opium cases was successful neither as a deterrent nor as a punishment and consequently decided to impose imprisonment with or without fines in addition. This has caused a certain amount of consternation among those interested. In one case when application was made for the term of imprisonment to be commuted to a fine, it was stated by the defence that although the Court was not bound to give notice of its intention of being more severe, yet it would have been fairer to have done so. This plea had no effect on the Bench which in refusing the application pointed out that according to the Criminal Code there is no offence under the opium category which can be met by a fine except poppy cultivation, opium smoking or being in possession of any apparatus only used for the purpose of smoking opium.

Unrepresented Foreigners.—45 persons under this category were before the Court on criminal charges, the most important of which were two women sentenced to ten months and deportation for attempted murder, and one man to six months for false pretences.

Civil Cases.—There has been a decrease in the number of Chinese and Foreign Civil Cases filed but the number of cases awaiting a first hearing has increased under the former category by 15 to 28? and under the latter by 4 to 59.

Sealing Orders.—82 of these orders were issued but the Court was only called upon to execute 11 of them.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

AMERICAN citizens resident in the Shanghai Consular District are informed that income tax forms for the calendar year 1923 may now be had on application to the Shipping Office, American Consulate-General, Shanghai. Requests by mail should state whether the form desired is one for an income of over U. S. $5,000 or for an income of U.S. $5.000 or less.

EDWIN S. CUNNINGHAM.
American Consul-General.

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SHANGHAI.—The East Asiatic Co., Ltd.

bonds (he often carried money and bonds) in a ricsha and reached the alleyway in question when two men overturned his ricsha and another held him by the throat, when he fainted. When he recovered, the bonds and the bag were gone. The ricsha coolie was reviving him and told him to report to his masters while he, the ricsha coolie, (the first accused) chased the robbers. Witness could not identify any of the robbers, but the one who held him by the throat wore a small cap.

Evidence was given by Det.-Insp. Yorke and Det.-Sub-Insp. Hunter, for the prosecution, and the case was remanded until Monday afternoon next. The four men referred to by Mr. Maitland were discharged, but the others will remain in custody.

Four Chinese Sentenced to Death: Police's Magnificent Work

The accusal were brought up for sentence on Wednesday. The prisoners were found guilty by Mr. Martin and Magistrate Kuan and ordered to be sent to the Arsenal for execution.

After commenting on the fact that absolutely no precautions were taken by the Tung Yih Trust Co. who did not even trouble to ascertain the number of the bonds and entrusted them to an 18-year-old employee earning $3 a month, the Bench characterized the work of the police in the case as above all praise. "The Magistrate and I," said Mr. Martin, "consider it a wonderful testimony to the efficiency of the police force and take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of this work."

The Assessor expressed surprise that this appreciation was not shared by the Chinese Bankers' Union and the Native Bankers' Association, who came to the conclusion that, in order to preserve the tranquillity of the Settlement, fresh precautions should be taken by the Council to diminish the chance of robbery. "I must admit that I am unable to see how the Council can do more than they do to protect native bankers from the results of their own gross negligence in failing to take any precautions whatever in conveying valuables through the streets," said the Assessor.

The Bench also drew attention to a letter received by the Court from the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce in connexion with the case which the Assessor described as a criminal attempt to interfere with the administration if justice.

The full text of the judgment was as follows:—

We have found Tsung Ah-san, Zee Tse-kuei, Tsiang Vee-keu and Tsang Ah-foh guilty of highway robbery. The penalty for highway robbery by three or more is death. This penalty may be reduced, but in this case we see no circumstances which justify mitigation of the sentence. These men will therefore be handed over to the Defence Commissioner for execution in accordance with law.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

This is in many ways an extraordinary case.

On November 29 last the Tung Yih Trust Co. sent $500,000 worth of Chinese Government Internal Loan Bearer Bonds from the China Merchants' Stock Exchange in Hankow Road to the Tung Yih Trust Co.'s premises in Peking Road in charge of an employee, Koo Tsoo-vong, aged 18, whose salary is $3 a month. No precautions whatever were taken and no note was even taken of the numbers of the Bearer Bonds before they left the China Merchants' Stock Exchange. The employee Koo went in a private rickshaw belonging to the Tung Yih Trust Co. pulled by Tsung Ah-san, the first accused, who had conspired with Zee Tze-kuei, the second accused, likewise a ricksha coolie employed by the Tung Yih Trust Co., and with Tsiang Vee-keu and Tsang Ah-foh, the third and fourth accused, and with others not in custody, to rob the contents of the leather wallet in which the bonds were carried and which, they state, they believed to contain opium in transit.

This was done without difficulty. The Chinese passer-by seems constitutionally averse from interfering to prevent robbery and in fact such interference is often dangerous. The robbers appear not to have been armed in this case, but in many cases of robbery in the past few months robbers have been in possession of firearms and have not hesitated to use them. The robbers in this case had chosen the scene of the robbery at a place adjoining an alleyway and got clear away up the alleyway with their booty.

The assistant manager of the Tung Yih Trust Co. reported the loss to the Central police-station at 10.45 a.m. on the same day and within 24 hours the police had recovered 379 of the 500 bonds.

UNEXAMPLED EFFICIENCY OF POLICE.

Mr. Maitland, prosecuting counsel, has stated that he doubts whether this performance could be equalled by any other police force in China. The Magistrate and I consider it a wonderful testimony to the efficiency of the police force and take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of their work, of which this is only one example which has been brought to our notice in the past few months. It seems to me remarkable that this appreciation is not shared by the Chinese Bankers' Union and the Native Bankers' Association, who held a meeting on December 8 and came to the conclusion that in order to safeguard the tranquillity of the Settlement precautions should be taken by the Shanghai Municipal Council to diminish the chance of robbery. I must admit that I am unable to see how the Council can do more than they do to protect native bankers from the results of their own gross negligence in failing to take any precautions whatever in conveying valuables through the streets.

I should not have referred to this, but that as a result of this meeting a letter was addressed to this Court by the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce urging that the robbers caught in connexion with this case and the case of robbery of funds of the Shanghai Nanking Railway Company be handed over to the Chinese Authorities in order to frighten other robbers.

This Court, as is well known, only hands over Chinese convicts in cases where it is of opinion that the death penalty should be inflicted, and it only does so after a careful trial in which the prisoners hear all the evidence against them and have the opportunity of calling evidence on their own behalf and pleading before the Court all circumstances which can be urged on their own behalf.

ATTEMPTS TO SUBVERT JUSTICE.

The attempt by such a letter as this to prejudice the trial of the 10 suspects who were arrested by the police in connexion with this robbery is a criminal attempt to interfere with the free and impartial administration of justice by this Court, and Mr. Maitland has very properly requested that the letter be handed to him in order that the guilty parties should be brought up on a charge of contempt of Court. I regret to say that this is not the only case in which similar attempts have been made to influence the decision of this Court and that letters have been addressed to this Court by the same parties on behalf of influential litigants in civil cases. Assurances have been given that the practice will cease and in view of the fact that the practice appears to be tolerated by certain other Chinese Courts in spite of the theoretically independent status of the modern Courts in China no proceedings are ordered to be taken against the offenders in this case. But any similar offences in future will be dealt with in accordance with law.

The unfairness of prejudging a case without thorough investigation is strikingly illustrated in the present case. Ten persons were originally charged by the police. The charge against four of these was withdrawn by the police at the beginning of this trial because they were satisfied that these four persons had no connexion with the robbery and the Court after hearing all the evidence against the six persons tried has found two of them not guilty.

Having delivered their judgment Messrs. Martin and Kuan directed that the attention of the Commissioner of Police be called to the excellent conduct of Det.-Sub-Insps. Yorke and Hunter, who were engaged in the case.

PILFERAGE OF CLOTH

Attempt to Re-sell Stolen Property to Sincere's

The Sincere Co. figured last Friday as complainants in a case at the Mixed Court in which two Chinese were charged with the pilfering of three rolls of cloth valued at $2,014.

Det.-Insp. Yorke, representing the Police, outlined the case for the prosecution, Mr. Wong Chee, managing director of the Sincere Co., was present for his company, and Mr. S. A. Moss and Mr. J. E. Lemiere represented the defence.

Det.-Insp. Yorke stated that as soon as the loss was discovered, the Sincere Co. immediately lodged their claim within the prescribed period. Several days afterwards a man came into the Sincere Co. and offered to sell them a kind of cloth which appeared to be similar to the stolen cloth. Comparison was made and it was found that what was offered was actually the stolen cloth. The police were notified and accused, through the admissions of two brokers, were located and arrested. The second man admitted that he had a couple of rolls of the cloth in his possession which he had bought from the first accused. The first accused told the Police that he had been commissioned to sell the cloth by a third party, but inquiries made by the Police failed to substantiate his story.

Mr. Wong Chee, having given evidence that a theft had been discovered, Tsang Chien, a department manager, told the Court that when a man offered to dispose of the cloth, he thought it was like the cloth which had been stolen and he informed the manager accordingly. Witness stated that he could not say definitely that the cloth was that which had been stolen, but it was very much the same. He would have to compare the cloth with that in stock before he could give any definite statement.

Accused both denied having any knowledge of the affair, but the Bench was disposed to think that both of them had more knowledge of the affair than they cared to state: hence they were sent to prison for two months each.

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO.'S SUIT

Tls. 201,479 Involved: Verdict for Plaintiff in Mixed Court

Judgment was handed down in the Mixed Courtt on Monday by Messrs. Allman and Li in favour of the American Express Co. in their suit against Messrs. Wei-Luke-chune and Wei Pei-tsai, the Court ordering "that plaintiff recover from defendants such an amount as an accounting may show to be due." Plaintiff alleged that Tls. 201,479.12 was rightfully due them. Messrs. Schuhl & Schoenfeld appeared for plaintiff and Messrs. Fessenden & Holcomb for defendants.

The judgment in part stated that plaintiff and defendants entered into an agreement on May 17, 1918, whereby defendants would act as compradores for the American Express Co., and that compradores had guaranteed certain indent orders, 11 in number, which were due and owing, though defendants denied *inter alia* that they had guaranteed, but whereas plaintiff had alleged that contracts were guaranteed, defendants stated that they had acted only as middleman or introducer.

The evidence was to the effect that Wei was informed by plaintiffs that unless he were willing to guarantee the credit application on a consignment of indigo with the Greywoll Trading Co. through Teng Kong they (plaintiffs) must make other arrangements.

It was not denied that the parties were acting pursuant to the compradore agreement. Defendant was conversant with both English and Chinese languages and knew the English documents. Under these circumstances Wei acted and led the American Express Co. to rely on his acts.

Judgment was accordingly rendered favouring plaintiff.

ALLEGED FRAUDS ON LOCAL BANK

Tls. 30,000 Involved: Mixed Court Proceedings

Woo Ching-nye was charged in the Mixed Court on Monday before Messrs. Martin and Kuan, with having taken a deposit box from the vaults of the Asia Banking Corporation, where he was employed in a subordinate position. It was alleged that the box, which was taken on May 21, contained money, jewellery, papers and securities to the total of $10,000, most of which were in the form of travellers' cheques which had to be filled and countersigned before being valid.

The arrest of accused was brought about in a novel manner and it was through the information of another official of a friendly bank that it was found out that certain of the papers might be in the possession of Woo. The latter had been suspected of the theft at the time it took place but he would give no light on the matter nor could it be definitely laid to his charge. He had left the employ of the bank and had since been with the Chinese American Publishing Co. Several weeks ago a wallet containing some of the lost travellers' cheques and some of Woo's calling cards was found on the premises of another bank but defendant could not be located, and on Saturday a representative of the Asia Bank saw defendant making purchases in a foreign shop and asked that guards be placed at the door until the arrest might be effected. This was done and the prosecution is the result.

THEFTS OF MAGNITUDE.

Several other alleged thefts and embezzlements of considerable magnitude also came to light, one involving Tls. 10,000 and the other three times that amount. In the first instance, it is alleged that three Chinese, Sze Voong-ching, aged 41, Dzai Waung-see, aged 37, and Tsang Woo-sze, aged 61, had made off with Tls. 10,000, embezzling this sum on February 2, 1923, from the Yu Dah Bank.

Det.-Sub.-Insp. Yorke, outlining the case for the prosecution, said that it would take considerable time to settle and asked for a special hearing, which was so granted.

Accused were admitted to bail—Tls. 1,000 for the first, Tls. 1,000 for the second and Tls. 8,000 for the last-mentioned.

In the other of the three bank affairs the Dah Tsong Bank was the victim and the thefts were perpetrated on October 26, and since. Messrs. Musso & Fischer, representing the plaintiff, asked for a remand until Friday from Messrs. Whitamore and Tsang which was granted. Dzung Yoh-kuang, accused, is alleged to have taken at various times sums totalling Tls. 30,465.03 and $2,338, as well as 40 shares of the International Gold & Silver Currency Stock & Produce Exchange with a face value of $500.

BAG SNATCHERS IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT

With the arrest of Wong Ming-nyo, who was taken into custody at 6.20 p.m. on Tuesday, it is hoped there will be no more bag snatching in the central district. Though a determined effort had been made ever since the beginning of the episodes, special constables and plainclothes men having been detailed to the task of apprehending the culprits, it was not until the recent arrest that success rewarded the efforts of the police.

Accused appeared at the Mixed Court on Wednesday morning, when Insp. Elliot told the Court that the man had been found in Ningpo Road near Kiangse Road with a hand bag in his possession for which he could not account. The container was opened and within were found several papers, a passport and a small sum of money. Utilizing the papers as a means of finding the owner, the police discovered Mrs. Sukovera, a Russian doctor, to claim it.

A week's remand in custody was granted to enable the police to make more detailed investigations.

LAUGHTER AND TEARS IN MIXED COURT

Four-year-old Witness who Told Her "Mother" to Stop Crying

The youngest witness in recent annals of the Mixed Court brought both smiles and pangs to the spectators who were there on Wednesday. Even the hardened reporters and police sympathized with the four-year-old child, who had been living in a brothel and who had already been taught to sing as an entertainer.

Lau Nieh, of 83 Kuangsi Road, a licensed house, charged with exploiting the tiny mite, claimed the child as her daughter. Sub-Insp. Moore, who found her in the company of a number of men who were playing dominoes, became suspicious and upon investigating found that certain vital facts regarding the child appeared contradictory. Defendant's alleged husband, the officer told the Court, said that the child had been born in Siccawei at a certain time, but the woman said that it was in Cemetery Road at another time altogether. The child herself, told Messrs. Martin and Kuan that she had come from Soochow and that her parents lived there.

ASKED TO SING IN COURT.

The youngster in her bright red coat and blue cap was placed on a high bench in charge of the Chinese matron of the Door of Hope just before their Honours, who looked upon her kindly. When accused began to weep profusely, the child also began to cry though they were nearly 20 feet apart. Although the Magistrate ordered the defendant to stop, she could not, but the child recovered her composure quickly and turning over her shoulder (she was facing the Bench) said *Ma Yu-kuh* (Stop crying, mother).

When Magistrate Kuan asked her where her home was, she said in Soochow and almost without a break in the voice again adjured the woman in the dock to refrain from weeping. The bright and cheery youngster who tried to comfort the accused even brought smiles to the faces of those on the bench.

Though urged to sing for the Court the songs taught her by an old fiddler, the little vampire could not be conjured to do so.

Lau Nieh was fined $40 and the child will be turned over to the Door of Hope.

FOR the first time in the history of the U. S. Commissioner's Court the Koran was used to swear in an Indian witness on Saturday. At the previous hearing of the case objections had been raised to the usual form of oath. In bringing the book to the court-room and handing it to the authorities, Chief Insp. Kinipple said that it was a very sacred book to those of its religion and asked that when it was not in actual use it should be kept locked up and away from profane hands, neither should the covering wrapper be removed nor should anyone who is smoking be allowed to touch it.

GUNBOAT AND A TUG IN COLLISION

Italian Government's Successful Action Against the Robert Dollar Co.

In the United States Court for China last Friday, his Hosour Judge C. S. Lobingier gave a written judgment in the case of the Kingdom of Italy v. the Robert Dollar Co., an action to recover damages, alleged at Tls. 5,000, resulting from a collision between the Italian gunboat Ermanno Carlotto and the tug A. B. Dollar, which occurred in the Huangpu near the Customs Jetty. The nautical commissioners to whom the case was referred found "that the launch A. B. Dollar is solely to blame for the collision, and that the Carlotto is exonerated from all blame, and we award costs as follows, namely, Tls. 300 to be paid by the respondent."

In the course of the judgment his Honour states:—

From evidence taken before us (but which should have been taken before a Commissioner) it is apparent that great difficulty will be encountered in arriving at a just and satisfactory conclusion as to the actual loss and damage of ship stores and personal effects of officers and crew, for there is a difference of no less than $1,331.74 between the amount claimed by libellant's witnesses and the estimate of the surveyor whose report respondent has offered in evidence and may be treated as an admission. To resolve this difference intelligently will involve a detailed inquiry which can best be conducted by those familiar with nautical matters. Especially at this period of congestion in the Court's calendar it should avail itself of all assistance which the law affords. It is therefore considered and decreed that

(1) In accordance with the stipulation of the parties, libellant have and recover from respondent the sum of Tls. 2,920 as "costs and repairs;

(2) In accordance with the surveyor's report, offered by respondent, libellant have and recover from respondent the sum of M.$819.96 for loss and damage to stores, clothing and other effects;

(3) In accordance with the commissioners' report, respondent pay Tls. 300 as costs besides the regular Court costs;

(4) The cause again be referred to the commissioners to ascertain and report any further items of loss or damage, considering the evidence already taken and any further evidence which they may desire to take. In case of inability of any of the commissioners to act, a substitute will be appointed after giving the parties opportunity to agree.

A PATENT MEDICINE FOR TUBERCULOSIS

Partnership's Affairs in Court: Employee's Theft of Drugs: The Judge's Decision

In the U. S. Court for China, on Saturday, Judge C. S. Lobingier gave a written judgment in the cases of F. T. Kiang v. C. J. Kosel. The judgment follows:—

In October, 1920, the parties to this cause and one other formed a partnership for the purpose of exploiting a patent medicine for tuberculosis. There was no written agreement and the time for an April is conflicting, after the withdrawal of the third partner, such an agreement was executed, the original being in German and an English translation being attached to the complaint. The two partners continued the business until about September 20, 1921, when this action was begun. Subsequently, by stipulation of the parties and after certain testimony had been taken, the case was referred to a firm of accountants to determine whether defendant is indebted to plaintiff, or plaintiff to defendant, Kosel. The referee filed a report showing a provisional balance in plaintiff's favour of $3,734.41 but subject to certain disputed claims which the Court is requested to resolve.

The evidence at the second hearing was confined to these claims. The first includes an item of $1,434 for advertising and $518 for printing. The items are unsupported by vouchers, but plaintiff testifies, and he is corroborated by the firm's book-keeper, that defendant included all vouchers and receipts when, as he admits, he took possession of the firm's books. The book-keeper also stated that he paid such bills and obtained the receipts, placing them in a drawer from which they were taken by defendant. The advertising would amount to a little more than $100 a month during the continuation of the partnership and the printing to less than $50. It is true that defendant says there were other expenditure for these purposes but he does not assume to say how much and we think that plaintiff has fairly met the burden of proving these items.

The next is a claim for a quantity of the medicine in question alleged to have been stolen by an employee of the firm. *Prima facie* this would be a firm loss, not chargeable entirely to plaintiff. It is claimed, however, that plaintiff assumed liability. But the assumption is not alleged to have been other than verbal, which would be insufficient under the Statute of Frauds, it being a "special promise to answer for the debt, default or miscarriage of another," which must be in writing.

The next item in dispute is one of $5,900.41, which appears in the books as "personal advances to defendant" and which he admits having received. He claims, however, that under the verbal partnership agreement he was entitled to $800 per month as salary. Plaintiff denies this, but the third partner, who testifies that he was present at the time and seems to have no present interest in the controversy, corroborates defendant, so that the preponderance is with him. It is objected however that defendant's claim for salary is not pleaded, which is true, as the answer is only a general denial, but the rule in actions for an accounting is that the defendant need not set up specific items offsetting plaintiff's claim unless the whole account is pleaded. In other words the ordinary limitations of a general denial do not apply to such a case.

But the salary allowance appears to be established only so long as the verbal agreement continued. For when the written agreement of April 15, 1921, was executed no mention was made of salary and that item appears to be excluded by the provision that "at the end of the year there shall be a final accounting and profits net shall be divided." In view of this clause, evidence of a further agreement for salary would seem to infringe the parole evidence rule, for there would not be an equal division if defendant were to receive $800 a month more than plaintiff, and parties are presumed to have thus expressed their entire agreement. We can allow salary, therefore, only from October 1 to April 15, which would be six and one half months, amounting to $2,600.

The next and last item is the claim by plaintiff for a credit of half the sum of $1,000 paid to the third partner for his interest. There is a conflict in the testimony as to who proposed and desired the withdrawal of the third partner, plaintiff claiming that it was defendant and defendant claiming that it was plaintiff but we do not think it very material, since it is apparent on the record that both parties were of course equal actors in the change. Between each of the two previously had a one-third interest, each thereafter was an equal partner. In effect each acquired one-half of the retiring partner's interest and equitably each should be chargeable with one half of the cost. Had plaintiff acquired the whole interest of claim would be on a different basis.

We, therefore, allow plaintiff this additional item of $500 and defendant the sum of $2,000 for salary, leaving a balance of $2,100 to be deducted from the amount allowed by the referee, leaving **$1,614.41 for which sum together with the referee's fee of Tls. 300 and the costs of this proceeding judgment is accordingly rendered in favour of plaintiff and against the defendant. It is further ordered that the articles of personal property listed in the schedule of the referees' report be divided equally between the parties, but that if a division by mutual agreement cannot be effected the same be sold at auction and the proceeds so divided. The same procedure will be followed as to the claims against sundry debtors mentioned in the same schedule but which according to one of the witnesses are uncollected.**

ALLEGED PERJURY CASE

Russian Witness in U. S. Court Admits Giving False Evidence: Journey to Shanghai in Blizzard

A case with a picturesque background and various unusual incidents came up again in the U. S. Court for China on Thursday in the morning and afternoon sessions before his Honour Judge Lobingier on a motion for a retrial in the suit brought by the Fur & Wool Trading Co. (D. Biederman) Ltd. against Andersen, Meyer & Co. His Honour recently decided for plaintiffs, ordering an accounting within 30 days from date. Mr. W. Chalaire, of the firm of Shoop and Chalaire, for the defendants, moved for a re-trial on the grounds of alleged perjury of one of plaintiff's witnesses and fraud, and the Judge agreed to hear further argument from the plaintiff's counsel on January 7.

Mrs. Noskoff, the witness whose evidence is in question, accordingly set out from Urga but was caught in a blizzard, the motor blocked, provisions exhausted and the party all but frozen to death. A rescuing party found them, however, and they were able to get to Shanghai in time for a hearing on Thursday. The story goes back to the spring of 1921 when a Mr. Noskoff, the agent of plaintiffs, their predecessor in Urga, was seized by Sipailo, the Commandant of Urga, under Baron Ungern, his life threatened, and a heavy ransom demanded of his wife, who not being able to raise it went to the defendant's agent at Urga and suggested that he should purchase furs which were in the custody of Noskoff. This was done.

SWEARING UNDER COERCION.

In court on Thursday morning Mrs. Noskoff admitted that she perjured herself in giving testimony previously in having said that she did not know to whom the furs belonged nor the details of her husband's business. She further stated that after her husband was murdered she was without any money, being unable to secure any funds from his property and swore falsely under coercion by Raskin, the manager of the plaintiff company, fearing that otherwise she would get no money from him. For this false testimony she received between $4,000 and $5,000. She was at present in receipt of rents from her husband's land amounting to about $300 a month and had started legal action against the plaintiff company in Urga in the Russian Consulate, stating that this previous testimony was untrue and wrung from her by necessity.

Mr. R. T. Evans, appearing with Major Holcomb as associate counsel, stated that he would show that the money paid witness was not for that purpose but rather payments of money due to the heir of the deceased from the firm, and that witness had voluntarily subscribed to facts according with her previous testimony before the receipt of a letter from Mr. Raskin which the witness had alleged as compelling her to swear falsely. In cross-examination the witness stated that her late husband was paid a salary first of $6,000 and then of $12,000 yearly and that there was money due him from the plaintiff company. She also admitted that Spiridon Hochoff, a previous witness, a nephew of the deceased, had appeared in Urga.

In continuing her statement after the noon recess Mrs. Noskoff said that she understood that the premises in which the business of plaintiffs was conducted were the property of her husband, that the furs in question belonged to him and that he had considerable money in the plaintiffs' firm. With regard to her marriage to the late Mr. Noskoff she stated that it was a civil ceremony for which she had a certificate now in the Urga Consulate.

The second witness was Mr. Raskin, the manager of the plaintiff company, who denied that he had used bribery or threats to get Mrs. Noskoff to testify as she did at the first trial. He had stated the facts to her, he said, simply that she might know the truth, and state the truth, and his remark that unless she testified in this manner the company "might have a claim against her" was not to be construed as a threat. The payments to her had been made simply to allow her to live, and while he admitted that the plaintiff firm owed the deceased money, he did not feel he could hand over the entire amount to her as he questioned the legality of the marriage.

The Judge took the matter under advisement.

CAFE FRACAS

Americans Charged with Assaulting French Detective

J. Elmont, R. B. Libby and Carl J. Johnson appeared before Mr. Lurton at the U.S. Commissioner's Court on Saturday charged with assault upon a French detective. The assault is alleged to have occurred during a free-for-all fight at New Maxim's Café on New Year's Eve.

Mr. F. J. Schuhl on behalf of the accused asked for a week's remand, as he had not had time to prepare his case. After conferring for a few minutes with French police officers in Court, the Commissioner agreed to an adjournment until Saturday next.

A MOTOR COLLISION CASE

Contradictory Evidence in U. S. Court

The difficulty of appraising the responsibility for a motor collision was demonstrated in the U. S. Commissioner's Court for China on Tuesday afternoon in a suit for damages brought by the General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation, Ld., against Dr. Alfred H. Swan for Tls. 230.50 and $175, the amount of damage alleged to have been done the Fiat car of Mr. George A. Johnson, insured by that company.

The collision took place on June 30 about 1.30 p.m. at the corner of Route Amiral Courbet and Avenue Foch, Mr. Johnson driving along Avenue Foch westward and Dr. Swan coming northward in a Dodge car along Route Amiral Courbet and turning eastward into Avenue Foch. Mr. Johnson alleges that he slowed down when approaching Route Amiral Courbet, blew his horn, heard no answer and that the collision was caused by Dr. Swan advancing at an improperly rapid speed on the wrong side of the road.

The defendant stated that he was advancing at a slow rate of speed on his side of the road and only swerved therefrom because it was rendered necessary by plaintiff's swerving sharply to the right. To avoid a collision defendant jammed on brakes and swung sharply to right but plaintiff changed direction, swerving back again to the left, colliding with defendant's car which had come to a standstill.

Both plaintiff and defendant produced Chinese witnesses to support their claims.

Mr. Lurton took the case under advisement.

THE THEFT OF CHINESE BONDS

Men Charged with Robbery Involving $500,000 Brought before Mixed Court

The recovery of 397 of the 500 Chinese Government Short Term Loan Bonds which were stolen from a Chinese coolie in Ningpo Road on November 29 within 24 hours was a matter which was stated by Mr. E. T. Maitland (Prosecuting Solicitor) to be a performance which he did not think could be equalled by any other police force in China.

Sung Ah-san (34, a coolie), Zee Ts-kwai (32, coolie), Tsiang Vee-kan (34, unemployed), Zee Ching (34, shopkeeper), Woo Ching-nyoen (35, shopkeeper), Yau Tsung-hai (20, coolie), Woo Zee-lzeu (37, coolie), Tsha Ong (28, coolie) and Tsang Ah-fok (25, unemployed) were charged before Mr. A. J. Martin (British Assessor) and Mr. Kuan Chun (senior Chinese Magistrate) last Friday afternoon "for that they at about 10.30 a.m. on November 29 at Ningpo Road, being concerned together with others not in custody, did by means of armed violence commit a robbery and steal 500 Chinese Government Short Term Loan Bonds, total value $333,500 with intent to make them their own property contrary to Article 374 of the Chinese Provisional Criminal Code." Yang Dong-sz, a woman, was charged with aiding and abetting in the crime contrary to Article 29 of the Chinese Code. Messrs. Tung Yih were the complainants, the bonds in question being theirs.

Mr. Maitland prosecuted, Mr. A. Ting and Mr. Li Ts-yui represented the Tung Yih Co., and Mr. L. K. Kentwell acted for the defence of the fourth man, Zee Ching. Det.-Insp. R. W. Yorke and Det.-Sub-Insp. J. Hunter and Chinese detectives effected the arrests.

A LETTER TO THE COURT.

At the outset of the case, Mr. Maitland stated that he understood that a letter had been received by the Court in which it was requested that all the accused men be handed over to the arsenal. This practice of writing letters of this nature to the Court, stated Mr. Maitland, was entirely wrong and prejudiced counsel for the prosecution.

"I ask that this letter be handed to me, continued Mr. Maitland, so that I can make inquiries as to the writers and bring them up on a charge of contempt of court."

The Assessor—The Court has received a letter asking that these men be handed over to the Arsenal authorities, and after receiving this letter the Magistrate and I arranged to stop anything of this nature for the future. It is all very well for bodies like the Chamber of Commerce who only heard one side of the story to write such letters to the Court but we have received assurances to the effect that this sort of thing will be stopped in the future. The Court will take steps to see that it is stopped.

Mr. Maitland said that it showed how improper and objectionable this sort of thing was, as he was just going to ask the Court to be allowed to withdraw the charge against the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth accused.

The accused, he said, were charged with stealing 500 Chinese Government Short Term Loan Bonds, of the face value of $1,000 each. These bonds were entrusted to a coolie earning $3 per month as wages. They were stolen from him at the mouth of an alleyway in the Ningpo Road, but within 24 hours of the robbery the Police had recovered 397 of the stolen bonds, which was a performance that he doubted could be equalled by any other police force in China.

THE VICTIM'S STORY.

Kong Yeu-jing, an employee of the Tung Yih Trust Co., identified the bonds, and Koo Tsoo-voong gave evidence of the robbery, stating that he was returning to the Co., from the Exchange with a leather bag containing the

should be expelled from the Cabinet.

Consequently Herr Fellisch has not assumed the portfolio of Economics. The other Socialist Ministers are considering their attitude.

Later.

Herr Heldt and the other Ministers have refused to resign on the ground that the right of deciding the personality of the Ministry rests with the Diet alone.—Reuter.

MIXED ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL

Belgian Deportees' Claims Against Germany: Other Actions Pending

Paris, Jan. 7.

A case in which 10 Belgians are suing the German Government for compensation for ill-treatment when deported during the war opened to-day before the Mixed Arbitration Tribunal, established under the Peace Treaty.

The Court is composed of three judges—a Swiss, a Belgian and a German.

Its decision will affect 80,000 Belgian deportees and may be invoked as a precedent by 25,000 French deportees.—Reuter.

MEXICAN REBELS' SUCCESSES

All Oilfields Now in Their Possession: Rebel Steamer Reported on the Rocks

Washington, Jan. 3.

Republican Congressman Fairchild has introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives requesting from the State Department details of the negotiations for the sale of war materials to Mexico.—Reuter's American Service.

Galveston, Jan. 4.

General Huerta's headquarters announce that the rebels are now in possession of all the Mexican oilfields.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Jan. 4.

The United States has sold the Obregon Government 5,000 1917-model Enfield rifles, 5,000,000 rounds of ammunition and eight aeroplanes.

Mr. Weeks, the Secretary of War, states that half of the material will be paid for in cash and the remainder in 30 days. It was not all that Mexico requested but it would meet present requirements.—Reuter's American Service.

El Paso, Jan. 4.

The rebel steamer Progreso, with supplies and troops on board, is reported to be on the rocks near Vera Cruz and to be in danger. Mexican Government ships are responding to the call for help. — Reuter's American Service.

Mexico City, Jan. 5.

The Secretary of War denies that the rebels have captured Tampico and the oilfields.

The British cruiser Capetown has arrived at Vera Cruz and departed for Tampico.—Reuter.

New Orleans, Jan. 6.

General Huerta, the revolutionary leader, has directed his agents to purchase large quantities of rifles, machine-guns and ammunition following advices from Washington that there is no law against the purchase of arms unless for conspiracy to use the United States as a base of operation against friendly Powers.—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. President's Embargo on Sale of Munitions to the Rebel Forces

Washington, Jan. 7.

Following the receipt of the report that Gen. Huerta had directed his agents to purchase war material in the United States, the Attorney-General has notified the Department of Justice's agents in New Orleans that the State Department has announced that, although there is no embargo on the shipment of war material to Mexico, such shipments are discouraged and against the Government's policy.—Reuter's American Service.

New Orleans, Jan. 7.

After conferring with an American official here, the Mexican revolutionary purchasing agent announced that he had abandoned his plans for purchasing arms and ammunition.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Jan. 7.

President Coolidge has issued a proclamation announcing an embargo on the sale of munitions to the Mexican revolutionaries.—Reuter's American Service.

Rebel Seizures of Oilfields

New York, Jan. 8.

The Pan-American Petroleum Transport Company announce that the rebels have taken possession of the Company's oilfields at Sibera Blanca and Chapapotrunez, causing the wells to close down.

Jan. 9.

Advices from Tampico state that the Federals are in complete control of the port and that there is no rebel force in the vicinity of sufficient strength to threaten its capture.—Reuter's American Service.

Government Successes

Tampico, Jan. 9.

The Government forces under General Gutierrez are advancing on Tuxpam. They have captured Huertolobos and Paloblanco.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Jan. 9.

The Obregon Government has deposited a cheque for $150,000 as an instalment on the purchase of war material and aeroplanes. The amount represents nearly a half of the total bill.—Reuter's American Service.

FRONTIER JEALOUSIES IN AFGHANISTAN

Russia's Pre-occupation over Central Asia: Importance of Eastern Markets

London, Jan. 6.

Discussing Afghanistan, a special correspondent of the "Observer" says that old frontier jealousies are once more blazing up. It is a mistake to think that the revolution has substantially changed the Russian pre-occupation over Central Asia, and in the absence of definite understanding between Britain and Russia on Asiatic affairs, complications must necessarily arise. Russia has turned more than ever to the East and has made enormous sacrifices to maintain her footing on the Eastern markets, notably Persia and Turkestan.

The maintenance of Afghanistan as a buffer State is every whit as imporant to Russia as it is to India. The condition of affairs makes it urgent that relations between Britain and Russia should be placed on a proper diplomatic basis as early as possible. The one thing which will instantly silence the dissensions of the ruling party in Russia and rally to the Government the non-Bolshevik elements would be any British challenge of the *status quo* in Central Asia.

A rash move in the north-west frontier may effect that more rapidly than it is supposed, because the acuteness of suspicion of the other side is not realized.—Reuter.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—An All-British Exhibition opens at Amsterdam on Thursday, January 10, for one month, organized by Dutch merchants interested in the recovery of British trade. It is supported by Lord Kylsant and the British Chambers of Commerce. Its main object is to encourage British trade with Holland and the East Indies.—Reuter.

EMPIRE WIRELESS

Australian Premier's Criticism of Britain's Failure to Meet the Dominions' Demands

London, Jan. 4.

"The date of my departure is approaching and I cannot longer remain silent on the question of Empire wireless, on which there should be no real difficulty in coming to a definite conclusion" runs the opening passage of a statement issued by Mr. S. M. Bruce, the Australian Prime Minister.

He points out that one station in Britain is utterly inadequate to meet the demands of the service which the Dominions desire to see installed, but, owing to the dispute between the British Post Office and Marconi's, there is no prospect of more than one station being erected, which will mean that Empire wireless will be very seriously handicapped.

Mr. Bruce contends that either the Post Office should reach an agreement with Marconi's permitting the latter to erect further stations or a definite statement should be published showing why the negotiations failed thus to enable the public to allocate the blame.—Reuter.

SCOTTISH LABOUR EXTREMISTS

Defiant Utterances at an I. L. P. Meeting

London, Jan. 5.

Addressing the annual conference of the Scottish Independent Labour Party at Edinburgh to-day, Mr. William Martin, M.P., said that a Labour Government would not tolerate dictation from any other party. It would retain its independence and tackle its political programmes with undiminished spirit. He emphasized that Labour was the strongest political party in Scotland and therefore, if they had Home Rule in Scotland, the red flag of Socialism would already be flying over the Parliament House.

The Conference passed a resolution demanding relief for the distress in the West Highlands, which speakers described as a disgrace to a civilized nation, adding that the people refused to live on charity.

A resolution was also passed condemning the Government's failure to deal with unemployment generally, and declaring that the Government's ostracism of Russia had aggravated the unemployment problem.

Another resolution demanded that the Government should refrain from helping the French military machine in the Ruhr.—Reuter.

LEGALIZED PIRACY

Canadian Ship Seized by U. S. Revenue Officials Well Beyond 3-mile Zone

New York, Jan. 4.

Britain at the instance of the Canadian Government has requested the release of the British and Canadian members of the crew of the steamer Tomako, which was seized by the prohibition authorities on November 26.

Britain is also asking for further information respecting the seizure, British investigation having shown that the Tomako, which is Canadian-owned, was seized well outside the three-mile limit. British officials feel that they have no alternative to insisting on the rights of British-owned vessels outside the traditional three-mile radius, which must remain law until the new treaty extending the limit to an hour's steaming distance from the shore becomes effective.

The American authorities still profess doubt as to the *bonafides* of the Tomako's British registry and would like the question of seizure in such cases outside the three-mile limit settled in American courts.—Reuter.

Customs Capture of Foreign Schooners

Galveston, Tex., Jan. 7.

The Customs authorities have captured and brought to port the schooner Muriel E. Minters, flying the British flag, in the Gulf of Mexico outside the three-mile limit. They allege that the manifest showed that the original cargo was 3,400 cases of whisky and the captain's record showed that 800 cases were missing.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Jan. 8.

The British Embassy has filed a request for information in regard to the seizure of the British schooner Kwasind by United States authorities at Wilmington, North Carolina, after the vessel, which was carrying intoxicating liquors, had put in for repairs.

It is believed that the Embassy's action is a preliminary to a formal protest, as in the cases of the Tomako and the Island Home.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Jan. 9.

The captain, mate and supercargo of the Dutch schooner Zeehund, which coastguards seized off Long Island on December 8, have been acquitted by the jury of the Federal Court of a charge of conspiring to violate the Prohibition Law. Similar charges against six members of the crew have been dismissed. The Zeehund and her cargo now automatically revert to the possession of the owners.—Reuter's American Service.

SEEING BY WIRELESS

Where All the World Can Now Hear One Man They Will Soon Also See Him

London, Jan. 4.

Col. L'Estrange Malone, Chairman of the Radio Association, interviewed with regard to the recent transmission of American broadcasting by the British Broadcasting Company, predicted that 1924 would make television or seeing by wireless a practical possibility.

It was at present possible for one individual to address simultaneously the people of Europe, Africa and America. Nobody could foretell the ultimate international agreement to control and co-ordinate these transmissions to give a fair share of the "ether space" to all stations of any country which had first-class programmes or a news radio association. He had communicated with the League of Nations on the matter and a conference had been arranged for 1924 under the auspices of the League to consider all aspects of the problem.—Reuter.

THE FLOODED SEINE

Paris Suburbs Washed Out, Mills Stopped and Inhabitants Fleeing for Life

Paris, Jan. 3.

The flood situation is still critical. Amazing scenes reminiscent of wartime are being enacted in Paris and the riverside suburbs. The Seine to-day was 21¼ feet above normal. The flood burst the barriers of Alfortville and inundated the town. The population of 3,000 are evacuating the town and work has been suspended in various factories and mills.—Reuter.

The French wireless of the same date says:—

There has been a slight fall in most of the tributaries of the Seine except in the Yonne district. In the Paris district the suburbs are in difficulties, especially Alfortville and Ivry where some houses have had to be vacated. Some factories have stopped at Suresnes and Puteaux. In Paris the precautions taken have up to the present limited the floods. The Eiffel Tower at 11.30 announced by radiophone forecasts of the figures of the fall.

Marne Rising Rapidly

Paris, Jan. 4.

The Seine is still rising but less rapidly. The flood is expected to reach the level of 24 feet to-morrow morning, when it is believed the maximum will be attained.

Workers at St Denis are being conveyed to the factories in boats, manned by military engineers.

All shops at Alfortville above Paris are closed.

Choisy is flooded. The trains are delayed and the population are evacuating the quarter of the town where the water is 4½ feet deep.

The water at Ivry caused an explosion of calcium carbide in a garage. Firemen, waist-deep, fought the flames, while the inhabitants of the neighbouring block were saved from the fire by boats.

Jan. 5.

It is hoped that the flood has now reached its worst since the highest level has already been passed on the upper reaches of the Seine. Nevertheless the situation is still threatening as infiltration of water has started in many parts of the centre of the capital, remote from the river.

The sensation of the day was the collapse of the wall separating the Invalides railway from the Seine. The water in the Invalides station is 10 feet deep, preventing resumption of traffic for at least several weeks.

Inhabitants of the suburbs continue to leave their homes, but the waters rose rapidly during the night at Vitry marooning a populous area which is now inaccessible. Women and children are visible on the roofs signalling with handkerchiefs and clothing.

Numerous works have been closed, making idle many thousands of people.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 4.

The rise of the Marne has reached several houses at Nogent, Champigny, Bry and Le Perreux. A certain number of factories in the Paris district are idle. A decrease in the upper tributaries of the Marne is reported and also a slight rise in the basin of the Yonne.—French Wireless through Reuter.

Numerous Fatalities

Paris, Jan. 6.

A maximum rise of 24 feet was registered at Pont d'Austerlitz last night. The Seine is now stationary. Experts anticipate an early subsidence.

Later.

The situation in the suburbs remains grave. The railway-station at Maisons Alfort resembles a town on the battle-front. Trains left for Paris crowded with refugees. Practically the whole of Chatillon is under water. The railways have been cut in several districts.

The swiftness and depth of the torrents have been responsible for a number of fatalities.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 7.

The fall of the Seine has begun. A decrease of three inches was registered in Paris this morning and one of 10 inches at Montesaur while the Marne fell one and a half feet at Meaux. It is expected that by to-morrow the Seine will have fallen a foot at Pont d'Austerlitz and that the fall will become more rapid afterwards.—Reuter.

Seine Subsiding Slowly: Fund Opened for Relief of Sufferers

Paris, Jan. 9.

Although the Seine is falling slowly, the outlook is not reassuring for damper weather has returned. Meanwhile the situation in Paris and the suburbs is much the same. The maximum height of the flood has now reached Rouen, where the quays are flooded.

A meeting of Deputies representing the Departments of the Seine, Seine-et-Oise and Seine-et-Marne have decided to introduce a bill opening a credit of Frs. 30,000 for the sufferers from the floods and to create a permanent group, of Deputies of the three Depart-

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

THE REOPENING OF PARLIAMENT

House of Commons Meeting Under New Circumstances: New Lady Members: Re-election of the Speaker with Congratulations from All Parties

MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD'S IDEAS FOR THE RESURRECTION OF EUROPE

London, Jan. 8.

The House of Commons opened to-day. There was a crowded attendance. The atmosphere is one of lively anticipation though to-day's business is formal. Mr. Asquith, owing to a chill, was unable to be present.

The Labour Members from the East End arrived escorted in *char-à-bancs* by partisans, who enlivened the city *en route* with rattles, cheering and singing of the Red Flag.

Lady Terrington (Liberal; Wycombe) was the first woman to appear. She was attired in black, trimmed with white, and frequently surveyed the Ladies' Gallery through a tortoise-shell lorgnette. The women Labour Members entered without their hats, which is unprecedented. Mrs. Philipson (Berwick) was the only Conservative woman present.

Mr. Baldwin was received with Labour jeers and cries of "He is back again!" Mr. Ramsay Macdonald was given an ovation by his supporters.

In Mr. Asquith's absence Mr. Lloyd George took his place and engaged Mr. Macdonald in conversation.

Re election of the Speaker.

There were some derisive Labour cries when Mr. Macdonald joined Mr. Baldwin in procession in obedience to the Black Rod's summons to the House of Lords to hear the King's request to elect a Speaker.

On the motion of Sir Ellis Hume-Williams (Conservative; Bassetlaw), seconded by Mr. O'Grady (Labour; Leeds), Mr. J. H. Whitley was re-elected Speaker.

Mr. Whitley said that the House was meeting under new circumstances, but he was a believer in this old House of Commons and, whatever the new circumstances might be, he believed that the Members would find a way to solve them in the House of Commons as the wisdom of our ancestors had built it up.

Mr. Baldwin, who was loudly cheered by the Ministerialists, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. T. P. O'Connor congratulated the Speaker, after which the House adjourned.

"Broad Foot and Big Heel."

Later.

Addressing a Labour demonstration at the Albert Hall, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald declared: "We are not going to take office in order to prepare for a general election, but in order to do work. If capital flees from the country when we come into power, the panic-mongers will be responsible and not the Labour Party."

The Labour leader said that he wanted to go into office with a broad foot and a big heel to stamp on the embers existing in every capital, which a fresh blowing wind would scatter over the inflammable material of Europe and start a fresh war, so that, whether the Labour Party was in office or not, [illegible] in any corner of the world capable of being [illegible] flame to involve the whole world in a new war.

Mutual Understanding Needed.

The pompous folly of standing aloof from the Russian Government will be ended. Mr. Macdonald declared. He said that the pin pricks, misunderstandings and irritations between France and ourselves were absolutely deplorable and unworthy of both countries. It would be a great thing if it were possible to put them behind us and to establish with France, Italy, Russia, Germany, Czecho-Slovakia, and all people and nations understanding—not rivalry of military forces — but understanding of human men and women who have no cause for enmity.

Later.

A Party of Idealists.

The Albert Hall was packed, the audience at intervals very lustily singing Labour songs like "England, Arise! The long night is o'er!" They cheered for several minutes when the Labour leader rose.

Mr. Macdonald opened his speech by admitting that they were a party of idealists who had built their habitations away on the horizon, but "we are not going to jump there; we are going to walk there. One step is enough for me, provided it leads to the next step."

He believed that the Labour Party occupying Downing Street and staffing the Government was the one thing required to give strength to the morally courageous and power to the peace forces in all sections of Europe. He emphasized that it was his intention to complete the structure of the League of Nations and use it without reserve as the main instrument to secure international justice.

Trade Relations with Russia.

Mr. Macdonald desired resumptions with Russia not because he agreed with what the Russian Government had done. "That is not our business. I want trade. I want negotiations. I want a settlement from the coasts of Japan to the coasts of Ireland. If I have to protest against what is being done in Afghanistan, how can I protest without channels for it?"

He foreshadowed a scientific scheme dealing with unemployment, at the root of which lay the lower purchasing power of the mass of consumers. He painted a gloomy picture of housing conditions and said that they were prepared to give any guarantees to facilitate the maximum production of houses, while "if trusts, monopolies and corners stand in the way, we shall break them." (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

The Labour leader concluded by explaining that his speech was not meant to be a programme speech, but aimed at illustrating the spirit of the Labour Government if it comes into power.—Reuter.

The Ceremony in the House of Lords: Swearing in of Members in the Commons

London, Jan. 9.

In the House of Commons to-day immediately the Speaker, Mr. J. H. Whitley, took the Chair in readiness for the summons to the House of Lords to hear the Royal assent to the Speaker's election, a [illegible] began to [illegible] the Red Flag, but ceased in response to sharp cries of "Order!"

The ceremony in the House of Lords was carried out in time-honoured fashion. Mr. Jack Jones (Labour: Silvertown) was heard to mutter throughout. He subsequently tried in vain to raise a point of order in the House of Commons alleging that the Commons had been insulted. He vouchsafed no explanation, but it is understood that he was aggrieved because there was only a handful of Peers present at the ceremony.

Later.

Mr. Jack Jones, leaving the House, explained that he had made the protest because he was a constitutionalist while the Lords were not, though they were always talking about the Constitution. He protested against a hundred Commoners being received in the House of Lords by only "five marionettes from the Italian opera," whereas it was the duty of the Lords to receive the Commons in decent numbers.

Mr. Jones's reference was to the five Commissioners in red ermine cloaks and black cocked-hats.

Reception of Lady Members.

The process of swearing in members of the House of Commons this afternoon was enlivened by the Labour members' chaff.

The women Labourites and Lady Terrington (Liberal: Wycombe) were cheered. Miss Susan Lawrence (Labour: East Ham North) was greeted with the cry. "Good old East London!" and Miss Margaret Bondfield (Labour: Northampton) was welcomed with: "Our Maggie!"

Miss Jedson (Norwich) was conspicuous on the Labour benches in a brown velour hat and a multi-coloured scarf, though the other women Labourites decided to continue hatless.

Mr. Macdonald's Speech.

With the exception of the "Times" and the "Morning Post," no morning papers publish editorial articles on Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's speech.

The "Times" says that the speech was marked by prudent caution and considerable ability. It notes with satisfaction that a Labour Government, which is based on a purely domestic programme, will not merely ignore the world-wide interests of the British Empire.

In the opinion of the "Morning Post" the main point is that Mr. Macdonald has ignored the doctrines familiar to Socialist platforms. The paper says that the speech was radicalism of the familiar Celtic type. The Socialists are trying to gain office on false pretences in order to secure Liberal votes.

The "Daily Telegraph" and the "Daily Mail" in editorial articles give a warning to the Liberals of the gravity of their responsibility if they put a Socialist minority in office, the "Daily Mail" painting a gloomy picture of the consequences if the Socialist rank and file insist, as they have threatened, on pensions for all.

The "Daily Express" heads the speech "Macdonald's Soft Pedal" and says that this is apparently the new Socialist order of the day.

French Press Opinion.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's expression of friendship for France has created a favourable impression. The *"Temps"* says: "We shall do Mr. Macdonald's expressed intentions justice and hope that he will do justice to those of France."

The *"Journal des Debats"* says: "If Mr. Macdonald perseveres in the sentiments he has expressed, he will encounter great goodwill in France which is ready to discard mutual recriminations and to build up a sound policy.

The *"Liberté,"* the organ of the Extreme Right, thinks that Mr. Macdonald's idyllic language smacks of 1848. "The illusions of 1848 only benefited Bismarck and Prussia. Beware of omens!"—Reuter.

FRENCH SENATORIAL ELECTIONS

Little Change in Representation: Premier Re-elected by Huge Majority

Paris, Jan. 5.

The French electoral period opens to-morrow with the election of one-third of the Senate, in which there is little interest except as a forecast.

The really decisive elections are those to the Chamber, which take place in April.

The chief significance is the fact that the parties of the left have effected a combination, which has found a new weapon of attack against the national bloc in the fall of the franc, which they attribute to the failure of M. Poincaré's financial and foreign policies.

It is asserted that French holders of francs are becoming uneasy and are selling francs and buying sterling. On the other hand, the fall is attributed to foreign speculators selling francs to purchase dollars and it is even asserted by the *"Petit Parisien"* that the fall is due to the operations in foreign exchanges decided at a congress of German bankers at Frankfurt in November.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 6.

The following are the results of the first ballot in the Senatorial elections: Liberal Conservatives 17; Republicans 10, two new; Republicans of the Left 13, one new; Independent Radicals two, one new; Radical Socialists 29, two new; Republican Socialists two, one new; Unified Socialists, one new. There were 82 final results. There are 33 ballots. The results from Martinique have not yet arrived.

The Republicans gain one and lose two; the Independent Radicals gain one and lose one; the Radical Socialists gain two and lose two; the republican Socialists gain two; the Unified Socialists gain one; the Conservative Liberals are unchanged in numbers.

Amongst those elected or re-elected are Gen. Hirschauer, the Ex-Ambassador; M. Bompard; MM. Gaudin de Vilaine, Jules and Dominique de la Haye, the ex-Minister; MM. Leon Bourgeois, Lebrun, Ajam, Chaumet, Besnard, Millies la Croix, Roy, de Mondie, and Rio, at present Under-Secretary of State for the Merchant Marine. Amongst those defeated were the Vice-President of the Senate, M. Rivet, and M. Noulens.

Tribute to M. Poincare.

M. Poincaré was re-elected at Bar le Duc by 794 votes out of 810 drawn. His election was warmly received. M. Gobus, Councillor-General, made the following speech: "The Senatorial delegates of the Meuse on the occasion of the triumphal re-election of M. Poincaré express to him the confidence, admiration, gratitude and profound and unalterable affection of the people of the Meuse." M. Poincaré replied: "I am much to touched by this demonstration, which is addressed not only to the representative of the Department, but to the head of the Government in appoval of his policy of reparations and security, to which he will consecrate his efforts with all the necessary determination until a peaceful victory and the total execution of the obligations of Germany to the victors."—French Wireless through Reuter.

A Triumph for M. Poincare

Paris, Jan. 7.

The Ministry of the Interior issues the following statistics of the Senatorial election results on Sunday:—

	This Election.	Last Election.
Conservatives	16	17
Republicans	20	21
Left Republicans	37	36
Radicals	36	38
Republican Socialists	4	3
Socialists	2	0
Communists	0	0

All the newspapers emphasize that the Senate elections have brought about no change in the general composition of the Upper House. The *"Temps"* stresses that there are only two opponents out of 116 (115?) seats and therefore the policy followed with firm patience by the Poincaré Government is supported by an enormous majority in the country and in Parliament. The result at home is interesting. The result abroad is still more satisfactory. Those abroad who counted on a check to M. Poincaré must put on mourning for their lost illusions.

Paris, Jan. 7.

Commenting on the Senatorial elections, the papers emphasize M. Poincaré's personal triumph and point out that the political complexion of the Senate has not been materially affected.—Reuter.

COUNTERING THE FALL OF THE FRANC

Remedial Measures Adopted to Prevent Speculative Transactions

Paris, Jan. 8.

The Finance Minister, M. de Lasteyrie, has submitted a scheme to the Cabinet aiming at countering the fall of the franc. The scheme comprises: (1) more rigorous police regulation to suppress the campaign in favour of sale of Government securities; (2) a revised system of quotation on the Bourse; (3) weeding out of undesirable and heterogeneous frequenters of the exchange market; (4) stricter supervision of bankers' exchange operations; and (5) an endeavour to check the practice of certain exporters leaving foreign money abroad.

The Minister of the Interior has signed a decree ordering the expulsion of a Dutch exchange speculator on a charge of spreading alarmist reports with regard to the fall of the franc.—Reuter.

SEPARATIST MOVE IN GERMANY

Bavarian Independence Claim

Berlin, Jan. 4.

The Bavarian Government has addressed a memorandum to the Chancellor suggesting revision of the Constitution for the purpose of full re-establishment of the independence of individual States and their greater participation in the affairs of the Reich, particularly foreign affairs.—Reuter.

SEPARATIST PRESIDENT ASSASSINATED

Herr Heintz Shot in Bavarian Restaurant: Premeditated Plan of Murder

Paris, Jan. 10.

Herr Heintz, President of the Separatist Government in the Bavarian Palatinate, was assassinated yesterday while dining at a restaurant at Speyer.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 10.

An eye-witness of the assassination of Herr Heintz in the dining-hall of the chief hotel of Speyer in the presence of 30 guests says: "A number of shots suddenly rang out and three persons sitting at a table just opposite to me fell to ground shot in the head. There was a cry of 'Stand against the wall and hands up.' The crowded room was consternated and a woman burst out crying as several more shots were fired. Three or four young men rushed from the room, threatening to shoot anyone leaving within a quarter of an hour and adding 'We are only attacking separatists.' The lights were extinguished. When they were turned on three men lay in pools of blood. Herr Heintz and another died in a few moments."

It is stated that only Herr Heintz belonged to the Separatist Government. The others sat at his table by chance. Troops and police soon arrived, but up to the present no arrests have been made. Three other wounded persons were found outside the hotel.—Reuter.

SAXONY'S COALITION CABINET

Strong Protest by Socialists: Alleged Breach of Party Discipline

Dresden, Jan. 7.

The formation of a Saxon Coalition Cabinet including Socialist Ministers and a Socialist Premier, Herr Heldt, is disapproved by the Saxon Socialist Party, which to-day adopted a resolution by 77 votes to 16 declaring that the 25 Socialist members of the Diet who voted for a coalition are guilty of a gross breach of party discipline and

WELSH COAL FOR CANADA

Important New Outlet for Dominion Needs

Montreal, Jan. 3.

It is announced that a company has been formed, including Sir Alfred Mond and representatives of other Welsh colliery interests, to instal a complete breaking plant in Montreal for the purpose of handling Welsh anthracite of the sizes required by the Canadian trade.

It is stated that the plant will be ready to deal with shipments of coal at the opening of the coming navigation season and that Welsh coal interests are prepared to ship in the first year a minimum of 100,000 tons of anthracite to Canada.—Reuter's American Service.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

American Clergyman Tried for Expressing Scepticism

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 3.

The standing committee of the diocese announces that the Rev. Lee Heaton, a young clergyman of the Episcopal Church at Fort Worth, will be placed on trial for expressing in the course of sermons in New York doubt concerning the virgin birth of Christ. His opinions recently aroused a storm of protest. The proceedings against him are described as part of a movement to cleanse the Episcopal Church of modernism.

Later.

The proceedings against the Rev. Lee Heaton have been abandoned.—Reuter's American Service.

THE DAIL EIREAN FUNDS IN AMERICA

De Valera's Evidence in Gaol

London, Jan. 4.

Mr. John Finnerty, an American lawyer representing claimants to £500,000 of Dail Eircan funds in America, to-day interviewed Messrs. de Valera and Austin Stack in their Dublin prisons, preliminary to taking evidence before the American Consul in accordance with an order of the the New York Supreme Court.—Reuter.

AUSTRALIAN TRADE AMBITIONS

If No Tariff Available with Britain Then with Others

London, Jan. 5.

Mr. S. M. Bruce, the Australian Prime Minister, in the course of a speech at Lincoln, declared that the Commonwealth meant to develop her manufactures as well as her output of foodstuffs and raw materials. She was not here as a suppliant for trade relations in order to benefit herself to the detriment of Britain.

She believed in tariffs and if unable to get a market in Britain, she would have to get one elsewhere.

She had already been approached by other countries for reciprocal treatment, but had hitherto refused the offers because they would be detrimental to Great Britain.—Reuter.

THE MOUNTAINS MOVING

Extraordinary Phenomenon in California

Palo Alto, Calif., Dec. 6.

Mount Tamalpais has moved five feet south since 1900, Mount Diabolo 3½ feet southeast and Mount Reyes 11 feet north, Dr. Bailey Willis, geologist of Stanford University, declared in an address here yesterday. He said the greatest movement in California was near San Luis Obispo, "where the railway station moved fifteen feet."

"The movements noted indicate a readjustment of great masses of rock since the earthquake disturbance of 1906 and also conditions of pressure south of San Juan Batista," he declared.—Reuter.

HOW TO ACHIEVE PEACE

$50,000 Prize Offered for the Best Essay

New York, Jan. 4.

Mr. Edward Filene, the well-known Jewish proprietor of a department store in Boston, has offered a $50,000 prize for European competition for the best plan for world peace. Separate contests will be held in England, France and Italy. The competition is similar to that recently initiated by Mr. Bok, the well-known American editor of Dutch extraction, who offered a large prize for competition in the United States.

Mr. Filene says that he might extend the competition to Germany provided suitable persons could be procured to judge the plans submitted.—Reuter.

VENIZELOS IN GREECE

Presdt. of National Assembly

Athens, Jan. 4.

M. Venizelos arrived in Athens to-day and had a long conference with Colonel Plastiras.

Jan. 5.

There were enthusiastic scenes in Athens to-day when M. Venizelos was elected President of the National Assembly.—Reuter.

EARTHQUAKES IN ITALY

Sixteen Shocks and Several People Injured

Ancona, Jan. 4.

There were 16 earthquake shocks to-day in the neighbourhood of Pesaro. Shocks in the neighbourhood of Mondolfo, Marotta and San Costanzo caused damage. Several persons were injured. The authorities are providing shelter for the people, who in spite of the snow refuse to return to their homes.—Reuter.

SERIOUS OUTLOOK FOR BRITISH RAILWAYS

Engineers and Firemen Against Wages Board Decision

London, Jan. 4.

It is understood that a ballot of locomotive engineers and firemen on the question of accepting the findings of the Railway Wages Board has decided against acceptance of the Board's award.

It was stated last month that in the event of rejection the executive would call a national strike.

Later.

A serious situation on the railways is threatened as a result of the ballot of locomotive engineers and firemen, which embodied a provision empowering the executive to call a national strike if necessary in the event of the Railways Wages Board's award being rejected, but extreme measures are not likely before the Union seeks a modification of the award.—Reuter.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION IN SOUTH WALES

Disaster in Swansea Colliery: Miners Blown to Atoms

London, Jan. 4.

A terrible explosion occurred at midnight in Rhosamman colliery at Rhosamman Brynamman in the Swansea valley.

Seven men were engaged in driving a "drift" in search of coal. They were at the surface charging at the time of the accident. It is supposed that the explosives they were using became ignited. Six men were blown to pieces. Portions of their bodies were found in the river and scores of yards away. The seventh man died in hospital.

The explosion shook the neighbourhood and was heard six miles away.—Reuter.

GALES IN GULF OF LYONS

Oriental Liners Delayed

London, Jan. 5.

The liners Orsova from Australia and China from India experienced terrific weather in the Gulf of Lyons. They were both compelled to heave to for many hours and were late in reaching Toulon and Marseilles respectively and a day late at Plymouth.—Reuter.

HUGE WAREHOUSE FIRE AT LONDON DOCKS

£200,000 Damage

London, Jan. 7.

The biggest London dock fire for half a century occurred at Poplar this afternoon. A large warehouse stocked with rubber, tea and other inflammable goods was gutted. Seventy fire-engines mostly directed their attention to preventing the spread of the flames to adjoining timber-yards, oil-stores and other warehouses. Molten rubber streaming from the burning building blocked the drains and the narrow streets were soon several feet deep in dirty tepid water. There were several exciting escapes, but no casualties. The damage is at present unknown.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 8.

The London dock fire was still burning this morning but is now well in hand. Ten fire-engines and 100 firemen are still working and it is hoped to suppress it this afternoon. The damage is now estimated at over £200,000. The Concordia premises, which have been completely gutted, were filled with rubber, tinned goods and tin.

Later.

Approximately 1,000 tons of rubber were burned in the London dock fire.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 8.

At the close of an all-day meeting of the Executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen to-day, it was officially announced that in view of the overwhelming majority, namely, six to one against acceptance of the Railway Wages Board's award, the Executive had decided to request the general managers of railways to meet them to discuss the position with a view to its improvement.—Reuter.

THE TANGIERS TREATY

Hitch in Negotiations

Barcelona, Jan. 8.

A hitch has been revealed in the negotiations with regard to the Tangiers Treaty by the announcement that General Primo de Rivera, the head of the Spanish Directorate, has sent a note to the French and British Governments regarding the Spanish claims in Tangier, expressing confidence that Britain and France will give a favourable reception to the Note, which is couched in moderate and cordial terms.—Reuter.

NIAGARA HYDRO-POWER SCHEME

The Harnessing of the Falls

Niagara Falls, Jan. 8.

The Premier of Ontario to-day turned on a new unit of 55,000 h.p., bringing the total development of the provincial hydro-power plant to 330,000, all of which is being utilized. Two further units are rapidly being completed, while two more will be ready next year, which will bring the total of the Canadian development of Niagara scheme to 550,000 h.p.—Reuter's American Service.

PARIS, Jan. 8.—The Committee of the International Aeronautical Federation announce that the Schneider Cup plane contest will be held in the United States this year.—Reuter.

GERMANY'S FINANCES

Status of U. S. Experts

Paris, Jan. 8.

Gen. Charles Gates Dawes and Mr. Owen D. Young, the American members of the committee of experts to inquire into Germany's finances, have made a statement pointing out that they have come as private citizens without preconceived plans and declaring that the work of the committee should be connected with all possible expedition.—Reuter.

FATAL FIGHT IN FLORIDA

Police Attack on Bank Robbers

Palm Beach, Fla., Jan. 9.

A strong force of police armed with machine-guns to-day attacked a gang of bank robbers holding a meeting in the swamps. A Deputy Sheriff and five robbers were killed.—Reuter's American Service.

SEVERE SPELL OF COLD IN AMERICA

Chicago, Jan. 6.

Over a dozen deaths have resulted from one of the severest cold spells that have swept the country for years. The North Central part of the United States has been the greatest sufferer. The temperatures there were the lowest since 1905. The coldest point was Virginia, Minn., where a temperature of 39 degrees Fahrenheit below zero was recorded. — Reuter's American Service.

New York, Jan. 7.

The super-structure of the Italian liner Presidente Wilson was so covered with ice when she arrived from Naples that the Customs officials detained her for two hours while the crew with steam hoses and axes cleared the way through the ice to the baggage holds.—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. BATTLESHIP ADRIFT IN HEAVY GALE

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 7.

The battleship Louisiana, which was being towed from Philadelphia to Baltimore for breaking up, has been abandoned in a gale and is drifting helplessly with seven men on board. The search has up to the present been without result. Coastguards have broadcast ships to look out for her.

Later.

The Louisiana has been located and tugs have been despatched to her assistance. — Reuter's American Service.

SEVERE STORMS IN THE ATLANTIC

Western Coast of France Strewn With Wreckage

Paris, Jan. 9.

The Atlantic coast is in the grip of a gale accompanied by an exceptionally high tide practically amounting to a tidal wave. The coast from Brest to Biarritz is strewn with wreckage. Quays have been wrecked, houses flooded and fishing boats sunk. A number of fishermen are missing. A rush of water at La Rochelle was accompanied by a slight earthquake. The contents of houses were washed away and considerable damage was done.—Reuter.

New York, Jan. 8.

Storms have delayed the arrival of at least seven liners. The Majestic, which was due yesterday with Sir Auckland Geddes and Sir Robert Horne on board, wirelesses that she struck the full force of the gale on January 5 and battled for many hours in the mountainous seas, being forced to slow down. The liner is now proceeding normally and expects to dock to-morrow.—Reuter's American Service.

FRANCE'S "BRIDGE" WITH RUSSIA

Germany's Embarrassment

Stuttgart, Jan. 7.

The Minister of Defence, Herr Gessler, in a speech here to-day, said that he regarded the alliance between France and Czecho-Slovakia as a bridge to Franco-Russian relations with the object of placing Germany between two fires, but Germany intended to pursue a path towards the East and towards Russia.—Reuter.

GERMAN DYE WORKS IN AMERICA

Wilmington, Del., Jan. 3.

The Federal District Court has sustained the sale of 5,700 German dye and chemical patents to the Chemical Foundation which was incorporated by the Alien Property Custodian during the war. The Government sought to have the sale set aside as unconstitutional. An appeal is being taken to the Supreme Court.

Washington, Jan. 4.

Announcing its intention to appeal against the dye patents decision, the Department of Justice expresses every confidence of ultimately winning the case.—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. Costly Mercantile Marine

Washington, Jan. 4.

A conference at the White House has resulted in the decision to place the operation and control of Government-owned tonnage in the hands of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, with Mr. Leigh Palmer, former chief of the Navy Department's Bureau of Navigation, as President.

This is President Coolidge's first endeavour to formulate a definite merchant marine policy.—Reuter's American Service.

Chinese Engineer Students on the C. P. R.

Montreal, Jan. 3.

Three Chinese graduates of Nanyang University at Shanghai have arrived in Montreal with a view to entering the service of the Canadian Pacific Railway in order to study Canadian railway methods.—Reuter's American Service.

British Women Metal Co.

London, Nov. 23.

There is a metal company in Great Britain which is administered wholly by women. It has a woman chairman, women directors, a woman auditor and a woman secretary, as well as a qualified engineer and metallurgist. Two titled women have recently joined the board of directors.—Reuter.

Germany's Unpopnlar Socialists

Berlin, Jon. 3.

Herr Hermann, the Minister of the Interior in the Socialist Government of Thuringia, has been arrested at Weimar on a charge of being implicated in illegal practices in connexion with the appointment of Socialist officials.—Reuter.

Wonders of the British Empire by Film

London, Nov. 23.

The wonders of the British Empire around the world are to be depicted on the cinema for the benefit of the people of the British Isles. Seventy men, scientists, camera-men, writers and sportsmen, will make the long trip on a steam yacht, leaving in December, and hope to bring back a complete set of coloured pictures illustrative of Empire trade, scenic wonders, animal life, and antiquities. Commander F. A. Worsley, R.N.R., will be in command of the expedition.—Reuter.

THE LOST DIXMUDE

Remains of Dirigible Located off Sardinia: Dragging Operations Begun

Marseilles, Jan. 3.

Following [illegible] aluminium and [illegible] rubber-coated fabric at various places on the west coast of Sardinia, an observation balloon has announced by wireless the discovery of the wreckage of the Dixmude 120 feet deep in the sea south of San Marco. The wreckage is strewn over a radius of half a mile. Dragging operations have begun. A report from Bizerta states that two bodies have been recovered from the sea off Anpexado.—Reuter.

Toulon, Jan. 4.

The commission inquiring into the loss of the Dixmude began its work to-day. The first question being discussed is whether meteorological reports, especially from South France, were communicated to the dirigible in good time.—Reuter.

The naval authorities at Bizerta, Tunis, have no knowledge of the reported discovery of the bodies of members of the crew of the Dixmude.

The Ministry of Marine has up to the present received no confirmation with regard to the portion of the wreckage of the [illegible] bodies of the crew. It has not been definitely established that the petrol can discovery at San Marco actually belonged to the Dixmude, though it is admitted that there [illegible] the airship.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 5.

Crowds lined the streets for the impressive ceremony of the naval funeral of Lieutenant de Grenadan. In the course of his funeral oration the Minister of Marine declared that the loss of the Dixmude would not check the [illegible]—Reuter.

Rome, Jan. 4.

[illegible] Sicily that French vessels carrying [illegible] the Dixmude.—Reuter.

Another Body Recovered

[illegible] quantity of metallic fabric, seeming to confirm the theory that [illegible] by an explosion and hurled into the sea.—Reuter.

OBITUARY

Prof H. G. Hamburger

[illegible] Jan. 9.

The death is announced of Professor H. J. Hamburger, [illegible] and Netherlands), Professor of Physiology in the University of Groningen, at the age of 64.

Professor Hamburger [illegible] the application of physical chemistry to the [illegible] 1885. He was President of the International Physiological Congress [illegible]—Reuter.

Rear-Admiral Holder

[illegible] Jan. 9.

The death is announced of Rear-Admiral Henry [illegible] Holder [illegible].

Rear-Admiral Holder entered the Navy [illegible] retired in 1874 as Commodore. He was promoted Rear-Admiral on the retired list. He was [illegible]

Dr. Basil L. Gildersleeve

[illegible] Jan. 9.

The death is announced of Dr. [illegible] Gildersleeve, [illegible] Professor [illegible] in the Universities of Berlin, Bonn and Gottingen (Ph. D.). He received [illegible] from the following universities:—Williams, [illegible] Yale, Chicago, Pennsylvania, that of D. C. L. from the University of [illegible] Princeton, and that of D. Litt., from Cambridge (1905) and Oxford (1905).

Dr. Gildersleeve was Professor of Greek (1856-76) and of Latin (1861-6) in the University of Virginia, and Professor of Greek in Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, from 1876 to 1915, when he retired. He was the founder of the "American Journal of Philology," and was an honorary member of the Cambridge (England) Philological Society, the Archaeological Society of Athens, the Philological Syllogos of Constantinople and of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies. [illegible] and a member of the American [illegible] Reuter's American Service.

Dean Henry Wace

[illegible] Jan. 9.

The death is announced of the Very Rev. Henry Wace, D.D., Dean of Canterbury since 1903, at the age of 87.—Reuter.

*** The late Dean Wace was born in London on December 10, 1836, and was educated at Marlborough, Rugby, King's College (London) and Brasenose College, Oxford, where he took second-class honours in classics and mathematics. He was Curate of St. Luke's, Berwick Street, 1861-63, St. James's, Piccadilly, 1863-69, and Grosvenor Chapel, 1870-72. In 1874-75 he delivered Boyle Lectures, and Bampton Lectures at Oxford in 1879. While he was Select Preacher at Oxford in 1889-91 and 1907, and at Cambridge in 1876, 1891, 1903 and 1913. He was Professor of Ecclesiastical History in King's College, London, in 1875; Chaplain of Lincoln's Inn, 1872-89; Preacher of Lincoln's Inn, 1885-95; Rector of St. Michael's Cornhill, 1896-1903. He was editor, in conjunction with the late Sir William Smith, of the Dictionary of Christian Biography, Literature, Sects and Doctrines, in eight volumes, and with the Rev. E. Piercy, of the Dictionary of the First Six Centuries; and [illegible] of several religious [illegible]

SILVER INTERESTS IN AMERICA

Proposed Formation of Combine to Secure Better Control of Prices

[illegible] Jan. 9.

[illegible] States are considering the formation of a combine to secure [illegible] the price of silver. The latest proposal is to incorporate in Canada, though no decision has been reached.

Not all concerned are convinced [illegible] It is pointed out that how to exert influence on the foreign silver market without inviting depression in the home [illegible]—Reuter's American Service.

PRACTICABLE PLAN TO PREVENT WAR

Bok Prize of $100,000 Awarded to Device of Scheme for U. S. Co-operation

[illegible] Jan. 9.

The [illegible] offered by Mr. Edward Bok for the best practicable plan whereby the United States could [illegible] such other nations as will [illegible] in the creation of what has been [illegible] the decision of a committee of [illegible] scheme based on the American Government extending its present co-operation with the League of Nations and participating in the work of the latter's Assembly and [illegible] and regulations. Altogether [illegible]

The name of the [illegible] will not be disclosed until Americans have been given an opportunity to judge the merits of the plan by a most extensive public referendum in February.

Effective Suggestions.

Senator Elihu Root, the chairman of the jury, in the award, says that [illegible] approach to world peace. It is necessary to recognize, in the opinion of the jury, not merely the political, but also the psychological and economic factors. The winning plan offers the most effective suggestions whereby the United States may co-operate with other nations to achieve and preserve peace in the world. "It is our unanimous hope that the first fruit of mutual counsel and co-operation among nations resulting from adoption of the plan selected will be general prohibition of the manufacture and sale of all materials of war."

The winner will receive $50,000 cash to-day and another $50,000 when and if the plan is approved by Congress.—Reuter's American Service.

Little Likelihood of Approval by U. S. Congress

Washington, January 9.

Attempts have been made to ascertain the views of the President on the Bok peace plan. The inquirers were referred to his message delivered at the opening of Congress, when he said that the country definitely refused to ratify the Covenant of the League of Nations. The President added: "I am not proposing to change that policy, neither is the Senate. The incident is closed."

This apparently means that neither the President nor the Republican Members of the Senate will give encouragement to any plan that recognizes on the part of the United States formal adhesion to the League of Nations.—Reuter's American Service.

AMERICA AND RUSSIA

Eloquent Plea for Recognition by Senator Borah: The Communist Danger

Washington, Jan. 7.

In the course of an interesting debate in the Senate on the subject of recognition of the Soviet Government, Senior Lodge defended the policy of non-recognition on account of the "interlocking directorates" between the Soviet Government and the Communist Party.

Senator Borah eloquently pleaded for recognition, urging that the time had come to consider whether Russia had not met the conditions laid down in President Coolidge's annual address to Congress.—Reuter's American Service.

THE DUNLOP RUBBER SCANDAL

Resolution of Confidence in Directors: Some Grave Issues Raised

London, Jan. 8.

A resolution of confidence in the Directors was passed to-day [illegible] Dunlop Rubber Co., Limited, at the Connaught Street Hall.

Sir Eric Geddes, presiding, said that the position at the commencement of the financial year was that out of a loss of £3,320,000 shown by the balance sheet at August 31, 1921, £2,760,000 had been written off stocks and £822,000 loss on rubber sold during the year, while £550,000 has not been accounted for.

The Directors' conclusions raised very grave issues. In view of the issue of writs by Sir Arthur du Cros and Messrs. Alfred and George du Cros to establish their agreements, the Company had been advised to [illegible] writs covering the names. These writs had been issued except one or two where the individuals concerned had made tentative offers of settlement without prejudice.

The accounts for the 18 months ended December 31 last would probably show a profit of £1,250,000. The Company's business, the chairman said, had now reached such a state of stability that the Board intended to submit to the shareholders proposals for a reorganization of the capital.

Sir Arthur du Cros said that the losses were made after his total severance from the management of the Company.

Note.—As a result of inquiries by a special committee for the last 18 months into the position of the Dunlop Rubber Co. as disclosed in its balance sheet for 1921, an extraordinary meeting of shareholders was called for January 8 to endorse the action of the Directorate in issuing writs against the President and also a number of past and present directors.

Sir Arthur du Cros, the President, and Messrs. Arthur and George Du Cros have issued writs against the Company asking for declarations that their agreements are binding upon the Company.—Reuter.

CHILE'S POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES

Parties at Variance but No Delay in Meeting Financial Obligations

Santiago de Chile, Jan. 9.

The extraordinary sitting of Parliament has concluded without passing the Budget.

The Minister of Finance, interviewed, said that payment of interest on the foreign debt was assured and there would be no delay on any Government obligations. The political situation was improving, neither of the parties desiring to resort to extremes. Negotiations were progressing with a view to bringing the parties together.—Reuter's American Service.

BRITISH NAVAL BASE

Capetown as an Alternative to Singapore: "Daily News" on "Pros. and Cons."

London, Jan. 8.

In a leading article on its Naval Correspondent's contention that the project of developing a great naval base at the Cape as an alternative to Singapore is strategically useless, but that the Cape route to the East would be enormously important if the passage of the Mediterranean were denied Britain in a future war, the "Daily News" says that the official conclusion seems to be that the Cape should be provided with great dockyard facilities in order to accommodate the largest battleships, but if British battleships are to be excluded from the Mediterranean in the event of war in Europe, what use would they be at the Cape or at all?

The "Daily News" suggests that the right solution of the problem would be not to spend millions on a naval base thousands of miles away, but to build the kind of vessel able to pass the Straits of Gibraltar and squarely to face the enemy.—Reuter.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—Australia has challenged for the Davis Cup.—Reuter's American service.

LLOYD'S REGISTER OF SHIPPING

Indications of Improvement in World's Shipbuilding Industry

London, Jan. 9.

Lloyd's Register shows that 1,231,000 tons of merchant shipping were actually being constructed in Great Britain and Ireland on December 31, 1923, as compared with an average of 1,890,000 tons during the 12 months before the war.

A total of 244,000 tons was commenced and 114,000 tons were launched during the December quarter, as compared with 111,000 tons commenced and 66,000 tons launched in the previous quarter. The amount actually under construction abroad on December 31, 1923, was 982,000 tons, a decrease of 42,000 tons, as compared with September 30, 1923, while 217,000 tons were launched and 228,000 tons commenced during the December quarter.

The latter total considerably exceeded that of the previous quarter and, in conjunction with the increase in the British yards, appears to show a tendency towards an improvement in the conditions in the shipbuilding industry of the world.—Reuter.

INFECTIOUS STRIKE OF GERMAN SEAMEN

German Crews' Demand for British Rates of Pay: Successful Negotiations

London, Jan. 9.

A strike of German seamen at Hull to enforce the Maritime Board rate of wages has extended to the London National Seamen's and Firemen's Union, which is supporting the men.

It is reported that a large ship is held up at the Victoria Docks owing to the German crew striking for British rates of pay.

Later.

The German steamer held up at Victoria Docks owing to the strike of the crew is the Hamburg-America liner Frankenwald, which arrived on December 25. Officials of the new Stevedores' and Lightermen's Union visited the Frankenwald to-day to ascertain whether members of the union were handling cargo in order to call them out immediately. They retired when they found that the cargo-handlers belonged to the Transport-workers' Union.

German pickets at Hull awaited the arrival of the steamer Herbert Fischer from Germany and induced the crew of 19 to join the strike.

As a result of negotiations between the Seamen's and Firemen's Union at Hull and the agents of the German steamer Neptune, the latter have agreed to pay the crew the British Maritime rate from January 3 and have accepted all the conditions of the Maritime Board.—Reuter.

FIRST EGYPTIAN LEGATION IN FRANCE

King Fuad Shortly Visiting European Capitals

Paris, Jan. 3.

The first Egyptian Legation in France has been installed in the Hotel Majestic in Paris under Mahmoud Fakrhy Bey, who is also Minister to Belgium. One of the Secretaries of the Legation will be stationed at Brussels as Chargé d'Affaires. The Egyptian Legation in Rome [illegible] already been established. Sheikh Yousef Bey, the Egyptian Minister to the United States, has left [illegible] for New York. Azmy Bey, the Minister to Britain, was [illegible] Trieste and spent [illegible] in London on January [illegible]

It is stated that King Fuad will probably visit London, Paris, Brussels and Rome [illegible] June next.—Reuter.

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

OUR SCOTTISH LETTERS

Parliamentary Election and Local Veto Poll: A Dreamy Irish Bard: Joe Beckett's Hero: Scheme for War Shrine at Jerusalem

From Our Own Correspondent

Edinburgh, Nov. 21.

As was to be expected at the end of so short a Parliament, the number of members not seeking re-election is comparatively small. It would have been smaller still had not some Liberals agreed to withdraw in the interests of party reunion. Sir Wm. Raeburn, who meant to retire from Dumbartonshire a year ago, hopes to do so now, as he finds the strain of the House of Commons, in addition to his other public work, too much for him. Sir Wm. Mitchell Cotts is giving up the Western Isles, which he won as a National Liberal a year ago, and it may be surmised that in addition to personal reasons considerations of party unity have had an influence. Mr. James Gardiner is not to seek re-election for West Perthshire, and Mr. Alexander Shaw announced a week ago his resignation from Kilmarnock. With those four exceptions, all the former members for Scotland are to seek a renewal of confidence. It seems as if some of the Highland constituencies will not be contested. All over there is a fear that another General Election may come in the comparatively near future, involving another great financial strain.

One of the most interesting contests will take place in Kinross and West Fifeshire, where the Duchess of Atholl, LL.D., D.B.E., has come forward as the Unionist candidate. She is a very energetic person, and proposes to address meetings on practically every night till the election in different parts of her widely spread constituency. In addition she will address many day meetings for women. Her Liberal opponent is Mr. P. A. Molteno, a son of the first Premier of Cape Colony, and the former M.P. for Dunfriesshire.

THE CLASH OF TWO ELECTIONS.

Scotland suffers under the inconvenience of having two elections going on at practically the same time—the Parliamentary election and the Local Veto poll. Many canvassers and local workers have to make a choice between two causes, and already the Trade and the Temperance party are complaining that the General Election has slackened the interest in their own particular struggle. As to speakers, No Licence claims to have the advantage; its advocates are not so much tied to party politics. The licenced interest, on the other hand, say they will suffer from the absence of some of their cleverest supporters. Another trouble is the lack of hall accommodation, but in this matter the teetotallers boast that in many cases they can fall back upon the churches. Take only two examples of the way in which the elections will clash:—the Parliamentary poll is on December 6 and the Local Veto poll in Edinburgh falls upon December 5, and in Glasgow on December 4.

It does not look as if Home Rule for Scotland is to be a plank in any political platform during the present Parliamentary contest. The voice of the Scots National League, which is being faintly heard calling for independence, has been raised, but it is like a voice in the wilderness.

THE NAVVY POET.

Mr. Patrick MacGill, who delivered his new lecture "Among the Vikings" at Edinburgh, last week, no longer looks a navvy. In evening dress, with a poetic bunch of hair, and thin face, he looks as like a modern, willowy, dreamy bard as W. B. Yeats. The "Vikings" he dealt with are the modern ones. Mr. MacGill's dialect is very pronounced. But for the way he says "any" and "Ireland" one might mistake him for a Hebridean. His style is leisurely and he never indulges in oratorical flights or "purple patches." His humour is of the homely order, and, as one of his lady admirers put it, he has a "pretty smile."

JOE B. AND L. G.

One of Mr. Lloyd George's warmest admirers is Joe Beckett. Joe has been telling me that he thinks L. G. a really great man, and that he has admired him for a long time. One of Joe's ambitions is to be introduced to his hero. Joe is a Free Trader. But I wonder would it not have been a good thing for him had there been a tax on certain foreign imports—Carpentier for instance.

SCOTTISH SHRINE AT JERUSALEM.

A scheme has been promoted by a joint committee of the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church for the establishment of a Scottish Church and College at Jerusalem and is being widely supported. It is intended to serve as a memorial to the men from Scotland who fell in the Palestine campaign, and to provide a centre where divinity students who have completed their courses in Scotland may continue their studies in the Holy Land.

THE SCOTS HECKLER.

Heckling was born and bred in Scotland. It is part of our heritage. The Custom is occasionally found South of the Tweed, but there is no heckler so pertinaceous as the Scot. Unfortunately we have had of late too many apologetic finishes to election meetings. Chairman have been unnecessarily eager to announce —"Time is getting on, gentlemen, and I'm afraid we cannot expect the candidate to answer any more questions this evening." We cannot altogether blame the chairmen. Not after having heard some of the candidates. But none the less, there is a growing feeling that the heckler is not given the encouragement that is his due. The rule that all questions must be written and handed up to the platform is a dodge to trick the real heckler. There is nothing to equal the experience of seeing a politician having to take what comes to him in an oral examination. Candidates may not want more of that sort of thing, but we do. We in Scotland have our reputation to retain. We are born hecklers first and last. Our appetitie for information is insatiable. The suppression of the Good Old Heckler is being encouraged by certain audiences. We should have less of that. The sporting spirit should be given free play. Otherwise, as a race of hecklers, we shall cramp our style. If there is one thing we must have it is heckling. Why not Hecklers' Meetings? All heckling and no long speeches. If and when such a meeting is held, it will draw the crowd of the season. And there will be no need for a platform party, nor indeed for a platform. We shall want a twelve-foot ring conforming to the rules laid down by the Marquess of Queensberry.

OBITUARY.

At Byfield, Plymouth (the house of her son-in-law, Dr. J. Benson Young), on 13th inst., Sarah M'Larty, widow of Robert Oswald, C.E., of Tientsin, China, and 16 Esslemont Road, Edinburgh.

Hopes for a Liberal Unity

Nov. 28.

Not a few of the issues on which the present General Election turn are of interest to dwellers in the East. One of them concerns oil, and another is connected with jute.

A leading authority in regard to oil is Sir John T. Cargill, who has been giving views on Tariff Reform to his fellow citizens of Glasgow. For 18 years he has been the head of one of the most successful businesses that Scotsmen have ever built up—the Burma Oil Company; indeed he is the only survivor of the little band of Scots who in 1890 went out to Rangoon to take part in what was then a very small affair.

In the earlier stages of their career they attracted little notice. But, says Sir John, one day it dawned on the Standard Oil Company of America that the Burma Oil Company was getting a little too big, and they made up their mind that they would nip it in the bud. They would have done so but for the protection of the Government of India. That Government not only protected with a duty on foreign oils, but they went the length of keeping the foreign elements out of the oil trade of India. Then the Burma Oil Company came to the conclusion, that, having been protected, it was up to them to do something in return - for that protection, and, voluntarily, they initiated a policy of a maximum price in India for kerosene oil. Since 1905, claims Sir John, right through the war, when the prices of everything were going up by leaps and bounds in every country of the world, they kept the price of kerosene oil in India at the same level that it was before the war, and it was the same price to-day. Since 1919 alone till last year they had saved to the native customer in India £22 million sterling, which was the difference between the price they had been charging them for their oil in India and the price of kerosene in every other part of the world. That was one of his experiences of Protection.

The jute industry is one in which Dundee and its neighbourhood is vitally interested. Only a short time ago the President of the Dundee Chamber of Commerce stated that the importation of jute piece goods from Germany alone during the first six months of this year was 4,745 tons, as compared with 778 tons in the first six months of 1920. Before the war, he declared, there was practically no importation of jute manufactured goods from Germany. Taking July of this year alone he estimated that if there had been no importation of jute piece goods, work could have been found in Dundee for 2,000 more looms than were then at work. As the raw material for manufacturing jute goods is only procurable in India, the position is that German and other Continental workers are obtaining employment by means of supplies drawn from within the British Empire, while Dundee workers have to go idle.

THE PAISLEY "HONEYMOON."

Circumstances which are too familiar to require explanation imparted a dramatic touch to the appearance of Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George on the same platform at Paisley at the week-end. It was desirable no doubt thus to symbolize the unity of the party and the re-establishment of good relations between the two leaders; and the meeting unfeignedly enjoyed the spectacle. There was plenty of enthusiasm at the Liberal rally; but, truth to tell, a vein of comedy ran through the proceedings, especially during the opening passages.

Many years must have elapsed since these two Liberals occupied the same platform at a political meeting. The only occasion I can recall was at Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman's first public meeting as Prime Minister in the Albert Hall, London, in 1905. "C. B." had not only Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George with him at that memorable meeting, but all the members of his Cabinet. I doubt whether from that date till now Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George have addressed a gathering from the same platform.

Mr. Asquith beamed, and Mr. Lloyd's George's eyes twinkled; but the principal figure in the comedy-drama was "Margot," who, as if to show that the new alliance was no pretence, chattered incessantly during her husband's speech, Mr. Lloyd George nodding assent at odd moments. So loud were her tones that her neighbours might have heard quite an interesting budget of gossip and comment. And then there was Lady Bonham Carter and Miss Megan Lloyd-George.

Of course, the speeches of the two reconciled leaders were before you an hour or two after their delivery. But Lady Bonham Carter's sallies would not be cabled, and one of them may here be given. She quoted Lord Derby who, speaking with a note of noble compassion and disinterested solicitude, said, "Poor Mr. Asquith is like a lamb lying down with the lion, knowing as well as we do that he is bound to provide the lion's next meal." And her Ladyship's remark on this was—"Well. I read that passage with the deepest anxiety, and I have watched them both this evening very closely, very narrowly. I can honestly say I have never in my life seen Mr. Lloyd George look less voracious, and I certainly have never seen my father look more uneatable."

Princess Bibesco, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Asquith, finds that the obligation to her position as the wife of a diplomatist has its drawbacks, and that she is unable to pursue her inclinations in regard to the present election. A keen politician, the Princess would dearly like to have thrown herself into the excitement and stress of an election contest on behalf of her father, but convention does not view with favour diplomatists or their wives taking part in politics. By marriage to Prince Bibesco, who is a Roumanian Minister in Washington, Princess Bibesco has affected her nationality, and in the circumstances she has decided to observe the rules and not participate in any of the events at Paisley or in the country.

Scotland has three women candidates—the Duchess of Atholl in West Perthshire; Miss Robertson, in St. Rollox, Glasgow; and Miss Helen Fraser in the Hamilton Division of Lanark. Lady Baxter, who had come forward as a second supporter of the Government, has retired, so as not to split the moderate vote in Dundee. This leaves one Conservative and one Liberal to unite for the two city seats, against two Socialists and one Prohibitionist.

DISFRANCHIZED FISHERMEN.

For the second General Election in succession, several hundreds of Scots fishermen will be disfranchized as a result of their absence at the East Anglican ports. A year ago, when the election took place in the closing weeks of November, thousands of fishermen and fisher lassies were busily engaged at Yarmouth and Lowestoft, and were unable to record their votes. This year the election is a fortnight later, and probably about one-half of the fishermen now in East Anglia will be virtually disfranchized.

The Rev. David Cathels, D.D., Hawick, is the Moderator-Designate of next General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. In 1913 he was appointed by the Foreign Mission Committee as their delegate to visit the China stations, especially in the Yangtze valley. What he saw on his travels of the influence, hardships, dangers, and self-sacrifices of the Christian missionaries increased even his zeal for foreign mission work, and by many public lectures after his trip he instilled others with a similar enthusiasm.

The Rev. A. S. Inch, Dumbarton, is Moderator-Designate of the United Free Church. The Rev. Kenneth Cameron, of Stornoway, has been nominated as Moderator of the Free Church.

In forbidding the writing of an official biography of himself. Lord Morley followed the example of Andrew Lang, who made a similar stipulation in his will. Lang practised what he preached, for years he had poured ridicule on the "Life and Letters" plague, declaring:—

For now the dentist cannot die
And leave his forceps as of old,
But round him, ere he scarce is cold.
Begins the vast biography.

ABERDONIAN HUMOUR.

It is often thought that the Aberdonian is stock of a character peculiar to himself; but many a Yorkshire men come of the same race—the Beaker folk, a blend of the Alpine and Nordic—and in both countries a kindred rigid economy and grim unemotional acid wit and humour is found. Aberdonian physical and mental quality is however by far the most famous. Mr. A. M. Williams, late Rector of the Jordanhill Training College, has just given the members of the Glasgow Rotary Club some fine specimens of Aberdonians and their humour. In Banchory-Devenick he said that a widower, having helped to carry his second wife to the grave on a broiling July day, said as he wiped his brow. "Dod, the last time A wis at this job. A wis smored wi' snaw, and th' day A'm plotted wi' heat; neist time A'll treat masel' till a hearse." It was in the same quarter that one farmer, meeting another remarked, "A fine growin' day; this'll bring athing oot o' the grun," and the reply was "Gweed forbid, I've twa wives there."

In Yorkshire they tell a story, current also in the North, in this form. A labourer after finishing a hard job was presented with whisky and water. Tasting it, he looked up and said, "Did ye pit in the watter first, or the fuskie first?" "Oh," was the reply, "I put in the whisky first." "Ah weel, than, we'll be comin' tae the fuskie by an' by."

The Aberdonian not only bears with undisturbed equanimity the numerous anecdotes at his expense, but he invents the best of them and chuckles at their success. Here is one whose patentee is well known. An Aberdonian went to a dentist to have a tooth extracted. After examining the offending member the dentist said—"That's a bad one; I must give you gas." Whereupon the patient plunged his hand into his pocket and brought out his money. "Oh, never mind that," said the dentist, "you can pay me afterwards." "Oh," said the other, "A wisna gaun tae pey ye, bit if A'm tae be unconscious A'd like tae ken fat A hae on me."

Aberdonians relish the story of the women who went into a butcher's shop and asked to have two half-pennies for a penny. Having got them, she said—"Dinna ye gie a bit o' suet wi' that?" However, one does meet the density Sydney Smith complained of. A farmer in Aberdeenshire was playing cards in an Aberdeen hotel, and having been called out of the room, carefully picked up and pocketed his money before leaving. On his return he saw that he had offended the rest by his caution, and made a suitable apology. Being called out again, he said—"Ye wis offended at me for takkin' me bawbees wi' me last time. Weel, this time A'll leave them on the table. There's jist three poun' sax an' echtpence there. The speaker declared that he told his story to a fellow-Aberdonian, a University professor, and got the reply—"I don't see much in that story, What else could he have done?"

GRAFTED RACEHORSE EXPERIMENT

Apparently a Success

Paris, Nov. 18.—It is announced that, so far as can be ascertained, the recent experiment of grafting a well-known French racehorse from another, after the Voroneff method which was reported in a despatch some weeks ago, has proved perfectly successful, writes the correspondent of the "Morning Post." The animal that was the subject of the experiment was again put into training on Friday afternoon, and is apparently in the best of condition. The wound has completely healed, and the horse is feeding well. The horse from which the graft was taken returned to training over a week previously.

Racing experts are watching the grafted horse with the keenest interest, and intense curiosity is being displayed as to what his performance will be like when he returns to the racecourse. . . .

Berlin Strikers Against Lower Wages

Berlin, Jan. 3.

One hundred Berlin metal factories are at a standstill as a result of a lockout of 130,000 workers who refused to consent to a reduction of wages.—Reuter.

Swiss Boycotted in Russia

Geneva, Jan. 4.

As a reprisal for the acquittal of Conradi, the alleged assassin of the Bolshevik envoy, M. Vorowsky, not only have Swiss citizens been expelled from Russia but a rigid boycott of Swiss goods has been proclaimed throughout Russia.—Reuter.

The Speculation in Francs

Paris, Jan. 7.

The Minister of Finance, submitting the Cabinet proposals to check the speculation which has been responsible for the fall of the franc, says that the Paris Bourse is overrun by undesirables and must be purged.—Reuter.

Admiral Sir Percy Scott Seriously Ill

Malta, Jan. 7.

Admiral Sir Percy Scott, who arrived at Malta on December 28 and was staying at the Hotel Valetta, has been taken to the naval hospital at Bighi seriously ill. It is believed that he is suffering from asthma.—Reuter.

Dutch Steamer Disabled

London, Jan. 7.

It is reported from Soller (Majorca) that the Dutch steamer Rondo, from Hamburg to Macassar, is disabled at Latitude 45.32 North and Longitude 7.50 West. —Reuter.

Foreign Goods the Soviet Stole

Paris, Jan. 5.

According to the newspapers the entire Soviet commercial organizations will be temporarily closed and transferred to London in the near future in consequence of the recent decision of the Seine Tribunal that goods nationalized by the Soviets belong in the eyes of French law to their original owners.—Reuter.

Quill Pens Return to Their Own

Leipsig, Nov. 20.

Germans are returning to the use of the quill because of the high cost of steel pens. An ordinary steel pen now costs 200 million marks, and is beyond the reach of many Germans.—Reuter.

U. S. Railway Claims on Government Settled

Washington, Jan. 4.

The Director-General of Railroads, Mr. Davis, announces that a settlement has been reached amounting to $1,696,000,000 in respect of all claims arising from the Government's control of the railways during the war.—Reuter's American Service.

Persian Crown Jewels Sold to Build Railways

Teheran, Jan. 3.

The Government has decided to sell part of the Crown jewels and other valuables to raise money for the construction of railways.—Reuter.

Canada's Welcome to British Immigrants

[illegible], Jan. 4.

Arrangements have been made with the transport companies to grant preference of 20 per cent. on the trans-Atlantic rate for all British immigrants settling in Canada.—Reuter.

French Import Duty on Corn Relaxed

Paris, Jan. 6.

In consequence of the rising price of wheat, following the adverse exchange, the Government has suspended the increase in the import duty on corn, which varied with the rates of exchange. —Reuter.

The Dutch Cabinet

The Hague, Jan. 7.

On account of the unsuccessful efforts to form a new Cabinet, the Queen has declined the resignation of the Ministry.—Reuter.

Britain's Unemployed

London, Jan. 9.

The unemployed in Britain on December 31 totalled 1,250,000, an increase of 113,000 as compared with December 17, probably due to the discharge of temporary hands employed at Christmas, but a decrease of 235,778 as compared with January 1 last year.—Reuter.

Glasgow's New Dock

London, Jan. 8.

The Clyde Trustees have obtained Government assistance to provide a new dock at Glasgow, to be the largest in Britain, at a cost of £2,000,000. Construction will commence immediately.—Reuter.

The British Empire Cruise

Durban, Jan. 9.

The light-cruisers participating in the Empire cruise departed on January 5 after a very successful visit. The battle-cruisers arrived on January 6 and departed in the same evening.—Reuter.

Immigrants in America

Washington, Jan. 8.

Replying to a question from the Immigation Committee, Mr. C. E. Hughes, Secretary of State, stated that the establishment of a government inspection service in foreign countries for selection of immigrants would be difficult without new treaty agreements.—Reuter's American Service.

Sir Ellis Kadoorie's Bequest to Palestine

Jerusalem, Jan. 10.

It is officially announced that the British Government has accepted a bequest of approximately £100,000 by the late Sir Ellis Kadoorie of Hongkong to be expended for the benefit of Palestine.—Reuter.

Sinclair Oil Concession

New York, Jan. 10.

The Moscow correspondent of the "New York Times" says the huge oil concession granted to the Sinclair Oil Company of New York was conditional on the Company making the Soviet Government a loan of $250,000,000. Hitherto the Sinclair Company has not complied with the Russian demands.—Reuter's American Service.

Rhineland Separatists

Paris, Jan. 9.

As a result of British representations on the subject of the Separatist movement it is announced that an inquiry will be made on the spot by the Rhineland High Commission.—Reuter.

Prince of Wales in Paris

London, Jan. 9.

The Prince of Wales has left for Paris for a few days' visit, travelling as the Earl of Chester.—Reuter.

Communist Propaganda in America

Riga, Jan. 9.

Moscow despatches state that many leaders of the Central Communist Committee are advocating the cessation of attacks on M. Trotsky, emphasizing the necessity of preserving unity at all costs. Nevertheless the "*Pravda*" is continuing its campaign. The paper states that M. Krestinsky, the Soviet representative in Berlin, has joined the opposition to the Central Committee.—Reuter.

Kyosei Maru Abandoned When Sinking

London, Jan. 9.

A telegram from Seattle states that the Kyosei Maru, which was reported in a sinking condition at Lat. 49°.30'N., Long. 174°.10'E., by the Empress of Russia on January 5, has been abandoned. The crew were taken off by the American steamer President McKinley. The Kyosei Maru was bound for Yokohama from Victoria, B.C.—Reuter.

The Deadlock in the American Senate

Washington, Jan. 9.

The deadlock existing in the Senate since the opening of the session has been ended by the election of Senator Ellison D. Smith of South Carolina (Democrat) as Chairman of the Inter-State Commerce Committee, thus permitting the Senate to enter into its full functions. — Reuter's American Service.

M. Trotzky's Political Illness

Helsingfors, Jan. 9.

Moscow newspapers report that M. Trotzky has been ordered to take two months' rest. The news has caused a sensation in the capital, where it is believed that his illness is partly political.—Reuter.

A Munificent Gift

Brussels, Jan. 9.

The Detroit industrial magnate, Mr. Raphael Herman, has given $1,000,000 to establish an international university in Brussels. Reuter.

The White Slave Traffic

Rome, Jan. 9.

A decree has been published enforcing the Paris Convention for the suppression of the white slave traffic and also the International Convention of Geneva of 1921.—Reuter.

Communist Dissension in Russia

Washington, Jan. 9.

Attorney-General Daugherty today formally declared that the Department of Justice had abundant evidence to back up the State Department's recent statement concerning Communist propaganda in the United States.—Reuter's American Service.

Germany and Inter-allied Military Control

Berlin, Jan. 9.

Resumption of inter-Allied military control will be effected during the present week, following an announcement that the Government has taken measures to facilitate the Control Commission's visits on January 10 and 12.—Reuter

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

THE ASSASSINATION OF HERR HEINTZ

Cowardly Attack in an Hotel: Several Innocent Guests Killed or Injured

Mayence, Jan. 10.

An eye-witness of the assassination of Herr Heintz says that Herr Heintz, accompanied by a few friends, sat down to dinner at the hotel where he was staying. Half an hour later three youths entered and asked for Herr Heintz. They were conducted to the restaurant. One of them darted behind Herr Heintz's chair and fired repeatedly point-blank at his head. When Herr Heintz fell dead, the murderer continued firing wildly, mortally wounding one of his victim's friends. The murderer eventually with his companions, all firing, walked out and escaped after mortally wounding two passers-by in the street and less seriously wounding a number of others.—Reuter.

Speyer, Jan. 10.

In connexion with the shooting of Herr Heintz, serious collisions took place last night between the Separatists and the populace which resulted in five persons being killed.—Reuter.

Inquiry to Be Instituted.

Later.

The assassination of Herr Heintz, presumably by Nationalists, draws fresh attention to the doings of the Separatists in the Palatinate, which are the subject of serious preoccupation in British official circles. The Separatist flag still flies over many town halls in other parts of Germany, but it is apparently only in the Palatinate that anything like a serious Central Separatist Administration has been established under the title of "The Government of the Autonomous Palatinate," while the Separatists are the *de facto* governing authority in every Palatinate town. The reported action of the Rhineland High Commission in accepting orders issued by the Separatist Palatinate administration is interpreted as practically official recognition. It is stated that the British *demarches* have now led to the decision to institute an inquiry on the spot by delegates of the inter-Allied Commission.—Reuter.

Separatist Censorship.

Berlin, Jan. 10.

Germany is practically depending upon London and Paris for news of the Speyer affair. Presumably the Separatists have established a strict censorship and it is known that they have arrested a number of prominent Germans in the Palatinate as hostages.

The newspapers comment furiously on the French supporting the Separatists and point out that the Bavarian Government had issued a warrant against Herr Heintz for high treason.—Reuter.

THE LITTLE ENTENTE CONFERENCE

Proceedings Likely Further to Complicate the European Political Problem

London, Jan. 10.

The conference of Little Entente Powers opened at Belgrade to-day.

Much attention is given to the conference as likely to illustrate new groupings further complicating the European problem.

The chief subjects on the agenda are the financial reform of Hungary, recognition of Russia and the treaty between France and Czecho-Slovakia, but that French policy will dominate the proceedings is apparent from an article in the inspired Belgrade newspaper "*Vreme*," which says that the first question for consideration will be renewal of the treaty with France, "which is destined to become the axis of Continental politics," and adds that the introduction of Russia to European politics comes next.

It is noteworthy in this connexion that it is announced in London that the British Government has hitherto received no answer to its inquiry as to how far the liens to which Poland, Yugo-Slavia and Rumania are subject as succession States are likely to be affected by the loans recently concluded between them and the French Government, but it expects that the conference will formulate a joint reply to the inquiry.—Reuter.

*** The Little Entente consists of the states of Czecho-Slovakia, Yugo-Slavia, Rumania and Poland. The interest in its doings is heightened by the recent treaty between France and Czecho-Slovakia.—Ed.

BRITISH SUBMARINE SUNK AT SEA

Collision with Battleship in Fog During Naval Spring Manœuvres

London, Jan. 10.

An Admiralty message says that the submarine L-24 has been lost off Portland Bill, it is feared with all hands.

It appears that the L-24 was exercising with the Atlantic Fleet, which left Portland this morning for a three-months' cruise and manœuvres. The cause of the accident is as yet unknown.

Later.

The L-24, which carried a crew of 30, collided with the battleship Resolution off Portland Bill.

A lighter specially adapted to raise submarines is being rushed to the spot to try to salvage the L-24. The latter is a modern vessel, one of the 32 submarines laid down between 1917 and 1922.

The disaster occurred in a fog after the vessels of the Atlantic Fleet had opened into the Channel beginning their spring cruise.

Little Hope for the Crew.

It is officially estimated that the L-24 is lying 30 fathoms deep 11 miles south of Portland Bill.

Little hope is entertained for the crew who might, however, survive 48 hours if able to close the water-tight compartments.

The submarine was apparently rammed by H. M. S. Resolution in a mist during a very heavy swell.

A diving party will descend early in the morning.—Reuter.

RUHR INDUSTRIALISTS AND REPARATIONS

Herr Stinnes' Scheme for Deliveries in Kind Under Long Term Contracts

Paris, Jan. 10.

Interviewed by a representative of the "*Journal des Debats*," Herr Hugo Stinnes said that the Ruhr industrialists had agreed to pay reparations for the Reich until April 15, after which they could not continue.

He outlined a scheme for deliveries in kind as a subsequent form of settlement, and advocated that the Reich should pay German notes to factories for deliveries under long term contracts to Allied industrialists, who would pay their respective Governments for them. Such payments would be written down to the Reparations account. The Reich would ensure repayment to the industrialists by allocation of revenue from certain taxes.

Herr Stinnes was optimistic of a solution of all difficulties if the plan were adopted, adding that the alternative to a sound Franco-German agreement was war.—Reuter.

STREET ARTISTES IN LONDON

Race of Optimistic Ex-Servicemen: No Hurdy Gurdies or Performing Bears

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Nov. 22.

The usual winter minstrel is with us. He is always most in evidence about Christmas but, nowadays, he does not so circumscribe his activities as only to appear about that time because the conditions are then against him owing to the ubiquity of the noisy small boy who, scorning the words of the old carols, sings two or three lines hurriedly of any old thing which comes to him, rings the doorbell of the nearest house to ask for largesse and then bolts.

I suppose the average carol singer does know the words of something—or did know them once upon a time—but in any case he has forgotten them long since for he never retails them in any intelligible form. The discord he makes is embarrassing to the ordinary street singer who is an Artiste (large "A" and final "e" please, Mr. Printer.) At least most of the street singers are and I hedge a little because we have so many. There are the barrel organ experts—one couple are sailors or at least wish to be taken as such inasmuch as they wear no caps, which is a distinguishing mark of the bold ex-A. B., and two others are supposedly an ex-Serviceman and wife with their own or with someone else's family, for it is impossible to be quite sure on the point. There is also a fine well-set up naval petty officer who turns the handle with a rather pathetic weariness; he is not more than 35 but I suppose an out-of work of some kind or other.

Next comes the lady with a violin—she is a regular executant on the kerb for hours on end and presumably finds it pays. Twice a week a gentleman turns up with a big harp—has done so for years; he plays very well and one's only regret is that his repertoire is somewhat limited. Dragging round a harp of the size he favours must be a tough business but he is usually sitting on the pavement so he gets incidentally a rest. Then off and on comes a small ex-servicemen's band—about five, with one playing a portable piano and yet another with a megaphone attached to a sort of saxophone. They make things hum a bit. One hardly ever sees in casual vocalists—their nature is legion. They sing everything from hymns to the latest songs including—"Who tied the can to the old dog's tail" and it "mingles" curiously with the strains of a rival artist round the corner who is giving us "Hark the Herald Angels." I am bound to admit that Angels, like everybody else, seem to start early in getting ready for the festive season.

One wonders often how all these artistes live. Well, I fancy; otherwise, they would not be so numerous or frequent certain districts so regularly. In South Kensington there is a quite mistaken impression among street artists that directly a vocalist "opens up" on any doorstep the householder will rush out and fill the vocalist's hat with gold. Really the view is quite erroneous. Probably it is a bad day which does not yield about five or six shillings net, unless Aunt Jane up from the country meets any of them in the street and then you can add to your reckoning a florin or half a crown in addition.

PUNCH AND JUDY.

Now you do not get Punch and Judy in the better-class districts. Do get this off the streets—the busy streets in the Bloomsbury district where there seem to be so many children that you wonder where on earth they put them all at night. Although I have spent many years in London I have never seen Punch ask for any material return for his show and frankly I have never seen anyone give or offer anything. Still he cannot do it for the love of the thing.

Of course even in respect of street music our tastes change. The German Band has gone. It went home to fight and the harsh and cruel Home Secretary has not allowed what there may be left of it to come back. It is 10 years since I saw a hurdy gurdy, and the monkey and the performing bear are no more. There are sometimes off the Charing Cross a couple of wrestlers or tumblers—probably from their look ex-service men for they are quite young. Occasionally but rarely you see a street conjurer. The veiled woman vocalist has vanished. Perhaps she has a more paying job. I hope so, for in this cold, wet and stormy weather street entertaining must be a sore trial to the physical energies of any one. Broadcasting from little barrows is appearing but I doubt if it "catches on."

I was just going to say the "waits" are no more. But no! It would not be truthful. Distant sounds warn me not to be too precipitate.

CHOOSING A CANDIDATE

Some Election-time Comedies: Free Importing Homily a Protectionist Triumph

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Nov. 28.

There are people who think the average candidate gets chosen—and elected—because of his eminent fitness for the job of legislating in Parliament, but, alas, it is not so. It is the candidate who has to be careful. They were selecting a young man to stand at an election and had duly requested him to come forward and champion the cause. He replied to the deputation, "Gentlemen I am much honoured, but you must give me a few days' delay as I wish to go home and examine my family ticket. They did not know what he meant and they did not like to ask him so they assented, and the young man departed for the family seat and summoned his father. "Father," he said, "I've been invited to stand for Blankshire, but I've asked for a few days' grace before replying, as I wish to examine our family ticket." "My boy," answered the older man, "I've no objection, but perhaps you'll tell me what you mean by examining the family ticket." "Well," said the young man, "it's like this, I want to know if there's anything likely to come up against me at the election. . . whether you've any family skeleton, any blot on the escutcheon, anything you particularly don't want to see the light. Because if there is I think I'd rather decline the invitation if you don't want it brought up since it's sure to be if I stand."

CO-RESPONDENTS BARRED.

As a rule a constituency will swallow anything as long as you are not a co-respondent or have been one, or done something which landed you in the dock in the far away time. You can have been a co-respondent, but it must have been in your very youthful days and at a time when you can now plead the innocence of youth. You will have all the Unco Guids up against you, but the women—most of them—will in the circumstances overlook it. There are of course serious politicians, but there are others who treat the matter quite light-heartedly.

Outside the Labour ranks there are plenty quite as ready to fight on one side as on the other. Inside the Labour ranks there are many who are there because they are disgruntled at failure to perceive their merits in other quarters. Some on the other hand are pushed into it.

There is a Member of Parliament well-known to residents in the Far East who has married a lady who has a sister who also is married to another man of some position and repute. To the latter lady came the former and suggested that she ought to "jump" her husband also into the position of a legislator. So she went home and gave the poor man a curtain lecture and now he is a candidate. That's how they make them.

"MADE IN AUSTRIA."

Of course, there are many slips between the cup and the lip. It was in Wales that a candidate was being asked to address the local executive. He gave a great oration and finished up with the peroration:

Gentlemen, I resume my seat in the full and sure confidence that this country which has built up its great past on the sound principles of Free Trade and unrestricted imports will never desert the doctriness of our Mighty Cobden, that you will send to Parliament a Member who will champion those doctrines to which you are, I am sure, as attached as I am, and I may add that if your choice falls on me you will find me take my stand immovable on the strength of the views on which we all have been brought up on and loved from our earliest years.

Then he sat down and the chair promptly collapsed under him and when somebody picked up the bottom of the treacherous article he read, "Made in Austria." Of course, in Wales where humour doesn't run very strongly—at least in the backwoods—they couldn't select him after that.

I always like the idea of the local association picking the best man. That is, of course, the popular idea. What really happens is that when a candidate is wanted the association discuss the names of all the chief local men. If it is a "soft snap" all want to stand and all object to each other. So in despair they apply to Headquarters. Now Headquarters has a system of its own.

HOW IT IS REALLY DONE.

It can really be reduced to very simple form:

A Munificent subscriber to the Party Funds—a Safe Seat.

A Substantial subscriber—a Fairly Safe Seat.

A mediocre Subscriber—an odds even seat.

Poor but Brilliant—A odds against seat.

Poor enthusiastic but not brilliant—Any old seat.

So now you know how it is done by all. In the case of Labour I should say the most "pushful gents" collar the best that are going and leave the rank and file to sort out the rest. In the case of the others the Headquarters suit the seat to the payer.

There are naturally other types. There are always Nomination Day candidates—men who like to fight an election when all the arrangements are made for them. They appear as "surprises" and run a circus-like election which sometimes comes off and sometimes doesn't. There is the man with nothing better to do—with the hope to become an M. P. and trade on the title for business purposes. What you really need at elections is—money. Lots of it! The poor politician would be happier at a crossing. He would certainly have more self-respect by handling a broom.

SNUFFED OUT!

The Decline of a Fashionable Habit

One of the old snuff mills at Junpier Green, Midlothian, which has been working for more than two centuries, has ceased operations owing, it is stated, "to the decline of the snuff habit." But, though there is still a demand for such modern varieties of snuffs as Prince's-Mixture, S.P., and Kendal Brown, snuff-taking, a representative of "The Observer" was informed recently at Messrs. Fribourg and Treyer's, practically died out during the reign of Queen Victoria.

Snuff of the present day, the late Mr. George Evans wrote in his history of the firm, gives no idea of what it once was and bears no comparison to that of former years. Its fragrance was derived by careful blending of snuffs made of various tobaccos, and not by the addition of scents or essences.

George IV., who gave his patronage to the firm, had several snuffs associated with his name—King's Morning Mixture, King's Evening Mixture, King's Plain, Carolle, for example. The most expensive snuff in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century was known as Spanish Bran, the price being £3 a lb. It was sold in conjunction with a phial of Vinagrillo, an aromatic rose-scented vinegar of Spanish origin.

There was also a curious old snuff known as Spanish Sabillia, in the form of fine powder of brick-red hue. It was used as tooth-powder and had the reputation of keeping away neuralgia. For more than a hundred years people thought very highly of it, but since 1890 it has been impossible to get it.

The usual prices of snuff at the earliest period recorded were 3s. 6d., 5s., and 7s. a lb., and they gradually rose to 6s., 8s., and 11s. Half an ounce a day used to be considered a very moderate allowance, and below the average.

Whether snuff-taking was a nice habit or not greatly depended, says Mr. Evans, on the taker. When carried to excess it certainly was objectionable. Snuff, however, was without doubt surrounded with a great amount of elegance. The faded ledgers of the firm show how general was its use a century and more ago among those of high standing. Ladies were often snuff-takers, the fashion being set by Queen Charlotte and the Princesses Charlotte and Elizabeth. Dignitaries of the Churches, both of England and Rome, several of the Popes, and most of the great families of England were amongst the customers supplied by the Old Snuff House in the Haymarket.

A NEW FORTH BRIDGE

£3,000,000 Project under Consideration

A writer in "Engineering" says:—

The erection of a road bridge across the River Forth, east of the present railway bridge, but converging towards it at North Queensferry, has been proposed by Mr. J. Ingles Ker, as a means of linking up the thoroughfare to the North of Scotland. It would connect up the road route from Dover to John o' Groats, and would greatly increase the usefulness of the bridges contemplated at Berwick-on-Tweed and at the Tay. In addition, should the scheme be carried out it would certainly enhance the value of the new highway between Glasgow and Edinburgh by giving direct connexion with Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Perth and Dundee.

The details of the construction have now been worked out and were submitted by Mr. Leitch of Messrs. Leitch & Sharpe, of Glasgow, at a meeting recently at South Queensferry. The road on the proposed bridge would have a width of 53 ft., consisting of two 9-ft. footpaths at the sides and a 40-ft. roadway. From a point on the public road from Edinburgh to South Queensferry which is 150 ft. above high water level, this being about the height of the present railway bridge, it was proposed to run out an embankment of about 200 yards length. At the end of this a masonry abutment would support the girders of the first span of the approach viaduct, and this viaduct would be carried over masonry piers for a distance of 560 yards to the south pier of the suspension bridge.

The central portion, it was suggested, should consist of two spans of 2,400 ft. each, and support would be provided on a central pier on Inch Garvie. A similar viaduct to that on the south side, but of 660 yards length, would extend from the north pier to the face of the whinstone quarry workings at Carlingnose, and the road would be continued for about 50 yards to join the existing public road at North Queensferry. The construction was estimated to cost between £2,500,000 and £3,000,000, and would take five years for its completion.

REPORTING BY WIRLEESS

Interesting Lord Mayor's Banquet Experiment

Within a few hours of Mr. Lloyd George's declaration that wireless was going to revolutionize public speaking his prophecy was fulfilled to some small extent at the Lord Mayor's banquet.

As an experiment is broadcasting public speeches, the wireless transmission of Mr. Baldwin's reply to the toast of His Majesty's Ministers, was entirely successful, but the occasion was noteworthy rather for an experiment in reporting the speech by wireless.

As at the Guildhall Banquets of past years, every word the Premier uttered was faithfully recorded from his very lips, but the verbatim report published in the papers the following morning was that taken by wireless.

So clear was the wireless transmission that not half-a-dozen words were missed, and the newspaper offices had received the last typescript page of the report of the Premier's speech some time before it would have been available from the corps of reporters who attended the actual banquet.

GERMANS OFF TO AMERICA

Remarkable Exodus from the Fatherland

Conditions in Germany just now are responsible for a remarkable exodus to the United States. It is even easy for German women to enter the States—a condition which applies in less degree to other countries, since women are considered more of a responsibility upon the American nation than are men. The only reason that the German quota is not full is the enormous sum that it costs in German marks to buy the passage. This is a far more restraining influence than is the quota itself. Anybody, however, who has German relations in America is doing his best to go to them. German-Americans themselves are doing a great deal to help their relations by advancing the passage money. In places like Hoboken and Passaic and in the big German centres of the Middle West Germans are arriving almost daily from the Fatherland, some of them mere children. A great many Germans in Germany have taken up the attitude of trying to send their children to America, rather than make any effort to go themselves. Their German relations will often take one child, where to help a whole family would be impossible. With the fear of revolution, added to the hunger problem, German parents have in a large number of cases sent perhaps a little girl or a little boy with the full understanding that they are probably relinquishing their child for ever. In any case the child will grow up American, and Germany in the future will only loom up as a black memory.

On the whole, these prospective citizens are welcomed in America. If they are very young they will certainly grow up to be American citizens, probably of a valuable type. If they are older, they often have a technical education which makes them exceedingly valuable. Artisans of every kind find work readily, and while they are forbidden by American law to come to a ready-made job—lest they prejudice the opportunities of the born or naturalized American—jobs have a knack of turning up almost immediately after they have landed. Americans are exceedingly glad to secure the girls as maids, and for a time German girls are willing to accept such positions. This period does not last long, however, for they quickly find that they can earn money at occupations more congenial to them than the domesticity for which they are usually so well equipped. This exodus of German youth to America is likely to leave marks comparable with foreign invasions of England by the Hugenots or of Paris by the Russians.

OUR PARIS LETTERS

Gen. Metaxas in Paris: His View on Greece's Troubles: Venizelists "Unpopular"

From Our Own Correspondent.

Paris, Nov. 23.

Gen. Metaxas, one of the leaders of the opposition to the present Greek Government, has arrived in Paris, having evaded arrest. According to his own account, his escape was prosaic in its simplicity. While at Patras he received news showing that the rising had no chance of success. In the afternoon, some destroyers which had been sent to carry out what was magniloquently called the blockade of Patras, steamed into the harbour. As Gen. Metaxas was also informed that a price had been set upon his head, he thought it was about time to make a move. Accordingly he put on his hat and coat, strolled down to the harbour and asked which vessel was the first to leave. A small Norwegian cargo boat was pointed out to him. He hired a boat and was rowed out to her, passing close to the destroyers. He explained his position to the captain, who told him he had nothing to fear, and soon afterwards the vessel started without interference from the Greeks who were "blockading" the port.

Gen. Metaxas asserts that he had nothing to do with the preparation or management of the counter-revolutionary movement. The Government, he says, seized the opportunity to prosecute, or rather persecute the leaders of opposition. He thinks that the military movement failed because of the Venizelist opinions professed by the leaders, Generals Gargalidis and Leonardopoulos, the Venizelist party being now extremely unpopular in Greece.

As to the elections, which are to take place next month, Gen. Metaxas characterized them as a farce. The principal Opposition candidates, he said, are in prison or trying to escape the clutches of General Pangalos's Cretan mercenaries. Opposition newspapers are pitilessly squelched. The election laws have been arbitrarily altered. Refugees are being transformed into voters and will be marched to the polls under military supervision. At Patras the counter-revolutionary officers found 1,200 electors' cards, made out in the names of so-called refugees. In these circumstances, the present Government can easily obtain an overwhelming majority; in fact, there is no reason why it should not poll more votes than there are electors in the whole country. As for the change from monarchical to republican government, Gen. Metaxas says it is merely a mask for military dictatorship. There is no longer any constitutional government in Greece, and the consequences may be very serious for the rest of Europe.

According to Gen. Metaxas, the vast majority of the inhabitants are hostile to the present Government, whom he calls the "Athens tyrants," and the latter may resort to war as the only means of extricating themselves from internal difficulties. They are quite capable of setting fire to the inflammable material in the Balkans.

SECOND EMPIRE GLORIES.

M. Arthur Meyer, the veteran editor of the "*Gaulois*," who is certainly the most representative figure in French journalism, had a brilliant audience for his lecture—if so formal a word may be used—this week on the Second Empire, or rather on the Empress Eugénie and the ladies of her court. He sketched scores of celebrities with a light but sure touch. The Empress who reigned in virtue of her beauty, the aristocratic Princess Metternich who smoked cigars, the Princesse de Sagan, the Duchesse de Luynes, the Prince de Polignac, Barbey d'Aurevilly, the Marquise de Chasseloup-Laubat's masked balls, the Duchesse de La Trémoille's salons, where the wits of the day assembled. All these figures and scenes, and many more, were called out of the depths of time by M. Meyer's wonderful memory and descriptive powers. He told several anecdotes of the hostility of the Legitimists to the Empress, whom they regarded as a usurper and an upstart. One great lady, strolling along the sands of the seaside, between the sea and a cliff, saw the Empress coming and walked knee-deep into the sea so as not to have to salute her. The Tuileries, M. Meyer said, never fully represented French society, because the Faubourg St. Germain held aloof. M. Meyer is a good Royalist.

FALLING FRANCS.

Interesting indications as to the financial conditions governing the existence of a great number of the French people are contained in a report presented by the Finance Minister to the Finance Committee of the Chamber.

The index figures for the necessary expenditure of a working class family of four persons living in the Paris district have risen from 100 in 1914 to 249 in the third quarter of 1919, and 363 in the same quarter of 1920. They declined to 295 in 1921 and 289 in 1922, but rose to 331 in the present year. During the same period, the fluctuations in the retail of the 13 essential commodities were represented by 261 in November, 1919, 426 (the maximum) in November, 1920, 326 in November, 1921, 297 in November 1922 and 349 in October, 1923. On the other side of the account are the increases of pay granted to Government employees. A Customs examiner, living in a town of 150,000 inhabitants, whose pay in 1914 ranged from Frs. 1,254 to Frs. 1,584 now has from Frs. 5,220 to Frs. 8,380 according to whether he is a bachelor or the head of a family. A school teacher's salary, formerly between Frs. 1,600 and Frs. 2,900 is now from Frs. 6,120 to Frs. 11,880. A country postman, who received from Frs. 1,100 to Frs. 1,500 before the war, now begins at Frs. 4,520 and goes up to Frs. 6,380. High officials have had their salaries raised between 50 and 100 per cent. A director of primary education has Frs. 33,960 instead of Frs. 19,000 and a Government engineer and road surveyor has between Frs. 19,000 and Frs. 33,000 instead of from Frs. 10,000 to Frs. 12,000.

Customs and Costumes at the Opera: New Members of the Academie Francaise

Paris, Nov. 1.

The two new members of the Académie Française who take the places of the late M. Alexandre Ribot and M. Alfred Capus are a barrister, Maître Henri-Robert, and a scientific and literary celebrity, M. Estaunié. The former is a distinctly original type. He is the creator of a style which has caused a revolution in French forensic eloquence. Thanks to his example, the pleader who worked himself into a state of *larmoyant* convulsions over the hard fate of his client has gone out of fashion. The duel between the Public Prosecutor and the defence has become a series of rapier thrusts. A successful advocate in criminal cases has to be direct and incisive rather than theatrical and long-winded. Maître Henri Robert has obtained many an acquittal by an address lasting only half an hour. He has a charming voice and delightful diction. He speaks with the rapidity of a machine-gun, and very few of his bullets miss the mark. He disdains arguments designed to convince the jury, and he has a wonderful knack of putting before them everything that can appeal to their sense of pity. He practises eloquence without artifice.

The other new Academician, M. Edouard Estaunié, is an expert in electricity and holds the post of inspector-general under the Post Office. He is the author of text-books on sources of electrical energy and telegraphic communications, and he has found time to write several novels, in every one of which some moral problem is set forth and discussed with remarkable lucidity. The best of them are "L'Empreinte," to which the Academy awarded a prize more than a quarter of a century ago, and "La Vie Secrète."

WAR ON THE DINNER JACKET.

The war declared on the dinner jacket in modish male circles on both sides of the Channel has been carried to the *coulisses* of the Paris Opera. This garment, we are told, is to be altogether taboo, and the tail coat is to reign supreme. As to details of evening dress, however, certain differences of opinion prevail among the elect who are entitled to penetrate into the charmed land behind the scenes. The white bow and the black cravat of generous dimensions favoured by the beaux of the Second Empire both have partisans. Again, is the glossy silk hat or the crush hat to be the correct thing for evening wear? The former has the votes of most of the younger men, while some of the seniors are bringing out their long-forgotten gibus, which has much to recommend it on the ground of convenience. Then comes the question whether the silk hat should be worn straight or tilted back on the ears, or whether the gibus should be held in the hand or under the arm. After this we come to the waistcoat problem—full opinion or V-shape, piqué or silk, moiré or plain? Pitfalls always abound in waistcoat selection. But among all these shoals of doubt stands out the lighthouse of certainty about the coat. *It must have tails.*

The male subscribers, who alone are entitled to go behind the scenes of the Opera, want to keep up the impression that they are a special and privileged class, the fine flower of the citizens of the Third Republic, and of course this ideal cannot be attained without unwritten rules and traditions, customs and costumes. The dinner jacket is too free and easy, and we all want to forget the war days.

THE LINE OF BEAUTY.

Embonpoint is the greatest enemy of the Parisienne. Painters and dressmakers combine to preach the lesson that plump women cannot be beautiful, and that the ideal to be sought after is a slender, willowy figure. This is very trying for the large class of women who love their daily afternoon visit to a patisserie for tea (or chocolate) and cakes, which, as everyone knows, are frightfully fattening. To practice abstinence by mere strength of will is hard, and so the vast majority of women consult their doctors, or even specialists, in the hope of being entrusted with some secret or being told of some specific which will keep down their flesh without too much mortification. The specialist's consulting room is filled with society beauties, actresses and women who cut any kind of figure on the social stage, all waging war on their too, too solid flesh. He cuts off their port and chocolate and cakes in the afternoon, and the sacrifices imposed at luncheon are beyond belief. Sipping their mineral water and scowling at their dry sandwiches, women sadly discuss their weights and prospects. "I shall soon be a skeleton," says Antoinette. "I have lost eight pounds already, and by the end of the month it will be eight kilos, I expect." "Yes," replies Germaine, "and wasn't it awful to have to begin with three days without a scrap of food? I really don't know how I managed to hold out." If the craze continues, the salons of Paris and the fashionable receptions will be attended by crowds of spectres in gorgeous raiment, with no energy left for anything but talk. The only consolation is that the pendulum is sure to swing in the other direction sooner or later.

FASHIONABLE HAIRCUT FRS. 100.

As the season goes on, the cropped-head epidemic rages with increasing violence among Parisiennes, and all the fashionable coiffeurs who have acquired reputation in this branch of their art have long waiting lists. The ideal style of the moment is a close-shaven band on the nape of the neck, above which the cropped locks fall like a thick thatch, arranged to give considerable breadth to the top of the head as seen in profile. Mlle. Falconetti, a young actress who has made a hit in "La Fille Perdue" at the Théâtre des Arts and is already hailed as a future Réjane, has reduced all rivals to despair by coming out in what is admitted to be the finest specimen of the new style, and her coiffeur is of course much sought after. It costs Frs. 100 for a woman to get her hair cut properly, and as the operation has to be repeated at least once a month, the hairdressing fraternity has much cause to be grateful to the person, whoever he or she was, who introduced the new style. The most popular hair artist in Paris flies over to London every month to shear three or four up-to-date heads there, and soon all the chignons of France and England will be stowed away in the coiffeurs' boxes, to await the inevitable return to ringlets, coils or perhaps even buns.

CHINESE STUDENTS AT OXFORD

Mr. Chu Chao-hsin's Exhortations to the Young Brains Abroad

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Nov. 20.

Mr. Chu Chao-hsin, Chinese Chargé d' Affaires in London, last Saturday attended the dinner of the Oxford Chinese Society, when there was a large assembly of both Chinese students and guests.

He said they were expecting more Chinese students to come to this country in the near future. The British Government had been kind enough to promise the remission of the Boxer Indemnity for the use of education. Under this arrangement he was sure a number of Chinese young men and young women would be supported by the fund for studying in this country. He had no doubt when they came over they would not overlook Oxford, because Oxford gave a welcome to learning of all kinds and because it welcomed students from all over the world. Oxford was attractive because of the high standing of its professors, and also because of its tolerance of all classes and all creeds; because of its relative cheapness of instruction and its high traditions of life and ideals. All these characteristics which it had preserved would continue to attract the foreign students. Chinese students now studying in this Great University had, therefore, the great advantage of the suspicious opening of their lives and great opportunities of benefiting both themselves and their Mother Country.

In China they had no such excellent institution of learning as Oxford University. He well know, however, that Oxford was famous not only because of the instruction it imparted in modern sciences, but also because of its branches of culture in ancient of studies. In this connexion, he wished to call the attention of Chinese students to the fact that they belonged to an ancient country, which possessed historical culture and intellectual characteristics. While studying abroad and benefiting by the appreciation of ancient studies they must not neglect their own literature, history, philosophy, etc. Of course, it had been their object in coming here to learn the Western Arts and modern sciences in which they were lacking. They should appreciate what they learn abroad for practical application to Eastern conditions.

After describing the old examination ystem in China, Mr. Chao said it was a good thing in the olden days when China's door was closed to the outside world, but it was rather out of use in these modern days in which sciences were needed in every branch of life. But, he felt it was unjustifiable to abandon entirely the old college system and examination system. From his conservative point of view he would say it would be advantageous to China to copy the system of Oxford University, which would suit China far better than the new system she had adopted.

It was and would be their duty to furnish in return something which could be beneficial to the Western world. In other words, they should make their intellectual studies better known to the West. They should adopt the principle of reciprocity mutual assistance in intellectual co-operation with the whole world. "By doing so, I am sure, we shall bring about a still better understanding and a still closer relationship between China and the whole world in general and between China and Great britain in particular."

BRIDES OF THE EAST

In China and Arabia

Some months ago the descendant of the Chinese emperors was wedded in Peking to the daughter of a Manchurian duke. Now that China is a republic, one might have expected a loss of interest in such an event. But presents streamed in from every corner of the vast country, and the President himself was represented by a particularly handsome one, accompanied by a letter in his own hand, carried by a special messenger. The procession was as elaborate as on any previous occasion, and many of the roads in Peking were strewn with the yellow "imperial" sand. In accordance with old custom, two secondary brides were given to the prince, in order to secure the succession, and one of these, a young and beautiful noblewoman, came forward voluntarily.

Turning to the account of a wedding in high circles in Arabia,, utterly different customs prevail. Very early marriages are frequent, and the bridegroom has to pay his father-in-law a sum which may be very high. The marriage is arranged entirely by the parents of the parties, and the bride remains invisible. In order to obtain an idea of her features, the bridegroom engages an old woman to go and see her bathing. This intelligent person is paid, however, by the bride's parents, and her account of the young lady's beauty, couched in language of Eastern floral exuberance, bears an exact relation to the amount which has been paid her.

The festivities begin immediately the "purchase-price" has been paid, though the contract was legally binding long before, as soon as the agreement was signed. Banquets in the bride's house follow one another, with many dishes especially required by convention, such as toasted mutton-kidneys, pheasants, artichokes. Dancers entertain the guests and are frantically applauded. The music, on drums, bagpipes, and flutes, seems to European ears very inharmonious. The bride and her companions sit meanwhile in upper chambers behind close lattices and look down on the party.

On the actual wedding day the bride fulfils old custom and bathes seven times; she is then carried in a palanquin seven times round her parental home. Accompanied by male guests, who cry to Heaven at every corner to preserve her, and who shoot an astonishing quantity of powder into the air from their rifles, she is now taken to the bridgroom's house, and on entering it is given a dish, a slice of bread, and a date, to indicate that she shall never want under this roof. Here, too, there is a banquet, and now, seven days after the beginning of the wedding ceremony, withdrawing into an inner room, the bride removes her veil, and the bridegroom sees her for the first time in his life. The old woman, one would imagine, keeps out of his way.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

NUMBERING THE DAYS

A Sermon Preached in Union Church, Shanghai, by the Rev. A. N. Rowland, on December 30, 1923

"So teach us to number our days that we may get us an heart of wisdom. Psalm 90.12 (R.V.)

If we read this psalm carefully we shall see that the psalmist was moved to this prayer by considering the frailty and brevity of human life. How small a man feels himself in a storm at sea, or in the solitude of a desert, or on a snowy mountain peak! Yet it is remarkable that when a man feels himself so small he also knows himself to be unspeakably precious. The reason is, I think, that though space may seem to overwhelm him by its vastness he still has to give account of time. When a man is drowning it is said that he passes the years of his life in review, because the way he has spent his time is a very part of him. Well may we pray "So teach us to number our days that we may get us an heart of wisdom!"

TYPES AND WISDOM.

I find three stages of thought behind this prayer. (1) True wisdom consists in the right management of life. (2) The right management of life requires the light of the common day. (3) The light of the common day is only given to the teachable heart.

First then, true wisdom is closely concerned with behaviour. That is what the Jews believed. That is what the Bible teaches. The wise men of the East were astrologers: the wise men of Greece were philosophers. But the Jews had their own type of wise men, as we see from a sentence in Jeremiah (c.18, v. 18) "The law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wiser nor the word from the prophet." In the Old Testament the wise men are represented by Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job. These teachers were not given to the study of nature or thought as with the Greeks. They believed that "the proper study of mankind is man," their wisdom kept close to conduct and the art of living. Their knowledge was practical—*savoir faire* as the French say.

Thus the Jew had scant respect for the Greek wisdom which tended to sophistry (just as his own righteousness turned to scrupulosity). It was the Jew in Paul as well as the Christian who denounced it in the opening of his first letter to the Corinthians. Dostoyevsky expressed a similar contempt for the Russian intellectuals. "You think yourselves true Europeans" he wrote, "but at bottom you have no culture. The people whom you propose to civilize with your Utopias is much more civilized than you, through Christ, before whom it kneels and who has saved it from despair."

But if we keep in mind the Jewish type of "wise man" we can see that our Lord fulfilled this role as truly as he stood in the line of the prophets. His Sermon on the Mount is full of pithy comments; and pointed sayings on human society. His brother James was the "wise man" in the New Testament, taking wisdom rather than faith as the keyword of the new religion. And see how practical was his idea of wisdom "It is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits." From the Bible standpoint the Christian faith is the embodiment of the true wisdom: it teaches and enables us to put the best into life and so get the most out of life. Thus Paul could say of his Lord, "Christ is made unto us Wisdom," and it is evidently a Christian prayer that we may be taught to get "heart of wisdom."

OUR DAY BOOKS.

(2) But if the right management of life is the true wisdom *it depends upon the light of the common day.* "So teach us to *number* our days," not pick out the festivals and red letter days. Any day may yield us some knowledge of the weakness of our nature, the treachery of our heart, the value of sympathy, the joy of doing good, the inexhaustible patience of God, and so put wisdom in our heart. Men study their day book at the end of the year with their eye on investments and the profit and loss account. But the larger day book is worth reading too, with its lessons that have come through our labour, our temptations, our friendships, our responsibilities and other channels that lie open day by day. There are many days that we count blank because they are marred by routine, or interruptions or disappointments, but from all of them we can win something of the real stuff of life.

And this brings us to a most important point. There is no unfair advantage to those who are lifted by good fortune above the ruck of common days, who can suit them to themselves with leisure and pleasure. It does not punish them with wisdom. Mr. Gladstone once said, "In almost every one of the big political controversies of the last 50 years—on the franchise, commerce, religion, slavery, these leisured classes, these educated classes, these titled classes, have been in the wrong." In the "Life and Letters of Walter Page," there is a pithy sentence to the same effect. "Our learned classes are the last to learn." I am not one to undervalue education, but we must beware lest we are hypnotized by the word. The education that does not get below a man's shoulders does not make for true wisdom. It is the whole man that needs to be drawn out and disciplined, not only his brain, and their larger education can only be given in the light of the common day, when the necessities of life call out all that a man has within him.

MINERS AND THEOLOGY.

Bishop Westcott was one of the most eminent theologians of the last generations, and all that the dons and books of Cambridge could give him he knew; but after some experience among the miners of Durban this is what he said, "The poor have much to teach us. They help us to understand the simplicity and breadth of human nature. Their experience throws light on the foundations of faith." That last sentence gives remarkable evidence, coming as it does from a great teacher for the value of the teaching of the ordinary day, but I will supplement it with another which also shows the dignity that may come to manhood through our common life.

Mr. Mason in his popular book called "Running Water" tells of a girl who after being subjected to the conventional training of a fashionable mother, got her chance of going to Switzerland. A mountaineer was telling her one day how the guides were willing to risk their lives for a stranger, and she could not understand it. (Indeed have *we* considered the implicit Christianity of such an act?) His friend replied, "I think these guides obeyed a law, not of any man's making, that what you know that you must do when human life is at stake." This is the wisdom of those who know the common life on the mountain side—who have the education of daily duty, and it makes a good deal of fancied wisdom look rather thin.

It is easy enough to lose heart at times because the days seem so common, so *ordinary* (that is, standing undistinguished in a row). They give us no chance to educate mind and imagination as we would like to do. It is right to have such a hunger, but what matters supremely is the education of the common day with its rubs and its wrestlings. The way we face our days makes us wise for life. What we are apt to call the ordinary grind is the sculpture of God. Life is a big lesson book and every day is a page from which we may get us a heart of wisdom.

But there is one more thing to be said. *The light of the common day is only given to those that are teachable.* In order to get the real value of our day we need to be taught. The wisdom is "from above" and as James says we have to pray for it. "So teach us to number our days." It is possible to have things before our very eyes without seeing them. A man will tramp through lovely scenery and only carry away an impression of the public houses he has visited. A motorist will flash through the countryside and only recall the sharp corner he had to negotiate. A traveller will cross continent and oceans and yet know no more of the world than what he has picked up at places that are seared by cosmopolitanism. You cannot know the country or the world by merely passing through them; you need to carry with you the wonder and expectancy of the child.

THE UNSEEING EYE.

So it is with our path in time through the common days. We may leave childhood far behind, pass through the midst of the years and arrive at old age without having gained much of life's wisdom, not knowing ourselves, not using our powers, not glad of our gifts, unable to win through the ordinary day with courage and good cheer. We need to have a teachable spirit in order to get the day's wisdom. The untaught man, misled by prejudice and opinion, walks in the circle of his own grievance, in the sparks of the fire he has himself created, and there is no illumination there.

We know what stands in the way. It is vanity and pride, it is self-will and selfishness. These clog and burden life with disappointment, disillusion and discouragement, which are simply the reaction of circumstance on a proud self-centred heart. But "to a surrendered soul" as someone has said "there can be no discouragement, for discouragement is only disenchanted egoism."

There is profound truth in the words "The meek will He guide in (their) judgment." Those who pray to be taught, in the spirit of children, who know they have everything to receive and that they are in the presence of a great Giver, these enjoy divine light in the common day and win a heart of true wisdom.

CHINA'S SEARCH FOR PEACE

II.—Reunification by Force: The "One Strong Man" Idea and Where It Breaks Down

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Dec. 31.

The idea of the "one strong man," who will exterminate rivals, suppress civil war in a business-like manner and will set up a strong and responsible Government on his own authority, undoubtedly appeals very strongly to the imagination of the foreigner in China. It is safe to say that the majority of foreigners in China are advocates of reunification by force. The minority, who do not believe in it, have little faith in the evolution of peace through violence because they have failed to find the one strong man or because they do not believe that sufficient force could now be mustered to whip all of China into shape within a reasonable time. That it would be possible for a competent military leader with a small but efficient army to reconquer all of China within a very short time, very few foreigners doubt. They not only believe but they know that any American, British, European or Japanese division commander with a knowledge of modern warfare could take five Chinese divisions, train them six months and, in another six months, be absolute master of China. There may, somewhere in China, be a Chinese who can and will do the same, and every time a Chinese general appears who seems to qualify he has the strongest possible moral support from the entire foreign community in China. Frequent disappointments have, however, made this community very sceptical.

A SERIES OF FAILURES.

Those who have been in China no more than a few years will remember how many high hopes have been fixed upon Yuan Shih-kai, Tuan Chi-jui, Chang Hsun, Wu Pei-fu and Chang Tso-lin. Even Tang Chi-yao, T'an Yen-k'ai, Li Lieh-chun, Chen Chiung-ming, Hsiong Keh-wu, Feng Yü-hsiang and Dr. Sun Yat-sen have at one time or another been hailed by foreign friends as potential conquerors. The writer has helped to hail quite a fair proportion of these worthies and has many times squirmed under the chagrin that is the portion of an apostle of a false prophet.

After each disappointment in a prospective "strong man" the foreign residents in China suffer a reaction and come to believe that nothing is possible except through compromise, conciliation and conferences. They remind themselves that these, after all, are the characteristic Chinese means of settling all difficulties and that we are battling against Chinese nature in supporting any other scheme. So, for a time, we talk a lot of constitutionalism, conferences, democracy through provincial representation, and what not. And then a new figure appears on the stage brandishing a shining weapon and we are all advocates of despotism again.

The Chinese are in many different minds about this question of the "one strong man." There are many sincere radicals who believe that it would be a reactionary step which would not only retard the progress of the country but lose China much "face" abroad if she were to abandon her Republican programme and frankly accept a dictatorship. There are many others who do not believe that a permanent reconquest of China is now possible and who believe that a peace founded upon violence would not be a lasting peace.

PEOPLE'S WISHES PLAN.

There can be no doubt, however, that the real people, the farmers, small merchants and artisans, regard democracy as a crazy innovation which has brought the country nothing but unrest and want a strong Government. They want this because Chinese history and tradition teach them that a strong Government in China does not mean that the people are subjected to the tyrannical molestation of the authorities, but that the weight of the heavy hand really falls upon the soldiers and the official caste, who are the traditional enemies of the people! The people are therefore ready in all sincerity to kow-tow to any man who will suppress civil war, restore order and put an effective check upon the soldiers and officials who loot them in the name of one "ism" or another.

There can be no doubt that Chinese history and tradition give full authority for reunification by conquest and the rule of a strong central Government; nor can there be any doubt remaining that the Chinese people want nothing else and are prepared for nothing else. The major doubt in the Chinese mind, as well as in the foreign mind, is as to whether there is anyone in the field who can conquer and rule. Everyone is tired of experiments. Everyone wants to be sure of the next "one strong man." Everyone agrees that there is no one on the stage at this moment who qualifies. What is wanted is not a temporary peace but a permanent peace. The Chinese therefore want a master who has not only the ability to fight his way to the top and the ability to administer affairs when he has got there but also a master whom the nation can respect. The Chinese people know that Tuan Chi-jui is old and vacillating in his policy and always the dupe of unscrupulous advisers. They also know that he enjoys no real military power. They neither fear nor respect him and they know that their enemies of the official and military castes him.

The Chinese people know that Tsao Kun's military power is dependent upon the whims and fancies of a dozen subordinates. They know his personality, like him, but do not respect him. The Chinese conqueror who does not command respect begins to fall before he has fairly risen.

WU PEI-FU'S WEAKNESS.

They know that Wu Pei-fu will not assume responsibilities. Wu Pei-fu's fighting qualities command respect. Every Chinese knows that if Wu Pei-fu were to take the field himself against Szechuan, Kuangtung or Chê-kiang, he could be the conqueror of China in less than a year. But this does not help much unless they are assured that the conqueror is ready to assume the responsibility of governing the country. This responsibility Wu Pei-fu is not willing to assume, as he has said and demonstrated many times. He can fight as no other modern Chinese can fight, and he commands the respect due the scholar and the honest man, but he does not guarantee the permanency of any peace which he might establish because he simply will not rule. In his little Liang-Hu bailiwick he has failed miserably to suppress banditry and keep the peace. Lao Yang Jen's doings in Hupeh are an everlasting blot upon Wu Pei-fu's career. He says that he creates opportunities by playing the part of a broom. He sweeps away the enemies of the people and expects in some vague way that good government will spring up in the wake of the broom and justify his campaigns. As a broom he has been splendid but in no case has the immaculate *régime* which he expected sprung up in his wake. He is a disgruntled man and the people, for whom he has made really heroic efforts, despise him. He came nearer than any Chinese in modern history to being the benevolent strong men and has failed most signally. All because he simply will not govern. Witness Lao Yang Jen.

Chang Tso-lin is one who has not conquered and who would not be respected if he did. The people of China think that Sun Yat-sen is mad and wonder why the foreigner does not cut short his career, failing to appreciate the foreigner's position.

The complete break up of Yuan Shih-kai's old Peiyang Army, which Tuan Chi-jui and Feng Kuo-chang inherited, the sad loss of discipline in all military units and the general demoralization of nearly all bandit-soldier and soldier-bandit units in China have made it extremely difficult for any god to emerge from the machine and restore order. Yuan Shih-kai and Tuan Chi-jui failed while the machine was still in fairly good working order. Wu Pei-fu built up a fairly efficient new machine and, having emerged from it, did nothing but enhance confusion. The "one strong man" who now emerges will be tremendously handicapped because what little there is left of the machine in running order is in incompetent hands.

AN IMPOSSIBLE DEMAND.

The restoration of peace by force and the violent reunification of the country are indicated clearly enough by history, tradition and modern conditions. China has never within the past 2,000 years achieved anything like voluntary cohesion. Chinese officialdom has never learned to behave except under coercion. The people of China are not yet ready to coerce their own official and military castes. That the latter need a boss very badly is beyond dispute. That the people need a despotic Government no one argues. The Chinese people require less governing than any people on earth, but they require more protection from their governors than most. At this juncture it would appear that no one can protect the Chinese people against their own parasitical official class (*plus* their bandit brethren) but a despot or an im-

DEATH OF PHILIPPE MILLET

A Distinguished French Journalist

The death occurred unexpectedly last month of Mr. Philippe Millet, the well-known foreign editor of the "*Petit Parisien*." He was only 43 years of age, yet had made himself a leading member of that group of French diplomat journalists who have won so extraordinary a position in France since the war. He had several advantages. He was the son of a former Resident General in Tunis, and was, therefore, as it were born into diplomacy. His English was perfect, and still more remarkable was his knowledge of the English mind, which is generally quite unintelligible to foreigners. Consequently, though he was a defender of French policy, he alone of French journalists could express himself in formulas suited for British, and particularly British Liberal consumption.

After Mr. Poincaré's "victory" in the Ruhr, he was rewarded with the Legion of Honour by the Quai d'Orsay in conjunction with Mr. Jean Herbette and other diplomatic journalists of the orthodox press.

Mr. Millet had been foreign editor of the "*Petit Parisien*" since 1921. A year before he had become political director of "*Europe Nouvelle*," a weekly paper of marked Liberal tendencies, yet in all essentials quite orthodoxly patriotic. For several years he contributed anonymously an important diplomatic article signed "Un Diplomate" to the Paris "*Midi*." His first important newspaper job was that of London correspondent of the "*Temps*." That was in 1909. Two years later he returned to Paris as colonial editor of the "*Temps*." At the outbreak of war he took part as a lieutenant in the battle of Charleroi, where he was wounded. Afterwards he became liaison officer with the British army, and finally in 1917, was made head of the British press propaganda service, a task for which he was peculiarly suited.

JAPANESE IN CALIFORNIA

Hard Hit by Anti-Alien Law

As a result of the decision of the Supreme Court upholding as constitutional the California anti-alien land laws prohibiting Japanese owning or leasing lands, it is estimated that 50,000 of the 135,000 Japanese in California will either migrate to other States whose laws are less stringent or return to Japan, writes the "Morning Post's" correspondent at Washington on November 14. Between a million and a million and a half acres of some of the richest agricultural lands in California now leased to the Japanese must revert to their white owners, and the great vegetable producing industry of the States—eighty per cent. of which for the last 10 years has been in the hands of Japanese—must be abandoned. The Japanese not only produced fruits and vegetables, which is one of the great industries of California, but also are engaged in dealing with such produce wholesale and retail.

Throughout California there are thousands of Japanese keeping shops, some of them small, but many of considerable importance, and in all probability the Japanese must retire from mercantile business of every description—as the law which the Supreme Court has sustained makes it illegal for Japanese to enter into leases for their places of business.

There are said to be in California 40,000 children born of Japanese parents, who, under American law, are Americans, because the place of birth determines citizenship. It is a question whether American children can be deprived of their property rights, even although their parents cannot legally possess property. There is nothing, apparently, that the Japanese Government can do, as the Supreme Court held that California laws do not violate the Treaty with Japan, and it is within the power of the State to restrict the holding of property by aliens ineligible to citizenship under the national laws.

EARL'S DAUGHTER SEEKS WORK

Problems as Radio Man's Wife: The Cost of Running the Home

Like most housewives of the present day, Lady Pleasance McKenna—the daughter of the Earl and Countess of Stradbroke who married Mr. Owen McKenna, the P. and O. wireless operator—finds herself confronted with the usual heavy list of household expenses. In order to meet this growing expenditure she is anxious to start an embroidery and dressmaking business in London.

Lady Pleasance and her husband (now employed in the Otaphone department of Marconi House), who met under romantic circumstances on a voyage from Australia to Burma, are now living in a small third-floor flat off Oxford-street.

Mrs. Turquand, of Albion house, New Oxford-street, W., who is helping Lady Pleasance with her project, told a "Daily News" reporter recently that the earl's daughter is an excellent embroiderer, and she is appealing to her old friends to help her in the scheme to maintain a home of her own.

"Lady Pleasance is quite happy," said Mrs. Turquand, "but she wants to start this little embroidery and dressmaking business in order to keep the new home going, and she hopes some of her friends will set the ball rolling by sending along a few orders."

SEA ROMANCE.

Mr. McKenna is a colliery waggoner's son, of Stane, near Shotts, a Lanarkshire mining village, where the young couple were married last May. It was said at the time of the wedding that Lady Pleasance's identity was not revealed to him until one day on the promenade deck of the P. and O. liner they exchanged autographs.

Lady Pleasance is the eldest daughter of the Earl of Stradbroke, the Governor of Victoria, who returned to the Antipodes after a visit to London in the spring.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE ARABS

Negotiations with King Hussein

Dr. Naji el Assil, who is back again in London as representative of King Hussein in connexion with the negotiations that have been proceeding for eighteen months regarding the treaty between the Governments of Great Britain and the Hedjaz, expressed himself to a representative of the "Morning Post" as hopeful of their outcome. It will be remembered that outstanding questions with the Arab Hashimite Kingdom have their origin in the agreements concluded in 1915, and cover a wide field, embracing the status of the Arab Provinces of the prewar Turkish Empire, including Palestine, Iraq, Transjordania, and the other States of the Arab Peninsula.

The Arab in conversation emphasized the necessity for the Arabs that the doubts which have arisen since the Armistice should be dissipated. He declares that neither King Hussein nor any other Arab questions the special interests of Great Britain in the Arab Middle East, though the Arabs, in the light of their own experience, are inclined to look with suspicion on the Mandates of the League of Nations. Such dissatisfaction as the Arabs have felt in the [illegible] from the fact that the Allies have not recognized the indubitable sentiments of national unity which were already in existence before the war and have been enormously strengthened by everything that has happened since. He agrees that it is premature to-day to talk of achieving a real Arab unity in Asia, but at the same time Arab policy never loses sight of that end. In such a movement the Hedjaz must always play a part, not the less important for being in some measure sentimental. The Arabs might have done some things which to the practised politicians of this country seemed odd, but they had learnt their lesson in the school of experience, and their policy was now based on the facts of the actual situation.

He added that he believed the friction which had occurred at the last pilgrimage between the Egyptian and Hedjazian Governments over the establishment of hospitals for the Egyptian pilgrims was much less acute, and he felt sure a settlement would be reached before next year's pilgrimage.

THE REAL BABY DOLL

Skeleton, Flesh, and Skin

Before the war the Kathe Kruse dolls, made by the wife of Herr Max Kruse, the German sculptor, had become famous all over the world, writes E. I. in the "Manchester Guardian." If they were not on sale in all countries, people in the most distant lands had read about them and seen pictures of the delightfully child-like little creatures. They are now being shown for the first time in England in Harrod's toy department, where Mme. Kruse may sometimes be found, ready to explain how she came to design them.

Herr Kruse had very definite ideas about the part dolls ought to play in a child's life. He also believed that young children learned a great deal through feeling things. He would not let his own seven small children play with the ordinary dolls, which were either hard all over or soft in the body with hard heads liable to fracture. So as the children must have dolls, the mother used to make them, at first in a very crude style of odds and ends of materials. Gradually she developed the idea of the dolls which now probably excel all other dolls. They have, she says, just like real babies, a skeleton, flesh, and skin. That is to say, the framework is of flexible wire which will stand any amount of bending about. The framework is wrapped around with padding which is carefully built up to the natural shape and covered, in the case of the more expensive dolls, with cloth which is water-proof but does not look it. Mme. Kruse makes a point of the fact that the heads are of the same material as the body. It is absurd, she thinks, to give a child a doll with a cotton body and a china or composition head.

The bodies are so flexible that they can be placed in any natural position. The doll baby can lie on its back and try to bite its toes, or it can lean affectionately against a toy sheep, its lissome body wrinkling just as a child's would do, its arms curved naturally about the toy.

MODELLED FROM LIFE.

Mme. Kruse employs about 200 people. The majority of them make the dolls' clothes—quaint, pretty costumes, all made by hand,—while 65 are employed in making the dolls. Each of these is individual. At first Mme. Kruse used her own children as her models, and every doll is still modelled from a living child. Some have plump, jolly little faces, others look so wistful that any small child would want to mother them. Mme. Kruse herself paints all the faces, and the dolls represent babies and children up to four years of age.

The most expensive dolls are 17 inches in height, but for younger children there are the rather smaller "dangler" dolls, whose arms are sewn on at the shoulder so that they can be swung loosely. Mme. Kruse has noticed that every artist painting a picture of a child with a doll makes the doll dangle limply. These "dangler" dolls are very cuddlesome, and Mme. Kruse thinks they are so much loved by small children that they help to develop the sense of motherliness, which to her idea is not developed enough in the world to-day.

The third type of doll is a tiny creature for a doll's house. Hitherto, while every care has been lavished on the rooms and the furnishing of doll's houses, the small people who live in them have been neglected. Any sort of stiffly-made doll would do provided it were small enough to match the chairs. The Kathe Kruse residents are expensive, but they are beautifully made, even to the separate tiny fingers. One little lady shown has a head modelled from Herr Kruse's bust of a pretty American girl. The body was modelled so carefully and was so flexible that it might have served as an artist's miniature lay figure.

FILMS INSTEAD OF VIVISECTION

How the Cat Always Falls on Its Feet

The possibility that vivisection may be largely eliminated by the use of cinema pictures of standard medical experiments is suggested by M. Henri Langier, a Paris professor. There are, he says, at least forty standard experiments now demonstrated with living animals which could be better explained to students by films.

"The greatest value of the film in medical instruction," said a London doctor to a "Daily News" reporter "lies in the use of ultra-rapid pictures.

"At an exhibition there was a short film of the falling cat experiment, showing how it is that a cat when dropped from a height always alights on its feet. The ultra-rapid camera records the movement of every muscle.

"Medico-films, too, are much more important than merely lessening vivisection. It should be possible for students to follow every phase of a disease."

THE PERFECT LIFE

20 Men Taking Pills for Two Months

Two groups of students, each comprising 10 men, are now engaged in living the perfect life at the Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia.

The phrase is that of the physicians. Other people might have other views.

For two months the 20 men are to be fed on pills. Some of the pills will be blank and others will contain small but powerful doses of drugs. The taker will be left in ignorance as to whether he has drawn a blank or a prize—at any rate, for a time. Each man will keep a diary and record from hour to hour the state of his feelings.

It is hoped that one of the groups may light on a drug of real therapeutic value, produced from some common herb or basic acid hitherto unutilized. The other hopes to obtain scientific data which will greatly increase the therapeutic value of a recently-discovered remedy.

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CHINA'S BABY RACE CLUB

What Liqueurs have Achieved in Honan: a Truly Sporting Venture in the Wilds

Form a Correspondent.

Chiaotso, Honan, Jan. 4.

Could serious racing be considered in the interior of China? The presentation of a cup, to be competed for in a cross-country race, was responsible for the question ever being raised at all. One must talk about something at the most interesting of dinner parties, but when one's fellow guests consist of members of a small community whose daily walk in life has for years past brought them into close contact with each other, some excuse can be found for the most absurd of table conversational topics.

A Race Club at Chiaotso, 40 miles from the "Nowhere" which constitutes the most centrally situated station on the Kin-Han Railway: A Race Club at a mining camp, tucked away on the central western border of the Province, on the foothills leading up to the plateau of Shansi, with a shifting population of some 60 foreigners—men, women, and children—one half of whom had never even witnessed a coast race meeting! It was a proposition sufficient, one would think, to deter the most optimistic of the half dozen or so enthusiasts, embryonic "Champions" owners, impelled by dreams of fabulous stakes to be won, the offspring of our host's most excellent cocktails and more excellent dinner. "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp; or what's 'the public' for!"

A DINNERTIME PROJECT.

And thus it happened. The Honan Race Club was conceived in a cocktail, laboured during dinner, and was born in a liqueur glass! It's projectors wisely deemed it necessary to interest as many uncles and aunts in the child as the community afforded, and to this effect a general meeting of the members of the staffs of the Pekin Syndicate, Ld., the C. G. Railways, Tao-Ching Line, and the Fu Chung Corporation, was called at the Honan Club on November 13, 1921. The touching eloquence of our well chosen chairman appealed to all hearts—and pockets—and the child was assured of a future ere it's swaddling bands, so to speak, were shed. A committee of five of its more prominent sponsors was promptly empowered to find a home for it, and to devise ways and means for its immediate evolution. By December 7, such had been the zeal of the elected few, that the site for a five furlong course had been secured in the immediate vicinity of the mines compound. Several mystified though somewhat arbitrary land-owners had been induced to listen to reason, and a further meeting of the community was assured that within the course of a few weeks the Honan Race Club would become *au fait accompli*. Surely enough, within three weeks, the course was declared open for training.

To those at the coast whose racing experience is restricted to watching perfectly trained ponies racing around a perfectly laid track, on perfectly level ground encircled by beautiful white railings, it would be as well to add that our ponies were discards from the coast, our course, owing to the hilly nature of the country, a slight imitation of a Bateman drawn billiard table minus the cloth, but with corners almost as sharp, and that a hedge, the chief feature of which appeared to be thorns of from two to four inches in length (said thorns played the very deuce with one's riding boots) usurped the place of rails. But the economic worth to the club of that thorn hedge can only be judged by those who, from a knowledge gleaned from years spent in the interior, know how it is the interpretation of *meum* and *tuum* in the mind of the wandering coolie. As it is, the hedge has provided fuel for many a fire for the poorer folk of the neighbourhood. What would have happened to loose rails?

THE FIRST GYMKHANA.

On January 7, 1922, the first inaugural gymkhana was staged. The latter word is used intentionally, inasmuch as it was afterwards discovered that an army of country folk, estimated by some to be 10,000 strong, had turned up in the hope of witnessing a circus! The only performance approximating to Western conceptions of the latter was that provided by local farmers and landowners in an event specially introduced for their benefit. About a dozen cart ponies were walloped around the course by their farmer owners to the huge applause of the multitude. It is to hoped that the stake money of $30 divided between the riders of the placed ponies compensated for the enforced rest of the animals after the race! As far as serious racing was concerned, owing to a dearth of ponies and the untrained condition of most, only two flat events were held. The races were run under catch weights and were won by two discards from Peking stables. The whole field participated in a cross-country event on the following day, the race being won by a member of the sporting community of Chengchow, Honan.

Cash sweeps and an improvised totalizator proved worthy of the attention paid by the committee to this commercial, though very essential, side of racing. The meeting resulted in a small nett profit to the club, much to the jubilation of its enthusiastic supporters. Our Chinese friends having shown a marked enthusiasm for the game, further meetings of the community were held and Chinese assistance to the committee voted, with immediate benefit to all concerned. The committee promptly decided to hold two official race meetings per year in accordance with the programmes of the older clubs at the coast.

By April, 1922, when the first official Spring Meeting was held, the club membership had grown to more than 70, both foreign and Chinese, and several prominent local Chinese had joined the ranks of the owners. Foreign owners were forthcoming from Peking and Chengchow, in addition to Chiaotso, and by the autumn of 1923 the field had increased to some 20 odd ponies, with a fair sprinkling of griffins. The $5 cash sweep ticket sales increased from about 400 chances for the first official Spring Meeting to 1,400 in the spring of the following year. This figure would have been considerably increased at the recent Autumn Meeting had not several lists destined for Kaifengfu, that "Corner House" of cash sweep winners, mysteriously gone astray. The club distributes 5,000 chances to about 150 points in the interior and on the coast. The work entailed in educating purely provincial Chinese up to an appreciation of the element of luck sometimes attached to the speculation of the nimble dollar is at last meeting with the success it merits. It was found necessary to explain in detailed Chinese on the back of each sweep list just exactly what the Honan Race Club was, the meaning of the term "Champions," why a cash sweep was held, and how it was drawn. Perhaps the finest explanation, however, rested in the fact that one sweep after another was won by Chinese. The only prize ever won in the big sweep by one of its Chiaotso foreign supporters amounted to $100 paid to him for drawing a qualified pony.

CHINESE ENTHUSIASM.

The meetings are attended by officials, both military and civil, from Kaifengfu and other large towns in the Province, and it is a fact worthy of note that a scheme, which in certain circumstances might justify condemnation, is doing more to cement friendship in a commercial and sporting sense with our provincial Chinese friends than columns of newspaper articles, public speeches, or candidates for the Presidency. Our Chinese supporters have proved themselves to be generous sportsmen in every sense of the word. About 60 per cent of our members are Chinese, and 50 per cent. of the owners are Chinese also. Our cash sweeps and totalizator are nobly supported by them, and it is due to this support that the club has weathered its pioneer years. A special request, emanating from Chinese owners, has induced the committee to hold a single day's Gymkhana Meeting on February 9 next, during the New Year holidays. The financial success of the venture has been guaranteed by our Chinese friends; yet two years ago racing was practically unknown in the Province.

Work is at present proceeding on a new seven furlong course, club house, stands, etc.,—a generous gift made to the club—and, on the whole, with the assured goodwill of the Chinese, we are fairly safe in asserting that the Honan Race Club has come to stay.

There are certain qualifications attached to the running of ponies which were deemed necessary in the interests of small owners. No pony, a previous winner at the coast, is allowed to compete. This has had the effect of diverting the attention of owners to the purchasing of griffins, on the price paid for which there is no restriction beyond the common sense one that our stake money does not permit of fancy prices being paid for ponies. The mercenary side of racing is not as pronounced as at the coast, owners being more than satisfied if the stake money won compensates for the cost of keeping the ponies. They are, of course, dreaming of the time in the, let us hope, not too distant future, when they will make money, but meanwhile the club is still regarded as a child to be humoured, and we are amply repaid for the sport it provides for us, and the knowledge that we are doing our bit towards overcoming whatever lingering prejudice still may exist in the province against foreigners.

The membership fee has been fixed at the low figure of $10 per annum, there being no fee charged when joining the club. There are approximately 100 members. Mr. John P. Kenrick, managing director of the Peking Syndicate, Ld., is President, with Mr. Wang Ching-fang, joint general manager of the Fu Chung Corporation, Vice-President. Mr. E. W. Fitchford, co-manager with Mr. Wang, has been the moving spirit in the club throughout, and has been nobly supported in his onerous task by a committee formed of foreign and Chinese members of the local companies.

AN event of interest to Far Eastern dwellers took place in England on November 13 last, when (states a Home paper) Mr. Claude William Kinder, C.M.G., Mandarin of the Red Button, M.I.C.E., of Bracken, Churt, was married at St. Saviour's Church, Guildford, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Bonshor, of Guildford, fourth daughter of Mr. Bonshor, of Bottesford, Leicestershire.

MANCHURIAN lotus seeds 500 years old have been made to grow in the laboratory of Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore under the work of the Japanese scientist, Ichiro Ohga, says an outport paper. These seeds were found under layers of peat, some of them 15 feet deep, on the edge of the Gobi Desert. The children in those parts dig these seeds up and eat them.

COL. Charles Swinboe, F.L.S., F.Z.S., F.E.S., late of the Bombay Staff Corps, the distinguished authority on Indo-Malayan and other Asiatic lepidoptera, died at his residence, Avonmore Road, West Kensington, on December 2, at the age of 86. A count made in 1914 showed that his collection (since augmented) of heterocera—Indo-Malayan, Australian, Chinese and Japanese—comprised 431 types and 540 co-types, nearly 7,000 species, and over 40,000 specimens.

A CHINESE FLOWER-BOOK

In 1783 Ch'en Hao-tzu, who lived beside the Western Lake at Hangchow, and called himself the Flower Hermit, published a gossipy little work on gardening and country pursuits, under the title of "The Mirror of Flowers." It is the type of a class often to be seen in the hands of Chinese readers. The preface was written by himself:—

"From my youth upwards I have cared for nothing save books and flowers. Twenty-eight thousand days have passed over my head, the greater part of which has been spent in poring over old records, and the remainder in enjoying myself in my garden among plants and birds."

The Chinese excel in horticulture, and the passionate love of flowers which prevails among all classes is quite a national characteristic. A Chinese, however, has his own particular standpoint. The vulgar nosegay or the plutocratic bouquet would have no charms for him. He can see, with satisfaction, only one flower at a time. His best vases are made to hold a single spray, and large vases usually have covers perforated so as to isolate each specimen. A primrose by the river's brim would be to him a complete poem. If condemned to a sedentary life, he likes to have a flower by his side on the table. He draws enjoyment, even inspiration, from its petals. He will take a flower out for a walk, and stop every now and again to consider the loveliness of its growth. So with birds. It is a common thing on a pleasant evening to meet a Chinaman carrying his birdcage suspended from the end of a short stick. He will stop at some pleasant corner outside the town, and listen with rapture to the bird's song. But to the preface.

Our author goes on to say that in his hollow bamboo pillow he always keeps some work on his favourite subject.

"People laugh at me, . . . but surely study is as proper as for gardening, that is simply a rest. . . . What does Tao Ch'ien say?—

'Riches and rank, I do not love,
I have no hopes of heaven above'
. . . . Besides, it is only in hours of leisure that I devote myself to the cultivation of flowers."

Ch'en Hao-tzu then runs through the four seasons, showing how each has its especial charm. . . He then proceeds to deal with times and seasons, showing what to do under each month, precisely as our own garden-books do. After that come short chapters on all the chief trees, shrubs, and plants of China, with hints how to treat them under diverse circumstances, the whole concluding with a separate section devoted to birds, animals, fishes, and insects. Among these are to be found the crane, peacock, parrot, thrush, kite, quail, mainah, swallow, deer, hare, monkey, dog, oats, squirrel, goldfish—first mentioned by Su Shih.

"Upon the bridge the livelong day
I stand and watch the goldfish play"—

bee, butterfly, glowworm, etc.

Altogether there is much to be learnt from this Chinese White of Selborne, and the reader lays down the book feeling that the writer is not far astray when he says. "If a home has not a garden and an old tree, I see not whence the every-day joys of life are to come."—Ch'en Hao-tzu (Eleventh Century) Translated by Herbert A. Giles.

A PAUPER PASSES

By shouting coolies swayed, amidst the din
And traffic of the street, a casket rude.
Atop, worn shoes and ragged coat. Within,
The lifeless form is borne to solitude.
No paper pageantry, nor boast of fame,
No gong, no pipes, his sorry passing mark.
No flaunting, silken banner to proclaim
His humble virtues. Forth, into the dark,
His spirit wanders. Here, behold but twain
To mourn him. One, a puny, frightened child,
Clings to his mother's hand as she, in vain,
Sends forth her note of lamentation wild.
On tortured feet, her gaunt, starv'd frame she drags,
And ill essays the bearers' pace to meet.
The careless wind makes sport of her poor rags:
And dust, blown swirling from the unkempt street,
Contaminates, withal, the scanty dole
Of rice that shall sustain him in his quest.
The rav'nous child, his gaze upon the bowl,
Bethinks him of the night that, minus rest,
Shall torture him, afresh, in hunger's grasp.
Yet, sentient of terror of the dead,
Restrains the will to snatch. Renews his clasp
Upon her hand and stumbles on, ahead.

R. R. L. F.

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paced alien *régime*. In theory therefore the idea of the "one strong man" is essentially sound. In application it is feeble because, in the first place, the man has yet to be found: because, in the second place, the machinery which would have been convenient to the hand of a strong man a few years ago is now almost completely broken down: and because, in the third place, both the Chinese people and the outside world are so ardently eager for peace in China that they cannot be expected to wait for either the strong man or for the evolution of new machinery of conquest. These considerations therefore force even the most impatient to consider other schemes and other peace nostrums.

Is There Any Hope in a Conference?

Jan. 1.

Very few Chinese who have sat in conferences or who have watched them closely have much faith in them. The writer has talked during the past few months with a number of prominent persons who either participated in the 1919 peace conference in Shanghai or were associated with the participants. Their unanimous opinion is that such gatherings are absolutely futile. All other officials say that a conference might succeed in restoring peace on this condition; but the men who were in Shanghai in 1919 when Chu Chi-chien and Tang Shao-yi represented the North and South respectively say flatly that nothing whatever can come from such a conference but new causes for friction and increased bad feeling.

The conditions which those who pretend to endorse the peace conference idea attach to their approval are in most cases more discouraging than a flat rejection of the proposal would be because they reveal the insincerity of most of the highest officials who would automatically be parties to such a conference and prove that none of them is willing to endorse a peace agreement which could possibly be satisfactory to any of the others. Marshal Tuan Chi-jui says there can be no peace through compromise until Wu Pei-fu and Tsao Kun have spent their energies and are either collapsed or on the point of collapse. Wu Pei-fu says it is a fine idea but that the time for a conference is not yet ripe. He must first have time to finish his campaigns in the West and South and eliminate his enemies, after which he will be ready to confer with whomever or whatever is left on the subject of peace. It is to be presumed that if any other force were to rise up in the meantime and challenge his absolute control of all China he would have to overwhelm this new force before could consider any discussion of peace. Tsao Kun, now that he is president, is magnanimously ready to make peace with anyone who will come to Peking and submit to his authority. Sun Yat-sen believes that armies, parties and individuals who actually come face to face with him will promptly recognize his divine right to rule China and make it over according to his own pattern and will fall on their faces in subject submission. Did not Tuan Chi-jui submit to him? And did not Chang Tso-lin "submit" to him? He says he is ready to attend a conference personally because he fully expects that he has only to take his place in the assembly to dominate it.

The whole situation is that no political or military leader who has power left or who hopes to acquire any power wants to sit in a conference until all the cards are in his hands and all the others hold nothing. Those who hold virtually no cards, like the Anfu folk, want to postpone the conference until their rivals are in the same position. A compromise means giving something away. No political leader is going to take the trouble to go to a conference and wrangle with a lot of people whom he detests unless he has nothing to give away and everything to get. And what is more, no leader is going to sit in a conference with the press and the general public witnesses to the proceedings if he has hope of getting what he wants in any other way or if he can negotiate when he must negotiate, in secret. The fewer witnesses there are to a compact the more easily it is broken when it is convenient to break it. Wu Pei-fu would never attend a conference in spirit of compromise unless he were thoroughly beaten and were convinced of it—two very different propositions. When Wu Pei-fu is so badly beaten that he admits defeat he will probably be in the Chinese Valhalla and will not be available in the flesh. Chang Tso-lin may be ready to come to a quiet, unostentatious agreement with the Chihli faction so that he may have more time to devote to domestic problems, but any such agreement will be made with the idea of breaking it at the earliest favourable opportunity and neither side will want to make the general public a third party to the contract.

Finally, the very large number of lesser persons for whom peace would mean extinction must also be taken into account. These underlings, who are in so many camps the powers behind the throne, could be trusted to move heaven and earth to make any conference ineffectual.

Yet, with all these objections, a conference leading to peace in China is not wholly impossible. One can imagine conditions under which the men enjoying real power in China could be brought together in one room, locked in it like so many jurymen and told that they would not be released until they came with a binding agreement in their hands. At the present moment these conditions are two only. A sufficiently serious threat of foreign intervention might prompt a conference in which peace would be hastily evolved and so might a sufficiently serious threat of a fundamental revolution.

Of the two, there is more to be hoped from a reaction against foreign intervention than from a reaction to the pressure of Chinese public opinion. And yet a conference in which the participants were forced by the general public to come to some sort of an agreement would be the only kind of a conference which could guarantee China anything like permanent peace. Lacking an emperor or an all powerful dictator there can be no effective check upon the official classes of any country. Lacking such an effective check, the political and military leaders in China will never want peace badly enough to come together, compromise and lay the foundations of a permanent peace. No one of them will enter into an agreement to curtail his own power, weed the rogues out of his own following or disband his troops until he has been moved to it by fear of the people and by respect for public opinion.

The fear of a dictator or of an emperor would, of course, breed the same humility and the same desire for peace, but a dictator or an emperor who had instilled sufficient respect for his authority into the Chinese official caste would not need to call conferences unless it were to call all the chronic trouble makers together and give them a piece of his mind.

THE THREAT OF FOREIGN AGGRESSION.

A threat of foreign aggression would probably be more immediately effective in stimulating a desire for peace among the official classes than any other pressure that could be brought to bear. The bitterest rivals would hasten to unite and make common cause against a sufficiently determined assault upon "China's sovereign rights." Very few Chinese officials are patriotic in a broad sense. They show little enough consideration for one another's rights, less for the rights of the people, and no care at all to this generation for their country's welfare, prosperity and reputation. But in the narrow Chauvinistic sense all Chinese are intensely patriotic. They would all rather have the country, or China's commerce, or the ports or the public revenues mismanaged in the most disgraceful fashion by their most vicious officials than submit to the most benevolent form of foreign control. It is therefore not unlikely that if the disturbers of the peace in China, whether politicians, militarists or bandits, were convinced the Powers were seriously contemplating the restoration of order through armed invasion and intervention, there would be conferences all over the country, banditry would cease and peace would be restored.

TEMPORARY RE-UNION.

It is doubtful, however, whether such a consummation would be in the best interest of either China or of the Powers interested in China. Reunification under such a stimulus would be nothing but a temporary alliance former by a number of men with no real desire for peace whom the Powers would then have to recognize or remove. If the menace were a passing menace, the resultant peace would certainly be a passing peace. Chint would experience no permanent relief while the Powers concerned would have built up a league of bitterly anti-foreign potentates who would incite the entire population to an anti-foreign fury. Such a development would be no more beneficial to foreign trade and other foreign relations with China than was the former alliance former between the Manchu Imperial court and the Boxers. If threats of foreign aggression were taken so seriously that the Chinese leaders forgat their differences and agreed in a conference to restore peace throughout China' a situation would have been created which could result in nothing but intervention or the withdrawal of all foreigners from China. Intervention has its advocates but it has nothing to do with the voluntary reunion of China through a peace conference.

WHERE PUBLIC OPINION STANDS.

The restoration of peace under the pressure of public opinion sometimes seems to be very near and sometimes seems a long way off. Public opinion (with a good deal of moral support from the Shanghai foreign community) forced Kiangsu and Chêkiang to make a peace agreement which is much more a pledge to the public of good behaviour than any sign of love and trust existing between the militarists. Public opinion may within a very short time force similar agreements upon many other provinces and their military bosses and thereby rob the trouble-making underlings of their positions of influence and take most of the snap out of the political game. But public opinion is still a feeble force in China compared with money and arms. It failed to keep Tsao Kun out of the presidency. It failed to avenge Li Yuan-hung. It has failed to stop Wu Pei-fu's campaigns in the West and South. It has failed to prompt the militarists anywhere to serious bandit suppression. It has failed to evict Sun Yat-sen and company from Canton. In fact its failures are numerous, consistent and conspicuous, while its victories are few and isolated. That the power of public opinion is growing is beyond dispute and that the number of officials who are sensitive to it is growing is everywhere apparent, but it still looks as though a successful peace conference forced upon the political and military leaders by the will of the people were a long way off. Yet this is the only kind of a conference which could bring anything like permanent peace.

IF LEADERS MET.

It has been suggested that the Powers might "invite" the big leaders from various parts of China to a conference out of which some sort of a peace would be squeezed by the weight of both Chinese and foreign opinion.

This is an idea which cannot be rejected lightly, but there are many reasons for thinking that it would not work and that if it did work it would not insure a permanent peace. Every big leader with his own ambitions or his own obstinate scheme for restoring order would be very loth to attend such a gathering and would take every possible step to defeat the ends of the conference if he attended after he had tried in every possible way to avoid going. He would plead that he could not leave his post and at the same time retain his authority. He would express distrust of his neighbours in his absence. He would offer to send representatives which would be futile. He would carry on elaborate propaganda among the people to show that the invitation was a veiled threat and that the conference was nothing but a step towards international control. This the people would eagerly believe and would howl themselves hoarse with fury.

CHECK ON OFFICIALS NEEDED.

And if such a conference were to succeed, it could evolve no more than a peace based upon a fixed division of the fields of exploitation. It would put the Powers in the position of recognizing each potentate who signed the document as the rightful kinglet of a given domain. The government evolved would be a league of licensed exploiters ruling without popular consent and unchecked within their respective fields by any power above or below them. The very invitation issued by the Powers to the individual rulers would be a recognition of their independence and their divine right as little kings. The whole moral effect would be decentralizing and would be against the re-establishment of an efficient central organization enjoying real authority over all parts of the country and all factions. The uncontrolled parties to the agreement evolved and having no real desire for peace certainly would not abide long by their agreements. It all comes back to the same thing in the end: effective checks must be put upon China's official classes from within or from without, and until such checks have been established it is as futile to hope for lasting peace and good government from a conference of Tuchuns and politicians as it would be to arrange for the care of a herd of sheep by summoning a conclave of the park leaders of the wolves that preyed on the herd. Barring a conference under foreign pressure, there will be nothing resembling peace through conferences in China until the people themselves want peace so badly and demand it so loudly that their rulers will be afraid to give them anything else. This seems like a remote prospect but, as we are so often forced to say, in China one can never tell. Meanwhile everyone who keeps the subject alive through discussion is helping to bring the prospect a little nearer.

ANAESTHESIA

It may have been caused by a fresh cherry, which had evaded a close supervision, or perhaps due to my being unaccustomed to drinking real gin, but it was immediately after I had drunk that last cocktail that, in cricketing parlance, I caught it sharply, low did I. The jolly old appendix was also bent on imbibing the Christmas air; it was feeling merry and bright, and clearly wakening up to a keen realization of the festive round.

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Can you come round now, Doctor?

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The same afternoon I was in Hospital, safely tucked into bed, buoyed up by the cheering thought that I was to be operated upon on the morrow, and that Christmas would be spent in bed. Above the hum of distant traffic came the sound of rumbling laughter—a cook turkey gobbled three times!

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Dreaming when Dawn was in the East'run sky;
I heard a voice from in my bedroom cry:
Lift up your head, O Scot! and drink this wine;
Its fair tae ken that your puir throat is dry.
Those who have tasted of Manhattan Gin,
Of Hongkew whisky, vodka from Harbin;
Alike to all the taste shall be the same;
But this? C.O. has neither kith nor kin.

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Zero was at 8.30 a.m., and at 8.20 a solemn procession entered my room, headed by a high table mounted on wheels, and pushed by an expressionless Celestial. I was helped on to this table; carefully covered over with blankets: there was a general about-turn, and—the march to the operating theatre had begun. I had a glimpse of a wide expanse of pure white walls, on which the winter sun shone brightly: introduced myself slowly and methodically to the three surgeons in attendance: gave what I hope was a cheery nod in the direction of a pleasant-featured Sister, and settled down the operating table . . . . The pad was set. . . . one inhaled easily of the God-given fumes to kill pain. . . . felt oneself slipping into space . . . . the beat of a thousand pinions was in my ears. . . . and then I heard a voice—my own—telling the anæsthetist to take that damned pad off my face. The same voice continued, unemotionally, slowly and distinctly, "Do-you-know-Doctor-why-you - resemble - one - of - Jeffery-Farnol's-heroes?" "No," came back a voice out of the Edge of Beyond, "I do not." "Because-you are - searching - for - the - Definite-Object."

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. . . . As I entered a vast hall, in which were garaged thousands of motor-cars, of every conceivable size and design, a great roar of derisive laughter went up to the domed roof. Countless salesmen grinned at me with their Bateman-like features, and another burst of sardonic laughter almost rent the roof in twain, when one of their number remarked so distinctly, "He could not drive a motor scooter!" My eyes filled with angry tears. Suddenly, by enchantment, I found that a brand new Tank was at my side, and my school chum was saying to me, "Crawl in, Jimmie, an' we'll soon pit th' kybosh on the lot." And we did! I have never seen such a hurrying, such a scurrying in all my life. Cars flew round and round that vast enclosure, like angry bees from a dyke, disappeared out at windows, doors, and even soared through the roof windows, all at incredible speed; every car full of motionless salesmen, every car in the charge of a statuesque driver. . . . We were in an operating theatre, spectators of a major operation and, when the surgeon looked up, I remarked to my chum that he was the gentleman who had examined me. My chum looked strangely at me and then said, "Who is that on the table? He looks very like you." I could not deny it, and then the truth dawned upon me, and I burst into a fit of uncontrollable laughter. "How funny!" I said to my chum. "The Surgeon has made a mistake: HE THINKS HE IS OPERATING UPON ME!"

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I opened my eyes and looked round. Gone were the surgeons, the high table on wheels, the expressionless Celestial, the kindly shaft of sunlight that cast its welcome on the walls of that room dedicated to the alleviation and cure of human suffering. In their stead were the same pleasant-featured Sister and the equally charming Sister in charge of the floor. It was all over, bar the desire to get well.

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A stranger to your city, I desire publicly to give expression to the kindly consideration received from all during my 10 days in one of your hospitals. The festive season was not allowed to pass unnoticed, and I have only one regret—the period of convalescence has gone all too quickly, and one would fain linger before setting up another mark on the slate of memory.

ONRA GILAD

THE WOMAN'S PAGE

WHAT HE WANTS TO EAT

A Plea for Mercy From Masculine Palates

By Elizabeth Pepys.

"Luncheon with you? Thank you, no. I've no desire for a salad and an ice eaten off a tabouret. If you'll come with me now, we'll have a respectable mutton chop or a thick steak with accessories!" Thus a frank, albeit brusque, older brother in the days when tea-shops were our ruling gastronomic passion. His remarks have been remembered and it is to be hoped served some useful end, although a woman can probably never forego entirely her desire for a decorative menu at the expenses of substantial fare.

One man announced the other day that good cookery was going out of fashion and that although columns upon columns appeared on the subject of attractive menus, and vitamines and calories are current topics of conversation, no healthy man could ever consider such literature seriously. "Man does not live by fancy tea-sandwiches and theatre supper entrées alone," he declared "and those are the main stand-bys of the Woman's Page."

A revolution in the household menage would be created, he opined, if more wives pondered upon the dictums of the famous Brillat-Savarin as expressed in his noble work "The Physiology of Taste." To his way of thinking, no woman should be permitted to cast her ballot until she has mastered the principles of the great gourmet, even if a new Amendment be involved.

One of the saddest things about unrestrained feminine cooking, he proceeded to say, is its egregious insistence upon "creamed" recipes. We winced, remembering the prevalence of creamed entrées upon our own menus, but he went on: Why should the best of soups be ruined by dropping a spoonful of whipped cream upon each plateful and why so much whipped cream anyway, especially when all women claim to covet slimness above all virtues?

Well-a-day, it may be salutary, to have a man speaking up in public in this iconoclastic way, but it is a bit disconcerting. Since men have begun to assert themselves in this bold manner it may be well to examine some of the literature written by men in the hope that women who cook or direct cookery will condescend to study man's real wishes in the matter of his food. It may surprise our readers as much as it did us to find on the list "Right Food, the Right Remedy" by Charles C. Froude, B.SC.; "Eating Without Fears" by G. F. Scotson-Clark; and a collaboration on "Fish Cookery" by Evelene Spencer and John N. Cobb.

NEITHER BORROWER NOR LENDER

Of Conscienceless Readers

By Elizabeth Pepys.

Who started the vicious circle anyway? Did the proud possesser of the Very First Book press it ostentatiously upon the less fortunate? "What, haven't you seen the latest problem novel? 'Adam's Rib' by 'A Gentleman a Fig Leaf' and really, the strong way it deals with Sex! You must take it home with you!" Or was it the envious borrower who promised to return it right after the week-end and then lent it to the next door neighbours and it never did get back again?

Anyway, we are committed to the custom now, the only person who doesn't borrow books being the child who has not yet learned to read and the only man who cares refuse to loan a book is he who owns none. Having set out upon a book returning campaign in our household the air is filled with abjurations—not of our folly in keeping books so long, but of the fatousness of friends in forcing literature upon us There's man's ingratitude to man for you! We mention it as a sad warning.

There is subject for many debates on "Resolved that the lender is more to blame than the borrower" the premise being that without the willingness to lend there would be no ability to borrow. Being more of a borrower than a lender we support this theory. Legislation should be adopted regulating this lending business. Owners should have their names indelibly inscribed upon their property. They should be responsible for the return of their property within a reasonable time or else forfeit all claim thereto. No undue coercion should be used to compel the public to borrow books.

WHAT PRICE "THE MARTYRDOM OF MEN?"

As a sample we may single out a tome of no less than 553 pages devoted to the Martyrdom of Man." There is no owner's name therein and no one in the family will own to a knowledge of its entrance to our home. No one in our circle is sufficiently highbrow to enjoy this serious study of War, Religion, Liberty, and Intellect and we cannot imagine who among our friend scould be. But here it is, a veritable cuckoo in our library nest.

If from a study of the foregoing it appears how reprehensible it is to loan one's own books,—how much worse it is to lend those of another! Most of us know the joys of possing as a patron of literature and graciously loaning the last word from Parnassus. Having gone to the expense of purchasing a $5 book to maintain this superior attitude it is more than a thought annoying to find that Jones instead of promptly and gratefully returning your book to you has passed it on with the same condescending gesture, and you are fortunate if ever you see it again. We know of all too many would be owner-readers who have recklessly loaned books and never been able to peruse them! Think, gentle reader, are you to blame for any disillusioned book-lovers who now refuse to accept the risks of book-loaning?

EMPLOYED WOMEN

The Activities of the Foreign Y. W. C. A.

Conveniently situated in 19 Yuen Ming Yuen Road, the attractive club rooms of the Y. W. C. A. offer an opportunity to obtain tea at a very reasonable cost, to write letters or read and to meet others in pleasant companionship. Besides their social side there is the practical benefit of room registry, a boon to strangers and an assistance to those who are willing to take outsiders into their homes. Moreover there is the employment department which has assumed sizeable dimension during the ten months it has been in operation.

From March to December 1923 there were 208 applicants for positions, and 126 calls from employers which involved 22 occupations and 25 nationalities. The number of British applicants was 45, of Americans 62. The varied occupations of foreign women in Shanghai is shown by the following list of applicants: stenographers, typists, general office workers, file clerks, accountants, graduate nurses, teachers, governesses, children's nurses, sales girls, outside sales agents, seamstresses, knitters, switchboard operators, housekeepers, manicurists, cooks, cashiers, hair dressers, domestic science teachers, social workers, dentists, photographers.

NOTED ENGLISH AUTHOR

Mrs. Tweedie on Woman and her Work

"But I *never* give out interviews" protested Mrs. Alec Tweedie when seen at the Kalee Hotel the other morning, all ready for sight seeing in fur coat and cloche.

"But for the Woman's Page, and for a sister journalist," persisted the inquisitive E. Pepys, knowing that she was addressing the vice-President of the Woman Journalists of London.

"Yes, that *is* different," assented Mrs. Tweedie with the same sort of smile which endeared her to the thousands of soldiers who experienced her hospitality during the war, "but you see I am trying to get some little idea of Shanghai so that I can recognize it when I return, as I hope to next year. Then I will be glad to tell you about what women are doing in England.

"In the mean time? Why not read 'Women the World Over?' or 'The First College for Women' or 'A Woman on Four Battle Fronts'?" laughed Mrs. Tweedie in reference to the titles of books on womankind which are found in her prolific writings. "Or, but here are a few bits from my writings which I had made into a birthday book for my friends. They are taken from various books and may bring a message to the women of Shanghai."

So here are a few extracts from the little book called "Tweedieism" which is attractively printed

MRS. ALEC TWEEDIE,
ARTIST, AUTHOR AND EXECUTIVE.

with a book plate by Walter Crane and a thought for every day of the year. Fuller information extracted with difficulty from this attractive brown-eyed woman who preferred to talk about China, its pagodas, customs, and, yes, its shops, will be found elsewhere in this issue.

MRS. TWEEDIE SAYS:—

I love my own sex. They are the guiding stars in the Universe, and the modern girl tends to make the world much more interesting than it used to be.

All the old wiseacres who declared that women must be sheltered somehow usually forget to shelter them! Women patriotically came out into the world of work and took on jobs successfully—carpentering, building, motor driving, large horse van driving, night mail driving, 'bus conducting, lift work, box offices, ticket collecting, railway carriage cleaning, window cleaning, ostlery, ploughing, reaping—aye, and dozens of heavy factory engineering or electrical jobs. Again and again, it has been found that with a few weeks' training there is no work a woman cannot do.

"OUR CHRONICLE"

Breezy Publication of Public School for Girls

A recent number of "Our Chronicle," which records the doings of the Shanghai Public School for Girls, shows the fine new building on Yu Yuen Road for its cover design and contains a number of interesting articles. The magazine is managed by the girls themselves, Miss Ware, the staff representative, saying that the pupils themselves take the initiative and are responsible for the editorial and reportorial work, the faculty representative being only an advisory member. The personnel of the publication is as follows: A. Finkelstein Editor-in-Chief; S. Remedios, Art Editor, M. Cantorovich, R. Moosa, D. Focken, J. Stoddart, Associate editors; and D. Herzberg, business manager.

In this number, Miss Alice Ware, who returned this autumn from a most interesting trip abroad, reports on a visit to Miss Patterson, formerly Head Mistress of the school, who is now living with her two sisters and her niece at 41 Roxborough Park, Harrow. She also writes of her experiences in flying from Paris to London by Handley-Page aeroplane, a trip of about four hours, although the weather was bad. In a brief article she answers all the questions one longs to ask about practical aerial travelling and makes one wish that every journey might be accomplished so efficiently.

HOME-GROWN ORANGE BLOSSOMS

Hints for Shanghai's Winter Plants

Few plants add to the beauty of a room more than a miniature orange tree covered with blossoms and foliage. Many people have tried to grow orange trees at home, but with little success. The plant often just peeps above the soil, then withers, or perhaps does not show itself at all. This is due to the fact that very few people know the secret of planting the pips so that an abundance of foliage and flowers will appear. The orange tree may be grown with very little trouble and the cost is next to nothing.

Collect as many orange pips as possible and soak them in a dish of water for eight or nine days, changing the water every other day. Fill flower pots with light, sifted soil, to which has been added a little manure. Place the soaked and swollen seeds in the pots, crowding in as many as possible. This is the most important point of the whole process; it is the crowding together which forces the plant and makes it grow.

The plants should be kept in the sun whenever possible and always in a warm room free from drafts. If there is a greenhouse in which they may be given a start, so much the better. It is advisable to cover them with a "night cap" made of newspaper, if there is any possibility of a frost. If this is not attended to and the frost reaches the plants, they will perish. Keep the soil in the pots moist, but not wet. Use lukewarm water in cold weather.

ARTISTIC CONTAINERS.

If the utmost decorative value is desired from the orange grove, plant the pips in pottery flower pots. They are to be brought in brilliant colours, and there is such a variety that one cannot fail to discover a few to harmonize with the decorative scheme of the room they are to adorn. They also add charm to the orange tree.

After the first year the orange tree will begin to blossom and bring forth an abundance of flowers that will be the envy of all visitors. The orange tree keeps green all the year round. In summer it bears clusters of blossome and in winter is covered with a beautiful foliage.

A TREE IN AN ORANGE.

Another good plan is to secure as ripe an orange as possible and cut a hole in the rind about two inches in diameter. Then, through the opening, work out all the flesh, pips, etc. Select the largest of the pips and retain this for the seed of the tree. Now fill the skin of the orange with a mixture of fibre and chopped moss, soil and a few lumps of charcoal. Into this put the pip you have decided to grow.

Support the rind in a cup or a tumbler and keep it in a warm room. See that the material is kept moist and the pip will soon sprout and develop into a tiny plant. Sooner or later it will try to force its roots through the rind (which does not decay) and when this happens the tips should be cut off. When the tree has developed several pairs of leaves, get some clear varnish and paint the outside of the rind, all except one small place on the under side, where the rind should be cut right away. The varnish preserves the form and colour of the rind and it is very curious to see the little tree growing out of what appears to be an orange.

THE MIGRATION FOR WOMEN

The Human Side of Overseas Settlement

If an inhabitant of Mars were to come and visit our globe, how perplexed he would be to find the number of problems which exist which might so easily solve one another, if only applied to each other, instead of, in each case, some outside remedy being diligently and often fruitlessly sought.

There are the problems of the mateless woman: the overworked mother with no outside help; the out-of-work woman living on State subsidies: the large empty spaces crying for development; the male emigrants suffering from loneliness and the double burden of housekeeping and tilling virgin soil, etc. It is quite obvious, without any stressing of the point, that these different problems are all interrelated, and to a visitant from another sphere it would seem on the face of it that we must be either blind, or foolish, to seek for any other solution of problem A than that obvious one which would at the same time eliminate problem B.

WHY NOT?

Difficulties, however, do exist—some perhaps due to lack of vision, but others to the human factor. It is easy enough to say that there are thousands of square acres crying out for homes; so why should one acre here and there be so congested that it is impossible for the dwellers thereon to lead a decent, civilized life? That there are thousands of overworked wives and mothers longing for domestic help and willing to pay for it; so why should women queue up for doles and drag out an aimless existence? That there are thousands of healthy young men, lonely and uncomfortable, ready to marry at their first opportunity: so why should so many eligible women stay in a country where there are not eough men to go round? But the fact is, the Londoner loves London, the factory girl has a prejudice against domestic work, the domesticated woman is afraid of facing the adventure of life in a strange land, and so on all the way round.

It is that human side which must be kept constantly in the foreground when the migration problem is taken more seriously than it is at present, and it is on that very side that the "Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women" is doing such excellent work.

DISPELLING BOGEY.

First of all, it seeks to combat prejudice. Not only among possible migrants, but all round the Seven Seas wherever the problem is considered. On the one hand, there is an unreasonable fear that all our best stock will seek the adventure of the open spaces; on the other, that only the failures in the old land will seek this chance to make a fresh start in life. These bogeys were dealt with recently by the Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P., in a well-reasoned speech. As he pointed out, the first-class men and women are "holding down" far too valuable jobs to contemplate throwing them up. On the other hand, not only are the weaklings too afraid of the adventure to migrate, but most of the Dominion Governments impose far too strict tests of medical fitness for them to slip through. So that the type which migrates is just a good, sound, healthy, enterprising stock.

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

Thanks to the collapse of the mark, Mr. Sinclair Lewis recently received a cheque worth five shillings, which represented his royalties on the sale of sixty thousand copies of the German edition of "Main Street."

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We know the Kearton Brothers as pioneers in what may be called the new study and literature of natural history. Mr. Richard Kearton has written much, and Mr. Cherry Kearton has photographed wiid nature all over the world. His experiences that way are recorded in a book which Arrowsmith will shortly have ready, at a price that has to be substantial because of the many contents. Mr. Kearton's readers, for there is text as well as pictures, will find that he takes them to Africa, India, Borneo, the American Rockies and Canada, and that wherever he goes he has surprises for them.

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The cartoons by Max Beerbohm which were exhibited at the Leicester Galleries in the summer are now published in book form under the title "Things New and Old" (Heinemann, 25s.). The drawings which were withdrawn from exhibition in deference to some protests are, as some will regret, excluded also from the volume, though the same sensitiveness does not seem to have been shown with regard to the picture of King Edward standing in the corner. The "Tales of Three Nations" almost require a tenth by this time; and Mussolini might to-day invite another comment than that put in the mouth of the King of Italy. In a short preface "Max" apologises both for his "pedantry" in omitting the criticised drawings and for his reproduction of the "Studies of the 1870's."

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Perhaps the most interest ng of the romances attached to many copies of Shakespeare's "First Folio" is that told of the impression in the Bodleian Library. The book was sent by the publishers in sheets and bound by the Bodleian binder. When the Third Folio was received the Library authorities, considering that the First Folio was merely a duplicate, disposed of it, probably about 1664. Having been lost sight of for many years it came into the market in 1906. A public subscription was started and resulted in the volume going to its old home again at a cost of £3,000.

∴

There is no limit to the reforming zeal of the Italian Fascisti. A campaign has recently been initiated by a literary journal in sympathy with Signor Mussolini to stop the circulation in Italy of immoral literature. M. Victor Margueritte's most unpleasant "La Garconne" was the first object of attack. Copies have been seized by zealous Fascisti in bookshops and on bookstalls and publicly burned, and booksellers have been threatened with doses of castor oil if they persist in selling the novel either in French or in the Italian translation.

∴

Leading Paris booksellers have discovered a method of publicity that shows good results. When they are launching a new book of a sensational nature or a best-seller their adorn the stalls outside their shops with a large portrait of the author concerned. This course would hardly have commended itself to Flaubert, who, when asked once to furnish his biographer with a portrait, replied: "It is impossible for me to send you a portrait, because I have never had one." The French have also been quick to appreciate the value of the cinema as a means of awakening public interest in new authors and in literary and artistic celebrities in general. When a certain seventeen-year-old French author recently wrote his first novel, his portrait was shown in all the principal French cinemas. Some of the best-known Paris "coteries" have been filmed in the *cafés* where they are wont to foregather!

BY THE WAY IN MANCHURIA

"Leaves from a Manchurian Diary." By Alice Tisdale Hobart. Henry Holt & Co., New York.

"There's night and day, brother, both sweet things; sun, moon and stars, brother, all sweet things; there's likewise a wind on the heath. Life is very sweet, brother who would wish to die."

Among the apt quotations that head her every chapter Mrs. Hobart does not include these words of Jasper Pemtengro, but they sum up the spirit of her book, which is the work of a pioneering mind endowed with a poetic imagination.

Mrs. Hobart found her happiness, fortunately, in accompanying her husband in his commercial travels through the solitude and silences of inner Manchuria. Her traveller's tales are quickened with the spirit of romance: she sets about her journeys like a knight greedy for adventure; she faces with exhilaration the hardship and the perils, so that she is able to communicate to our pulses something of "the whisper of the wild" as she calls it and the lure of the untrodden.

Whether she was sitting cross-legged on the K'ang (brick platform [illegible] packed with supplies for a cold month in a Chinese cart, or towed up the rapids of a river from Tibet, she encountered every situation with the high-spirits of a boy, and her enthusiasm has found its way to this handsome book, well furnished with photographs of her own taking, which increase the intimate value of her work.

A.N.R.

SAUL AMONG THE CHINESE SOLDIERS

The Life Story of General Feng

"General Feng. A good soldier of Jesus Christ." By Marshall Broomhall, M.A. Pub. C. I. M. price 1/-.

Many have desired to have an account of this Saul among Chinese soldiers, tnd here it is, interesting and inexpensive. Gen. Feng may not be the man of destiny for China, but he certainly embodies those qualities that are required by his country though so rare among his fellow-countrymen. Every inch a man, he has risen from the ranks to become Inspector General of the army. He has filled one post after another with distinction, but breaking Chinese custom with the strength of Christian principle he has not filled his pockets at the same time. He is strict in discipline but takes his share like a private. His men abstain from picking and stealing, and they are taught a trade as well as soldiering. The Duke of Wellington once said of an English army in Ireland that it was more feared by its friends than its foes. But the reverse of that terrible description is true of this model army which has a clean record both in war and peace.

Such a remarkable character as General Feng inevitably invites comparison. Major-General Sir G K. Scott Moncrieff in his Introduction likens him to Gustavus Adolphus, and Sir Herbert Edwardes. Mr. Broomhall compares him with Cromwell and Stonewall Jackson, but wisely points to the risks in the years that cannot, for as Mr. Joseph Chamberlain once said, "Temptations come with increasing force to one who advances in public life. For the sake of China and for his own, all those who have watched his career most desire that he will stand in his lot at the end of the days."

A.N.R.

THE LOVE STORY OF A JUDGE

Mercy and Truth. By Ella MacMahon. Mills & Boon, London.

Not every day are we treated to an exposition of the feelings of a Judge of the High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division, when he takes *ad vizandum* the serious problem of marriage. When the problem becomes more involved by His Lordship's selection falling upon a lady much younger in years, full of the *joie de vivre* so frequently complained of by the older generation and already claiming domination over a more youthful and very eligible rival, it is seen that the authoress has prepared for herself all the material necessary for a most interesting book. To all of which she has added a final element by making the judge an admirable subject for an incidental study of the psychology of fear. "Mercy and Truth" presents to the reader, then, several excellent character studies—all the more acceptable in that throughout the book there is no hint of exaggeration. The fears of the judge, the splendid friendships of his younger days, the jealousy of his less fortunate brother barristers, the sportsmanship of his defeated rival, the warm-hearted, sterling qualities of the lady of his choice, are combined to give readers of "Mercy and Truth" a most enjoyable tale of every-day life presented in a fascinating manner. Through several chapters the authoress intrigues readers with a "black cloud" from his younger days which overhangs the distinguished judge—one begins to fear something in the nature of a culpable homicide and has to admit to a feeling of disappointment on learning that the young student has been but human, got into debt at college, attempted to raise the wind by cheating at cards, and—had all his liabilities met by a generous friend and a secret compact entered into never to reveal the incident. We are not given the interesting story of how the future judge cheated but, from the context, cannot believe it was anything more serious than finessing the knave—criminal enough when it ends in failure! But there is no ground for complaint even on this score for, as indicated, the authoress has given us all the thrill without the climax. "Mercy and Truth" should have a success and create a demand for the writer's previous book "John Fitz Henry" as well as a desire for further reading from the same source.

J.W.F.

FLAPPERS AND FATHERS

"Other People's Secrets." By Sophie Cole. Mills & Boon, London.

The fact that the secrets in this book are but a side-issue—if still a very intriguing side-issue—does not in any way detract from its excellence. The book is the love story of two sisters, possessing very different natures, and a father and son, also having quite distinctive dispositions. We have on one side the rather giddily inclined younger of the two sisters directed towards the safe haven of matrimony with his son by the anxious father. Incidentally, the father happens to be one of these "well preserved" middle aged gentlemen with a friendly feeling, or failing, for the gentler sex. As the day of the marriage approaches the flirtacious flapper and the giddy gent begin to feel that somehow or other their plans have gone astray. It is not surprising, then, that in the flat destined to be the home of the young couple the flapper seducing realizes that she has made a very serious mistake and that her heart really belongs to the father and not to the son. Advised by her mere sedate sister she flies to Waterloo and Brighton, there to mourn over her error and to await the inevitable arrival of her real fate.

Meanwhile the disappointed bridegroom bears up nobly under his loss and—but readers should be left to discover the happiest chapters of a very pleasing tale. The introduction of a brother, who has been carefully hidden away for years, of a rough but good hearted and well meaning uncle and aunt, and of a number of boarding house residents very true to type, goes to round out an excellently written story on which the writer is to be congratulated.

J.W.F.

INDIAN ROMANCE AND REALITY

"One of the Best."—By F. E. Penny pp. 320. Price 7/6 net. Hodder & Stoughton.

There are two chief strands in the making of this book, one personal—the various types of love interest in a fine young English woman, one phlegmatic, the second impetuous and the third romantic. The heroine is not brilliant at any form of sport, and actually prefers a seat in a motor-car to a saddle, but she is none the less heroic as her three lovers recognized and as her trials proved.

But the main theme of the book is of wider interest for it is a presentation of India by Mrs. Penny's practised hand. She is evidently the successor to Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, but she has a different India to portray. And seeing that the Raj is now confronted by the results of its own doings—its peaceful administration and a liberal education, it is more than ever necessary for Englishmen at any rate to understand a people who cannot henceforth be held by violence but only by influence. What weakens our hold is the lack of wisdom which proceeds from lack of knowledge, which proceeds in turn from lack of sympathy.

Mrs. Penny brings before us the noble side of the Raj in the character of Judge Wargrave, but its ignoble side is exposed with equal clearness in his second wife the scatterbrained, shallowhearted "Mims"—the kind of person who would imperil the dignity and even the destiny of her country in order to satisfy a whim or make a sensation.

The heart of the book, however, is the sympathetic study of a princely Mohammedan, who proved himself "One of the Best," in fact an Oriental Smuts, if one may use the expression. May such increase and abound for the honour of the British flag.

F. E. Penny reveals her sex by her insight into the effect of clothes not only upon the eye but upon the imagination, but her insight is equally sure in the larger things of human nature, so that she is able to stage a living group in a real environment, and make a fine book.

A.N.R.

THE DIVERSIONS OF DAWSON

"The Diversions of Dawson."—By Bennett Copplestone. John Murray. London.

A series of stories of the highly diverting exploits of one Chief Inspector Dawson of Scotland Yard, who is the most delightful character I have met recently through the pages of a book. Dawson alone, as Mr. Copplestone so skilfully portrays him, captivates the imagination. The law-breaking detective, the daring man of many identities, moving intrepidly through one adventure after another, withal a lovable, vainglorious and most human person, the hero is pictured in such a manner that the reader becomes as endeared to him as his friend Bennett, in whose person the stories are narrated.

"The Diversions" are given in four "books," each being a complete story of one of the inimitable Dawson's enterprises. Of them all, "Mr. Cholmondeley Jones," "Ned Grimes, Dockhand," "The Prime Minister" and "The Butler," the last is best. It seems to possess better literary balance and more of economy of means of effect. But perhaps it is only that it intrigues because of the irresistible Rose McLean, the little lady lady's-maid with a passion for trinkets of diamond and pearl, and who almost ravishes the stern heart of Dawson himself before he finally tracks her down to the *cache*.

Apart from the delightful characterization, the stories are well written. They are seasoned with the seasoning of humour and witty insight into human life. Mr. Copplestone has the pen of a ready writer, or the typing machine—he is too modern and too clever not to use one skilfully. I have long held a dislike of detective stories, but I confess that as I read these I forgot that they may be classed as such. They are too full of elements more interesting than the crime-scenting motive. But, even rating them as "detective," they should come quite above the once-famous Sherlock Holmes series in appeal to the general reader.

Olivia Price.

WITH PIRATES AND POACHERS

Tales of the Ivory Trade. By T. Alexander Barns. Mills & Boon, London.

This collection of short stories deals chiefly with a country and an occupation too infrequently touched by the story teller. For Far Eastern readers additional interest is lent by the inclusion of two stories having China as their background. The author—a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society—has evidently an intimate acquaintance with the peoples and life of the ivory country of Central Africa, and this he depicts in very interesting fashion in this series of short stories. It is difficult to make any selection from the 10 stories he has given us, but "The Sung Tusk" and "The Riddle of the Mammoths" will probably be the choice of readers East of Suez. In "Quoggs," however, we find a story which must make a very deep appeal to all dog lovers. Quoggs is a bull-mastiff who possesses all the glorious qualities of his race and deserves to be included in any book of great dogs of fiction. Quoggs was "a brindle-fawn and dark brown—with one white 'sock,' short, undershot, heavy jowl, broad of head, deep of chest. He also had a kink in his short tail, and a brave-hearted beam in his steady eye." The history of the bull-mastiff is the lengthiest of the series of "Tales of Ivory Trade," but even so, all readers will agree that it is far too brief; and as we are pleasantly informed that he is still "chasing lions, if only in dreams," beneath the author's chair, may we express the hope that when next Mr. Barns comes before us he will not have forgotten to give some further incidents in the life of Quoggs. "Quoggs" stands out as the best "character" in a book which deals chiefly with pirates and poachers, the sole complaint laid at his door being that of a strong penchant in puppyhood for chewing up all the soap in sight! This is easily forgiven when—not many moons later—we find him disputing with a full grown lion for possession of an elephant bone, whereafter he enters upon a career of glorious adventure. The "Tales" would scarcely be complete without some reference to the "elephants cemetery." The author manages to discover this priceless treasure but, fortunately for the future, it retains its invulnerability—a tradition which all writers seem to have combined to respect. "Tales of the Ivory Trade" constitute a decided departure from the usual run of fiction.

The author, it may be conjectured, has found it difficult to adhere strictly to fiction—truth, in the ivory country, being quite frequently stranger than fiction. If this conjecture be correct, he has served up an admirable blending.

J.W.F.

The North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE

WEEKLY EDITION OF THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

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"The professed friendliness of the Soviet Government towards China still leaves something to be desired"—Dr. Wang Cheng-ting to Comrade Karakhan

ANOTHER GRAVE EARTHQUAKE IN JAPAN

Nagano Prefecture Said to Be Worst Affected: Emperor and Empress in Earthquake Area but Not Hurt: Trains Overthrown and an Outbreak of Fire

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kobe, Jan. 15.

Nagano Prefecture, where the earthquake was chiefly felt, is an important silk-reeling centre. Railways, tramways and electric light service are again interrupted.

Wadakuramon, a gate of the old Yedo Castle, collapsed, also several of the barracks erected to house refugees. Water mains ase broken.

Authentic reports from Yokohama state that there was a heavy shock but no loss of life or damage.

Several trains, mostly goods, were thrown over on the Tokaido line between Gotemba and Yokohama. Much damage was also gone on the Chuo railway, which connects Tokio and Matsumoto.

The Japanese Observatory's reports place the origin of the earthquake 260 miles from Kobe, a little east of the former break off of the Idzu peninsula.

The earthquake was felt here and at Osaka slightly, most heavily at Hamamatsu, Kanazawa and Maidzuru.

Osaka, Jan. 15.

A serious earthquake occurred at 5.45 this morning around the Nagano prefecture. The centre is supposed to have been Matsumoto.

It is said that the tremor was similar to the one on September 1. The damage is not known.

Tokio was affected by a strong tremor. All telephone lines are interrupted. Only two telegraph lines are working between Tokio and Osaka.

Nagoya was also affected by a strong tremor, while Osaka, Kioto and Kobe felt a slight shock. No details are known.

Later.

News from Tokio says that no serious damage has been done by the earthquake.

Telephone and tramway services in Tokio City are suspended.

The water-supply is partially stopped.

No fire is reported.

The railways between Tokio and Numadzu are interrupted. A goods train was derailed near Gotemba.

Later.

The Emperor and the Empress are at Numadzu.

The Prince Regent and Princess Nagako are reported to be safe.

A fire is raging in the Sugamo suburb of Tokio. No particulars are available.

One train was precipitated into the river at Banyugawa and six trains were overturned between Gotemba and Tokio.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TRAINS OVERTURNED.

An *"Osaka Mainichi"* special despatch to the Eastern News Agency reports that the details of the earthquake that have come to light up to the present are as follows:—

The telephone service throughout the City of Tokio is suspended. The train service east of Numadzu is also completely interrupted and many trains have overturned. It appears that there are many casualties. In Kofu City, the water mains have been destroyed. Their Majesty the Emperor and Empress, who

(Continued on Page 89.)

MR. SUN PAO-CHI AS PREMIER

Endorsed by Parliament to Pay Out Government for Talking of New Elections

CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW CABINET

Peking, Jan. 10.

Anticipating difficulty over its despatch, the House of Representatives last night sent Mr. Ma Hsiang to Tientsin. The latter returned to-day with a duplicate of the despatch reporting the election of Mr. Sun Pao-chi as Prime Minister and bearing the seal of the House, which Mr. Wu Ching-lien had agreed to stamp. This document was forwarded to the Government this evening at five o'clock, thus overcoming all possible objection on the ground of irregularity.

The acting Cabinet met this afternoon and decided to resign *en bloc*. The resignation was sent to the President at six o'clock.

It is reported that representations were made to the President urging that the acting Cabinet should remain in office until the lunar New Year, or that Mr. Wang Ko-ming should be Minister of Finance in the new Cabinet, as his financial arrangements are essential for tiding over the New Year.

A FURTHER DIFFICULTY.

Jan. 11.

While no mandate has been issued, the resignation of the members of the acting Cabinet has apparently been accepted. None of the Ministers attended office to-day.

A further difficulty has come to light in the fact that it is necessary to secure the resignation of Gen. Chang Shou-tseng, who is apparently still technically Premier, Gen. Li Chun is reported to have gone to Tientsin to endeavour to secure Gen. Chang's resignation. — Reuter's Pacific Service.

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 11.

Sun Pao-chi's acceptance of the Premiership is now thought to be certain, but the personnel of his Cabinet is still unknown, because a compromise with several groups is necessary.

The new Premier does not owe his office to Wu Pei-fu but to Parliament, which endorsed him as a demonstration against the Government, a piece of vengeance for the announcement by the latter of new elections.

It is generally believed that neither Wang Ko-ming, Minister of Finance, nor Dr. Wellington Koo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, will be reappointed. It is almost certain that places will be found for Dr. Wang Cheng-ting and Yen Huei-ching, while Wu Yu-lin will be retained to please the Government party and save the President's face.

The Chinese Press says that Kao Ling-wei must go, but that Chang Chih-tan will possibly be Minister of the Interior to appease the Tientsin party. The Chinese press also says that Pan Fu or Tsai Ting-kan will be Minister of Finance, but the Chinese bankers say that the probable appointee is a dark horse.

Peking, Jan. 12.

The following personnel of the Sun Pao-chi Cabinet has been officially announced by Presidenti-

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PASSENGERS

INWARD.

Per N.Y.K.S. Nagasaki Maru, January 3. From Japan. Mr. E. Hunter, Master G. Hunter, Mr. A. P. Thomson, Mrs. A. P. Thomson, Mr. [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] McSparran, Mr. A. K. Jensen.

Per str. Hsin Ningshao, January 4. From Ningpo. Mr. A. Aroup.

Per str. Lucnyi, January 4. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. Vines, Mr. E. J. Grainger.

Per str. Ningshao, January 4. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. Fanfit and Mr. Y. J. Chamsler.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, January 5. From Ningpo. Messrs. D. Brukher, H. Lavers and Pinney.

Per str. Suiwo, January 5. From River Ports. Misses Thomson, Q. M. Sherman, Mr. G. W. Sherman.

Per str. Shuntien, January 6. From Tientsin. Mr. J. Swire, Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 6. From Ningpo. Mr. H. C. Pouret, Mr. and Mrs. R. Dowery and Son, Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Smith, Master J. Smith, Mrs. G. High, Misses M. and G. High.

Per N.Y.K.S. Fushimi Maru, January 6. From London, etc. Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Bowen, Mrs. A. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Christiansen, Miss S. A. Hudson, Mrs. B. C. Wallace, Mr. E. Blacher, Mrs. M. Blacher, Miss E. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. H. Crombie, Messrs. J. Martin, E. Salmon, M. J. Patell, F. B. Walker, Mrs. J. A. Broadley, Messrs. R. Broadley, Al. Stephenson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Stuart, Mr. C. Teunkens, Mrs. M. Sanford and three children, Messrs. Stuart, W. Neumann, A. Taylor.

Per str. Fausang, January 7. From Hongkong. Misses MacMillan and Starkey.

Per str. Woosung, January 7. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie, [illegible] and R. C. Mackey.

Per str. Tuckwo, January 7. From River Ports. Mr. A. L. Walker, Mr and Mrs. Mackenzie, Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Messrs. L. Magrin, K. Maurer, E. S. White, Mr and Mrs. Vander Pol and child, Mr. and Mrs. Swan.

Per M.M.S. Amboise, January 7. From Marseilles. Mr Rozis, Mr. and [illegible] Civet and child, Mr. and Mrs. Outrim, Mr. R. P. Stiam, Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Frinquier. **From Singapore.** Mr. F. J. O. Veerman. **From Saigon.** Mr. R. Philippe, Mrs. L. Lecontet. **From Hongkong.** Capt. W. [illegible] Messrs. H. W. P. Meckin, G. E. Godden, R. L. S. Webb, G. F. H. Bichard, W. E. [illegible] Stewart, E. J. Dowley, D. W. Leach, Nopper, Weill and L. A. Franco.

Per str. Soochow, January 8. From Hongkong. Mrs. A. J. Hussey.

Per str. Kiangan, January 9. From River Ports. [illegible]

Per str. Kutwo, January 9. From River Ports. [illegible]

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 9. From Ningpo. Messrs. J. S. Reed and A. [illegible]

Per str. Hsin Ningshao, January 9. From Ningpo. Mr. and Mrs. J. E. [illegible] and Mr. H. G. Mackenzie.

Per str. Kaiping, January 10. From Chinwangtao. Mrs. C. Hicks.

Per str. Kianghsin, January 10. From River Ports. [illegible]

Per str. Nganking, January 10. From River Ports. Mrs. N. Forman and Mr. G. L. Bates.

Per str. Loongwo, January 10. From River Ports. Miss R. Nringert, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Swenman and four children.

Per str. Hsin Ningshao, January 11. From Ningpo. Miss Latimer.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 11. From Ningpo. Drs. J. Lawly, J. Wi Huntley, Mr. T. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Cornish, Misses B. L. Weekel, C. A. Hueg and C. H. Barlow.

OUTWARD.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 4.—For Ningpo.—Mrs. W. M. Scott, Mr. S. H. Edkins.

Per M.M.S. Paul Lecat, January 4.—For Marseilles.—Mrs. Ruegg and two children, Mr E. R. Dalvy, Mr. E. Prunc, Mr. E. W. P. Mills, Mrs. J. Henry, Mr. V. Meynard, Mrs. Changeux, Mrs. C. J. Kerris, Mr. and Mrs. Weyl, [illegible] Mrs. E. Geney, Miss Geney, Mrs. C. Rusconeva, Messrs. I. Rovinsky, M. Ravikewitch, H. Herve, A. [illegible] C. Doerabter, Dr. G. Seider, Messrs. M. Mounier, J. S. Upery, C. Servault, E. Faudot, Y. Le Bender, C. Guillou, Dr. P. Seidner, Messrs. J. Monroze, A. Pinchon, P. Bosquet, A. Vidette, J. Graille, J. M. Canque, S. Nice, A. Sanpierri, L. Michel, E. Edouard, L. Le Tanu, D. Glagoleff. **For Port Said**—Mr. I. Shainen, Mr. M. N. Burkun. **For Penang**—Mr. Oldenborg, Mr. and Mrs. G. Cosulich. **For Singapore**—Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Brinkley, Dr. Osborn, Mr. G. Tullie, **For Saigon**—Messrs. H. Palisse, L. Pélignol. **For Hongkong**—Mr. P. Schweisguth, Mr. and Mrs. E. Michaelsen, Mr. M. Begin, Sir R. and Lady Ho Tung, Mr. C. Merlin, Messrs. Baude, J. Cataran, Misses R. Parker, H. Myers, A. Russell, Mr. P. Dal Molin.

Per str. Chengtu, January 5.—For Chefoo—Mr. W. M. Cornwell.

Per str. Sinkiang, January 5.—For Canton—Mr. and Mrs. Lasare, Miss Kulewci, Mr. and Mrs. Berodin. **For Hongkong** Mr. Lilley.

Per str. Lucnyi, January 5.—For River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. A. Mittag, Mr. H. H. Williams.

Per str. Shengking, January 6. For Amoy.—Mr. R. E. De Lay.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 7.—For Ningpo.—Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Cornish, Mrs. G. High, Messrs. R. M. Smith, J. T. Read, E. R. Cartwright.

Per str. Pakhoi, January 8.—For Hongkong.—Capt. Isbister and Mr. A. N. McDonald.

Per str. Shuntien, January 8.—For Weihaiwei.—Two Franciscan Sisters. **For Chefoo.**—Miss E. Costa, Mr. B. S. Stephenson, Mr. and Mrs. Mowat. **For Tientsin.**—Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Sheppard.

Per P. & O. S. Khiva, January 8.—For London.—Mrs. G. N. Marshall and child, Misses J. and M. Marshall, Mrs. D. O. O'Brien, Engr.-Lt. H. B. Olden, Miss E. M. Adlam, Mrs. H. O. Rennie. **For Marseilles.**—Messrs. G. N. Marshall, F. P. Lachlan, Rev. and Mrs. E. S. Drown, Mr. W. M. Weston, Mrs. S. B. Robinson, Misses R. and A. B. Robinson, Rev. and Mrs. W. L. Oakes, Master J. Oakes, Misses J. and M. MacKinley, Mr. T. N. Chapman. **For Colombo.**—Mr. and Mrs. D. F. McClelland and child, Miss M. McClelland. **For Singapore.**—Mr. L. Charlesworth, Miss S. M. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Wallace, Miss E. Coleman. **For Hongkong.**—Messrs. N. P. Karanjia, D. Commissarcat, J. C. Remedios and Mrs. B. Pevsner.

Per str. Chinkiang, January 9.—For Swatow.—Mr. C. H. Lavers.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 9.—For Ningpo.—Dr. Josephine Lawley, [illegible]

Per str. Woosung, January 9.—For River Ports.—Mr. J. H. H. Swart, Mrs Botham, Mrs. E. O. Botham, Mr. and Mrs. K. O. Mackenzie and Miss Botham.

Per str. Socohow, January 10.—For Hongkong.—Mrs. C. Sim.

Per str. Tatung, January 10.—For River Ports.—Mr. and Mrs. Van Biervliet and Mr. D. C. Tilburn.

Per str. Chungking, January 11.—For Chefoo.—Mr. W. Bos.

Per str. Nganking, January 11.—For River Ports.—Messrs. Wm. Ironside, W. L. P. Cook, Miss M. Cook.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 11.—For Ningpo.—Dame Adelaide Anderson and secretary, Misses M. Deuzman and A. Harrison.

Per str Liangchow, January 12.—For Tsingtao.—Mr. W. E. Smith.

Per str. Saiyang, January 12.—For Hongkong.—Mr. A. C. Pederson.

BIRTHS

ABRAHAM.—On Saturday, January 5, 1924, at Ste. Marie Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Abraham (143 Bubbling Well Road), a daughter.

BENNETT.—On January 9, 1924, at St. Mary's Maternity Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Bennett, a son.

BELL.—On January 9, 1924, at St. Mary's Maternity Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Bell, a daughter.

GENSBURGER.—On January 9, 1924, at 51 Rue Massenet, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. Victor Gensburger, a daughter.

HOWE.—On January 7, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Howe (née Maggie James of Kobe), a son. Japan papers please copy.

MURRAY.—On January 4, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Murray, twin daughters.

WOLF.—On January 6, 1924, at Dr. Fearn's Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Wolf, a son.

MARRIAGES

BEITH—CRADDOCK.—On January 10, 1924, at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, London, by the Very Rev. A. J. Walker, M.A., Vicar of Malton, Yorkshire, Benjamin David Fleming, youngest son of the late John Alexander Beith, Esq., of Manchester, to Kate Ethel, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur K. Craddock, of Shanghai.

JUDD—ANDROSSOFF.—On January 5, 1924, at H.B.M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, before Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., Consul-General, Edward George Judd to Clavdia Feodorovna Androssoff.

TOSCANI—CHADDERTON.—On January 5, 1924, at St. Joseph's Church, Shanghai, Steno Toscani to Helen Chadderton.

WHITE—FULLER.—On January 8, 1924, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, Edmond Stuart White, D.S.O., etc., etc., of Hankow, to Mabel Aubrey Fuller, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Jenner, of Essex, England, and widow of Leonard Walter Fuller, 5th Cameron Highlanders.

DEATHS

ANDREWS.—On January 5, 1924, at Shanghai, Margaret Alice (Allie), dearly beloved wife of R. H. Andrews, aged 29 years.

BLECHYNDEN.—On January 8, 1924, at Nelson, New Zealand, in his 77th year, John Blechynden. Born on June 3, 1846, at Falstone, Northumberland. Deeply regretted by his loving children.

JORGE.—On January 8, 1924, at Kobe, Flora Violetta Jorge, beloved wife of A. F. Jorge. Deeply regretted. (By cable).

WALTER.—On January 5, 1924, at 22 Route de Zikawei, Shanghai, Otto Richard Julius Walter (Dick), beloved husband of Adelaide Walter, aged 44 years.

WESTBROOK.—On January 5, 1924, James, Leonard Edward, aged 3½ years, beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Westbrook, of Shanghai.

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SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month		Barometer 9 A.M.	Barometer Att'ed Therm	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Jan.	4	30.40	46.6	W S W	1	41.6	37.6	58.1	30.7	B. C.
,,	5	30.39	46.4	N	1	34.0	34.0	60.8	21.5	B. F.
,,	6	30.21	47.1	S E	1	49.3	47.0	59.9	39.9	O.
,,	7	30.45	48.2	N	2	44.4	41.7	47.3	43.0	O.
,,	8	30.55	47.7	N N W	1	36.2	31.1	46.8	30.0	B.
,,	9	30.36	47.7	W S W	2	40.8	36.5	53.6	30.7	B.
,,	10	30.51	47.5	Calm	0	37.6	33.8	56.1	23.9	B. C.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—[illegible]
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—[illegible]

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEE

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date		Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	192
Jan.	4	37.8	20.4	58.0	40.8	Nil.	Nil.
,,	5	34.0	28.0	58.0	49.0	Nil.	Nil.
,,	6	44.8	31.0	58.8	52.8	Nil.	Nil.
,,	7	41.0	37.0	54.2	61.2	0.02	Nil.
,,	8	33.4	41.0	45.6	53.0	Nil.	Nil.
,,	9	34.2	34.4	52.2	50.4	Nil.	Nil.
,,	10	32.0	34.0	53.2	47.2	Nil.	Nil.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SOUTHERN Rhodesia which was inaugurated as the youngest governing Colony of the British Empire on October 1, 1923, which had previously for 33 years been ably administered by British South Africa Company possesses one of the finest climates the world with long hours of sunshine, breezy temperate days cool nights. For those who wish to take up farming or ranching order to make the most they can of their capital, energy and techn knowledge, or for those who wish to retire from strenuous busin or professional life and make a home, Rhodesia offers many vantages unequalled elsewhere. The business, social, sport educational and medical facilities bear favourable comparison those of other countries. Native labour is plentiful and when perly managed is cheap and efficient. Taxation is light. Good in healthy surroundings and amidst fine scenery is plentiful and expensive.

Full information is obtainable on application to The Secret Southern Rhodesia Settlers' Board (attached to the Government Southern Rhodesia), P. O. Box 372, Salisbury S., Rhodesia.

The giving of advice to prospective settlers will be facilitate applicants will advise the Board in detail of their circumstances the amount of capital they would be prepared to invest in a suita venture.

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CHINA IN 1923

Jan. 14.

MORE and more difficult does the reviewing of China's history become as more and more the breach widens between different sections of the country; while still these sections react upon each other and continually group themselves in new but ever futile combination, so that it is impossible to form an accurate idea of the doings of one without simultaneous reference to three or four of its neighbours. The classification used below may serve to refresh readers' minds on the general trend of events, with the further aid of cross references, so far as space permits, to indicate where the chief intermingling occurs.

PEKING.

The New Year found General Li Yuan-hung still President and on January 3 telegraphing to the Tuchuns urging them to abolish themselves and disband their armies. The only apparent response was a telegram from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai protesting against power being focussed in the Central Government under the Constitution which Parliament was supposed to be drafting and pressing for provincial autonomy. On January 5 General Chang Shou-tseng accepted the Premiership. In his Cabinet was Mr. Alfred Sze as Foreign Minister. The latter lasted just a month, and resigned on February 4. On February 7, to meet Chinese New Year charges, the Government proposed a short term loan of $12,000,000, which with discount, interest etc., would have brought them $9,279,600 and required a repayment twelve months later of $12,960,000. Parliament squashed this ruinous scheme and how Government got over New Year is a mystery. On March 8 the Cabinet resigned. On March 10 Peking sent a Note to Japan demanding cancellation of the 1915 Treaty (or what remained of it after the compromise arranged at the Washington Conference) and retrocession of Port Arthur and Dalny. Japan's rejection of the demand was expected in Peking, which had merely intended to keep its claim on Kuantung alive; but it none the less provoked an anti-Japanese boycott, which raged, chiefly in the Yangtze Valley, through the summer, provoked a brawl at Changsha on June 1, when two Chinese were killed by Japanese marines landed to protect the loading of the Wuling Maru, and petered out in August. On March 26 the gunboats on the Yangtze went on strike and threatened to seize the salt at Shiherhui if they were not paid. They got $300,000 on account from Peking and some arrangement was made for further payments from the local salt funds. On March 25 fresh demands came from London for payment on the Vickers and Marconi loans. Rumours of a loan of £20,000,000, to be arranged by Mr. Birch Crisp, primarily to settle these claims, were very positive (May 16-24), but nothing came of them. On May 25 it was announced that Mr. Bowra, in charge of the Customs during Sir Francis Aglen's absence, was advancing Tls. 1,000,000 from the Customs building funds, to pay the Legations abroad, who, together with Peking's gendarmerie, ministerial underlings, teachers and garbage coolies, were months in arrears of their pay. But this project was stopped. Other financial questions must be left for a moment.

THE COUP D'ETAT.

It would be equally impossible and wearisome to detail all the intrigue of these months, the object of which was to raise Marshal Tsao Kun, Inspector-General of Chihli, Honan and Shantung, to the Presidency. The mainspring of it all was Tsao Jui, the Marshal's brother. On June 6 President Li's last Cabinet resigned, undoubtedly at the Tsao Jui clique's orders. There followed a period of artificial panic in Peking and extra foreign guards were brought in to protect Legation Quarter. On June 13 President Li fled to Tientsin taking the seals with him, but he was collared at the railway station and forced to disgorge. Ensued a period of complete deadlock, with flight of most of the M.P.'s to Shanghai and on June 29 an impassioned appeal from Dr. Sun Yat-sen to the Powers to withdraw recognition from Peking. The Tsao Jui clique, however, put back the Ministers whose resignation Li had accepted, Dr. Wellington Koo was persuaded to join them on July 23 as Foreign Minister and a thing calling itself a Government emerged, though no one could say by what right it was there. Tsao Kun, however, was not yet President and most of the M.P.'s were sitting in a state of stormy non-quorum in the Hupeh Guild at Shanghai. Towards the end of July extensive buying up of M.P.'s began and by October 5 a quorum had been got together again in Peking which on that day elected Tsao Kun President. It is calculated that the votes cost on an average $5,000 apiece. For makeweight, Parliament passed the Constitution which was promulgated on October 10. Denunciations burst forth from Chang Tso-lin, Lu Yung-hsiang, Dr. Sun, and other quarters, but they came to nothing. The Diplomatic Body called on the President *en masse* with pretty speeches on October 15. So far from war, there have been strong rumours of a compromise between Tsao and Chang Tso-lin. But Tsao cannot get a Premier and finds Parliament as much a nuisance as did all his predecessors.

GOLD FRANCS AND DOMESTIC LOANS.

These words indicate the two major questions of finance of the year. On February 12 the French Senate passed the bill for the reconstruction of the defunct Banque Industrielle. On February 26 it was announced that a "*Compagnie de Gérance*" had been formed which was to reopen branches of the Bank at Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin and elsewhere. In March China's payments of the Boxer Indemnity (suspended for five years on her entry into the war) fell due again and France according to the protocol of 1901 demanded payment in "gold francs": in other words, she required enough silver to purchase as much gold in New York as she would have been able to buy before the war with her share of the indemnity. China objected that she had the right to pay in paper francs at the rate actually purchasable. The issue was complicated by the French Government's intention to use the Boxer Indemnity for the reconstitution of the Banque Industrielle. At the year's close the dispute was still open.

On December 23, 1922, the Diplomatic Body sent a note to the Waichiaopu claiming the right to use the Customs surplus for the payments due on China's defaulted loans, Marconi, Vickers, etc. This drew from the Chinese Bankers Association of Shanghai, on January 6, a strong protest to Sir Francis Aglen, to the effect that the Surplus was the security for a number of domestic loans, for which the Government had made him responsible by mandate in 1921. Sir Francis replied by a long memorandum (published by us on February 1) showing the whole situation: under the most favourable conditions there would be a deficit on the National Consolidated Loan service, so that expected drawings would have to be postponed, while for the $96,000,000 there was nothing. Meanwhile the Government had earmarked the anticipated increase in Customs revenue, due to the revised tariff coming into effect that year, without his knowledge. So long as he, Sir Francis, remained custodian of the loans, the bankers could trust him to prevent the surplus being "nobbled"; but if the Government took away his wardship by another mandate he would be powerless. The Powers' demand of December 23 merely meant that if Peking meant to play ducks and drakes with the surplus, they should assert their claim. Anxieties for the safety of the internal loans have again recently been aroused by Dr. Sun's threat to seize the Customs revenue in Kuangtung. (To be dealt with later).

CUSTOMS AND SALT.

The Customs revenue for the year 1922 had amounted to Hk. Tls. 58,600,000 an increase of four millions odd over the previous year. The revised tariff, bringing duty to an effective 5 per cent., came into effect in 1923 for goods shipped to China after January 17. Even with this assistance the revenue in 1923 was only Hk. Tls. 63,378,000 an increase of Tls. 4,744,000 which, remembering the extra dues, means an actual decline in the volume of trade. The moral of the effect of brigandage and bad government was obvious.

The Salt Gabelle returns for 1923 are not yet available. For 1922 they amounted to $85,789,000 an increase of $7,801,000 over the previous year. Of this amount the Government received, in surplus, $78,000,000, but of this $31,000,000 represented money left in the provinces, which was $13,000,000 more than the figure for 1921. On February 2 a sensation was caused by the Yokohama Specie Bank in Peking declining to hand over $2,000,000 of the salt surplus, until the Government agreed to pay on the Russian issue of the 1913 Reorganization Loans of which the Bolsheviks had issued duplicates. About this time M. Padoux, Financial Adviser, issued an elaborate calculation of debts and resources and how one might be made to meet the other, which attracted much attention. At the close of the year it was calculated that Peking needed $8,000,000 merely to pay something on account to her domestic claimants, without reckoning arrears.

CANTON.

On January 6 a combined force of Kuangsi and Yunnan men captured Wuchow, advanced rapidly to Samshui and thence to Canton, whence General Chen Chiung-ming, who had been in control since the previous June (date of Dr. Sun's expulsion), fled to his native Waichow, (January 15), taking the machinery of the Canton arsenal. Dr. Sun was not slow in proclaiming this as a victory for his party, but it left Canton in a perilous predicament between three rival forces (Kuangsiites, Cantonese and Yunnanese) with no recognized head. On February 15 Dr. Sun sailed from Shanghai for the South. He was entertained to lunch at Government House in Hongkong and visited and addressed the students of the University. He arrived at Canton on February 21 where he published various encouraging statements, especially one of April 1 that the Overseas Chinese were prepared to make him a loan of $6,000,000. On April 13 fighting broke out between the Yunnanese (faithful to Dr. Sun and paid by the gambling monopoly in Canton) and the Kuangsi troops adhering to the Chen faction, in which the latter were worsted notwithstanding that Marshal Wu Pei-fu sent troops to their help on May 2 (see Szechuan, below). On May 4 Dr. Sun took over the Canton salt, despite protests from Peking. On May 17 he advanced to the siege of Waichow which has more or less lasted ever since. On June 22 Dr. C. C. Wu joined him as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A slight digression must be made here for the campaign in Hunan, led by the former Governor Tan Yen-kai, and designed to expel Governor Chao Heng-ti, Wu Pei-fu's man. This began on July 27. Tan had apparently not many troops and trusted to his popularity with his fellow provincials to raise more on the way. He reached Changsha by September 15 and was even said to have entered it. But Chao managed to hold on and after camping outside the city for nearly two months Tan was compelled to retreat on November 10, his troops looting Chenchow on their way south.

Meanwhile on November 4 Chen Chiung-ming by a ruse slipped out of Waichow, advanced to Sheklung and very nearly bested Dr. Sun's troops. But he wasted time at crucial moments and Tan's troops arriving to reinforce Dr. Sun, the latter regained ascendancy. The war has borne heavily on the Cantonese. Taxation, forced loans, confiscation of any property on which the Government could invent a claim, have all combined to squeeze the Cantonese pretty thoroughly. In September Dr. Sun sent a claim to the Diplomatic Body for the surrender to himself of all Kuangtung's share of the Customs surplus after satisfaction of foreign debts secured on the Customs. Such payment had been made in 1919-20, suspended owing to internal disputes in Canton and never resumed, owing to America's veto. The Diplomatic Body replied early in December that they would use any means to prevent interference with the Customs. Simultaneously, American, British, French, Japanese and Italian gunboats were moved to Canton. Dr. Sun replied with an ultimatum: if the Powers would not agree, he should order the Commissioner of Customs to hand over the revenues to him, and if the Commissioner refused, he, Dr. Sun, would replace him by another. This ultimatum expired on December 19, but curiously enough there is no subsequent news of any open clash.

BRIGANDAGE.

It is to be hoped that no year will surpass the deplorable record of 1923 in brigandage. Even women were noted among the outlaws in Anhui (Anking correspondent January 22) and while on February 10 General Chin Yun, sent to put down the bandits who had committed such outrages in Honan in 1922 and kidnapped several foreigners, vaingloriously announced their suppression, a letter from our Suichow (Honan) correspondent of March 6 reported them as bad as ever. There was hardly a week all through the year when our up-country correspondents did not report some atrocity by bandits or soldiers, unpaid and as bad as bandits. Even Chêkiang was affected, our Shaohsing correspondent reporting on April 10 a big looting of temples in particular. The outlaws in this district continued to be bad all through the summer but by September 13 the leaders had been caught and decapitated and the rest persuaded to resume the ways of peace—a clear proof that where there's a will, outlawry can be suppressed.

On May 6 an outrage occurred which re-echoed through the whole world. The famous Blue Express, from Pukou to Tientsin, was derailed at Lincheng, close to the southern border of Shantung, looted and thirty-five foreigners, many of them well known residents of Shanghai, carried off into the mountains. The process of obtaining their release was prolonged by bad faith on the Chinese Government's part, indecision (it must be said) on that of the foreign authorities and (it has to be added) interference of amateur negotiators. The bandits' terms, too extravagant at first to be worth considering, eventually came down to pardon and enrollment in the army. Most of the captives were released by driblets during the weeks after the outrage, but eight of them, removed to the inaccessible peaks of Paotzeku, were kept to the end. On June 1 a mass meeting was held in the Shanghai Town Hall to record its horror and strengthen the hands of the Diplomatic Body. On June 6 the enrollment of the bandits in the army began and on June 12 the last of the

al Mandate under date of January 12:—

Premier	Mr. Sun Pao-chi
Foreign Affairs	Dr. Wellington Koo
Home Affairs	Mr. Cheng Ku
Finance	Mr. Wang Ko-ming
War	Gen. Lu Ching
Navy	Adm. Li Ting-hsin
Justice	Dr. Wang Chung-hui
Education	Mr. Fan Yuan-lien
Agriculture and Commerce	Dr. W. W. Yen
Communications	Mr. Wu Yu-lin.

—Eastern News Agency.

An Experienced Cabinet

Peking, Jan. 13.

Cabinet Mandates accepted the resignation of all the Acting Cabinet Ministers and appointed the new Cabinet as reported. The Mandates then appointed General Chang Shou-tseng Shouwei Shangchiangchun, Mr. Kao Ling-wei Tupan of the Shuiwuchu and Mr. Wang Chi-tseng Chief Secretary of the Cabinet. The latter held the post of Chief of the Political Department of the Waichiaopu for 10 years and was afterwards Minister to Mexico. He is at present in Peking on furlough.

The Cabinet includes five former Acting Ministers of whom Mr. Wang Ko-min, Dr. Wellington Koo, Mr. Wu Yu-lin and Admiral Li Ting-hsin retain the same posts while Mr. Cheng Keh is transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of the Interior. Dr. Wang Chung-huai and Dr. W. W. Yen are former Premiers and Mr. Fan Yuan-lin is a former Minister of Education. Thus the Cabinet has an unusually experienced personnel. Chinese say that the Cabinet shows the influence of General Wu Pei-fu.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE NEW PREMIER.

The new Premier has had a long official career. A native of Chêkiang, he was born in 1867. After serving as a member of the Board of Justice and Taotai of Chihli, he went to France in 1902 as Chinese Minister, from which post he was transferred to Peking. ing. In 1907 he went to Germany as Chinese Minister, but returned some 20 months afterwards, and held various posts, including the Governorship of Shantung. Since the establishment of the Republic, Mr. Sun has served in different official positions including that of Director General of the Revenue Council, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Director of the Audit Office, Minister of Finance and Director-General of Customs. He holds the first class order of the Chiaho and Wenfu decorations.

Mr. Kao Ling-wei, the late acting Premier, has been appointed Director-General of Customs.

Hitch over Finance Ministry

Peking, Jan. 13.

It is semi-officially stated that all the members of the Cabinet will assume their posts to-morrow with the exception of Dr. Wang Chung-hui, the Minister of Justice, who is abroad, and possibly Mr. Wang Ko-ming, who appears undecided. The President sent the Chief Secretary and the military and police delegates to call on Mr. Wang Ko-ming to-day, urging his acceptance. The military and police delegates pointed out the danger and trouble there would be at the Lunar New Year if Mr. Wang's financial arrangements were disrupted.

The Premier, Mr. Sun Pao-chi, has instructed the new Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, Mr. Wang Chi-tseng, to telegraph to the Provinces urging cessation of military activities and preparations as a preliminary in the direction of reunification.— Reuter's Pacific Service.

Feeling Running High in Peking

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 14.

Feeling in all parties is high about the new Cabinet appointments wherein the Premier has had no voice. It is locally described as a Wang Yu-chih Cabinet, since the membership has been obviously selected for the President by his clique from the Tientsin-Paoting Groups with the exception of Yen Hui-ching, to save the Premier's face, Wang Chung-hui, who is abroad, and Fan Yuan-lien, because he is popular with the schools.

At an interview with the President it is alleged that the Premier had a totally different list but that the President produced his and insisted on it. The new Constitution provides that membership of the Cabinet should not be submitted to Parliament in order to give the Premier a free hand, but this provision the Wang Yu-chih group turned to its own advantage, forcing a Cabinet on Sun Pao-chi which was unacceptable to Parliament. The Premier's only resource is resignation which is unlikely immediately since Kao Ling-wei has been appointed to his post as head of the Customs. This is considered as a particularly insulting move to both Parliament and Premier. Yen Hui-ching, holding a minor Ministry, is therefore unlikely to be acting Premier if Sun Pao-chi resigns, so that Wu Pei fu's candidate will be also side-tracked. It is unlikely that Parliament will ratify another appointment if the Premier resigns as it has been tricked this time, so that the Wang Yu-chih group not only controls this Cabinet, but any in the future also, through its own acting Premiers during the life of Parliament, after which no local opposition will be possible.

Sun Pao chi's weakness in accepting his present position and in endorsing the Cabinet appointments is bitterly criticized in all quarters.

The Premier's Profession of Faith

Peking, Jan. 14.

Premier Sun Pao-chi yesterday published his political views briefly as follows:—

I have undertaken charge of the present difficult situation with the object of averting the national crisis. I intend to effect the unification of the country in accordance with the Constitution and to commence the readjustment of internal affairs. With a view to consolidating foreign and domestic loans, I will do my best to put in force the increase of the Customs tariff by 2.5 per cent. I will endeavour to have Consular jurisdiction abolished and China's international status elevated.

Prior to his assumption of office, Premier Sun Pao-chi published the following as part of his administrative policy:—

(1) The settlement of the Szechuan and Kuangtung issues.

(2) The disbandment of surplus soldiery.

(3) The consolidation of the finance of the Central Government.

(4) The convention of the national peace conference to be attended by representatives of all provinces.

It is problematical whether these items can really be put in force, but it is interesting to note that the public takes the view that the above items are the wishes of President Tsao Kun rather than the aspirations of Premier Sun Pao-chi.—Eastern News Agency.

Peking, Jan. 14.

The expectation that the new Cabinet would begin its duties to-day has not been fulfilled. The report is current that Mr. Wang Ko ming, the Minister of Finance, has submitted his resignation, while strong pressure is still being exercised with a view to his acceptance of the portfolio.

Mr. Sun Pao-chi is still at the Western Hills and the Chief Secretary to the Cabinet is holding up the circular telegram to the provinces, urging cessation of military activities, pending Mr. Sun's assumption of office.

The impression is gaining ground, however, that the Cabinet was promulgated without the Prime Minister's knowledge of the entire personnel, but the intrigues of several aspirants to the Finance portfolio are so flooding Peking with rumours that it is impossible to say whether this delay reflects serious consideration or is merely due to preliminary preparations.

Later.

Mr. Sun Pao chi has returned to Peking from the Western Hills. It is announced that he will assume office to-morrow morning.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Jan. 15.

Mr. Sun Pao-chi accompanied by Dr. W. W. Yen attended the Cabinet this morning. The first formal meeting is expected to take place to-morrow morning but there is still some doubt regarding Mr. Wang Ko-ming's acceptance.—Reuter's Pacific service.

An Attempt at the Impeachment of the Finance Minister: Kao Ling-wei also Threatened

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 16.

It is now understood that Wang Ko-ming's refusal to assume office as Finance Minister in the new Cabinet does not indicate his desire to resign, but is designed to elicit from the President and other political leaders strong appeals to him to resume office at the Ministry of Finance, and thus to force Sun Pao-chi, the Premier, to accept him.

Members of Parliament are highly incensed by this action and are determined to issue a *chapan* order (*i.e.*, an order for investigation and prosecution). It also is rumoured that a similar measure against Kao Ling-wei is being prepared.

Parliament Threatened with Dissolution Preparing to Die Fighting

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 17.

All elements in Parliament are convinced that a political crisis is approaching and that the Paotingfu-Tientsin group (the extremists who control the President) are preparing to drive out Parliament and prevent new elections.

Many, therefore, advocate that Parliament should take the initiative and proscribe its enemies, thereby forcing the Government's hand and advertising the issue to the wide world, after which the provincial militarists can force the Paoting-Tientsin leaders to leave the capital, on the pretext to "protect" the President and constitution.

Yesterday there was a motion against Wang Ko-ming the Finance Minister designate, which is considered in the House not only as a *chapan* (order for investigation and prosecution) but an impeachment, which was referred to committee.

The next target is likely to be Cheng Keh, the new Minister of Interior, with others following.

This programme is partly prompted by the belief that the Government will pay members no more salaries, so they would rather be driven out than starved out.

THE UNPAID M. P.'S

Members' Own Seals to Be Accepted as Receipts

Peking, Jan. 9.

A group of "neutral" members of Parliament, being anxious regarding their salaries, convened a meeting of their colleagues this afternoon at the Lower House to receive the report of Mr. Wang Chen, who had been appointed leader of the delegation which interviewed the Acting Minister of Finance upon the subject. Mr. Hu Tzu-chun moved that the meeting should be an informal one, and acting upon this the proceedings were conducted in private.

The Cabinet at its meeting yesterday decided that the salaries of members of the House of Representatives shall be paid, provided members put their seals to the application as the seal of the House is in the hands Mr. Wu Ching-lien in Tientsin. Reuter's Pacific Service.

GOLD FRANC ISSUE STILL OPEN

Diplomatic Action Delayed: A Simple Matter Skilfully Misrepresented

THE PROMISE OF 1905 NOT YET HONOURED

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 12.

The local community has been waiting with no little interest for the reply from the Protocol Powers to Dr. Koo's last gold franc note. The diplomats have been hinting for some time that a joint note was in process of making and that it would be presented shortly, so the press has been on the *qui vive* for several weeks. It is now known, however, that the Legations have abandoned work on the draft reply and that no more conferences will be held until Dr. J. G. Schurman has returned to Peking and has had an opportunity to review with his colleagues the results of conferences held in his absence.

There is no difference of opinion among the Legations about China's obligation to pay France in gold at the Protocol exchange of Frs. 3.75 per Hsikuan tael. Dr. Koo's note has not made the slightest impression upon the diplomatic attitude. While well worded and extremely plausible at the first reading, the arguments which he put forward were recognized by everyone with the least knowledge of finance to be superficial and designed to confuse the issue and flatter the controversialists of the press and Parliament.

All this argument about telegraphic transfer and other means of forwarding has no bearing whatever upon the character of the debt.

PRINCE CH'ING'S AGREEMENT.

In 1905 Prince Ch'ing asked the Protocol Powers to choose the means and medium of payment to suit the convenience of each. As a matter of convenience France choose telegraphic transfer of gold to Paris at the Protocol rate for Haikuan taels at this moment. Neither France nor the Protocol group is trying to go back on the bargain made with Prince Ch'ing in 1905. They are simply trying to hold China to it—a matter which ought not to be subject to any dispute and a matter which, from the start, should have been none of Parliament's business since it involves no new national obligation and no new understandings between China and the Powers but simply the fulfilment of an old bargain which with all other old bargains the new Republic undertook to respect when recognition was extended in 1912.

These points the Cabinet clearly recognizes—probably none more clearly than Dr. Koo and there can be no doubt that the Cabinet was on the point of making this recognition public nearly a month ago when the ignorant and bumptious legislators suddenly got wind of what was coming and threatened Mr. Wang K'o-min and other Ministers with a *chapan*—an order for investigation and prosecution. The members of the Cabinet did not want to be hounded out of office so, to play for more time, Dr. Koo was forced to draft his ingenious quibble.

HOW TO FORCE THE ISSUE.

While this note has no real influence upon the determination within diplomatic circles that China must acknowledge her full debt to France, it is realized that if anything is to come of a reply, if the issue is to be brought to a head and settled within a reasonable time, the next diplomatic note must fix some penalty upon non-compliance or force the issue in some other way. The nature of the penalty to be brought to bear upon China is the real subject of dispute among the Legations which has delayed the drafting of a note and its presentation. Since the Powers have adopted the attitude that the indemnity is a lump sum paid to the Protocol Powers as a coalition, to be disposed of by them through agreement among themselves, and not a series of debts from China to the individual nations, it is no longer politic for France, Belgium, Italy or Spain to make individual representations to the Chinese Government or to threaten penalties on their own account. At the same time it has not been easy for the representatives of these Powers to persuade the British, American and Japanese Legations to agree to all the drastic clauses which the former think should be incorporated in a note. Hence the delay.

THE SECRET HAND IN PEKING

Pernicious Hold of Extremist Group: Tsao Powerless in Their Hands

NEW PREMIER EXCLUDED FROM PRESIDENT

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 12.

While the members of the Paoting-Tientsin group, the Government party as it is now called,—which wrecked the Wang Chang-hui cabinet, ruled Wu Pei-fu out of Peking politics, drove Li Yuan-hung from the presidency and railroaded Tsao Kun into office,—is organizing to prevent Sun Pao-chi from making radical changes in the Cabinet, the representatives of the provincial branches of the Chihli party in Peking are working up an alliance to break the Government party's control of Tsao Kun, which many think will result in the disintegration of the whole Chihli military coalition.

For many weeks past the Government party has guarded its position by refusing to allow the provincials to come into direct contact with the President. The latter is ill and there are only two men who have direct access to him or who can secure direct access for others. They are Wang Yu-chih, campaign manager prior to the election, and Li formerly Tsao Kun's number one boy, now his private treasurer. One hears on all hands bitter complaints of the strict censorship which these two dependents exercise over news, mail, telegrams and visits from former friends and supporters. When Mr. Sun Pao chi, the new Premier, yesterday called at the Presidential Palace to discuss the formation of a new Cabinet, he was not allowed to see Tsao Kun but was interviewed by Wang Yu-chih who informed him that the President wanted no radical changes in the personal of the Cabinet.

Since the provincial elements in the Chihli group are allowed no participation in Palace councils they are getting together to make the biggest possible hostile demonstration against the Paoting and Tientsin cliques. This will have the backing of Chi Hsieh-yuan, Wu Pei-fu and all their allied and dependent chiefs. Their differences will be sunk for the time and every effort will be made to eliminate the men who made Tsao Kun President. In the opinion of many astute observers this will involve the elimination of Tsao Kun himself, but this consideration is not likely to influence the growing opposition because it is now felt that Tsao had better be sacrificed than that the present limited clique should continue to function as a Government.

ACCORDING to the *"Shunpao"* the Commissioner of Education in Fengtien has made the extraordinary proposal that all schools and colleges conducted by foreigners be handed over to the Chinese authorities forthwith.

poly and raise a big loan thereon from a Japanese: *démentis* as usual. On April 10 it was shown fairly convincingly that Gen. Yang Sen, invading Szechuan, used opium to pay his troops. On April 13 an upriver correspondent reported miles of poppy-fields between Chungking and Wanhsien. On December 9, Kueitehfu reported opium as providing the military with money. On December 19 enforced growing was again reported in Fukien.

Shansi is a bright exception: the result of twelve months' intensive campaigning *against* opium was reported most satisfactorily. Kiangsu and Chêkiang also appear praiseworthily exempt. Generally speaking, China is again an opium country. One is reminded of the late Dr. Morrison's famous aphorism (of earlier years): "China does want our (*i.e.*, Indian) opium. It competes with her own."

PROVINCIAL HAPPENINGS.

Provincial events, except as already noted, point in the main to a quantity of good work that is being done, in spite of brigandage in low and high places. Of the following, taken in order, those which are an exception to this statement need not be underlined. On January 9 the Chefoo-Weihsien road was opened and motors began to run on it. Early in February a rather serious strike held up the Pe-Han railway: it was ended on February 12, principally by the simple means of decapitating a ringleader or two. On January 31 ninety miles more of the Peking-Suiyuan railway, from Kueihuacheng to Paotou on the Yellow River, were opened. On March 10, arsenic poisoning, due to defective cookery, slew twenty-four students of the First Normal Government School at Hangchow. On the same date news came that the much hoped for Haichow (N. Kiangsu) harbour scheme had been abandoned. Simultaneously the deepening of the Grand Canal from Chinkiang to Tsingkiangpu was begun on a serious scale. On March 21 Chêkiang announced the imposition of a 20 per cent. cigarette tax, in defiance of the agreement between Peking and the tobacco companies into which she herself had entered. Her example has been followed by Kiangsu and appears likely to spread. On March 31, 120 men, breaking up old shells at the Anking (Anhui) arsenal, were blown to pieces. On April 22 the Liao River Conservancy was entrusted to a Chinese-Foreign Commission. On May 15 the Asia Development Corporation opened their new channel across the bend in the Yellow River where the floods occurred so disastrously in 1921—apparently a magnificent piece of work. During August the Chinese in Tientsin attempted to raise money by selling portions of the Russian Concession, but were foiled. On August 7 there was a bad wash-out on the South Manchurian Railway. On August 18 the new sea wall at Chinhai (Chêkiang) was completed by famine labour. During the late summer a prophet of woe in Western China caused a panic which spread all over the country in amazing fashion by forecasts of darkness and disaster. He had, however, no connexion with the foreign seer who foretold, for about the same date, the end of the world.

IN GENERAL.

ON January 1 Peking gave in to the storm aroused by its attempts in the previous November to increase the postal and telegraph rates and announced reversion to the old rates. Professor Einstein passed through Shanghai on January 1 and gave an address. On January 6 the United States Minister presented the terms of retribution for the murder of Mr. C L Coltman, shot at the gates of Kalgan on December 12. Eventually on April 29 the matter was settled by an indemnity, an apology and dismissal of minor officials. On January 31 the transfer of the Shantung railway by the Japanese to China was completed. On February 1 the new British Minister, Sir Ronald Macleay, and Lady Macleay arrived in Shanghai; he left for Peking about ten days later after many cordial meetings with the British community. Sir Ernest Wilton, the new Director of the Salt Gabelle, also arrived by the same ship. On February 17 the 27-ton yawl Shanghai, commanded by Captain Kjaer, with five Danish friends as crew, started on a 16,000 miles voyage to Copenhagen, since happily reached. The Associated British Chambers of Commerce sat in Shanghai from February 21 to 24 and passed several cogent resolutions, use of British Boxer Indemnity, disorders in China, copper coinage, illegal taxation, etc.: that on the proposed 2½ per cent. surtax caused considerable controversy, however. The China Medical Missionary Association sat in Shanghai from February 15 to 20: an address on the Chinese brain, comparing it to the Egyptian, attracted attention among other valuable discussions. Colonel Marr Johnson, the popular Commandant of the S.V.C., sailed for Home on February 24. On April 25 Mr. James Slevin, an American, signed a contract with Peking to supply 24 Curtiss aeroplanes (G.$336,900) for the projected China Airways Co. On April 23, the Chinese cruiser Haichow, lying off Kiangnan Arsenal, fired on the Old Dock launch Ada and seized and held her for the night: a similar exploit was performed on the A. P. C. boat Soo Hang two days later. These repercussions of political trouble elsewhere subsided under vigorous protest from the British Consulate. On May 30 the "North-China Daily News," moving by pieces, was housed in its new building which is one of the features of the Bund. On June 23 the magnificent new building of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank was opened by Sir Ronald Macleay. On June 27 part of the Imperial Palace in Peking was burnt down: 2,000 gold images of Buddha vanished, whether before or in the flames is a problem. On July 26, the Marconi Co. completed the system linking Peking, Lanchow, Urumchi and Kashgar, 3,000 miles, by wireless. On July 7 the Ven. John Holden, of the C.M.S., was appointed Bishop of Kuangsi. On August 7, Mr. Funatsu, Japanese Consul-General in Shanghai, was transferred to Mukden, being succeeded here by Mr. Yada. On August 23 the str. Mylie was lost in a typhoon off the Saddles with all hands but one Chinese survivor saved on a raft. On September 1 an earthquake literally blotted out Yokohama, destroyed half Tokio and did appalling damage in the surrounding country. In October the Trans-Siberian Railway became really effective again, except perhaps for ladies, though the passport question is troublesome. Mails go by it regularly. On October 16 Mr. H. G. Simms, chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council, left for Home, on transfer, with his family.

LABOUR IN OFFICE

Jan. 18.

THERE appears not the slightest doubt that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald will be called to Buckingham Palace in the next few days. There was never much hope that the Liberals would forgo their independence to keep the Conservatives in office. Two strong motives hold them aloof: First, the very fact that they have no constructive policy to offer, that they are indeed a dying party whom the spirit of the age has left in the lurch, makes them cling all the more obstinately to their traditions. Paradoxically, the Liberals are the most conservative creatures in politics. To combine with Mr. Stanley Baldwin would be too open a confession for their pride of the palpable fact that they have no longer any *raison d'être*. And secondly, far stronger than any political question, is the barrier of social jealousy. Except in the case of a few great traditionally Whig families, Liberalism is not really respectable in England, is not received. In "The Importance of Being Ernest" Lady Bracknell patronizingly passes the Liberal Unionists: "They dine with us—or, at least, come after dinner." But the Liberal without the Unionist? Now at last is his opportunity for revenge.

So the great division is between Labour and Conservatism. But is it really a division? Is England to go down in ruin, not the momentary ruin of a Karl Marxian revolution, but the decay of impossible social legislation and the crippling of all individual intelligence and initiative? Not for one moment do we believe it. We have always maintained that the most natural form of alliance was between Conservatives and Labour men, and we venture to believe that the coming session will show that there are far more points of view common to both than at present appears. The King's Speech alone is evidence thereof, containing many projects which, if not actually borrowed from Labour programmes, show that the two parties have already ground on which they can meet. Then it appears almost certain that Labour, which is instinctively protectionist, will institute tariff reform; and as regards the Dominions, although it may not accept from its rivals the agreement they drafted, it has the strong attraction to British territories overseas of the predominant Labour influence they contain. As for the more extravagant items on the Labour programme, we venture to doubt very much whether they will ever be seriously undertaken. That State ownership of mines and railways ends in the costliest failure, is either a matter of history, of which Britain's own war experience affords eloquent examples, or of contemporary demonstration, in Russia. With regard to the capital levy, we have Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's statement at Aberavon on November 30 that Labour would drop it if it were proved unworkable and impracticable by Treasury officials—which proof the decline in sterling already begins to provide. In fact to adapt Freddy Tatton's immortal saying "Labour may be an ass, but it is not a silly ass." The country will probably have to pay for a certain amount of asininity. But a Labour leader in office is a very different person to the same man out of it. Burdened with real responsibility, his troubles with his own side of the House are likely to be far more acute than with the opposite. Finally it may be recalled that no great "revolutionary" step has ever been taken in Parliament from the repeal of the Corn Laws downwards, but instant ruin has been prophesied. The changes of the past seem trivial in retrospect: but did they appear so at the time? Things are relative to the age in which they happen, and Gladstone's Home Rule Bill caused far greater consternation than the much wider measure of Irish self-government actually in force.

There is a common impression that Labour will be allowed to try its hand at governing for six months or so and then be dispossessed, the assumption being that by that time the evil effects of its experimentation will have so sickened electors that "the honest party" will come by its own again. Once more one would venture to feel sceptical. On their trial, and conscious of their delicate position, one imagines that clever men like Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. Clynes will walk with particular care. On the other hand, nobody on the Opposition side is going to hurry the country into another general election, if it can be helped. The risks are too great. And lastly there is that British instinct for fairplay to which Mr. Ramsay Macdonald appealed and Mr. Baldwin subscribed, promising that "when the Conservatives went out of power, they would not engage in factious opposition." Prophecy is dangerous and optimism revolting to every true-born Englishman. But it may be that in days to come we shall look back on the conditions under which Labour has come into power as among the greatest blessings that ever befell Britain. For that it must sooner or later take office has long been inevitable; and whereas with an assured majority, it would have been a hand-gun for extremists, the circumstances now of its arrival point to a certain period of education which may be of inestimable value. It can only be regretted that that education has begun so late. No attempt would appear ever to have been made to broaden the minds of the men whom Labour has returned to an appreciation of the task they must one day inevitably tackle: and certainly there has been none to educate the electors. To give the vote to workingmen, still more so, perhaps, to workingwomen, and leave them to be instructed by the labour agitator and the Continental anarchist how to use it is one of the most amazing pieces of cheerful lunacy which our incurably mad country has ever perpetrated. For this we are all now paying with a good deal of anxiety and the rich men, as foretold by St. James, weep and howl for the miseries that shall come upon them. But in the last resort there is a vein of common sense in Britain which bids us hope that she may be as the old lady who, on her deathbed, said that "she supposed few people had had so many troubles as herself: most of them had never happened."

CHINA'S TREATIES

Jan. 19.

THE correspondence on China's treaties and the trampling thereon shows signs of degenerating into a mere wrangle. It is a misconception to denounce all treaties between foreigners and Chinese, holus bolus, as unjust. The essential purport of them is the same practically throughout, namely, to enable foreigners to live and trade peacefully in China as they can do in all civilized countries and as it is perfectly plain that the Chinese people are always willing that they should do, when let alone and not deliberately excited by their officials. This desire to trade is natural and just, while the obstruction of officials is unnatural and indefensible. The world is too small for any considerable portion of it to be barred out as *terra clausa* by a minority of individuals, who in no sense represent their countrymen's wishes or interests. Where the treaties appeared to inflict any inequities, the Washington Conference set itself to right them with both hands. Again, it is unjust to insinuate that foreigners do not care twopence how much the Chinese are taxed but kick up a prodigious row when their own cigarettes are mulcted. The point here is not that cigarettes were taxed, any more than it might have been kewpies or teddy bears, but that an agreement solemnly entered into between the Government and certain producers, and subscribed to by the provincial authorities, was suddenly flouted and torn up by the latter, who, although no Chinese yet appears to have realized it, thereby struck at the whole foundation of the concessions and arrangements entered into or provided for at Washington. As regards the taxation of Chinese by Chinese, it happens that foreigners are by no means indifferent to it; but they can hardly interfere on behalf of the Chinese sufferers who do nothing to help themselves.

The gist of Mr. Sokolsky's original article, whence the correspondence began, was that Chinese students expend much time and breath in denouncing the wicked foreigner and his treaties, but have nothing to say about their own officials whose misgovernment and rapacity have brought China to her present sorry state: for example, they complain that the foreigner will not allow them to tax cigarettes for educational funds, but say nothing about the malversation of the revenue

captives were released. The Diplomatic Body presented its claims for compensation and retribution on August 10 (see "Herald" for that month p. 440) the esential terms of which were monetary payment, cashiering of Tien Chung-yu, Tuchun of Shantung, and institution of railway guards organized and officered by foreigners. The whole Diplomatic Body signed the Note, although only some seven or eight nationalities were concerned. On September 24 Dr. Wellington Koo returned a reply of smooth evasion, to which the Diplomatic Body answered, on October 4, with a reiteration of the original demands. There the matter still remains. It should be added that on October 18 Tien Chung-yu was allowed to resign and immediately promoted. The Diplomatic Body protested at this piece of insolence; to which the Peking Government replied that there had been an error in the order of the mandates: Tien should have been promoted first and allowed to resign afterwards!

On June 1 a native pastor, An Wen-ming, was murdered by brigands not far from Yunnanfu. On June 15 an Italian priest, Father Malotto, was kidnapped 100 miles north of Hankow. He remained a captive till September 8, when he was released, shot in the stomach, to die. About July 23 Mr. D'Arcy Weatherbe, a British engineer, was captured in Yunnan by brigands: he managed to escape from them on August 19, by his own address. Tsaoshih, less than 100 miles from Hankow, was sacked on August 16, the two Catholic priests there only escaping by the greatest good fortune. On August 24 Laohokow in Hupeh was sacked and the church burnt: but, again, the priest luckily escaped. On August 14 two well known missionaries of the C.M.S., Mr. R. A. Whiteside and Mr. F. J. Watt, were murdered near Mienchuhsien in Szechuan. On September 23 Miss M. Darroch and Miss M. R. Sharp were kidnapped at Chowkiakow in Honan and were not freed until October 25, after the greatest sufferings. On October 23 bandits sacked Kuanting on the Pe-Han Railway, despite the boastful scheme of railway guards, which Peking had hastened to announce in anticipation of the Lincheng Note. A German missionary was carried off in Hunan on October 17: a French priest from Changli, near Chefoo, on November 17: and Mr. Schmalzried, on the Kueichow-Hunan border on November 13. The latter was rescued early this year; the two former are apparently still in durance. On December 27 two missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Hoff were shot and badly wounded at Tsaoyang, in Hupeh, and another missionary, Mrs. Kilen, carried off by bandits.

Firing on ships on the Upper Yangtze attained a quite unprecedented degree. In this respect the political troubles of Szechuan (see below) played, perhaps, a greater part than outlawry. But the result is the same. The worst excesses were the attack on the Alice Dollar at Ichang on July 31: and that on the Iyang Maru when the captain was killed and the chief engineer and chief officer carried off: they are still in captivity. In the case of the Alice Dollar, the U.S.S. Isabel was luckily at hand to give help: the chief miscreant was captured, brought down the river and handed over to the Tuchun of Hupeh. The American Admiral has since introduced special measures for the protection of shipping on the Upper Yangtze—hardly in keeping with the benevolent fatuities of the Washington Conference, but most salutary.

All these cases of outrage are alike distinguished by the supine indifference of the provincial and district authorities. The case of Miss Darroch and Miss Sharp is specially bad, no move of any kind being made to rescue them until a week after their capture. The condition of Honan is a grave blemish on the reputation of Marshal Wu Pei-fu, who, with the best troops in China, suffers his province to be the worst in respect of brigandage.

CHEKIANG AND KIANGSU.

Turning to provincial politics, the relationships of Chêkiang and Kiangsu are specially interesting. These two provinces have for several years been blessed with peace and their Governors Chi Hsieh-yuan (Nanking and Chihli party man) and Lu Yung-hsiang (Hangchow and of the Anfu persuasion) though on opposite sides of the hedge politically, have a good reputation as administrators and no apparent desire but to live and let live. Rumours of war between the two first became current about the end of April. These, the reaction of the plots in north China which ended in the expulsion of President Li, were intensified by the flight of M.P.'s early in July to Shanghai. The ramifications of the plot are too vast to recall in detail, but the main purport of them was a converging, Chihli, move upon Hangchow from Kiangsu, Anhui and Fukien. The fighting at Amoy in July between Anfu and Chihli forces, when British marines were landed to protect the foreign concession, was a preliminary part of this game. The anxiety aroused in all the population of Kiangsu and Chêkiang was intense and rose to such a pitch that it eventually forced the two Tuchuns, on August 19, to sign a peace agreement, not merely not to attack each other, but to cooperate in keeping peace in their provinces. This was, perhaps, the greatest triumph for public opinion that the history of the so-called Republic affords. On September 11 ex-President Li came to Shanghai but his presence was too late to cause disturbance of the peace. He subsequently left for Japan where he now is. A tragic event on November 11 nearly provoked an explosion: General Hsu Kuo-liang, chief of the Shanghai and Woosung Constabulary, was shot in Avenue Edward VII. Shanghai, and died next day. General Ho Feng-ling, of Kiangnan Arsenal, lieutenant of the Hangchow Tuchun, immediately appointed a successor, much to the chagrin of the Nanking Tuchun, who vainly contended that the post being in his province was for his filling. The peace treaty was seriously endangered. But public opinion again staved off an open breach, which appears fairly unlikely now.

THE WAR IN SZECHUAN.

It is impossible that in order to cover the [illegible] of events in China in 1923 will be found, not among the faded animosities of Sun Yat-sen, but in the more silent but robuster antagonism of Wu Pei-fu for Chang Tso-lin. The projected reinstating of Chen Chiung-ming in Canton, the intended overwhelming of Lu Yung-hsiang in Chêkiang and the much hoped for conquest of Szechuan by Yang Sen are all regarded as part of Wu Pei-fu's design for establishing himself south, east and west before advancing against Chang Tso-lin in the north. For how much of this gigantic strategy Wu is really responsible, we can only conjecture. But certainly Yang Sen is his lieutenant and has been actively helped by him. Yang's advance along the upper Yangtze began early in February. By March 28 he controlled the river nearly to Chungking and took that city on April 6. Advance forces of his had got nearly to Chêngtu by April 25; but treachery broke out along his line of communications and he lost both Chungking and Wanhsien. By the middle of July, however, with the aid of reinforcements from Wu Pei-fu, Yang had regained Chungking. By the end of August he had advanced to Luchow and established himself there, thus controlling all the river back to Ichang. Space forbids attempting to unravel the doings of the local chieftains whose jealousies have kept Szechuan in turmoil for years past. At one time in August no fewer than four armies, averaging at least 30,000 men apiece, were campaigning about the province. A good review of events in Szechuan appeared in the "Herald" of December 15, p.736.

TIBET AND PEREIRA.

Life on the Tibetan border has a romantic interest for many who can never hope to see its wild and towering heights. Our correspondent in Tachienlu has written frequently in praise of the Border Commissioner Chen Hsia-lin, who appears to have held the scales very evenly between Tibetans and Chinese, earning respect from the one and devotion from the other. The warfare further east, however, has deprived him of arms and equipment and he appears hard put to it to maintain his forces. In Lhasa the Dalai Lama, reported to be progressive, is said to be at loggerheads with the priests who are reactionary. To this may, perhaps, be attributed the raid by Tibetans across the border in September, which, by later news, is having serious results. The outstanding event of the year was the great earthquake of March 24, which wiped out the Dranggu Lamasery, wrecked the North Lhasa road and killed at least 1,000 people.

It is fitting to record here the death at Kanze on or about November 23 of Brigadier-General George Pereira. Just a year before that intrepid traveller had managed to reach Lhasa, where he stayed for two weeks as the Dalai Lama's guest. Last May he was back in Shanghai and lectured, on the 21st, to, perhaps, the largest audience ever assembled in the Royal Asiatic Society's rooms. Then he went to Yunnanfu and with Dr Thompson of the C.M.S. started thence to Batang on July 16. Only a week before the news came of his death, we published an account by himself, with map, of his journey to that town. Kanze lies about 130 miles north by east of Batang and there Brigadier-General Pereira's journeys came to an end. He died of perforated gastric ulcers.

CHINA AND RUSSIA.

In spite of rumours and the feigned enthusiasm of the "intellectuals" for Sovietism, China and Russia appear no nearer *rapprochement* at the end, than they were at the beginning of the year. On January 6 Comrade Joffe, who had arrived in Peking on August 12, 1922, announced his departure. His health was certainly bad, but his mission had been a complete failure. He came to Shanghai, had several interviews with Dr. Sun—the two publishing on January 26 a joint statement of aims and sympathies—and retired to Japan. On January 2 news came from Harbin of Chinese fears of a Red invasion of Manchuria: rumours to this effect were current for several months but resulted in nothing. On January 16 the Mongol Prince Na Yin-to memorialized Peking on the Sovietizing of Mongolia: the fact that Russia steadily declines to give back Mongolia to China, in spite of many promises, is the obstacle to any agreement. On January 25 the old quarrel over the Russian Volunteer Fleet was settled by its being returned to the Soviet agent in Shanghai, the old R. V. F. Committee in Paris agreeing. On February 10 the Premier General Chang Shou-tseng announced that he was sending an envoy, Chiang Kang-hu, familiar with Russian affairs, to Moscow. Parliament stipulated that there must be no question of recognition. On July 30 the Chinese authorities at Harbin seized the Land Department office. The Consular Body acting with great promptitude sealed up all the title deeds. But the Chinese "Commissioner" has not been turned out of the office and persists in collecting rents and rates where he can. On August 24, another envoy from Moscow, Karakhan, arrived in Peking. He was welcomed by the intellectuals, but has made no progress with Government.

The Russian refugee problem has been one of great anxiety all through the year. The evacuation by the Japanese of Vladivostok brought in a new flood of refugees. There are estimated to be 50,000 roughly, scattered about China. Admiral Stark and his ships left Woosung early in January and were reported at Manila on the 26th, leaving, however, large numbers of his followers in Shanghai. The maintenance of those for whom no work even of the most menial type could be found, has proved very difficult. On June 30 a meeting at the Charity Organization Committee's rooms, was held when a new Committee to centralize relief was held. This body has managed to send back a few refugees to Russia and the good reports they send indicate that more might go if there were money. The arrival off the Chusans of the Eldorado, from Gensan, on July 1, with 700 fighting Russians on board and quantities of arms and ammunition caused a sensation. The men had contracts to work in Chêkiang, but the real purpose of the Eldorado's arrival was undoubtedly gun-running. An American, Captain Kearny, was arrested for complicity, tried and sentenced to a large fine. The Eldorado remained for some months at the Chusans, but was subsequently brought to Woosung where she remains a problem. Most of her crew have evaporated. On September 20 three more ships under General Gleboff arrived at Woosung. They contain some hundreds of fighting men, still there, the worse problem for being apparently well-behaved. On December 21 the Chinese Ministry of Justice announced the institution of the death penalty for Russians deserving of it—sufficient illustration of how little remains of Russian extraterritoriality.

WEIHAIWEI.

The long drawn out negotiations for the rendition of Weihaiwei (announced at the Washington Conference) were removed to Peking on January 7. They were not actually resumed until March 23. A sensation was caused in the summer by an announcement from London to the effect that the Foreign Office did not propose to consider any idea of compensation for vested interests. On September 27 Great Britain caused to be published her terms for rendition (see "Herald" that date). This was generally regarded as indicating her last word in the matter. At the end of the year the question was still open.

DROUGHT AND FAMINE.

There is mercifully less to record under this heading than in 1922. The drought of the autumn and winter months (1922) threatened Shansi with disaster, and at the end of January there was severe stringency in twenty of her southwest districts. But the "Model Province" of China appears to have weathered this misfortune, as also the floods reported on August 10. On August 14 very serious floods were reported from Kirin, in north Manchuria; and the same from Lungchow and Nanning in Kuangsi between September 16 and 20. Hongkong was visited by one of the worst typhoons on record on August 18 which did great damage ashore and afloat; and by torrential rains on August 29, also disastrous in effect.

OPIUM.

With allowance for two or three honourable exceptions, all the provinces are growing and using freely. Many compel the cultivation, for the sake of the licence fee first and tax on produce afterwards. On December 26, 1922, the Hunan branch of the International Anti-Opium Association denounced official protection of opium-growing in that province. On January 23 Sir Francis Aglen advocated the legalization of opium with a State monopoly as the only feasible means of controlling the trade. He was of course furiously denounced and the suggestion feverishly repudiated by all China's "face-savers." On January 3, our Kueiyang (Kueichow) correspondent reported the legalizing of the opium trade. On January 13 our Yingchowfu (Anhui) correspondent showed how opium was again becoming the curse of the province. In Kansu, our Lanchow correspondent reported compulsory growing on January 26. In Kiangsi, our Kanchow correspondent notified resumption of growing, after a long interval, on March 2. On April 16 it was rumoured that Peking was to institute an opium mono-

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

BREACH BETWEEN CHINA AND SOVIET

Conference as Far Off as Ever: Russia Demanding Recognition and China Demanding Return of Mongolia

Peking, Jan. 11.

The following translation of correspondence between Dr. C. T. Wang, Director General of Sino-Russian Negotiations, and Mr. Karakhan, has been handed to Reuter's Agency for publication, as the letters addressed by the latter to the former have already been published by Rosta News Agency:

DR. WANG TO MR. KARAKHAN.

Nov. 21, 1923.

Dear Mr. Karakhan,

I have the honour to inform you that I shall be leaving in a few days for Japan on official business and shall be away from Peking for about two weeks.

As the outstanding questions between China and Soviet Russia urgently await settlement, I earnestly hope that you can see your way to naming a date for the opening of formal negotiations between us, so that upon my return it will be possible for us forthwith to commence the negotiations.

I am, etc.,
Yours faithfully
(Signed) CHENGTING T. WANG.

THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION.

Nov. 28, 1923.

Dear Mr. Karakhan,

I have received your letter of November 23 and noted its contents.

As regards the presentation of credentials concerning which you stated that you had not received a reply from the Waichiaopu I have duly forwarded the same to the latter with a request that I be favoured with an answer. As regards, however, the resumption of normal relations between China and Russia concerning which you stated that I had not replied to you, there seems to be a misunderstanding on your part.

If you will recall, in the course of our very first conversation I had suggested that the question of resumption of such normal relations should be solved at the formal conference together with the general principles governing other outstanding questions. To this suggestion you were good enough to express your appreciation and approval. Consequently, I have been enabled to exchange several conversations with you in which, conformally to such understanding, the matter of resumption of normal relations was discussed together with the other questions. And as a result, save in the matter of the Chinese Eastern Railway, it has been possible for our points of view gradually to agree with each other.

Even in regard to the Chinese Eastern Railway our opinions do not seem to differ materially from each other, the divergence being after all not considerable. While you admitted that China was entitled to rights of ownership over the said railway, you also advance the view that the conditions governing the transfer and control of the railway should be separately negotiated after the agreement on General Principles has been signed. On the other hand I reiterated the view that the question of the said railway should not be made a matter for separate negotiation but should be disposed of at the Conference at the same time with the other outstanding questions.

BREACH OPENED AGAIN.

Such being the tenour of our conversations, I am astonished to observe that you have seen fit now suddenly to lodge a complaint over the question of resumption of normal relations, thus making our mutual viewpoints, which had been gradually approaching each other, to drift further and further apart and contributing nothing to the benefit of the two countries. Over a year has elapsed since the Government of Soviet Russia despatched an envoy plenipotentiary to China for the settlement of outstanding problems. The reason why the projected Conference has failed to materialize was because both sides had desired the preliminary settlement of certain questions. Your predecessor, Mr. Joffe, was not unaware of this and therefore firmly declined to entertain the idea of any preliminary settlement prior to the holding of the Conference. An understanding in this sense was reached by both sides and, upon your arrival in Peking, you gave your cordial adhesion thereto in the course of our conversations.

Since our mutual viewpoints have been gradually approaching each other, I am still of the opinion that you will in conformity with the above understanding see your way to open formal negotiation with me when I return from Japan.

I am etc.,
(Signed) CHENGTING T. WANG.

TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

Jan. 9, 1924.

Dear Mr. Karakhan,

Your letter of November 30, 1923, has been received. I note, however, that there has not only been a misunderstanding on your part in regard to my former letter but also some misconception in regard to our previous conversations. By way of refreshing your memory and in the hope that future misunderstandings may be removed, permit me to enclose for your information a *résumé* of our previous conversations.

In your letter under reply you were good enough to promise that you will agree to settle all questions just as I propose and that even as regards the Chinese Eastern Railway you will agree to discuss whatever proposals may be put forth by me. This is an evidence of the fact that our mutual viewpoints have approached nearer to each other, and I rejoice that the prospects of the forthcoming Conference have therefore become brighter than before.

I have long ago appreciated your attitude that "all the questions will be solved in the spirit of the Declarations of 1919 and 1920" and because of the existence of these declarations our views have been enabled to come to mutual agreement. Upon comparison, however, with the French text of these declarations received by the Chinese Government which were cabled from Irkutsk. I notice there are discrepancies in the text enclosed in your letter. It is true that the text received by my Government was in the form of a telegram, but the same was signed and certified as a true copy by Mr. Yamson, Delegate Plenipotentiary for Foreign Affairs of the Council of the Commissaries of the People of Siberia and the Far East. Accordingly the text received by my Government should be regarded as authoritative. Upon this subject the Waichiaopu had in its memorandum of December 11, 1922, dwelt in great detail and there is no need for me to elaborate upon it further.

CHINA FIRM ON RECOGNITION.

I am unable to subscribe to your view that the resumption of normal relations between China and Russia should be effected as a condition precedent to the opening of the Conference, since the attitude of the Chinese Government is based on the proposal advanced by Mr. Joffe, the former envoy plenipotentiary of your Government. If you will look up the memorandum addressed on October 14, 1922, by Mr. Joffe to the Waichiaopu, you will find the particulars therein.

In your opinion the Union of Soviet Russia has by its declarations of 1919 and 1920 shown its complete friendliness to China. In the opinion, however, of the Chinese people this friendliness still leaves something to be desired, since the troops of your Government are still stationed in Chinese territory, namely, in Outer Mongolia.

To sum up. When two nations desire to maintain friendly relations with each other it is essential that a formal agreement shall first be signed by them which may be capable of mutual observance. If, on the other hand, only the normal relations are resumed while the outstanding questions are to be left for settlement at a future date, how can the Chinese people be expected to be satisfied therewith? In my opinion if the formal Conference could be opened at an early date, normal relations could be resumed at an early date. This would dispense with argumentation through an exchange of letters and memoranda which hardly accomplish any good to our object in view.

It is therefore my sincere hope that you will reconsider the matter and advise me as soon as possible of the date for the opening of the Conference which shall settle all outstanding questions.

I am, etc.,
(Signed) CHENGTING T. WANG.

Enclosure:

A *résumé* of our conversations both in English and Chinese.

—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A NEW GOVERNMENT IN CANTON

Dr. Sun as President: War on Peking: Chang Tso-lin "Ordered" to Attack

A telegram received in Shanghai on Saturday stated that Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Canton's Generalissimo, has, after due consultation with his advisers, definitely decided to establish a new government in Canton which will be known as the Consolidated Government of China.

Dr. Sun will himself assume the Presidency, and his first act will be to declare war on the Peking Government. This mandate will "order" Marshal Chang Tso-lin (the Mukden warlord), Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang (Tupan of Chêkiang), and other anti-northern militarists to "attack Peking." Dr. Sun will also "order" Marshal Tuan Chi-jui, the Anfu leader, to proceed to the south to assume the Premiership.

Gen. Yu Yu-jen, former Commander of the Self Governing Armies of Shensi who is now President of the University of Shanghai, will leave for Canton in a few days to assume a post as Minister either of Interior or for Reconstruction.

A HONAN RAILWAY

Fantastic Scheme Attributed to [illegible] g Syndicate

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 9.

It has been reported in the Chinese press that the Peking Syndicate, with the support of Wu Pei-fu, has concluded a contract with the Ministry of Communications for the extension of the Ch'inghua-Taok'ou Railway from Taok'ou across country to the Tientsin-Pukow line near Tsinanfu and that $14,000,000 will be advanced to the Government, either for military or administrative txpenses.

The Syndicate denies that any such advance has ever been contemplated and also denies that a definite agreement of any sort has been reached with the Ministry of Communications, although it is freely admitted that the project has long been under discussion.

HONGKONG, Jan. 12.—Sir Roderick Jones, Chairman of Reuters, has departed for Singapore. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

UNEASY TIMES ON UPPER YANGTZE

Shutung's Bad Luck: First Fired on then Rocked: Yang Sen No Check on Snipers

Ichang, Jan. 3.

The steamer Shutung which was taken over by the China Navigation Co. in September last when they also acquired the Loongmow from Messrs. Mackenzie & Co., has had some bad luck recently. She had been plying between Chungking and Luchow or Suifu so long as the water permitted her to do so. It is learned that on a recent trip down from Suifu she was under fire for about three-quarters of an hour, when one first-class passenger (Chinese) was shot dead, and some other passengers wounded. When the water became too low to continue trading on that part of the river, she was coming down to Ichang, and presumably would have gone to Shanghai for her annual overhaul. But she struck the rocks near the Hsin (or Ching) Tan, about 40 miles above this city, and had to be beached. It is reported that her position is somewhat perilous as she has a very bad list and, though in shallow water, the current is very strong.

It will be remembered that the military recently acquired a steamer for carrying supplies from here to the Northern Expedition in Szechuan. She is named the Yangwei, and now she is also on the rocks about Fengtuhsien and is said to have a large hole in her bottom. It is said it may be possible to patch it up with cement, so as to keep her running a bit longer.

FIRING BRISK AS EVER.

It was expected that firing on the steamers might be stopped now that General Yang Sen holds all the river up to Chungking, but such has not proved to be the case. They have nearly all been fired upon recently, and lately the Kingwo came under heavy fire. The fire was returned from the ship, and one corporal or sergeant ashore was killed. The ship has been detained in Chungking while the British Consul and General Yang have been inquiring into the affair.

The inspector of the Government Salt Department at Chungking has recently been subjected to some hard treatment by the military there. On Christmas Eve General Cheng Kuoh-tung, commanding the 3rd Division of the Second Army, made a demand on the Inspector for some of the Salt revenue. Of course he met with a refusal, when his bodyguard of three men intimidated the Inspector, as revolvers were held in front of him and at his back, and he was kept thus a practical prisoner for some three hours. He managed to send one of his men for the American Consul, and another gentleman who heard of his predicament also came to stay with him till the Consul could arrive. But it was three hours before he could be released from his serious situation. If he did sign an order for money under duress, he was able to stop the payment of it before it could be cashed.

SQUEEZING THE FAT.

One of the gentry of Ichang has just had a trying experience. When it was resolved that all the streets of the town should be provided with gates which could be shut in the event of another mutinous outbreak of soldiery for looting purpses, this man, Hsieh Hsin-lu, was appointed to carry out the work. Recently a charge was lodged against him with the magistrate, that while the work was only worth some 13,000 tiao, he had been paid 16,000 tiao for it, and so it was quite clear that he had squeezed 3,000 tiao. He was apprehended and lodged in prison, and then some of his friends took up the case. He was advised that, rightly or wrongly, he had better pay up, and he agreed to make a subscription of 1,500 tiao to the funds for providing water tanks in various parts of the city for fire prevention. This was accepted, and the case settled on these terms.

But the magistrate considered that he had got one of the real monied class in his hands, and he made a demand for 10,000 tiao for military purposes. This was going to ruin the man altogether, so he was advised to offer a little, and in the end the magistrate accepted his donation of 300 tiao for military expenses, and not till then was the man released. This once again proves the truth of the Chinese proverb which says, "The Yamens open up with a spread like the character eight; it is better not to enter if you have right but no weight (i.e. money)."—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BATANG BESIEGED BY TIBETANS

China's Last Post on Frontier: Tiny Foreign Colony Wholly Cut Off

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tachienlu, Sze., Dec. 13.

Batang is 18 days from Tachienlu and about one month from Talifu. Away in this isolated station in the heart of Asia there are four families, three American and one British. It is practically impossible to get to this lonely outpost at the present time. North, south, east and west, the place is completely surrounded and entirely cut off from the outside world. Robbers infest the roads south and east and Lhasa troops hold positions north and west. How to get in and how to get out is now somewhat of a problem and the Chinese garrison is showing every symptom of a speedy and complete capitulation.

News of a varied nature continually leaks out, telling something of the conditions in the besieged city. A few days ago a French priest in Tachienlu heard that the garrison had surrendered to the Tibetans, handing over their rifles and retiring to Litang (14,000 feet high) and eight days east of Batang. According to common report Wang Si-ling, the Hunan general in command of Batang, is an opium-smoker and quite unfit to maintain law and order. On several occasions he has come under the severe censure of Chen Hsia-ling and Chen has warned him of the danger of his policy. However, Wang Si-ling goes on his way and holds the garrison with three or four hundred Chinese soldiers.

How he does so is perfectly marvellous and does no small credit to the Chinese troops under him. Batang lies in a small valley surrounded on all sides by high mountains and one six-pounder in six minutes would not only shift Batang but the valley in which it nests. The little garrison must be surrounded by thousands of Lhasa troops and hundreds of Tibetan brigands.

The foreign population, including American, French and British, numbers nearly 20. Apparently they feel no alarm and anticipate no danger should the Tibetans attack the place. Batang is now the only place in Khamba held seriously by the Chinese and should that city fall, the old border would revert again to its old line just over the bridge outside Tachienlu.

GOVERNORSHIP OF CANTON

Canton, Jan. 9.

The Civil Governor, Mr. Liao Chung-hai, has returned to Canton, but as he has expressed a desire to resign, the former Governor, Gen. Hu Han-min, is mentioned as his successor.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen is suggesting Mr. Li Hsin-kun, his private secretary, as Magistrate of Heungshan, replacing Mr. Jue Chock-man, whose recent conflict with Admiral Chan Chak led to the destruction of a part of Heungshan. — Reuter's Pacific Service.

which would have been ample for education and many other things, if properly handled. All this is perfectly true and we can see that "K.C.K." is alive to the anomaly. He urges that foreigners shall fix the responsibility where it really belongs and make common cause with the Chinese people, who are worse sufferers than foreigners by the depredations of their officials. Nothing would give foreigners greater pleasure. But the said Chinese sufferers must at least give them some sort of lead, which they conspicuously do not. When the Lincheng outrage occurred, the Chinese non-official classes did absolutely nothing, though their own countrymen had been, were then and have continued to be infinitely more afflicted by bandits than foreigners. At last year's conference of Associated British Chambers of Commerce, numerous subjects were discussed in which Chinese are a thousand times more interested than are foreigners; and it is true that an address on the subject was received from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. But it was an anaemic, colourless thing devoid of real purpose and effect. In the dispute over the Canton Customs surplus, the Chinese bankers send agonized memorials to Sir Francis Aglen on the sancity of the Domestic Loans' security. But it is clear that they expect him to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them, and, in common with the foreign Powers whose gunboats protect their loans, to incur all the odium of so doing. Two days ago our Yunnanfu correspondent gave a harrowing description of the torture of slave girls, which, although not the general rule, is certainly not exceptional. When have the students as a body made any real effort to put down evils of this nature? Yet, if they can terrorize their elders and betters into boycotting the goods of a perfectly inoffensive nation, they could certainly persuade them into a kinder frame of mind.

It is often lost sight of that foreigners in their dealings with Chinese are inspired by no small measure of genuine goodwill. Personal regard, which it is impossible not to feel for the people of this land the longer we live among them, enters far more deeply into the foreigner's attitude towards China than she appears to understand. It is true that the foreigner is here because he wishes to trade with her: and there is no reason to conceal or to feel ashamed of the fact: but he is not such a fool as to forget that friendliness and fair dealing are the best passports to good business. Yet at every turn he is met with suspicion and rebuff. To take such a small matter as the dredging of the Soochow Creek. It might have been done months ago and millions of Chinese the better for it: and, as the Whangpoo Conservancy Board is a Chinese Government organ, no sovereign rights are involved. But the local Chinese authorities do nothing themselves and allow no one else to do anything. That is the spirit which blocks every reform throughout the country and, until it is extinguished, it is idle for Chinese to ask the foreigner for his cooperation in fastening the blame for violated treaties and every other manifestation of bad government where it belongs.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Balance of Power

At different times two principal policies have dominated affairs in Europe, one being the Concert, the other the Balance of Power. We may for the time being leave out of account organizations brought into being to ensure peace, such as the Holy League and League of Nations, for while the first one ended in war the other now sees the principle of the Balance of Power assuming a greater European importance than it is able to claim. Attention was drawn to this grouping of nations by the recent *rapprochement* between Paris and Prague, and the suggestion that Czecho-Slovakia would finally bridge the way between France and Russia. Now we learn that the whole of the Little Entente, comprising in addition to Czecho-Slovakia, Rumania and Jugo-Slavia, with Poland as well, are in this grouping, and it is possible accordingly to see an aggregation of great strength herein. Great Britain has shown herself somewhat more than merely interested in these proceedings, and naturally so, for she is bound to take notice if we are back once more to the days of the Balance of Power. Her interest is not merely political, but for the time being is as much financial. But even if it were not so, the case would call for attention in London, for it can hardly be suggested that Great Britain can return, at least for many years to come, to the once favoured policy of Splendid Isolation. She has a definite *rôle* to play in European politics, and sooner or later it will emerge.

People's Reputations

One day last week a good deal was said about reputations in the course of an action in the Supreme Court, and Judge Grain, when asked to read a report about a man compiled by an American detective, mentioned that if he started this sort of inquiry he would never be able to leave court. He spoke from a wide experience undoubtedly, and probably a sorrowful one, for a judge must see the worst aspects which human nature has to show. Litigants, however, are no worse than other people in the aggregate, and when it comes to reputations it may be recalled that not so long ago there was an agency in Shanghai which for a consideration would supply its clients with a full *dossier* concerning the affairs, doings and probably personal habits of anybody into whom it was desired to inquire. We believe, and certainly we hope, that the agency is defunct, for these things are a menace to the peace of a community. As to how it carried on its work of investigation we have had a few bare hints from time to time, these generally indicating that the agents of the concern when found on the prowl received the hammering they deserved from prospective victims, and we cannot pretend to know the amount of truth about people which they ever collected. They seem to have had sufficient to hint at a weak spot in most reputations, thanks doubtless to skilful exaggeration. If so, one would pity a judge who had to peruse a dossier about everybody coming before him.

The Earthquake

Far inferior as it is to the upheaval of September 1, the earthquake which smote Japan on Tuesday morning was none the less a heavy calamity and the deepest sympathy must go out to the unfortunate Japanese. Their fortitude under the adversity of September and the heroic manner in which they have set themselves to repair the damage have won the admiration of all the world and it is a cruel fate which has burdened them with yet more disaster. The thought occurs that the latest earthquake may be but the aftermath of the great one. A disturbance of the earth's surface so violent as to cause such a shock must surely take many months and involve much further slidings and subsidences before every part has found its place, as appears to have been happening in Japan since September.

Our Labour Correspondent

Recent correspondence in our columns cast some doubt on the right of our Labour correspondent to speak for Labour in England, one letter containing an innuendo in the remark that his correspondence "revealed the mind of one accustomed to think in 'classy' figures of speech, familiar in certain types of Shanghai society." With a view to nailing this *suggestio falsi* down, however sincerely it may have been expressed, let us say that our Labour correspondent is an ordinary member of a home trades' union, merely one of the rank and file; that he has never been outside England; and that, though he may have a happier or more lucid gift of expression than the average, he is in the strict sense of the word a working man, and a manual worker at that. He has been in the ranks of the "out of works," and possibly is now, and his hands would certainly be unfamiliar in certain types of Shanghai society. We may say that we have verified these facts, and that, in line with our policy of presenting foreign and home opinion from all angles and from every class of society when it becomes articulate, we have printed this correspondent's contributions without editing and also without prejudice. That they have been appreciated, both our correspondence columns and opinions expressed outside have well proved. Among our readers there must be many who have experienced the utter despair and hopelessness that comes of looking for work and finding none; the loss of faith in religion, creeds and parties, almost in one's fellow man, after the fruitless quest of weeks, perhaps months, of what has with unconscious humour been described as man's inalienable right. To these no doubt the articles we have printed "from a trades unionist" will carry conviction on their face. To others of softer sinew they may interpret "labour" — its difficulties, its aims and its needs—in less terrifying terms than does the newspaper syndicate, and win for it we hope some greater measure of sympathy and understanding.

The Ships at Woosung

There appears no question but that we have unintentionally done an injustice to some of the Russian ships at Woosung. Mr. A. D. Bell, whose vivid article on the subject we publish to-day has no doubt whatever of what he is talking about; and testimony to the same effect also reaches us from another quarter. There appears to be a sharp distinction between the Eldorado and the three other ships: the former has been a vessel of ill-omen for many months past and, it would seem, she continues so to be. The other three maintain a discipline and a self-restraint deserving of high compliment. We have said before and would say it again, that the behaviour of Russian refugees in and about Shanghai (and we have no doubt elsewhere as well) has been worthy of the warmest praise. Such disorderliness as has occasionally been reported by Russians is absolutely negligible in comparison with all they have to endure. And this must heighten the desire of everybody to secure them some happy release from their misfortunes. The three ships at Woosung, excellently as they are managed, remain none the less a potential source of trouble when their occupants' money ultimately runs out, and they should accordingly be taken under proper control. Meanwhile, it is obviously impossible to send back the crews to Russia. Some occupation further afield must be found for them. This is where Dr. Greig's mission in Shanghai on behalf of the League of Nations offers possibilities which every effort should be made to convert into realities.

The Good Luck Chain

The good luck chain lunacy is with us again, and the wrath of an outraged community may well be aroused to fever heat. Just think of the feelings of a man on opening his morning letters when a communication starting thus greets him:—

"Some smart fellow has started this plan and I suppose that all of the rest of us smart fellows will have to keep it up. I am so superstitious that I am afraid if I do not go along I might lose an eye or an ear or something."

Then follows a list of 90 people who have pestered their fellows with the letter, and the epistle concludes thus:—

"Copy this and send it to nine people whom you wish good luck.

"The chain was started by an American officer and should go round the world three times. Do not break the chain, for, whoever does will have bad luck. Do it within 24 hours and you will have some great luck.

"With success for you. Let's go smiling through 1924."

It seems a pity that the American officer in question had nothing better to do than to start this horrible infliction, but we shall be charitable and hope that no worse has befallen him than having his life plagued by an incessant stream of his own letters. That may perhaps "learn" him. But cannot somebody stop the matter here? This is at least the second time the letter has made its unwelcome appearance in our midst, and it might be an excellent thing to pillory those who bother their acquaintances with it. The notice boards of clubs might be devoted to publishing the names of the "smart fellows" who thus employ their time.

Hongkong's Share Boom

Some interesting details are now available with reference to the wild share boom which has taken place in Hongkong. It started on the strength of news that the Colonial Government proposed to buy the Green Island Cement property at a big price, and as this would mean a huge increase in capital for this and associated concerns, there seemed every reason to buy for a rise. People did, but according to the Hongkong papers optimism did not stop here. It spread to stocks having no interest in these purchases, and an epidemic of gambling attacked a section of the community. The "South-China Morning Post" thus comments upon the position:—

The drop in quotations on January 10 was a hint that the peak has been reached, and in a few days all concerned will perhaps have time to think about next settlement day. An interesting sidelight is that Chinese opinion attributes the abnormal activity to the operations of property speculators who, finding dullness prevailing in the other sphere, have directed their attention to shares. Native brokers are straining their utmost to turn the boom to profit, and the names of well known merchants are mentioned, heavy buyers and shining examples, to the timid. Not to moralize unduly, we trust the hectic happenings of the Canton influx period a year ago are not going to be maintained for any length of time, and we muse on the good that this money could do were it put into reproductive industry.

The Drop in Sterling

Sterling at 4.23 in relation to the gold dollar is the lowest point reached since January, 1922, when it was 4.22⅝, and it is a matter to provide much food for thought. This accordingly is an opportune moment for considering the movements of the London-New York exchange for the past five years, and in doing so we see significant movements. Up to February, 1919, exchange was "pegged" at 4.76½, this being a war measure between the British and United States Governments, but immediately the artificial rate was ended, sterling proceeded to drop. At the end of 1919 the £ was worth only G.$3.85, and although during 1920 it rose during two or three months, the rate continued generally to fall, finishing up at 3.51. By this time Great Britain's ability to recover from the drain on its resources imposed by the war was being demonstrated, and in 1921 a gradual improvement was seen, so that by the beginning of 1922 sterling had recovered to 4.22⅝—the figure quoted above which is practically the level to-day. This improvement went on throughout the whole of 1922 and during the first three months of 1923, the rate being a bare fraction short of 4.70 in March. Since then there has been a gradual drop, which has latterly been accentuated by the news of the dissolution of Parliament and later by the result of the election. Now a further recession takes place because of the possibility of a Labour Government, with a capital levy on its programme, coming into power. Certain of our readers seem to disagree with the theory that exchange is a good political barometer, and in view of what they may have to say it is necessary to make one explanation. Sterling began to drop quite a long time before there was any hint of Mr. Baldwin's electoral venture, but this was due principally to heavier purchases by Britain in the United States than in previous years and to higher prices in America. The fact that more sterling had to be paid to America had the natural effect of setting the rate against London To-day the cause is both similar and different. There is grave fear of a new political programme, and to safeguard capital people are sending money out of the country. Hence the slumps which cause so much disorganization of the exchange market.

A Snag

Without seeking too great refinement of definition in approaching the word "snag," one may say in fair anticipation of being believed that the French Inspector of Police conducting a traffic case in H. M. Police Court yesterday struck a beautiful specimen. A motorist is charged with obstructing traffic on the French Bund. He does so (admittedly) by the simple and entirely efficient method of placing his car on the rails in front of a tram car. The case is proved, the Inspector hopes to justify his existence by departing with a conviction, and the defendant prepares to justify his existence as a Shanghai motorist by payment of a small fine. Then comes the snag. Consulting the French traffic by-laws and applying to the same the analytical finesse of Sherlock Holmes *plus* Thomas Aquinas, the Magistrate discovers that they provide only for *negligent* obstruction, not *deliberate*. Defendant acted deliberately: therefore he did not act negligently: therefore he committed no breach of the by-laws: therefore the case must be dismissed. Thus did his Worship strain at the logical camel and swallow the literal gnat. Frankly, we cannot congratulate him on the decision. It was the clearest case of obstruction before the Court for some time and the by-law might well have been held to apply: for, by placing his car on the tram lines, defendant caused an obstruction: therefore he neglected to obey the by-law: therefore he was negligent: therefore he came within the meaning of the by-law. But after all, law is law, and must be protected

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MR. Wu Ching-lien, the notorious Speaker of the Lower House and now a refugee in Tientsin, is reported to have recently written to Marshal Wu Pei-fu begging him to turn the situation in his favour. The Marshal expressed his sympathy with him, and, it is said, stated that he ought to know the truth of the old proverb: "Ingratitude is the world's reward." He proved useful to the Chihli clique before the Presidential election, continued the Loyang warlord, but now he was worse than useless.

THE CIVIL WAR IN SZECHUAN

Yang Sen and Wu Pei-fu's Party Now on Crest of Wave: Capital Threatened

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chengtu, Sze., Dec. 20.

The political situation is again an open question. For a time the powers that be assured the people that the civil war was over now that Chungking had fallen. But Yang Sen has come back stronger than ever, and again Chungking has fallen, but this time to Yang Sen and Wu Pei-fu's party for the North. The Southern party here represented by Hsiong Keh-wu and his mob are much perturbed. They looked upon Yang Sen's last attempt as a forlorn hope but it made good. Now his troops are advancing. Yuin-chuan is reported taken, and the next move will be a push along the big road to the capital. Hsiong is reported already to have removed some important pieces of machinery from the Arsenal to reduce its efficiency for others, and to have machinery handy that he can use elsewhere if necessary.

It is time for a change. Hsiong and Liu have been a long time in the lead here, and the situation is worse than ever. Brigandage is rife everywhere. The robbers are daily becoming bolder and actually rob, plunder and carry off victims right up to the South Gate of the Capital. Last week a Major with 20 scouts was attacked right near the suburbs, and taking cover fought all night until help came, when the robbers were driven off.

The paper money is dropping seriously as the reports of Northern successes come in. Hsiong's paper dollar is now below 50 cents and there is real hardship among the business people. Two local campaigns have been successful in spite of the receding money market. The Y. M. C. A. went in their annual membership campaign and secured 1,400 members and 12,000 paper dollars. Then last week the Japanese Relief committee of students from the Union University took in 5,000 paper dollars at the Y. M. C. A. in a two-days' fair. One day the paper dollar dropped to 42 cents, it is now a trifle stronger. If Hsiong decamps it will dwindle to nothing.

LIGHTLESS SUBURBS OF HARBIN

Chinese Absorbing all Funds: Tyrannous Extortion from Russian Landowners

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Dec. 31.

From the beginning of the year all of Harbin's suburbs will be in darkness for there will be no more street lighting, whilst all the roads will go to ruin and the schools be forced to close. The reason is that the Railway Administration, which has up to now furnished the street lights, looked after the repair of the roads and given grants for the maintenance of the schools, has announced that no money will be forthcoming in 1924 seeing that the Railway is no longer to get a portion of the tax levied on wines and spirits imported or produced in the Harbin District. General Ma, who is at the head of the district municipal affairs, has notified the railway that all the money collected on this excise is now required for administrative purposes and that therefore no part can be allotted to the Railway as hitherto. Thanks to trade depression, this tax has much diminished. It is, however, neither just nor fair that the inhabitants of the suburbs and their children should be made the sufferers, seeing it is these residents who are directly responsible for the expansion of the town. It is stated that some 2,000 schoolchildren and 100 teachers will be affected.

LAND DEPT. INIQUITIES.

The "*Rech*," a Japapnese-owned newspaper published in Russian, is carrying on a strong campaign against the methods of the Chinese authorities and criticizing them in very outspoken terms. As the cost of the paper is only 40 sen a month, it is getting a very wide circulation among Russians, even though it is but a month old. According to this organ the agents of the Chinese Land Department along the railway line are treating many Russian renters of land in a very arbitary manner and the latter have no redress whatsoever and nobody to appeal to. The paper quotes specific instances giving names and full details. In one case a Russian living in Hailar though he was able to show a receipt for land rent from the C.E.R. Land Department, was forced to pay the rent again to the agent of the Special Area Land Department, being threatened otherwise with deportation. The Chinese police gave all assistance to the said agent. The man was arrested because he had not the money and afterwards, accompanied by the police, was allowed to go to his friends from whom eventually he was able to get the necessary sum to satisfy the Land Agent. In another instance, a Russian woman living at Yamen was visited by the Chinese Land Agent, who not only took away the C.E.R. Land Department receipt, but the title deeds of the woman's house as well. The Consular Body at Harbin have protested against this tyranny. At Harbin itself such occurrences have not taken place.

M. de la Prade, the French Consul, who has been transferred to Foochow, left for that port on Saturday afternoon by the China Merchants' str. Haean.

LU YUNG-TING'S IRON RULE IN KUANGSI

A General Who Means to Put Down Brigands and Does So: Brighter Outlook in Kuangsi

From Our Own Correspondent.

Wuchow, Si., Jan. 6.

Usually in other countries than China conditions become as bad as possible and grow gradually better, while in China conditions seem to become as bad as possible and then still grow worse.

This, at least has been the experience of the province of Kuangsi. Two years ago it was considered in as deplorable a state as it was possible to get into, and everybody thought that we had passed through the worst of our troubles, but last year conditions continued to grow worse and worse. Both "the devil and the deep sea" seemed to be let loose. At the present time the devil is still roaring, but the sea is quieting down somewhat.

A short time ago Marshal Lu Yung-ting assumed the rôle of Administrator of Justice for the province or as the office is aptly called, "Good Afterwards Department," which in common English simply means that the Marshal has undertaken the gigantic task of exterminating the robbers and clearing the highways and river routes to traffic. Already the western half of the province has felt his iron sway. Robber bands or disbanded soldiers who would not submit to moral suasion have been treated with harsher means. A large company of robbers in the Toloh district who refused to surrender or give up their arms unless unreasonable concessions were made to them were surprised by Marshal Lu's soldiers, 300 of the band were slain and the remnant scattered. These scattered units are now being pressed on every side and it is a common thing to meet along the country roads small companies of those who have been captured and are being brought in to be measured for a thin board coffin. The roads between Nanning, the capital and Lungchow on the border of Annam are now comparatively clear from these gentlemen of the road, and traffic both by land and waterway is becoming a possibility. In the extreme north-west of the province other able leaders under Marshal Lu are pursuing a similiar policy.

This iron rule is extending eastward. Already some of Marshal Lu's vanguard have reached Pingyan and Tsiangkiang and are heading for Liuchow and Kueilin clearing the country as they go. The Liuchow river, which for two years has been held by bandits who have demanded exorbitant fees to permit the launches to run, will soon become the sphere of activity for Marshal Lu's men and it will be with a sigh of relief that the country people and business men of the northern cities see these well trained troops gaining headway.

MISSIONARIES ROBBED ON FU RIVER.

Meanwhile the eastern half of the province continues to afford excitement to all those who care to travel. A short time ago Dr. and Mrs. Mewshaw with their children and Dr. Smith of the Southern Baptist Mission were held up and robbed while travelling from Wuchow to Kueilin on the Fu river. The party had spent 18 months in the homeland and were now returning to their work again, bringing with them such things as would make their lives more comfortable and their work more successful. They had almost completed their long journey, and were on the last lap, the river journey from Wuchow to Kueilin, when they were surprised by a company of bandits and relieved of nearly everything they possessed.

A wire was received from them which read, "Robbed, Peace," but only a few days had elapsed when another telegram was received, which had one word added, "Robbed again, Peace." It would seem that everything, but the last named article has been taken from them, and that they will reach their stations less many of the comforts and conveniences for which they had prepared.

ROBBERS AND TRIBESMEN CLASH.

In the Yao Mountains there has also been some trouble. Robber bands operating along the border of the Yao Mountains recently captured two tribesmen and demanded a ransom for their release. This is the first time that it is known that a tribesman was ever kidnapped, and the incident aroused the tribesmen to a pitch of frenzy. The various tribes were notified, and each, metaphorically speaking, put on war paint and prepared to give battle. The section of the country in which the tribesmen have their homes is very mountainous and secluded, and as the Yao people know their winding footpaths well and are nimble of foot, there is little doubt that they will force the robbers to leave their present rendezvous and go out upon the plain, but whether they can secure the release of their fellow tribesman through fighting force remains still to be seen.

SAD ACCIDENT TO LADY MISSIONARY.

On Saturday evening Mrs. Oldfield while out walking with her husband stepped in a hole by the roadside and fell, dislocating her ankle and breaking her leg. Local medical aid was secured, but fearing complications might arise it was thought best to send her down to the Canton Hospital, Canton, for X ray examination. Mr. and Mrs. Oldfield left on Friday on the str. Sainam for Canton, but hope to return to Wuchow as soon as the bones are set and the leg put into a cast.

MURDERED FOREIGNERS OF SZECHUAN

Messrs. Watt and Whiteside: Secret Society Too Strong to Bring to Justice

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chengtu, Sze., Dec. 20.

Gen. Li Feng-chiu, who was sent by Liu I-chiu to investigate the murder of Messrs. Watt and Whiteside, has returned and made his report. It is substantially the information that the British Consul-General Mr. Combe has gathered from his unremitting and painstaking efforts to bring the murderers to justice. The man Ma, who committed suicide when captured, was the chief instigator of the crime.

The General has reported to his friends that it is next to hopeless to expect to root the robbers out of that country, because they are mostly in the strong Brotherhood known as "Pao Ko Hue." It is stated that the ex-Magistrate Li of Maochow, and Captain Den of Gen. Chen's own force, who was detailed to rout the robbers, are superior in the Society to their senior officers, and that all the locally appointed magistrates and officers are in the Society. Also that Gen. Chen while being responsible to the Chêngtu authorities for maintaining order must also take orders from the Society, and when the orders conflict, he is instructed to obey the Society before the Government authorities.

So this is the situation and a pretty serious situation. Gen. Li made a complete tour of the infested district but avoided the notorious dens, and felt convinced that the whole countryside had been aroused over the murder. The constant pressure of the Consul-General has had its effect. Orders have gone out in the Society condemning the men who took any part in the murder thus bringing disgrace on the Society. They have also promised to send the other suspects to Chêngtu for trial.

Authors of Murders Brought to Chengtu at Last

Chêngtu, Dec. 29.

Governor Liu I-chu, after long continued pressure brought to bear by the British Consul-General, Mr. G. A. Combe, has at length had the rest of the criminals concerned in the murder of the two missionaries, the Rev. F. J. Watt and the Rev. F. R. Whiteside, brought to Chêngtu for trial. They arrived on December 20.

Gen. Yang Sen having recaptured Chungking is pursuing the routed Szechuanese armies and has reached a point 200 *li* from Chêngtu. The Director-General of the Szechuanese Armies, Gen. Tan Mou-hsin, has just arrived in Chêngtu from Chungking. Gen. Hsiong Keh-wu is reported to have fled: at any rate he has not been seen for some days.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PROTECTION AGAINST BANDITS

Trains on Tientsin-Pukow Line to be Provided with Armed Police Cars

We have received the following interesting information relating to the protection of the train service from the attacks of bandits from the Managing Director of the Chinese Government Railways, Tientsin-Pukow Line:

Since the Lincheng outrage the authorities have taken the utmost pains to guard against bandits. Apart from other safeguards some police cars have been provided equipped with electric search lights capable of throwing a beam of 1500 to 1800 feet. The light rays are rotatory and can be operated upward or downward. Each of the up and down Express and Mail trains 1, 2, 3 and 4 is provided with a police car on which two search lights are fitted —one on each side. The latter are arranged in such a way that when required they can be projected through the window over the side of the car and used at night for reconnoitring purposes when the train is running. Police guards detailed as escorts man the car and machine guns are provided. The lights cover a distance beyond bullet-range. After tests and experiments made at the Central Station continually for three nights the cars and equipment were found to be thoroughly successful. The same equipment will eventually be extended to all the Tsinpu night trains.

OPIUM AND GAMBLING IN HARBIN

Big Raid on Smugglers' Headquarters: Gambling Under Police Protection

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Dec. 31.

The other day at the instance of General Wen, chief of police, and with the assistance of some gendarmes from the Japanese Consulate a successful raid for opium was effected by the police. At about noon a strong detachment of police surrounded the Hotel Asia, situated quite close to the station and owned by a Korean named Kim, who enjoys Japanese protection. A search party entered the hotel and got a good haul of the contraband. A minute search was made in all the rooms and in several of them packages of all sorts and description, weighing from a few pounds to a pood or more of the drug, were found.

A private gambling den was also unexpectedly discovered as well as cards, chips and other paraphernalia. Most of the gamblers, Koreans and Japanese, managed to evade arrest.

The owner of the hotel and a few more Koreans were marched off to the Japanese Consulate, whilst the Chinese police took charge of the opium. This hotel is one of the headquarters of the contrabandists, who bring the narcotic from the Ussuri and the eastern section of the C.E.R. and is afterwards shipped south viâ Changchun.

PROFITABLE GAMBLING.

Gambling, though strongly prohibited by the police even in clubs for the smallest of stakes, is still going merrily on in Harbin. It is a very lucrative business, seeing that most Russians are born gamblers and cannot resist the call of the green baize. The present gambling establishments are mostly run by Koreans, for Russians are themselves afraid to figure as owners, as heavy penalties are inflicted upon them by the Chinese authorities if caught. The personnel of these places are, however, Russians and as all go under the name of restaurants, most of them are open night and day. Police protection is well organized so that the higher police authorities find it a most difficult thing to make a successful raid. Certain members of the police force, in whatever district the establishment may be situated, receive fixed sums paid daily and thus there is no interference, and warning is given if a raid is planned from headquarters. It is even stated that some of the police officers themselves have a flutter at the table, no doubt this gives confidence to the habitues that the chances of their being caught are but small.

PRESIDENT TSAO KUN IN ILL HEALTH

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 9.

There have been many rumours current lately of the declining health of President Tsao Kun. It is now definitely known that he is suffering from diabetes. Though his illness is said to be severe it is not implied that it is dangerous.

CHINESE INDUSTRIAL MISSION

Receptions by Board of Trade Overseas Trade Dept. and Other Industrialists

London, Jan. 10.

In the course of a prolonged visit, Mr. Chang Chien, Jr., and his fellow members of the Chinese Industrial Mission discussed the objects of the Mission at the Board of Trade, where they were received by Sir Sydney Chapman, the Permanent Secretary, and representatives of the Overseas Trade Department

The members of the Mission were entertained to a private luncheon by the Federation of British Industries, at which Colonel C. C. Armstrong, the Chairman, presided. The gathering included Mr. Godfrey Isaacs, managing director of Marconi's, and representatives of Messrs. T. C. Aveling & Co., Messrs. Thomas Firth & Sons, the Cotton Spinners' Association and other important industrialists.

THE OBJECT OF THE MISSION.

Mr. Chang Chien, responding briefly to the toast of the guests, emphasized that while the object of the Mission was to acquire information, this was in no way contrary to the interests of foreign manufacturers trading in China. He contended that China was unable to increase her purchases substantially and rapidly as long as her ability to pay for them remained undeveloped. On the other hand, the development of China's vast natural resources would mean a new era of prosperity for other nations. British industrialists had the reputation of fearlessness in facing competition and he did not doubt that, in spite of competition, they would be amongst the first to contribute to and benefit from the industrial development of China.

The Mission will visit Rochester to-morrow and thence will proceed to Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham and other industrial centres.—Reuter.

Road-Making and Agriculture: The Chinese Minister Not Telling Fairy Tales

London, Jan. 11.

The Chinese Industrial Mission visited Rochester this morning in order to inspect road-making and agricultural implements. The Mission will return this afternoon for a reception by the Chinese Students' Union.

Later.

A reception in honour of the Chinese Industrial Mission was given to-day by the Chinese Students' Union at the Langham Hotel.

Mr. Chu Chao-hsin, in a speech, declared that he was honestly telling the truth about China. He anticipated the day when he would have to install a wireless receiver in the Legation to listen in to instructions from the Foreign Office in Peking and to debates in the Chinese Parliament.

The Industrial Commissioner, Mr. Chang Chien, in his speech said that students held the future of China in their hands. It was unnecessary to be pessimistic for education, industry and commerce were making rapid strides. He dwelt on the value of the inquiries of the Commission. Mr. Chang Chien hoped to return to England in the future.

Dr. Chu precedes the rest of the commission by leaving for New York to-morrow. The other members will leave London for a provincial tour on Sunday.—Reuter.

Interesting Day at Sheffield

London, Jan. 14.

The Chinese commercial mission were the guests to-day of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and spent a busy and instructive day at the Vickers steel works, where they saw armament making, and also at Messrs. Edgar Allen's and Messrs. Arthur Balfour's steel works. The mission was entertained to luncheon at Vickers works, at which the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce presided.

Birmingham will be omitted from the places visited owing to the brevity of the mission's stay in Britain, but Mr. C. F. Hsu of the Ministry of Communications has arrived and is visiting large works, including the Metropolitan Carriage and Wagon Co., Messrs. Belliss & Morcom's, and the Austin and Wolseley Motor-works.—Reuter.

Visit to Bradford: China's Sins Against Trademarks

London, Jan. 16.

The Chinese Industrial Mission to-day visited the headquarters of the Bradford Dyers' Association and inspected samples of dyed woollen, cotton and artificial silk goods suitable for the Far Eastern trade.

Subsequently the Mission attended a conference with the Council of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce and 30 members specially interested in the Chinese trade. The subject of trade marks. Chinese inland transport and reduction in weight for sample postage were raised. The members of the Mission promised to bring the matters before the Government on their return.

After the conference the Mission and prominent Bradford business men were entertained to luncheon by the Lord Mayor.

The Mission later visited the Saltaire mills and met the Wool and Allied Trades Industrial Council.—Reuter

TRANSPORTATION OF ARMS

Peking, Jan. 8.

According to a report from Tientsin a quantity of arms and ammunition passed through Tientsin on January 6 for Sanchiatien, the old Manchu magazine, consisting of 19,000 rifles, 17,000,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 30 mountain guns and 1,400 shrapnel shells. It is reported that this is Italian material and came from Shanhaikuan, being consigned to the Government.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE YIHYANG MARU BANDIT OUTRAGE

Szechuan Army's Demand for Million Dollars Ransom

Peking, Jan. 8.

As the Szechuan army that was recently driven out of Chungking still holds the two Japanese officers of the Yihang Maru and still asks a million dollars for their release, the Japanese Consul-General at Chungking recently decided to enter into direct negotiations with the kidnappers. He left Chungking on the 3rd instant and proceeded up the river to Luchow, where he expects to get into touch with agents of the Szechuanese forces.

Being again pressed by the Japanese to take action for the release of these officers, the Waichiaopu is sending another official to Szechuan. The first official returned, unable to accomplish anything.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Captured Officers Borne off to Kueichow Border

Peking, Jan. 14.

It has come to light that the two Japanese officers of the Yihyang Maru, who are now kept in custody by the Szechuanese troops, have been taken to Chisui on the border of Kueichow Province.

Tang Tsu-mo and Hsi Ching-yang, leaders of the Szechuanese troops in question, are now staying in Neikiang. It is reported that Mr. Kifune, Japanese Consul in Chungking, who arrived in Luchow on the 7th instant, has proceeded to Neikiang.—Eastern News Agency.

LINCHENG REPARATION

Powers Reported Ready with Terms: Who Will Have to Pay?

Peking, Jan. 12.

The seven Powers concerned having already completed their investigations into the damage sustained by the Lincheng incident, they are expected shortly to forward a joint Note to the Chinese Government demanding the payment of indemnity.

The Central Government contemplates making the provincial authorities of Shantung pay the indemnity, whereas the latter object to being shouldered with the payment. Both the Central and provincial authorities concerned are thus attempting to shirk their responsibility.—Eastern News Agency.

DEATH OF MISS DELTA EATON

A Much Liked Mission Worker of Szechuan

From Our Own Correspondent

Chêngtu, Sze., Dec. 20.

Miss Delta Eaton, of the M.E.M., was taken suddenly ill two weeks ago, and in spite of the best medical attention died on Monday night. The doctors agree it was cerebral meningitis. The funeral was held from Shan Shi Kai on Wednesday, the 12th.

Miss Eaton was very popular among both Chinese and foreigners. She served with distinction in France with U.S. soldiers in Y.M.C.A. work. At the grave the last post was blown by Sergt. Rackham, late Regimental Band, Canadian forces.

EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS AND HARBIN

Magnificent Collection in the Northern City

From Our Own Correspondent

Harbin, Dec. 31.

Figures have just been published by Mr. R. D'Anjou, hon. secretary of the Harbin Committeee for Relief of Earthquake Sufferers in Japan, and are extremely interesting.

The total amount collected is $73,703.40.

The Chairman of the International Committee Gen. Chang Fan-lan, the Administrator of the Special Railway Area, was most energetic in his personal efforts, for he arranged special entertainments in both Fuchiatien and Pristan theatres, by which means $7,423 were netted.

Mr. Ostroumoff, who was chairman of the Russian section of the Committee, showed that among the Russian residents had been collected in cash $2,555 and Yen 10,715 and in provisions, etc., Yen 7,000.

Of the remaining sums:

British Colony contributed	Y.7,890
American Colony contributed	Y.3,055
Polish Colony contributed	Y.1,078
French Colony contributed	$1,529
Danish Colony contributed	Y.1,000

At the final meeting of the Committee, the Chairman, Gen. Chu stated that this sum had been collected and was most satisfactory seeing that at the present time business conditions in Harbin are in a very bad way. It was thanks to the energy of the members of the Committee, to the Consular body and the Railway representatives that this sum had been collected, he himself having done but very little and therefore he offered them his heartfelt thanks, stating that in no other town in China had there been such brilliant results.

MARSHAL TUAN CHI-JUI ILL

Peking, Jan. 14.

A telephone message from Tientsin reports:—Marshal Tuan Chi-jui, who had for some time been suffering from cold, suddenly had a high degree of fever on the night of the 11th instant and is now in a serious condition. Yesterday morning, a German doctor of Peking was invited to attend to the Marshal and is still staying in Tientsin. It is reported that the malady is scarlet fever. The residence of Marshal Tuan is crowded with people who have called to inquire after him.—Eastern News Agency.

Tientsin, Jan. 17.

Marshal Tuan Chi-jui's condition has improved and he is now out of danger.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

"INDEPENDENT" NAVY REINFORCED

Another Secession from Admiral Tu's Fleet

According to the "Eastern Times" another of Admiral Tu Shih-kuei's men-of-war has gone over to the "independent" fleet at Shanghai.

The torpedo boat Chung Tsz which was originally stationed at Anking recently received an order to proceed elsewhere up the river. A mutiny broke out and the ship made direct for Shanghai, despite the protests of the captain who was eventually put ashore, the chief officer Chen Sz-chun taking command of the vessel in his place.

The boat entered Woosung at 10 a.m. on Saturday; thereupon the commander of the Yung Chih, detailed to watch the Russian ships, reported the matter to Admiral Ling Chien-chang, who ordered that the Chung Tsz should be instructed to proceed to Kanchongmiao. At the same time Admiral Ling informed Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang by telegram of this movement.

FUKIEN OFFICERS RELEASED.

Three naval officers, natives of Fukien who were arrested and detained at Nanking by Admiral Tu seven months ago on suspicion of being connected with the independent fleet have now been released. They interviewed Admiral Ling at Kanchongmiao on Sunday, asking him for employment. They have been given positions in the Admiralty House, receiving pay on the old scale.

The wages of the crews of the independent fleet have not yet been paid.

SERIOUS FIRE NEAR CANTON HOSPITAL

From a Correspondent.

Canton, Jan. 8.

Yesterday morning while the resident doctor was at breakfast, the fire bells began to ring, and upon investigation it was found that two large stores at this rear of the hospital had caught fire and were burning briskly.

In spite of the fact that the fire brigade responded to the first summons the fire gained headway. Sheets of flames shot 50 feet into the air. The hospital fire staff with "boys" and coolies assisted in fighting the flames and after an hour and a half hard work they were rewarded by bringing the fire under control.

The two buildings where the fire started were practically a total loss, and one man was hurt while fighting the flames.

CHINA'S GIFT FOR JAPANESE IMPERIAL WEDDING

Peking, Jan. 15.

The President's representative, Mr. Li Tien-chang, has left for Tokio with gifts for the Prince Regent on the occasion of his wedding. The gifts include a pair of cloisonné vases, lacquer ornaments, rich brocades and rugs.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

HEROIC CONDUCT OF MRS. KILEN

The Hupeh Bandit Outrage at Tsaoyang: Mr. Hoff Dies from His Wounds

Peking, Jan. 11

No further reliable information has been received regarding the whereabouts of Mrs. Kilen.

The "Central China Post" reports that when the bandits arrived at the mission at Tsaoyang on December 27 they warned Mr. and Mrs. Hoff in Chinese not to run away. Mr. and Mrs. Hoff did not understand Chinese and followed the instructions given to them previously to run to the military barracks at once if bandits appeared. As they were running away Mr. Hoff was shot in three places and Mrs. Hoff in two places. The bandits examined the wounded people and said that as Mr. Hoff was practically dead they need not bother any further about him but that they would take away Mrs. Hoff.

Whilst they were making these remarks Mrs. Kilen, who understands Chinese, arrived on the scene. She at once volunteered to go with the bandits if they would allow Mrs. Hoff to remain with her husband. The bandits accepted the offer and took her away.

Mrs. Kilen is described as a delicate lady over 50 years of age and her conduct in this matter has aroused widespread admiration.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoff were both taken to hospital and are reported to be doing as well as can be expected. Mr. Hoff is still seriously ill.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Jan. 12.

Gen. Wu Pei-fu has reported that Mrs. Kilen has been located near Lushan to which place the bandits have moved.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DEATH OF MR. HOFF.

Hankow, Jan. 13.

Mr. Hoff, who was wounded by the bandits who captured Tsaoyang, died yesterday.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Mrs. Kilen Rescued

Peking, Jan. 15.

Major John Magruder, American Assistant Military Attaché, reported yesterday as follows: "The Civil Governor of Honan states that Mrs. Kilen has been rescued and is well. She will reach Loyang on January 16 or 17."—Reuter.

NOTORIOUS BANDIT REPORTED DEAD.

Hankow, Jan. 14.

A telegram from Hsuchow states that Lao Yang-ren, the notorious bandit chief, has been murdered by his own men and that the bandits are fleeing. No word has been received regarding the captives.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

GERMAN MISSIONARY RELEASED

After Three Months' Captivity in Hunan

Mr. F. Strauss, the German missionary captured by bandits in Hunan last October, has just been released, states a wire from Hungkiang received in Shanghai on Tuesday by the Chino Inland Mission.

The missionary who belongs to the Liebenzeller Mission and was working in association with the China Inland Mission was taken prisoner on October 17, when on his way from Hungkiang to Wukang. At the time the news reached Shanghai his name was not given.

CAPTURE OF KIAHSIEN BY BANDITS

Peking, Jan. 11.

A telegram from Hsuchow, dated January 8, reports that Kiahsien has been captured by bandits.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SEEING THE NEW YEAR IN AT HARBIN

Great Business in the Cabarets: Balls and Masquerades Despite Ever-increasing Poverty of Russians: Situation in Mongolia and Forthcoming Sino-Russian Conference

From Our Own Correspondent

Harbin, Jan. 2.

Notwithstanding that business has been as dead as a doornail for so long and that there is severe financial stringency, Harbin saw the old year out and new year in with the same amount of gaiety and champagne as has long been its custom.

The two most popular places in town, the Moderne in Pristan and the Railway Club in New Town, were both overcrowded, making dancing most difficult. Both places had announced a masquarade and though many of the weaker sex resorted to dominoes the majority of men were in ordinary dress, the exception being those who had attended the annual costume ball at the Harbin Club, who some time after two flooded the Railway Club. Here the merriment was kept up until nearly seven in the morning. The Moderne, which has undoubtedly the best jazz band in town, had all its tables booked up two days ahead, so the overflow of people who dropped in and found no room had to wend their way elsewhere.

The Commercial Club had also a masquerade. This place, too, was very well filled, whilst among the restaurants that had special nights were Unterberger's American Bar, where for once dancing was permitted, the Peking where a cabaret was held, and the Malo-Yarovlavetz in New Town famous from the time of the Inter-Allied Technical Board. The Alcazar, the only cabaret that has been able to hold its end up in these stringent times, did great business, a rival notwithstanding, which opened its doors on New Year's night and rejoices in the name of All Smiles, when translated.

THE SOCIAL ROUND.

It is the custom of Harbin, to save the trouble of leaving cards on New Year's Day, to hold receptions between the hours of noon and two at the Municipality and the Railway and Commercial Clubs. There was no exception to this rule this year. Between the hours indicated the places were crowded and congratulations, washed down with champagne were exchanged. At the Railway Club there was the usual religious service first, followed by speeches from members of the Board and the Railway Administration. A congratulatory telegram from Gen. Horvath at Peking caused a lot of cheering, for of course all old residents of Harbin cannot forget the man who for 18 years stood at the helm of the C.E.R., helped to build Harbin and helped it to progress.

The Administrator of the Special Area, Gen. Chu, the Chief of Staff Gen. Chang, the Chief of Police Gen. Wen, as well as Gens Ma and Yang Cho attended all these receptions, Gen. Chu making appropriate speeches at each place. At the Commercial Club was all commercial Harbin. After speechifying, the club chairman likewise read a telegram from Gen. Horvath wishing the members a happy New Year and the latter's health was enthusiastically drunk. Here Gen. Chu and the other Chinese officials who accompanied him, were invited to a banquet, where many friendly speeches were made by representatives of different public bodies.

Members of the Club received a welcome X'mas gift from Gen. Chu in the shape of permission to play cards again in the club, he having the personal guarantee of the committee that no gambling would take place. Naturally this announcement caused much satisfaction among those present.

Gen. Chu, the Administrator of the Special Area is always giving a helping hand in the cause of charity. He is an ardent supporter of homes for orphans and waifs of whom there are so many in Harbin. Recently the International Committee for helping indigent Russians, of which General Chu is President, have opened in Old Harbin a Special Home with special men and women's departments to accommodate 500 persons in all. The home is already filled, as indeed many more would be if they were in existence. The inmates are well cared for after being given first, warm clothes and receiving daily two meals.

SPECULATION IN WHEAT AND SILVER

There are some 22 modern flourmills in Harbin, but at the present time not one-third of the number are working. The Society of Flourmill-owners have recently made an appeal to the Administrator of the Special Area asking him to stop the speculation in wheat, which is being carried on at the Fuchiatien Grain Exchange, causing the price to be so inflated that it is impossible for the mills to produce flour without a serious loss.

The mills have ordered wheat from the America and Canada which should begin to arrive during January in fairly large quantities. The latest booking for Canadian wheat is 90,000 poods at $2.10 per pood, ex Harbin, delivery in March. No doubt with the arrival of this foreign grain, Chinese dealers and merchants will realize that they may be only cutting their own throats by forcing up the price of Manchurian wheat to an artificial price because the crops have not been up to the normal.

The local Chinese authorities have been taking special steps to prevent the export of silver from Harbin and the railway area and speculation that is taking place. Harbin Bank dollar notes which are exchangeable for silver here at par are quoted at at least 10 per cent. discount at Changchun, so that persons buy silver dollars here and take them to Changchun where they are changed at a 10 per cent. premium into Harbin dollar notes, which are brought back to Harbin and again exchanged into silver, which them finds its way to Changchun again. It is now not permitted for any person to take out of Harbin more than $100 in silver. Anybody found with more than this amount is liable to arrest and confiscation of their silver. In the last few days at Harbin alone over 54 persons have been arrested, among whom were 11 Russians. Their silver has been confiscated and they will be charged with unlawful speculation. The station police are very much on the alert, as they get as bonuses 50 per cent. of the confiscated moneys.

The auto-'bus business appears to be in a flourishing state in Harbin. New 'busses are continually being put into commission, new routes are being connected up even in the far away suburbs. Owing to dark roads there is a certain amount of danger attached to this enterprise when night sets in. The other evening, for instance, an auto-'bus travelling empty homeward bound was hailed by a couple of Chinese, who got into the vehicle and then held up the lady ticket collector. They appropriated the day's takings. The woman and the driver were powerless to resist. This is by no means the first incident of the kind.

BURGLARS SMARTLY CAPTURED.

Some time in November the house of an American named Crawford, who lives in New Town, was entered just after dark by masked burglars. Mr. Crawford was out at the time, but his wife was at home together with some friends. At the point of revolvers all were forced down into the cellar whilst the burglars ransacked the house, taking away with them some $1,000 in cash, as well as overcoats, clothes, etc. As soon as they decamped one of the visitors immediately telephoned the police. As luck would have it, a drosky driver on the rank close by had noticed three men coming from the direction of Mr. Crawford's house get into a drosky also on the rank, and was able to furnish the number of the drosky. The police got hold of the driver of the latter vehicle. He took them to the house the men had driven to in Machiakou. The entry of the police into the burglars' apartment was quite unexpected by the latter who were celebrating the robbery in a glorious feast together with their wives. Five persons in all were arrested. Clothing and a revolver belonging to Mr. Crawford were found on the premises, though the money was not recovered. The burglars are well known criminals as is one of the women. At the trial which has just opened evidence was adduced that the sister of one of the women, a girl of 14, had been formerly employed by Mr. Crawford as a servant. The trial is still proceeding.

HARBIN'S YELLOW PRESS SCARES.

A boycott of the newspaper "*Zarya*" has been declared by the various Russian railway workers' unions, as well as the Union of Russian Artists (theatrical, concert, musical and music-hall) in Harbin on account of the yellow journalism exemplified by that paper towards everyone who is in favour of the New Russia.

In the manifesto which has been issued to all members of the union it is stated that the "*Zarya*" is guilty of continual publication of sensation-provocatory news and that it is a strong supporter of the reactionaries.

The "*Rech*" newspaper published a sensational interview with Gen. Chang Huang-hsiang, chief of staff of the Railway Guards. According to the General the chances of the Russo-Chinese Conference being held shortly are less likely than they were four months ago, for the Soviet representative at present is merely making flattering utterances.

The first thing that Soviet Russia must do is to withraw her troops from Mongolia, for China considers this temporary occupation an "act of seizure." Before negotiations can open troops must be withdrawn. Gen. Chang stated that at the present time it was impossible to send Chinese troops to Mongolia in order to free that territory of the Red troops, as this would cost a very a large sum of money and time, therefore according to the General's opinion it would be better if Chinese troops were sent to the Priamur and Amur districts, disarming the Russian troops there and accupying that territory as tit for tat.

The General pointed out that formerly both the Amur and Ussuri districts belonged to China (!!). Therefore the Chinese had more right to occupy that territory than the Russians in occupying Mongolia. "Thus," continued the General, "if Russia does not return us Mongolia it will be better for us to take Vladivostok and the railway line as far as Blagovestchensk. The occupation of Vladivostok by Chinese troops would also be a good thing for the Chinese Eastern Railway, which would then be in possession of a port."

SOUTHERN PIRATES

Canton Likely to Combine with Hongkong in Suppression

Hongkong, Jan. 12.

The Captain of H. M. S. Tarantula to-day discussed with General Wu Te-chen, the Canton Chief of Police, measures of co-operation for the capture of pirates. It is likely that General Wu will visit Hongkong shortly to take up with the authorities the question of a general rounding-up of the pirates who have been rendering navigation unsafe in Hongkong and Kuangtung waters.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPAN'S PRIVY COUNCIL

Tokio, Jan. 13.

Viscount Adata Hamao was to-day installed as President of the Privy Council in succession to Viscount Kiyoura.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

HIGH-SOULED YOUNG SHANSI

Kiangchow a Home of Didactic Drama: Remarkable Student Performances

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kiangchow, Sha., Jan. 3.

Shansi schools which started dramatic entertainments at the end of last year in aid of famine relief, have now decided to give annual performances as part of each school's course.

The price of admission is quite nominal, but the entertainments offered are of a high order, taking into consideration the difficulty of finding suitable places for a theatrical representations, lighting and all the necessary appliances unprocurable in inland cities. Nevertheless the manner in which students improvise all sorts of needful etceteras and with the minimum of rehearsals stage their productions in old temples and school buildings, is most praiseworthy.

All these dramatic entertainments have a moral purpose—"To awaken Society and promote virtue" is a maxim kept well to the front; Patriotism, the New Learning, Public-spiritedness, Virtue and particularly a strong appeal for the anti-Narcotic Movement are popular themes in the plays. Occasionally a spirited dialogue or oration makes very clear the lesson designed to bring home to audiences.

Here are some of the items from the popular programme this year: "Tsai Oh," a long historical drama in many scenes depicting the last days of Yuan Shih-kai and including many dialogues of Tsai Oh, Liang Ch'ich'iao and other noted characters. This bristles with patriotism and loyalty to the Republic, showing up the evils of treachery and self-seeking. There is no comedy in this performance, but a very serious and probably faithful representation of actual history.

But the audience roars over "The Good Pedagogue." in which an old-time school is presented with the fiercest of old teachers and the most grotesque punishments, recalling doubtless to some of the older men their own experiences of an unhappy boyhood.

One of the literati of Imperial days appears in another little drama in fierce controversy with his more enlightened wife over the betrothal of their daughter. He will wed her to the highest bidder, and thinks nothing of her future husband's character or attainments.

The girl herself is an ambitious, high spirited student in a modern school and before the closing scene delivers a stirring speech on women's rights and the iniquity of the old betrothal and marriage customs of China.

Her, father however is obdurate. When, broken-hearted, the girl is dying he raises no objection to the foreign medical missionary being called and in the last scene receives a crushing rebuke from the heroine's school companions.

Things have certainly changed when Shansi boys can, even in a play, voice such high-souled sentiments for women. The very small boys from the elementary school act with rare vivacity a comedy showing the combined evils of borrowing and litigation. Then the path of virtue is pointed out in a play setting forth the folly of gilded youth, the chief character being a young fellow who pays dearly for his rejection of friendly counsel.

Here, too. the exhortations to virtue are delivered with the zeal of a preacher.

The evils of the Golden Pill and opium are set forth by the spectacle of a woebegone and penniless crowd trying to rake together a few ashes from an opium pipe and falling this trying to keep up one another's drooping spirits by singing snatches of comic songs.

Then another item is of educational value, when the gossip of a village is reproduced in uncouth patois to call attention to the importance of the unified National language.

These are a but a sample of the programmes being set before delighted audiences by Young Shansi in the three-day entertainments given to parents and friends.

BETTER TRAVEL FACILITIES.

The Chengtai Railway have now an afternoon train from Shih-chiachiang. making it possible to reach Taiyuanfu by 14½ hour's continuous eravelling from Peking.

This in connexion with the motor services makes it possible to reach hitherto remote parts of southern Shansi inside a week.

The huge cotton-spinning and weaving factory at Yutsi does not appear to be at work yet, but will probably soon be employing several hundred workers, thus marking another stage in the industrial development of the province.

Many promising industrial projects seem perpetually "held up" and inquiries why progress is not made faster, always elicit the same story of "squeeze," intrigue, taxation and somebody opposing for personal ends.

SEASONABLE GATHERINGS AT HANGCHOW

Treats to Chinese Children

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hangchow (delayed in Transmission).

On Saturday afternoon the children of the missionaries had their annual Christmas gathering, and it was most delightful to hear them some of them quite little tots not long out of arms, singing most sweetly the Christmas carols, and repeating without a mistake many portions of the Scriptures relating to the birth of Jesus.

At school they are taught to think of others, so they brought their little offerings for the deaf and dumb school, and for the poor lepers.

On Sunday afternoon the Choral Union, which is composed of boys and girls from the various Mission schools in the city, gave their first public entertainment. It was held in the Y. M. C. A. Gymnasium which was filled with over a thousand people. The choir of boys and girls—150 or more—sang beautifully, and gave all lovers of good music an hour of real enjoyment. Great credit is due to Dr. K. C. Wong for the splendid way he has trained the choir. A collection was taken for the Chinese Inland Evangelistic Society, and though no previous intimation had been given, between $20 and $30 was collected.

On Christmas Day after the C. M. S. Hospital Chapel morning service, the congregation retired to the lawn to receive something from Father Christmas, and 250 were made glad, each getting a little present—chiefly woollen garments suitable for the present cold weather.

On Christmas afternoon the "One Faith" Church held their usual annual entertainment in the Lecture Hall, where the scholars of the various C. M. S. schools displayed a lot of talent, and were each the recipient of kindness manifested by Father Christmas, who had something for everybody.

The Rev. H. Clements preached the Christmas Sermon in the C. M. S. Hospital Chapel, and dwelt on four Christmas blessings:—

1. God with us.—Peace and goodwill win through. I am with thee always.

2. God for us.—If God be for us, who can be against us Tribulation, anguish, persecution, famine and sword etc., they do not count.

3. Christ in us.—He is our life. Christianity is internal, restraining, subduing, constraining and urging to carry on. Working in so that we may work out.

4. Christ working through us.—The government is upon His shoulder. We should seek to help God, rather than seek God to help us.

NATIONAL CURRENCY FOR CHINA

Interesting Rumour from Peking for Standardization of Bank Notes and Other Money

A certain amount of interest was aroused in banking circles on Tuesday by a report appearing in the Chinese newspapers referring to the creation of a standard currency, which would include bank notes, for China. The report was to the following effect:—

"The Bank of China and the Bank of Communications have received instructions from the Ministry of Finance in Peking in connexion with the standardization of bank notes and currency in China as follows:—

"(1) Hereafter bank notes issued in the provinces shall be in national standard currency.

"(2) All bank notes issued in the different provinces by the provincial authorities shall be withdrawn and those on the market shall be collected immediately.

"(3) New national bank notes shall be issued in place of the old.

"(4) Steps in this connexion shall be put into execution within a year and divided into three sections."

INITIAL DIFFICULTIES.

The first difficulty in bringing about any of the reforms or innovations suggested in the above report is that no national currency exists in China. Up to a point the silver dollar had a standard value, but as recently the mints have succeeded in reducing its fineness it must be regarded as losing gradually the stability it possessed as a national coin. In circumstances such as these, with mints probably giving a different content to their products, the hope of standardization becomes more remote.

It thus is difficult to see on what basis the standardization of bank notes can possibly take place. Presumably the standardized bank notes would, under this scheme be issued by Peking through the two so-called Government banks—the Bank of China and Bank of Communications—but in the present condition of the country it seems hardly possible that notes issued on the strength of Peking's position would enjoy any great currency in the provinces. This is emphasized by the fact that while the notes of these two banks are accepted at full value in Shanghai they are at a discount in a place much nearer the capital, namely Tientsin.

The reason for this further emphasizes the weakness of any scheme which Peking may try to carry out at present for currency standardization. To take the case of the Bank of China, we find that in Shanghai it is practically a separate organization from the Peking institution of the same name. It happened that a few years ago, to meet the needs of the Government, an attempt was made to draw the assets of the Shanghai office to Peking, and the manager, Mr. Sung Han-chang, earned the support of all interests here by a refusal. Since then the Shanghai office has been, to all intents and purposes, a separate entity and has apparently benefited by being so. It is unlikely now to assent readily to any such proposal as has been mooted.

CHINESE BANKING.

It may be mentioned that neither the Bank of China nor the Bank of Communications has been informed of the standardization proposal in question, and the impression is current that the report is an attempt to test or influence public opinion. So far as Chinese banks in Shanghai are concerned its principal effect will probably be to stiffen opposition against any attempt by Peking at the present moment to take the note issue of the country into its hands. A great many Chinese banks issue their own notes, and they would be up in arms at any suggestion of a national note issue superseding theirs. While this has not been actually suggested, the proposal to do away with provincial issues is not a re-assuring factor in the case.

In the past various suggestions have been made by the authorities to amend the currency system of the country, especially where bank notes are concerned, but the great conservatism of those engaged in banking has always led to opposition to any such change, and even if Peking has a scheme cut and dried in this case there is little likelihood that it can be put into force.

COALMINING IN MANCHURIA

Bureau of Mines Convinced of a Promising Yield: Two New Pits Started

From Our Own Correspondent.

Fakumen, Man., Jan. 8.

The Provincial Government of Manchuria is at last waking up to the importance of exploiting its own mineral products. Though rather late in the day, the Mining Bureau of Mukden has opened two coal mines in the district of Fengtien west of the Liao River, well out of any conceivable sphere of Japanese control. The first, which is in the foothills westward of Koupangtzu Junction on the Peking-Mukden Railway, has been in operation for over a year. Already the initial expenses are being repaid by the output of coal from four working pits.

The second mine has only just started working. A few years ago a local Chinese gentleman, with a taste for experimenting with other people's money, having run through a fortune inherited from his father, sold share certificates in a projected mine 13 miles west of Fakumen. Some coal was extracted, but the capital proving insufficient the projector applied for assistance to the Japanese. When the Provincial Government got wind of this scheme, orders came down to close the mine. The subscribers were thus left with the rather empty privilege of sacrificing their shares in an abortive pioneer enterprise.

More than a month ago the Bureau of Mines despatched a trained mining engineer and staff, with adequate provision of funds, to bore for coal in a scientific way at or near the old shaft. The engineer Mr. L. T. Tseng, was born in Java and educated in the United States. Preliminary surveys have convinced Mr. Tseng that there is a wide coalfield in the neighbourhood. He has therefore no doubt about the success of the digging, though at present the operations are hampered by a considerable depth of water, to cope with which, a pumping plant is being sent up. If the yield turns out as satisfactory as is expected, then this mine will, like the first, be connected with the Peking-Mukden Railway. To the nearest station, Hsinmintun, a line of some 53 miles would be required. Incidentally a large section of populous agricultural country would, by such a railway, enjoy the benefits of modern transport. But unless the Bureau of Mines undertakes fresh borings in the immediate neighbourhood of Fakumen, it is doubtful whether the town will come within the sweep of the new line.

ENFORCED OPIUM GROWING IN FUKIEN

Peking, Jan. 9.

The International Anti-Opium Association has received the following telegram from the Venerable Archdeacon Phillips of the Church Missionary Society in the name of the Moral Welfare Branch at Kienning, Fukien: Am S. Urge that telegraphic instructions be sent to General Sun Chuan-fang, Tuli of Fukien, and General Chou Yin-jen, to prohibit the Kienho Magistrate Chow compelling the people to receive poppy seed and thus avert calamity.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINESE NATIONAL RAILWAYS

A Peking Appointment Which Is Much Agitating Chinese Feeling

Private telegrams received in Shanghai indicate that the Peking Government is seriously contemplating the appointment of Mr. Kao En-hung as Director-General of Chinese National Railways. Mr. Kao, who was a student of King's College, London, formerly held posts as Director of the Shanghai Telegraph Materials Department and acting Minister of Communications and Education.

Already local Cantonese and Ningpo residents are flooding the Peking Government with telegrams opposing the appointment, alleging that Mr. Kao is a partisan and is not a proper man for the post. The Cantonese allege that, while he was acting Minister of Communications, he issued an order dismissing more than 10,000 Cantonese employees from the Government railways and installing in their places men of his own province and selection. The Ningpo merchants here allege that Mr. Kao instigated a presidential mandate for the dismissal, arrest and punishment of a prominent Ningpo banker on the ground that that gentlemen, who is a highly respected resident here and who is well known to and popular among a host of foreign and Chinese friends, was aiding and abetting rebels against the Central Government, because they claim, this gentleman refused to hand over to Mr. Kao control of the premier Chinese shipping company of which he was also managing director. In all the telegrams allegations are made that while Mr. Kao was Minister continued disturbances took place and numerous protests were lodged with the Government, until he was compelled to flee from Peking to Chefoo.

C.-E. RAILWAY LANDS DEADLOCK

Serious and Complicated Situation: Chinese Land Office Busily Activities

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Jan. 6.

The Land Department question in the Chinese Eastern Railway Area continues to be the all-absorbing topic of conversation among residents of what is known as the Manchurian Special Area.

The zone which has its own Administrator who may act independently of the Governors of Kirin and Heilungchiang, in whose territories this special area is located. Things at present are more or less at a deadlock, for no definite decisions have been arrived at between the C. E. R. Administration and the Chinese authorities, both of which have their own special Land Departments.

It is true that a Commission, composed of representatives of both parties, was formed some time ago and the matter is being gone into in detail, but it is likely that it will be some time before the reports of this Commission will be completed, for the question is a most complicated one. In the meantime private renters of land from the Railway Land Department are loathe to pay any of their dues to this department, for it may be found afterwards that these must be paid again to the Chinese Land Department. So they prefer not to pay to anybody rather than run the risk of having to pay twice over. This means a loss of revenue of over a million dollars to the railway.

Recently the Land Department brought a case in the District Courts against a Chinese from Yifaho for the failure of payment of land leased from the Railway Department. The judge decided on his own accord to stop the proceedings until the future fate of the lots rented out by the railway was decided. The Judicial Department of the Railway appealed against this decision. In addition to this the orders issued by the Chinese Administration regarding the changes that are to be introduced in the land situation of the Special Area of the Three Eastern Provinces does not empower the Courts to stop proceedings in connexion with land disputes or to refuse the acceptance of such cases. The District Court has agreed with the view taken by the Railway Administration and ordered that the judge should reconsider the case in its substance.

PROTESTS UNAVAILING.

Notwithstanding the fact that nothing has been actually settled and agreed, and the protests lodged by the Consular Body and the shareholders of the C. E. R., the Chinese Land Department is busily engaged in extending the activities of their newly established office. This institution issues orders, enacts regulations, distributes circular letters, whilst its agents extort with the utmost rigour rentals along the length of the railway, employing coarse and oppressive methods.

Frequently there are arrests by the police, who assist the Land Agent in what must at present be considered unlawful work whilst the collections themselves must be classified as extortions. Such arbitrary methods as are now being employed must be considered as a breach of faith towards the management of the railway, whilst the population is absolutely terrified and crying out for protection.

In some quarters it is stated that an international judicial committee is shortly to arrive in Harbin expressly to investigate into this most important question.

THE PIRACY ON THE STR. TZESUI

Compradore and Passengers Cleaned out of All their Belongings

Ichang, Jan. 14.

The steamer Tzesui returned to port to-day, the river inspector navigating the vessel.

Information gathered indicates that the pirates numbered under 20 and were probably passengers from Wanhsien, but a few more joined them when the ship anchored.

It was apparently a case of pure piracy, for the Captain was first dealt with from fear of resistance on his part. Two pirates hauled him from his room and murdered him near the funnel with three shots.

The compradore lost about $2,000. The passengers were looted of money and clothing to the extent of about $20,000.

The brigands proceeded ashore with about 17 bags of loot and disappeared.

The steamer was anchored opposite the shore at Kaochiacheng and so was unable to call for help.

The Dollar Company has now ordered the steamers Kweimeu and Tzesui to proceed to Shanghai, withdrawing from the run.

Captain Brandt's body is on board the Tzesui.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Jan. 15.

An official telegram from Ichang states that, as far as can be ascertained up to the present, the steamer Tzesui did not carry arms or ammunition when it was raided by pirates above Wanhsien.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

EARTHQUAKE IN MANILA

Manila, Jan. 15.

An earthquake of intensity 4 occurred at six o'clock this morning in the Ilocos provinces. A milder shock was felt here at about five o'clock.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MRS. Sun Yat-sen, wife of the founder of the Chinese Republic, returned to Shanghai on Saturday by the R.M.S. Empress of Asia from Canton.

CHEFOO'S SUMMER ATTRACTIONS

The New Hotel Now Building: Commodious Premises and And Up-to Date

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chefoo, Jan. 9.

The New Year has opened with very little to report from here. Business is still quiet and, with the advent of the Chinese New Year holidays, no particular activity is anticipated for some little time. Chefoo has so far been enjoying an exceptionally mild winter and, apart from a few cold snaps, the weather has been ideal. Business may be bad but trade conditions cannot, fortunately, affect the climate which this little town enjoys. It has the reputation of being an ideal summer resort and has, for many, many years been patronized as such. In view of the earthquake which occurred in Japan at the latter end of last summer, it is anticipated that many who were inclined to favour that country as a place where they could spend their holidays will henceforth turn their attention elsewhere. A few far-seeing local gentlemen are now endeavouring to make this port more attractive to visitors and, with that end in view, several commendable schemes are now afoot.

The lack of decent accommodation has, in the past, been the chief drawback but one of the new schemes, the erection of a large new hotel, will solve this difficulty for the future. The Chefoo Hotels, Ld., have already almost completed the outer structure of the hotel and also eight bungalows adjoining it. The former will have 52 bedrooms and be complete with all the latest sanitary arrangements. The better bedrooms will have bathrooms attached fitted with enamel baths and with hot and cold water laid on. The plans include the provision of a large lounge and an excellent dining room whilst another attraction will be an open-air floor for dancing and, during the summer months, an orchestra. With these facilities the new hotel should prove a great attraction. There will also be several tennis courts for the use of guests.

The bungalows are intended for the use of families and are built on very good lines. They have the same conveniences as the hotel and are very adjacent to the main premises. The accommodation of each ranges from five to six rooms, in most cases including three bedrooms. The whole concern will be under the management of a foreign manager and his wife, whose past experience should enable them to give the guests every satisfaction.

The property, which is admirably situated, leads on to an excellent bathing beach and, I understand, bathing sheds, etc. are to be provided. With such good accommodation as this hotel will provide, future visitors to Chefoo need have no fears and, when this attraction becomes known, I foresee a great influx during the summer months.

A GOLF COURSE ALSO.

Chefoo will also be in a position to advertise a new attraction this summer and that, a golf course. The Hotel Company have secured a very nice piece of property on the Bluff where it is their intention to construct a nine-hotel course. The ground has already been surveyed and the general opinion is that a very sporting course can be made. A large club house, where if enthusiasts desire, they may spend the week-end, forms part of the scheme whilst there will be regular ferry boats plying at intervals between the mainland and the course. Other resorts have, in the past, had a distinct pull over Chefoo by virtue of their having a golf course but Chefoo can now enter into the battle of competition fully armed with attractions equal to all and better than most. I have no doubt whatever that in future years this will become a very popular resort.

Another Grave Earthquake in Japan

(*Continued from Page 77.*)

are now staying in Numadzu, as well as the Prince Regent and Princess Nagako Kuni in Tokio are all safe. No damage has been done to the Imperial Palace.

TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE CUT.

Shanghai, Jan. 15.

The local Japanese Telegraph Office announces that owing to the earthquake that visited the districts east of Hakone early this morning, telegraphic communication between Shidzuoka and Tokio has been interrupted and under the above circumstances, the Japanese Telegraph Office is compelled to cease despatching all telegrams for Tokio, Chiba, Kanagawa and Saitama Prefectures pending the restoration of communications.—Eastern News Agency.

REPORTED DEAD: NO FOREIGNERS.

Tokio, Jan. 15.

The centre of the earthquake is believed to have been near Tanzawa Mountain in Sagami Province, according to officials of the Central Observatory.

The earthquake was similar to that on September 1, but of only half its intensity. It lasted 12 minutes.

The number of dead in Tokio, Yokohama and the outside districts is probably under 50. The other casualties are numerous, but do not include any foreigners.

It is reported that a few houses have collapsed.

The Imperial Hotel suffered a terrific rocking but sustained its quake-proof reputation. It was crowded with guests.

The shock occurred at the dawning of a raw, cold day.

Mr. Kermit Roosevelt and Colonel and Mrs. Samuel, who are visiting the Far East, were not injured.

FIRES SOON PUT OUT.

Tokio, Jan. 15.

While very little damage has been done to the barracks erected on the sites of the recent fires, the Yamanote districts of Tokio City as well as surrounding districts have been more or less seriously affected. Immediately following the outbreak of the earthquake, electric light went out and the panic-stricken citizens remained standing out of doors in the darkness till sunrise. Though fires broke out at several places in the city, they were soon extinguished before they had a chance to spread. The train service was suspended for a little while, but it was re-opened at 9 o'clock in the morning. The telephone service, excepting that under the management of the Aoyama Telephone Exchange Office, has not been affected. Telegraphic communication, though only partly available at first, is being gradually re-opened. The particulars of the damage done to rural parts are unknown as yet, but it is reported on good authority that the shocks were not so serious as those felt in the district of Tokio.

DAMAGE IN YOKOHAMA.

Later.

It is officially reported that the damage done by to-day's earthquake to the district of Yokohama that has come to light up to this evening is as follows:—

Three persons were killed and twelve wounded. Buildings destroyed, including dwelling houses, warehouses, schools, hospitals and factories, number 13. Three bridges fell down and electric light, telephone service and water supply were interrupted for a short time and are now being restored rapidly. Several points on the Tokaido line were demolished and many cracks have been created in the ground. A number of trains were overturned but there were no casualties among the passengers. Although the whole length of the Tokaido line was closed to traffic for a little while, the damaged points were immediately repaired with the result that the train for Kobe was able to start from Tokio Station at 3 p.m. to-day.—Eastern News Agency.

MAIN LINE BROKEN.

The earthquake broke the railway between Hiratsuka and Chigasaki, interrupting communications between Tokio and Kobe.

The Kobe express was held up at Kodzu.

Telegraphic communications are badly crippled.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DAIBUTSU SWUNG BACKWARDS.

Osaka, Jan. 16.

The Daibutsu at Kamakura, which was displaced forward by the earthquake last September, has now gone backward four inches. Large fissures were made at Kamakura.

The water supply of Yokohama city has been cut off. Vessels in the harbour are supplying water to meet immediate needs. The Yokohama tram service has been suspended. Panic-stricken people are camping out in the streets. A dense fog hung over the city this morning, making the sun appear crimson.

The casualties in Yokohama were three persons killed and 12 wounded. Seven houses were totally destroyed while three partially collapsed. One warehouse, two schools, two factories and two hospitals were wrecked.

The Tokaido Railway is now running a single line.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE WORST HIT REGION.

Osaka, Jan. 16.

Putting together reports from all sources available, the most serious damage done by yesterday's earthquake was in the region between Yokohama and Hakone. According to an announcement made last night by the Kanagawa Prefectural Office, within the domain of Kanagawa Prefecture, including Yokohama, 11 persons were killed and 209 wounded, 762 houses completely demolished and 2,954 partly destroyed. It appears that the total damage sustained by the latest earthquake is comparatively slight, so far at least as the financial world is concerned, and this is, it is believed, mainly due to the fact that the organs of communication were not completely ruined as on the occasion of last year's earthquake disaster.—Eastern News Agency.

Tokio, Jan. 15.

Owing to the interruption of communications, the Tokio Stock Exchange closed its market to-day *pro tem.*—Eastern News Agency.

THE ITALIAN PROPHECY.

Faenza, Jan. 15.

Scientific circles have been stirred at the verification of Signor Bendandi's seismic predictions. All seismographs last night registered a violent and long-continued shock 10,000 kilometres away.

Note: In an interview published by the "*Messagero*" on January 11 the sculptor Signor Raphael Bendandi predicted slight earthquake shocks in America on the night of January 15 and the morning of January 20.—Reuter.

ABERDEEN'S GIFT.

London, Jan. 16.

Aberdeen University has given the Tokio Imperial University over 200 valuable works of reference for replacing the books destroyed by the earthquake in September.—Reuter.

Tokio, Jan. 16.

Reports coming in show that the earthquake situation is practically the same as that outlined by the Reuter despatches of January 15. Nervousness was general throughout Tokio during the night owing to widespread wild rumours, but while there were a few mild tremors, nothing worthy of note has occurred since six o'clock yesterday morning.

The death toll is about 30, all Japanese. No notable personages were injured.

All communications have been restored, though there is a considerable delay in telegrams.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A Map showing the Regionaffected by the latest Earthquake

Sagami Province Worst Hit: Some Factories Destroyed: Deathroll About 30

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kobe, Jan. 17.

The earthquake was most severe in Sagami province, where 444 houses were completely destroyed and 1606 partially, and several people were killed and wounded. The two factories of the Sagami Spining Company were destroyed.

Four were killed and 50 wounded in Tokio and the suburbs and a few dwellings destroyed.

The damage was more serious in Yokohama, where three persons were killed and a score wounded. The Technical College, in course of construction, was demolished, the Prefectural Fine Art school the Toyo Lead Pipe Factory and one other building.

The Kanagawa lunatic asylum collapsed.

The railways have resumed their service.

The Central Observatory announces that the centre of disturbance was at Mount Tanzawa, in Sagami province.

THE NEW JAPANESE PREMIER

Once a School-Teacher: Wage Y. 7 a Month: A Product of the Meiji Era

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Jan. 4.

The Cabinet that came into power in the days just preceding the earthquake, a Cabinet that was hailed in some sections as a super-party and a "strong" coalition, has departed unwept, unhonoured and unsung. The immediate cause of the Cabinet's fall was, of course, the outrageous attempt of a demented youth to assassinate Japan's Prince Regent. I have seen many a Cabinet come into power amidst much metaphorical trumpet-blowing and political cymbal-clanging, but the "strong" Yamamoto Ministry departed without even the consolation of a decent funeral.

The new Premier, Viscount Kiyoura, was formerly President of the Privy Council and was thus one of the most important personages constituting the real "Power Behind the Throne." At first, he declined the Imperial invitation to form a Cabinet, but later consented. It is not believed that the aged statesman—he is already a great-grandfather—will continue in office long and his appointment is largely believed to be a stop-gap until the wedding of His Imperial Highness the Prince Regent with the talented and beautiful daughter of Field-Marshal Prince Kuni has been solemnized.

FROM POVERTY TO PROMINENCE.

Like so may other important figures in Japan, Viscount Kiyoura worked his way upwards and was born in the Meiji era, an epoch that gave Japan some wonderfully-far-sighted and capable statesmen. He has known the bitterness of poverty having once been a teacher with a monthly wage of seven yen. In consequence, he is a strong opponent of any habits that approximate on luxury.

Viscount Kiyoura lives in Omori, a delightful suburb of Tokio about ten to fifteen minutes' distance by elevated car from the capital. He revels in talking with the common folk and is said to be one of the greatest friends of the local fishmongers, often going thither to purchase his particular favourite fish himself, and then taking the opportunity of exchanging good-humoured banter with the people of the local Billingsgate. Although he has the means to possess a motor car—and although as President of the Privy Council he has a Government-owned machine for his personal use—he prefers to come to Tokio almost daily in the electric car, however crowded it may be—and these are terribly over-crowded these days.

EXTREMES MEET.

The Japanese press, generally speaking, goes to extremes in discussing the capabilities of the new Premier. One section dubs him a "hero in a comic drama" and says it is "sheer madness" for him to have accepted the Imperial invitation to form a Cabinet, recalling the futile attempt made by him some years ago to form a Cabinet. The other section regards him as the ideal statesman to "end the abuse of power by the existing political parties" and declares that if he just does this, his determination to head a Ministry will be more than justified.

JAPANESE CABINET

Opposition Preparing to Give it the Quietus

Tokio, Jan. 15.

A meeting of the Seiyukai party, who are in the majority in the Lower House, to-day decided to support a resolution of lack of confidence in the new Government immediately after the Diet convenes.

It is believed that the near approach of the Imperial wedding will be regarded as sufficient reason to order a recess over the occasion, after which, unless a compromise can be reached, Viscount Kiyoura may decide to go to the country.

As a general election in the regular course of events is due this spring, a dissolution would be regarded as sound policy on the part of the Government in order to avoid defeat while the Diet is in session.

A NEW PARTY FORMING.

Tokio, Jan. 17.

A new situation in the political crisis has developed as the result of a split in the Seiyukai Party, five of the leaders of which announce that they are in disagreement with the President, Viscount Takahashi, and will organize a new party which, it is understood, will support Viscount Kiyoura.—Reuter's Pacicc Service.

NO WAR CLOUDS AT HANGCHOW

Officials Entertain: Rumours of Strife Forgotten

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hangchow, Jan. 12.

Hangchow is quiet and there is little to report.

On Wednesday the Civil and Military Governnors gave their annual New Year's dinner to the representative foreigners and chief officials in the city. The Commissioner of Customs, the Postal Commissioner, Mr. and Mrs. Tanabi, the Japanese Consul and his wife, the Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, several high officials, Mr. and Mrs. McMullen and Dr. and Mrs. Main were present.

Nothing was said, of course, about the trouble in the country, but at the end of the dinner the hope was expressed that peace would be maintained in this province.

Yesterday was the 15th anniversary of the building of the Southern Presbyterian Church in Hangchow, when a special meeting was held for praise and thanksgiving. Representatives, foreign and Chinese, from all the churches were present, and laudatory speeches were made, and prayers were offered. It was interesting to see the grand-children of some of the early Christians of that church taking part in this service.

YUNNANESE FALLING OUT IN CANTON

Railway Buildings Wrecked

Canton, Jan. 13.

The Yunnanese Third Corps, under General Chiang Kuang-liang, destroyed the Canton-Samshui Railway Administration Building at Shekwaotong when forced to yield the control of the railway, the income of which was coveted by the Second Corps, under General Fah Shek-sang, who are now occupying the line. Traffic, however, has been suspended since January 10.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DEATH OF DR. H. H. LOWRY

Missionary in China Since '67

Peking, Jan 14.

The death took place yesterday of Dr. Hiram Harrison Lowry, of the Methodist Episcopal Mission, one of the oldest residents of Peking, at the age of 80. Dr. Lowry came to China in 1867 when he was stationed at Foochow where he remained for two years, coming to Peking in 1869, and he has remained here ever since. The funeral takes place to-morrow afternoon.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. Switzerland has challenged for the Davis Cup. Reuter.

THE LAST CRIME OF AN EX-BANDIT OF YUNNAN

A Sinister Story of a Banquet: An Early Morning Call and A Double Revenge

From Our Own Correspondent.

Yunnanfu Dec. 26.

There has been quite a furore here during the past few days over the arrest of Pu Siao-hung, the ex-bandit chief who was responsible for the kidnapping of Dr. Taylor and many others who had the misfortune of being within his reach.

It has for a long time been rumoured that the government were pressing him to exert himself and work more vigorously and loyally with them in the tracking down of his former associates, and while he ostensibly has been manifesting some interest, he has, it is alleged, been secretly encouraging and assisting desperadoes who have been deaf both to the appeals and the threats of the government which has certainly been very patient and given these criminals time enough to repent and mend their ways.

Things were brought to a head about a month ago when a bandit leader named Tang was captured and executed by a Captain Li-kuen, one of Gen. Long Yun's men, who had formerly been a lieutenant under Pu in his bandit days, but who some time ago transferred his allegiance to Long, who has been appointed pacificator of the province.

It appears that when Captain Li brought in the head of the executed bandit he was féted by his brother officers and commended by Gen Long for his prowess in capturing Tang, who for a long time had been a thorn in the side of the government and was perhaps, one of the cleverest and most resourceful of the more recent bandit leaders. Pu Siao-hung, it appears, decided to get quits with his former lieutenant not only for executing one of his friends, but also for transferring his allegiance, and invited him to dine with him one evening giving him to understand that he also wished to show his appreciation of his prowess and loyalty.

A TREACHEROUS BANQUET.

On the fateful evening he went to General Pu's house—for that is now the ex-bandit's full title—escorted by two privates who acted as his bodyguard. The latter were immediately requested to withdraw as Captain Li intended to stay for a while and smoke opium and play mah-jongg, and the time of his departure was announced for 9 o'clock. What happened after that is mostly conjecture, for when the two privates called later in the evening they were informed that their master had already left for his home where they would undoubtedly find him on their arrival. The privates on reaching their master's home and finding that he was not there, suspected foul play and informed Gen. Long, who became highly incensed and ordered his secret service department to investigate the case. He strongly suspected Gen. Pu and lodged a complaint against him with Governor Tang Chi-yao, who was inclined to treat the matter as being of little importance.

For several weeks nothing more was heard of Li-kuen until one evening some dogs were attracted to a newly made disturbance of the earth in the vicinity of the cross roads tower, which is only about half a *li* distant from Pu Siao-hung's house, where it is supposed the murder was committed. Some of Gen. Long Yun's men who were on the case got to hear of this occurrence and had the earth dug up, when the body of an officer was discovered which was eventually recognized as that of Li-kuen, the missing captain. The matter was immediately reported to Gen Long, who ordered an inquest, while the widow was asked to identify the body, which she did.

PLANNING THE CAPTURE.

Everything was kept as quiet as possible and the soldiers were not allowed to mention the name of Gen Pu in connexion with matter while Gen. Long again brought the matter before the Governor Tang Chi-yao. He, it is asserted, was reluctant to destroy a man who had helped him back to power two years ago, and suggested that an indemnity of several thousand dollars paid by Pu to the widow would meet the case. But Gen. Long was insistent and threatened to resign if his determination to destroy Pu was frustrated by unwarranted interference, saying that it was little use expending so much wealth and energy on the suppression of brigands if the chief criminal were allowed to live in Yunnanfu in peace and security, while there were so many crimes laid to his door. Long carried his his point and Pu's arrest was decided upon.

Early in the morning of the 24th Gen. Long called for a squad of volunteers and they were instructed to enter Pu's dwelling which is a large Kong-kuan near the big East Gate and to take care to get Pu alive even though the left their own carcases there as a result. They were warned that they would be supported by another band of 100 men who had strict injunctions to shoot any of the band that tried to run away from any possible danger in conflict with Pu's bodyguard, as it was expected that these would put up a fight. If there was to be fighting, they were to do it inside Pu's house and die there if need be, but they must capture Pu. One of the band informed the writer afterwards that their hearts were palpitating vigorously while receiving these instructions, though, he added, that as soon as they entered Pu's house they felt no fear at all, while there was a prospect of loot which was to be the reward of the attackers.

THE VICTIM'S LAST BATH.

Reaching the house the band separated into two parts one ascending the stairs on the north side of the house, the other going up those on the south side. Both met on the balcony of the first floor where they found Gen. Pu performing his morning ablutions. The latter seeing so many soldiers coming towards him became incensed and informed them that they would pay dearly for their temerity in entering his presence without etiquette and unannounced. Some things are pardonable—he remarked—but breach of military etiquette cannot possibly be overlooked.

He was immediately informed that they had come to recover Captain Li-kuen who, they had reason to believe, was hidden in Pu's house. One of Pu's bodyguard grabbed a stick which he began to brandish at the soldiers thinking, apparently, that he could frighten them off, but the latter soon put him out of action as he was unarmed and his body was thrown over the balcony into the courtyard below. The ex-brigand seeing that something serious was afoot, immediately ran towards his bed where two loaded revolvers were peacefully reposing, but he was too late and the soldiers intercepted and very unceremoniously bound him with strong cords, telling him that as they could not find Li-kuen they would take in his place. Meanwhile Gen Long had been talking to the ex-brigand over the telephone which explains why Pu was washing, as Long had requested him to call round on a matter of business. This was done to occupy his attention while the soldiers negotiated the distance from their headquarters to Pu's house. Eventually the ex-brigand was forced to descend and bound and bleeding he presented a sorry spectacle to two foreigners who happened to be unwilling eyewitnesses of the proceedings. He is now safely lodged in the condemned cell in the military prison, which is also the headquarters of Gen. Long and it is reported that he is confined in the cell from which no one ever emerges except for execution.

COLDBLOODED MURDER.

Needless to say that rumours are rife as to the ultimate fate of this bandit chief, who has been responsible for so much lawlessness and the perpetrator of so many murders, the most notable of which are those of Gen. Ho Kan-chen and Lo Pei-chuin last year when they opposed Tang's return to power and were fleeing for their lives. After stripping them of all their possessions and promising them life and liberty for a large monetary consideration, and when he had got everything he could out of them, Tang murdered them in cold blood and their bodies left to rot on the road side. No wonder the people are saying that the spirits of these two men are at last going to get their revenge. The government most likely are not in a position to decide immediately what their ultimate intention is, as they are evidently trying to discover the amount and the whereabouts of Pu's reputed great wealth and proclamations are out instructing all and sundry, who are in a position to give information or who have suffered at the hands of the brigand chief, to come forward at once when those who are entitled to indemnification will be indemnified and the others will receive a reward for any information useful to the government.

Meanwhile strong measures are being adopted against Pu's followers, both bandits and soldiers, in the different parts of this prefecture and it is reported that hundreds have been slaughtered. At one place a band of them of about 50 in number, who were supposed to be working with the government, were induced to enter a temple where a meal was promised and when they had divested themselves of their equipment and sat down to eat they were immediately cut down and slain unarmed and crying for mercy. The general opinion is that so many of his followers have been slaughtered the government cannot but inflict the extreme penalty on the ex-chief whose cup of iniquity appears to be full to the brim. In spite of the fact that Pu has so many friends, who will make strenuous efforts to effect his release we believe he will shortly be called upon to expiate his crimes, which are many as well as unjustifiable.

CLEARING BEGGARS FROM NANKING

A Much Needed Reform: Merchants' Philanthropy

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nanking, Jan. 14.

An order has been given by the authorities by which Nanking City is to be rid of beggars. A settlement has been provided for them at Kwanyin Mên northeast of the city toward the river. There they are congregated under their several head men, each head man being responsible for 50. They are to be given something to do according to their ability, such as making shoes and socks, and some will do gardening. Those who are unable to do anything at all are given a bare sustenance to live on. This is a forward step indeed and if carried through will point the way to the solving of a very difficult problem. I am told by an astute observer that it will be very hard to clear the city of all beggars at once, as some find the beggar business a very lucrative trade, but the police will arrest any who are openly begging, and the move is certainly in the right direction.

The merchants are taking steps as last year to provide a soup kitchen for the feeding of the poor, giving to all comers as much gruel as they will eat while on the ground, for the nominal price of two coppers per bowl. Last year this piece of philanthropy was carried on for 100 days in three centres. It will be for a much shorter time this year and in one centre only. The reason given is the lesser suffering because of the mildness of the weather.

A welcome rain is falling after a drought lasting for months, many wells and cisterns having gone dry, and the people at large depending on water hauled in from the river.

MORE WEAPONS FOR TOKIO POLICE

Grim Gift to Viscount Goto: Public Anger at Attempt on Prince Regent

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Jan. 4.

In addition to their short sabres, Tokio policemen are soon to be further armed with American revolvers and some 400 of these weapons are soon to be imported from the United States. This is perhaps to make sure that when the civilian police take full authority and the gendarmerie—who are really policing Tokio since the withdrawal of martial law—are withdrawn, our blue-coated guardians of the law will be the better equipped to handle the thugs and rascals who are menacingly lurking in the background, and whose numbers have considerably increased as one of the results of the unemployment that followed in the wake of the city being smitten by the recent earthquake.

With this decision to afford the police further power of taking the offensive, it has also been decided to confer police rights on railway officials who will be invested with magisterial powers to try summarily offenders in trains and within railway precincts. Similar powers are also to be granted to forestry officials, riparian officials and customs officers.

COFFIN AS NEW YEAR GIFT.

The presentation of a coffin to Viscount Goto, Minister of Home Affairs in the now defunct Yamamoto Cabinet, is only one instance of how the public generally feels towards that official as a result of the senseless and criminal attempt made by a young man to assassinate the future ruler of the Japanese Empire, for to Viscount Goto's alleged encouragement of radicals and socialists is, rightly or wrongly, attributed the dastardly act.

On the afternoon of the day of the attempted assassination a score or more of young men drove up in motor-cars to the residence of the former Home Minister, tramped into the best rooms in their wooden clogs and, not finding the official they were presumedly in search of, proceeded to smash up all the furniture, pictures, statuary and fittings. Four policemen on guard attempted prevent the intrusion, but were severely set upon by the gang who wounded one rather severely. Police reinforcements arrived, but the young men were armed with revolvers and, although the policemen had sabres, their courage naturally evaporated when they looked into the small muzzles of 20 revolvers and the determined faces of the misguided young men. The young men are said to be members of an Anti-Bolshevik society.

PHILIPPINE INSURRECTOS

Manila, Jan. 11.

Eighty Colorums were killed by Constabulary at Surigao in a pitched battle on January 8.

Governor-General Wood will probably go to Surigao soon.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

As a result of fighting between rival Yunnanese forces in Kuangtung, the main station of the Canton-Samshui Railway was destroyed and damage was caused to the extent of several tens of thousands of dollars, reports the *"Sinwanpao."* Another report states that this happened at Fatshan.

BABY-STEALING BY BANDITS

Helpless Infants Murdered and Eaten by Curs: Bandit Terror in Kiangsu

By T. B. Grafton.

Haichow, Ku., Jan. 8.

We read with interest the recent statement by Gen. Chi Hsieh-yuan that north Kiangsu had been cleared of bandits. The declaration has a faint foundation in fact, for now and then the larger bands are chased by one general out of his bounds, but they are not even scattered and are back again in a few days.

There is on the other hand a by-product of banditry which is alarmingly on the increase against which the best of officials is helpless and that is the practice of baby-stealing. No organized band is needed for this despicable trade and not even is the ruffian armed. He merely sneaks into a house during the night, carries off a sleeping child, and a convenient middleman extorts a few hundred dollars for its redemption. If hard pressed or if the negotiations are unsatisfactorily slow, the child is easily disposed of with a convenient brick. No one pays any attention to the body of a dead child; anyhow in a few hours the roving curs have removed every trace. Such a case happened within the last few days only a few yards from the city wall. The kidnappers were after a little boy, but in the darkness took away a little girl instead. Realizing that she would not be so profitable a bargain they threw her out to freeze in the bitter night.

Only three days ago the keeper of a small *likin* station was arrested at the next city east on the information of an escaped child. The story is that this petty official had several children in durance and hid them in the hold of a small boat, not much bigger than a sampan. He kept the boat going back and forth a little distance to avoid suspicion until one of the older children got out and recognized a brother on a passing boat and the game was up. The constant repetition of such deeds everywhere is having a deadening effect on the minds and morals of the people that is beyond any realization to those who do not observe it first hand.

PROGRESS ON THE LUNGHAI RLY.

Three attractive buildings of the Lunghai Railway are just being completed outside the north gate of Haichow. Actual construction work on the embankments for the roadbed have been begun.

The chief engineering feature of this eastern section of the railway is the bridge over the Haichow River a mile north of the city. Pile-driving machinery for its construction has been landed. We understand that the bridge will be constructed on dry land at a sharp bend in the river and after its completion the river will be diverted to a made channel beneath it.

THE TAX COLLECTOR'S LITTLE JOKE.

The tax collector in presenting his annual bill for taxes on the land owned by the Presbyterian Mission here informed us of a 25 per cent. increase that has just been commanded from above. In response to our inquiries he declared that the extra amount was to cover the expenses of the election this year of a new Parliament! Being a fluent talker with the gift of continuance we paid the extra two dollars to him to get rid of him, but we are wondering who got up the bright idea. It strikes us that a 25 per cent increment in taxes for the election of a perfectly useless parliament is a new chapter in frenzied finance. Where will such a huge sum go!

ZANZIBAR, Jan. 12.—The Empire cruise battleships have arrived.—Reuter.

CHINESE SLAVE GIRLS' MISERIES

Shocking Revelation of Torture in Yunnan: Horrors That Cry for Vengeance

From Our Own Correspondent.

Yunnanfu, Dec. 26.

Incidents are constantly coming to light of terrible cruelty to little slave girls. Some months ago Mrs. Dymond and her daughter were constrained to attempt something to ameliorate the condition of this down-trodden class of humanity, whose only fault is that of being born in circumstances of poverty and loveless-ness, the only outlet found for them being a life of slavery and suffering.

Mrs. Dymond and her daughter have come across incidents of cruelty that are unbelievable, and it will not be out of place to attempt to expose one or two such. One little girl, because she had committed some minor offence, was suspended by wrists from a beam in the house and beaten until unconsciousness relieved her of her terrible sufferings and also put an end to her servants. She was left hanging until the weight of her body wrenched one hand completely from the wrist and has since died as a result of her unspeakable suffering.

Another little mite was held over a charcoal fire and beaten while a red hot iron was being held in front of her and eventually pushed through the ball of her eye, the little mite being now blinded for life.

YOUNG CHINA'S INDIFFERENCE

These are some of the things that are being perpetrated in this, one of the most modern of republics in point of time, and though no one for a moment suggests that such things are not abhorrent to the better class of people, yet there appears to be no place of appeal for the class of humanity mentioned; for Young China does not seem to realize its responsibility as it certainly has not yet attempted any reform in this matter of the ownership of human flesh. Most of the wealthy people—who are generally the only ones who can afford the luxury of slave girls—do not care to allow foreigners to become too intimate with their home life, and while we do not wish for a moment to suggest that all are alike cruel and guilty, yet the fact that these incidents have come to light makes one wonder how many other cases there are similar in every way, except that they have hitherto escaped the light of publicity.

A SLAVE POUND.

The ladies mentioned above have discovered a kind of slave-pound where the run-away girls may find a refuge and where they may be again recovered by their owners on payment of a small fine. The place is also a kind of reformatory, where refractory girls are taken for punishment, and though it is under government control yet we believe the place is run on a self supporting basis, consequently money has to be obtained by reselling the girls, who find their second estate worse than the first. For a girl only leaves the refuge with a more or less bad reputation, as buyers know that only refractory and uncontrollable girls are left unredeemed by their erstwhile owners. It is to the credit of these lady missionaries that they ferreted out the place and have begun to do something to ameliorate the conditions under which this downtrodden and miserable class of humanity exist.

THE Ministry of Finance has issued an order, reports the "Journal of Commerce," for a general 10 per cent. increase on all wines and tobacco.

SHANGHAI NEWS

GERMAN AEROPLANES FOR SALE

Strong Chinese Disapproval of New Temptation Offered to the Warlords

The "North-China Daily News" last week published an interesting letter, addressed by the representative of a German firm to a prominent Chinese Tuchun and leading military leader, offering German aeroplanes for sale. At the request of the military governor concerned, all names in connexion with the affairs were withheld, the object in asking us to publish the letter being to show that the Tuchun was not in the field of purchase.

Commenting on this article, the "Eastern Times" in an editorial under the heading of "Aeroplanes for Sale" says:—

"The greatest troubles of China at the present time are due to the fact that our military leaders are so obstinate and quarrelsome. The result is that there is no definite date for peace in view. Not only are the Chinese pained, but foreigners continually pity us in admonishing terms. There are some foreigners, however, who, when they realize that China is nearing the doors of peace, feel dissatisfied. This is so because once there is peace they will be unable to continue their sale of military supplies, such as arms and ammunition, to the various Chinese military leaders.

"During the last few months a number of arms cases have been brought to light involving several lawsuits, such as the Kearny case and others—and these were of the utmost importance, showing that until a settlement has been brought about in connexion with the internal troubles of China the foreign element can avoid sharing a large part of the responsibility for the keeping of peace and order.

WINGED TIGERS.

"A more important matter is that foreigners who sold arms and ammunition in the past were at least afraid and kept their dealings secret. Now it is reported in the "North-China Daily News" that a German has offered to sell aeroplanes to a certain military governor. Of all war materials, the aeroplanes are the most dangerous, and now at this time of internal trouble and unrest this German firm offers to sell them apparently for military purposes. This is like providing the militarists with winged tigers. The German firm therefore should be criticized and the Chinese people pitied.

"Fortunately the military governor concerned has refused to purchase the planes offered to him and no negotiations have taken place. If he did not take this stand, China's troubles would be multiplied and the damage could not be estimated.

"But every one of the Chihli leaders is not as good as the military governor concerned and we do not think that they would be able to resist the temptation placed in front of them. They would fall and purchase what came along to them. While this military leader may refuse to purchase the planes, we cannot guarantee that others will not purchase them, hence we citizens should not get the impression that simply because this military governor has refused to buy the aeroplanes our responsibility ceases and the matter may be dropped without a further thought. We should take action in seeing that no more offers of this nature take place.

"Strangest of all we learn that, while the Diplomatic Corps in Peking have passed a resolution by which none of their fellow-nationals will be permitted to sell or import arms and ammunition, or other military supplies, into this country, some foreigners approach our military leaders with a view to selling what they manufacture for the killing of many lives, the wounding of thousands of others, the destruction of property, and throw the people homeless. We would, therefore, like to know exactly how the Diplomatic Corps view this situation and what steps they will take with a view to suppressing the trafficking of arms."

MID-OCEAN RESCUE

Crew of Derelict Japanese Freighter Transferred to Pres. McKinley

Passengers arriving in Shanghai on Thursday in the Admiral Line str. President McKinley, gave particulars of the rescue of the crew of a Japanese freighter, which was in a supposed derelict condition several days out of Yokohama.

Another vessel, the R.M.S. Empress of Russia, also bound for Shanghai, responded to the wireless signals sent from the ship in distress, but finding that the McKinley was nearest the ship, the Empress's captain ordered the helm about and continued on to this port.

As the McKinley reached the Japanese ship, it is reported that another Japanese boat lay alongside, who requested the passenger boat to take the crew to Japan. Accordingly a boat was put down from both the Japanese vessel and the McKinley and the crew brought to the McKinley, which conveyed them to their home port.

The McKinley reached Shanghai nearly two days' late because of the deviation from the course round the Great Circle, which time in itself amounted to 33 hours. It is reported that the Japanese captain had ordered the sea chests opened so as to sink his vessel after all had been taken off, so that it would not float round in a derelict condition and be a menace to navigation. Whether this was necessary was doubted by some of the passengers who were of the opinion that a prize crew might have managed to bring the wreck into a port and claim a goodly bit of salvage money.

FRENCH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Utter Lack of Interest at the Polls

The French Municipal and Land Commission elections passed off quietly, and under very unpropitious circumstances, for it rained most of Wednesday. With rain overhead and mud underfoot and with no vital problem for the candidates to fight the election on, it was hardly surprising that only 252 votes of a total of 1,411 were cast.

Of the four candidates who stood for the Municipal Council M. R. Fano and M. Le Bris were elected as French members of the Council, and Messrs. M. Speelman and H. J. Sheridan as foreign members.

M. Ch. Barrière carried the poll as French representative on the Land Commission with 231 votes, his opponent, M. F. Sallou receiving 227; while the foreign candidates, Mr. J. M. Tavares and Mr. Vyvyan Dent, received 232 and 223 votes, respectively.

As usual several electors had cast their votes for persons not up for election. A few of them, indeed are suspect as fanciful names originating in the brains of practical jokers, as an examination of the following list of spoilt votes will show, viz., Mailly 25, Charlot 4, Vandelet 2, Dr. Vallet 2, Stiebel 2, J. J. Chollot 2, Bersani 1, Neut 1, Beudin 1, Paturel 1, Hegesippe Simon 1, Verdier 1, Lulasne 1, Kiki 1.

THE UNION CLUB FELLOWSHIP

Mr. Hsu Yuan on British-American-Chinese Friendship: The Co-operation of Officials

There was a large attendance at the usual fellowship dinner of the Union Club Wednesday evening, with particularly strong delegations from the British and American Consulates. The principal guest was Mr. Hsu Yuan, the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, who, in the course of an interesting address, remarked:—

"Let me first congratulate you on the praiseworthy aim and object of this club, which is to bring the British, American and Chinese business men and officials together in a social bond. I have thought that the differences and divergences of the East and the West are apt to be too much accentuated many a time and we forget that our sage Confucius said, 'All within the four seas are brethren.' We all are human mortals, love our drinks and food, arts and splendor, fair play and justice and peace and trade. Although our language may not be the same and we may write it in a different way, yet many of our thoughts and ideals fit in with one another. Your golden rule appears in all its essence in changed garbs in Confucius, in the saying, 'Do not do to others what you do not wish done to yourself.'

"True, there are peculiarities with each of us which seem inexplicable to the other, but if we would try to mingle and become acquainted with each other and to dive below the surface, we should soon begin to understand the meaning underlying every act of ours.

"Although established rather late in the day, the club fulfills two purposes. It not only assists in bringing closer the business men of the nations represented, but it achieves a result which in a large measure forms the foundation of the prosperity and success of this port, for without goodwill and mutual understanding, the peace and good order of the Settlements will not be ensured and business cannot be what it is. The second purpose of the club is that it brings the local officials in touch with the business community and this is a very sensible feature. Our American and British friends have always been in touch with their officials, but before Republican days in China our people were not able to meet our officials much. I am happy to say that there has been a change in this direction in Chinese officialdom and it will ever be my care to know the people and their wants and you gentlemen can regard me as your servant and approach me whenever I may be of any service to you."

THE PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.

No Foundation for Absorption Rumour

As the result of a report in Shanghai that the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. was about to be absorbed by the Robert Dollar Co., the local branch of the former concern telegraphed to its head office in the United States asking for information.

A reply was received on Thursday authorizing the local office to give an emphatic denial to the rumour that the Pacific Mail company was being taken over by the Robert Dollar Co.

The Pacific Mail has been in existence for over half a century, and it is considered most unlikely that it will cease to exist as a separate organization.

THE "Eastern Times" relates that one Ling Ching-hua was arrested at his home in Chapei on Sunday morning and sent immediately to Hangchow, it being alleged that he was stirring up the bandits in the Taichow district, Chêkiang, and was to assume command of them when they rose in opposition to the authorities.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND RUSSIANS

Dr. Greig of Manchuria Now in Shanghai in Connexion with the Refugee Question

Dr. James A. Greig of Kirin, Manchuria, delegate of the League of Nations, arrived in Shanghai with Mrs. Greig on Saturday evening, in pursuance of the instructions he has received from the League of Nations "to find a final solution for the Russian refugee problem in China."

During the tremendous influx of Russians into Kirin some months ago Dr. Greig was intimately and hourly concerned in the work of relief. He set himself then to interest the League of Nations in the question, feeling truly that it wholly transcends local handling, and, with the aid of the Diplomatic Body in Peking, he succeeded so well that, last October, the League appointed him its agent in the Far East, to find a final solution, as said above. His own Mission, the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, has lent him for the work. Dr. Greig comes now from Peking where he had a most cordial reception both from the Chinese Government and the Diplomatic Body and he is now in Shanghai to see what may be done.

The importance of the League of Nations' interesting itself in the Russian refugee problem cannot be overestimated. There are two main schools of thought as regards the League. One regards it as useless and fantastic: the other imagines it omnipotent. Neither is correct. Its resources depend on the extent to which it can influence the Governments it represents and no further. But it can put matters to those Governments as no other institution can do; and it can negotiate with the Soviet Government (in respect of repatriation etc.) as no other agency might. It is not to be forgotten that the League took a most practical interest in caring for the Russian refugees from Constantinople and was able to settle them where room could be found (some, for instance, went to Brazil) at an expenditure of £50,000.

The fact that the League has interested itself in the refugees in China, of whom there are roughly 50,000, though not all destitute, is the first real gleam of light we have seen in this dark problem.

One point may specially be emphasized in connexion with Dr. Greig's undertaking. He is neither "Red" nor "White"; he has no political sympathies whatever; his own personal interest and the motive of the work he has to do for the League, is bound up in Russians only as Russians, irrespective of what their political colour may be.

WIRELESS FOR HOUSEBOATS

The capabilities of the standard types of aerial were discussed at last week's meeting of the International Amateur Radio Association.

Mr. A. Bruce Puddicombe dwelt at some length upon the subject of aerials for houseboats, showing how it was easily possible for the holiday-maker on the Tahu or elsewhere to keep in touch by radio both with Shanghai and with the great commercial stations of the world.

Passing on to cage-antennæ and loop receivers he described a number of ingenious devices which could be fitted up by any amateur.

The feature of the lecture was a short dissertation on masts. Mr. Puddicombe exhibited a scale-model of a 50-ft. mast, strengthened on the cantilever principle, and showed how remarkable stability could be combined with lightness and simplicity.

China will probably be represented at the International Boy Scouts Rally in London in April, according to information received in Shanghai.

OUR HARBIN LETTER

Mongol Prince's First Glimpse of European Shops: Future of Racing in the Port

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Jan. 6.

Harbin has recently been visited by a Mongol Prince, the Amban of Barga and his suite, who spent a few days in the town. They were much interested in the splendours of the shops, which the Amban set eyes upon for the first time in his life, the Prince being yet a young man.

Apparently he took especial interest in the Race Course when visiting the sights of the town. He expressed his desire to participate in the racing next season stating that his father, uncle and brothers would also join in the sport. It has been arranged for a member of the Committee of the Harbin Race Club to go up to Hailar this spring and take honorary members' cards to the Barga Princes and make arrangements for the shipping of ponies for racing.

Hitherto racing in Harbin has been of rather a tame nature—mostly trotting by fullbred Russian horses. As the latter are getting fewer and are most expensive, it is likely that in a season or two the Mongolian pony will usurp the place now held by the Russian trotters and that Harbin will vie with other China ports in the racing of these ponies.

UP-TO-DATE WEAVING FACTORY.

There will shortly be opened in Harbin a wool-weaving factory on quite a large scale. A Chinese company was formed some two years ago when building began and the total cost of it is estimated at over two million dollars. Latest machinery for wool-cleaning and weaving will be installed and Chinese merchants look with much favour upon this new industry of north Manchuria, which will obtain its raw materials practically at its door.

According to Russian experts it is claimed that Mongolian wool is not of a high quality. Therefore the cloth which will be manufactured here will be of a far inferior quality to that which is imported from England and other countries.

The demand among the native population for woollen material is not large at present, but with a good, strong cheap quality being made there is a very good market in Eastern Siberia. The fact of the establishing of a woollen mill on modern lines by Chinese capitalists here in Northern Manchuria goes to show that industrial undertakings in these parts are not being neglected and that rapid expansion in industry and commerce during the next decade is sure to take place.

The editors of four local Russian newspapers in which had been published resolutions of the different Russian Workers. Unions for boycotting the newspaper "*Zarya*" on account of its reactionary tendency, were summoned to the Police Administration on Saturday. Here they were informed by a police official that the publication of these resolutions caused alarm among the residents. Therefore he requested them not to publish such resolutions.

The newspaper representatives replied that the notice only pointed out that no members of the Unions should buy the paper or advertise in it and therefore could give no cause for alarm to residents. If the "*Zarya*" considered its interests had been damaged or the other papers had broken the law relief could be sought in the courts.

SHANGHAI'S FIRMS ENTERPRISE.

Messrs. Frazar & Co., who are the pioneers of the motor-car business in Harbin and who introduced auto-busses into the town, have recently built and equipped an ambulance-car to the order of the Railway Administration. Before being handed over the car was open for inspection and all those who have seen it express their admiration for the efficient work of Frazar & Co., the car not only being elegantly finished, but also moderate in price, costing only Y. 2,000. It has a regular Ford touring car chassis, equipped with special springs and a body built on the latest European lines. It contains an upper and lower stretcher, which slide out and in on rollers, has long windows of the best plate glass on either side and two square windows at the end. At night time a strong electric light set high up at each end of the car and provided by reflectors throw a bright light. A leather covered seat is provided for the two attendants, and an extra electric hand lamp attached to the side of the car can be used to cast light on any particular spot and can also be inserted in a socket outside the car in case a strong light is needed outside. A cupboard in the fore-part of the car serves for medicaments and instruments. The whole of the interior is painted in white and curtains are provided. At the rear end of the car is a collapsible double-step easy to reach from the ground by one who is injured but yet able to walk, the lower step being folded out of the way when the car is moving.

The outward appearance of the car is particularly handsome the colour being dark blue and ornamented with the initials of the railway. Springs are provided which makes the car responsive to the slightest weight whilst special tyres are placed on the wheels.

When one reflects that the Harbin Municipality have recently purchased from abroad an ambulance car which has cost the ratepayers Y. 6,500—three times the price of Messrs. Frazar's car—the railway management is to be congratulated on its present purchase and for encouraging local industry.

WORK ON THE TRAMWAY SYSTEM.

The question whether the Harbin Tramways will start work this spring is likely to be shortly decided, for Mr. Bissell one of the partners of the San Fransico firm of Beckman & Linder, who secured the contract for the building some time back, is now in Harbin.

According to the terms of the agreement between the concessionaires—a Chinese company—and the contractors, the former have to make a cash deposit of one million dollars, whilst the later have to put up adequate cash guarantees that they will carry out their contract. The concessionaires have already in the bank $650,000. Though this is all the available money they have now (having been spending big sums for the past two years on the upkeep of a big office and an expensive staff including Russian engineers who have been receiving princely salaries) it is likely they will be able to borrow the remainder from some of the local Chinese banks.

OPIUM SMUGGLING OFFICIALS

Grave Scandal Exposed at Tsinanfu: Judicial Officers Alleged to be Involved

Peking, Jan. 14.

In connexion with the recent seizure in Tsingtao by the police of $80,000 worth of opium, the International Anti-Opium Association has just received the following telegram from its branch association in Tsinanfu:—

"Hsiao Hsia-yin, Secretary of the Shantung High Court, and Wang Tsen-wei, Chief of the Tsingtao Court of Procuration, whilst smuggling an enormous amount of opium into Tsingtao were arrested together with the opium by the Tsingtao Police. At this time whilst foreign Powers are protesting and the Central Government Mandates are repeatedly emphasizing opium prohibition Hsiao and Wang pay no attention to the law although they themselves are authorities of Justice. Their conduct has slandered the justice of China. Besides a petition lodged by our branch with the Minister of Justice asking for thorough investigation and strict punishment, we appeal to the parent Association to cooperate with us by making a similar protest."

(signed) President of Shantung Branch

International Anti-Opium Association.

COURT DOCUMENTS.

The facts of the case as stated in recent Chinese papers show that eight large boxes were sealed with the seals of the High Court of Shantung and sent from Tsinanfu to Tsingtao by rail in the charge of Hsiao Hsia-yin, secretary of the High Court. As the boxes were presumed to contain Court documents, no attention was paid to them by the railway police or Customs, but the small opium smugglers who hate those engaged in big official transactions appealed to the head of police, who with his police seized the boxes whilst in the Procuration motor car.

The "*Ching Pao*" states that the monthly sales of opium in Tsingtao amount to $200,000 and if so, it is a serious reflexion upon the present administration and confirms the belief that the registration of opium smokers and the restriction under licence enforced by the Japanese Administration has all vanished.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TROOP MOVEMENTS IN CHEKIANG

Cruiser and 5,000 Men in Wenchow Last Week but No Fighting Yet

From Our Own Correspondent.

Wenchow Chê., Jan. 13.

Probably in all its history Wenchow has not seen so many steamship arrivals in one week or as many soldiers for many decades.

Yesterday there were 11 steamers in port, among them being the French gunboat Algol and four large Japanese steamers. The latter are buying up all the charcoal they can secure, and the demand has raised the price to such a figure that one hears that at least one of the four steamers is having to leave port without any cargo.

Last week a Chinese cruiser made its second visit to this port bringing another detachment of soldiers from Hangchow. No fewer than 5,000 soldiers are reported to have been in Wenchow, and hundreds of river boats have been engaged to take men and stores up to Chichowfu about 90 miles up the river where fighting has been expected for sometime past. So far, however, though there have been plenty of rumours yet no definite news has come of any actual fighting there.

Talk in the city here is to the effect that if Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang will go away from Chêkiang no one else will begin fighting—a somewhat different story from what has appeared in the "North-China Daily News" recently. Others say that there is no likelihood of fighting now peace has been declared, but that in the south of the province Gen. Sun has brought 10,000 men over the border from Fokien and will not retire until the local inhabitants have paid him $50,000 as payment for the troops for the time they have been there.

1,500 HOMELESS IN CITY FIRES.

The dry season here with its accompanying high winds, has brought an unusually large number of disasters in the way of fires. A fortnight ago the writer was in the small city of Tsingtien nearly 40 miles up the Wenchow river from this city and saw the ruins of a considerable section of the city caused by a fire about a month earlier which had rendered homeless about 500 families.

This beautiful little city by the side of a swiftly rushing, clear mountain stream, is set in a narrow valley by towering mountains which confine the winding river as in a series of long narrow lakes. But the confirming effect of the hills which enhances the beauty of its situation is the cause of its frequent undoing, for in the flood season the waters become pent up and submerge the entire city at time. Thus in 1912 in spite of its strong and towering walls it was washed out save for about 20 buildings and very many lives were lost, one girl of 15 being carried down the river among the wreckage for 50 miles down to the sea and washed up on an island out off the Coast several miles further away. In the big typhoon of 1922 the city again suffered badly again. The place where the writer's boat anchored under the city wall for the week-end used to have twice as great a depth of water as is necessary to float the great Atlantic liners. To-day the raftsmen pole their craft over its shallows, filled from time to time with the ever rolling stones which the recurring floods bring down in immeasureable quantities so filling the bed of the river as to cause the annual flooding of that city to the depth of several feet.

The village of Whuzoedin in the Suian prefecture, south of Wenchow, was also visited by fire about a month earlier, and reports say that at least about 1,000 families suffered grievously. Foreign oil and lamps are said to have been the cause of the fires.

$12,000 WORTH OF OPIUM BURNED.

A couple of days ago there was a public burning of from $10,000 to $12,000 worth of opium which had been recently seized. Before long there will be another burning of some two or more catties also seized.

ATTACK IN HUNAN ON FOREIGNERS

American Priests' Narrow Escape: Town Looted

Peking, Jan. 12.

Supu, Hunan, was looted on January 3 by soldiers of the first Hunan Division who alleged that they were acting under orders of Gen. Ho Yao-tsu to loot the Passionist Mission and to kill the foreign devils.

The American Consul at Changsha has received a letter from Father Flavian Mullins reporting that the looters fired at him, the shot passing through his clothes. They also fired on Father Arthur Bernard, shot through the American flag, tore up the flooring of the school and did other damage. The Mission is now guarded by troops under Gen. Chang Siang-ti. The American Consul has protested to the Governor.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

AMERICAN DEMAND FOR PROTECTION.

Peking, Jan. 14.

A protest has been lodged with the Waichiaopu by the American Legation in connexion with events that occurred during the looting of Supu, Hunan, by bandits on the 3rd instant, coupled with a demand for protection in the future of American citizens in that locality.—Reuter's Pacific Service

THE TOBACCO TAX

Szechuan Warned Off

Peking, Jan. 14.

In response to a protest from foreign legations the Government has telegraphed to the Civil Governor of Szechuan instructing him to stop the tax being imposed on foreign tobacco, as it is in direct conflict with treaty obligations.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

GEN. Sun Chuan-fang, Tuli of Fukien, is again reported by the "*Sinwenpao*" to be making preparations to attack Chêkiang, and has personally left for the border to direct operations.

NORTH KIANGSU NOTES

Farmers Anxious Over Poor Wheat Prospects: A Winter Drought

From Our Own Correspondent

Suchien, N. Ku., Jan. 11

Christmas has come and gone and no sign of snow yet. The farmers are beginning to be a little anxious over the wheat prospects. We have had rain about twice since September, and the roots are lying too loosely in the dry soil to give much promise of good crops this summer. January is usually our coldest month so we hope the snow will come yet.

Though the weather is sharp and cold at nights, the days are sunny and bright. They almost make one forget we are in midwinter. We had two days about the end of the year with hard frost, when the canal froze over, but it did not last.

The canal is to be dredged this month and in the meantime water from the lakes above has been freed to assist shipping. The canal presents a busy scene, boats everywhere, loading cargo, and large boats passing through Suchien, either going up or down laden with merchandise. Every one is getting in supplies of necessaries, but already prices are going up. Three months dredging operations will be necessary before boats will again be able to ply their trade. One is glad to hear the mud is to be used in banks to the canal, not dumped down as last time in the edges of the water, only to find its way back again, in time, into the bed of the canal.

The city gates are closed early these nights, and a good watch all night kept on the "*neitsi*" or mud wall, outside the city. Last week a place about 23 miles from here was reported looted for the fourth time, but this has been contradicted. Judging from the firing of rifles and the boom of cannon that breaks the stillness of most nights, some poor unfortunates are having a hard time of it.

DR. SUN'S POSITION IMPROVED

Adversaries Unable to Take Any Offensive

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 17

The Northern agents in Canton telegraph that Dr. Sun Yat-sen's position is slightly stronger, while General Chen Chiung-ming, General Shen Hung-yin and the Kiangsi (? Kuangsi) troops are all unable to take the offensive.

Canton, Jan. 15.

The mutiny of the Third Corps of the Yunnanese Army has been quashed. General Chiang Kuang liang is expected to yield the control of the Canton-Samshui Railroad, which he has controlled since the occupation of the West River in January last year.

The Kuomingtang Party has postponed the National Convention at Canton owing to many delegates having failed to reach Canton from Shanghai by to-day.

Mr. C. C. Wu, Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has intimated that Dr. Sun will soon declare the Canton military administration an independent government.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE NEUTRALIZATION OF SHANGHAI

Nanking Mission to President

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 17

The President to day received Wen Shih-chen, bearer of important documents from the Kiangsu Military and Civil Governors.

It is surmised that the mission is connected with the neutralization of Shanghai and the removal of all garrisons through the Chêkiang Kiangsu agreement.

DIXWELL RD. BEGGAR COLONY ABLAZE

At Least Three Lives Lost in Big Fire on Friday Morning

Fire swept over part of the Dixwell Road beggar colony early last Friday morning, consuming a large number of matsheds and resulting in the death of at least three of the inhabitants. According to latest reports there may have been altogether five fatal casualties. The area affected was about the size of the Administration Building compound, lying some 200 yards to the east of North Szechuen Road, near the Japanese School, and at about the centre of the apex formed by the convergence of Dixwell Road and North Szechuen Road at the Public School for Boys.

It proved an awkward place to reach, Engines, etc., approached from Dixwell Road and then had to get round to North Szechuen Road before it was possible to get at grips with

IRRESISTIBLE FLAMES.

It seemed that the trouble originated well to the north of the section and toward Dixwell Road, but the flames spread so rapidly that this is uncertain. The buildings to the south were evidently of firmer construction for they withstood the onslaught for a long time. However, with the high wind and the flames soon bore through them in short order. It was necessary for the Brigade at least to permit the flames to consume their prey and content themselves with wetting down the foreign buildings on either side in order to save them, which purpose was fortunately realized. A peculiar feature of the evening lay in the complete saving of a terrace under construction which projected right within the area. In the southwest corner the brick walls and wooden rafters of the new building were surrounded on three sides by fire and the glare of the flames could be seen from the observer's point of vantage to the north, as they gleamed through the roofing, but the thorough wetting down prevented more than a scorching and the workmen were hard at work continuing the construction eight hours later.

SAD SCENES BY DAY.

Daylight brought an entirely different picture. Through the night before, squealing pigs, cackling chickens, hurrying coolies, frantic women, hurried men and crying children made known their wants or rushed to the safety zones outside. The light of day showed the firemen gone, and sad families slowly going back to the spots where their miserable huts had stood. Not realizing their loss a dozen women and children got near where they believed they had lived, but before they were aware of it one of them stumbled over the bones of their dead.

Over on the far side three coffins which had been awaiting burial had been burned until they barely held together while from the outside a small coffin was gingerly brought in. Over the entire area a thousand Chinese dug with fingers, sticks and knives to unearth any portions of such treasure as they might have had. The usual result of their search was limited to basketsfull of broken bottles and glass, or a bit of iron, or other goods non-flammable. One group had brought back their blankets and cotton quilts and as they sat rolled up in them, discussed their future, with one of their number slapping at a child as she nursed the youngest at the breast. Near the burned coffins were the remains of two long boats which had been raised on trestles, never again to be used for a home.

It was a most difficult fire to fight. The Brigade had to run lines of hose as long as 500 yards first to the pumps and then inside over the Settlement boundaries to the congested flames.

AN ANCIENT PLAGUE SPOT.

This district, full of cess-pools and a creek dammed-up into a pool a hundred feet wide and reeking with smells and disease, was the subject of much discussion in these columns last summer when it was urged that the beggars should be forced to move further out and the filth removed. Fire has purified what it could but the remainder is still as full of germs and vicious matter as ever. Three hours after sunrise carpenters were busy rebuilding a part. Shall this be tolerated by the Chinese authorities?

THE COLUMBIA COUNTRY CLUB

Work on New Scheme Formally Inaugurated

In the presence of a large gathering of members and their friends and the present board of Governors of the Columbia Country Club, Mr. W. A. Burns, the first President and one of the committee responsible for the ginal proposal, on Sunday turned the first sod of the club's new premises in Great Western Road.

Before actually taking the gilded shovel, Mr. Burns said that the growth of the Club had been a remarkable one along the lines laid down in the beginning. "It was the purpose of the founders to provide a family home for the community, a place where the Americans could meet and their wives and children could come and enjoy a happy afternoon or evening. The annual entertainments for the youngsters and their joyful parties clearly showed what success attended the efforts of the committee."

Continuing, the speaker was of opinion that the value of the past had amply demonstrated that a change in policy would not for the moment be tolerated but that the functions would be merely enlarged in scope.

With the motion picture machines grinding out the film and the still cameras clicking one after the other, he took the shovel and with a vigorous motion upturned the soil, emblematic of the work done and that still to come.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Cunningham, Judge and Mrs. C. S. Lobingier, Mr. L. Everett, President of the Club, Dr. W. T. Findley, President of the American Association, Mr. E. C. Stocker Vice-president of the American Club, Mr. V. G. Lyman, Vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce (American), Mr. Stirling Fessenden, Chairman of the Municipal Council, and Messrs. C. F. Wolsiffer and R. T. Bryan of the Committee.

In introducing the guest of the occasion, Mr. L. Everett said in part:—

It is a big order to fill I can assure you, but I hope that every member here may feel that same measure of pride that I do that our Club could have so progressed for us to be able to meet here to-day on this wonderfully fine piece of property which is all our own and to take part in this ceremony which is the commencement of what is unquestionably to become one of the most attractive club homes in the Far East. I have to figuratively pinch myself on occasion to bring myself to a proper realization of our accomplishments and, if this is the case with me it must more readily be so with many of you. Our reason, therefore, for having this impromptu ceremony to-day is that we might get together and, in association with each other rejoice at our actual possession to date, and likewise join in the actual commencement of our new home which is not to be for any one of us, or for any few of us, but for all of us and many more who will join with us later.

We are most fortunate in still having with us our first president Mr. Burns.

Mr. Burns, I am sure that you little realized that your efforts could grow and result in what they have in the time that they have, and it is our hope that your acting for us to-day may be starting us upon another period off the same good fortune that your first efforts did. We are deeply indebted to you already but we want continuation of your interest and inspiration for our future, pledging ourselves that we will, in turn, carry on to the most commendable possible finish that which you so ably started.

On behalf of the Board of Governors and members I have pleasure in presenting you with this memento to commemorate this occasion and to remind you of our hearty good wishes for you and yours in your future life, but as it is hardly suitable, in proportion with our ideas as expressed by me, I also hand you this garden variety of spade and ask you to turn the first sod for our new home.

PRESENTATION TO MR. H. R. STURT

On his retirement from the joint management of the China Mutual and Shanghai Life Insurance Cos., a presentation was made to Mr. H. R. Sturt at the companies' offices last week.

Mr. J. C. Burgess, on behalf of the staff, after expressing their regret at his departure, thanked Mr. Sturt for the splendid manner in which he had looked after their interests during negotiations leading to the recent amalgamation of the companies with the Sun Life of Canada.

If was quite beyond him, said Mr. Burgess, to express in adequate terms the feelings of the staff on Mr. Sturt's retirement. They were as seldom exist between a staff and its officers. Any question submitted to him, whether of a business or personal nature, always received impartial consideration and a just decision at his hands.

Mr. S. D. Tsao, speaking for Chinese members of the staff, expressed heartfelt thanks to Mr. Sturt for the kindness he had shown them during the past ten years. He had helped them as a good mother helped her children.

Mr. Sturt, responding, said that as regards fair dealing, he could only explain this by the fact that he received his training in an office in a small street in the City of London, where a business had been carried on for 140 years on a basis of mutual confidence and good faith. He had endeavoured to be worthy of that tradition in the Far East. The China Mutual and the Shanghai Life companies had been pioneers in life insurance work in China, and in many other countries in Asia. Although the names of these two companies were now merged in that of one of the largest of our Colonial companies, he believed that when the history of life insurance came to be written the work done by the companies would be honourably recorded.

Mr. E. Leitao also spoke.

OBITUARY

Dr. L. Emmett Holt

Dr. L. Emmett Holt, the eminent American authority upon the care and diseases of children, died in Peking on January 14 from progressive myocarditis, according to information just received by Dr. W. W. Peter. Dr. Holt was a member of the board of directors and secretary of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, physician-in-chief to the Babies' Hospital in New York City and clinical professor in children's diseases at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. His book on the care and feeding of children is the most valued possession of most American mothers and his contribution to infant welfare can hardly be overestimated.

Col. Mallet, who as Captain Mallet will be remembered as Chief of the French Municipal Police here a few years ago, has arrived in Shanghai on his way Home. After resigning the French Police, Captain Mallet returned to the Colonial Infantry, and joined the garrison at Tientsin. He served in France and subsequently returned with the rank of Colonel to Tientsin. He left by the French mail yesterday.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

THE LIGHT HORSE POINT-TO-POINT

A Win for Lieut. Trenchard Davis after a Hard Race

The Light Horse annual Point-to-Point Hanicap on Sunday morning was taken in too serious a mood to afford the delights usually associated with such events. The country was in a state to invite fast riding and evidently the competitors were in a mood to bring this about. Of 39 entrants 32 got into the saddle and they made a race of it from the very start, the winner covering the six-mile course in 20 minutes, which was three minutes better than last year's time. Starting from the Warren Line the course lay over Suez, Westward Ho platform, left handed to Slough of Despond water jump, Marah, Hungjao Road Bridge at the Octopus Tree, any route to Dallas Grave, Clear Water, Family Tree platform, Westward Ho platform, left handed taking 3 jumps to big dry cut (flagged), Drop and Crawl to a right handed taking all jumps to Barrier platform, Barrier Line, Bee Line, to a finish on Bee Line (about 6 miles).

The card read:—

1. Lieut. C. Trenchard Davis, M.C., Sweetheart, 178 lb., 3 min.
2. Tpr. L. Fernie, Poor Fish, 164 lb., 3 min.
3. Capt. L. R. Andreys, M.C., Salamander, 167 lb., 2½ min.
4. L/Cpl. W. Fiddes-Wilson, Pinmore, 180 lb., 3 min.
5. Sgt. J. C. Greig, Strathclyde, 146 lb., 1 min.
6. Major H. G. Robinson, Emerald Bay, 175 lb., 2 min.

THE PAPERHUNT CLUB

Excellent Sport In Wholly Unknown Country

The paperhunt on Saturday afternoon was the long expected event in the Tazang country, and the general verdict seemed to be that the jumping on the whole was good in that district, but that it was too inaccessible to be worth while so long as suitable country is to be had nearer home.

The trail was laid by Mr. G. Grayrigge, and minute instructions were issued as to how to pass through the interminable and unsalubrious native quarter of Chapei. It was noticed that the area bristles with native soldiers and police, while the often discussed beggar villages and squalid hovels of the poorer natives, resident on the outskirts of the Settlement, were much in evidence. It took a full hour to reach the start, which was just beyond the village of Tazang, and including slight delay at the toll gate where for some reason, money was exacted from some of the cars, but not from others. It will be interesting to note the development in China of this new system of paying tolls to use roads.

Promptly at 3 p.m. the riders assembled were addressed by Mr. E. S. Benbow Rowe, Steward in charge, with a few brief words, and were then despatched. The route at first lay towards the north, but riders soon disappeared in the dust, and little could be seen of their route then, or heard of it afterwards.

It was learned that the jumps, at first, consisted chiefly of dry ditches some of them rather big, and the jumping on the whole was very sticky. Later, came the district of waterjumps, and, though some of them were beautiful jumps, others were too big to be taken cleanly, and in crawling them in whole or in part, some of the ponies got bogged in very soft and slimy mud.

Mr. B L. Newbigging on Wiltshire, and Mr. M. O. Springfield on Harry M. were winners respectively of the light and heavyweight classes, and the card reads as follow:—

1.—B. L. Newbigging on Wiltshire.
2.—A. S. Withers on Night Raider.
3.—H. G. Elliot on Tussore.
4—M. O. Springfield on Harry M. (Heavyweight).
5.—Stang lund on Nordborg.
6.—E. C. Allen on California.

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL

Results in Brief

FIRST LEAGUE.

Engineers 4, Police 2.
Recs 4, Public School 0.
Football Club a walk-over.

SECOND LEAGUE.

Football Club, 4, Maritime Co. 1
St. Xavier's 4, Customs 1.
Lusitano 11, Thos. Hanbury 1.
Police 7, Jewish R. C. 1.
Recs a walk-over.

The cancellation of games usually associated with football nowadays in Shanghai reduced Saturday's programme by two games, the Football Club having a walk-over in the First League owing to St. Xavier's scratching, whilst in the Second League the Recs 2nd XI also gained points without having to play for them, as the Navy team did not put in an appearance. However, there were sufficient games left to provide a good afternoon's sport and there was plenty of clever and exciting play. The most interesting game was that between the Marine Engineers and the Police, which was watched by a very large number of people. The Engineers, playing fine football throughout, thoroughly deserved their win. The Recs 1st XI had an easy time with the Public School. The Second League games were notable for the heavy scoring, two being won by 4 goals to one, one by 11 to one and one by 7 to one.

SWIMMING RECORD

Amazing Performance by 16-Yr.-Old Australian Boy

Sydney, Jan. 12.

In the New South Wales Swimming Championship, the 16-year old Alan Charlton won the 440 yards in 5 min. 11⅘ sec., defeating the Swede Arne Borg by 20 yards.

The time ties with Borg's world's record established in Stockholm in 1922.—Reuter.

CRICKET IN AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Jan. 14.

New South Wales beat South Australia at cricket to-day by an innings and 104 runs.

Scores:—South Australia 383 (V. Richardson 135) and 197 (Everett took 6 wickets for 54).

New South Wales 684 (Kippax 248).—Reuter.

SMALL WHITE PIMPLES ON CHIN

Burned and Spread Over Face. Cuticura Heals.

"My trouble started with small, white pimples which broke out all around my chin. Shortly after they began to run water and formed large scales, which burned and spread all over my face. The pimples itched and burned a lot when I got warm.

"I tried several different remedies but none seemed to help me. I began using Cuticura Soap and Ointment which I found most beneficial. I continued using them and within four weeks I was completely healed." (Signed) H. Morris, 42, Cross St., Wednesbury, Staffs., Eng.

These fragrant emollients are all you need for all toilet purposes. Soap to cleanse, Ointment to heal.

Soap 1s., Ointment 1s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. Sold throughout the Empire. For sample each free address "F. Newbery & Sons, Ltd., 27, Charterhouse Sq., London, E.C.1." Also for mail orders with price. Cuticura Soap shaves without mug.

THE RUSSIAN SHIPS AND ARMS

A Constant Menace to Peace: Chinese Government Willing to Act but Hampered by Political Dilemma: Case for Joint Action by Chinese and Foreigners

Great concern is being felt by the Chinese Government, we understand, in connexion with the Russian refugee problem (including the Russian vessels at Woosung) and the local arms situation. Steps are being taken to solve these two problems jointly and to send the vessels away from Shanghai as they are, in the opinion of the Chinese Government, a constant menace to the peace and safety of Shanghai and China in general

There are, it is estimated, some 8,000 to 10,000 refugees in Shanghai at the present time, of which number about 1,800 are on board the steamers Zachitknak, Montgovgay, Okhotsk and Eldorado. On board the last named ship were nearly 800 refugees who expected, but failed, to land in Chêkiang last summer when the arms on board were alleged to have been bought by Gen. Chang Tsai-yang, Civil Governor of that province. The other three boats, on which there are said to be no fewer than 1,500 refugees, arrived at Woosung in September, but the refugees, of whom the majority are uniformed men and boys in their teens, have been refused a landing by the local Chinese authorities, and are still on board.

A Chinese gunboat, the Yung-chi, was ordered to Woosung by the Commander of the "Independent" Navy, Admiral Lin Kien-chang, at the order of Gen. Ho Feng-ling, the local Military Governor, to prevent the refugees landing. This vessel is stationed well inside the Woosung Bar about three miles away from the four Russian vessels which are outside the Bar. With the exception of a single armed Chinese, (armed with a pistol and half-a-dozen cartridges), no attempt is made to cut off communication between the boats and shore, any or all persons desiring to do so being free to go aboard and refugees are able to land without restraint.

On board the Russian vessels are all kinds of of ammunition, ranging from grenades to field guns, from rifles to machine-guns, cartridges, four and six inch shells, field telephones, wireless equipment and so forth. These are for sale to any or all persons who come along for them. As stated, there is no restraint on the visitors, with the result that automatic pistols, cartridges and hand grenades are being brought ashore daily, many being "samples." Various attempts have been made to sell, and a buyer was found recently in Dr. Sun Yat-sen's local aide, who paid a deposit of $50,000 for the vessels and all that was on board, and agreed to engage a large number of those on board as army officers and instructors. The vessels, for some reason, failed to leave and the deposit was returned. At the present time the stores continue to be brought ashore and are daily falling into the hands of the most undesirable persons.

Various schemes have been proposed for sending the boats away from Shanghai, but so far none of these has borne fruit. The Central Government in Peking have consented to take action, but they are greatly handicapped as Woosung is within an "independent" jurisdiction. Then again there is the treaty between Shanghai, Nanking and Hangchow. Should either one of the signatories to this treaty take independent action, jealousy is sure to be aroused and misunderstandings ensue, which might in the end lead to an open breach. With the events of the past few months before us, the military and political situation is indeed a very delicate one and action on the part of one party, which the other might consider improper, could easily lead to hostilities, despite assurances of the generals concerned to the contrary. Hence, the Chinese Government is unable to send its gunboats to Woosung to disarm the vessels, because once this were done, the Woosung forts would probably open fire and fighting break out.

Now comes a report from Peking to the effect that M. Karakhan, the Soviet envoy, has informed the Chinese Government that, under no conditions may the Russians vessels be sold or transferred as they are the property of the Rusian Soviet Government and the present White possessors are in charge of them illegally. The Chinese Government, therefore, says M. Karakhan, should hand them over to Mr. J. R. Ellerder agent of the Russian Volunteer Fleet in Shanghai, who is the representative of the Soviet Government in Shanghai. The Chinese Government have, we understand, consented to do this, provided that Mr. Ellerder will guarantee to send the refugees back to Vladivostok and disarm the vessels, and on this point no reply has been forthcoming.

The matter thus rests, but there is an important factor that could assist the Chinese Government and that is the foreign element, as suggested by a correspondent in a letter to this paper several days ago. The foreign consuls might well take action in this matter. They are at least as anxious as the Chinese Government to have the vessels disarmed and the Russians sent away from Shanghai.

THE RUSSIAN SHIPS AT WOOSUNG

Last Remnants of a Great Army: No Gun-Running Here: Unfair Reports to Correct

By A. D. Bell.

People who read in the newspapers about "Gun-running at Woosung" not unnaturally get an idea of something sordid and disreputable. They are wrong. Something very fine indeed is being done on board the three small ships—Zachitknak, Montgovgay and Okhotsk—which hold the last remnant of the Tsar's army and navy. The writer spent last Sunday on board these ships and begs the Editor's leave to set down what he saw.

These three boats are lying at anchor off Woosung, quite near the notorious Eldorado. They are smaller than she is; they are crowded while she is almost empty; there are no dealings between her and them. The ill fated company which she brought from Gensan are now scattered about Shanghai and only a handful of guards remain on board. The men on the other ships look on the Eldorado as a deserter from their cause. There is no doubt, of course, that guns and ammunition have been sold out of the Eldorado.

DISCIPLINE AND GOOD ORDER.

The personnel of the three smaller ships have made no effort whatever to land in Shanghai. Their numbers are to-day equal to what they were when they came to Woosung six months ago. One or two may have left and one or two joined during this time, but the composition of the ships' companies to all intents remains unchanged. It is not men from these ships who are seen walking our streets or waiting at our soup-kitchens. Shore-leave is rarely given: very many of the officers have yet to pay their first visit to Shanghai. Discipline is strict. The main occupation is drill. The ships need paint and doubtless other repairs and they are uncomfortably crowded, but they are clean and neat inside, while the men look cheerful and in good physical condition. There are probably about 200 officers, a few of them naval men, but the great majority officers in the Russian army. The rank and file are mostly Cossacks, and number about 600.

Intoxicants are eschewed by officers and forbidden to the men. At the Russian Christmas permission to drink vodka was given and accepted, but the morale of the men is so high that even after six months of prohibition there was no drunkenness or disorder and since then officers and men alike have returned to their plan of total abstinence.

Hitherto the men on these ships have been fed and clothed by means of money which they brought here with them. Their funds are dwindling but they have enough for some time yet and they do not ask for financial help. They say they have sold no guns, or ammunition. Perhaps an odd revolver may have been smuggled ashore from time to time. It would be a miracle if this had not been done. But that any regular system of peddling goes on they absolutely deny. By-and-bye it may happen that they are forced by lack of funds to sell either guns or ships, but when that time comes the business will be done in a wholesale way to a regular Chinese authority, not underhand to thieves and robbers.

The plan of these men and of their leaders is to stay where they are until it is possible for them to go back to Russia and then to go back to Russia as they left it, a disciplined military force, fully armed, but in any event they are determined to stick together to the last.

OUR ALLIES.

Political refugees are often tiresome guests but these are surely giving less trouble than ever political refugees gave before. They have no chance of fighting for the country near which they are staying for the time. They cannot gain glory like the Irish exiles who, fighting for France against England, kept Fontenoy from being a Waterloo; or like the Scottish exiles who, fighting for France, gave their name to an island in the Rhine. But for all that some of the romance that clings to the Jacobites might be allowed to colour our view of the imperial Russian Army in three small ships at Woosung. After all, they are in the last resort our visitors because they were pro-ally soldiers in the Great War. Had they been pro-Germans they might now be commissars holding high office in their native country.

They have been hurt by the references to gun-running in the press and at the absolute lack of interest felt in them by British people who nine years ago were talking confidently about the "Russian steam-roller." It is a strange thing to think of that within a few miles of the Bund there have lived for months scores of officers who have fought on the German front and yet have never been invited to pay a visit to Shanghai. Very likely at the moment these lines are being written they are standing to attention while their band plays the Russian National Anthem—the very last remnant of a great army.

THE ITALIAN OPERA

"Fedora"

Giordano's "Fedora" was produced by the Italian Grand Opera Co. on Saturday night. A Fedora of very great charm and responsiveness to the music was found in Signorina Ambroso, but though vocally effective she seemed hardly calculated to inspire violent passion in the love scene. In the pathetic final scene, however, she rose to the occasion and added imagination to genuinely beautiful singing.

Signor Chiaia gave an immensely popular performance, but he, too, represented Count Loris as a more staid individual than the characteristic tenor of Italian opera. The same may be said of the other principals and the performance as a whole lacked that fire that should warm Giordano's melodies into life. The refinement and sweet tone of the voices of the principals were an insufficient substitute for the necessary dramatic fervour.

The conductor, Signor Costagnino, kept his forces fairly well under control.

WHAT TO DO FOR RUSSIAN REFUGEES

League of Nations Representative Outlines Scheme of Repatriation and Emigration: An International Problem: Can Further Influx be Prevented?

Dr. James A. Greig, the delegate appointed by the League of Nations to study the problem of the Russian refugee in China and if possible devise means of dealing with it in a comprehensive and effective manner, on Monday addressed a meeting held at the headquarters of the King's Daughters' Society in North Soochow Road. The meeting was small in number but representative of those keenly and very practically interested in the problem, and Dr. Greig was given questions and suggestions which should be helpful. The magnitude and the intricacy of the problem were clearly revealed, and the impression was gained that nothing but close cooperation between China, the Powers and the Soviet Government will secure a reasonable solution.

Dr. Greig, having been introduced by Mr. S. W. Wolfe and by him assured of Shanghai's complete sympathy and support in his important mission, began with a little personal history by way of credentials, mentioning that his associations with Russia go back some 35 years, the period of his work as a Medical Missionary in Kirin; and he went on to speak of the manner of his selection by the League of Nations for his present task, which is "to find a final solution of the refugee problem in China."

RUSSIANS UNWILLING TO RETURN.

Discussing the actual position of affairs, Dr. Greig said it was impossible to obtain reliable statistics from a central source, the Chinese Government having no complete register and little coordination, but he had formed a general estimate that in Manchuria there are about 35,000 refugees and in North China at least 15,000. Not all of these people were living entirely on charity, but the majority of them have no permanent means of support. How many of them would be willing, if safe guarantees were secured, to return to their own country? He was sorry to say, according to present information, that only about two per cent. had signified their willingness to return to Russia. He had received assurances at Peking that the Diplomatic Body was in full sympathy with the League of Nations taking up the work and would give it all possible support.

The League wished it to be clearly understood that no coercion would be used in getting people back to Russia. The system adopted in other countries was this: first they asked the Government of the country in which the refugee was living to give him a free passage to the frontier; then they asked the Soviet Government to promise safety and proper treatment upon his return, and to give the agents of the League in Russia permission to investigate the condition of the returned refugees and power to communicate without let or hindrance with Dr. Nansen at Geneva. This was the system adopted in regard to repatriation from Constantinople, and it appeared that the promises of the Soviet Government had on the whole been kept; and no doubt a similar promise of amnesty and safety could be secured on behalf of Russians returning from China. The difficulty would be to persuade the Russians that they could rely upon such a promise.

TWO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

As far as Dr. Greig saw at present, there were only two ways of dealing with the problem: (1) Repatriation with an absolutely sure guarantee from the Soviet Government, this to be secured by the League of Nations which would act as sponsor for the Soviet in carrying out its promises; (2) Emigration to countries where a place could be found for white labour. There seemed to be no hope for any big scheme for the absorption of a certain amount of Russian labour in China. Dr. Greig went on to say that in the course of two or three weeks he hoped to have his scheme in general outline, and it would be submitted to the Chinese Government and the Diplomatic Body before going on to Geneva.

A lengthy discussion ensued, in the course of which various aspects of the problem were raised.

Mr. Gilbert Pett expressed the opinion that, unless special measures were taken to the contrary, as soon as any scheme of emigration began on a large scale there would be an tremendous influx of Russians, from the north, all anxious to be sent to America and Europe. The flood-gates would be opened upon Shanghai, the port of embarkation.

The Chairman pointed out that such a scheme would apply to the whole country, and therefore there would be no need for refugees to come to Shanghai in order to participate, except to embark.

TO CONCENTRATE ON REPATRIATIIN

Mr. J. K. Brand suggested that Dr. Greig should first concentrate on repatriation to Russia. A great many would return if funds could be found. Would the League of Nations assist financially, since the task was beyond private charity?

Dr. Greig said one of the first things to be done would be to ask the Chinese Government if they would provide free passes for those willing to return to Siberia, and in this respect the League would try to bring judicious pressure on the Government and the local authorities. Then, having interviewed the Japanese Minister and the Director of the South Manchurian Railway, he felt justified in saying that assistance would be given in the matter of transport over the railway, if some scheme were arranged for sending people right through in batches of 100 or 200. It might be possible to obtain financial assistance from the League, but no provision had been made at present.

Asked if he had seen the Soviet representative in Peking, Dr. Greig said that direct negotiations between Geneva and Moscow had been considered advisable, with a view to obtaining instructions which would be forwarded to Peking in due course.

Asked by Mr. Dolgoroukoff how the refugees in Shanghai were to be kept alive until the scheme materialized, Dr. Greig replied that this was a local problem which could not very well be referred to the League.

THE MOVEMENT FROM THE NORTH.

Dr. Peter asked if Dr. Greig knew what barrier there was between Siberia and Manchuria, and whether there were oppressive forces at work driving the people this way, to which Dr. Greig replied that his impression was that no great number was filtering through now. People in the North were no longer assisting refugees by giving them their passage to Shanghai. In this connexion, he proposed to see Chang Tso-lin and induce him to use his power in preventing the further movement of Russians in this way.

At this point, on the chairman's suggestion, the meeting passed a resolution requesting Dr. Greig to urge Chang Tso-lin absolutely to stop the deportation of refugees from Manchuria to Shanghai.

Dr. Greig next mentioned that the Chinese Government had made representations to the Japanese Government not to allow Russians at present in Korea to enter Manchuria or China.

Some time was spent in discussing the question whether or not the Soviet Government could be relied upon to honour its word as to the safety of the returning refugees, Mr. Dolgoroukoff in particular expressing grave doubts in the matter, and Dr. Greig could but reply that the word of the Soviet, given to the League—(the only body in a position to negotiate with it)—must be accepted; and they had Dr. Nansen's word that, on the whole, that word had been reliable in respect of other refugees.

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Jan. 18.

Bank's demand selling rate for £1 at 3/3⅜=Tls. 6.09 at 71.7=$8.49

Bank's demand selling rate for G.$100 at 69¾=Tls. 143.37 at 71.7=$199.96.

Mex. Dollars, market rate	71.95
Native Interest	02
Copper Cash	250,000
Bar Silver	33½
Bank rate of Discount	4%
Paris on London	Frs. 90.40
New York on London	G.$4.25

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/3¼
Demand	3/3⅜
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	69½
Demand	69¾
PARIS—	
Demand	1498
INDIA—	
Demand	227¾
HONGKONG—	
Demand	72½
JAPAN—	
Demand	63¼
BATAVIA—	
Demand	193
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	72

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/4
4 m/s. Credits	3/5⅛
4 m/s. Docs.	3/5⅜
6 m/s. Credits	3/5⅝
6 m/s. Docs.	3/6¼
NEW YORK—	
Demand	70½
4 m/s. Credits	73
4 m/s. Docs.	73½
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1575
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/3⅜
New York T.T.	69¾

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR JANUARY.

Hk Tl. 5.44 @ 3/3⅝	£1
,, 1 @ 1370½	Frs. 15.27
,, 1.24 @ 72⅛	Gold $1
,, 1 @ 66⅜	Yen 1.68
,, 1 @ 230½	Rupees 2.57
,, 1 @ 1.50	Mex. $1.50
,, 1 @ 16.40	It. Lire 18.27

Marks and Roubles no quotation

Sino-Italian Bank Quotations

Selling Rates Jan. 18.

It. Lire 15.80	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 4.01	Tl. 1
It. Lire 10.00	Y. 1

Bank of France Rate

Paris, Jan. 17.

The Bank of France has raised its discount rate one half per cent. to 6 per cent. This follows an increase of ½ per cent. on January 10.—Reuter.

Week's Exchange Notes

Jan. 19.

At the close of business on the 17th instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 25,263,000 and $32,850,000.

These figures include Tls. 10,710,000 and $19,060,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 918 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—

4,226 bars from London
379 ,, ,, America

4,605 bars

Shipments were:—

785 bars to Hangchow
941 ,, ,, Nanking
136 ,, ,, Foochow

1,862 bars

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—
Nil.

Shipments were:—

Tls. 200,000 to Nanking
200,000 ,, Hankow
200,000 ,, Tientsin
50,000 ,, Dairen

Tls. 650,000

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—

$1,050,000 from Chinkiang
880,000 ,, Hangchow
160,000 ,, Kashing
100,000 ,, Wuhu
90,000 ,, Soochow
80,000 ,, Changchow
50,000 ,, Wusih

$2,410,000

Shipments were:—

$600,000 to Tsingtao
200,000 ,, Dairen
100,000 ,, Kiukiang
130,000 ,, Chefoo
80,000 ,, Tungchow

$1,110,000

SILVER.

London silver on Thursday was 33½d. for ready and 32⅞d. for forward delivery as against 33⅛d. spot and 32⅝d. forward a week ago. India is still a buyer, China sold a little. America seems more inclined to sell this week, especially for forward delivery. Stocks of sycee in Shanghai have increased by Tls. 19 lakhs during the week and stocks of dollars 13 lakhs. Shipments of dollars out of the place have been considerably smaller during the past few days, but the bulk of the bar silver arriving is still finding its way to the Mints. Money is easy with the native banks and interest is as low as ¾ per cent. p.a. The price of silver in New York on Thursday was 63½, delivery San Francisco: buyers but no sellers. The New York/London cross rate is 424 9/16.

EXCHANGE.

Business has been fairly brisk and a fair amount of export paper has been making. The quoted rate on Friday last week was 3/3d. after various fluctuations. The rate is now 3/3¼d. at which level the market is very firm, with some banks selling as high as 3/3⅜d. for cash. G.$ T.T. is quoted 69½, but there are possibly sellers at T.T. 69¾. For bills, 4 m/s. L/C could be placed at 3/4⅛d. January, 3/3⅜d. February, 3/3½d. March, 3/3¼d. April/June and 4 m/s. L/C G.$71½ January, 71¼ February/June.

Sterling Slightly Improved

London, Jan. 16.

Sterling on New York rallied to 4.26¼ to-day, French francs were quoted at 91.05 and Belgian francs at 101, due to the contemplated financial reforms by the French Government.—Reuter.

Stabilizing Japanese Exchange

Tokio, Jan. 16.

With a view to stabilizing the exchange, the Government has decided to release specie reserves held abroad for the importation of absolute necessities.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

The Rise in Hongkong Ropes

Hongkong. Jan. 15.

The proposal to capitalize the reserve fund, to distribute three bonus shares for every two old shares and to issue one new share at par for every three old shares and bonus shares explains the recent sensational rise in the shares of the Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Green Island Cement

Hongkong, Jan. 17.

Shareholders of the Green Island Cement Co. Ld., have petitioned Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., the general managers, to requisition an extraordinary meeting to increase the capital by $3,000,000 by the issue of new shares at par, but not to call up more than $1 per share.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

LONDON BULLION

Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co.'s Report

Reporting on the London bullion market on December 5 Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co. state:—

The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue on November 28 was £125,943,270, as compared with £125,940,915 on the previous Wednesday.

The Indian and Continental demand this week has been moderate, and the greater part of the fair amount of gold on offer will probably be shipped to the United States.

Gold valued at $7,906,000 has been received in New York from London.

The followfng extract is from the "Times of India" under date of November 17 last:—

GOLD IN CURRENCY RESERVE.

Information is now available regarding the operation, which the Government of India contemplate in connexion with the gold held in the Currency Reserve. There is to be no shipment to London, but £2,000,000 worth of gold is to be sold for delivery in India against payment in sterling in London. While public opinion would have opposed the shipping of any portion of the gold out of India, the present proposition is not open to the same objection. The convertibility of the note issue is assured with 99 crores in silver coin and bullion and 22½ crores in gold out of a total note circulation of 181 crores, and from that point of view tthe present action of the Government is not open to criticism. The objects of the operation are stated to be the conversion of a small part of the metallic holding into securities which will bring in an interest return to the Government, at the same time taking advantage for this purpose of the existing premium on gold as measured in sterling. It has also the incidental advantage that the remittance to London will be effected at the prevailing favourable rates of exchange. As a business proposition the transaction is a sound one, and on grounds of economy alone, the arrangement should meet generally with approval. The convertibility of the note issue is already ensured by the unprecedentedly large silver and gold holding, and there will be a profit to the Government both from the interest on investment and from the premium on gold. The holding of Indian securities in the Currency Reserve, viz: over 57 crores, is already beyond the limit of safety, and any further investments such as those now contemplated should be in short-term British sterling securities."

The following figures show the Indian net trade in gold and silver (on private and Government account) for the first seven months of the present financial year:—

1923.	Gold net imports lakhs of rupees.	Silver net imports. lakhs of rupees.
March	616	128
April	696	92
May	303	150
June	205	175
July	243	140
August	113	182
September	232	99
Total	2,408	966

SILVER.

The continued firmness of the China exchange and bear covering have well maintained prices this week. A very heavy shipment, expected to be at least 3,000 bars, mostly for China, will leave by the steamer on Friday. The withdrawal of this large amount has put some strain on London stocks, and buyers have had to pay for the privilege of shipping by this, the last steamer from London that can forward its cargo in comfortable time for the Chinese New Year. It also happens to be the Bombay settlement steamer week though fortunately for China, the Indian inquiry has not been keen. The Continent and America have fed the market, and India has at times been a seller for forward delivery. The tendency of the market seems flattening.

Under date of November 16, friends of our in Bombay have favoured us with the following interesting details touching the recent speculative accumulations in that city:—

"This total record surplus was taken up by the principal bull (not with a view to corner but as delivered to him against options). He succeeded in selling it off promptly just after the finish of the settlement. The highest rate in the October settlement was Rs. 83. The bazaar dealers, who had been continually bearing since the announcement during May that the American Government had suspended purchasing silver under the Pittman Act, covered their sales for the November settlement taking advantage of the principal bull sales, fearing that China would buy, and now that the Indian season would commence the up-country demand for the metal would also increase. Some heavy losses have been made by the bazaar in these operations running over about six months."

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Increased Optimism in Piece Goods Coupled with Small Orders to Manchester

Jan. 19.

The most prominent feature of the Shanghai markets this week has been the increased optimism in piece goods circles. Advances have again been recorded at the auctions, and the drop in the price of American cotton has brought out a small business with Manchester.

Chinese cotton remains steady, but is expected to follow the downward movement of American cotton. Yarn is strong but with little business passing.

Exports generally have been dull during the week.

PIECE GOODS.

On account of easier money supported by good clearances of cargo, the piece goods market is altogether brighter. In certain lines it has been possible to do business with Manchester, but the volume has been of small extent, being confined principally to White Shirtings and a few specialities. Greater confidence has been induced among merchants by the disappearance of the recent alarming rumours respecting the local political situation, and the business outlook seems better than for some time.

The auctions have reflected the improved tone of the market, and a slight increase in prices has again been registered. In certain lines increased quantities have recently been offered, but the shortage of stocks is now so prominent a factor that the market has readily absorbed in all supplies. Greys have been in good demand, Ningpo being strongly in the market. For the best qualities of White Shirtings the demand this week was not so strong as recently, and as Changsha seems to have fallen out of the market this branch of business found itself largely in the hands of speculators. Still, as the best qualities of White Shirtings are now at a comparatively high level of price, it is only natural to expect fluctuations. For lower qualities the demand continues strong. This week's auctions were the second last to take place prior to China New Year, but the position revealed was satisfactory. While in some cases deliveries have fallen off, those to Korea have been large, and the situation seems to contain sufficient strength to preclude any possibility of a drop in tael values.

In woollen goods the situation is unchanged from last week Business is naturally quiet owing to the near approach of China New Year, and only small speculative sales have taken place. The position of merchants holding stocks is satisfactory, as indications from Home are that buyers will have to pay higher prices than hitherto for their autumn requirements.

COTTON AND YARN.

China Cotton—While the market for China cotton has remained unchanged throughout the week, the feeling is that it will follow the American staple in its downward tendency. This belief is emphasized by the fact of reduced consumption following the partial closing of many mills, and the uncertainty as to when a number of Chinese establishments will decide to re-open following the holiday recess. Recent prices quoted on the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange are as follows:—Thursday afternoon closing—January 46.95; February 47.10; March 47.15; April 47.15; May 47.10; June 47.05. Yesterday morning's opening — January 46.75; February 46.85; March 46.90; April 46.85; May 46.85; June 46.65. Spot quotations are as follows:—Tungchow 47.50; Shanghai 45; Shensi 46; Hankow 43.

Yarn—While the yarn market has been steady during the week only a small amount of fresh business has been booked with the mills. The statistical position of yarn is to-day exceedingly strong, as all the mills are carrying exceedingly small stocks, and Indian yarn is many taels per bale higher than the Shanghai market can afford to pay. The latest Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange prices are as follows:—Thursday afternoon's closing—January 177.10; February 179.60; March 180.90; April 180.80; May 180.90; June 180.60. Yesterday morning's closing — January 176.60; February 179.10; March 180.20; April 180.40; May 180.40; June 180.30.

SILK.

After the activity of the last week the silk market has been quiet during the last few days. The higher prices asked by holders have driven buyers out of the market, but a fair demand is still prevailing. The very violent fluctuations of the franc rate, which have been particularly pronounced during the last few days, have made business with Lyons very difficult.

Tussah Native Extra and 1 Tls. 480/470.

PRODUCE.

There is nothing of interest to report in produce lines.

Business in China remains in a more or less inactive state. Prices, both here and in the Home market, in general continue steady with a firm undertone.

Negotiations with Europe are hindered by the Continental exchange rates

New Land Co. in Hongkong

Hongkong, Jan. 16.

A new company, the Hongkong & Territorial Estates, Ld., of which Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Company are the General Managers, has been registered with a capital of $5,000,000.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Hongkong & Whampoa Dock's New Contract

Hongkong, Jan. 12.

The China Sugar Refining Company has awarded a contract to the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company for the construction of six steel-lighters and one steamlaunch.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

National Smelting Co. Issue a Failure

London, Jan. 11.

It is stated on the Stock Exchange that the underwriters of the National Smelting Company issue of £1,500,000 will have to take up 80 per cent. of the issue.—Reuter.

Cotton Control Scheme

London, Jan. 15.

A joint committee of Lancashire employers and employees of the cotton industry have agreed on a scheme of control in the section engaged in American cotton. Details will be published in a few days.—Reuter.

CORRESPONDENCE

NEW ROAD FREE OF COST.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Whereas the trams from the Western District to Hongkew now travel by a very devious route: and

Whereas (quite apart from the present tramrail relaying) Nanking Road is already severely overtaxed as regards traffic, not to mention future increase: and

Whereas there is a large amount of traffic between Hongkew and the Western district, which will also tend to increase:

I venture to suggest that a new main trunk road be cut through from the "New World" (junction of Thibet and Nanking Roads) to the south end of the North Szechuan Road bridge over the Soochow Creek, and that this main road be continued by widening the South Soochow Road to the Garden Bridge, where there should be a proper quadrant approach. The Hongkew traffic would then pass along this new road (the trams passing over the North Szechuan Road bridge), and thus very materially relieving Nanking Road.

I would suggest that the new road be at least 100 feet wide: that the tramlines be about 10 feet from the curb, slow traffic being restricted to this 10 feet space.

This road can be built without any cost to the ratepayers by employing the following means. Instead of buying merely a 100 feet strip, a width of at least 300 feet should be bought—at the assessment rates plus 10 per cent. for compulsion. The sites on both sides of this fine road should remain the property of the Council, and be let on building lease. The rentals will eventually much more than cover the interest on the cost of the road. Even at high rentals the sites are certain to be all taken up, although possibly in their entirety not for 10 years so so.

The Council should fully exercise landowners' rights as regards description of building, none of the shoddy Nanking Road shacks being allowed. A panel of architects should approve the elevations, securing not only architectural excellence in the individual buildings, but harmony in the aggregate effect.

There should be a tunnel under the road to contain all pipes, cables, etc.—gas, water, electricity, steam, compressed air, etc., etc. It should be sufficiently large to allow of workmen creeping along to do any tinkering required, so that the road or pavements would never be disturbed.

I am, etc.,
ENGINEER.

Shanghai, Jan. 12, 1924.

CHINKIANG INDUSTRIAL ORPHANAGE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—We gratefully acknowledge an anonymous gift of $10 Mex. from a friend in South China, sent to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. This was in response to the statement of the urgent need which appeared in this paper under date of November 9, 1923.

The many friends of the orphanage will be pleased to learn that the shortage of $250 Mex. per month has been fully made up to date, and also the greater part of the deficit of $1,000 Mex. at the end of last August, so that at present there is only $400 to be made up. It is our fervent hope and prayer that all outstanding accounts may be cleared up at the end of the Chinese year, which comes this year on February 5.

With grateful thanks.

We are, etc.,
G. C. MARIOTT,
Secretary.
J. W. BOYER,
Superintendent.

Chinkiang, Ku., Jan. 12, 1924.

THE EXTREME PENALTY.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Will you kindly bring to the notice of foreigners through the medium of your coloumns that four Russians are up for trial *by the Chinese authorities* for a murder recently committed on Chinese territory, this being, I think, the first case to be dealt with by the Chinese Court under the manifesto issued not long ago.

The course of justice should be watched keenly by all foreigners. Friends of the accused assure me that the real culprit is still at large. If such is the case the four men up for trial cannot suffer the extreme penalty of the law.

I am given to understand that there will be Russian and English interpreters at the court and that the accused will also have the support of Russian Counsel.

This is an appeal to the public to take an interest in this vital case and to be satisfied that justice is done.

I am, etc.,
SYMPATHIZER.

Shanghai, Jan. 14, 1924.

MME. DIETERICHS' ORPHANS

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—In your issue of to-day a correspondent mentions the case of three of Madame Dieterichs' orphans who wish to join a relative in Russia but cannot do so owing to lack of funds.

It seems to me that this is a case to which some of the money raised by the recent refugee lotteries might well be devoted.

It would be interesting to know whether any of the money from this source has yet been applied to the purpose in view and I presume the Committee will shortly issue a statement showing how it has been allocated.

I am, etc.,
L. OTTERY

Shanghai, Jan. 14, 1924.

THE REFUGEES.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In the wunters of 1918, 1919 and 1920 the large terminal railway station in Vladivostok was crowded to overflowing with refugees who slept on the floor at night. The same condition prevailed at the other important stations along the line of the Trans-Siberian. I had supposed that under Soviet authority the great migration eastward would cease, but an eye-witness assures me that the station at Irkutsk in the early part of this winter presented a repetition of the same scene. During the five years not only thousands but millions of destitute Slavs have been making the attempt to leave Russia. Where have they gone? There can be no doubt that a large percentage have reached that far country where all suffering ends.

The eye-witness at Irkutsk tells me that in the overflow outside the Irkutsk station, seeking shelter from the cold in an angle of the wall, he found a white-haired old man with three barefoot and half-clad daughters. The man was known to have been formerly an owner of several mines of which he had been relieved by the Soviet. In the attempt to get to China he had completely exhausted his funds. The eye-witness from his scanty means helped the family to a meal but where are they now? And even had they reached the promised Land of China what welcome would our Relief Committees have offered? The generous chance to return again to Russia, the offer to step back into the lion's den. After some 5,000 to 1,500,000 years of human development and some 20,000 years of civilization of a sort this is the degree of intelligence which mankind has achieved and the glory of charity which religion has instilled. Ye gods!

I am etc.,
AMERICUS.

Shanghai, Jan. 17, 1924.

P.S. Remember that there are Russian ships and others obtainable which can carry these refugees to Jugo-Slavia and to other countries bordering Russia. Remember also that Argentina and other countries welcome settlers. And another thing—if the League of Nations should arrange to pay China for land in the Chinese Eastern Railway zone for Russian farm settlements of these royalists, would it not be better than to risk the zone [illegible] the hands of Bolshevists?

THE CHINA PONY ISSUE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—I shall deem it a great favour if you will publish the following suggestions I have to make with regard to the elimination of half-bred ponies from racing and the abolition of private sales of griffins:—

The following is my suggestion towards the subject:—

The "Pony Inspection Committee" to be reformed and to be elected by the owners. The decision of the Committee to decide a China pony or halfbreds shall in all cases be final.

All ponies, started or not yet, have to be put up to the Pony Inspection Committee for inspection, then according to breeding to classify all ponies into two groups, China pony and halfbreds.

If the halfbreds exist in such a number that a race can be formed, the clubs shall provide special races for that class of animals only, just as we had Waler races at Kiangwan before.

There will be no rejection for halfbreds to race in future and when we see more halfbreds being imported than China ponies, then we can reduce the races provided for China ponies, and *vice versa*.

The height of a pony eligible for race is not of much importance for we know there are China ponies which stand over 14 while some Galloways are under 14 hands, the age, of course, is less important.

With reference to the public auction, I think the original idea was because we do not want the high cost of griffins so incurred without necessity, to prevent the dealers to stick the owners with worthless animals for high price and the owners to buy the griffins by themselves in Mongolia.

THE PRESENT HIGH PRICES.

What is the outcome of the present auction?

Although the price for griffins is increasing yearly, yet we never heard that a griffin was sold over Tls. 4,000 before, as it has been in the present auction. Besides one can fix up a sale before an auction takes place privately, even a wealthy man cannot get a griffin which pleases him, he can pay but he cannot buy something which has been already sold: the auction is more or less a matter of form in such cases.

According to the new By-laws a pony which is under age cannot be measured but can be sold at auction, supposing one bought it and after another year when the pony is aged but the measuring rod registers over 14 hands, he is, not eligible for race. Now what shall the owner do with him?

HOW TO MEET IT.

For the benefit of all members, rich or poor, to prevent the high cost of ponies, etc., I suggest the following:—

All griffins to be galloped and timed by a Committee elected by the owners, and to classify them into say 3 classes. Of course, I do not mean to gallop the griffins for one quarter of mile only, I think at least to take the time of 3/4 mile and a mile is still better, within certain time after the arrival of the griffins.

To provide say three classes of subscription griffins and the subscription fee say run from Tls. 1,000, Tls. 500, and Tls 200, for Class A. B. and C., respectively. Let all members subscribe to any class they prefer and to dispose of them by lotteries amongst the subscribers accordingly. To provide races for each class respectively but allow a lower class griffins to be entered in a higher class and not *vice versa* in the griffins races and to be handicapped afterwards, according to the stand of the ponies, after a certain period.

We will have in each class ponies which can do something for the money paid for then and have no bother with the dealers and to put the price of the griffins to a limit and every member will enjoy the privileges accordingly and equally.

In conclusion I hope that the above suggestions will be taken into consideration by members of the local turf.

I am, etc.,
WILLIAM HU.

Shanghai, Jan. 16, 1924.

"OUR OSTRICHES."

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The above has no reference to the play by Dr. Marie Stopes, but I would suggest it as a suitable alternative title to the members of our local Moral Welfare League.

I am, etc.,
P. O. Q.

Shanghai, Jan. 17, 1924.

THE MORAL WELFARE LEAGUE

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Your account of yesterday's meeting is noticeably incomplete in regard to the criticisms, and I fancy the members of the League would have been pleased had your two morning contemporaries dismissed us critics equally abruptly. As it was the Chairman, the Rev. C.M. Drury, with the able help of Mr. I. Mason, did their best, very effectively, to squash us.

They hate criticism. I do not blame them. So do I.

Most unpractised (seldom speakers (and some practised ones also) are apt from their vanity to magnify the importance of their oratorical inflictions and perhaps I am no exception; but vanity apart, I submit that the subject is of sufficient general interest to warrant on your part a treatment of the critics at least as generous as that accorded the criticized.

Mr. Nobleson suggested that the League ought to induce ladies to dress in the evenings in such a way as to lessen the chance of pneumonia. Those were not his exact words, but there in a bare possibility that some of your readers might, if you gave them the chance, like to discuss the ethics of high and low necks!

Take it by and large it was an amusing meeting. When Mr. Stanley Calder said the League should snatch, like brands from the burning, those Christians who as regular clients help to maintain this trade, Mr. Drury said that the gentlemen referred to were not Christians. Then what were they doing in Church, asks Mr. Calder, he, being a trusty Special and seeing lot, having spotted some of the concerned coming out—or going in, I forget which. In passing, this raises an interesting point. Has Mr Drury a mandate to deprive an evil-door of his status as a Christian? Or is it that any Christian that is found with the goods on him automatically ceases to be a Christian? A few lines from Mr. Drury throwing further light on this subject would be of great interest.

I wonder if Mr. Drury would mind my suggesting to him that he ought to keep his seat when not actually speaking? It is disconcerting—at least I found it so—to make a speech to a gentleman who remains perpendicular, as though he were waiting for you to stop.

It is possible judging from the notice calling the meeting that I was an intruder, as the notice distinctly said that the meeting was open to symapthizers. Very few are in symapthy with all the aims of the League. Education in sex matters, improvement in the economic position of women, and an honest endeavour to be temperate in all things will meet the approval and support of all decent men, but any attempt to force them to be good as though they were schoolboys will only meet with bitter opposition.

I called the League a set of hopeless idealists and they are if they think they can abolish or even suppress a state of affairs which flourished before the dawn of history and will continue as long as humanity endures.

I am, etc.,
ARTHUR AKEHURST.

Shanghai, Jan. 17, 1924.

SEVERAL Governmental changes, all of them of a temporary nature, in the heads of Government departments are likely to take place in the near future, it is announced at Hongkong. One has already been effected. The Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, sailed for Home last Tuesday and his place has been taken by Mr. A. E. Wood. The Attorney General (the Hon. Mr. J. H. Kemp, K.C.) and the Colonial Treasurer (the Hon. Mr. C. McI. Messer) are also due for leave shortly, but so far their positions have not been filled, though it is expected that Mr. D. W. Tratman, who has temporarily filled the office before, will become acting Colonial Treasurer. Mr. Fletcher himself is also due for leave this year. The Chief Justice, Sir William Rees Davis, also leaves for Home this year, on retirement and, it is understood, the Bishop of Victoria is also proceeding to England shortly.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

William Dalgliesh Little
DECEASED.

PURSUANT to an Order of the Chambery Division of the High Court of Justice dated the 25th day of October, 1923, and made in an action in the Matter of the Estate of WILLIAM DALGLIESH LITTLE, Deceased, Little *v.* Dalgliesh and others 1922 L. No. 2974, the Creditors of William Dalgliesh Little late of 43 St. James' Place, St. James' Street, in the County of London, England, and of Shanghai in China who died on the 22nd day of March, 1920, are on or before the 28th day of March, 1924, to send by post prepaid to Cecil Brodrick of Ormond House, 63 Queen Victoria Street, in the City of London, England, their full Christian and surnames, addresses and descriptions, the full particulars of their claims, a statement of their accounts and the nature of the securities (if any) held by them or in default thereof they will be peremptorily excluded from the benefit of the said Order unless the Court or Judge on application otherwise orders. Every claimant holding any security is to produce the same before Master Keen at the Chambers of the Judge, Room No. 237, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, England, on Friday, the 4th day of April, 1924, at 2.15 o'clock in the afternoon being the time appointed for adjudicating upon the claims.

A claimant not residing in England or Wales must send with particulars of his claim, the name and address of a person in England or Wales to whom notices to the claimant can be sent.

Dated this 10th day of December, 1923.

BELL, BRODRICK & GRAY,
63 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4, ENGLAND
Solicitors for the Plaintiff.

Jan./Mar.	...	...	49½ cents
Apr./June	...	...	50½ ,,
Market steady.			

DEBENTURES.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded		Loan Amt.		Int %	Payable
S'hai Municipal Council	1903	6 to 20	26-9-22	T98½	*b*	T490,500	6	June-Dec.
	1904	do.	11-1-23	T98½	*c*	314,500	6	do.
	1905	do.	12-5-22	T95½	*d*	320,000	6	do.
	1907	do.	24-4-22	T94		,,	6	do.
	1908	do.	6-12-22	T100		650,000	6	do.
	1909	do.	15-3-23	T99		300,000	6	do.
	1910	do.	11-5-23	T99		313,800	6	do.
	1911	10 to 30	8-1-23	T95		350,000	6	do.
	1912	do.	3-1-24	T99		340,000	6	do.
	1913	do.	3-3-23	T100		755,300	6	do.
	,,	10 to 50	8-5-22	T78		500,000	5½	do.
	1914	10 to 30	8-1-23	T91		900,000	5½	do.
	1915	do.	22-9-23	T91		800,000	5½	do.
	1916	do.	4-12-23	T99½		1,400,000	6	do.
	1918	10	18-10-23	T103		507,300	7	do.
	1919	10	4-12-23	T104		1,793,300	7	do.
	1920	10	17-11-23	T105½		2,240,000	7	do.
	,,	10 to 30	3-10-23	£105½		£750,000	6	do.
	1921	do.	9-9-23	$112		$1,000,000	8	do.
	1921	do.	15-1-24	T113		T5,096,400	8	do.
	1922	do.	9-1-24	T105½		T8,000,000	7	do.
	1923	do.	15-1-24	T99		T6,000,000	6	do.
French Municipal Council	1911	do.	8-10-23	T96		400,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914	do.	12-2-23	T88		500,000	5½	June-Dec.
	1915	do.				350,000	5½	do.
	1921	do.	20-11-23	T108½		2,000,000	8	do.
	1923	do.	17-12-23	T95	*e*	T800,000	6	May-Nov.
S'hai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	1921	10 to 30	2-10-23	T112		2,000,000	8	June-Dec.
	1922	do.	6-6-22	T108		T500,000	8	do.
	1922	do.	2-10-23	T105		T1,000,000	7	do.
S'hai Gas Co., Ltd.	1909	do.	29-11-23	T94	*e*	800,000	6	do.
S'hai Municipal Council	1905	5 to 20	31-8-22	T96½		T250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1909	do.	27-3-23	T98		750,000	6	do.
	1911	do.	26-9-22	T92		250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	,,	do.	27-3-23	T98		250,000	6	May-Nov.
	,,	do.				250,000	6	Jan-July
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.	1912	do.	3-4-23	T98		250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1913	do.	3-4-23	T98		250,000	6	May-Nov.
	,,	do.				250,000	6	April-Oct.
	1914	do.	22-3-23	T98		250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1916	5 to 25	21-8-22	T90	*f*	500,000	5½	do.
	1922	do.	12-2-23	T98		750,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	1922	do.	10-1-24	T98		500,000	6	May-Nov.
Shanghai Club	1907	20				450,000	6	do.
Country Club	1901	Perpetual				130,000	6	June-Dec.
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd.	1914	5 to 20				130,000	6	May-Nov.
	1915	do.				110,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ltd.	1906	do.				250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1911	do.	7-6-23	T98		300,000	6	do.
S'hai Hotels, Ltd.	1916	30	6-1-23	T88		865,000	6	do.
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd.	1923	10 to 20	27-2-23	T95½	*h*	270,000	6	do.
S'hai Race Club	1923	25	15-1-24	T100		1,200,000	6½	Mar.-Sept.
Culty Dairy Co., Ltd.	1915	10				50,000	7	Feb.-Aug.
Hall & Holtz Ltd.	1914	5 to 20	14-10-22	$92	*i*	230,000	7	Jan.-July
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	1922	5 to 20	..	..		T500,000	7	Jan.-July

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment. †See also under section headed "Companies' Notices, etc."

a—Now Issuing; Redeemed or Unissued:—*b*—Tls.65,100; *c*—Tls.51,100; *d*—Tls.34,100; *e*—Tls.68,500; *f*—Tls.262,400; *g*—Tls.189,800; *h*—Tls.12,300; *i*—$18,900.

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
			lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	8.87d.	..	22,000	21,000	25,000	68,000
Amberst (New)	,, 500,000	Oct.	72,382	81,440	80,500	*4.34d.			9,784	9,236	19,020
Anglo-Dutch	£200,000	Dec.	760,000	650,000	600,000	0/6.92d.	364,700	54,500	55,900	60,000	535,100
Anglo-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,511,575	1,524,711	1,550,000	6.95d.	1,116,100	168,600	189,000	183,000	183,000
Ayer Tawah	Tls. 300,000	Sept.	369,447	58,042	360,000	†0.24.41					
Batu Anam	,, 400,000	Dec.	221,030	258,510	185,793	0/7.34d.	142,092	..	12,450	8,200	162,742
Bukit Toh Alang	,, 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,845	345,000	7.54d.	139,189	30,893	26,000	26,800	222,682
Bute	,, 300,000	Dec.	253,300	230,067	159,516	10.11d.	121,250	17,700	16,600	18,800	174,350
Chemor United	,, 360,000	Dec.	271,636	340,794	240,192	0/7.15d.	197,558	..	26,044	25,800	246,412
Chempedak	£35,000	Oct.	145,760	162,500	..	10.15d.	..	..	14,000	16,700	30,700
Cheng	Tls. 675,000	June	151,923	145,338	..	11.09d.	52,730	18,410	15,574	15,700	102,414
Consolidated (1914)	,, 375,000	Dec.	591,033	669,899	574,660	0/6.58d.	456,199	62,339	56,348	58,552	633,638
Dominion	,, 350,000	Dec.	203,042	271,150	306,867	11.04d.	241,506	28,111	25,596	27,928	323,140
Gula-Kalumpong	,, £500,000	Dec.	1,023,000	1,113,000	1,215,000	1/0 1/16d.	755,000	98,000	..	85,000	938,000
Java Consolidated	£85,000	Dec.	739,726	875,800	..	7.08d.	411,100	67,300	70,000	72,000	620,400
Kapayang	,, 150,000	Dec.	176,890	189,239	..	†26.90	116,653	11,782	11,648	12,597	146,710
Karan	,, 250,000	Mar.	114,879	104,783	84,000	8½d.	41,042	6,623	5,574	6,858	60,097
Kota Bahroe (1921)	,, 390,000	June	138,330	339,970	..	..	78,957	24,885	27,145	29,951	160,918
Kroewoek	£70,000	Dec.	493,730	449,000	520,000	0/7.24d.	366,800	61,000	62,000	59,000	549,800
Langkat	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	842,589	943,000	975,000	Gld8.0.28	..	..	..	86,800	92,500
Padang	Tls. 500,000	April	209,711	220,232	..	10½d.	66,300	17,200	17,000	20,000	120,500
Pengkalan (1921)	,, 150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,253	176,088	†40.19	..	..	..	..	..
Permata	,, 250,000	Oct.	98,303	87,290	..	0/8½d.	..	..	9,012	8,573	17,585
Repah	,, 275,000	Dec.	27,000	68,584	240,000	1/3½	153,578	23,886	19,521	20,200	217,185
Samegaga	,, 600,000	Sept.	361,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
See Kee (1918)	,, 100,000	June	179,065	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	97,613	..	10,896	12,000	120,509
Semambu	,, 300,000	Dec.	176,132	161,105	158,264	0/9.37d.	119,529	..	15,267	10,800	245,596
Senawang (1921)	,, 375,000	Jan.	106,500	279,500	..	*17.35d.	180,800	28,100	23,400	21,700	254,000
Shanghai Kedah	,, 400,000	Sept.	313,411	216,542	..	8.12d.	..	22,827	21,413	23,680	67,825
S'hai-Klebang	,, 445,000	Dec.	114,758	125,396	..	0/9.35d.	81,115	8,000	8,400	8,569	109,615
S'hai-Malay	,, 600,000	Dec.	413,635	373,011	392,000	..	223,731	23,850	20,336	21,439	289,356
S'hai Pahang	,, 200,000	June	209,881	188,016	..	9½d.	52,721	20,450	15,618	12,201	100,973
S'hai Seremban	,, 325,000	Dec.	176,588	174,213	..	0/8.87d.	103,486	13,998	15,650	15,900	147,034
S'hai-Sumatra	,, 600,000	Oct.	661,339	679,710	650,000	Gld8.0.38	..	..	50,239	61,102	111,341
Sua-Manggis	,, 220,000	Dec.	184,000	144,880	..	..	..	14,260	13,500	..	27,760
Sungala	,, 100,000	Mar.	59,279	165,757	..	†7.20	6,126	..	..	..	6,126
Sungei Duri	£40,000	June	208,073	206,563	220,000	11.61d.	61,560	23,302	18,774	19,773	126,409
Taiping (1913)	Tls. 200,000	Dec.	705,550	107,011	99,000	*†30	79,652	8,065	7,573	..	95,290
Tanah Merah	,, 750,000	Mar.	415,000	396,000	..	7.92d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,800	234,900
Tebong	,, 750,000	Jan.	534,590	639,838	717,725	0/7.66d.	450,500	66,500	67,000	72,000	656,000
Ziangbe	£150,000	Dec.	616,432	514,566	600,000	7.24d.	382,500	45,800	49,100	46,200	523,600

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses. † Straits 8 cents.

S'hai Kedah Plantations, Ltd.	T	1.10	1.05		34)	400,000		T1			Sept.	T0.05, 1919	2-5-19
S'hai Klebang Rubber Estates, Ltd.	T	0.60	0.50		14)	315,000		T1			Dec.	Ord. T0.06 for 9 months ended 31/12/20	2-5-21
S'hai Malay Rubber Estates, Ltd. ord.	T	4½			22)	30,000		T10	a	T7,112	Dec.	Pref. T0.40, for 6 months ended 31/12/23	31-10-23
,, 8% cum. part. pref.	T	9	8			30,000		T10	a	T19,124			
S'hai Pahang Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	1				300,000							
S'hai Seremban Rubber Estates, Ltd.	T	0.80	0.70			325,000		T1		(Loss) T1,213	Sept.	Final T0.05 (incr. T0.10, 1916-17)	12-10-17
S'hai-Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ltd	T	90			7)	30,000		T10	a	(Loss) T247	Dec.	T0.04 for 10 months, ended 31/12/22	31-3-17
Sua Manggis Rubber Co., Ld.	T	3½			30)	56,000		T5	a	(Loss) 230,791	Oct.	T2, 1918-19	1-4-20
Sungala Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	1½			15)	100,000		T1	c	T312,270	Dec.	T0.25, 1919	20-4-20
Sungei Duri Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	8½	7½			40,000	£1 at T8.50		a	T0,055			
Taiping Rubber Estates (1913), Ld.	T	0.70				200,000		T1	c	T25,000	Mar.	T0.10, 1916-17	12-7-17
Tanah Merah Estates (1916), Ld.	T	0.75			32)	750,000		T1	a	T4,625			
Tebong Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	1.32½			£54)	750,000		T1	a	T10,000	June	T0.58, 1922-23	12-10-23
Ziangbe Rubber Co., Ld.	T	3½	3½		12)	300,000		10s.	a	T22,766	Dec.	T0.08, 1919	20-5-20
									a	(Loss) T3,801	Mar.	Interim T0.05, 1916-17 (Final, Nil)	7-12-17
COTTONS, ETC.									c	T31,851			
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. ord.	T	12.35	12.35	12½	43)	1,000,000		T5	a	T5,737	Jan.	....††	....
,, 8% cum. pref.	T	113	113½		43)	10,000		T100	a	(Loss)T20,482			
Laou Kung Mow C. S. & W. Co., Ld.	T	10				20,000		T10	a	T38,757	Dec.	T0.50, 1919	28-4-20
Oriental C. S. & W. Co., Ld. ord.	T	5	4½		60)	500,000		T5	c	T5,239			
pref.	T				3)	5,000		T100	a	T10,856	Dec.	Ord. T1.50, 1922	16-2-23
Shanghai Cotton Mfg. Co., Ld. (Shanghai Boshoku K.K.)	T	65 old 38 new	63 38					T50	b	T1,400,000		Pref. T3, 1922	16-2-23
INDUSTRIAL.									c	T2,361,356			
British-American Tobacco Co., Ld. ord.	$			£5½	66)	13,000,000		£1	a	T5,134	Dec.	Final T2, (mkg. T4, 1921)	8-3-22
,, 5% cum. pref.						4,500,000		£1	b	T120,000			
China Im. & Ex. Lumber Co., Ld.	T	350				5,000		T100	c	T97,612			
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.	H $	256½	255			20,000		H$100	a	(Loss) T31,043	Dec.	Final T0.50 (mkg. T1.50, 1921)	25-3-22
Green Island Cement Co., Ld.	H $	38	37½			400,000		H$37.50	b	T200,000			
Maatschappij, &c., In Langkat	T	13½	(comb. T34)	13½ (comb. T34)		200,000		Gs.10	c	T2,050,000	June	T3.50 1922-23††	24-8-23
Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ld.	T	5.70	(comb. T34)	(comb. T36)		250,000		T5	a	T50,375			
S'hai Exploration & Development Co., Ld.	T	14½		14.50		250,000		T5	c	T1,270,000			
Major Brothers, Ld.	T	5			10)	6,000		T10	a	(Loss) T13,341	Dec.	....	....
John Richards & Co., Ld.	T	10			11)	25,000		T10	a	T9,016	Dec.	....	....
Shanghai Gas Co., Ld.	T	45	45		‡)	24,000		T50	c	T70,000		10%, 1921	24-6-22
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.	T	140			‡9)	50,000		$20	a	T3,136	Dec.	T3.50, 1922	13-4-23
STORES.									c	T30,000			
Hall & Holtz, Ld.	$	6.90	6.90		$16)	28,000		$20	a	T23,791			
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ld.	$	30				1,200		$50	b	T50,000			
S. Moutrie & Co., Ld.	$	50			17)	10,000		$50	c	T666,891			
Weeks & Co., Ld.	$	11		11	$50)	30,000		$10	a	T29,595	Dec.	(Final 1923, 20s. at Exchg., 3/2½	6-4-23
									b	T75,000		(Interim 1923, 10s. at Exchg., 3/0½	31-7-23
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ld.	$	102	103½		‡)	2,500	$100		c	T1,680,295			
MISCELLANEOUS.													
Culty Dairy Co., Ld.	T	13				10,000		T10	a	Loss T20,956	Oct.	T0.60, 1921-22	30-12-22
S'hai Electric Construction Co., Ld., "B" London	T	170	165						c	T119,93			
	£1		£2:11:9	£2:14:3		40,000	£10		a	£17,022	Dec.	Final 16s. (mkg. 40s., 1922, less I/T at 5s. 3d. in £) Coupon 22	1-6-23
S'hai Horse Bazaar & Motor Co., Ld.	T	50				5,400	T50		c	£114. 15		1st Int. 12/-, less I/T at 4/7½d. in £ Coupon No. 23	
Shanghai Mercury, Ld.	T	25				3,000	T50		a	T18,518	Dec.	T5, 1922	1-10-23
Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. Ld.	T	73	73½	74	$63)	40,000	T50		a	T215,257			20-4-23
											Apr.	T1.50, 1913-14	31-3-15
Oriental Press (L'Imprimerie Francaise)	$	100				940	$100		a	T10,285	Mar.	T4.50, 1922-23	31-5-23
									b	T70,000			
									c	T929,014			
									a	$109,51	Mar.	$10, 1922-23	5-7-23
									b	$4,000			
									c	$21,101			

For all Dollar shares quoted on the Shanghai Stock Exchange the Exchange rate is fixed at 73.

REFERENCES.

a Carried forward at last Ann. Genl. Meeting.
b Dividend Equalization Reserve.
c General and Other Reserves.
d Uncalled liability £6 per sh.
e ,, ,, £10 ,,
f ,, ,, H$150 ,,
g ,, ,, H$200 ,,
h ,, ,, H$ 80 ,,
i Working Account 1922
w Working Account 1921
x Working Account 1920
y Working Account 1919
z Working Account 1919 and former years.
† Registered; or Bearer (idem. "B").
†† See also overleaf under "Companies' Notices, etc."
** Issued Capital: 7% Cum. Pref. 21,461 shares; Ordinary, 16,270 shares.

$ Debentures Issues also.
§ Subject to Bonus of 20% on Contributory Marine Premium.
§§ Subject to Estate Managers' Commissions.
* Subject to E. P. D. and Corpn. Tax.
1—14,000 sh' unis'd.
2—70,411 ,,
3— 5,000 ,,
4— 4,000 ,,
5—19,182 ,,
7—10,761
8—10,000
9—16,470 sh. unis'd.
10—500 ,,
11—15,200 ,,
12—50,000 ,,
13—1,38[illegible] ,,
14—3,000 ,,
15—1,65[illegible] ,,
17—3,852 ,,
18—5,580 ,,
19—184,968 ,,
20—15,000 ,,
22—10,000 ,,
24—70,810 ,,
25—125,00 ,,
26—60,00[illegible] ,,
27—8,121 sh' unis'd.
29—4,633 ,,
30—2,000 ,,
31—5,121 ,,
32—50,000 ,,
33—50,000 ,,
34—102,570 ,,
35—200 ,,
36—180,000 ,,
39—7,695 ,,
41— ,,
43—1,000 ,,
46—71,522 ,,
(Net to be issued for less than 950 ea.)
47—3,000 sh. unis'd.
48—100,000 sh. unis'd,
50—8,178 ,,
54—40,000 ,,
55—89,000 ,,
56—10,634,850 ,,
57—5,000,000 ,,
59—100,550 ,,
60—280,080 ,,
61—240,000 ,,
62—401,055 ,,
63—15,000 ,,
64—500,000 ,,
65—200,000 ,,
66—1,884,253 ,,
67—66,057 ,,
68—5,641 ,,

In order to ensure accuracy of the above details, Agents and Secretaries of Companies are requested to notify Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of any alterations, errors or omissions.

COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Subject to confirmation the Directors will recommend at the forthcoming meeting:—

To pay a final dividend for the year of £3 and bonus of £2 subject to deduction of Income Tax.

To add to Silver Reserve, 10 Lakhs.

To write off bank premises account, 10 Lakhs.

To carry forward to next year, 34 Lakhs.

The Tebong Rubber & Tapioca Estate, Ltd.—A General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, January 23, 1924, at 11.15 a.m.

The Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates Ltd.—Holders of 5 — in the £ paid shares who have not paid the Call advertised by Call Letter dated October 15, 1923, are reminded that same is payable on or before January 15, 1924, and that all calls unpaid on that date will bear interest at the rate of 10% per annum from the date until the date of payment.

The Cheng Rubber Estates, Ltd.—An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, January 21, 1924, at 4.30 p.m.

The Shanghai Cotton Manufacturing Co., Ltd.—The share certificates in New Issue in the above Company are now ready and will be handed over to the shareholders against the official receipt at the Company's Head Office, 49 Szechuen Road, Shanghai, on and after January 21, 1924.

The Kali Glidik Coffee Estates, Ltd.—The Statutory Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, January 29, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The First Ordinary General Meeting will be held at the same place immediately after the Statutory Meeting.

The Transfer Books will be closed from January 25 to 29, 1924, both days inclusive.

Share Report for Week Ending January 18, 1924.

No. 243

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use A1 Cable
A.B.C. 4th 5th and 6th Editions
B. Broomhall's Imperial Chinese Cable Code
Reuter's Universal Private Code
Telephone Cent. 171

Shares and General Brokers,
Land and Estate Agents
1 The Bund,
Post Office Box No. 244
Shanghai

[illegible] local market has been quiet throughout the week [illegible] and no transactions of importance are recorded. [illegible] stocks. All local bond investment issues are wanted but there is [illegible] for sound [illegible] stocks.

London market quotations have fluctuated very slightly throughout the week and the following are the latest to be offered to-day:—

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	£ 71. 10. 0	(Mean)
" " " " " " " £ I	69. 0. 0	ex B I R S
" " " " " " " £ I	68. 10. 0	(sellers) cum "
" " " " " " " R.I.	64 10 0	" "
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. "B"	3. 5. 0	(Mean)
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ltd. (Fully)	1. 10. 9	"
Shanghai Electric Cons. Co., "B"	2 13. 0	"
Shell Transport & Trading Co., "B"	4. 1. 6	(Sellers) cum divd
British American Tobacco Co., "B"	5. 2. 6	(sellers) " "
Pekin Syndicate Ltd. (Ord) Shares	0 8.10½	"
Oriental Consolidated Mining Co.	0 11 9	(Mean)

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to day is 3 3¼.

Shanghai, January 18, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:—

JANUARY	12th		14th		15th		16th		17th		18th	
	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar	Cash	Mar	Cash	Mar.
RUBBERS												
Anglo-Java Est., Ltd. .. Tls.	6¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sungei Duri Rub. Est., Ld. .. "	8½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Permata Rub. Est. Ld. .. .. "	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bukit Toh Alang R. E. Ld "	..	..	..	..	..	1 12½	..	..	..	..	..	1 12½
Tebong Rub Co., Ld. .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.52½	..	..	..	..	..
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS												
Langkats (single) .. .. .. Tls.	13½	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(Combined) .. .. .. "	34½	..	35	36½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Loan & Invest. Co., Ld. "	..	..	6.70	..	21½	..	..	..	21	..	..	..
Chinese Eng. & Mng. Co. "B" "	..	..	..	..	..	..	6½	..	..	..	..	..
New Eng. & S. Wks. (Ord.) "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	118	119	..	..
S'hai Land Invest. Co., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
COTTONS												
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. (Ord.) .. Tls.	..	..	12.35	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.80	..	..
S'hai Cottons (New.) .. .. .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	..	..	..
DEBENTURES												
S. M. C. 6% 1923 Debs. .. Tls.	..	..	..	..	99	..	..	..	99	..	..	..
S. M. C. 5% 1921 Debs. .. "	..	..	..	..	112	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

January Settlement

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

January 29, Tuesday. February 26, Tuesday. March 25, Tuesday.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, JANUARY 18, 1924.

STOCK	Last business done.	Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Paid-up Value	Reserve, etc.	Finan. year ended	Last Dividend, etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.									
London	£ 124								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp.	$ 1,065	1,060		611 400,000	H $125	(a H $1,452,212	Dec.	Final [illegible] Bonus of $40, less I.T. $5,	24
						(c H $95,123,831	Dec.		
Chartered Bank of I. A. & C. London	£ 194			600,000	£5	(a £5,[illegible]	Dec.	Final 5s. + Bonus 6s. 3d. (mkg. £1 0s. 3d.)	
						(c £3,[illegible]		less I.T. 1922	5-4-24
INSURANCE									
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.	H $ 232½			750 200,000	d $25	(ar [illegible]		150 [illegible] mkg. $75), ex 1921 Work a/c.	
						(c [illegible]	Dec.	[illegible]	26-5-23
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.	T 138			10,000	£1	(ar £[illegible]	Dec.	Final 12s. (mkg. 4s.) ex 1921 Work a/c.	
						(c T1,[illegible]		Certificates ex 1922 Work a/c.	30-6-23
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ltd.	$ 25½	26½		480 250,000	$10	(ar $[illegible]			
						(ap $2,[illegible]	Dec.	$2 on T1,457 ex 1922 Work a/c, payable in	
						$1,[illegible]		Dollars at Exchg. 73	30-5-23
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ltd.	T 22			50,000	T20	(ar T[illegible]			
						(ap T[illegible]	Dec.	T1 2½ ex 1922 Work a/c	30-5-23
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.	H $ 626	725		10,000	f H $100	(ar H $2,172,[illegible]	Dec.	Final H $32 (mkg. H $40 ex 1921 Work, a/c,	
						(c H $[illegible]		and Interim H $8 ex 1922 Work a/c.	11-5-23
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	H $ 550			5,000	g H $50	(ar H $[illegible]	Dec.	H $32 ex 1921 Working a/c	28-4-23
						(c H $[illegible]			
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	H $ 127	140		20,000	h H $20	(ar H $1,[illegible]	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/c.	20-4-23
						(c H $[illegible]			
Assurance Franco-Asiatique	F 560			14,000	F500	(a £[illegible]	Dec	None. Floated 1918	....
						(c £3,[illegible]			
SHIPPING.									
Indo China S.N. Co., Ltd. (6% cum. pref.	H $ 38	38½		2) 120,000	£5				
(def. ord.	H $ 140			2) 120,000	£5	(a £2,167	Dec.	Prof. 6s. at Exchg. $2.4 London Warrants	
Shell T'sport & Trading Co., Ltd. ('B' ord.	£			38) 30,000,000	£1	(c £2,193,182		less I.T. a/c, 1922. Def. Ord. Nil	15-6-23
(5% cum pref.	£			48) 300,000	£10	(a* £2,[illegible]	Dec	Interim 2s. (less of I.T. Coupon 42	5-1-24
(7½% cum 2nd pref	£			57) 10,000,000	£1	(c £5,[illegible]			
Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd. (ord.	T 75	71½		20,000	T25	(a T[illegible]		(Int. Ord. T2.50 a/c., 1923)	
(pref.	T 53			10,000	T50	(c T170,000		(Int. Pref. T1 75 a/c., 1923)	9-7-23
DOCKS AND WHARVES.									
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld.	T 88			10) 55,700	T75	(a T102,535	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
						(c T1,[illegible]			
Hongkong & W'poo Dock Co., Ld.	H $ 154½	171		60,000	H $50	(a H $[illegible]	Dec.	Interim H $1, 1922	11-10-22
New Eng. and Shipbuilding Works, Ld. (ord.	T 6½	6½		85) 500,000	T5	(c H $[illegible]		Final H $5 & Bon. H $5 (mkg. H $12, 1922)	27-3-23
(8% pref.	T 5.20	5.15	5.30	85) 500,000	T5	(a T[illegible]		Ord. T0.60, 1922	10-3-23
						(b T[illegible]	Dec.	Pref. T0.40, 1922	10-3-23
						(c T1,[illegible]			
Shanghai & H'kow Wharf Co., Ld.	T 180	187½		¾4) 40,000	T100	(a T[illegible]			
						(b T[illegible]	Dec.	Final T12 (mkg. T15, 1922)	13-3-23
H'kong & K'loon W. & G. Co., Ld.	H $ 155½	190		80,000	H $50	(c T1,041,794		Int. T3 a/c., 1923	30-8-23
						(a H $303,491			
						(b H $250,000	Dec.	H $6 & Bonus H. $3 (mkg. H $9, 1922)	20-2-23
						(c H $100,000			
MINING.									
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld.	£ 12/-			24) 500,000	G $10		June	G $0.50, 1920-21	26-7-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Boarer).	T 21			†164) 2,000,000	£1	——	June	Final 84% (Coupon No. 23) free of I/T,	
London	2	£3:6:6	£3:9:3					1922-1923	11-12-23
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld.	H $ 5.20			200,000	£1	(a £23,613	Mar.	Int. 2d., 1909-10	21-5-10
						(c £4,873			
LANDS AND HOTELS.									
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld.	T 118		118	‡) 78,000	T50	(a T25,659			
						(b T250,000	Dec.	(Final T3 & Bonus T2 (mkg. T8, 1922)	23-3-23
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld.	H $ 102	100		240,000	H $25	(c T2,186,583		(Interim 1923, T3	26-7-23
(New Reg.)						(a H $3,231,700	Dec.	Int. H $6 a/c., 1923	24-7-23
						(b H $250,000			
Humphrey's Est. & Finance Co., Ld.	H $ 23.00	26		150,000	H $10	(a H $123,746			
						(b H $50,000	Dec.	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.70, 1922	10-2-23
						(c H $357,363			
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld.	T 6			3,674	T20	(a T2,805	Dec.	T1.20, 1922	24-2-23
						(c T7,000			
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld.	T 120	120		‡3) 18,000	T100	(a T7,848			
						(b T20,000	Feb.	Int. Divid. T3½, 1923-24	21-9-23
						(c T350,000			
The Shanghai Hotels, Ld.	$ 40	45		‡45) 150,123	$7.50	(a $475,121		$3 on 50,000 shs; Scrip Div. 199 new Ord. shs.	
							Dec.	for os. 123 Founders shs., 1920	
Carlton, Ld.	T 53			14) 10,000	T50	(c $2,465,534		Interim, $3.50 on 74,000 shs., 1921, Final, Nil	11-6-21
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	G $ 100			‡18) 10,000	G $100		Mar.	Floated April 1, 1922	....
							Dec.	Incorporated under the laws of Delaware Ord.	
Raven Trust Co., Inc. (ord.	G $ 10			**100,000	G $10			1922, 7%	4-1-23
(pref.	G $ 10				G $10			Pref. 1st gr. 1923, 1½%	4-1-23
PLANTATIONS.									
Alma Estates, Ld.	T 6½		7	70,000	£1 at T2	(a T28,940	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23	19-12-23
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld.	T 0.50			‡62) 500,000	T1		Oct.		....
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld.	T 2.99			12) 400,000	10s.		Dec.	T0.50, 1919	7-4-20
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T 6½			4) 500,000	10s.	T32,502	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c. 1923	14-9-23
						(a T129,151			
						(c T378,570			
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T 21	24		27) 30,000	T10	(a T16,223			
						(b T22,000	Sept.	T2.00, 1922-23	28-12-23
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Ests., Ld.	T 1			400,000	T1	(c T69,960			
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Ests., Ld.	T 1.12½	1.07½		500,000	T1	(a T30,789	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	10-4-20
Bute Plantation (1913), Ld.	T 0.75	0.82½		300,000	T1	(a T20,402	Mar.	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1916-17)	25-7-17
Chemor United Rubber Co., Ld.	T 1.07½			400,000	T0.90	(a (Loss) T13,076	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkg. T0.10, 1916)	29-3-17
Chempedak Rub. & G'bier Est., Ld.	T 6			39) 35,000	£1	(a T37,697	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	6-11-23
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T 1.40			135,000	T5	(a	Oct.	2nd Interim, T0.50, (mkg. T1, 1916-17)	16-10-17
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld.	T 2½			25) 500,000	28.—T0.75	(a T4,120	June	T0.20, 1916-17††	1-11-17
						(a T23,192	Dec.	T0.10, 1922	20-4-23
Dominion Rubber Co., Ld.	T 2			19) 350,000	T1	(c T30,000		Interim T0.06, 1923	15-10-23
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Ests., Ld.	T 9½			†48) 750,000	(21; 450,000	(a T13,813	Dec.	T0.40, 1919	18-5-20
					5s; 200,000	(a			
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee, Est., Ld.	T 14			8) 85,000	£1 at 2/3½	(a T54,465	Dec.	2s. less I/T at 5s. in £1922, "B" Coupon 20)††	28-3-23
Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ld.	T 12	12½		35) 15,000	T10	(c T650,113		Interim, T0.50, 1923	3-9-23
						(a T6,077		(T0.50, 1922	19-4-23
Karan Rubber Estate Co., Ld.	T 6			25,000	T10	(c T4,023	Dec.	(Interim 1923, T0.50	17-7-23
						(a T3,[illegible]			
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1921), Ld.	T 1.05			300,000	T1	(b T60,000	Mar.	T0.50, 1922-23	1-6-23
Kroewook Java Plantations, Ld.	T 11	13½		20) 70,000	£1 at T1.50	a (Loss) T[illegible]	June		
						(a T3,[illegible]		(T0.60, 1922	17-4-23
Padang Rubber Co., Ld.	T 6½			50,000	T10	(c T[illegible]	Dec.	(Int. T0.50 a/c., 1923	7-9-23
Penghulian Durian Estates (1921), Ld.	T 5.10			201 100,000	25	(a T12,[illegible]			
Permatang Rubber Estates, Ld.	T 5.10			201 100,000	25	(c T[illegible]	Apr.	T0.05, 1919-20	5-8-20

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

Volunteer Corps

B. Company British.—C. S. M. W. C. Divers to be 2nd Lieutenant.

Shanghai War Memorial.

Letter from the Chairman of the War Memorial Committee in connexion with the unveiling ceremony arranged for February 16:

Shanghai, January 10, 1924.

DEAR SIRS,—On behalf of the War Memorial Committee I beg to inform you that at a Committee Meeting held on the 8th instant, it was arranged that the unveiling ceremony of the War Memorial Monument should take place on February 16 next.

I shall be glad to know if the Council will kindly permit the attendance of the Municipal Police, Volunteers and Fire Brigade to take part in the ceremony, in which event I should be glad if you could nominate a member from each force to consult with me as to the necessary arrangements and details.

I might mention that Monsieur Le Bris, Colonel Gordon, C.M.G., have been asked to form a sub-committee for the arrangements together with myself.

Yours faithfully,
E. C. PEARCE,
Chairman,
War Memorial Committee.

The Shanghai Municipal Council.

Council Chamber,
Shanghai, January 11, 1924.

SIR, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 10, wherefrom it is noted that the ceremony of the unveiling of the Shanghai War Memorial Monument will take place on February 16 next.

In response to your enquiry, I have to inform you that the Council will be pleased to lend its cordial co-operation and support to the unveiling ceremony, and to this end will be gratified to permit the participation therein of the Municipal Police Force, the Volunteers and the Municipal Fire Brigade, whose commanding officers have been deputed to consult with yourself as to the detailed arrangements attendant upon the ceremony.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. S. B. ROWE,
Acting Secretary.

SIR EDWARD C. PEARCE,
Chairman,
War Memorial Committee.

Venereal Disease.

Letter from the Shanghai Medical Society on this subject. The matter is receiving consideration:—

Shanghai, December 10, 1923.

GENTLEMEN,—At the annual general meeting of the Shanghai Medical Society, held in March 1923, a special Committee of four members, Dr. Marsh, Dr. Bryson, Dr. Lagrange and Dr. Cumming, Secretary, was appointed to enquire into the entire question of venereal disease as it effects the public of Shanghai, and to draw up a report upon the subject containing whatever advice or practical suggestions seemed necessary for dealing with the matter.

As a result of the very painstaking deliberations of this Committee, the following opinions and suggestions have been formulated and voice the sentiments of the Shanghai Medical Society upon this important question, and it is considered desirable that they should be placed before you for whatever action you may deem expedient.

(1) It is the considered opinion that nothing is to be gained by the suppression of brothels, as it is a well-known fact that their owners move to a new location and start business afresh. It seems that in a number of cases the new location selected has been in a respectable residence district, a very objectionable consequence of the closure of these houses. In addition to this feature and as a direct result of the closing of houses, the foci of venereal disease are widely scattered and street soliciting is rendered much more prevalent, hence the source of venereal disease is difficult or impossible to trace, thus constituting a most serious menace through an increase in the number of cases of the disease.

(2) Licensing, or official regulation of houses of prostitution is considered undesirable.

(3) It is believed that in the interest of the prevention of venereal disease, well conducted houses of prostitution should be allowed to exist so long as they are operated in an orderly manner, and do not harbour foci of venereal disease. Houses which are disorderly or in which venereal disease is known to exist should be proceeded against by the police.

(4) Street soliciting and clandestine intercourse in parks, etc., the committee note have increased considerably in Shanghai during the last two years. These contribute very largely to the prevalence of venereal disease here through the absence of facilities for even ordinary cleanliness. They are considered matters for police attention, and should be rigidly suppressed so far as possible.

(5) Advertisements and literature both foreign and Chinese, issued by "quacks", and concerning nostrums for the treatment and cure of venereal disease, are flooding the Settlement, and are doing a considerable amount of harm to the gullible who are suffering from these diseases. This condition it is felt, should be rigorously dealt with and suppressed by the Shanghai Municipal Council or its agents, under the heading of "Noxious Publications."

(6) Prescribing for, or otherwise treating venereal disease by chemists should be discountenanced and condemned in the strongest term, since the results to patients are frequently disastrous and often delay proper medical or surgical treatment until the disease has made dangerous inroads, and renders cure difficult or impossible.

(7) The present venereal disease clinic at the Shanghai General Hospital is warmly endorsed. It is considered, however, that its facilities should be extended to include prophylaxis as well as curative treatment, and for this purpose the hours of service should include an early morning period as well as a period in the evening, when a qualified medical man or attendant should be present for the purpose of giving advice or instituting any necessary measures.

In addition to this the clinic should be made available for women sufferers, with a female nurse in attendance, and sufficient privacy to encourage its use.

Wasserman and other serological and bacteriological tests should be undertaken in this clinic, and be performed free of charge where necessary.

All of the latest methods for the treatment of venereal disease including the administration of neo-salvarsan, mercurial injections, etc., should be made available in this clinic without cost to the patient where necessary.

A record should be kept upon the card index system for all patients applying to the clinic for relief, and a duplicate card, including particulars as to past history, treatment, etc., should be supplied to patients upon leaving this port, so that continuous treatment along the same lines may be carried out. It should be the duty of the person taking the case history to elicit as far as possible, the source of the infection in order that this information may be used for the apprehension of the guilty party, and render possible their removal as a source of further dissemination of the disease.

(8) It is believed that a vigorous and continuous campaign of propaganda and advertisement is highly desirable, and that there should be no hesitancy in explaining to the members of this community the dangers of venereal disease. Information should be couched in simple direct language. This campaign of publicity should include the exhibition in conspicious places, such as public parks, wharves, urinals, etc., of notices in large type, and should give specific direction relative to the location of the clinic for prophylaxis and treatment of venereal disease, setting forth the hours of service, etc., in order that infected persons may clearly understand where and when aid may be secured. At night these notices should be made conspicious by a blue light with sufficient illumination to render them easily read. In addition to this the teaching of social hygiene in the Public Schools is a matter worthy of serious consideration.

(9) The desirability of securing voluntary service by local medical men in conducting venereal disease clinics, in addition to the Medical Officer provided by the Shanghai Municipal Council, is one that the Shanghai Medical Society will be glad to consider if desired to do so by the Council.

(10) It is believed that if various employers could be induced to deal more sympathetically and liberally with such of their employees as happen to suffer from venereal disease, and these latter be diplomatically advised to seek immediate and proper treatment, upon the slightest indication of having incurred infection, this would do much to limit the further spread of such disease, and employers would profit by a very material reduction in the period of incapacity of their employees from this cause.

(11) It is believed that statistics as to venereal disease and morbidity and mortality in general would be much improved in this settlement, if the Shanghai Municipal Council were to require all hospitals receiving grants in aid, to keep their records in accordance with a definite and accepted nomenclature, to be suggested jointly by the Commissioner of Health of the Shanghai Municipal Council, and the Executive Council of the Shanghai Medical Society.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
H. LOVETT CUMMING,
Secretary,
Shanghai Medical Society

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Council Chamber,
Shanghai, January 10, 1924.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 10, 1923, informing the Council that a Committee of the Shanghai Medical Society was appointed in March, 1923, to enquire into the question of venereal disease, as it affects the public of Shanghai, and forwarding the opinions and suggestions of that Committee, endorsed by the Shanghai Medical Society.

In reply, I am directed to thank you for your communication, and to inform you that the suggestions therein contained are receiving careful consideration.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. S. B. ROWE,
Acting Secretary.

H. LOVETT CUMMING, Esq., M.D.
Secretary,
Shanghai Medical Society.

Public Health Report for December.

The health of the community was satisfactory during the month, the death rate among both foreigners and Chinese being normal. Smallpox became more prevalent, the cases among foreigners being chiefly among Russian refugees and Asiatics other than Chinese. There were 20 foreign and 13 Chinese cases admitted to the Municipal Isolation Hospitals. Of the foreign cases 6 had never been vaccinated and the remainder had not been recently re-vaccinated. It has long been known that there are, throughout the world, two types of smallpox, the mild and the severe. An XVIIIth century writer declared that there was one sort of smallpox a doctor could not cure, and another which a nurse could not kill. The severe type was more common in past centuries including the XIXth century. In the Far East the type is usually severe.

In Hongkong during December there have been approximately 400 cases and 300 deaths. Smallpox may be prevented almost absolutely by efficient vaccination and re-vaccination, and in no other way. Insanitary conditions, such as overcrowding, will promote the spread of the disease, but no amount of sanitation will prevent smallpox. The well-vaccinated may defy smallpox; they can live in the same house with it, and remain safe. More than 3,500 free vaccinations were done during the month at the Branch Health Offices.

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COMPANY MEETINGS

SENAWANG RUBBER ESTATES

Liquidator's Report to Shareholders

The final meeting of the Senawang Rubber Estates Co., Ld., (1906) in voluntary liquidation, took place on Monday afternoon at the offices of Messrs. J. A. Wattie & Co., Ld., 10 Canton Road, Mr. C. J. L. Stewart presiding. In his speech, Mr. Stewart said:—

I have called this final meeting as the liquidation of the company has now been completed. The title deeds of the company have now been transferred to the new company.

The delay in the transfer was partly caused through the documents in connexion with the transfer sent by me to the F.M.S. authorities having been with other documents suppressed or stolen, necessitating duplicates being sent.

As you are aware no actual property has come into my possession. The whole of the assets and effects of the company have been handed over to the new company, on the terms of the reconstruction agreement dated June 25, 1921.

To comply with Section 188 of the Companies Ordinances (Hongkong) 1911, the following resolutions must be passed at this meeting:—

"That the account submitted to this meeting and showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and the property of the company disposed of be received and adopted."

This was proposed by Mr. G Gravrigge and seconded by Mr. A. K. Craddock.

The second resolution is as follows:—

"That the books, accounts and documents of the company and of the liquidator thereof be handed over to the Senawang Rubber Estates Company (1921), Ld. (Incorporated in 1921) the purchaser of the company's property, business and undertaking."

This was also proposed by Mr. Gravrigge and seconded by Mr. A. K. Craddock.

There was no other business and the resolutions were carried unanimously.

CHEMPEDAK RUBBER ESTATE LD.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Chempedak Rubber and Gambier Estate, Ld. was held on Thursday afternoon at the offices of the Company, 10 Canton Road, when shareholders representing 3,993 shares were present. Mr. A. J. Welch presided and Mr. C. J. L. Stewart acted as Secretary.

The Chairman in his speech said:

The year's working has resulted in the very satisfactory profit of Tls. 31,317.31 which reduces the amount standing to the debit of Profit & Loss Account to Tls. 13,434.94, and if rubber only remains at its present price for another four or five months, this adverse balance will be completely wiped off.

The cost of production, including duty, which is a new charge, shows a reduction under every heading and at 9.16 pence is practically one penny per lb. cheaper than it was last year. This result reflects great credit on the management and shows conclusively, I think, that every effort is being made to economise wherever possible.

Sales during the year averaged 1.209 per lb. or exactly seven pence per lb. higher than was realised the previous year.

There was no capital expenditure during the period under review, the whole cost of upkeeping the planted area, both mature and immature, having been charged to Working Account.

The issued capital has been increased by £2,306 representing the proceeds of 2,306 shares that were taken up by shareholders in response to the circular issued to them last January. There still remain 7,694 shares unissued, but your directors do not propose to issue all or any of them until the Company has reached the stage where dividends are once more possible. It will then probably be considered desirable to have a reserve of liquid cash with which to meet any emergency that may arise, since the times of stress that we have been through so recently have proved to every one how essential it is for all rubber companies to acquire substantial reserves as early as possible.

The financial position of the Company, at the end of the year, showed an excess of liquid liabilities over the cash assets of Tls. 15,014.67 as compared with an adverse balance of Tls. 51,314.48 at the end of last year. The reduction of Tls. 36,299.81 in the deficit is accounted for by the issue of new shares which produced practically Tls. 15,000 and by the profit earned on the year's working. The position has improved still further since the close of the year and I hope that before long we shall be clear of all our debts.

Turning now to planting matters, the visiting agent, in his last report, states that the estate has been improved by the cultivation work done, by which he means the digging of silt pits in the older areas, and by the conservative tapping system and resting of the trees which allows of much improved bark conditions.

Silt pitting is being proceeded with gradually as funds permit, a definite allocation of one cent per lb. on the monthly output being set aside for this purpose.

The output has now reached a point where it is in excess of the quantity allowed under restriction and, as the purchase of export rights from other estates is prohibited, it will gradually be found possible to rest any further areas which will benefit from such treatment.

I was on the estate myself last July and saw the benefits that had already been derived from the work that had been done. The young areas, by which I mean the last 500 odd acres that were planted up gradually after the incorporation of the Company, are as fine a stand of rubber as I saw anywhere in the Straits.

At the close of the year 568 acres were in the tapping round, but should the time come when a larger output is called for, practically the whole planted area, except the 15 acres replanted in 1920, can be brought into tapping.

Pests and diseases gave very little trouble during the year, and the estate is very fortunate in having a healthy and contented labour force that is adequate for all its requirements.

Mr. Robertson has again managed the estate single handed throughout the year and our best thanks are due to him and to Messrs. Sime Darby & Co., Ld., the Malacca agents, for the very able manner in which they have looked after the affairs of the estate.

THE QUESTION OF AGENTS.

Whilst on this subject, I may tell you that for some considerable time past your directors have had in mind the desirability of having as our Straits agents some firm or individual who is more intimately connected with Shanghai in general and our interests in particular than our present agents are. An opportunity to achieve this end occurred during the year and arrangements were accordingly made to transfer the Straits agency to Messrs. Kennedy, Burkill & Co., Ld., on December 1, 1923.

I would like here to record the Board's warm appreciation of the services rendered to the Company by Messrs. Sime Darby & Co., who have acted as the Company's agents for many years and to emphasize the fact that your directors were in no wise dissatisfied with the manner in which they conducted the affairs of the Estate. The Board felt, however, that as Messrs. Kennedy Burkill & Co., Ld., now represent practically all of the Shanghai Rubber Companies and moreover have, in a senior position on their Staff, a gentleman who has lived in Shanghai for many years and who is very intimately acquainted with the affairs of the various companies, they will now receive that personnal interest and attention, which is so essential to the satisfactory conduct of business matters and which is unobtainable from more correspondence.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I must tell you as briefly as possible what has been done in connexion with a possible amalgamation with some contiguous estate that I mentioned in my speech last year.

To begin with I must explain that Chempedak Estate is situated right in the north east corner of Malacca territory with two Straits companies, one on either side of it.

The nearest Shanghai Estate to it is Cheng, some 12 miles away as the crow flies, but very considerably further by road. Both these estates are run by their managers, single handed, so that an amalgamation would not mean any economy as far as staff is concerned.

There are other Shanghai estates in Malacca or the vicinity but all too far off to tack Chempedak on to as a division.

In order to examine the question thoroughly, with the least possible expence to the Company, in April the secretaries, at their own cost, asked their Java visiting agent to visit Malacca and to report on all the Shanghai estates in the neighbourhood with a view to a possible amalgamation. His reports were not received here until after I had left Shanghai last May, but I obtained copies in Java and also looked into the matter myself whilst on the spot. The result of these investigations brought out very clearly that the present position of this Company bears no proper relation to its potentialities and, as any amalgamation would naturally have to be based very largely on the present value, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to evolve any scheme that would be likely to be agreed to by the shareholders of another company and which at the same time would be acceptable to and not penalise you.

As far as this Company is concerned this disability will remain as long as restriction lasts since the output per acre is steadily improving and we are already producing by most conservative tapping methods more than our restricted allowance from barely 70 per cent. of our planted area.

The distances separating all these properties preclude any saving being made on the estate staffs and thus the only benefit to be derived from any amalgamation would be a small saving in the Head Office expenses, which saving would probably be lost to you by the comparatively poor price at which the Company would be taken over. To illustrate my meaning, I need only point out to you that Chempedak £1 Shares now stand at Tls. 6 each which makes the market capitalisation Tls. 163,530, equal to Tls. 198 per planted acre, or barely £33 at the present high rate of Exchange. On this capital the profits for the year just behind us amount to a trifle over 13 per cent.

Such being the case, gentlemen, I feel that you would be well advised to stand on your own feet, working out your own salvation until such time as we are clear of debt and have wiped out the debit in Profit and Loss account. We can then issue some of the unissued Shares, I hope at a premium, so as to have some working capital in hand and the profits as they accrue will then become available for dividends.

There were no questions, and the formal resolutions were passed

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

MORAL WELFARE LEAGUE

Critics at Annual Meeting: Mr. Mason's: Defence: S.M.C. Elimination Scheme

Between fifty and sixty people were present at the annual meeting of the Moral Welfare League, held on Wednesday evening at the Royal Asiatic Society hall and presided over by the Rev. C. M. Drury.

In presenting the annual report, Mr. I. Mason mentioned that there were 26 constituent societies in the League, including Chinese. It was disappointing that the latter did not take more active interest in the work. The accounts, presented by the Rev. J. W. Crofoot, showed that, while there was a balance of $375, the year's expenses had not been covered by income. The budget for 1924 requires $7,000, of which $3,000 will go to the Mixed Court Home.

Mr. Calder, criticizing the elimination scheme, asserted that it was doing nothing but drive the women to other places, particularly the French Concession, while the hotels along Nanking Road were simply haunted by them. Nothing was being done except to make life harder for the women, since they could not change their mode of life without assistance. In this respect, however, the Mixed Court Home was an effort for good.

Another critic observed that the league was "trying to drain a ditch with a sieve." He thought the League should pay attention to matters endangering the moral health of young people, particularly cinema pictures and advertisements, great agencies in spreading the germs of the disease the League was trying to cure. He was astounded that "rotten" cinema pictures had not been denounced by press and pulpit.

Mr. Arthur Akehurst expressed the view that suppression was undoubtedly a mistake and simply tended to drive vice from one place to another. He did not agree that the League was composed of fanatics and bigots, but they were hopelessly idealistic. If their activities continued in this way for a few years, he warned free men and women that it might be impossible for them to get a drink or a smoke without without the League's permission (laughter).

The report and accounts were adopted, and Mrs. M. Kwok then gave a short account of the work at the Mixed Court Home, to which girls were sent instead of going to gaol. Since the Home was opened in September, 51 girls were admitted, but the period they remained in the Home was too short to admit of their being trained for some occupation.

Mr. Isaac Mason then gave a review of the Municipal Council's "Elimination Scheme," under which over 800 licences have been withdrawn in four years. The League had never been under the delusion that withdrawal of the licence meant an end of the business, but they maintained that public prostitution and its accompaniments were less prominent than formerly and less of a public nuisance. The closing of well-known houses was bound to reduce temptation and to assist the moral welfare of the city. (A voice: Never).

It is said (continued Mr. Mason) that the S.M.C. policy is sending lots of girls to the French Settlement and to Chinese-controlled territory. If this is so, it is a proof of the success of the plan so far as this Settlement is concerned. But there are also those who tell us that things are worse in this Settlement. Which is correct—that things are no better but rather worse, or that there is considerable migration? Both cannot be equally correct. The truth may lie between the extremes. If I were speaking to those who believe that large numbers have gone to neighbouring territory I would ask—are you sorry they have gone? Would you rather retain them here? There is no desire to harry the unfortunate girls; but little sympathy will be felt for brothel keepers and the exploiters of helpless womanhood; it is these people who are being moved on, and I do not think any true citizen will regret their going, or will consider they are hardly dealt with.

Mr. Akehurst—Why not publish far and wide the names of the wealthy landlords of these places?

SHANGHAI'S NAME A BY-WORD IN CHINA.

Mr. Mason—We have to remember the law of libel. That prevents us from saying what we might say. Continuing, the speaker said: As regards Chinese territory; it was reported recently that a body of Chinese were going to approach the Council to try and have the elimination stopped, because so many undesirables went across the borders. But why not try to better conditions in Chinese territory instead of pleading to have undesirables kept in this Settlement? Shanghai has long been a by-word in inland China, as a most vicious place where unbridled passion could be indulged as in no Chinese city. If our Chinese friends want this reputation to be maintained they should be willing to let it be in Chinese territory. Over 90 per cent. of Shanghai's prostitutes are Chinese, and practically all who move into Chinese territory as well as their patrons, are subject to Chinese law, so that is the natural place for them. We do not look with toleration on other public vices because if we do not allow them here they will go elsewhere; we try to rid ourselves of them, and then let others do the same; and so it should be with prostitution.

In the absence of definite proofs that conditions are much worse in the neighbouring territories than they were three or four years ago, we conclude that most of the brothels which have been closed down in this Settlement have either moved to other cities, or have given up business; or else they are still operating here without licences. In the event of either of the former alternatives, the result may be considered satisfactory so far as this community is concerned, while in the last-named contingency, while it means continued effort to eradicate them, there has been gain in making them less public and attractive.

The meeting proceeded to deal with the election of officers and alterations in the rules. It was mentioned that the Rev. Frank Rawlinson, chairman, was about to leave Shanghai and had declined nomination for re-election as chairman.

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY

Excellent Results of the Ball: Over $2,000 to Charity

A meeting of the General Committee of St. Andrew's Society was held in the Shanghai Club on Tuesday evening, with Mr. C. H. Rutherford (President) in the chair.

Before the business of the meeting commenced and all present upstanding, the President in a few feeling words spoke of the death of Mr. A. V. Monk, which had taken place while the last meeting of the Committee was in session. He spoke of his good work as a Scot in Shanghai as well as his efforts while serving on the Committee. The Hon. Secretary was instructed to send this extract of the minutes to Miss Monk.

The accounts of the Caledonian Ball were then put before the meeting and passed. These show a surplus of $1,798.38 to which sum is added the amount $479.70 being special subscriptions so that the Charity Fund of the Society benefits to the extent of $2,278.08 which creates a record in the history of the Society.

on the platform before complainant tried to get on.

This was the case for complainant.

INSP. CASSIDY'S ACTION.

Mr. Ward, for the defence, contended that Inspector Cassidy was justified in taking action according to the by-law against riding on the footboard of a tram car. Seeing that this particular car was crowded, he stretched out his arms, holding to the rail on either side, and called out that no more people would be allowed to board the car. Instead of getting off the car when requested to, complainant held on all the more tightly, and therefore, counsel submitted, it was the duty of the inspector to remove him. In the circumstances, complainant was in the same position as a mere trespasser in anybody's house and the inspector had a right to remove him, using no more force than was necessary, and as a trespasser he would be committing a breach of the peace in resisting.

Defendant gave evidence that the incident occurred at the busiest hour of the day, this car being crowded and about 100 people waiting at Mohawk Road. There were passengers standing inside and on the platform, and witness at once took up a position on the third class platform, allowing three or four people to board the car and then calling out "No more passengers." Several Chinese got off, but complainant remained on the footboard, holding on tightly when witness tried to remove him. Witness did not strike complainant. This was the first case witness had known of a Chinese resisting when asked to leave a car, and that was the reason why he gave complainant in charge.

CONTRADICTORY TALES.

His Worship in going through the evidence—which, he said, made up two contradictory tales—said he was puzzled at the fact that a respectable Chinese like the complainant should have been the object of so much vigilance in enforcing a by-law which, the Court was informed on a former occasion, neither the Police nor the Tramway Company could enforce. It did not appear to his Worship on the evidence that a deliberate blow had been struck. The probable truth was that a blow was received by complainant in the struggle to get him off the footboard of the car and this being so, he must dismiss the charge.

FALSE PRETENCES OR TRICK?

Interesting Legal Point Raised in Charge against a Young Foreigner in Police Court

A young man named Richard William Campbell appeared in H. M. Police Court before Mr. G. W. King on Monday afternoon charged with having obtained a suit of clothes and an overcoat, valued at $73, from Henry the Tailor by false pretences with intent to defraud, and board and lodging to the amount of $13 at the Kalee Hotel by means of false pretences other than fraud.

Mr. E. T. Maitland, for the prosecution, stated that accused ordered the clothing at the shop of Henry the Tailor and gave instructions for the goods to be sent to the Kales Hotel, where payment would be made on delivery. A coolie was sent and handed over the clothes to accused who, in return, gave an envelope and said there was money inside. On leaving the room, the coolie opened the envelope and, finding there was no money in it, returned to accused, who then said that the money would be paid if the suit was sent round on number 15 day. The coolie went back with the this message, but was immediately sent back to the hotel for the money, and on arriving there found that accused had gone. Accused took a room at the hotel under a false name and left without paying his bill. He had booked a passage for Hongkong, and on the following day was arrested when about to go aboard the tender at the Customs Jetty. He told the police that the clothes were in his trunk on board the Hakone Maru and, there being no time to recover it then, arrangements were made for its return from Hongkong. Accused had been in the service of the B.-A. T., but was not satisfactory and had been dismissed.

Accused denied having told the coolie there was money in the envelope.

His Worship—Have you got any friends here?

Accused—No. I have only been in Shanghai since July. I intended going to Hongkong to look for a position. I have no excuse to offer for what I have done, but would like to point out that I was not in my sober senses all that day.

A FALSE NAME.

His Worship—What are the false pretences alleged?

Mr. Maitland—He represented that his name was Ronald MacAngus. The shopkeeper would never have given him credit had he known that was a fales name.

His Worship—Is that false pretences? Would you much mind if he did give a false name provided the money was paid?

Mr. Maitland—Certainly not.

His Worship—Well, where is the false pretence? He might call himself what he liked, but the mere fact of giving a wrong name is not a false pretence.

Mr. Maitland—That is the way he got credit.

His Worship—Did he get it on the false name alone?

Mr. Maitland—He also promised the money would be paid on delivery of the goods.

His Worship—A lie is not a false pretence.

Evidence was then called bearing out the facts stated by counsel, which were not denied by the accused.

GUESTS TO TIFFIN.

A representative of the Kalee Hotel stated that when the accused registered there he said his luggage was at the Customs House. He had two guests in to tiffin, and left without paying his bill.

In giving evidence of arrest, Det. Sub-Inspector Hunter stated he was informed on board the Hakone Maru that accused had no luggage. He had only a few cents in his pocket.

After amending the charges to larceny by means of a trick, and obtaining credit by fraud, his Worship adjourned the case until next day to give accused a chance of consulting any friends who might be in a position to help him out, Campbell saying that he thought he could get the money to pay Henry the Tailor and the Kalee.

Another Chance

The lack of means in Shanghai of dealing with first offenders under the Probation of Offenders' Act was referred to on Tuesday afternoon by Mr. G. W. King at H. M. Police Court, in reference to the case of R. W. Campbell, who appeared on remand from the previous day.

Campbell now stated that he had no intention of swindling, and intended to pay the money at the first opportunity.

His Worship decided to give accused another chance. Finding him guilty of both charges, he bound him over for 12 months, explaining that if he got into trouble again during the year he would have to come up for sentence for this as well as any further trouble. His Worship expressed regret that, owing to there being no probation officers in Shanghai, he could not apply the Probation of Offenders' Act. The question had been mooted in connexion with previous cases of a similar nature, but nothing had eventuated.

Mr. E. T. Maitland, Police Prosecutor, suggested that Campbell might be directed to report himself once a month to the Police.

The Magistrate declined to make any such order, saying it would be precisely contrary to the intention of the Probation of Offenders' Act, which was to keep first offenders away from the court and the police.

INDIAN PROPAGANDA CHARGE

A Presentation to Mr. Beatty Called into Account by Indian Newspaper

A crowd of Indians gathered at H. M. Police Court on Tuesday to hear proceedings against four of their number alleged to have engaged in propaganda against Jemadar Budda Singh. The accused, Harbaksh Singh, Sandar Dass, Kapur Singh and Abond Suntra, were charged, under article 83 of the Order in Council, with "certain acts and conduct likely to produce or incite a breach of the public peace." They appeared on remand, and when Harbaksh Singh, the only one of the four not granted bail, came along in charge of a warder, he was hailed by the crowd and a garland of flowers thrust over his head and shoulders. The court was packed with friends of the accused, and as most of them carried formidable sticks, these were discreetly taken from their possession for the time being.

At the first hearing on Friday last, it was stated that Harbaksh Singh was the editor of a newspaper called the *"Hindu Jagauta,"* said to be published by the Hindustani Association, with offices in Rue du Consulat, where the other three defendants were found when Det.-Inspector Yorke visited the place and saw copies of the paper being turned out on a Roneo machine.

THE GURDWARA FUNDS.

Mr. E. T. Maitland, Police Prosecutor, now called a Sikh constable to prove translations of three issues of the paper. One of the articles translated was headed: "One who seeks the blood of his brethren for his own personal benefit," the writer stating:

"When Beatty was due to leave Shanghai for England all the police assembled and gave him a parting present. The Sirdar Sahib (Budda Singh) advised, proposed the resolution, and got it approved. When the presentation was made at Central Police Station Beatty met them with a smile. Putting the present to his eyes he said: 'You have presented me with a very good pair of binoculars to watch the Baba Akalis who have put to death the loyal and faithful servants (flatterers) of the Government. What answer the flatterers (Sirdar Singh and others) gave, you can guess for yourselves . . . Why should this traitor (Sirdar Singh) spend the Gurdwara funds on presents? It is not clear where the money came from, but we are tolerably certain the present was paid for from Gurdwara Committee funds. It is not the first time that Sirdar Singh has given presents from the funds of the Gurdwara with a view to making friends with the English. Outwardly he seems to love his people, but inwardly he is against them and on the side of the Government."

"MILK TO A SNAKE."

In another paragraph the Jemadar was described as a "traitor and nation killer," and it was said that "to love him is like giving milk to a poisonous snake."

Harbaksh Singh, who at the first hearing professed indifference and said he had no defence to make, now carefully read the translations and declared they were incorrect. He asked for an adjournment in order to obtain legal assistance.

Captain Barrett gave evidence that Sirdar Singh was the senior native officer of the Sikh Police. There was no truth in the statements made against him.

His Worship—What character would you give him?

Captain Barrett—As good a character as you could possibly give any man in his position.

Captain Barrett went on to say that, from 20 years' experience among the Sikhs, he thought the statements made by accused were certainly likely to cause dissension and disturbance among the Sikhs. About six weeks ago Abond Suntra went to witness and said he had information to give with regard to publication of a certain newspaper of which he did not approve, and that serious events might follow unless steps were taken to prevent its publication. After his arrest last week, Suntra again expressed a wish to see witness, and having been cautioned in the usual way, he made a statement and said that Harbaksh Singh was writing and publishing the paper.

Harbaksh Singh now stated that he had changed his mind with regard to defence, and wished for a remand in order to consult a lawyer.

He was remanded in custody until Friday, the other three accused being allowed bail as before.

There was a demonstration by the assembled Sikhs at the conclusion of the proceedings. Close upon 150 of them gathered outside the court and, as Harbaksh Singh left in the company of a warder *en route* for Amoy Road Gaol, they raised a great cheer, another attempt being made to sprinkle the accused with rose-water (as was done when he entered the court). The Sikhs then formed into some sort of marching order and went in a body to the Public Garden, where a short ceremony, the significance of which was best known to themselves, was gone through. Coppers were thrown into the air, to the accompaniment of a chant in which all joined. The proceedings were quite orderly, and the crowd dispersed quietly after having thus paid tribute to the chief actor in the day's performance.

WEST INDIAN'S STRANGE CONDUCT

Sequel in Police Court

A West Indian named A. E. Bolden appeared before Mr. G. W. King on Wednesday charged with assaulting Wang Mu chu an official messenger at the British Consulate.

Det.-Sub.-Inspector Hunter, who arrested the accused on a warrant, said Bolden explained that Wang, instead of directing him straight to the Wayport Rooms, kept running him round the town, and he therefore struck him.

Defendant—This man had my overcoat and a ricsha coolie some of my clothes and they were running ahead of me in the wrong direction, as I found on asking an Englishmen. I didn't know where they were going, and of course you can't trust these people.

His Worship—Was that why you hit complainant?

Defendant—No. I hit him because he shaped up at me.

His Worship—Does he look like a man of that sort?

Defendant—I know these people, sir. You can't trust a Chinaman. They had my clothes. The coolie was running ahead like a racehorse and the other man not far behind him. I am sorry I hit him, but I couldn't help it.

Mr. J. C. Hutchison, acting British Vice-Consul, stated that defendant had been a member of the crew of the str. Eastway, the master of which had reported that he was mentally affected. After going through the ship's log, witness was not satisfied as to this and had defendant medically examined, but Dr. Friedlander's certificate made no reference to his mental condition. While in hospital defendant struck one of the sisters. During an interview, Bolden told a coherent story, but was strange in his manner, and wept. He was signed off by mutual consent. The master explained that the rest of the crew had threatened they would not sail if Bolden was taken on the homeward journey, and he was so anxious not to have the man that he had paid all expenses of his maintenance and repatriation and full wages up to the time of his arrival in England.

Defendant went into a long story of an attack made upon him on the ship, stating that he had been knocked on the head with a hammer by a man who owed him some money.

His Worship—He paid the debt with a hammer?

Witness—Yes, knocked me unconscious. If I had seen the hammer coming you would have had me here on a charge of murder.

Defendant was remanded in custody for further examination as to his mental condition.

DELIBERATE TRAFFIC OBSTRUCTION

Unusual Case in Police Court Dismissed for Lack of a By-Law

Dismissal of an offender because the offence had deliberately been committed was the curious result of a case at H.M. Police Court on Thursday, when Mr. G. H. Willder was summoned by the French police for having obstructed traffic on the French Bund by placing his car across the tram lines and allowing it to remain there for seven minutes.

P. C. Pantrazi gave evidence that shortly after 9 o'clock on the night of the 6th instant he saw defendant's car standing across the tram lines opposite the Messageries Maritimes offices, defendant himself standing in the road and holding an altercation with the conductor of the tram car. He wanted to hit the conductor, but witness prevented him, and ordered him to move his car away, which he did.

WHEN THE MOTOR MAN SWORE.

Defendant explained that as he was drawing his car out from the pavement to take it to the garage the tram car came along and the motor man swore at him, twice. Having stopped at the end of Rue du Consulat, the tram car was about to proceed again when witness called out "man man." The driver started the tram car, however, and in order to prevent him going forward, witness turned his car on to the rails.

His Worship—You were taking a risk, weren't you?

Defendant—A little, but the tram car had scarcely moved when I did it. I held him up because I could not see his number in the dark.

Upon looking at the traffic regulation on which the summons was based, his Worship observed that it referred to any obstruction "caused by negligence," and pointed out to the French Inspector in charge of the case that this offence had been deliberately committed.

DEFENDANT NOT NEGLIGENT.

The Inspector—Yes. But there was an obstruction of traffic.

The Magistrate—Quite so. But your by-law says "by their negligence." You cannot say defendant in this case was "negligent." He was deliberate, not negligent. I think he was wrong, and if he had got his car damaged he would only have himself to blame.

Defendant — Yes, I understand that. Naturally, I would not have done it had the tram car been going at any speed.

His Worship—I cannot say the defendant has been negligent. Is there any other by-law which would cover this case?

The Inspector—This article, No. 6, is the only one we can apply.

His Worship—Are you quite certain there is no other article than Article 6, which says drivers of vehicles must avoid obstruction of traffic "by their negligence."

The Inspector—I did not understand the circumstances of the case when the report was made.

His Worship—Well, I am bound to follow the law, and however wrong defendant was, he has not brought himself within this regulation. I shall have to dismiss the case legally, but I must say defendant was in the wrong, and if the Police Inspector could have given me any other regulation under which I could enter a conviction I should do so.

The case was then dismissed.

LAW REPORTS

CREST HOTEL MANAGER'S CLAIM

Judgment in Supreme Court Action for Wrongful Dismissal: Responsibility for a Wife's Conduct on Part of an Employee: Plaintiff Loses

Giving judgment in the case of Lloyd E. Brown *v.* Frank H. [illegible] Hotel, his Honour Judge Grain on Wednesday found for the defendant, dismissing plaintiff's claim for damages for wrongful dismissal from the post of manager on the ground that his duties had not been properly performed and that his conduct had been prejudicial to the business.

Mr. Tycho Wing appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Reader Harris for defendant.

His Lordship said: In this case the plaintiff L. E. Brown claims damages for wrongful dismissal from the post of manager to F. H. Hyde, proprietor of the Crest Hotel in the Siccawei Road. An agreement was entered into by the parties on April 9, 1923, but the plaintiff and his wife had already entered into defendant's employ from February 1. The agreement was for six months from April 9, the plaintiff to receive $500 a month, with room and board for his wife and himself. Although not in the agreement, the wife of plaintiff also received for about two months $150 per month for acting as cashier and for the whole time she was at the Crest Hotel she received $50 a month for checking the laundry.

It is alleged by the plaintiff that on June 23, 1923, the defendant Hyde wrongfully dismissed the plaintiff, who now claims damages.

ALLEGED DISOBEDIENCE AND NEGLECT.

The defendant Hyde pleads that he was entitled to dismiss his manager on the grounds of misconduct in that he wilfully disobeyed his master's orders; that he neglected his work, was insulting, insubordinate, abusive and disorderly. The defendant also pleaded certain definite instances of misconduct, namely, that on April 20, 1923, Brown the plaintiff struck his wife, Mrs. Brown, while they were on the premises of the Crest Hotel, rendering her unconscious so she had to be carried to bed. That on June 13, 1923, he left the Crest Hotel when he ought to have been attending to his duties. That on June 15, the plaintiff returned late for his duties and went to his room instead of attending to his duties. That on June 17, 1923, the plaintiff was abusive towards him and wanted to fight him. That on that date Mrs. Brown the plaintiff's wife, who had been locked into her room by her husband, climbed out of the window by the sheet and counterpane. That she was abusive, drunk, and caused a disturbance at 11 o'clock at night and threw stones at a lady who is now the defendant's wife.

It has been urged on behalf of the plaintiff that he cannot be made responsible for his wife's behaviour and that whatever his wife may have done, it was no reason for his, the plaintiff's, dismissal.

FEW GUIDES TO A DECISION.

[illegible] cases to guide the Court in cases of wrongful dismissal, as to what constitutes sufficient misconduct to [illegible] servant, the reason [illegible] particular facts and [illegible] Lord Esher in [illegible] 17 Q.B.D. 788, in discussing the question of the duties of a servant says that one of the principles is "that the servant shall be in a position to perform his duty duly." He goes on to say: "What circumstances will put a servant into the position of not being able to perform in a due manner his duties or of not being able to perform his duty in a faithful manner it is impossible to enumerate. . . Innumerable circumstances have actually occurred which fall within that proposition and innumerable other circumstances which never have yet occurred will occur, which also will fall within that proposition."

PLAINTIFF'S WIFE INCLUDED.

It must be remembered in the present case that not only did the agreement deal with the plaintiff himself, but it included lodging and board for the plaintiff's wife, and consequently the wife does become a factor with regard to the circumstances in which the plaintiff is placed for duly and faithfully performing his duties. Besides the board and lodging, although not stated in the agreement the wife was receiving remuneration for doing the checking of the laundry.

In these cases it is not always one act alone that one has to consider, but the general tenor of the conduct of the servant while in his master's employment. Shortly after the agreement was entered into between the parties, there was a proposal that the plaintiff should purchase half the business and a price was agreed, and the plaintiff deposited $100 which was to be forfeited if the plaintiff did not take up the agreement to pay the purchase price. It appears that when the time arrived the plaintiff could not find the money for the purchase. He asked for 10 days' grace, which was granted, but in the end could not raise the money and the $100 was forfeited. This no doubt did cause some ill feeling, certainly on the part of the plaintiff and his wife, as they had lost their $100, but I see no reason why it should have done so as regards the defendant who one might assume would be grateful for receiving $100 for nothing.

A DISTURBING INFLUENCE.

Another disturbing influence seems to have been a certain Russian lady who became a member of defendant's household and has now become his wife. There is no doubt that Mrs. Brown and the Russian lady were not in accord, and some of the unpleasantness between the parties in this case seems to have arisen from the dislike of the two ladies for each other. And it may be, that with the feminine element absent, the plaintiff and defendant might have carried on satisfactorily to the end of the agreement.

The first serious incident that arose between the parties was on April 20, 1923, which arose out of what the plaintiff calls an "unpleasantness between Mrs. Brown and the Russian lady." They, the plaintiff says, "had an argument" his wife and the Russian lady, and Brown told his wife to go upstairs.

PREFERRED BRANDY.

She apparently was reluctant to obey and preferred having a glass of brandy in the bar and was wanting to have another one, but her husband considered one was enough for her and so forced her out of the bar, which not unnaturally caused Mrs. Brown to remonstrate. The defendant states that they became abusive to each other, and Mr. Brown admits that Mrs. Brown slapped him in the face which caused Mr. Brown to strike her [illegible] mouth to bleed and knocking her down. She was then either carried or supported up to her room and ice was applied to her wounded mouth to stop the bleeding. It is suggested that Hyde overlooked this incident and when Mrs. Brown said she was going [illegible] requested her to stay. That may be so, but a master is entitled to review questions of misconduct, when further acts of misconduct arise and place them all before the Court as a general statement of the reasons for dismissing a servant. The defendant further alleges that there were several other minor occasions in which he considered that the plaintiff was not properly discharging his duties and attending to his master's business.

OVER AT DEL MONTE.

He says that once or twice he had to send over to the Del Monte Hotel for Brown during business hours and Brown admits that Hyde on one occasion sent the boy to fetch him. On another occasion Hyde alleges that Brown and his wife came in late and went to their room and he had to send the boy up to fetch him down to attend to customers. Brown says he was only up in his room changing into evening dress and was only absent a few minutes. Hyde further complains that Mr. and Mrs. Brown came in late one evening and wanted a hot dinner about 10.45 p.m. There does appear to have been a disturbance of some sort. The native boys state that Mr. and Mrs. Brown started quarrelling about the question of a hot dinner and then Brown went down and was abusive to Hyde and wanted to to fight him. There was another occasion on which there was a disagreement about who should pay for the Browns' washing. The Browns apparently refused to pay for their washing and Hyde sent up a note to the effect: "Do I understand the messages the boy brings me that you refuse to pay for your and your wife's private washing?" Brown apparently, if one may use the term, tries to "bluff" Hyde by replying "What did you put in your contract." As a matter of fact, the contract which was in Brown's possession contains nothing about payment for private washing.

OUT OF THE BEDROOM WINDOWS.

The culminating disturbance arose on June 17, 1923. This was the same evening as a dispute about a hot dinner. On that night it appears that Mrs. Brown was intoxicated. She and her husband deny it, but Hyde and the French police officer who were called in say she was drunk. And her conduct later certainly supports the views of Hyde and the police. In any event according to Mr. Brown and one of the Chinese house boys, Brown locked his wife in her bedroom—this was after 11 p.m. Suddenly there was a pandemonium in the garden and it was discovered that Mrs. Brown had climbed out of her bedroom window, by tying the sheets and counterpane together and landed in the garden. Mrs. Brown talking very loud, making much noise, Brown trying to quiet her, then Mrs. Brown throwing stones at the Russian lady.

Hyde goes for the police and the French police officer says that he found Brown very excited, Mrs. Brown drunk and "making much noise and throwing stones." The police officer apparently managed to persuade Mrs. Brown to come away from the premises into Avenue Haig and they both, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, left in ricshas. The police officer warned Hyde that if there was any more trouble he stood a chance of losing his licence. The defendant also pleaded that on June 17, the plaintiff asked to be paid off and that the defendant understood that the plaintiff after his wife's escapade desired to terminate the agreement and leave his service.

Brown states that all he intended to imply was that he should leave and be paid in full under the contract and that all he said was that he wanted the contract "straightened up." Mrs. Brown says "I wanted to leave altogether." The French police officer says, "Brown claimed some wages." Hyde said. "You must finish your work first."

ASKING TO BE PAID OFF.

Hyde says that Brown that night twice asked to be paid off and leave, but Hyde had replied that he would do it before the American Consul, and corroborates his statement by a note he made at the time, and a chit he gave that night telling Brown to "stand off work that night" and a chit he sent the next morning to Brown to the effect "To-day being a holiday I am sorry to say nothing could be done to-day so please do not work but stand off till I can get advice," etc., etc.

Hyde also states that some time after Brown had left, the two men met one evening at Maxims and that Brown had said he was not going to do anything about the matter and had "taken his papers away from Holcombe" and that they had shaken hands. Brown admits that he did meet Hyde at Maxims and did shake hands with him and was quite friendly towards Hyde, but that he was not sober at the time.

One of the house boys says that Brown said before his wife climbed out of the window, "If you won't allow me a hot dinner, pay my wages and let me go away" and that Hyde had replied "If I want to pay you your money I will pay it at the Consulate." Another house boy says that Brown was very angry and said "Pay my wages" and that Hyde had replied "I will pay them at the proper place." On these facts there does seem to be some reason for Hyde coming to the conclusion that Brown himself was terminating the agreement on the basis of payment of wages up to date and departure from the premises.

A MAN'S TERMS WITH HIS WIFE.

The main point that I have to consider is whether the conduct of the plaintiff taken generally was such as to prejudice his master's business? Were the circumstances in which he was placed such that he was not in a position properly and satisfactorily to perform his duties as a manager under the agreement. No doubt in many cases a man cannot be held responsible for the conduct of his wife, but on the other hand if a man is on such terms with his wife that he knocks her down, locks her in her room, quarrels with his wife, etc., causing her to climb out of bedroom windows at night surely he has placed himself in such a position that he cannot duly and faithfully perform his duties as a manager of an hotel and that therefore his master is entitled to say that he has a right to dismiss him.

It must also be remembered that the wife also comes under the agreement as under it the defendant has not only to provide board and lodging for the plaintiff but also for the wife. Taking all the circumstances into consideration I am of opinion that the defendant had good cause to dismiss the plaintiff on the grounds of his conduct. It may be that it was the wife who was partly the cause of it, but nevertheless the result was that his conduct was such as to cause prejudice to his master's business and that he did not duly and properly perform his duties as a manager of his master's hotel.

Therefore my judgment must be for the defendant with costs.

A WIFE'S MAINTENANCE

Judgment for Arrears

Before his Honour Judge Grain in H.M. Supreme Court on Wednesday, H. A. Thompson was sued by his wife, Marie Thompson, and K. A. Neuborg, for $440 arrears of maintenance under a separation agreement dated July, 1921, under which agreement Mr. Neuborg acted as trustee.

Mr. K. E. Newman, for plaintiff, said the agreement was that defendant should pay his wife half his earnings when in employment. He had recently been employed by Sir Robert Ho-tung, earning $280 in October, $300 in November and $300 in December, half of these sums making up the present claim.

Defendant stated that in view of steps he was taking in another matter he had been advised to consent to judgment. He was, however, unable to pay and wished to make some arrangement for paying something towards the maintenance of the children pending the conclusion of the other matter, which would take some few months.

His Honour gave judgment for the amount claimed, with costs, and told defendant he must make what terms he could with plaintiff with regard to payment.

A NEW BARRISTER FOR SHANGHAI

Son of Sir Charles Addis

Mr. Thomas Addis, son of Sir Charles Addis, was on May [illegible] admitted to practice in H.M. Supreme Court, on application to his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner.

Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate, in making the application, stated that after serving in the war, Mr. Addis went to Oxford and got his degree, with honours in History, and was called to the bar at the Temple on June 13, 1923, and he had come here to join the firm of White-Cooper, Master & Harris. Counsel had satisfied himself that Mr. Addis was a British subject, though it was hardly credible he had arrived here without a passport at [illegible] Affidavits had been filed [illegible] the identity of Mr. Addis.

His Lordship observed that in future all applications must contain a statement of nationality. Of course in this case it did not matter so much, Mr. Addis's name being so well-known in China, but the point would have to be borne in mind in future. He had much pleasure in admitting Mr. Addis to practice in the Court.

CROWDING UPON A TRAMCAR

Foreign Tram Inspector's Efforts to Stop it Results in Assault Charge

A case arising out of overcrowding on the trams was heard by Mr. G. W. King on Monday, when Mr. P. Cassidy, second assistant Traffic Superintendent of the Shanghai Tramway Co., was summoned for an assault upon a Chinese named Loh Yik-ts.

Mr. P. W. Goldring appeared for complainant and Mr. H. Lipson Ward for defendant.

In outlining the case, Mr. Goldring stated that at about 8.45 o'clock on the morning of the 5th instant, complainant, who was the Chinese insurance manager for Messrs. Scott, Harding & Co., boarded a car at Mohawk Road on his way to the office. He had one foot on the step of the car and was holding on with his left hand when defendant got hold of him and endeavoured to pull him off. At that moment the car started, and complainant had no option but to get on the platform, and he was followed by defendant who, in spite of the fact that the car was now gathering speed, tried to push him off, then striking him a blow on the neck or chin. Between Mohawk Road and Park Road complainant, who spoke excellent English, told defendant that if he would stop the car he would get off, and accordingly defendant rang the bell twice, but the car did not stop until Park Road was reached. Immediately then, defendant got hold of complainant by the collar and hustled him along to Loongfei Gate, where he gave him into the custody of a Sikh police constable.

WAS THE CAR CROWDED?

Complainant gave evidence bearing out counsel's statement. He said that three times he asked defendant to stop the car in order that he might alight. He struck witness on the jaw with his fist. He did not ask for witness's address before taking him to the police station. At the station witness was charged with an offence against the by-law and paid $1 bail, thinking this was a fine and accordingly not turning up at the Mixed Court next morning.

In answer to Mr. Ward, witness said he was aware there was a traffic regulation forbidding people to ride on the footboard of a tram car. There was plenty of room in this particular car.

A newspaper seller who witnessed the incident stated that the defendant first tried to pull complainant off the car and then struck him.

This witness stated in answer to Mr. Ward that the car was crowded, and there were people

cleaner, who had knowledge of the robbery. On Monday night a further robbery of cargo took place. Three men were arrested, one having been caught in the act of theft by the police watchman. One of them was a cargo coolie.

The robberies which occurred on Monday were dealt with first.

A police watchman, stated that on January 7 at about 9 o'clock he was stationed at the fourth hold on the Kashgar when one of the three accused men came aboard. Witness asked one of them what he had come for and the accused replied that he was a coolie. When asked to produce his certificate the coolie refused to do so, making some excuse. At 4 a.m. after he had taken tea, he saw the first two accused in the fourth hold. Three men came to the ladder leading to the back of the ship and he found a piece of cloth on the first accused. He reported the matter to the third officer who arrested the man. The other two disappeared. At about 6 o'clock the second accused appeared bringing some food for the first. Witness caught hold of him and asked him if he knew the first accused to which he answered "No," stating that he had been told to bring the food by the third accused. Later the third accused made his appearance and all were placed under arrest.

A coolie employed at Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co's wharf, stated that he met Yang Yen-ling in a shop. The latter had some cloth and he (Tsang) asked him where he had obtained it. Yang replied that he got it from a P. & O. ship, and when he said he would like some too, Yang told him to go first and he he would meet him on the ship They got some cloth from one of the holds—he did not know which. He concealed the cloth on his body and got out of the hold. He was then arrested, but Yang got off for the time being.

Under examination, prisoner admitted that he knew Yang and had been associated with him in business. Regarding the third prisoner, the latter went home at 8 o'clock to sleep and did not go with them to get cloth.

Dep.-Supt. W. C. Woodfield at this point stated that, respecting the third accused, Tsang adhered to the statement he had already made. The night watchman, however, was very positive on the point that he had seen the third accused.

A Chinese detective then gave evidence respecting the Sunday night robbery, according to which it appeared that 10 men between 6 and 7 o'clock went on board the Kashgar, concealed themselves till night, forced open some cases and opened some doors at the side of the ship. On Monday Dzien, employed as boiler foreman, went to a tea-house where he met three men and asked for money from them for the things they had done. He was told not to be in a hurry as they would sell the things and give him the money.

Mr. Mansel Reece applied for a remand in order to get the evidence of the officer on the Kashgar, which was granted until the 25th instant.

SHIP'S OFFICER'S CLAIM FOR DAMAGES

Marine Superintendent's Evidence

Further evidence was heard by Mr. Ivanof (Senior Consul's Assessor) and Magistrate Tsang at the Mixed Court on Wednesday in the claim of A. M. Vinogradoff, former second officer of the China Merchants' S. N. Co.'s str. Hsinming, against his former employers in connexion with a fall sustained by him from a wooden ladder alleged to have been for use on board the steamer on January 2, 1923.

Mr. P. F. Faison and Dr. A. Fishman appeared or plaintiff; Mr. H. Lipson Ward for the defence.

The No. 2 bosun, called for plaintiff, denied having made a statement to Capt. Kirby, of the China Coast Officers' Guild, when that gentlemen made an inspection in September; neither had he asked him how long the ladder had been on the ship that "all time have got."

Captain Kirby stated that the previous witness had made this remark to him in reply to his question.

Captain MacKinnon, who said he had been Marine Superintendent of the defendant company for three years, stated, in reply to questions, that he had seen 40 years' service, 32 having been spent in the company's service. He had worked his way up from the bottom. Under maritime law, all accidents to seamen had to be entered in the ship's log. All ships had to be inspected prior to the time of their annual overhaul and every ship was inspected by him at this time. He had been on board the Hsinming many times while it was in port to make inspections when he received reports from the officers. He had inspected the Hsinming on December 27, 1922, seven days before the accident for the purpose of seeing what repairs were required at the Kiangnan Dock, whither she was being sent. It was his duty as Marine Superintendent to see that the ship was in a safe condition, but it was also the similar duty of the ship's officers. The chief officer had told him, stated witness, that plaintiff had reported to him that he had had a fall in the afterhold. There had been no investigation respecting the circumstances attending the accident by him or the chief officer, because plaintiff had told the chief officer how the accident happened. Questioned as to whether he knew plaintiff would die or not, witness said "Of course not."

WOULD NOT DIE.

Continuing, Capt. MacKinnon said that when the Court had made the inspection of the hatches, he had the ladder tied with ropes so that the Court would not break their necks, as untied ladders were unsafe.

Asked whether he warned the Court not to use the ladder because it was unsafe, witness said that the Court used it at their own discretion.

Mr. Ward reserved cross-examination, and mentioned that he was going to make an application for a dismissal of the case on behalf of the defendant company on the ground that the evidence submitted by plaintiff showed no case for them to answer. He thought that this would save everybody's time.

Dr. Fishman said that he would oppose the motion because it was against the rules of the Mixed Court, although it was the practice in the British Courts of Chancery, and would place plaintiff at a decided disadvantage.

The Assessor stated that the Court would hear the application and then decide.

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A BROKEN CONTRACT

Belgian Trading Co. v. Neuss Hesslein & Co.: Judgment for Plaintiff

In the U. S. Court on Saturday judgment was given as follows by Judge Lobingier in favour of the Belgian Trading Company which sought to recover damages from Messrs. Neuss, Hesslein & Co. for failure to accept a quantity of goods under contract:

This is an action to recover damages for the failure to accept delivery of a quantity of goods under a contract resulting from negotiations between plaintiff and defendant, culminating in a verbal offer by the former accepted by the latter in a letter reading in part as follows:

We confirm our conversation of yesterday with your goodselves and beg to state, as you are already aware, we have bought from you as per our letters of January 16th and 25th respectively 75 tons Albumen, free of zinc at gold $1.22 per lb. net C. I. F. New York guaranteed not to contain more than 20 per cent. siftings shipment per steamer April to July 1920, 100 tons Spray Polk powder, quality as per your last shipments to N. Y. at gold 54 cents per lb. net C. I. F. New York, shipments per steamer April to June." (Ex. E. attached to petition as Ex. A.)

Stress is laid on the phrase used in defendant's cable of January 27, 1920, instructing its manager Hough to "make firm offer" and it is argued that this Ex E (A) was the "firm offer." But plaintiff's undisputed testimony makes it clear that negotiations following the cables to consist, resulted in a verbal agreement which was embodied and confirmed. We see no possible sense in which Ex. E (A) may be treated as an offer. It recites an acceptance, not an offer. Ex E (A) is signed by "W. P. Hough, Representing Neuss, Hesslein & Co." which is exactly the same phrase appearing on the sandboard of defendants' office in Shanghai. Hough is listed as "branch manager" at Shanghai in defendant's publication "Nehesco News" which is by it "distributed throughout the world." Moreover it appears that the letter was written in strict pursuance of a cablegram received by Hough from defendant on or about January 27, 1920. Much is sought to be made of Hough's alleged want of written authority. Apparently defendant contemplated giving him a power of attorney about the time when the contract was made, for about a week later it cabled "W. P. Hough must have power of attorney in order to act with regard to—until the end of the year." But of course neither written, nor other actual, authority was required. Hough's ostensible authority as branch manager, was ample.

Moreover all that Hough did in this connection was fully ratified by defendant. Thus on February 10, 1920, defendant cabled that credit has been telegraphed Asia Banking Corporation" thus carrying out one phase of the contract and instructed Hough to "increase April-June shipment to 60 tons." By February 28, which was one month after the contract was made, influenced evidently by the declining market, defendant cabled "we advise request Belgian Trading Company cancel." Cancel what? Clearly the contract which is this fully recognized by defendant. In what appears to be a reply to the foregoing from Hough, he says "Belgian Trading Co. have settled exchange on New York and have made advances to manufacturers in accordance with considering the circumstances cannot cancel." From then on Hough continues to write plaintiff regarding "the depressed state of the home market" and in the last named he embodies a cable from defendant reading:

"Find out what possibility is there of cancelling exchange contract how much penalty is likely to be demanded what is the estimated loss after deducting the proceeds of any telegraph the best that can be done are trying to make an arrangement for the following reason market remains very depressed."

This was on May 5, 1920 and it was not until more than three weeks later, and after failure to obtain the desired cancellation, that defendant finally cabled "Reject the entire transaction." Surely defendant is estopped to urge that it had a contract with plaintiff! Surely also it would be contrary to the evidence to find cancellation as requested by defendant.

THE SALE CONFIRMED.

On the day following the receipt of Ex E., plaintiff wrote defendant confirming the sale of goods to the firm on the understanding that "you shall have confirmed credit in our favour for the amount of goods purchased, for 90 days draft."

Much is sought to be made in defendant's various briefs, and in its request for special findings of the alleged discrepancies between this letter and Ex. E. We do not see that they are material so far as the terms of the contract are concrned, though there are differences in phraseology, and some passages in the second letter which do not affect the contract.

But even were it true that plaintiff's letter contains terms not found in defendant's it would not affect the rights of these parties. For, as we have seen, Ex. E. constituted an acceptance and acceptance turned defendant's offer into a contract. Thereafter, new terms could only have been imposed by joint consent — novation — and any attempt by plaintiff alone to do so would have been ineffective.

Nor is it material that plaintiff may have regarded his letter as also an acceptance and as part of the contract. The legal effect of his letter is to be determined not by what he thought but by the law which treats a contract as complete upon one acceptance and requires nothing more. Accordingly no legal significance attaches to plaintiff's closing remark in his letter, "we shall send you our contracts on Monday." It is admitted in defendant's brief that no contracts were sent. Plaintiff apparently refers to sales notes which were sent and afforded ample notice to defendant of the contract. But even had he supposed that further "contracts" were necessary it would not have altered that already made.

But it is quite wide of the mark to claim that the situation as outlined above results in a variance between pleading and proof. A contract once made needs no confirmation and while it is not invalidated by such an act, neither is it strengthened. The petition then proceeds to allege the modification just discussed.

The section relied upon by defendant requires merely "some note or memorandum" expressing the consideration "subscribed by the party to be charged or by his lawfully authorized agent." Clearly Ex. E. (A) meets the requirement.

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL FINDINGS.

Defendant has filed a "request for special findings" which is characterized by plaintiff's counsel as "not so much a request for specific findings of fact as it is a request for the Court to find conclusions of fact in negative form." It is rather a request to find that plaintiff's averments are not proved and that defendant's theories are, than a request to find what the evidence discloses. In at least one important particular the request fails to comply with the rules promulgated by our predecessor, Judge Thayer, which are still is force and which contain the following:

"Subjoined to each proposition must be references to the page of the record, if printed or typewritten, or if not printed or typewritten reference to the witness or particular evidence, relied on in its support." Italics are ours.

The necessity of such compliance is especially marked here because certain of defendant's requests (e. g. 4) involve, as plaintiff's counsel point out, "the whole testimony in the case." Having failed to comply with the rule defendant is not entitled, as a matter of right, to any of the special findings requested.

We are asked to find: "That the evidence does not sufficiently and satisfactorily establish" the first two paragraphs of the petition, relating to plaintiff's capacity to sue." Plaintiff testified on March 29, 1923, to requirements relating to the business and ownership.

He also produced a document whose signatures he identified, reciting a transfer by the former proprietors to himself. It is in French but plaintiff stated the substance of it and we accepted it, especially as defendant offers no contrary evidence and in fact avers that it "has not sufficient knowledge to form a belief." The findings requested would be contrary to the evidence.

PLAINTIFFS' STATUS.

Defendant also asks us to find that it was not "carrying on business in Shanghai under its corporate name." Besides its admission "that its salesmen have from time to time maintained an office for the purpose of displaying samples and receiving and forwarding mail and cables in the City of Shanghai, China" its representative, Hueglin, testified that he occupied the same office as his predecessor for defendant, that it kept a telephone there in its name, appeared in the hong (merchants') list, and in pamphlets published by it and "distributed throughout the world" it advertised a Shanghai branch with a manager. Letters emanating from this branch and signed by the advertised manager, treat of local purchases, prices, shipments, insurance, etc., and in one of them the said manager thanks plaintiff for his "kind co-operation *in the handling of this business.*"

But this court's jurisdiction over defendant's person does not depend solely upon its maintenance of an office in Shanghai. As pointed out in our order overruling its plea to the jurisdiction, appearing generally and invoking the court's powers on other questions waives any such objection. Since that order was made defendant has continuously so appeared.

We are asked to find "that the evidence does not sufficiently and satisfactorily establish" plaintiff's averment of performance. The answer admits that defendant has neither accepted nor paid for the goods and it is undisputed that it sent plaintiff a cablegram announcing its decision to "reject the entire transaction." Clearly this absolved plaintiff from any further effort at performance.

Similar findings are requested regarding plaintiff's averment of damages. Plaintiff's testimony in support of his statement is not denied and the motion to exclude it is overruled. It shows a total contract price of $332,640. Plaintiff's measure of damages would be the difference between that sum and the market price at the time and place of delivery. But when these goods were due for delivery in New York, the testimony is that there was little or no market. The goods are conceded to have realized $124,460.11 upon sale in New York in 1921 leaving a difference from the purchase price of $208,179.89. In addition to this, plaintiff testified that he expended [illegible] as authorized by the contract:

[illegible]	1764.61
[illegible]	1295.60

THE JUDGMENT.

As the contract was "C. I. F." [illegible] was included and storage charges were made necessary by defendant's delay.

With [illegible] the total is $[illegible]. Plaintiff admits owing defendant "about $40,000" and we do not find that defendant has proved more nor that its Request 10 is supported by the evidence. In fact no evidence produced by defendant has been cited in brief or argument. Plaintiff has filed objections to certain depositions offered by defendant and these objections appear to be well taken and are sustained. The amount of plaintiff's recovery, therefore is $[illegible]. Less $40,000.00, leaving a balance of G. $171,239.49, for which balance together with costs, judgment is accordingly rendered in favour of plaintiff and against defendant, with interest from July 1, 1920, that being the limit for delivery under the contract and any delay having been sought by defendant.

THE CAFE FRACAS

A General Battle: French Police Give Evidence in the U. S. Court

The hearing was resumed by Mr. Lurton at the U. S. Commissioner's Court on Saturday of the charges against Carl Johnson, Ralph Libby and Jay Elmont of assaulting French constables in New Maxim's Café on the morning of the 1st. Three French police officers, N. Du Rocher, N. Pancrazi and M. Delimatski gave evidence as to the alleged assault and the hearing was again adjourned, at the request of the defending lawyer, Mr. F. J. Schuhl.

The first witness stated that he had gone with his family to the café. He was not on active duty, though at all times officers must feel themselves bound to serve for the peace. He was not in uniform. Asked by Mr. Lurton to tell just what happened, witness said that he was holding Johnson, when Libby struck him, whereupon he let go of Johnson. A general battle ensued. "I then saw Mr. Elmont who was wearing ladies' clothes, who struck me. I do not remember anything more. Later on, as I was recovering consciousness, I heard Elmont say, he is a French policeman so I will kick him, which he did."

Mr. Schuhl—You have a gun?—Yes

Mr. Schuhl—Where? In my pocket.

Mr. Schuhl—How did you lose it?—I don't know.

Witness was then directed by the attorney to look round the courtroom to try to identify the man who took the gun from him but he could not. This man, said Mr. Schuhl, took the weapon from witness. Further questions elicited the statement by witness that he did not actually see Libby strike him. He did not remember taking the gun from the holster, though he might have done it unconsciously.

The next witness said Johnson had struck him and that Elmont had twisted his finger and pushed him downstairs.

The Commissioner—You say that Elmont walked to the station. Why did you not take him there?—We were not numerous enough to take them all. He came by himself.

Mr. Schuhl—Did you have your gun?—Yes, I was on duty in uniform.

Mr. Schuhl—Did you draw it?—No.

Mr. Schuhl—Did you see this gentlemen, in the rear of the court-room, who stopped you from drawing it (Another gentlemen who had told the attorney that he had done so)?—No.

Witness then said that Libby was arrested as he was hindering the police and aiding Johnson though he had not seen him strke anyone.

The last of the three officers stated that Johnson also struck him.

The hearing was adjourned until January 22 at the request of Mr. Schuhl who said he wished to subpoena another witness.

Seven alleged robbers were stated by Det.-Sgt. Douglas, at the Mixed Court yesterday, to have visited a general store in Hochien Road armed with sticks. Upon entering, they jumped over the counter and so frightened the only woman occupant that she fainted. Another woman at the back door was struck on the head with an iron bar. The first woman and a boy had been able to identify several of the accused personally, while a search of the home of the sixth man revealed a large club. As [illegible] woman struck was still in hospital the officer applied for a remand which was granted by the Bench until Monday.

AFFAIRS OF STEWART CRANE, INC.

Objections to Payment of Receivership Expenses

At the U.S. Court on Monday, Judge Lobingier heard a motion by Mr. F. A. Bowen, receiver for the Stewart Crane Co., Inc., that payment of the receivership fees and expenses be allowed.

This was objected to by Mr. Chalaire on behalf of the creditors. He stated that the creditors had never been able to secure a full statement of the assets of the company and that the receivership fees had already been objected to.

Mr. Haskell also objected on the same grounds. He added that a shrinkage in assets had never been accounted for, while Mr. Franklin asked for a report of equity in the building operations.

Mr. Schuhl, representing the American Trading Co., said that representatives of that company were shortly leaving Shanghai and that their reports should be obtained before they sailed for America.

The Judge said he felt the delay had been due to a lack of clearness as to the precise accounting desired by the creditors and asked the lawyers representing the different creditors to hold an immediate conference with the receiver who would then use every effort to obtain the information desired.

Luk Hop Co. v. American Express Co.

The case of the Luk Hop Co. v. the American Express Co. came up on a motion to modify judgments. Mr. F. J. Schuhl, for the American Express Co., moved that judgment be modified because judgment had been rendered in favour of his client in the Mixed Court, and cited many instances when similar modifications of judgments had been made.

Mr. H. R. Snyder, for plaintiffs, opposed the motion on the ground that the Mixed Court judgment did not include the entire Luk Hop Co., and that the judgment submitted in evidence was not properly certified. He also cited legal authorities to for plaintiff, moved for judgment could not be properly granted.

The case was submitted, Judge Lobingier instructing Mr. Schuhl to secure certification of the judgment from the Mixed Court.

Abeles v. Cowen

In the case of A. Abeles v. J. L. Cowen, Mr. R. C. Faithfull for plaintiff moved for judgment by default. Mr. F. J. Schuhl was for the defendant.

As defendant's failure to present an answer was alleged to be due to the wording of the plaintiff's petition the Judge gave him till January 15 to amend the petition by interlineation and the defendant until January 25 to answer.

ALLEGED AUDACIOUS CARGO THEFTS

The Str. Kashgar Twice Raided: Five Men Before the Mixed Court

Serious alleged robberies on the P. & O. S. Kashgar were described at the Mixed Court last Friday, when Tsang Loo-yien, Yang Yen-ling, Dzien Sien-pau, Ting Kyu-tsung (*alias* Sian Kyu-tz) and Dzien Zung-san made their appearance in the dock. The evidence revealed the fact that the alleged robberies were the carefully planned work of two gangs.

Mr. C. Mancel Reece prosecuted.

It appears that on Sunday ten men boarded the vessel and broke open some cases of piece goods of considerable value. One of the robbers was arrested by the river police who also arrested Dzien Zung-san, a foreman boiler

r) Mr. Chamberlain said that ough the present reparations in nd were less than before the cupation of the Ruhr, it was s opinion in view of M. Poinre's assurances that no industal arrangement between French d German firms had up to the esent been made and the ritish Government would be ven the fullest chance of exessing their views if an arrangeent were proposed.

The French Debt.

Mr. Frederick George Penny Conservative Member for Kingon-upon-Thames) suggested that rance should be asked for an surance that she meant to nour her debt obligations to ritain and that she and others ould pay us something on acunt until a final adjustment as made.

The House then adjourned until morrow when the Labour endment of no confidence will moved.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 16.

The British Address from the hrone is considered by the Times," the "Morning Post" d the "Daily Telegraph" as a mple *exposé* of policy. The Daily News," emphasizing the iticisms of Mr. Lloyd George d Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, conders that the Labour amendment ms up the failure of the Baldin administration which no nger has the confidence of Parament.—French Wireless.

LABOUR EXPECTANCY OF OFFICE

Further Concessions to Indian Nationalists Forecast by Col. Josiah Wedgwood

London, Jan. 12.

Colonel Josiah Wedgwood, M.P., ho the Cabinet-makers in the iberal papers to-day declare will robably be Secretary of State r India, speaking at a confernce of the University Labour ederation at Toynbee Hall toy, said that the Labour Party which he is Second Vicehairman) would welcome the asmption by the self-governing ominions of further responsibily in foreign as well as domestic fairs.

Labour regarded immigration as invaluable outlet for the Brish people. They were only pposed to the assumption that would solve unemployment. hey did not wish immigration to utilized as a means for supplyg cheap labour to planters and anufacturers in the Colonies.

India would prove the test of e Labour Government. Mems of the Labour Party hoped overcome the difficulty by acelerating the conversion of India to a self-governing dominion. his depended not merely on atters of finance, defence and ternal order but on winning e Indian Nationalists to meet em half-way.

Self-government must be reained in the various Colonies ntil the people were fit for it. he question of developing trade d industries in these countries ust be regulated by knowledge. The aim of the Labour Party as a British Commonwealth of eople of various colours—a free ion of free peoples.—Reuter.

DREAD OF CAPITAL LEVY

Wild Fluctuation of Exchange in London: Everybody Buying Dollars

London, Jan. 14.

On the London Exchange arket to-day there were wild and traordinary movements in the aling currencies. Sterling on ew York dropped to 4.23 due the growing disposition to crease holdings of dollars and llar securities. French francs l to 87.40 which is attributed to rge expansion of French Govnment loans and currency. Saturday's rates were 4.26¾ for sterling on New Rork and 91 for francs.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 14.

The Government is drafting measures to terminate the fall of the franc. Parliamentary support is assured. The Commercial Exchange has decided not to issue quotations at present with a view to preventing disorganisation of the markets.—Reuter.

The Patriotism of Politicians.

London, Jan. 14.

The threat of mining trouble and the possibility of a railway strike are disquieting in Labour quarters but have not altered the decision of the Labour leaders to take office as soon as possible nor caused the Liberal leaders to reconsider their determination to assist in the defeat of the Government.

It is now anticipated that the fateful division will be on Monday owing to the eagerness of Members to participate in the debate.—Reuter.

SAUL AMONG PROPHETS

A "Conchy" Now Labourite and Exceeding Bellicose

London, Jan. 14.

Mr. Scott Duckers, who was a prominent "conscientious objector" in the war, in the course of a speech in London to-day said that the Labour foreign policy was settled. No more money would be voted for Singapore. The policy of the Labour Government would include exaction of the fullest possible reparations from Germany, and the establishment of a powerful Navy, a well-paid and efficient Army and, failing a satisfactory understanding with France, a largely increased Air Force.—Reuter.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE COMPACTS

British Depression Urgently Calling for Ratification

London, Jan. 14.

The Assodiation of British Chambers of Commerce has sent letters to Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Asquith and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald expressing grave concern with regard to any delay in ratification of the economic and financial arrangements made by the Imperial Conference.

The Association believes that the resolutions of the Conference, if carried into effect, will assist the development of the trade of the Empire, and the relief of unemployment at home and therefore hopes that the addressees will assist in the ratification of the arrangements reached at the Conference.—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S HOPE IN THE EMPIRE

Australian Premier's Farewell: What the Dominions May Do for Motherland

London, Jan. 15.

A farewell dinner was given to-night by the Australian Natives' Association in honour of Mr. S. M. Bruce, the Commonwealth Prime Minister. Baron Denman, former Governor-General of Australia, presided.

Mr. Bruce in his speech, which was broadcast to half a million listeners, contended that the peace of the world or reduction of armaments would not be promoted by Britain alone disarming.

The speaker emphasized that the Dominions demanded a voice in the Empire's foreign policy but it was necessary also that the Dominions should shoulder the obligations entailed and contribute to the defence of the Empire. Australia was fully prepared to shoulder both the responsibilities and obligations. He hoped that the other Dominions would recognise a similar obligation. The time had arrived to determine whether we were going to draw closer the links binding the Empire or whether the Empire was gradually to break up into several independent nations. He laid stress on Australia's desire to continue an integral part of the Empire.

A Strong Definite Policy.

Mr. Bruce declared that Britain's grave problems in regard to Europe could only be solved if she undeviatingly and unhesitatingly followed a strong and definite policy. That policy could only succeed if the united Empire were behind it.

Britain might ultimately be obliged tto face the necessity of leaving Europe to her fate and concentrate on the Empire to ensure that at least the Empire should remain sane in a world which appeared to have gone mad.

The Empire was as essential to Britain as Britain was to the Empire. The strength of the Dominions was too often forgotten in Britain. The Australian Prime Minister recalled their achievements in the war which had been largely responsible for the victorious outcome.

The Disarmament Farce.

For one great nation to strip itself of its powers of defence and enforcement of its will was only encouraging other Powers to increase their armaments. We were running straight towards another heavy blunder, like the unreasoning reduction of the Air Force, by the hesitancy we were showing in the establishment of the Singapore base. The 5-5-3 ratio fixed by the Washington Conference was non-existent in the Pacific, where without the Singapore base Britain would not be able effectively to put a single capital-ship. Mr. Bruce declared emphatically that unless a base were built in the Pacific, Britain would have to abdicate her position as a great naval Power in the Pacific. He pointed out that the American, Japanese and British naval authorities held the capital-ship still to be the determining factor in naval war. The speaker contended that the maintenance of world peace depended on the construction of the Singapore base. It would also aid materially in the eventual reduction of armaments throughout the world.

The Economic Agreement.

Dealing with the economic troubles of Britain, the Commonwealth Premier declared that as a result of his recent tour he thought that the people of Britain did not realize the possibilities of the Empire. He laid stress on the necessity to stir their imagination and urged that the resolutions of the Economic Conference should be carried out in their entirety on the ground of practical expediency, good sense and Empire unity. Britain was not bound, but he was unable to believe that any Government of any shade of political opinion would hesitate to enforce them. If Britain did not like tariff preferences Australia would be prepared to discuss any other method of establishing closer Imperial trade relations. It was the duty of any Government coming into power to proceed with the constitution of the permanent economic committee recommended by the Economic Conference and to ensure that the personnel would carry the confidence of the people of Britain and of the empire and such matters should be submitted to it. Its decisions at this critical hour, Mr. Bruce declared, might determine the whole future of the Empire and the destinies of the world. (Applause.)—Reuter.

PARIS, Jan. 13.—the French international tennis player, who was awarded a prize of Frs. 10,000 by the Academie des Sports for crossing the Atlantic in a 10 ton cutter, intends to devote the money to refitting the boat preparatory to a long cruise to the Pacific Islands. He hopes to leave France in April.—Reuter.

THE LOSS OF SUBMARINE L-24

Desperate Efforts to Rescue but Weather Too Bad: Probably Lost in Rising to Discharge Dummy Torpedoes: 43 Men Aboard, 25 Married

London, Jan. 11.

It is officially stated that the L-24 has not yet been definitely located. She sank without leaving a sign and her whereabouts is only known approximately. Mine-sweepers resumed their search at daybreak. It is stated that an object has been touched which may be the submarine, but the weather is dead against the slightest hope of rescuing the crew, assuming that they are still alive. There is half a gale blowing and the rough sea makes it impossible for divers to descend 30 fathoms, about the maximum depth at which divers can work and then only under favourable conditions.

A private Admiralty court of inquiry into the disaster has opened on board H. M. S. Resolution.

It is learned that the difficulty of locating the submarine has been increased by the fact that the shock felt by the Resolution was so slight that it was not realized that a collision had occurred until the conclusion of the exercises when the submarine failed to appear, but the slightness of the impact is the principal reason for hoping that the crew may be alive.

According to one account the disaster occurred during a combined submarine attack on the Atlantic Fleet leaving port. The L-24 carried 14 live mines.

The King has despatched a message to the Admiralty saying that he is shocked and grieved to hear of the disaster and deploring the loss of gallant lives. His Majesty requested conveyance of his heartfelt sympathy with the families of the crew.

It transpires that there was quite a chapter of accidents at Portland, including the collision of two K submarines, smashing in the bows of one ond seriously damaging the other, while the battleship Ramillies struck the breakwater.

How the Accident Occurred.

Later.

The Admiralty states that a wreck believed to be that of the L-24 has been located 10 miles southwest of Portland Bill 30 fathoms deep. Divers and a salvage plant are ready to commence operations as soon as the weather permits.

An official of Portland Harbour interviewed to-day said that the L-24 and the L-25 preceded two battle-squadrons to begin the spring manœuvres. There was a slight fog and considerable choppiness. He believed that the L-24 was rising to discharge dummy torpedoes against a battleship in accordance with the programme when it came up under the keel of the Resolution.

Naval men in Portland are very doubtful as to whether the L-24 can be lifted but think that a mine-sweeper may enchain and work the submarine into shallow water. The L types are comfortable and safe and are supplied with air, oxygen and food for four days if the water-tight compartments are safe, which is doubtful.

One Officer from China.

The sea this afternoon is still too rough for divers to descend to attempt to salve the L-24.

A high naval authority has expressed the opinion that there is not a million to one chance of the safety of the crew of 43, of whom 25 are married.

One of the officers of the L-24 was Lieutenant D. J. Watkinson, who returned from the China Station a few months ago.

The most authoritative explanation of the disaster given up to to present is that the submarine rose close under the bows of the Resolution and dived but had not sufficient time to escape and was rammed.

The crew of the American warship Colorado now in Portsmouth have sent a message of sympathy to the British Navy and the sufferers in the disaster.

All Hope Abandoned.

Later.

It is authoritatively stated that there is no chance whatever of saving the crew of the L-24.

An examination of the Resolution shows that the submarine must have been struck with tremendous force and very badly holed. The L-24 was probably struck high up, which would account for the absence of oil rising to the surface from the tanks, situated at the bottom of the vessel. If this theory is correct the end of the crew was mercifully quick as the salt water pouring on all the batteries would create fast asphyxiating fumes. The opinion is expressed that if the crew lived any time, the sounds of their struggles must have been picked up by the hydrophones of "P" boats which were immediately rushed from Portland.

Divers have been sent out but the weather is so bad that it is extremely doubtful whether they will be able to work. In any case it would only be possible actually to work for an hour during the slack tide.

Later.

The weather and an increased gale ended the attempts to salve the L-24 to-night. No divers, consequently, will be sent down during the night as contemplated.

Jan. 12.

It is hoped that moderation of the heavy seas will enable divers to descend to inspect the wreckage of the L-24 this morning though the prospect of saving lives is very remote. It is estimated that the oxygen necessary for the preservation of life within the submarine will be exhausted about mid-day to-morrow. On the other hand the task of lifting the vessel even under very favourable circumstances will take several days.

Last Chance Gone.

Later.

Heavy seas throughout to-day rendered impossible further operations on the L-24 on which hope of saving life has been definitely abandoned by the Admiralty. It is understood that no attempt will be made to raise the submarine but it is hoped that the divers will report in due course and throw further light on the cause of the disaster.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 15.

The Admiralty announce that the wreck of the submarine L-24 has been definitely located but owing to its position salvage operations are impossible and have been abandoned.—Reuter.

THE SEPARATISTS IN GERMANY

France and Belgium Accused by Berlin of Encouraging the Movement

Berlin, Jan. 14.

The German diplomatic representatives at Paris and Brussels have been instructed to present a note declaring that the Rhineland High Commission has registered the ordinances of the so-called autonomous government in the Bavarian Palatinate and has done everything possible to recoguize the leaders of this treasonable undertaking as a legitimate administration.

The Note, in protesting against this procedure, asks that immediate steps be taken to remedy the state of affairs.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 11.

An encounter between anarchists and communists broke out at a meeting called to protest against the occupation of the Ruhr and the high cost of living. Shots were fired killing two per-

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

BRILLIANT SCENES AT THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The King's Speech: Extensive Programme of Social Legislation and Unemployment Relief

LABOUR AND LIBERALS JOINED TO DESTROY UNIONISTS

London, Jan. 15.

The intense interest in the State opening of this most momentous session of Parliament is shown by the fact that the first Member of the House of Commons arrived at the House at five o'clock this morning and also by the great crowds in Pall Mall and Whitehall who loudly cheered the King and Queen and the Prince of Wales as they drove in procession to Parliament, the King and Queen from Buckingham Palace and the Prince of Wales ffrom York House, in brilliant sunshine.

There was a splendid scene in the House of Lords. The red benches were packed with peeresses richly gowned and glittering with diamonds, and peers, robed in scarlet and ermine. The Labour Members watched the scene from the gallery.

There were the customary demonstrations of unemployed organised by the police.

Unemployed demonstrators on the Embankment with banners and a band were diverted from the vicinity of Parliament and escorted by police to the City temple, where Pastor Dr Norwood welcomed them on behalf of the Brotherhood Movement. In the course of an address, Dr. Norwood asked them "the ghosts of our social sins" and was proceeding with ladies and gentlemen, when a voice in the gallery shouted "Comrades!" "Yes, Comrades!" said Dr. Norwood, who expressed the hope that the meeting would impress the statesmen that unemployment was a national question. The leaders of the unemployed spoke upon resolution, which was adopted calling on the Government to take immediate measures with a view to reducing unemployment.

Foreign Relations.

The King's Speech declared that relations with foreign Powers were friendly and His Majesty was glad to record definite progress in the solution of questions which had hitherto barred the pathway to mutual understanding and retarded the recovery of the world.

A Bill would be introduced to give effect to the Lausanne Treaty. As soon as it had passed, the Treaty would be ratified and a new era of peaceful relations with Turkey would open.

The agreement between Britain and the United States with regard to illicit importation of liquor into the United Stacs was on the eve of conclusion and would strengthen the happy relations between the two countries.

"It will continue to be my object to support by every means in my power the steady growth of the influence of the League of Nations.

"The recent murders on the North West Frontier of India have caused me much concern. I earnestly trust that the criminals will be punished and more satisfactory relations established on the frontier soon."

Imperial Co operation

"The recent Imperial Conferences marked very definite progress in Imperial co-operation. More particularly, it was found possible without departure from the existing fiscal system in this country to meet the wishes of the Dominions by substantial extension of the principle of Imperial preference, established by the Conference in 1917 and enforced since 1919. Proposals to give effect to the conclusions of both Conferences will be submitted to you.

"I welcome the opportunity afforded by the British Empire Exhibition to increase knowledge of the varied resources of the Empire and to stimulate inter-Imperial trade."

The speech expresses very grave concern with regard to unemployment in view of the country's non-acceptance of the recent proposals which, in the judgment of the Ministers, would have materially contributed to the solution of the problem. The House of Commons would be invited to assent to extension and amendment of the trade facilities and export credit schemes, to the proposal of the Imperial Economic Conference for expediting and assisting the execution of certain public enterprises throughout the Empire by the grant of financial aid from public funds and the extension of contributions towards the cost of public utility works undertaken by local authorities or statutory and private corporations.

Grappling with Unemployment.

The House of Commons would be asked to assist in providing work in the shipbuilding industry by the immediate construction of cruisers and auxiliary craft in anticipation of the naval programme. Steps would be taken to develop the existing system of juvenile employment centres and to provide increased facilities for general and technical education.

The Ministers proposed to summon a Conference representing all interested in agriculture and the political parties with the object of arriving at an agreed policy whereby the acreage of arable land might be maintained and, if possible, increased, and at an adequate wage secured for the agricultural worker.

Social Measures.

Bills would be introduced to improve the position of pre-war pensioners. A deal of discouragement to thrift was involved in the present means of limitation to the grant of old-age pensions. The speech announced the Factory Acts, [illegible] for increased activity under the sections of the Housing Act enabling workers to become the owners of their homes, and measures to complete land purchase in North Ireland and to guarantee the principal and interest of the bonds issued by the Government of the Irish Free State under the Land Act recently passed there. The obligation to alleviate the hardship caused by the former disturbances in Ireland is recognized. Proposals will be submitted for the expansion of the Royal Air Force in connexion with Home Defence.

Labour's "No Confidence."

Mr. J.R. Clynes will move the Labour amendment to the Address from the Throne as follows: "It is, however, our duty respectfully to submit to Your Majesty that Your Majesty's present advisers do not have the confidence of this House." The date of the moving of the amendment has not been fixed.

IN THE COMMONS

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's Plea for a New Policy

The House of Commons was crowded to-day.

Mr. Asquith, who has recovered from his chill, sat next to Mr. Ramsay Macdonald on the front Opposition bench.

The proceedings opened breezily. The Labourites, supported by the Liberals, opposed Mr Baldwin's motionn to appoint the Conservatives, Mr. James Hope and Captain E. A. Fitzroy, Deputy Speaker and Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means respectively.

Mr. Macdonald said that it was impossible to pass the motion without a division, which would be regrettable as there would be difficulties enough otherwise for this Parliament. He suggested that during the debate on the Address these posts should not be filled but that the Speaker should adjourn lightly for dinner.

Colonel John Ward (Independent Labour) protested that party arrangements behind the scenes were responsible for Mr. Macdonald's attitude.

Mr Jack Jones shouted amid laughter that he objected to the spoils going to the victors.

Mr. Baldwin withdrew the motion pending the result of the debate on the Address.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald announced that the proposals of the Imperial Conference would be submitted to free vote of the House.

Mr Reginald Mcleod Banks, moving the Address, expressed the opinion that the resolutions of the Imperial Conference did in some sort constitute an obligation towards the Dominions (Cries of "No!"). Lord Apsley seconded the motion.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald described the King's Speech as a curious, miscellaneous collection of odds and ends, many of the items being borrowed from Labour.

The Danger in Europe

The Opposition leader said that the prospect of a change in the Government had done more to bring the influence of Britain into the minds of the dominating statesmen than 12 months of the last Government (Laughter and cheers) The state of Europe was far nearer what it was in 1914 than anyone cared to think about with rival armies, rival nationalist policies and policies that were always glaring at each other in only semi-concealed hostility. He urged the necessity of bringing the solemn influence of Britain to bear in order that a new lead might be turned. He advocated more skilful handling of diplomacy and at the same time a friendly, firm and emphatic assertion of our own interests.

Mr. Macdonald protested against the doctrine that Parliament was under an obligation to carry out the decisions of the Imperial Conference as subversive of the rights of self-Government which we should never surrender. Every pledge was given by the Ministers at the Imperial Conference that matters should be brought before the Commons and it should be fulfilled to the last letter. The fact that the Government told the Conference that they intended to submit the preference proposals to Parliament surely meant that Parliament was absolutely free to carry or reject these proposals. He contended that the Government's proposal to tax food for the purpose of Dominion preference was a very fundamental departure from the existing fiscal system, which constituted another reason for refusing the Government confidence.

An Appeal to Fair Play.

The speaker urged that in the present unparalleled political situation the House could not merely pursue old-fashioned party faction. He said that no party could take responsibility to-day without feeling that it would rather avoid it if it could, because the state of Europe and affairs at home were so bad, but the Government of the nation must be carried on. Whoever carried on the Government in these circumstances was entitled to appeal to the fair play and sportsmanlike instincts of Englishmen and the support of the House as long as it did its duty.

Mr. Lloyd George controverted the claim made in some quarters that Parliament was bound to ratify the proposals submitted by the Government at the Imperial Conference and accepted by the latter. He charged the French with furnishing money to foster the Separatist movement in the Rhineland and hoped that whatever Government came into power would assert the authority and influence the Empire was entitled to by its power and sacrifices.

Mr. Baldwin's Plea for Sanity.

Mr. Baldwin said that when the Conservatives went out of power they would not engage in factious opposition but would endeavour to help causes such as unemployment and agriculture. He threw out the suggestion that where none of the three parties could independently govern, a round table conference should be held, particularly as regards the agricultural problem, with a view to arriving at some common measure. Mr. Baldwin endorsed Mr. Lloyd George's view with regard to Parliament-ary adoption of the resolutions of the Imperial Conference.

The Conservative leader informed the House that the proposed American liquor treaty, on which the principal parties had agreed, was being examined by the Dominions. It provided that the United States would have the right of search to a certain distance outside the three-mile limit and British vessels would be permitted to carry sealed liquor into American harbours for use on the return voyage.

Mr. Baldwin dwelt optimistically on the appointment of the Allied committees of experts, which was the first progressive step made in Europe for a whole year owing to American participation and the means afforded to provide remedial measures for German finances.

The House then adjourned.

Certain of Defeat.

Jan. 16.

The moderation and essentially Liberal complexion of the Speech from the Throne has done nothing to modify the tacit Liberal and Labour agreement to eject the Government. A number of back-bench Liberals have lodged a separate amendment mentioning unemployment, Protection and the Government's international and domestic policy. The amendment, however, is very unlikely to be reached.

Conservative commentators now are resigned to the inevitable. Even the forlorn campaign in favour of Liberal and Conservative co-operation now has flickered out.

The Labour organ expresses impatience at the large number of Liberals who insist on talking on the amendment, thus delaying Mr. Macdonald's advent, but the Liberal papers unanimously embrace the Labour amendment as a suitable instrument for inflicting the quietus on Mr. Baldwin and dwell on the potentialities of a long life for a Labour Government, provided the national welfare is not subordinated to tactical niceties.

There is a suggestion of mutiny in the ranks of Labour in a separate amendment moved by five Clyde Labour Members, referring to the "millions of workers on the verge of starvation."

Lobby correspondents unanimously forecast the defeat of the Government on January 21 and the announcement of a Labour Ministry on January 22, to be followed by an adjournment of several weeks to enable the Cabinet to pick up the threads.—Reuter.

The Debate on the Address: The Government's Defence

London, Jan. 16.

The House of Commons was crowded to-day on the resumption of the debate on the Address from the Throne.

In the course of a lengthy statement on foreign affairs Mr. Ronald McNeill, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, warmly replying to an indictment of the Government's foreign policy, pointed out that foreign policy was essentially continuous and that, if there had been gross mismanagement in the past five years, the Government's chief critics were most largely responsible. In his opinion Mr. Lloyd George would agree that, if Mr. Ramsay Macdonald was going to the Foreign Office with a broad foot and a big heel to [illegible] upon M. Poincaré with a view to establishing peace in Europe, he would find that he was in for a very heavy disillusionment (Ministerial cheers).

The speaker claimed that the Government had lost no opportunity to enlist the assistance of the United States or to take any means open to them to arrive at a solution of the reparations question.

The German Separatists.

With regard to separatism in the Rhineland the Government's attitude had been that they were unable to sanction any separatism amounting to a declaration of independence in the States forming part of the Reich, which would take them outside the Reich, because that would alter the whole situation with regard to the Treaty. However, if they wanted home rule inside the Reich, Britain would not interfere, provided there was sufficient demonstration that it was the will of the people themselves. Obviously in the greater part of the Rhineland the separatist movement was not spontaneous and, owing very largely to the influence of Britain supported by Belgium, it had come to a natural end, but in the Palatinate it had assumed graver proportions. At first it appeared that it might be genuine, but latterly the Government had concluded that it was not now genuine and believed that if it was left to itself, it would very soon collapse. The Government had sent Mr. R. H. Clive to the Palatinate to ascertain the facts. This had caused a certain amount of additional friction between Britain and France, but Mr. McNeill greatly hoped that the friction would soon be smoothed over and that Mr. Clive's report would enable the Government clearly to determine their action.

Britain's High Standing.

Mr. McNeill defended the Government's policy with regard to the Ruhr. He claimed that those criticizing the Government on the ground that British prestige had been lost were wrong. Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Harington, lately the British Commander-in-Chief at Constantinople, said that British prestige in the Near East had never been higher. Field Marshal Lord Allenby, the High Commissioner for Egypt, said the same about Egypt. One of the Dominion leaders at the Imperial Conference had told him that wherever he went, he found that the one country whose moral approval or disapproval counted was Britain.

In conclusion Mr. McNeill said that, according to all reports, Mr. Macdonald was himself going to the Foreign Office. He confidently predicted that before many months Mr. Macdonald would tell the House of Commons that he was completely disillusioned.

Germany's Steel.

Replying to Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that Germany had now agreed to give an undertaking for the eventual reimbursement of German exporters in connexion with our Reparations Recovery Act and a German representative was on the way to England to discuss the method. He detailed the steps taken to ensure that the big stocks of steel accumulated in the occupied territories, estimated at 2,000,000 to 3,500,000 tons, should not be disposed of in a way likely to dislocate world markets. A British mission was proceeding thither and Britain had suggested the establishment of an Inter Allied Disposals Board. The French had arranged not to license exports exceeding the average rate of export in 1922.

Replying to Sir John Simon (Liberal Member for Spen Val

...porting the matter to a ...ecial conference.
...view of the determination ... the National Union of ...omotive Engineers and Fire... ... to strike importance is ... to an unexpected visit ... headquarters to-day of ... Arthur Henderson, the ... of the Labour Party. ... is believed to be connected with ...forts at mediation.

Preparing for a Fight.

Jan. 17.

Bicycles and motorcycles are undergoing overhaul in anticipation of the beginning of the railway strike on Sunday at midnight. The railway companies express confidence of their ability to run a good service with drivers not beonging to the affected union. —Reuter.

FACTORY DISASTER AT BRADFORD

Many Employees in Collapse of Roof of Spinning Mill Building

London, Jan. 10.

Over 30 employees of the Zetand spinning mills at Bradford were buried this morning owing to the collapse of the roof of the building, which brought down a lot of heavy machinery from the top floor on the workers beneath. Twenty persons have up to the present been extricated more or less severely injured. Twelve are believed to be still buried, of whom six answered to their names, showing that they are still alive.

Later.

Two dead bodies have hitherto been recovered.

Later.

The bodies of three men and one woman have been recovered. Fifteen others have been taken to hospital. Those buried included a number of girls. It is believed that all the missing are now out of the wreckage though the search is continuing.—Reuter.

CALCUTTA OUTRAGE

European Murdered Apparently in Mistake for High Police Official

Calcutta, Jan. 13.

An armed Bengalee to-day shot and mortally wounded a European, Mr. Ernest Day, and then ran off and shot and seriously injured a taxi-driver who had joined in the pursuit. The Bengalee ran a quarter of a mile firing indiscriminately. He then fired and slightly wounded the driver of a private car who refused to take him up. The assailant was subsequently arrested.

It was at first thought that the Bengalee had run amok but, according to the newspapers, investigations point to the conclusion that Mr. Day had been shot in mistake for a high police official.

There is very strong evidence that the crime was committed by a prominent member of the Bengali revolutionary party. The cartridges used were of a Continental type, which cannot be purchased in India, but were the same as those used in the murder in Calcutta of a sub-postmaster in August.—Reuter.

Admission by the Murderer

Calcutta, Jan. 15.

Gopinathsaha, the Bengalee arrested in connexion with the murder of Mr. Ernest Day, made a statement in court that he intended to kill Mr. Tegart, the Commissioner of Police, but unfortunately killed an innocent man. He hoped that some patriot would complete his unfinished task.—Reuter.

Note.—Mr. Ernest Day was shot and mortally wouded by a Bengalee in Calcutta on January 13. His assailant in endeavouring to escape ran for a quarter of a mile, firing indiscriminately. He seriously wounded a taxi-cab driver and slightly wounded a driver of a private car before he was arrested. The crime is believed to be the work of a prominent member of the Bengal Revolutionary Party.—Reuter.

WHITE AUSTRALIA

Lord Leverhulme's Criticism of Policy which Is Retarding Commonwealth's Advance

Newcastle, N.S.W., Jan. 11.

Lord Leverhulme, in an interview, expressed the opinion that the "white Australia" policy was retarding development of the Commonwealth and declared that it would be impossible to develop the Northern Territory while such a policy was maintained.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 11.

Mr. S. M. Bruce, the Australian Prime Minister, in a statement with regard to Lord Leverhulme's view of the "white Australia" policy, says that those with lifelong experience of conditions in North Australia emphatically dissent from Lord Leverhulme's view that it is impossible to develop that part of the continent by "white" labour. The people of Australia are unanimously determined to maintain the "white Australia" policy and to avoid in its development those problems of mixed races which have been found insoluble in other countries.—Reuter.

Melbourne, Jan. 11.

The captain of a Japanese lugger has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for secretly landing six Japanese in Queensland.—Reuter.

THE LITTLE ENTENTE AND RUSSIA

Waiting on Great Powers in Question of Recognition

Belgrade, Jan. 14.

The Little Entente will subordinate its action with regard to the re-establishment of relations with Soviet Russia to the attitude of the principal Allies and in the event of recognition of Russia by Britain and Italy it will leave each of its members free to act as special circumstances warrant.

It was emphasized at the Conference that the Little Entente was not seeking in any way to form a Continental barrier against the policy of Britain.

The exchange of views at the Conference with regard to the Hungarian loan has paved the way for the final deliberations in London on January 16.—Reuter.

Belgrade, Jan. 12.

The Little Entente conference has resulted in complete agreement to continue the policy of peace in foreign affairs. It is noted with satisfaction that the difficulties between Yugo-Slavia and Italy are being overcome and that an amicable solution is likely.—Reuter.

RUSSO-GERMAN TRADE

Agreement Under Discussion at Moscow: Political Issues Also to Be Settled

Riga, Jan. 15.

Discussions between Russia and Germany with regard to a settlement of commercial relations between the two countries, based on the Treaty of Rapallo, which began in Berlin in June last year, have been resumed in Moscow.

Besides a detailed trade agreement it will be necessary to work out a scheme of Consular representation and also to decide questions only remotely connected with trade. Several agreements have already been concluded but will not be enforced until the final settlement of all the subjects now being discussed.

M. Drodovsky is chief of the Russian delegation and Herr von Koerner head of the German representatives.—Reuter.

OBITUARY

Mr. G. Clapperton

New York, Jan. 12.

Mr. George Clapperton, Vice-President of the Commercial Cable Company, died to-day.—Reuter's American Service.

Sir R. D. Muir

London, Jan. 14.

The death is announced of Sir Richard David Muir at the age of 66. He had been a Bencher of the Middle Temple since 1909 and Recorder of Colchester since 1911.

Sir Richard Muir began his career on the Parliamentary staff of the "Times." He was called to the Bar in 1884 and became Senior Treasury Counsel at the Central Criminal Court in 1908.—Reuter.

EARTHQUAKE PROPHET

Surprising Predictions of an Italian Sculptor

Rome, Jan. 11.

The "*Messagero*" publishes an interview with the sculptor, Signor Raphael Bendani, whose recent surprisingly accurate earthquake forecasts have astonished scientists.

Signor Bendandi devotes his whole spare time to the study of seismography and has reached conclusions which seem likely to revolutionize all previous theories with regard to the forecasting of seismic phenomena. He foretold on December 20 earthquake shocks in America on December 21 and in the Ægean Sea, on January 2. He also predicts slight shocks in America on the night of January 15 and the morning of January 20.

Signor Bendandi proposes to reveal his theory as soon as his researches are sufficiently advanced.—Reuter.

SOVIET AND AMERICA

Inquiry to Be Opened of Red Propaganda in the U. S.

Washington, Jan. 12.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate have finally decided to conduct an investigation into the State Department's allegations of the complicity of the Soviet Government in revolutionary propaganda in the United States, which Senator Borah's resolution proposing recognition of the Soviet has made necessary. The hearings will be public and will be conducted by a subcommittee of which Senator Borah is likely to be Chairman.—Reuter's American Service.

AMERICA'S SHUT DOOR

Immigration Restriction to Be Drawn Still Tighter

Washington, Jan. 12.

The House of Representatives Immigration Committee, drafting the new Bill, has voted in favour of restriction of immigration to two per cent. of the number of each country's nationals resident in the United States in 1890, instead of the present law of three per cent. of those residing in the United States in 1910, with an annual minimum quota of 200 from each nation. The clause for admission of blood relatives of foreign citizens now in America up to two per cent. was deleted, but it was agreed to allow unrestricted entry of wives and husbands of citizens and their children under 16 years of age and their parents if over 55 years of age.—Reuter's American Service.

PARIS, Jan. 16.—France has declined the Spanish request to modify the Tangiers Convention, but is willing to consider the granting of concessions elsewhere in Morocco.—Reuter.

AMERICAN AIRSHIP IN A GALE

Dirigible Destined for Pole Broken Away in Tempest at 55 Miles an Hour

Lakehurst, N. J., Jan. 16.

The naval dirigible Shenandoah, which is earmarked for the naval aerial expedition to the North Pole in the summer, broke away from its mooring mast in the course of a gale today. The airship carried a crew of 20.

The dirigible was undergoing a test. It has apparently been damaged, for fragments of the outer rigging flattered to the ground. The wind was blowing at the rate of 55 miles an hour.

Captain McCrary, who was on board when the vessel broke away, was confident, however, that she would hold.

The dirigible was last seen drifting towards the northwest in heavy wind and rain.—Reuter.

Westfield, N. J., Jan. 16.

The Shenandoah passed here at a considerable speed, flying low with engines roaring. The crew were apparently trying to turn the airship against the wind.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Jan. 17.

The Captain of the Shenandoah has wirelessed saying: "All O. K. Will outride storm. Holding our own."—Reuter.

Shenandoah Safe.

Lakehurst, N.J., Jan. 16.

The Shenandoah has ridden out of the storm and is returning home. A wireless message from the Commander when over Keyport says that all six engines are working against a thirty-mile gale.

Later.

The Shenandoah has been brought to ground.

The airship was safely housed at 4,10 this morning. All on board are well. The vessel is not damaged except for rents in the outer bag.—Reuter's American Service.

THE GROUNDING OF THE LEVIATHAN

Narrow and Tortuous Channel and Erratic Tides

New York, Jan. 10.

Sir Bertram Hayes, Captain of the Majestic, commenting on the recent grounding of the Leviathan, agreed with the testimony of Captain Hartley, of the Leviathan, before the Commission of Inquiry that the stranding of the Leviathan was due to the narrowness and tortuousness of the channel and the erratic tides. He said that the channel had too little water for such unwieldy craft as the Majestic and the Leviathan. "It is terrible," he said, "to have to wind one's way up the bay against winds, tides and currents and continually to dodge small craft which dart across a steamer's path without restriction. — Reuter's American Service.

CHANGE OF CONSTITUTION IN GREECE

Venizelos as Premier

Athens, Jan. 10.

M. Venizelos to-day stated that he would resume the portfolio of Foreign Affairs with a view to re-establishing cordial relations with foreign Powers. He would personally superintend the organization of the plebiscite on the question of the change in the Constitution.—Reuter.

Athens, Jan. 11.

M. Venizelos has accepted the Premiership.

M. Roussos will be Minister of Foreign Affairs.—Reuter.

London, January 11.—The Dutch steamer Holendrecht was sunk in collision with the British str. Orea to-day off Woolwich Dockyard.—Reuter.

BRITISH TRADE RETURNS

Increases over Estimates

London, Jan. 10.

The Board of Trade figures for the year 1923 are as follows:—

	1922.	1923.
	£	£
Imports	1,003,000,000	1,093,000,000
Exports	719,000,000	767,000,000
Re-exports	103,000,000	118,000,000

Allowing for the changed basis due to the fact that South Ireland in April became a Free State, the Board of Trade estimates for imports for 1923 have actually increased by £25,000,000, exports by £20,000,000 and re-exports by £6,000,000.—Reuter.

GERMAN SHIPS AT SCAPA

A Kent Firm's Contract with Government to Raise them

London, Jan. 11.

A Queenborough (Kent) firm has entered into a contract with the Admiralty to raise the 68 German warships sunk at Scapa Flow.

Many of these vessels will be sold to shipbreakers while others will be used for target practice.—Reuter.

EGYPTIAN NATIONALISTS

The Demand for Independence

Cairo, Jan. 12.

In to-day's elections the Zaghlulists swept the board, 101 being elected out of 109 results. The remaining 105 results will be known to-morrow.

The Prime Minister has been defeated.

The elections passed off quietly. —Reuter.

Cairo, Jan. 14.

The official election results show that the Zaghlulists have obtained 150 seats, the Liberal-Constitutionalists 14, the Wafdanists 2 and the Independents 4. Forty-one constituencies will vote again on January 17 owing to the candidates failing to obtain the requisite majorities. The Zaghlulists expect to win most of these seats.

Zaghlul Pasha, in the course of a manifesto rejoicing over the "splendid victory of patriotic Egyptians," says although many chose a different course and acted wrongfully, he is prepared to welcome them back. He adds that externally Egypt is united in demanding complete independence. Internally Egyptians are free to differ.—Reuter.

THE MEXICAN REBELLION

Rebels' Claim to Have Blockaded Tampico

El Paso, Jan. 14.

According to wireless messages, the Mexican revolutionaries claim to have blockaded Tampico. They state that their "Navy" is outside prohibiting all entry into or departure from the port, while their military forces are threatening an early attack on the land side.—Reuter's American Sesrvice.

Government Claiming Success

London, Jan. 15.

The Mexican Legation in London states that as a result of the engagements at Jalisco and Vera Cruz the rebels have retired in disorder. Reuter.

Washington, Jan. 15.

It is understood that the Government will shortly inform General Huerta that proper American commerce with Tampico must not be interfered with.—Reuter's American Service.

New Orleans, Jan. 15.

The police authorities state that they have been requested by agents of the Department of Justice to assist in rounding up a force of 100 deserters from a Mexican gunboat at present being

sons and seriously wounding two. Fifteen others were hit.

It is reported from Mayence that as a result of the assassination of Herr Heintz the representative of the Rhineland High Commission has prohibited entry into the Palatinate of non-residents from unoccupied Germany and has ordered the closing of the Rhine bridges, except at Ludwigshafen and Mannheim. A curfew has been imposed at Speyer and all meetings are forbidden.—Reuter.

Berlin, Jan. 11.

The death of one of those wounded at Speyer makes the number of the victims six.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 11.

A telegram from Coblenz states that the occupation authorities, owing to the imminent danger of a fresh separatist revolt, have again armed the German police. The separatists have strengthened their garrison in the castle at Coblenz.—Reuter.

The Heintz Murder.

Paris, Jan. 12.

It is stated that an inquiry revealed that from 15 to 20 persons participated in the Speyer outrage. One was accidentally killed by his companions.

A message from Speyer says that a representative of the Rhineland High Commission has received a letter from Frankfort declaring that the five signatories after the assassination of Herr Heintz have succeeded in regaining unoccupied territory safe and sound and expressing satisfaction at the murder, adding that other traitors will not escape them.—Reuter.

Germany's Search for Compromise

Brussels, Jan. 11.

The Belgian reply to the German memorandum of December 24 regarding the administration of the occupied territories says that discussion of [illegible] *vivendi* must be restricted to details of the *régime* of pledges and rejects certain administrative proposals sought to be introduced by Germany.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 11.

The [illegible] Note in reply to the German memorandum regarding the administration of the occupied territories was handed today to the [illegible] d'Affaires, who [illegible] that the door remained open for further conversations.—Reuter.

A Hitch in Franco-British Negotiations Regarding Inquiry

Paris, Jan. 1[illegible].

That a hitch has occurred in the negotiations between the British and French Governments on the [illegible] inquiry into the separatist movement in the Palatinate is manifested by the [illegible] visits to the Quai d'Orsay.

It appears that Britain suggested an independent inquiry on the spot, but France insists that the inquiry must be inter-Allied and declares that any British investigator must be accompanied by a French officer.—Reuter

British Conditions

London, Jan. 14.

Reuter's Agency understands that the British Government has informed the French Government that it does not object to the despatch of two French officials to Coblenz to inquire into conditions there provided the same facilities are given to Mr. R. H. Clive, the British Consul-General at Munich, for a similar mission in the Palatinate, but it is pointed out that there are already a score of French officials in the British area fully free to study and report on the situation.

The British view is that the Rhineland High Commission has no power to recognize the Separatist movement in the Palatinate and that the people of the Palatinate, if they wish to break away from Germany, have machinery in the Weimar Constitution whereby only a one-third vote is necessary for holding a plebiscite in that connexion.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 14.

It is understood that M. Tirard, the President of the Inter-Allied High Commission, has chosen his secretary, M. Filliol, to accompany Mr. Clive and has also asked Lieutenant-Colonel Richier to proceed to Cologne to inquire with regard to secret organizations whose activities, the French allege, led to bloodshed in the French zone, particularly in teh Bonn district.—Reuter.

French Accused of Deliberate Encouragiugenent

Mannheim, Jan. 16.

In the course of conversations between Mr. Clive, the British Consul-General at Munich, and representatives of all the political parties in the Palatinate and also the heads of the Catholic and Evangelist Churches, it was asserted that it was only by the protection of the French General de Metz and the French district authorities that the separatists were able to occupy the Palatinate.

The delegates handed Mr. Clive a manifesto declaring that the Palatinate would never submit to the despotism of the so-called Separatist Government.—Reuter.

GERMAN DEBTS RE-CONSIDERED

First Meeting of Committee of Experts: American View of Europe's Danger

Paris, Jan. 14.

The first expert committee, that dealing with German currency, met at 11 this morning in the presence of the Reparations Commission. M. Barthou, the President of the Commission, delivered a speech of welcome.

General Charles G. Dawes, the American delegate, replying on [illegible] of the committee, of which [illegible] The success of the committee depends chiefly on whether, in the public mind and in the conscience of the Allies and of the world, there is adequate conception of the great disaster facing each Ally and Europe unless common-sense is crowned king."

[illegible] that the Reparations Commission [illegible] of the experts all the necessary documents. The experts would control their method of procedure and would hear Germany in the form which appeared the most useful to them. "We eagerly wish, for the common good, that her Government shall facilitate your arduous and complex task."—Reuter.

RUHR COAL OUTPUT

Complete Success for Regie Claimed by France

Paris, Jan. 12.

Replying to a question on the [illegible] occupation of the Ruhr, the Minister of Public Works, M. Le Trocquer declared that the occupation could be divided into [illegible] that of the exploitation by the Regie, and that of agreements. It could now be considered that the Regie of Railways and Mines had gained the day.

Owing to the agreements in force since October 23, production in the Ruhr had increased during the last week of December to 166,013 tons of coke and 131,000 tons of coal, which had been despatched to the French frontiers. These figures, moreover, had now been exceeded, the lats week having been one of festivals.—French Wireless through Reuter.

MALTA, Jan. 14.—Admiral Sir Percy Scott, who was seriously ill in hospital at Bighi, has recovered.—Reuter.

FRENCH FINANCIAL STRINGENCY

Emergency Measures to Meet Expenditure and Stay Decline of Franc

Paris, Jan. 15.

A meeting of the Cabinet, presided over by President Millerand, to-day decided to submit to the Chamber on Thursday Bills to improve the financial situation, to balance the Budget, and to solve the exchange crisis by suppressing tax evasion, effecting economies in public services, postponing all further expenditure and increasing all taxes from May 1.

The Chamber will be asked to vote on the Bills immediately and make their passage a question of confidence.

The Government will take immediate measures to prevent speculation in regard to the franc and Government securities.

Expenditure which has hitherto figured as recoverable would be henceforth covered by corresponding revenue.

It is anticipated that the increase of all taxes by 20 per cent. would yield Frs. 5,000,000,000 and the other measures Frs. 3,000,000,000.

Later.

A section of the opposition having demanded an immediate debate on the financial situation, the Government insisted on postponement of the debate till January 17, making it a matter of confidence which resulted in a vote of 388 to 189 in favour of the Government.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 15.

Writing on the present fall of the franc, the *"Matin"* emphasizes that there is no material reason, no legitimate commercial operation which justifies the wild exchange.

The *"Journal des Débats"* states that the French people maintain complete confidence because they know the state of the wealth of the country and its vitality. A single figure is sufficient to indicate what are the real resources of France. The normal yield from the permanent revenue and the Budget recoveries in 1923 reached a figure higher by Frs. 3,000,000,000 than the revenue realized in 1922, namely, Frs. 21,520,836,000 for the past year.—French Wireless through Reuter.

ALLIES' WAR DEBTS TO BRITAIN

British Chambers of Commerce Pressing for Some Attempt to Obtain Payment

London, Jan. 14.

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce has sent letters to Mr. Baldwin, Marquess Curzon and Mr. Neville Chamberlain drawing their attention to the fact that France and Italy at present owe £1,139,000,000 to Britain, the interest on which at 5 per cent. is equal to over 1/- in the £ income-tax at present paid in Britain and that the repayment of the American loan to Britain of £856,000,000 will cost £36,000,000 a year, which is equal to 8½d. in the £ income tax.

The Council of the Association are of opinion, in view of the adverse effect of high taxation on the trade of the country, that the Government should consider whether steps should not be taken to approach the French and Italian Governments with a view to securing a payment on account pending the settlement of the debts on a fair basis with the object of relieving the British tax-payer.—Reuter.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—A Republican caucus of the House of Representatives has instructed the Ways and Means Committee to conclude its report on the Tax Reduction Bill for the consideration of the House before reporting on the Soldiers' Bonus Bill.—Reuter's American Service.

FRANCE'S WAR DEBTS TO AMERICA

Unpaid: While She Lends to Others: Senator Borah's Caustic Comment

Washington, Jan. 16.

Senator Borah referred in the Senate to-day to the French war debt. He called attention to the fact that France, while unwilling to come to a settlement with the United States, was lending large sums to European Governments.

Senator Borah characterized France as the greatest military power that Europe had ever known and declared that American taxpayers were meeting the cost of her army of 730,000 men as surely as if it was their own.

The speaker read extracts from the speeches of French and Italian statesmen and declared: "They are preparing their own consciences and the consciences of their people for repudiation of their debt." He acquitted the Italian and French peoples as a whole of entertaining such a proposition yet.—Reuter's American Service.

THE LOAN TO HUNGARY

Allies Meeting in London to Consider Methods

London, Jan. 16.

A sub-committee of the League of Nations, including Count Bethlen, the Hungarian Premier, and Dr. Benes, the Czecho-Slovak Premier, met in private to-day at St. James's Palace to consider the proposed international loan of £10,000,000 to Hungary.

It is understood that M. Claudel, the French representative, urged that the loan should be for a shorter period than 20 years as originally planned, but Lord Robert Cecil, the British representative, opposed this.—Reuter.

CONTROL OF TANGIER

International Bargain: British Interests Insufficiently Protected

London, Jan. 16.

In the House of Commons today Mr. Ronald McNeill made a long statement with regard to the Tangier Convention. He emphasized that agreement had been secured for the permanent neutralization of Tangier and the maintenance of the open door by establishing an international *regime*, which would effectually prevent any one Power from being predominant.

Mr. Lloyd George asked who controlled the port.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said that the share capital of the International Company would be distributed as follows: France 30 per cent. Britain and Spain 20 per cent. each, the Shereefian Government, the International Administration and the other countries 10 per cent. each. Consequently only 30 per cent. was in the hands of France (Opposition cries of "No!" and "What about the Shereefian Government?)

Replying to Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. McNeill said he was confident that the Commons would be given an opportunity of discussing the agreement if they desired.

In answer to a question from Mr. Carlyon Bellairs (Conservative member for Maidstone), Mr. McNeill said that he was unable to say whether the Committee of Defence had approved the Convention before its signature.

Colonel John Ward (Independent Labour member for Stoke-upon-Trent) declared that the agreement practically handed over the port to France.—Reuter.

LONDON, Jan. 13.—The Prince of Wales returned to London from Paris yesterday evening.—Reuter.

BRITISH RAILWAYS DISPUTE

Companies Uncompromising on Wages Award: Strike Likely to Begin at Any Moment

London, Jan. 12.

The railway companies having refused to make any concession and adopted an uncompromising attitude, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen has officially announced that a strike is inevitable and may commence at any time. The union is perfecting arrangements for stoppage.

Jan. 12.

In connexion with the threatened railway strike, the secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen later announced that a strike cannot occur immediately. He asserted that it would stop all goods traffic into London and passenger traffic.

The Society comprises 39,000 drivers and firemen, but as the National Union of Railwaymen, which has accepted the Wages Board's award, claims to have a considerable number of drivers and firemen in its membership, the companies might be enabled to run modified services.

It is believed that, failing a settlement, the strike will synchronize with the coming into operation of the findings of the Wages Board, which the companies may decree at any time after January 19.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 13.

The General Council of the Trade Union Congress has intervened in the railway dispute and decided to appoint a committee to meet the railway managers and the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, with a view to ending the deadlock or at least postponing the operation of the Railway Wages Board's award and the commencement of the strike pending negotiations.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 14.

The General Council of the Trades Union Congress to-day considered the railway trouble and adjourned pending further developments. It was decided to appoint an emergency committee if necessary.—Reuter.

Impending Mine Trouble

London, Jan. 14

A ballot of Yorkshire and Northumberland miners has resulted overwhelmingly in favour of termination of the National Wages Agreement. The result of a ballot to be taken throughout the country will be announced on Thursday and is expected to be similar.—Reuter.

Jan. 16.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., the General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, in a statement yesterday emphasized that the members of the Union would remain at work in the event of a strike. He said that he stood by his signature of the award of the National Wages Board which the Union endorsed. Mr. Thomas expected the Union to honour the endorsement, regardless of the consequences, but the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, in a manifesto last night, says that the official date and time for the cessation of work have been sent to all the branches in order to secure simultaneous stoppage throughout the country and exhorts the members to strike at the appointed hour.—Reuter.

Arthur Henderson's Significant Visit to Railwaymen

London, Jan. 16.

At the close of a conference of port employers and the Transport-workers' Union, on the latter's claim for an increase of dockers' wages throughout the country by two shillings a day, it was announced that the employers had informed the Union that they were unable in the present condition of trade to concede any increase in wages. The Union is

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

BRITAIN'S POLITICAL DILEMMA

A Triangular Parliament: Labour Vote of Non-Confidence in the Government: Mr. Asquith's Indictment of the Government: The Dangers of Socialism

London, Jan. 17.

In the House of Commons this afternoon Mr. J. R. Clynes moved the Labour vote of non-confidence in the Government. Mr. Asquith advised all Liberals to support the motion.

The Prince of Wales and the Duke of York entered the Peers' Gallery as Mr. Clynes was speaking.

The momentous debate opened quietly and there were many vacant seats owing to the fact that the division is arranged for Monday night.

Mr Clynes's indictment of the Government's foreign policy did not raise a single Labour cheer. The first sign of life was when he aroused general cheers by references to the Dominions. He said that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald on Tuesday gave assurance that the pledges, so far as they had been made, would be carried out and the House given a full opportunity of deciding the important issues raised. Mr. Clynes's own view was that Dominions trade showed substantial opportunities and prospects of improvement.

Our Duty to the Dominions.

The speaker emphasized the necessity of not neglecting European markets but, when we had done our best with our neighbours, he agreed that some sense of special duty remained in relation to the Dominions. The question was how far we could stimulate Dominions trade without increasing taxation and disturbing the foundations of the fiscal system. We must inquire into alternatives. Transport improvement constituted one line of policy and perhaps substantial encouragement to our Dominions fellow-workers might be found in revealing, by inquiry or otherwise, the facts concerning where went the enormous difference between what the Dominions producer of food got for his labour and what the consumer here paid for it. Such avenues of exploration should receive purely non-partisan attention (Cheers). All conferences up to the present had been a close Government preserve (cheers), ignoring the growing interest of Labour. If we were to lift Dominions considerations to a non-Party level, there must be far more conferences on non-Party lines.

Voluntary Emigration.

The question of emigration was involved. The consequences of voluntary transference of population must be seriously considered. Anything of the sort must be carried out on agreed terms. He was satisfied that such terms would benefit Labour both here and in the Dominions. The terms must include adequate training and technical and general education for the new duties, satisfactory remuneration and security of employment for the worker, before the latter would agree to emigrate.

In conclusion Mr. Clynes disclaimed any desire on the part of the Labour party to foster class strife.

Mr. Asquith's Indictment.

Mr. Asquith roused Opposition enthusiasm by advising his supporters to vote in favour of the motion to eject the Government, which had been guilty of vacillation and impotence at home and abroad. He said that he had not known an administration which had done more actual mischief. There had been recently an epidemic of political hysteria. He had been cajoled, wheedled, almost caressed, threatened, browbeaten and all but blackmailed to be the saviour of society (Opposition laughter), but he declined to believe that the sun was going to set on the prosperity of Britain even by Mr. Macdonald coming into office. Translated into plain prose, saving society meant Liberals and Conservatives combining to keep Labour out (Cries of "No." and laughter).

The Liberal leader continued that there could be no question of coalition between or fusion of Liberals and Labour because it was impossible to bridge their differences on fundamental issues of national policy, but on many social and national questions there was room for cooperation not only of Liberals and Labour but of many Conservatives.

Sir W. Joynson-Hicks, the Minister of Health, stressed the country's emphatic rejection of any Socialist Government in the elections. He declared that the action of the Liberals in putting the Socialists into office would prevent the Liberal Party from coming into office for a hundred years (loud Ministerial cheers).

Major-General J. E. B. Seely (Liberal) suggested a conference of the leaders of the parties with high judicial authority to consider the political situation.

Mr. Frank Hodges (Labour Member for Lichfield), in a maiden speech, dealt in an abstract form with Labour's political aspirations. He referred deprecatingly to the sympathetic attitude of the Liberals towards Labour, recalling in this connexion recent Liberal associations with Labour. He declared that the scientific organization of industry was the crying political need.

A Recalcitrant Conservative.

A significant speech by the Conservative Member for Cardiff, Mr. James Childs Gould, who severely criticized the Government's advisers, indicated that some Conservatives would support the amendment. The speaker assured Mr. Baldwin that he would not be silent when the matter of holding an election was thrashed out elsewhere.

Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame, the President of the Board of Trade, expressed delight at Mr. Clynes's speech about Empire development and emigration.

Lieut.-Comdr. A. Cooper Rawson, Conservative Member for Brighton, gave notice of an amendment that, before any Ministry founded on principles of Socialism was formed, a general election on the issue of Socialism should be held.

Winston Churchill's Gloom.

Mr. Winston Churchill is evidently among the Liberals who do not relish the idea of supporting Labour. He has published a letter in which he declares that the enthronement of a Socialist Government in office would be a serious national misfortune comparable with defeat in war. The writer contends that the exhortation, "Give a chance to Labour," only really means giving a fair chance to a faction and a manoeuvre. He paints a dark picture of the result of any Socialist minority rule and suggests that after Mr. Clynes's amendment to the Address has been carried, the House of Commons should further record its repudiation of Socialism and its distrust of the advocates of the capital levy and nationalization.

Britain's Trade in the Balance.

Sir Eric Geddes, in his speech at the annual meeting of the Federation of British Industries in London to-day, expressed the hope that the Labour Government, if it came into power, would seek the advice of the Federation, as its predecessors had done, but to an even greater degree because the Labour Party anyhow could not claim at present to have within their ranks the experience, which the older parties had, of superior direction of great industrial undertakings or experience in governing.

A serious problem would face any Government which did anything to throw more men out of employment by upsetting the confidence on which British trade flourished in the world. The trade and prosperity of Britain were at present balanced on a knife edge and very little might turn the balance either way.

Capital Leaving the Country.

Undoubtedly the advent of a Labour Government had caused uneasiness. There had been nothing like a panic, but a lot of investment was being done abroad, probably to a great extent foreign investment, still capital was leaving the country, and industry and employment would suffer, and the purchasing power of the home market would decrease.

The position was a very delicate one. It was a time for careful and cautious statesmanship, not panicmongering or wild talk. We must keep our heads and consider only the country's good.

L-24, Singapore, Persian Oil.

In the House of Commons today, replying to a question, Mr. Amery, the First Lord of the Admiralty, stated that there was no reasonable doubt that the flooding of the L-24 and the death of her crew immediately followed the collision.

Replying to questions relative to the Singapore scheme, Mr. Amery said that preliminary work had been begun. The actual expenditure up to the present was not great, but liabilities of about £150,000 had been incurred. The land had been provided free of cost by the Colony. It was proposed to carry out the principal works by contract.

Asked whether anything had been done with a view to the sale of the Government holdings of Anglo-Persian Oil shares, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that 18 months ago the proposal to sell the shares had been rejected on the recommendation of a Cabinet committee. Recently further proposals by various oil interests had been submitted, but the Government had had no time to reach a final decision and intended to refer the matter to a Cabinet committee.—Reuter.

IMPENDING STRIKES IN BRITAIN

No Further Hope of Settlement of Railwaymen's Dispute: Managers Adamant

London, Jan. 17.

The situation in regard to the threatened railway strike is naturally embarrassing to the political division of the Labour party on the eve of their taking over the Government.

This explains Mr. Arthur Henderson's activities yesterday, which, it is understood, were in the nature of sounding opinion as to the possibility of calling a meeting of the Labour Joint Council, but the non-success of his efforts is indicated by a subsequent statement by Mr. J. Bromley, the secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, that he "did not see a ray of hope."

Party leaders are urging their followers if possible to remain in London for the week-end so as to ensure their presence in the House of Commons for the division on Monday in the event of the threatened railway strike materializing.

Later.

In spite of the official announcement that Sunday midnight has been fixed for the strike of the locomotive engineers and firemen, industrial circles are optimistic that trouble will yet be averted as a result of unofficial conversations now proceeding. It is believed that the companies will reconsider their attitude.

Railway Managers' Attitude.

Later.

"This is the finish," indicating that the strike preparations would go forward, said the secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen to-night on learning that a statement had been issued by the railway managers, wherein they recapitulated their position and said that they had no alternative but to apply the decision of the National Wages Board. He suggested that the managers had been influenced by the attitude of Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., the secretary of the rival National Union of Railwaymen. —Reuter.

The Miner's Ballot

London, Jan. 17.

It it officially announced that the ballot of miners has resulted in 510,000 to 114,000 votes against giving three months' notice to terminate the National Wages Agreement.

The miners' executive will meet the mine-owners this afternoon. They are expected to endeavour to negotiate a revision of the agreement.

In the event of failure of the negotiations a further ballot and a two-thirds majority of the voters are necessary before a strike is possible.—Reuter.

FINANCIAL STATUS OF FRANCE

Government Measures to Restore Stability of the Franc: M. Poincare's Optimism

Paris, Jan. 18.

The Cabinet has decided, with a view to the restoration of the franc, to introduce a bill authorizing the suspension of the importation of commodities not corresponding to national necessities.

M. Poincaré, in the course of a speech in connexion with the introduction of the Government's financial proposals, designed to remedy the position of France, declared that, in spite of appearances, France's position was increasingly flourishing. He stated that the note circulation and the war budget had been substantially reduced as compared with the 1920 figures.

The Chamber of Deputies, by 360 votes to 215, subsequently postponed interpellation on the Pensions Act as the outcome of the Government stating that they would regard discussion in the light of a question of confidence. —Reuter.

U. S. AIRSHIP'S PROOF OF STABILITY

Severely Tested in a Gale

Washington, Jan. 17.

Secretary of the Navy Denby is delighted with the Shenandoah's exploit. He has telegraphed his congratulations to the crew and issued a statement that "from all our information it may positively be asserted that there is hardly a possibility that this ship will encounter in her Arctic expedition such a severe test as she has already met successfully." — Reuter's American Service.

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HEAD OFFICE: SHANGHAI

repaired in port. Combined forces of police and Federal agents are proceeding to a house in the city where the deserters have barricaded themselves.—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. Cruisers Sent to Protect American Interests

Mexico City, Jan. 16.

The American Chargé d'Affaires has obtained the Obregon Government's permission for two United States warships to visit Vera Cruz and Tuxpam. The United States cruiser Tacoma is now *en route* to Vera Cruz.

It is [illegible] the representatives of three American banks are *en route* to Mexico City to negotiate a loan of 25,000,000 pesos to the Obregon Government.—Reuter's American Service.

U.S.S. Tacoma Aground.

Galveston, Jan. 16.

The United States cruiser Tacoma, on its way to Vera Cruz, went aground to-day on the Bantauillas Reefs, 16 miles from Vera Cruz. The cruiser has sent a wireless despatch to the American Consul at Vera Cruz that unless two strong tugs arrive within two hours it may be too late to pull off the warship.

Later

The United States light-cruise Richmond is standing by the cruiser Tacoma aground on the Bantauillas Reefs. The Government is sending naval tugs to the scene.—Reuter's American Service.

Engligh Lady Killed.

Mexico City, Jan. 16.

Mrs. Norman Brown Cave, the wife of a British mining engineer, was killed by a stray bullet during the fighting at Tapachuca.—Reuter's American Service.

GERMAN SEAMEN'S STRIKE

Demand for Same Rate of Pay as Given to British Sailors: Engineers Uneasy

London, Jan. 10.

A temporary settlement of the shipping dispute has been reached after a meeting of the British trade unions concerned and also the Captain of the Frankenwald, the agents of the company and the German Consul.

It has been decided to resume work pending the convocation of a conference in London which German shipowners will be requested to attend.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 13.

The German seamen's strike has been considerably extended following a conference of delegates from every ship affected at the London Docks, presided over by Mr. Havelock Wilson, which unanimously adopted a resolution pledging the men to stand firm.

Orders have been sent to all ports calling on seamen of German ships to cease work.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 15.

Five German crews, totalling 100 persons, have struck at Cardiff in response to a message from the London strike committee calling on all German seamen at British ports to strike unless the owners are prepared to give them the British seamen's rate of wages in British currency.

A crew sent from Germany to man the steamer Cardiff, sold to a German company, refused to travel from London to Newport, where the ship is berthed, until the owners had complied with the strike committee's order.

Owners Deaf to Men's Demands

London, Jan. 16.

Reuter's Agency learns that, replying to the proposal that a conference of German shipowners and the German seamen on strike should be held in London under the auspices of the British National Sailors' and Firemen's Union, German shipowners declare that [illegible] with British [illegible] about German [illegible] of the [illegible]. If British and German [illegible] are to be discussed, [illegible] must be taken by the total difference in the situation of the United Kingdom and Germany. Since November 1 German seamen's wages have been fully paid in gold currency based on the dollar and are therefore independent of all currency fluctuations.—Reuter.

DUTCH CABINET CRISIS

Government Carrying on But Naval Defence Scheme Postponed

The Hague, Jan. 15.

In the Second Chamber to-day, the Premier, Jkhr. de Beerenbrouck, declared that as no alternative Ministry had been formed since the defeat of his Government on October 26 over the question of building a fleet and as continuation of the Ministerial crisis was not in the interests of the country, he had decided to accept the decision of the Chamber as given on October 26 and to carry on the Government.

He therefore intended that measures for naval defence would not be enacted until steps had been taken to effect financial equilibrium, and concluded by appealing to the House to co-operate to solve the pending questions.—Reuter.

PILGRIMS' FAREWELL TO SIR A. GEDDES

Ambassador of Anglo-American Cooperation

New York, Jan. 16.

The Pilgrims' Club gave a farewell banquet in honour of Sir Auckland Geddes, the retiring British Ambassador, who made a speech pleading for a better understanding between America and Britain.

Loud applause greeted Sir Auckland Geddes's remark that he would return to England as a "kind of deputy assistant American Ambassador" to help to increase knowledge of the United States in Britain. Anglo-American cooperation would come, he said, not through Governmental agencies but through the people themselves.—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. WAR CLAIMS

The Debt-Funding Commiseion

Washington, Jan. 16.

President Coolidge has nominated Mr. Edward Nash Hurley, former Chairman of the United States Shipping Board, to the Democratic vacancy on the Debt-Funding Commission.

The President has sent to Congress the agreement for the funding of the Finnish War Debt to the United States of $9,000,000. Payments have already been begun.—Reuter's American Service.

A PARLIAMENT FOR INDO-CHINA

Governor's Important Declaration

Paris, Jan. 16.

The Indo-China newspapers publish reports of the session of the Government of Indo-China, opened by M. Martial Merlin, the new Governor-General, who in his opening speech announced [illegible] Parliament. It was becoming necessary that besides the Governor-General there should be an independent Assmbly with executive power. Deriving in a reasonable measure its authority from all the elements of wealth and labour in the country, this Assembly would be qualified [illegible] to the Governor-General the wishes of local public opinion and to support the defence at the metropolis of the primordial interests of Indo-China. Consequently it might gradually take on the true character not only of a financial assembly which fixes taxes and discusses budgets, but of a legislative council called upon to assist the Governor in all matters affecting the whole of the Indo-Chinese union.—French Wireless through Reuter.

ANGLO-FRENCH ENTENTE

Paris, Jan. 11.

The French newspapers emphasize the words spoken in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday by the President, M. Raoul Peret, on his re-election, "if the hour of *rapprochements* must soon sound, we must greet it with alacrity. No one hopes more than France that conflicts shall cease."

M. Doubergue, who was re-elected President of the Senate, declared in his speech to-day: "We have just heard said by a voice amongst our British friends which is at the moment a particularly authoritative one that everything that had occurred between them and us arose from misunderstandings which must quickly be dissipated. It is not France certainly who will oppose it if really there have only been misunderstandings." — French Wireless through Reuter.

JAPANESE NAVAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

Melbourne, Jan. 11.

The visiting Japanese Squadron was to-day given a very friendly official and popular welcome.

The Minister of Defence, Mr. Bowden, speaking at a civic reception emphasized Australia's special obligations to Japan in 1914 and in later years, adding: "In the war Japan and Britain were faithful allies. We trust that they will remain so in times of peace."

Vice-Admiral Saito said that Australia had given a splendid demonstration of her friendship on the occasion of the earthquake disaster.—Reuter.

Melbourne, Jan. 14.

Very cordial speeches were exchanged at a banquet given by the Federal Ministry to-day in honour of Vice-Admiral Saito and the officers of the visiting Japanese squadron.

Vice-Admiral Saito at the suggestion of the Treasurer, Dr. Earle Page, has requested Japan to send to the Australian War Museum a souvenir of the scrapped warship Abuki, which convoyed the first Australian troops to the front during the war.—Reuter.

Secret Marriage of an American Heiress

New York, Jan. 10.

Society has been surprised by a newspaper announcement of the marriage of Millicent, the 20-year old daughter of Colonel Huddleston Rogers and heiress to the $40,000,000 estate which her father inherited from the Standard Oil magnate, Mr. Rogers, to the 40-year old Austrian tennis-player, Count Ludgvig Salm von Hoogstraten.

The bride's parents, on learning of the marriage, cancelled passages for themselves and their daughter to Europe on January 12.—Reuter's American Service.

Aircraft Surveys

London, Jan. 11.

A number of Air Force officers will be attached to the air station at Plymouth for the purpose of organizing a development flight in connexion with the aircraft carrier, H. M. S. Pegasus, which is going to the East Indies in February for survey work. It is believed that a certain amount of survey work at Singapore will be carried out and aircraft will be used to assist photographic and other surveying from the air for the proposed naval base.—Reuter.

Disabled Dutch Steamer

Brest, Jan. 11.

During an unsuccessful attempt to tow the Dutch steamer, Rondo, which is disabled with a broken propeller-shaft, the captain and a member of the crew of a Dutch tug were injured and a seaman washed overboard. Two more Dutch tugs have gone to the assistance of the Rondo. The vessel was bound for Batavia.—Reuter.

French Trade Improving

Paris, Jan. 11.

The total of French imports for the first 11 months of last year amounted to 26,042,897,000 francs as against 18,905,540,000 francs for the same period in 1922, an increase of about 7,137,000,000 francs.

Exports for the period from January 1 to November 30, 1923, totalled 23,690,030,000 francs as against 16,377,930,000 for the corresponding period last year, an increase of 7,312,000,000.—French Wireless through Reuter.

Britain's Silk Industry

London, Jan. 12.

The final report of the Board of Trade Silk Industries Committee shows that the members are equally divided, two favouring the imposition of a duty on imported silk, and two, including the Chairman, Sir George Barnes, opposing it.—Reuter.

U. S. Presidency

Parkersburg, West Virginia, Jan. 11.

The State Democratic Executive Committee has endorsed the candidature of Mr. John W. Davis, the former Ambassador in London, for the Presidency.—Reuter's American Service.

British Trade Returns for December

London, Jan. 11.

The Board of Trade returns for December show that imports totalled £109,189,000 an increase of £7,604,000 as compared with November and British exports £1,652,000.—Reuter.

British Exhibition Opened in Holland

Amsterdam, Jan. 10.

The British Exhibition, organized under influential auspices, was opened to-day by Dr. Treub, former Minister of Finance and President of the Anglo-Dutch Society. All branches of British industry and many Dutch export firms are represented.—Reuter.

Canadian Ambassador to U.S

Toronto, Jan. 11.

The Minister of Defence, Mr. George P. Graham, in a speech here to-day stated that a Canadian Ambassador would shortly be appointed to Washington.—Reuter's American Service.

British Naval Cruise of the Empire

Zanzibar, Jan. 14.

The Sultan and crowds of Europeans and natives watched the arrival to-day of the battle-cruisers engaged in the Empire cruise. A detachment from each ship marched through the streets, which were gaily bedecked with flags and palms. Thousands of natives witnessed the march-past at which the Sultan took the salute. The natives who were allowed to visit the ships were speechless with amazement at the magnitude of the cruisers and the size of the guns.—Reuter.

Dollar Co.'s Purchase of "President" Ships

New York, Jan. 10.

Mr. Farley, on behalf of the Shipping Board, has sold seven "President" ships to the Dollar Steamship Company for $3,650,000 as compared with their original cost of $30,000,000.—Reuter's American Service.

Anglo-Greek Relations

London, Jan. 15.

Normal Anglo-Greek diplomatic relations have been resumed.

Marquess Curzon, communicating the fact, says that the British Government has every confidence in M. Venizelos's Ministry.—Reuter.

The Leviathan Seriously Damaged

New York, Jan. 16.

The liner Leviathan, which went aground in New York Harbour on December 21, sustained $250,000 damage. Repairs will not be completed before April 1.—Reuter's American Service.

ITEMS

LONDON, Jan. 15.—The death is announced of the Earl of Warwick, at the age of 70.—Reuter.

PESHAWAR, Jan. 14.—News has been received at the frontier that the gang responsible for the murders of British officers has surrendered to the Afghan Government.—Reuter.

MEXICO City, Jan. 11.—The War Office admits that the rebels have captured Pachuca but says that a large force of Federal troops is proceeding thither.—Reuter's American Service.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—Mr. Herbert James Stanuley, C.M.G., Imperial Secretary for South Africa, Has been appointed Governor of North Rhodesia as from April 1, when the Chartered Company's administration will terminate.—Reuter.

PARIS, Jan. 16.—From January 17 the wireless communications between France and Saigon, which up to the present have only functioned from France, will be utilized in both directions for the despatch of telegrams.—French Wireless through Reuter.

DELHI, Jan. 14.—It is understood that the forthcoming Indian budget for the current year will probably show a balance. This is important in view of the trouble over the last budget deficit which necessitated the Viceroy's certification of the salt tax.—Reuter.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—A body has been found at Rye, which is believed to be that of the American airman, Mr. Laurence Sperry, who crashed in the sea off Hastings on December 13 whilst on his way to Amsterdam. Mr. Sperry placed himself and his acroplane at the disposal of the Liberals during the election.—Reuter.

HAMBURG, Jan. 13.—The communist leader, Herr Urbahns, was arrested to-day at a meeting organized by communists in commemoration of Herr Wilhelm Liebknecht, the social democrat. The crowd threatened the police who used their firearms, resulting in one person being killed and two injured.—Reuter.

PARIS, Jan. 16.—It is reported that the 25th pontifical anniversary of the Maronite Patriarch has concluded with a general festival at which eminent representatives of the majority of the religious rites of the Grand Lebanon were represented. General Weygand drew a lesson from this fine example of union and recalled the part played by the Patriarch Hoyeck when in 1919 he came in the name of the Lebanon to ask the Powers for a French mandate over the country.—French Wireless through Reuter.

MUSSOLINI'S AVERSION TO PARLIAMENTS

A Hint of Their Succession by Congress of Experts

The Italian Chamber was re-opened at the end of November for the business of the session, and to expedite some urgent measures proposed by the Government of Signor Mussolini, states the "Daily Telegraph's" Rome correspondent. The sitting opened without any particular commotion in Rome or without exciting any great interest in the country generally, although among the measures proposed for immediate adoption is the renewal of dictatorial power for another year. The only persons opposed to this measure are some Republicans who together hardly muster 75 votes, whilst all the rest of the Chamber are disposed to vote for the measure, not only expeditiously but enthusiastically. Such is the change which has come over Italy in the last 12 months when even measures implying a complete break with Parliamentary traditions, and a suspension of the Constitution itself, hardly create a ripple on the placid surface of Italian political life. Five ex-Premiers, Signori Salandra, Giolitti, Orlando, Bonomi, and Facta will take part in the sitting, and there was even talk of Signor Nitti making his reappearance and voting for giving full powers to the Fascisti Government.

Signor Mussolini meanwhile is seriously considering the idea of abolishing Parliaments altogether. He expressed this view in the presence of a delegation of labour experts and industrial syndicates. A congress of experts with legislative powers might, according to him, be more useful than a mere elective political body, which appeals only to the vast masses, pandering to their ignorance, their cupidity, or their vices. Governments should be for the benefit of the greater number, but not by the greater number, is the principle on which Signor Mussolini bases his policy, and his profound conviction is that Parliaments representing only misguided, ignorant, and capricious masses are obsolete and no longer have any useful function in a modern State.

SECRET OF THE BUTTERFLIES

Millionaire's Papers to be Burned

Everyone knows the story of the farmer who, on seeing a white blackbird, raised his gun and shot it dead, saying: "I'll larn ye to be a rare bird!"

The Hon. Nathaniel Charles Rothschild included a paragraph in his will which will do much to prevent unscrupulous and greedy collectors "larning" the rarer species of butterflies to be rare. He gave directions for the destruction of papers and letters relating to entomological information, and requested the executors to insert in the "Entomologist," the "Entomologist's Monthly Magazine," and the "Entomologist's Record" the following advertisement:

"The executors of the will of the late Hon. Nathaniel Rothschild in accordance with a direction to that effect contained in his said will, hereby notify that they have burned unopened all the letters, books, maps and papers in his possession directly or indirectly giving the localities of British lepidoptera received by him from his various entomological friends and acquaintances."

The explanation of this curious clause in the will is the prevalence of butterfly collectors, who if they knew where to find them would soon "larn" the "Large Blue," for example, to be a rare butterfly.

"If this information were generally known," said an official of the Entomological Section of the Natural History Museum, "the rarer species of butterflies would soon be collected out of existence. The natural cupidity of collectors—whether they collect matchboxes or butterflies—is well known.

Mr. Rothschild was an enthusiastic collector, and the British Museum benefits under his will to the tune of many thousands of fleas, every one in its little bottle of spirit. All important expeditions to foreign parts were commissioned by Mr. Rothschild to bring home fleas of particular animals, and his collection, which was housed in the museum at Tring was unrivalled. The collection will probably remain at Triny for some time. In the will there is also provision for the salary of a proper custodian for the collection, £10,000 being set aside for the British Museum for this purpose.

Mr. Rothschild's estate was provisionally valued for probate at £2,250,000. Duties will amount to about £915,000.

SAVED BRITAIN FROM WAR

Marquis Curzon Praises General Harington

Tributes to Lieut.-Gen. Sir Charles Harington for having saved this country from war with Turkey were paid at the Royal Colonial Institute, where he was entertained to luncheon the other day.

Sir Charles McLeod, who presided, said the nation owed it very largely to Gen. Harington that they had not been at war with Turkey on several occasions during the past two years.

Marquis Curzon said Gen. Harington's operations at Constantinople were the greatest tribute to his integrity, sincerity and foresight. His position was that of a hair-trigger—a false movement might have plunged this country into war.

While he was Commander-in-Chief of the Forces at Constantinople he was also having to deal day by day with circumstances which required the utmost gift of diplomatic skill.

Gen. Harington, in reply, said the only way to gain the respect of the Greeks and the Turks was by being exactly the same to both of them, and that he thought he had been.

At the first conference he made great friends with Ismet Pasha, who had never let him down in anything or gone back on his word having once given it. The last thing that he received when the evacuation was complete was a letter from Ismet Pasha, in which he said that what the Turks really wanted was the friendship of England.

Gen. Harington added that he had no fear for the cemeteries at Gallipoli. There was no danger of them from the Turks, for we had gained their respect, and gained it by not fraternizing with them while negotiations were proceeding. The Turk respected us for that. "Also," said General Harington, "he is the finest judge of honesty I know—in others."

DECLINE OF THE MUSIC HALLS

Rival Attraction of the Films

Why are music-halls doing so badly, while cinemas all over the country are crowded nightly?

This question has been asked for some time by music-hall artists and business men associated with entertainment concerns, and in some quarters it is now suggested that the way of salvation for the music-halls lies in a fusion with the films.

Mr. Albert Voyce, chairman of the Variety Artistes' Federation, in conversation with a Press representative recently, blamed the licensing restrictions, which pressed more severely on music-halls than on any other place of entertainment. "Managers," he said, "are putting on revues instead of variety shows, because the Lord Chamberlain's licence carries with it the excise licence. Picture theatres," he declared, "did not take away the music-hall public because they catered for a different class."

LITTLE TICH'S VIEW.

"Music halls are not what they were, but it is not the fault of the artists," said Little Tich. "I have found that whenever there is a good variety programme there's a full house and an appreciative one. In my opinion it is bad bookings on the part of the management, and too few genuine variety turns that accounts for the bad business reported.

"Variety artists are being hardly hit by the importation of foreigners and intruders from the theatrical stage.

"There are plenty of clever variety artists, men and women: who have proved their ability, but cannot get work in the West End, and there is plenty of talent in the country which is never given a chance."

"If the picture houses were proving rivals to the music-halls it was," said Little Tich, "only in their appeal to audiences who wanted to be amused for a short time at a small outlay."

OLD LONDON

How Burgundy Grapes Were Grown at Rotherhithe

There is talk of a new bridge over Father Thames at Lambeth, and experimental borings have begun at Rotherhithe, where it is hoped to construct a new carriageway under the river. Rotherhithe, "Redriff," "Rethereth," call it what you will, is one of those places down the river which is better explored in the daylight than in the dark. Men of history and men of romance have lived there, none better known than Demuel Gulliver, who, as Swift assures us, was long an inhabitant of the place.

"It was as true as if Mr. Gulliver had spoken it," was a sort of proverb among his neighbours at Redriff.

Of seamen it had plenty; the brave old Admiral Benbow was born in Wintershull-Street, and master mariners and their men made Rotherhithe their home. It will be remembered that Gay mentions the place in "The Beggar's Opera":

Filch—These seven handkerchiefs, madam.

Mrs. Peachum—Coloured ones, I see. They are of sure sale, from our warehouse at Redriff, among the seamen.

Market gardens and fields once abounded in the neighbourhood, and nearly 200 years ago an attempt was made to cultivate the vine.

A gentleman named Warner, observing that the Burgundy grapes ripened early, and conceiving that they might be grown in England, obtained some cuttings, which he planted here as standards; . . . though the soil was not particularly suited, yet, by care and skill. . . his crop was so ample that it afforded him upwards of 100 gallons annually, and he was able to supply cuttings of his vines for cultivation in many other parts of this island.

No visitor to Rotherhithe must miss the church, where may be seen a monument to the memory of Prince Lee Boo, a native of the Pelew Islands, who died in London of smallpox. He was the son of the King of Goo-rooraa, who befriended Captain Wilson, of the Antelope, when that frigate was wrecked off the island. So great was the kindness of the King that Captain Wilson brought his son to England to be educated. But Lee Boo never went back, and an inscription on his tomb bears testimony to his father's kindness to distressed British sailors.

PARIS, Jan. 13.—The Communist Deputy, M. Cachin, and the managers of the newspapers, *"Humanité"* and *"Internationale,"* were yesterday charged with inciting military disobedience by means of anarchist articles published in December.—Reuter.

ARMISTICE DAY PHANTOM

Mysterious Vision of a Roadside Cenotaph

A strange story of Armistice Day reaches the "Daily News" from Glastonbury.

A party of visitors were driving along the deserted road between Glastonbury and Taunton on the morning of November 11. At 11 o'clock they shut off the engine of their car.

Close by the place where they stopped was a great white stone, 30 or 40 feet in height, rising from a tier of steps, bearing laurel wreaths embossed in gold on either side near the flat-topped summit. The inscription—in luminous silvery blue handwriting—read:

If ye break faith with us who died,
We shall not sleep.
Tho' poppies bloom in Flanders fields,
We who have passed.

An eye-witness says:

The words "We who have passed" seemed to be intended as a signature. It was not until later that we realised there is no stone bearing this inscription in the neighbourhood. There are several monuments in the district, but all at a distance of some miles.

The place where we saw the phantom Cenotaph is an ancient earthwork, presumably British, known as Greyland Fosse. It remains a mystery, the most sceptical of the very few people who saw it being startled into silence.

It has been suggested that the district in which the memorial was seen is the reputed Avalon of the ancient British legends to which passed the soul of the warriors who fell in battle.

A fragmentary phrase in Welsh was also seen in the inscription.

CITY OF DAVID

Jebusite Wall and Tower Discovered

Professor R. A. S. Macalister, leader of the joint expedition of the Palestine Exploration Fund and the "Daily Telegraph," believes that the expedition has come upon the remains of the mysterious Millo stronghold, on the site of the ancient City of David.

The Hebrew word "Millo" is generally taken to mean a solid tower or an earth embankment between stone walls.

In 11. Samuel, chap. v., verse 9, it is stated: "So David dwelt in the fort and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward."

According to Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, honorary secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund, the historical evidence all points to the fact that the Millo existed as a strong tower or fort at the time of the conquest by David, a thousand years before Christ.

It may have been the holy "high place" of the Jebusites, who for several centuries had resisted all the attempts of the Hebrews against their little stronghold.

GODSTOW NUNNERY

Presentation to Oxford University

Oxford, Nov. 20—Godstow Nunnery, which stands beside the upper Thames two miles above Oxford, has been offered to the University of Oxford by Mr. Raymond William Hennell, of Wytham, Bucks, with about 20 acres of land adjoining, on condition that the Nunnery and land shall be held for ever by the University, and that the net income derived from the land shall be applied to the preservation of the ruins.

All that remains of the Benedictine Nunnery of SS. Mary and John the Baptist, founded by Edith, the wife (it is supposed) of Robert d'Oyley, of Oxford Castle, is a yard formed by the south and east boundary walls and the roofless chapel, which, like most of the fragmentary remains, is perpendicular. The chapel was dedicated in December, 1196, by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, and, was consecrated in the presence of King Stephen, Queen Maude, and Prince Eustace.

In the Nunnery Rosamund, sister of Walter, Lord Clifford, sometime mistress of King Henry II., and popularly known as Fair Rosamund, passed her last years in penitence, and dying about 1175 was buried before the high altar. Here Henry erected a rich hearse, covered with white silk, and adorned with burning tapers and waving banners, but St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, visiting the Nunnery in 1195, ordered the removal of the coffin to the nuns' chapter house or chapel.

In Convocation it will be proposed that the gift be accepted on the conditions laid down, and that the Hebdomadal Council shall appoint a Consultative Committee to advise the Curators of the University Chest on all preservation and maintenance of questions connected with the the ruins.

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Zam-Buk, which is essentially *a real curative skin medicine,* has proved successful in thousands of cases of eczema, psoriasis, ringworm, Dhobies' itch, ulcers, abscesses, heat sores, poisoned wounds, sore feet, piles, cuts, burns, scalds, etc. Zam-Buk which is

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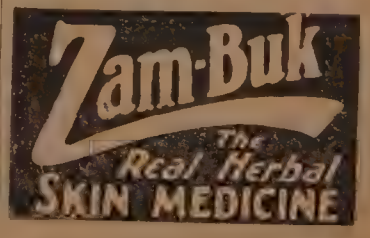

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

CHINESE SECURITIES IN LONDON

Stock Exchange Refusal to Quote Issues in Arrears with Interest

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Dec 13.

Chinese affairs have come much to the front within the last few days. Without apparently any warning, the Committee of the Stock Exchange has decided to take the drastic action in regard to foreign Governments who are in default of refusing to grant a quotation to their future loans, and of removing from the Official List the defaulted loans already quoted. The decision was conveyed in the following *communiqué*:

"The Committee of the Stock Exchange have had under consideration the question of the retention in the Official List of the securities of foreign Governments whom, without any arrangement with their bondholders, are, since the conclusion of peace, withholding payment of certain coupons. From notices which have been published in the Press the Committee have learned that unless certain special declarations have been signed by the presenter of the coupons and bonds, the Chinese Government declines to pay either interest or principal to the holders of bonds issued in Germany of the following Chinese Government Loans:

"Chinese 5 per cent. 1896 Loan,
"Chinese 4½ per cent., 1898 Loan and
"Chinese Hukuang 5 per cent., 1911 Loan.

"It also appears that the Rumanian Government has not yet fully resumed the coupon service in respect of the London issue of the Rumanian 4½ per cent. Gold Loan of 1903.

A THREAT OF REMOVAL.

"The Committee have informed the respective agents that unless the terms of the issue of the bonds in question are carried out in full they will not in future grant a quotation to any new issue of these Governments, and, further, that unless satisfactory answers are received they will take into consideration the removal from the Stock Exchange Daily Official List of such of the loans already quoted as contain bonds whose coupons have not been met in accordance with the terms of the issue."

This decision is very widely commented on by all the newspapers: "The Times" remarks, in its financial columns:—

"By thus seeking to enforce the due fulfilment of contracts made between State borrowers and the investing public the Committee is showing a very proper regard for its responsibilities. The removal of a loan from the Official List is not a thing which any State which is at all jealous of its credit can afford to see happen. It can only be hoped that events will not make such a step necessary."

A WARNING.

The "Financial Times" editorially remarks as follows:—

"This notification will be approved as conforming to the wishes of many members of the Stock Exchange who, for a long time past, have expressed dissatisfaction that bonds of foreign Governments who are not meeting their obligations should continue to enjoy the status conferred upon them by quotation in the Official List. The limitations of the decision should be noted. It is not suggested that all issues of the countries affected shall be excluded from the Official List, but only those on which default is taking place without the consent of the bondholders; nor, apparently, is it proposed to prohibit dealings. On the bulk of her loans China pays regularly, and the same applies to Russian 4 per cents.; such issues would remain unaffected by the ruling. Doubtless the move is designed to act in the first place as a warning. Stern it appears to be, but not more so than is warranted by the circumstances. There is a danger, of course, that bonds removed from the Official List will suffer some diminution of value as a consequence, but the Committee is bound to have regard to the greatest good of the greatest number of members and investors alike. All the Chinese loans specified above were issued wholly or partly abroad.

"A possible explanation of the attitude of China is to be found in the protracted delay which has occurred in settling the terms of the peace with Germany. She has published a list of bonds issued by Germany, interest on which she regards as non-payable for the time being, and these stand at lower levels in the market than others. Many of them have been bought by British investors since the war."

OUR PARIS LETTER

Huge German Purchases of Potential War Material: Remarkable Figures

From Our Own Correspondent.

Paris, Nov. 30.

Only a few days before the Ambassadors' Conference came to an agreement as to what Germany should be told about the return of the Crown Prince and the continuance of disarmament control, the French learnt from the London Press and Signor Mussolini's speeches that England and Italy were in full agreement. This was welcomed at the time, but it now seems that England and Italy are still acting together and, from the French point of view, are both disinclined to assist M. Poincaré's policy.

The British are represented as lukewarm about the disarmament of Germany and annoyed because the French have forced the Ruhr magnates to come to terms. Italy is showing in various ways that she wants to have a voice in everything. She began by trying to join in the conference about Tangier, and then claimed a right to participate in the Ruhr agreements. She was told that she could have her say when the time came for a new settlement, and she was reminded that, in the meantime, she had been allotted her share of the Ruhr coal.

Italy now shows a disposition to support Switzerland in the question of the free zones in Savoy.

FREE PORT FOR SWISS TRADE.

Italy has proposed that the small town of Vado, near Savone, should be a free port for Swiss overseas trade, and, according to the *"Corriere della Sera,"* she thinks of pointing out that, when Savoyards carried out their popular vote in 1860, France promised them that the free zones would be maintained. The French reply is that this is a matter for the Savoyards themselves, and that in any case Italy has nothing to do with the free zones, as the Treaty of Versailles, which Italy signed, left it to France and Switzerland to settle the matter.

These pin-pricks should be considered in connexion with the Madrid and Rome newspaper articles on the occasion of the visit of the Spanish sovereigns to Italy. The Rome newspapers openly discuss Italian supremacy in the Mediterranean, and the elimination of France—sentiments which seem to clash with the ideas of union among the Latin races, which have long been a favourite theme of French, Italian and Spanish after-dinner speakers. It looks as if Italy and Spain were jealous of the prestige which France has acquired by refusing to be bluffed any longer by Germany, but the notion of Italy and Spain actively combining against France is too preposterous to be seriously entertained, at any rate for the next few years, or until the present balance is upset by the rapidly increasing population of Italy.

TOUJOURS LA REVANCHE.

In the meantime, the people of France, who are working hard and saving money just as they did before the war, find themselves surrounded by neighbours who are not over-friendly, and they have the threat of a German war of revenge constantly before them. Their military experts tell them to expect a sudden attack with countless aeroplanes. This view is put forward in a pamphlet with a preface by Gen. Maitrot, who, several years before the war, predicted a German advance through Belgium. Another pamphlet of the same kind is written by Gen. Estienne, formerly head of the air services of the 2nd Army. Both speak of a German offensive within the next few years, and both foreshadow that Germany's chief strength will be in the air. Fleets of aeroplanes, built in Russia and neutral countries, are pictured as attacking France, while the German army, backed by levies of trained reservists in quadruple lines of trenches, defends Germany from a surprise attack by the French troops on the Rhine.

M. André Tardieu says that Germany has made enormous purchases of potential war stores, such as cotton and copper. In the course of the present year Germany has been a larger buyer of cotton than any other country. From January to October her merchants bought $50,000,000 worth of cotton and copper in the United States, whereas in 1922, before the occupation of the Ruhr, their purchases came to only $13,000,000. It is obvious that this huge surplus cannot be intended to meet the ordinary peace requirements of the German people and German manufacturers, and the inference is that Germany is accumulating stocks of raw material for the manufacture of explosives.

GERMAN AEROPLANES FOR THE SOVIET.

The Fokker works are building great numbers of aeroplanes, ostensibly for Russia, and there would be nothing to prevent Germany from buying them back again. The Soviet Government would certainly not stand in the way of such a transaction if its interests pointed in that direction. Russia, who is perfectly secure from attack, does not need large quantities of up-to-date metal aeroplanes, and obviously the trade of the country does not call for them.

LOVE OF THE LAND.

A second list of French families to whom the decoration of the Mérite Agricole is awarded in recognition of their having farmed the same land for at least three centuries is published in the *"Journal Officiel."* It contains the names of no fewer than 750 families.

The longest history is that of the Lafargues, who can trace back their title to land at Molières (Tarn-et-Garonne) to the year 772, when Charlemagne was on the throne. The Reyers have been in possession at Colloubis, near Gap (Hautes Alpes) for 900 years. There have been Capdebosqs at Higuères-Souye (Basses-Pyrénées) since 1063; Duquesnes at Bevry (Pas-de-Calais) since 1100, Feuges at Haguetaubin (Basses Pyrénées) and Cousses at Crémaux (Loire) since 1146. Mme. Colrat, mother of the present Minister of Justice, is the head of a family successive generations of which have farmed the same land in the commune of Sarrazac (Lot) since 1523.

It will be observed that nearly all these instances of continuity of tenure have occurred in the south and southwest, which have been less exposed to wars and invasions than the historic battle-grounds of the north and east. The Duquesne, who settled near the storm centre of Flanders and have not been uprooted for over eight centuries, are extraordinary instance of that love of the land which has been the backbone of France for so many generations and remains one of the principal stabilizing influences in a disturbed Europe.

ACROSS THE SAHARA BY CAR

News of Estienne Expedition

The Mission under General Estienne, which, in caterpillar cars, is proceeding to Nigeria, has been heard of "all well" by wireless from Timi Moun, a desert post. The expedition comprises four Citroen cars and an aeroplane, the explorers altogether numbering twelve. General Estienne has with him his two sons. For a portion of the way he was accompanied by a Belgian, M. Haardt, who travelled last year from Algeria to Timbuctu and back, but after getting the expedition started the latter returned.

The expedition left Beni Urif on November 7 and is proceeding to Bouren in Nigeria for the purpose of ascertaining if it is not possible to save 400 miles over last year's survey for the trans-Saharan railway. If this be possible it will reduce the line to 1,100 miles. Last year the Citroen cars took 21 days to get to Timbuctu, but it is hoped that next year over the new route the trip will be accomplished in 7 days. It is not proposed to wait for the completion of the railway, but to establish an immediate caterpillar service for passengers and mails.

The expedition has taken stores for two months, but expects to be back at Beni Urif in six weeks. Six of the 12 explorers made the journey to Timbuctu last year.

TCHEHOV AND TOLSTOI

He always spoke of Tolstoi with a special, almost imperceptible, little smile of tenderness and anxiety in his eyes; he spoke with a lowered voice, as of something phantasmal, mysterious, which requires soft and wary words.

More than once he complained that there was no Eckermann near Tolstoi, to write down carefully the sharp, unexpected, and often contradictory ideas of the old wizard.

"You ought to do it"—he tried to persuade Sulerzhitsky—"Tolstoi is so fond of you, talks to you so much and so well."

Of Sulerzhitsky, Tchehov, said to me:

"He's a wise baby."

Very well said.

Once in my presence Tolstoi was in rapture over one of Tchehov's stories, I think it was "The Darling." He said:

"It is like a piece of lace worked by a chaste girl; there were such girls in olden times, lacemakers 'for ever'; they put all their lives, all their dreams of happiness into the pattern. They dreamt in their patterns of what was most dear to them; all their vague, pure love they knitted into the lace." Tolstoi spoke with much agitation, with tears in his eyes.

And Tchehov. . . sat with red spots on his cheeks and his head bent down, diligently rubbing his pince-nez. He was silent for a long while, at last, with a sigh, said in a soft bashful voice:

"There are misprints in it."—Maxim Gorky, in "The Adelphi."

NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—Each person in the United States would have $158 if the total deposits in the savings departments of banks and trust companies were distributed equally among the entire population, according to figures made public to-day by the savings' bank division of the Bankers' Association. Savings deposits, which were only $8,425,275,000 in 1912, increased to $17,331,479,000 in 1922. The number of savings accounts increased from 12,584,316 to 30,323,320.

LORD MORLEY'S WILL

No Papers to be Used for Biographies: Memoirs "Wholly Superfluous"

Viscount Morley of Blackburn, whose estate has been valued for probate at £59,765, with net personality £51,897, directed in his will that no one should have access to any of his papers for the purpose of writing memoirs of himself or anyone else. The passage in the will containing this direction reads:

I give to my nephew, Guy Estell Morley, all my correspondence, diaries, and written fragments to be dealt with as he may think fit in his own discretion, and as it is possible that some person may desire to write a memoir of my life, which I regard as wholly superfluous, I enjoin my executors, and each of them, to refuse to aid or encourage any such design, and not to allow any such person to have access to any of my papers, whether personal or acquired in the course of official duty, either for perusal or otherwise.

And I also desire that the same refusal of access to my papers shall be extended to persons writing memoirs or biographies of friends of mine or others.

After instructing that his ashes should be placed in some spot in Brookwood or other cemetery without ceremonial or spoken words, Lord Morley added:

I fain would trust a lingering memory of me to the silent hearts of such as have been, and still remain, my friends.

Subject to his wife's life interest, he left not less than 5,000 volumes from his library of Manchester University, "such volumes to be placed in the Ashburn Hall for the use of the women students."

Other bequests included, £3,000 to John Vining Elliott Taylor, of Wandsworth Common, and the Public Trustee, "to be held by them upon the terms of a certain deed of trust executed by him and dated May 8, 1916"; two years' wages to each indoor servant and a year's wages to the gardener; 100 guineas to Sir Frederick Orridge MacMillan, and a similar sum to Francis Wrigley Hirst, "in memory of a devoted friend and the champion of many good causes."

WHY A BIOGRAPHY WAS BARRED.

A word can be said with authority as to why Lord Morley, in his will, barred a biography of himself.

He felt that he had told his life-story in his Autobiography, including what, perhaps, he regarded as most important—his stewardship as Secretary for India at a vital time in the history of that country.

If anybody ever wants to write of him as an English author, and to assess his contribution to English literature and his place in it, there are his books for the material of assessment.

Similarly, if, in the future, he interests or provokes curiosity as a keen spirit in English politics and as a statesman who dwelt in great company and came by much experience the official documents lodged in various Government Departments will be available, as eventually official documents always are; and this meets the comment which has been made: "Lord Morley was perfectly entitled to inhibit a biography of himself, but not to keep back State papers."

He had not preserved any treasury of correspondence, for one reason because it never existed on any great scale, men who are writers by profession, and so dependent on their pens for a living, being, as a rule, niggard epistolarians; while as for diaries nothing of importance remained in them after the Autobiography had been written.

To sum up, everything Lord Morley thought worth publishing about himself, or by himself, for we have the new, complete edition of his writings, has been published, and there the matter ends, all the more that Lady Morley, who lived so briefly to carry on her husband's name and fame, has also passed away.

hought, were the source of trength of the big Powers. These ersons initiated the Revolution ut they did not win it and they id not make the Republic pos- ible. The commanders of the odern army asked the Manchus o step down from their high laces and took up Republicanism o soothe the radicals while they ere deciding among themselves hat to do next. Ninety per ent. of them did not understand Republicanism and did not be- eve it would work in China. But they could not make up their inds.

Propaganda and the success of he anti-Manchu revolt had made ings foreign exceedingly popul- r. The radicals who had set up he skeleton of a Republic still ad armies in the field which ould have to be conquered un- ess the northern army took up epublicanism. This would have een no great task but the army ommanders wanted to pull the ountry together under some sort f a *régime* and regain foreign onfidence and recognition. Fin- lly, all the foreigners in China eemed to rejoice over this re- ublican innovation. It was mulation of the liberal forms of overnment in their homelands nd therefore flattered them. anity bred of this flattery turn- d even the longest and wisest eads. Everyone patted the re- olutionaries on the back (Not ite everybody—Ed) and advised he reactionary militarists to ollow suit. Very few of us who ere in China at the time were uiltless of this folly. A wave of motionalism made heroes of all he half-baked young radicals nd carried inexperienced young evolutionary officers into high dministrative positions. The orthern military men hastened o step in line and conform; and he members of the old mandarin- te shed their robes and their omposity and acquired a re- ublican vocabulary. Foreigners n China greeted these signs of progress" with loud acclaim, heir Home Governments extend- d recognition and the Republic as an international fact.

A COLD AWAKENING.

Disillusionment for all concern- d, including the ardent foreign- , began almost at once. The ew Government was not efficient ecause it did not enjoy the au- hority of the old Imperial Court. his was partly because the re- olution had broken down res- ect for authority, partly because he new *régime*, not having as- umed the air of sanctity of the ourt, was not held in awe; but iefly because thousands of re- olutionary heroes had found re- ellion and the profession of the epublican faith surprisingly rofitable. Those who had not on office or influence or affluence uring the first revolution want- d to start another. A mediocre ock of republican cant, which very rogue in the country was uick to acquire, was made to over every manner of political fence. The original sponsors f the revolutionary movement ent wild with power and glee- lly tossed wrenches into the dministrative machinery to show ow completely they had it under heir control. Yuan Shih-kai's dministration was feeling about o see where it stood in relation o public feeling in China and s relation to the foreigner. By e time Yuan Shih-kai had con- dence enough to give China the rt of Government that was anted, a great percentage of the ficial classes, new and old, had ade up their minds that they id not want real government. emi-republicanism already ant quick promotion for the lf-baked agitator. It meant nheard of licence in the ex- otation of the people and ex- ptional freedom from check. isorder meant opportunity— omotion by leaps and bounds r those in office and openings r the ambitious who had not t got into office.

An appreciation of these facts eched the modern army and its isintegration commenced. Pro- cial military chiefs who would ve been happy beyond words to ggle into the Imperial Pre- nce on their stomachs took easure in finding that the head of the state depended upon them for support against his enemies. The army was still centralized but no longer a perfect unit. Discipline in all ranks weakened. So, when Yuan Shih-kai made his desperate effort to make himself Emperor and to whip order out of increasing chaos, the army failed him and he collapsed and died.

PROFITS OF REPUBLICANISM.

The subordinate northern commanders were beginning to "feel their oats" before Yuan Shih-kai's death. But after Tuan Chi-jui had called them together in 1916 and had asked for their advice and support all hope of controlling them except through anything but conquest or purchase was gone. The success of the Tsai Ao revolution against Yuan Shih-kai brought scores of new figures from the bottom to the top and made disorder all the more attractive to the ambitious. Centralization of power under any form was a distasteful prospect not only in the South but in the North as well. Every attempt to restore centralization upon which an efficient government might be built was therefore combatted in the name of republicanism and constitutionalism. This process of disintegration has gone on steadily ever since until now there is such a vast horde of persons—military and civil officials and their retainers, soldiers and bandits—enjoying complete liberty and independence in the persecution and robbery of the people of China, that China's brand of republicanism has more staunch supporters, now that the people enjoy no rights of any sort, than at any time since the revolution. Any movement to change the form of government would undoubtedly bring into the field more loyal defenders of the Republic than ever before. All of this the would-be restorer of the Empire must bear in mind when he lays his plans for a restoration. The man who wanted to make an Emperor, either of himself or of some other person, would meet less sincere opposition than the man who wanted to make himself a temporary dictator, but he would furnish his constitutional and republican enemies with a much more effective war cry. In any event, whether one wants to be Emperor or dictator, it is obvious that before he can sit in peace on his high throne he must first battle with and subdue the thousands of people who have learned how to profit from disorder, the breakdown of respect for authority and the collapse of both discipline and loyalty.

UTTERLY DEMORALIZED.

China is so thoroughly demoralized now that there is no such thing within the official caste as loyalty to an idea and no such thing as loyalty to a leader unless that leader can promise his subordinates distinct advantages to themselves in remaining loyal. It is this state of China's official morals which makes the restoration of order through force of arms seem so hopeless, whether for a Republic, a dictator, a restored Manchu Emperor or a new dynasty. China is geographically very big. Communications are poor and it is a slow and tedious business sending armies into the remoter provinces. Under these conditions an Imperial aspirant would have to delegate a great deal of power to lieutenants and put much confidence in them. With all traditions of fidelity broken down, it would be very hard now for a conqueror to pick men whom he could trust far from home.

Very few men competent to lead an army, would, after 12 years of republican schooling, take orders from a chief or an Emperor which were not to their personal advantage. If the chief insisted that they were not to loot, that they were not to exploit the people, that they were to handle public funds honestly and remit revenues to the capital, that were not to purchase arms or ammunition for their own account, that they were to use their troops to suppress banditry and that they were not to recruit troops without authority; and if the chief were to attempt to punish or remove them for breaches of these regulations, all such lieutenants as are now available would simply declare themselves independent and raise the banner of constitutionalism or provincial autonomy or something of the sort. There is no commander existing in China to-day who can give orders to a subordinate five hundred miles away and hope to have those orders executed unless they happen to fit in with the subordinate's plans for his own aggrandizement.

THE DESIRE FOR RESTORATION.

There can be no possible doubt that among the masses of the people, among all classes but the official classes, the yearning for a restoration is almost as intense as the general yearning for peace and order. The Republic has been a nightmare to them. So far as the people are concerned, republicanism has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. All adult Chinese have experienced two forms of administration—imperial and republican—and while neither is in their memories immaculate, the latter has been so infinitely worse than the former that they can conceive of no happier event than a reversion to the old régime.

This reactionary spirit is not confined to the merchants and farmers alone. It is beginning to pervade all officialdom as well. The official classes are beginning to be nervous about China's ultimate fate. They will sacrifice nothing to improve conditions for the benefit of a rival, but the complete collapse of China would bring them down with their country and they would all find themselves mired in the same bog with the chance that the toughest and hardiest would climb out over them. Rather than lose all they would be ready to concede something. A serious threat of foreign aggression might bring about a monarchy movement in the same way that it might bring about an armed truce among the militarists and a peace conference. A determined popular movement, or a determined expression of the public will might precipitate it. But it is not likely that any of the big military commanders, with the possible exception of Chang Tso-lin, will in the near future attempt either to restore the Manchus or to set up a new line on his own initiative, because they all have too keen an appreciation of the difficulties in the way which the writer has outlined.

BUT BY WHOM?

The restoration of a monarchy, like the establishment of a dictatorship, seems remote at this moment because, barring the stimulus of foreign aggression or a great popular rising (both very distant prospects), the re-establishment of an Empire depends upon the re-conquest of the greater part of China. There is no man commanding troops now who has the military capacity for conquering the greater part of China, nor the closely knit organization with which he could do it. Wu Pei-fu is undoubtedly China's ablest fighter but he has scattered and weakened his organization and has dissipated his resources by sending out expeditions of riff-raff under the command of notorious failures. His ablest generals have left his immediate command to be Tulis, Tuchuns, Civil Governors and Super-Tuchuns and he has lost his reputation as a disciplinarian by allowing hordes of bandits to cut their wildest capers on his very doorstep.

The reconquest of China by a small compact force of well disciplined and well trained men is not impossible; but it is not possible to any of the leaders or any of the organizations now operating in China. Under these conditions it is not worth while discussing the relative merits of a Manchu restoration and the erection of a new dynasty. One need neither hope nor fear that either is imminent or even possible in the immediate future. As means of restoring peace and order they are remote means, if they are really means at all. And what we are vitally interested in is not a far away cure of China's ills but some immediate solution, if there is one.

THE FOUR FISHES

Of course a country which can still support the Alligator is capable of almost any phenomenon, and one must school oneself to treat apathetically things which, elsewhere, would create a profound impression! In China, a kite attacks a canary in a cage hung on a verandah in the busiest part of a busy city, and no one is astonished! A decoy of captive fish to lure other fish over and into a net leaves one unmoved; but the phenomenon of what may be called "the four fishes" requires explanation.

At Tsingyangkong, some 30 miles west of Shanghai, there lies a broad creek. For the most part barren two-paths borded each side, and beyond them are the endless rice-fields. For one short stretch, however, there lies a garden, and willows and peach trees grow where once the boat-coolies toiled. It is early January in the garden, and the trees are bare, shivering before the northwest wind. The ground is hard as iron, and the shallow pools, which lie below the bank, carry a persistent coating of ice. Even the sedge-grass is withered and cemented to the ground! A bleak and barren prospect!

Around one of the trees in the garden a group of persons is gathered, gazing in amazement at a fish, neatly impaled upon a sharp twig. The tree is perhaps 20 feet from the bank and about four feet from the ground. The fish is just over an inch in length and a cat-fish, and it is the fourth fish that has been found, similarly impaled upon trees in the garden: all the fish are about the same size and about the same distance from the water, and from each other, and all are a trifle mummified in appearance." The other three are culters.

"Flying fish," murmurs the Frivolous One, ecstatically. "Flying fish"! And then they fall to devising theories to account for so unsual a spectacle.

"Mr. G. K. Chesterton," said the Scientist, "would unravel the tangle in this way:—

A sudden gleam illumined the thoughtful face of Father Brown and with rapid strides he marched down the garden-path, obviously measuring the distance between each dried fish. As he returned the watching detectives saw in his eyes the rapt vacancy of the mystic. "Can't you see it, Flambeau?" he said, timidly. "Is not this place also called Henli, and are there not houseboats here in the summer time?" His tall friend nodded, leaping up and down from the verandah in order to keep himself warm! "I see a houseboat," continued the little Priest, "leaving the bridge by the Station and coming North. It is propelled by six coolies working two yulohs, and is proceeding at about three miles an hour. The boy is serving the cocktails, which invariably precede luncheon in this country, and has opened a box, labelled "sardines," which he has himself purchased in the native city at Shanghai. The box looks like a box of sardines and it has a foreign label, but, in fact, it is a local product! Possibly it is the boy's intention to cheat his master as to the price of that box, but I cannot be certain." His face took on the puzzled expression of a child and then cleared again. "As the bows of the boat arrive here," he said, tapping the bank impatiently with his stick, the Boy offers the shining delicacies to his master, who takes one at random upon a fork and is about to pass it to a friend when he observes to his horror that it is not a sardine but a catfish! He surreptitiously hurls it from the fork, in disgust, on to the bank where it is caught by this twig. Next he discards a culter, and then two more, and finally the entire tin is hurled at the Boy's head! Here, Flambeau, take back this grass, analize it and you will find traces of salad oil, or some Chinese substitute, and if you, gentlemen, will drag the Creek just there, you will find the tin!"

"Dolt," said the Fisherman, angrily interrupting! "The explanation is obvious! Some poor fellow has been fishing from this bank. He fears the scorn and incredulity of his friends and therefore hangs his catch on the trees as proof! These four fish probably represent a day's hard work!"

The group moves off to tea, and the place is silent again! A kingfisher flies up in a shimmer of blue and hangs, swaying, on a slender willow branch.

Now this is a true story, and the question still remains: "How came the four fishes upon the twigs?" and perhaps only the king-fisher can answer it!

PISCATOR.

THE FATE OF MIGNON

Mignon, Mignon,
Quaint little elf!
Childishly prattling,
Formless the self—
Liquescent as moonshine
Through the dark mountain pine
Tenderly stealing—
Cerulean pelf!

Aping her elders'
Professional loves,
Unwitting, she murmurs
The language of doves—
The drowsy, soft cooing of doves.

Mignon, Mignon,
From heaven now riven,
Passing to earth
Art earthwards still driven?
The child of Night's Heaven
Remorselessly driven
Through the pitiless night—
Ah, whither?

A. ALBAN PARKER.

HSUAN TUNG, the ex-Emperor, has issued a decree appointing Cheng Hsiao-jui Minister of the Imperial Household and granting him permission to ride on horseback in the Forbidden City.

COLD EPIDEMIC ARRIVES

Take Peps and Keep Away Chest and Lung Dangers

The present widespread epidemic of coughs and colds is being caused by certain mischevious living germs entering the throat and bronchial tubes through the nose and mouth. These "cold germs" are practically invisible and, as yet, there is no means of keeping them out altogether. But by promptly taking Peps, you can kill them off before they have time to provoke mischief.

When a Peps tablet is taken from its preserving silver wrapper and dissolved in the mouth, it gives off powerful medicinal fumes which, as they circulate with the breath through the air-passages, quickly destroy any harmful germs lodged in nostrils or throat. At the same time the sore, inflamed membrane lining of the air-tubes is soothed, heated and protected by the Peps medicine; phlegm is softened and released, breathing is made easy, and that distressing cough and throat soreness disappears.

By their direct breatheable action, Peps so strengthen and fortify throat, chest and lungs that the worst of the cold weather can be faced without fear of evil consequences. It is a safe precaution to always carry a few Peps loose in the pocket. Peps occasionally dissolved in the mouth quickly arrest any sudden cold or chill, influenza or throat soreness, they keep the breathing organs thoroughly healthy and prevent the onset of bronchitis, asthma, or other chronic chest weakness.

Peps, the great breatheable remedy in tablet form, are now obtainable of chemists and dispensaries everywhere. Direct from agents:—Messrs. Wakefield & Co. (China), Ltd., S. Y. Sheng Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

"THE PAVEMENT, BUT IN HEBREW GABBATHA"

A Sermon Preached by the Rev. C. E. Darwent at Union Church, Tientsin, on Nov. 24, 1924

"When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment-seat at a place called the pavement, but in Hebrew Gabbatha."—St. John XIV. 13.

What words! In their madness the Jews had yelled at him, that Jesus had let Himself be called King, and that that was a seditious utterance that would get to the ears of the emperor, and then, where would Pilate be, if he were reported to have listened to treason like that and had taken no action in regard to it? With a jealous monster like Tiberius on the imperial throne it would go badly with any governor who had let that pass: it would be a case of "a short shrift and a long rope" with him: "If thou let this man go, thou art not Cæsar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Cæsar." That was the cry of the rulers in their frenzied hatred of Christ. They knew they had Pilate. Now Pilate had been impressed by Jesus. He was a great deal better man than any in this mob of priests. Pilate had summed them up. There is no mind more tricky than the priestly mind, and he saw as clearly as daylight, that they had delivered Him up out of envy: "I find no crime in Him." But here was a new feature in the case, that made his cheeks blanch; to be accused to the odious jealous Tiberius of disloyalty, of letting a claim to regal rank pass unnoticed! This altered the case. Pilate took alarm. And it is what he did, and the place to which he called Jesus that is our subject to-night. It is full of teaching.

We read that "Pilate sat down on the judgment-seat, at a place called the Pavement, but in Hebrew Gabbatha." Now, what was this "Pavement?" It was this. It was the official Pavement. Pilate was a very high Roman official. Now, one of the privileges and signs of high office under the Roman government, was to have the right to an official pavement on which his judgment-seat was placed. They were cunningly put together of small pieces of marble or other stone. The pieces were called tesseræ. The art has been revived for flooring. I think you can see one in the Kailan Mining Administration's building here. Every general on foreign service had one. The tesseræ were packed in panniers and carried along on mule or horseback. When camp was pitched they were immediately put together, for courts-martial were held on them. These pavements have been found all over the Roman world, either these military ones or civil ones; in England at Bognor in Sussex, at Brading in the Isle of Wight and at many other places.

Now, we come to another fact—that Sir Quiller-Couch, the novelist and poet, points out, as quoted in the "Expository Times." We shall get to the main issue by degrees. This fact is, that these pavements were made in beautiful designs, of flowers and mythological scenes. It is true that a man like Pilate who exclaimed "What is Truth?" may not have had any faith in the popular gods; but he was a high official. The word had gone round in ruling circles, that the popular religion must have at least outward attention paid to it. The government had recognized the need of religion of some sort. So it is extremely likely that the official "Pavement" of Pilate had for its decorative scheme scenes from the stories of the gods of Rome, of Jupiter and Juno, Venus and all the rest. So much then for the Pavement, at least for the present.

STANDING UPON THE PAGAN GODS.

The next thing that brings us to the climax of interest and the essential teaching of the passage is the It of the new version of verse thirteen in Dr Moffatt's translation of the New Testament. It gives a most dramatic intensity to the whole tragic situation. On hearing this threat of the Jews, Pilate brought Jesus out and seated Him on the tribunal at a spot called the "mosaic pavement—the Hebrew name is Gabbatha." That makes all the difference. Pilate seated *Him* that is, Jesus, on the pavement. Picture the scene! We have a description of the palace where this central tragedy of history took place; it had two wings of white marble, called the Cæsareum and Agrippeum. Commanding a magnificent view over Jerusalem, there was an open court with columns of white, green and rose-coloured marble. It was paved with mosaics and adorned with fountains and flowers. Here was the "Pavement." On it stood the carpenter's son, Jesus of Nazareth. He had passed one trial or two, and now He faces another. He had had sleepless night; He had been mocked and crowned with thorns, and badgered and lied about. His friends had forsaken Him. As far as human foresight could discern, there never was any man in a more hopeless condition, as regards His prospects of becoming the greatest of world-figures, and to be passionately loved by millions as the divinely appointed Saviour of the world. Yet forsaken as He was, weak and lonely and undefended, with no possibility of escape but in the unlikely event of Pilate defying the Jewish threats to report him to the emperor, there was in His apparently hopeless position a prophecy of triumph. Here it is: "Pilate brought Jesus and seated *Him* on the Pavement." That Pavement may have been decorated with scenes from the stories of the gods of Rome and Greece; perhaps Bacchus the god of wine and drinkers; of Jupiter, the king of the gods warring against the Titans, and of Venus, the mother of love, the queen of laughter, rising from the foam of the sea.

Literally Jesus is standing on the old gods of Rome. This haggard friendless prisoner has the gods of Rome actually under His feet. In the end, terror-stricken, Pilate handed Him over to death. All seemed lost to His bewildered disciples; but it was not so. All the powers antagonistic to Him, were under His feet; on the floor, while He stood in such moral majesty, that Pilate said, "Behold the man!"

PROPHECY AND A PARABLE.

May we not then take this as a prophecy and a parable, as to the real truth of the Gospel? It is sometimes asked, how it is that Christian people can be so happy as they are in a world so full of sin as this. The answer is that the powers of evil are *still* under His feet, as the gods of Rome and Greece were as He stood on the "Pavement," which is called in Hebrew "Gabbatha." He came to "destroy the works of the devil," and He has. It was prophesied, that He should "bear away the sins of the world," and He has. That is the Christian belief, its glorious faith. He has conquered sin and all sins. Christians, if they understand the tremendous things done for them, when this prisoner was hung on the crosses, and died crying "It is finished," cannot be pessimists, cannot be overawed by the prevalence, the popularity, the power of any form of evil, by the most daring and outrageous form of sin. They know, that all the beastings of sin and all its power, to use a colloquial expression are "sheer bluff," because as it is said "all things" not only "shall be" but "*are* put under His feet." This scene on "The Pavement" with Jesus Christ standing on the pictures of the gods of the old world is a true representation of what has actually happened. Every influence, of whatever nature, that fills the world with misery; every influence that rots and corrupts the soul; everything that separates man from his God, every principle and power of evil that lies on human nature as a blight; every thing that degrades man in body, soul or spirit, making him less than man, had its power, its sting taken away, when this majestic and yet worn and tired prisoner was taken from the "Pavement" and crucified. This poor weak man, crowned with thorns, mocked at His trial, and still mocked as if He were no more than a windy philosopher, who had preached moral platitudes only, and not the "Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world," has now "all things under His feet." He was really a conqueror, as He stood there before Pilate. He is so yet, in spite of all appearances.

MASTER OF SIN.

Let us just look into this, for so many will say, "How can that be? See what a hold sin has on the world! There are pious people, who, to their shame say that they have no hope of the salvation of the world from sin, except for a few; they take the most dismal view of the state of the world. And there are the well-meaning people, who would like to reform all sin away, but have given up all faith that Jesus Christ ever did anything, that has made Him Master of every form of sin, and has put it away. On the surface, things do look bad, but they are not so bad as they look since He died. Something tremendous happened in the moral and spiritual world when He died.

We call it the atonement. We must call it something. Something happened that made sin a beaten force. There is plenty of it left; we Christians never commit the folly of minimizing sin, of treating it lightly, but we know that it is not a part of the constitution of the world; it is a burglar that has got into man, and gets in again and again, but is not going to stay there. It is really already cast out of everyone of us, if we will let the Saviour take the work in hand. There are people who make all the blessings of the Gospel present and future blessings, and as it were, in the making only. They say, it is a power that will gradually moralize and spiritualize the world of man; it will sanctify all who accept it. That is no doubt gloriously true. We all need it in that aspect and form of its divine energy. But that is not the whole of the truth about it. No. Something was *done, finished,* that never needs doing again. It is a huge relief to the mind and conscience to think of that. It is wearying and discouraging to view the Gospel as everlastingly toiling at a job and task, that never gets completed. The soul gets sick when a work is never done. The soul craves for some finality. And we have it. He died for sin; He "condemned sin in the flesh;" He gave it a mortal blow when He cried. "It is finished." Christianity is *not* just a *promise*, nice as promises are. It is an *achievement* as well. And its promises all go for naught unless its achievement stands: unless Jesus effected something in that mysterious dying on the cross, that never needs doing again. That is the cause of the Christian sense of victory. Here is a clear illustration. You remember the war. It now appears that Germany was really defeated at the Marne in the beginning of the war. She kept on fighting for years, but she fought a losing battle. She fought hard, but she was already defeated. That is what I understand happened on the cross of Christ. Sin has kept up a big fight for dominance over man: it has mighty power yet, but it was defeated on the cross. It is now fighting a losing battle; it was defeated in the crucial grapple on the cross, when the Son of God yielded up His spirit and cried, "It is finished." Since then He has had His feet on all sin and sins; "All things shall be put under His feet." They are. That is why Christians ought to be and are optimists. They refuse to accept evil as in the nature of things, as part of nature, as unbelievers must do. The grand drama of the moral and spiritual history of the world was there when Jesus Christ stood with Pilate on the Pavement.

"SIN EXCEEDING SINFUL."

It will be asked, Are there any signs that sin *is* under His feet, a defeated power? Yes, plenty, to anyone who has eyes to see and understand the course of history. First, in ancient times every sin had its god, as they still have in paganism. Therefore a sinner, who committed any sin, could say, he was worshipping that god. A drunkard could say, he was only shewing reverence to Bacchus; a vicious liver need only say, he was worshipping Venus. And that is just what they did say. But all that is gone. The cross threw an intense light on the moral world. Men still sin these sins, but they do not identify them with religion. Christ has made "sin exceeding sinful." That is a clear gain. Sinners know they are sinners now.

Again, some sins that were looked on with a lenient eye in ancient times are practically extinct. Unnatural vice is one; suicide is another. In Rome it was honourable. Now it is wickedness of the extremist kind, when done in a man's full senses. Again, there are other sins, which have less and less to say for themselves. They are on sufferance, condemned already. Take heavy drinking once more. No one, however "wet," defends *that*. Not so long ago they did. There can be no doubt, that alcohol, as a beverage, will disappear some day. Further one can point out sins in non-Christian countries, such as infanticide, which are disappearing, though the countries concerned are not Christian. The tide of Christian truth and purity has swept into their borders and destroyed these sins. I might go on to shew, that it just the same in regard to sins of the soul as well as to those of virtue. The Stoic superman was chokeful of pride, that he was "*not* as other men." That kind of pride has been utterly discredited. No one defends it now. So we might go on and show, that in fact sin is *not* as virulent as it was. Its Marne was the "Pavement" on which the Saviour of the world was tried, was Calvary on which He died, shedding His blood for the sins of the world. Christianity is not an everlasting, wearying hopeless fight against a foe as fresh as ever. No. It is a fight against a beaten foe. Much remains to be done: you and all the rest of us and all mankind need much sanctifying no doubt: but the grand battle has been fought and won. He said as he died, "It is finished." And so it was.

CHINA'S SEARCH FOR PEACE

III.—The Republic a Milch Cow for Every Adventurer: What are the Chances of another Monarchy?

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 5.

At the time of the Revolution in 1911 a very fair proportion of the Chinese people were able to understand why the Manchu dynasty should be attacked and overthrown. In the first place the Manchus were aliens. Then the rulers of the last few generations had all suffered defeat and humiliation at the hands of foreign aggressors while their suppression of native rebellions could in every case be credited to Chinese commanders and not to the Manchu military organization. After the death of the Empress Dowager it was patent to all China that the force of the Dynasty had spent itself, that prestige was gone and that the princes who were handling public affairs were sacrificing their right to rule as cultural high priests. The modern army, which promised to give China some prestige in the sight of the world, had been suggested in the first place by Chinese viceroys, had been organized throughout by Chinese and was officered almost exclusively by Chinese. There was no Manchu in the Government who had the ability to direct its growth or control its movements. There was indeed no excuse left for the Manchus at all. Collapse was inevitable and everyone realized it, so that very few Chinese were either chagrined or surprised when, after a revolution of sorts, Yuan Shih-kai and the other controllers of the modern army invited the Manchus to abdicate.

What the great mass of the Chinese people did not understand, and do not yet understand, was the substitution of this new thing called a Republic for the Empire. All that was understood, except in a very limited circle, was that it was something new, imported from abroad, and therefore probably efficient. The unseating of the Manchus was a good thing. The unseating of the Manchus was achieved by the modern army, built entirely upon imported standards. All foreign institutions therefore came in for a share of the popularity which the overthrow of the dynasty and the modern army enjoyed. Foreign learning, foreign religious teaching, foreign medicine, machinery and science, even foreign clothes and manners (or an approximation of them) were all on the crest of the wave for a few years after the revolution. The people, even in the remote provinces, fell over themselves in accepting what they did not understand and it was in this spirit that the Republic was accepted. There was not the slightest thought in the minds of one in ten thousand of participating in this new *régime* which had been set up. The masses had no idea that under a republic it was not only their privilege but their duty to participate intelligently.

As it transpired later the men who had made the republic possible, and who paid it lip service, had no intention that the masses should entertain any such ideas. These leaders were free moreover to interpret republicanism, democracy, constitutionalism and such terms as they pleased. All Chinese history and tradition gave them this right. The man in Chinese history bold, strong and efficient enough to overthrow a dynasty, has a perfect right in the sight of both the people and the historians to set up another where, when and how he pleases. The modern army had overthrown the Manchus and if the modern army saw fit to borrow one more new idea from the efficient West and foist it upon China, that was the modern army's privilege. Any dispassionate student of Chinese history and the temper of the Chinese people will see clearly enough that if the modern army had set up a new Emperor at the time of the Revolution, the masses of the people would have been no less complacent. In fact they would have felt more at ease to have known that there was some one in Peking on the dragon throne with authority to act as middleman between themselves and the Deity.

A FARCE FROM THE OUTSET.

From the beginning the Republic was a farce; and more and more burlesque features have been introduced into it from year to year until now, like all horse play which ends in a riot, it is a tragedy. The only men who understood clearly what republicanism meant, or who thought they understood it, were the returned students and other radicals who had been reformers or anti-dynastic agitators under the Manchus, had been exiled to foreign countries and had been there inoculated with various Occidental "isms" which, they

THE WOMAN'S PAGE

THAT TIME OF YEAR

Two Views of the Matter

By Elizabeth Pepys.

"Yes, anybody could tell the exact date of the calendar by looking at my wardrobe," said she. "This is the in-between time, when your early winter clothes are beginning to lose their new gloss, when acquaintances recognize you by your hats, and when one is torn between the economical desire to make things last out the season and the equally laudable ambition not to look like a frump."

"True," assented an optimistic acquaintance, "but I have found that my wardrobe has taken on a different aspect, a sense of novelty and that almost without my knowing it, certainly without my knowledge or consent."

"How?" queried her friend.

"You see this beaded tunic?"

"Yes—er—but is that the same one you had?

"It is and it isn't and this is just the point of my tale. You remember that it was almost covered with beads at one time. Now it has a charmingly vague and indefinite pattern. Something undefinable, but I elect to term it charming. Of course I could say that its glory has departed with the beads that were lost when their retaining threads snapped; but why not call it a novelty. You'll note that the fashion notes bear me out. And then there are always the Sales, a mid-way course twixt extravagance and parsimony. I *like* this season."

But all her friend murmured was "You certainly *are* an optimist!"

SOME SKIRT!

Bewildering Variety in Season's Gowns

By Elizabeth Pepys.

No, we are not adopting the reprehensible habit of referring to feminines as "skirts." We are truly literal as we wind our way about through the delightfully varied collection of winter models and advance spring styles.

The pleated skirt persists. Age cannot wither it appears for no less an authority than Vionnet is still using the all round pleated skirt for *jeune fille* models and Harry Lichtenstein is adapting the same idea for simple theatre frocks. Pleated panels and inserts in numerous designs break the monotony of the skirt and often provide the necessary fulness.

THE BOUFFANT ALWAYS WELCOME.

As in Russian grammar, one starts with a rule and ends with four paragraphs of exceptions. The fundamental premise is that the skirt is straight and fairly narrow. Immediately up jumps the period frock to assert its claim to distinction and we have to say that the bouffant is its own excuse for being and will always be received in picturesque society. However, in nine cases out of ten the general effect will be found to be pillar-like, no matter what extraneous concessions are introduced.

Consider, for example the skirt which seems to have all its fulness collected in the front, and to be positively voluminous. Possibly so, probably not. The close observer will detect the fact that the fulness does not belong to the skirt at all, but is merely a continuation of the fulness of the bodice, which is drawn into a great bow tied squarely in the middle of the front, with floating ends which almost reach the hem. Another interesting, not to say exciting, treatment of the skirt is to use an arrow-shaped insert of fine tucks in the front and inverted pleats to give a convenient fulness at the side.

THE UBIQUITOUS GODET.

Two skirts of similar design are exhibited by Harry Lichtenstein, the first having a full godet like a jabot attached to the centre of the girdle which carries out the effect of the jabot which springs from the pointed neck line. The second skirt has a single pointed panel resembling a jabot and forms an appropriate conclusion to the monk's cowl effect worn in front. The godet is used in every sort of way and takes care of the requisite fulness.

Some of the more fanciful skirts are extreme in their novel expedients to look different. One of Paquin's is pulled tight over the back and falls over the jewelled girdle (which is higher in front than in back) in a full front panel. Thin chiffon skirts are often made up of various layers of different fulness, and of course there are always varied dispositions of draperies at the side.

LITERARY DIFFICULTIES

Where the Pursuit of Realism in Style Leads

By Elizabeth Pepys.

There was once an ambitious young author who had great and noble ideas on the problems of Sin and Sorrow, not to mention Love, Spring and Death. She wrote very charming things on these subjects which all her friends called marvellous. They asked

ROWS OF PLEATS ACCENTUATE THE LONG LINE.

her why she didn't publish them, whereupon she smiled sadly and let it be understood that their content was quite too intimate to spread upon the unfeeling pages of journal or magazine. And all the time her collection of polite literature in the shape of "Declined with Thanks" slips kept steadily increasing.

By taking a course in psycho-analysis, however, she learned that what she needed was to abandon repression and express her individuality, whereupon she began to experiment in sinning, sorrowing, loving, but left springing and dying for advanced study. Soon she came to look down upon her early attempts in literature and quite agreed with the unfeeling editors who would not publish them. She knew she could do better work now, but the trouble was she had no time to take the poetic pen in hand.

Having, however, on one occasion, henna-ed her hair not wisely but too red, in her enforced seclusion she began to write again, but still her efforts were returned. Absorbed in the pursuit of experience she had not noticed the turn of the tide and missed the train of popular writing by a season or two. Now she is trying to dove-tail experience and expression and it may be that we shall yet hear of her as the world's best seller.

MEN'S PARTY CLOTHES

The Tremendous Importance of Buttons

By Elizabeth Pepys.

To enjoy an evening's entertainment one must, of course, be properly dressed, and no matter how much a man grumbles over getting into broadcloth and fine linen he will be the first to turn upon his wife if she has allowed him to be the only man in a dinner jacket among a multitude of tails. That, naturally is a great distinction, and one which the feminine mind can quite comprehand, as being similar to the distinction between a "dinner frock" and full evening costume.

It is, however, more difficult for the untrained womanly eye to differentiate 'twixt the braid covered and the shiny button of a man's dress coat when she is trying to note the materials, colours, styles, and designers of all the gowns worn by the ladies present; but she really owes it to herself to do so, for how otherwise may she be sure that he is really a proper person for her to meet socially. The other evening while on one side the discussion of free verse waxed warm, and across the table some racy personalities were being indulged in, we had to lend an unwilling ear to a dissertation on buttons.

THE TOUCH THAT COUNTS.

Buttons make the man; wrong use of them, the bounder, we were led to believe. After learning their significance as marking an evening outfit as belonging to the Well-Dressed Man or merely to the Indifferent Male we shuddered at our former lack of sensitiveness to this detail. When at comparatively small expense an evening jacket or tail-coat may be brought up to date it is tragic to think that the would-be Beau Brummels of Shanghai are remiss through ignorance. We haste, therefore to publish the glad tidings of the button.

To be essentially correct the evening button should not be covered with braid. It has no rim nor can one see any holes through which the attaching thread runs. The really modish button is very black, very shiny, and stitched to the coat by a hole at the back. King George of England has sponsored this pattern so it would hardly be patriotic to refrain from imitation.

We had progressed through several courses on the subject of buttons and before the sweets appeared we were informed of some of the lines of beauty which distinguish the newest white waistcoat. If memory serves us properly it should have two buttons on either side or was it three? Horrors, why didn't we make notes on our serviette? But we think we shall not be wrong in advising two, while we are certain that there should be two stud holes in the front of the shirt front. As for ties—but that is quite another story.

THE YOUNG CONVALESCENT

Feeding up the Sick Child

Unlike that of a grown-up, the appetite of a child cannot be tempted by the rarity, the out-of-seasonness of the fare provided, nor by the piquancy of its sauces. But there are other things to which the normal unsophisticated child responds. For instance, there is the element of surprise. A new cup and saucer or mug with gay little pictures of animals on them help down many a drink of milk; the contents of the new bowl will often be speedily eaten up so that the bright flowerspray painted inside down at the bottom may reveal itself. Then, too, the child's love of the miniature must be remembered. A plateful sent up from the family dish is dull compared with a pudding in its own tiny dish to which the child, if old enough and well enough, can help itself. A couple of French fireproof casseroles, brown or green with a white lining and measuring some five inches in diameter, are most useful in preparing food for the little invalid, and a small-sized hot-water plate is invaluable, for a sick child loiters over its meals, and, even to the healthy, half-cold food is unappetising. White enamelled trays with rims all round and with pictures on them are now sold at quite reasonable prices, and these are a boon when serving bed-meals, where accidents are so easy. Everything on the tray should be bright and dainty, with nothing heavy and tiring to hold.

A very light but most nourishing little meal may take the form of savoury custard.

SAVOURY CUSTARD.

Warm up, but do not boil, five ounces of beef-tea or chicken-tea (Two tablespoonfuls of liquid equal one ounce.) Pour this on a well-beaten fresh egg, strain it into a buttered breakfast-cup, and cover with a piece of buttered paper. Steam in a pan of boiling water—the water should come half-way up the side of the cup—until just set. The heat should be gentle. The cooking will take about fifteen minutes. Turn out on the hot-water plate, and serve at once with some "fingers" of bread and butter, for butter is the most digestible form of fat, and a good deal can be got down in the form of thin bread and butter.

Here are two very simple and light fish dishes.

STEAMED FILLETS OF SOLE.

Roll up each of the four fillets of a small sole, the skin side inside, which prevents their coming unrolled in the cooking. Stand them up in the buttered casserole, with a tiny bit of butter on each roll and a little salt. Steam till tender—about fifteen or twenty minutes according to the size of the rolls. If potato may be eaten,

THE BELL-SHAPED SKIRT.

mash up some with boiling milk, beat lightly with a fork, and serve in the second caserole.

FISH CREAM.

Two ounces uncooked white fish—weighed after scraping.
Quarter ounce breadcrumbs.
Quarter ounce butter.
Three tablespoonfuls of milk.

Put the milk, butter and breadcrumbs in a little pan, and cook till the crumbs have swelled nicely. Then add the fish you have scraped, salt to taste, and half of the well-beaten white of an egg stirred in very lightly. Pour the mixture into a buttered cup, cover with buttered paper, and steam for fifteen or twenty minutes. Turn out and serve with a little white sauce poured over.

If the child has boiled chicken one day slices can be served up very temptingly next day.

JELLIED CHICKEN.

Cut a few nice slices off the breast and arrange in a small oval dish, such as a potted meat dish. Heat three or four ounces of the broth in which the fowl was boiled, and melt it in a heaped tablespoonful of isinglass. Bring it to the boil—for isinglass, unlike gelatine, is improved with boiling,—and when somewhat cooled pour over the slices of chicken. This must, of course, be made overnight so that it can be turned out for the child's luncheon, garnished with a sprig of parsley.

For the second course of the meal a cup custard can be made, just like the savoury custard, with five ounces of milk, slightly sweetened, substituted for the broth.

If fruit is allowed a dish much appreciated is apple snow.

APPLE SNOW.

Stew some apples, with sugar to taste; rub through a hair sieve and leave to get cold. Well whisk the white of an egg, and stir lightly but thoroughly into the apple. Pile some on a little dish, and decorate with red currant jelly. Serve sponge fingers with this.

Milk jellies made with isinglass are very nourishing, but thought must be given to prevent the monotony of milk dishes. Vary the flavouring by using sometimes a drop of vanilla, sometimes a little grated chocolate dissolved in the milk. Vary even the colour, for a pale pink milk mould with dice of red currant jelly ornamenting it has before now drawn from a child the remark that "it looks like a grown-up party."

If the child is able to feed itself watch the meal's progress out of the corner of your eye only. Take it for granted that the food is going to be enjoyed and eaten up, for a sick child is wonderfully sensitive to the power of suggestion.

"Manchester Guardian."

PAST AND PRESENT

With Apologies to Thomas Hood

I remember, I remember
The little hat I wore,
The little feather smartly set,
The buckle that it bore.
All said it was a charming toque,
They seemed to like the sight,
But though it's not yet worn out
It looks a perfect fright.

I remember, I remember
Last winter's stylish coat.
It bloused where all *chic* coats
should blouse,
It struck a stylish note.
It had expensive linings,
Was trimmed with fur quite dear;
But now it is a refugee's—
I hope she's not too queer!

I remember, I remember
The dress I bought last spring
I used to think its lengthy skirt
Was the most modish thing.
It was a frumpish ignorance;
But it's no joy to know
I'll never reach the heights of
style.
The fashions alter so!

E. P.

CURRENT FANCIES

Rhinestone bars are the mode of the moment in milinery. A small turban draped with satin ribbon and this drawn out in a loop to one side is caught with a rhinestone bar. Or a bar peeks out from under a soft beret crown with a small brim fitting the head snugly. For evening we have a wrapped turban of colourful tissue and diagonally across the front, as though holding these folds in place, glitters a single row of rhinestones.

∴

Ribbons feature in the trimming mode for millinery and gowns. New styles are the duvetyn faced in silver or velvet faced in silver and then there are those of half velvet and half moire or a faille band on either side of the velvet. A ribbon that works in for bindings and girdles and is well adapted to negligees is a satin faced with a shirred effect of faille. When in black and white combination, it is an excellent trimming for a black felt or satin hat as a bow fashioned of this has considerable body.

∴

Rhinestones and lustrous white satin with the addition of pearls in the unusual hair ornament combine to make an extremely attractive evening costume to grace the most formal occasion.

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

One gathers from the booksellers of London that there is a certain revival in the popularity of Wilkie Collins. He had a great sale in the days of the "yellow back," especially his "The Woman in White" and "The Moonstone." He did not do nearly so well, however, when the sevenpenny reprint came along, and that may be the reason why the present reading generation knows little about Wilkie Collins. It looks, however, as if there were curiosity somewhere to know about him, and people may discover that no other man of our day has written better "shockers."

∴

Mr. Alfred Noyes is engaged upon the second volume of his long poem, "The Torch-Bearers," and he may have it ready for the spring. Possibly we know him best for his short poems, as, for example, that melodious one about lilac-time at Kew. His "Torch-Bearers" is in the fuller strain of narrative and epic.

∴

Madame Selma Lagerlöf, the Scandinavian writer, has a novel appearing in English with the house of Gyldendal. It is called "Herr Arne's Hoard," and the scene of it is in the south of Sweden at the end of the sixteenth century. We are assured that "the story has furnished the material for a film scarcely matched for picturesque effect. This would show that it has calling colour, but then Selma Lagerlöf has a quite particular gift for transporting us to another age and a strange environment, and making us feel the emotions of her characters and see their world with our eyes. All that characterises her "Gosta Berling's Saga," her "Outcast," and even her "Jerusalem."

∴

Mr. Frank Fox's book on "The English, 1909-1922" (Murray, 9s.) is described as "a gossip," and it does partake of many of the better qualities of that commodity. Coming from Australia, Mr. Fox found the English climate to be, instead of the expected martyrdom, "pleasant on the average in comparison with most places that I know well except Sydney." He found himself also rid by degrees of some hesitant prepossessions with regard to the English people —getting nearer to the root of the matter by tramping a considerable part of their country. Mr. Fox was not altogether unprepared, therefore, for some of the idiosyncrasies which in war-time took portions of the world by surprise. The author's matured verdict is that the English character "is the most admirable in the world for dealing with savage and simple peoples. It is very aggravating, on a first acquaintance, to peoples of a more sophisticated type. On a better acquaintance, it generally wins its way to the approval, if not the affection, of reasonable men."

∴

Not everybody is old enough to recall the great controversy which happened in the nineties about Madame Blavatsky and the Mahatmas. Mrs Annie Besant was in it and so was Mr. A. P. Sinnett, and now Fisher Unwin promises us a volume of "Mahatma Letters," written to him. They came, we are told, from the Trans-Himalayan fastnesses of Tibet, and their authors were two members of an Occult Brotherhood. It was to them and their epistles that Madame Blavatsky testified when she first said "Mahatma" and caused the storm. We are now to see what was behind her faith and actions.

∴

It is pleasant to hear from the Blackwoods that their popular edition of the novels of Dr Neil Munro has been a high success. He is so busy as a newspaper editor in Glasgow that he has not for a long time been able to give us a new romance. It is all to the credit of the public that they should remember his old stories, because they have the quality of literature and buy them in a new dress. During the war Dr. Munro wrote some capital "Bagpipe Ballads," and one day, perhaps, he will be writing more and gathering then all into a volume.

∴

Countess Roberts has written an interesting little account of the Roberts family and its associations with India. It will appear as preface to her eminent father's "Letters Written In the Indian Mutiny," which Macmillan is about to publish. There are 30 letters set down in the years 1857-58 by Fred Roberts, of the Bengal Artillery, as he then was, to his family at home. The opening epistle tells how the earliest news of the disturbances at Meerut and Delhi reached Peshawar, where young Roberts was stationed. Of the subsequent letters, one or two are missing, but they tell the tale of the Mutiny very completely.

SENTIMENTAL SKETCHES

"LIFE AND I." By C. Lewis Hind, Lane. 6s.

Mr. Hind tells us, in one of his little sketches, how a friend of his called him "a man of sentiment," and how he not only did not deny the charge, but gloried in it. And a man of sentiment he certainly is, and his book is nothing if not a sentimental journey, naked and unashamed. Thus, to take only two examples, he tells us how he can never think of Charles the First without having "a lump in his throat." Nor could he see that horrible melange about Old Bill at the Lyceum without having a little orgy of sentiment. And then there is Julius Cæsar. Julius is a little boy of three or four that Mr. Hind has adopted, and though he seems to be a very bright, intelligent and amusing little boy, we should like him better if Mr. Hind did not use him as a peg upon which to hang all manner of over-luscious sentimental musings. There are plenty of good ideas and quite a number of entertaining little adventures in these sketches, but unless the reader happens to like dining off turtle soup and éclairs, washed down with draughts of sherbet, he will certainly find this book a little too sweet and luscious for his taste. For people who cannot have too much sentiment it should, however, make an ideal birthday present.

SHANGHAI LIFE

A New Edition of Jay Denby's Letters

"LETTERS OF A SHANGHAI GRIFFIN." Jay Denby. Illus: by H. W. G. Hayter. Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited.

Mr. Jay Denby's "Letters of a Shanghai Griffin", although written in 1911, are still extraordinarily true to the life and spirit of Shanghai in 1924, and Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, in producing a third edition at the present time, can count upon an enthusiastic reception on the part of the post-War population of the Settlement. The work was reviewed favourably by the leading newspapers at home, which commented particularly upon the extremely witty manner in which the writer had summed up every little phase of Shanghai life.

Starting with letters written on the voyage from England, Mr. Denby goes on to describe his first impressions of Shanghai—the chit system, Chinese chow, the servants' squeeze, "Society", etc., etc. Foremost among his impressions is the multitude of smells and he refers to a village whose chief occupation was the "manufacture of smells from fish", while he alludes to the chief products of agriculture as "smells, graves and rice, in the order named." Another subject to which frequent reference is made is the Heat, and he enlarges upon the paucity of clothing worn by ladies in the Summer, expressing abhorrence at the "openwork" of the dresses. Now that the "openwork" has given place to low necks and sleeveless gowns, it is certain that if the book had been written 13 years later, the author would have had even more to say on that subject.

In spite of the fact that the majority of comments are as true to-day as they were in 1911, a few of them are essentially out of date. For instance, while there are allusions to skating, nothing is heard about dancing or of the Carlton, French Club, etc., which would figure in such letters to-day. Moreover, no one would dream of suggesting at the present time that the Customs Surplus will be used for building up a big Chinese Navy!

The second half of the volume consists of a score or so of short stories written in the same entertaining style as the "Letters."

The book is copiously illustrated by Mr. H. W. G. Hayter, whose amusing sketches of the Chinese give it an added interest, especially for those readers who have not been to China and seen for themselves "The Cook", "The Shroff" and the Chinese damsels "all beautifully dressed." It can be thoroughly recommended to all who enjoy a hearty laugh and especially to those who would like to place in the hands of their friends and relatives at home a really amusing account of the features of our daily life out here.

A.M.B.-S.

LOGIC WITH A LIMP

"FABRIC OF THOUGHT." By G. F. M. Ennis. London: Effingham Wilson.

People who have amused themselves with the Baconian cipher "discovered" and "interpreted" by the late Sir Edward Durning Lawrence should obtain "Fabric of Thought" as a companion volume in the art of driving a theory to a ridiculous extreme. The theme is the old and delightful nursery catch:—

ENA DENA DINA DO
CATCH A NIGGER BY THE TOE
IF HE HOLLERS LET HIM GO
INA MENA MINA MO.

in which rhyme Mr. Ennis professes to have discovered an ancient alphabet of 16 letters, known tradionally in Ireland, in Greece, and in Egypt, the foundation of all alphabets, and a veritable arcana of secret doctrine, actually providing a code to the Riddle of the Sphinx. It is incredible that the author should invite serious attention to his fantastic development of the theory, but such is the case and, with logical limps and wild bounds of "probability," Mr. Ennis arrives at the Truth and nothing but the Truth of human destiny. It is an amazing performance, but not one upon which time need be wasted in criticism.

It would be just as profitable to write a book on the old catch: "Fee Fi Fo Fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman;" in which case, following the Ennis method, one might proceed:—

> "Fee Fi Fo Fum:" in this line we see that the leading letter is F. Now, assuming that 'F' stands for Father, the probability is that the key word indicated is "Fatherland," showing the German origin of the phrase, obviously a piece of propaganda. Observe the subtlety with which all mention of sauerkraut and sausage has been omitted from the line, etc., etc."

Absurd; but scarcely less so than our industrious and enthusiastic author's "Fabric of Thought."

H.L.P.

"THE MAN ABOUT TOWN"

"THE MAN ABOUT TOWN." By A. P. Herbert. (Heinemann. 6s. net.)

Readers of "Punch" are well acquainted with Mr. Herbert's friend George, whose attention to the serious business of life, as lived by the man about town, is so admirable and unfailing. Here is George all at once, so to say, instead of George once a week, and we stand the encounter quite well. He is an excellent companion, and his habit of leaving the narrator in the lurch is almost endearing. There is a simplicity about George, a regard for his own comfort, a readiness to experience just so much of the latest thing as will not disturb his superb though artless selfishness. George, at one of the Sunday performances of the Society for the Resuscitation of Extinct Plays, is an example of Mr. Herbert's gift for light satire. It was "a refined audience, yet an audience English to the core, for nearly all the ladies wore Russian dresses almost entirely concealed by Spanish shawls, with shoes of some quaint Turkish design, and perhaps a simple Chinese ornament hanging from the throat." And every member of the audience observed to his or her neighbour. "*What* a lot of highbrows!" The play was "Come, Fill the Cup," first acted in the Tithe Barn, Smithfield, in 1621, and the characters were called Slutt, Stagger, Mistress Slowly, Nose, Prickle, and Dogg. The first scene—inevitably —was a tavern. The highbrow audience and George were equally delighted—"Jolly good show," said George, "sort of revue, really." It is hard to say whether this or the description of George at the Dome of Dance is the better, and the fact that we have read them before is no bar to enjoying them again.

There are other stories—of golfers, of lizards and frogs (exceedingly pleasant, this), of the courts, of sailor men. A foreigner would not see much in them, perhaps. They are purely English in their humour, and for English readers entirely understandable.

THE MODERN HISTORY OF CHINA

An Interesting and Valuable Outline

MODERN CHINESE HISTORY: SELECTED READINGS. A collection of extracts from various sources chosen to illustrate some of the chief phases of China international relations during the past 100 years. By Harley Farnsworth MacNair, PH.D., Professor of History and Government in St. John's University.—The Commercial Press, Shanghai.

Professor MacNair has rendered a service useful to the general public no less than to the student in compiling this admirable selection from the best authorities on the modern history of China. The volume covers a very wide range of reading, and for those whose interest is sufficiently stimulated there is given at the close of each section a list of books relative to each period. The "selections" make a volume of over 900 pages, substantial but not a page too many, for a mass of most interesting information and comment is here conveniently placed at the reader's disposal, and we know of no volume which gives a better survey of the century. The earlier chapters, giving first Chinese and foreign impressions of the Western impact on China, are of particular interest, especially the Emperor Ch'ien Lung's Mandates to King George III, given in full, and clearly revealing the deep apprehension with which the monarch and his advisers regarded the advance-guard of modernism. The old Emperor, "swaying the wide world," politely told the importunate traders, precariously encamped at Canton, to depart hence and take their merchandize with them, since China, rich in natural resources and prospering under the sun of benevolence, had no need of foreign manufactures; and it was naively added that, however much the foreigner might covet Chinese civilization and wish to adopt it, the attempt to transplant the manners and customs of the country to an alien soil must prove a failure: therefore the foreigner, having nothing useful to bring or take away, would appease reason and the fitness of things by going Home. But the barbarian was uncomfortably persistent, and the ensuing chapters show the slow but steady manner in which barriers of obstruction and prejudice were broken down. The conditions of intercourse at Canton prior to 1842, with the system of co-hongs and factories, is of special interest by way of comparison with present day conditions. The principal phases of history from that period to the present day are touched upon with sufficient fullness to give an adequate and intelligible outline upon which further study may be based. The volume can be recommended in particular to those whose interest in the past is out of proportion with the time at their disposal for study

SOME NEW ESSAYS BY LAFCADIO HEARN

"ESSAYS ON EUROPEAN LITERATURE." By Lafcadio Hearn. Arranged and Edited by Albert Mordell. Heinemann. 8s 6d.

Lafcadio Hearn, before he went to Japan, was on the staff of the New Orleans "Times-Democrat," and was in the habit of contributing to its columns editorials on literary topics. Many of these articles were unsigned, but Mr. Mordell, who has gone through the files of the paper very carefully, has been able to identify a number of them as Hearn's and has made a collection of such things in this new book. The greater number of the papers are on French, Russian and Oriental literature, and only a few English writers are treated. There is, however, one essay on English literature that should not be missed by those who are interested in the humours of criticism. It is a paper, written in 1884, entitled "Not Without Honour, Save In His Own Country," and its subject is the two Arnolds, Matthew and Sir Edwin.

Hearn relates, with some show of indignation, how a certain Eads, an American lover of poetry on a visit to England, discovered that most of the literary people and the bookstall assistants only knew one Arnold as a poet. When he recited the verses of the other, everybody was astonished, and said how good they were. "And Captain Eads could not refrain from expressing astonishment that a poet whose works were for sale in every American book-store, should be utterly ignored in London." By this time the learned reader will have jumped to the conclusion that by some extraordinary chance the fame of Matthew Arnold as a poet had spread to America, while we in this country were content with Sir Edwin and his "Light of Asia."

This would certainly justify Hearn's indignation. But actually, the very opposite of this is meant, for it was Matthew Arnold that everyone knew here, and it was Sir Edwin who was so admired in America, by Captain Eads and Hearn and everyone else, and who was "Not without honour save in his own country." The fact is that Lafcadio Hearn, while he was on the New Orleans paper in the distant early 80 was not a particularly admirable critic of literature at all, and was certainly a third or fourth-rate critic of poetry. However, he has enough admirers now to make this book worth doing, and Mr. Mordell has done his work very well.

ACCOUNTING

JOHNSON'S BOOK-KEEPING AND ACCOUNTS, by George Johnson, F.L.A.A., F.A.I.S. Effingham Wilson, London, 1923.

This is a well-known text-book on the above subject, which was first printed some ten or more years ago has now been entirely reprinted. It contains all the information necessary for the trader, partner or limited liability company to carry on its business according to modern office methods, and will also be found invaluable as a text book.

The North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE

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MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD TAKES THE WHEEL

PEKING'S FIGHT FOR FINANCE MINISTRY

Wang Ko-ming Forced Out by Hostility of Parliament: President Gives in: Gold Franc Settlement Now Expected

Peking, Jan. 13.

Mr. Sun Pao-chi requests that the following brief outline of his policy may be transmitted to the foreign correspondents: He is in favour of the unification of the country by peaceful measures and not by force. He respects public opinion and will do nothing contrary to the expressed wishes of the people. He adheres to the national constitution. He hopes to submit plans for the disbandment of superfluous troops.

It is stated that the Premier, realizing that there are many documents to be read, will take up his quarters in the Cabinet offices in order to be near to his work. He has appointed five co-directors to the Secretary's office to assist him.—Reuter.

Peking, Jan. 18.

At a meeting of Parliament last Tuesday the Administrative Committee of the House of Representatives resolved to appoint Col. Pao Tao-cheng as Chief of the Parliamentary Guards, in succession to Gen. Chang Yu-lin, who was recently appointed to that post by the Metropolitan Police. Up to the present, however, Gen. Chang has not handed over to Col. Pao. Gen. Chang argues that an order from the Ministry of the Interior is necessary. Parliament, therefore, sent in a dispatch to the Cabinet asking for the withdrawal not only of Gen. Chang, but of all the police guards. At the last meeting of the Cabinet this matter was brought forward, but no decision was reached, owing to the absence of Mr. Chang Ko, Minister of the Interior, and further consideration was postponed until to-morrow's meeting of the Cabinet.

Reuter's Agency is authoritatively informed that there is no truth in the reports of disagreement among members of the Diplomatic Body representing the eight signatories of the Protocol of 1901, with regard to payment of the indemnity in gold. It was unanimously decided at the last meeting to reply to the Note of the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, but there was no hitch in the discussions.

Mr. Liu Ching-jen, former Minister at Petrograd, was put on the waiting list for appointment as Minister abroad last January. As no suitable appointment has fallen vacant his term of waiting has been extended for another year.

Another candidate for appointment abroad is Mr. Chen Chieh, formerly Commissioner for Foriegn Affairs in Hupeh, who has been recommended by Marshal Hsiao Yao-man.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 19.

Parliament's implacable hostility has moved Wang Ko-ming, the Finance Minister designate, to abandon hope of reassuming office, which he now definitely refuses. President Tsao Kun is resigned to this decision and is likely now to approve the suggestion of the Premier, Sun Pao-chi, that Yen Hui-ching should be given the Ministry of Finance, in which event Dr. Wang Cheng-ting will have strong support for the Ministry of Agriculture thus vacated by Yen.

Politicians believe that, if Yen goes to the Ministry of Finance, the gold franc question will quickly be settled, because the Cabinet are still willing to meet the French terms and the majority of the legislators realize the weakness of their position and are ready to withdraw their opposition when Wang Ko-ming's appointment has been cancelled.

Prominent officials say that Dr. Wellington Koo's Note to the Diplomatic Body on the gold franc question was designedly weak in order to give the Powers an opportunity to refute its claims and impress Parliament and the Chinese Press with the weakness of China's position.

Peking, Jan. 20.

The House of Representatives has forwarded a despatch to the Cabinet requesting that facilities be given to eight delegates from the special investigation committee to examine the records and documents of the Waichiaopu and Ministry of Finance respecting the issue of $5,000,000 Treasury Bonds and also the gold franc question in connexion with the proposed impeachment of Mr. Wang Ko-ming.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Jan. 21.

Marshal Wu Pei-fu has telegraphed to the Government urging that efforts should be made to persuade Mr. Wang Ko-ming to take up the post of Minister of Finance and there are indications that Mr. Wang may yet accept.

Peking, Jan. 21.

It is semi-officially reported that an agreement was reached this afternoon between Mr. Sun Pao-Chi and Mr. Wang Ko-ming whereby the latter will assume the post of Minister of Finance to-morrow.

The other vacancy is also in process of being filled as Mr. Sun Pao-chi has decided to appoint Mr. Chang Kuo-kan Minister of Education. The mandate accepting the resignation of Mr. Fan Yuan-lin and appointing Mr. Chang is expected this evening.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MR. QUO TAI-CHI, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs in Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Administration in Canton, in a letter to a friend in Shanghai, states that letters urging Dr. Sun to seize the Customs Surplus continue to pour in daily. There only remain ten of 17 foreign gunboats which arrived off Canton a month ago, the others having already left. "Our government," states Mr. Quo, "is not afraid of military strength. Foreign governments realize that demonstrations are of no use, hence they are withdrawing their gunboats. When the American Minister was here he offered to mediate, and now we are awaiting developments from the north. If there is no solution or action, we will have to proceed a step further and take whatever action we consider necessary."

TSAO JUI EXILED FROM PEKING

Alleged Gigantic Financial Intrigue over Japanese Loans

NEW YEAR FINANCES

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 22.

Cabinet circles say that President Tsao Kun's renewed insistence that Wang Ko-ming shall assume office again as Minister of Finance is due to the influence of Wang Yu-chih and the Paoting leaders, who have persuaded President Tsao Kun that no other Minister could possibly raise the necessary New Year funds in the time remaining.

Wang Ko-ming yesterday accepted on the assurance of the President's strong support if Parliament impeached him. The Premier Sun Pao-chi complacently agreed because thereby he would be relieved of all financial responsibility and because Parliament would thereby be bound to see a challenge in the appointment to proceed with its impeachments and "Chapans", thereby forcing Wang Ko-ming and others from the Cabinet and making room for the Premier's appointees.

The most prominent Tientsin leaders Tsao Jui, Pien Shou-ching and Civil Governor Wang Chengping are now excommunicated from President Tsao Kun's immediate following and are conspiring against the Paoting group with Wu Chirg-lien (ex-Speaker of the Lower House), because of the breach between the President and his brother Tsao Jui.

Shortly after his birthday celebration the President ordered Tsao Jui to be ejected from the palace, warning him not again to come to Peking. The Cabinet members belonging to the Paoting group allege that Tsao Jui, acting as agent for Japanese banks, undertook to persuade the President to confirm the Nishihara loans as part of the *bonâ fide* Chinese National Debt. The President, being unfamiliar with the history of these loans agreed, but the Treasurer, Lian Ching, enlightened the President, alleging that Tsao Jui hoped to make two millions out of the intrigue, whereupon the President accused the Tientsin party leaders of an attempt to discredit and ruin him and exiled Tsao Jui to Tientsin.

CABINET COMPLETED

Offices of Ministries of Finance and Education Filled: Premier's Policy

Peking, Jan. 23.

It is tolerably certain that Mr. Wang Ko-ming will respond to the persuasion of the President and the Premier to take up the portfolio of finance to-morrow, while Mr. Chang Kuo-kan has agreed to accept the post of Minister of Education contingent upon the Government undertaking to meet the expenses of the eight Government colleges. Thus the Cabinet will be complete.

The Premier will attend Parliament this afternoon to make a statement on policy.

Mr. Sun Pao-chi attended the Senate this afternoon and made a statement on policy which was to maintain the Constitution, to respect Parliament and to endeavour to work out reunification by constitutional and peaceful methods.

Replying to questions, Mr. Sun Pao-chi stated that there was no

MAIL NOTICES

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PASSENGERS

INWARD.

Per N.Y.K.S. Nagasaki Maru, January 10. From Japan. Mr. J. Harris, Mr. J. H. Hayees, Mrs. K. J. Kwesejave and child, Mr. H. A. Kales, Mr. J. [illegible] Mr. H. Yamashita.

Per N.Y.K.S. Kaga Maru, January 11. From Japan. Mr. MacMillan.

Per str. Mentor, January 11. From Liverpool. Mr. F. D. Bingham, Mr. J. Dymond, Mrs. J. Dymond, Capt. W. R. Wallace, Miss C. Harness, Mrs. G. Lelas, Mrs. S. Timmis, Miss M. M. Timmis, Master P. Timmis, Miss E. Wood, Mrs. R. Woolley. **From Hongkong.** Mr. and Mrs. E. Barraclough and two children, Mr. R. H. Medlin, Mr. J. E. Simons.

Per str. Kingping, January 12. From Tientsin. Mr. A. P. Pattison, Mr. F. P. Dormady, Sgt. W. Turner, Major and Mrs. E. A. Penny. **From Chefoo.** Mr. Albert Ronse.

Per str. Kungwo, January 13. From River Ports. Miss Gilliam, Mr. E. Monks.

Per R.M.S. Empress of Asia, January 12. From Hongkong. Mr. H. F. Arnhold, Mr. G. H. Brooke, Mrs. F. Barber, Miss F. Craig, Capt. Foyn, Mr. J. E. L. Greensill, Mr. T. Goenawal, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Hicks, Mr. N. E. Kent, Mr. E. Landau, Mr. and Mrs. N. and Miss I. Lund, Master I. Murray, Mr. G. D. Nicholl, Mr. N. F. Nissim, Mr. S. E. Pavol, Mrs. E. Pomeroy, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Rea, Mr. D. O. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Shand, Misses E. M. and E. B. Shand, Mr. D. Timmins, Mr. C. H. Tinsley, Misses M. and L. Costa, Mrs. E. and Misses (4) Gonsalves, Master L. Laver, Mr. T. Y. Lee, Mr. Y. L. Lee.

Per str. Chenan, January 13. From Chefoo. Mr. Medlenka, Mr. Kifron. **From Tientsin.** Mr. Chestham.

Per str. Hsinchi, January 14. From Foochow. Miss G. Townsend, Mrs. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. L. Parker, Capt. A. W. Scott, Mr. Y. W. P. Marsh, Master D. Marsh, Mr. E. T. Peorge, Mr. A. Shekury.

Per str. Luenyi, January 15. From River Ports. Messrs. F. G. Ingram, P. Kruger, T. Jespersen and J. M. Larsen.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, January 15. From Ningpo. Miss A. Harrison, Mr. Hardwellin, Mr. A. E. Fitzimmons, Capt. A. Steinberg.

Per str. Chengtu, January 15. From Chefoo. Mr. Smith, Mr. G. Balton.

Per R.M.S. Empress of Russia, January 15. From Vancouver, etc. Mr. H. B. Donaldson, Mr. N. George, Mr. F. Guaita, Mr. W. E. Hodgson, Mrs. M. Marchant, Mr. Y. Patzak, Mr. J. J. Paterson, Mr. M. B. Obias, Mrs. H. Reiss, Mr. F. Rittmeadles, Mr. W. S. Watson, Mrs. M. Bruge, Mr. W. F. Norris, Capt. R. M. Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. Berliner and [illegible], Mr. J. A. Dixon, Mr. J. R. [illegible], Mr. S. H. Hiscike, Lady Howard, Lord Latham, Mr. H. A. McMeen, Lady Seymour, Mr. F. B. Sorensen, Mr. Shigeoka, Miss Sederholm, Mr. G. F. Tobler, Mr. W. H. Whigham, Mrs. R. Deitch, Mr. J. D. Find, Rev. W. Hagguist, Mr. B. Jay, Dr. R. B. McClure, Miss M. A. Smith, Miss R. E. Smith, Mr. C. D. Sze, Mr. Lang C. Sze, Master Y. J. Turner, Master A. R. Turner, Miss T. Miss E. Swanson, Miss M. Westerud, Mr. S. Idler, Mr. Y. Kiyosawa, Mr. S. Kurliandsky, Mr. K. Maeda, Mr. C. E. Monsel, Mr. M. [illegible]

Per str. Sinkiang, January 16. From Hongkong. Captain and Mrs. McDonald, Miss Rowlingson.

Per str. Suiwo, January 16. From River Ports. Mrs. N. Donegan, Mr. W. N. P. Cox, Miss M. Cox.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 16. From Ningpo. Miss M. Donegan, Mr. [illegible]

Per str. Kiangpo, January 16. From River Ports. Mrs. [illegible], Miss [illegible], Mr. [illegible], Mrs. Thompson and child, Mrs. Butler-O'Brien, Mr. J. Hart, Mr. W. Sharp, Mr. R. Kirk, Miss H. Hoppe, Mr. J. Middleton, Mr. W. Kermode, Mr. W. Warner, Mrs. E. Millward, Mr. R. Bolster, Mrs. N. W. Clarke. **From Marseilles.** Captain and Mrs. W. Hetherington and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. Carey, Mr. and Mrs. A. Clements, Mrs. F. Gibbings and child, Mr. F. De'Ath, Mr. Van Goethem, Mr. A. T. Gomery, Mr. R. E. Gregson, Mr. F. Odem. **From Bombay.** Mr. J. D. Belnan, Mr. J. P. Mehta. **From Singapore.** Mr. A. E. Hindson, Mr. Wedderburn. **From Hongkong.** Major C. Dundas, Mr. C. M. Wilson, Captain G. Oxspring, Mr. and Mrs E. R. Vandervort, Mr. N. W. Clarke, Mr. R. C. Savage, Mr. L. Seitzinger, Mr. F. Seitzinger, Mr. R. G. Gillespie, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson and three children, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Fleishman, Master Fleishman, Miss C. McQuire, Miss B. Webster, Miss A. Garland, Miss S. Garland.

Per str. Tungting, January 17. From River Ports. Mrs. Nelson, Rev. F. Perez.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, January 17. From Ningpo. Mr. E. [illegible] Mr. Schneeker.

Per str. Tuckwo, January 17. From River Ports. Mr. K. Pappie, Mr. H. N. Jackern.

OUTWARD.

Per str. Wenchow, January 12.—For Wuhu—Mr. R. Young.

Per str. Luchow, January 13.—For Hongkong—Mr. G. W. Swire, Mr. R. A. Brown, Mr. F. J. Raven, Mr. Ireland.

Per R.M.S. Empress of Asia, January 13.—For Vancouver, etc.—Mrs. L. Greenstone, Dr. E. H. Hume, Mr. W. G. Higgins, Mr. F. L. Morgan, Mr. C. J. Nahas, Miss C. L. Nau, Mr. R. Phillippe, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Sweetman and child, Master D. Sweetman, Miss J. Sweetman, Master W. Sweetman, Mr. E. Terunger, Mr. T. Toledano, Mr. R. D. Weil, Mr. C. G. Balcomb, Mr. G. A. Drairseldt, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lehtimaki and child, Miss V. V. Miller, Mr. W. McDavid, Dr. J. Maguire, Miss H. MacGregor, Mr. H. MacAuliffe, Mrs. J. F. Newman, Miss R. Nugent, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. O. Ohlson, Miss V. M. Ohlson, Mr. H. Plutat, Miss R. Raphaelson, Miss M. Schafer, Mr. N. Vasic, Mr. S. Yamamoto, Mr. W. Zelger.

Per str. Kaiping, January 14.—For Chinwangtao—Mr. A. M. Spence.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 14.—For Ningpo—Miss Hareic, Mr. E. Charlot, Mr. Powell.

Per str. Poyang, January 14.—For River Ports.—Miss A. Gonsalves, Miss L. Gonsalves, Miss M. Gonsalves.

Per str. Wuchang, January 15.—For River Ports—Mr. J. A. Barton.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 16.—For Ningpo—Miss E. Spurling, Miss Torbet.

Per str. Luenyi, January 16.—For River Ports—Mr. and Mrs. Skarastad and four children, Captain Ajhby, Mr. and Mrs. R. Olsen and two children, Miss Roghild, Mr. P. Kriger, Mr. Knstoffen, Mr. de O. Olsen.

BIRTHS

BURN.—On January 16, 1924, at Dr. Fearn's Sanatorium, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Burn, a son.

DAVIS.—On January 19, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wallace Davis, a daughter.

FRANKLIN.—On Sunday, January 6, 1924, at the Peak, Hongkong, to Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Franklin, a son.

LEVINE.—On January 16, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Captain and Mrs. J. F. Levine, a son. Hongkong papers please copy.

MASON.—On January 13, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M. Mason, a son. (Hongkong papers please copy).

MARRIAGE

PORTARIA—FREITAG.—On Thursday, January 10, 1924, at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Hongkew, by the Rev. Father Jacquinet de Besange, S.J., Leonia M. Freitag to José M. Portaria.

DEATHS

[illegible]—At the Kulang Sanatorium, Kukong, Miss Virginia Earl, [illegible] nurse of Van[illegible], China, in her 28th year.

BOYAL.—On January 14, 1924, Mrs. Catherine Anna Boyal, aged 65 years.

DE RAGO.—On January 11, 1924, at B-1084 Sinza Road, Shanghai, George Philip, the dearly beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. de Rago, aged 5 years.

HILLIER.—On December 30, 1923, at Swatow, Lilian, wife of R. J. Hillier, C. M. Customs, aged 31 years.

LEPISSIER.—On December 10, 1923, at Villa Petit-Sejour, Saint Jean de Braye, France, Emilie Laurent Lepissier, former Commissioner of the Chinese Imperial Customs, aged 74 years. Funeral services were held on December 15, interment in the family vault at Loury.

MANN—On January 10, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, Phyllis May, beloved wife of Gotha H. Mann, of Shanghai.

MATHIESEN.—On January 14, 1924, at the Isolation Hospital, Shanghai, Oluf Chr. Mathiesen, Norwegian engineer, aged 54 years.

STELLINGWERFF.—On January 15, 1924, at 1 Route Voyron, Shanghai, Herbert John, the dearly beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Stellingwerff, aged two years.

IN MEMORIAM

WHITE.—In memory of David White who died at the Islands of Kohsichang, January 16, 1923. Buried at Bangkok.

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SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month	Barometer 9 A.M.	Barometer Att'ed Therm	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Jan. 11	30.31	47.9	S E	2	46.8	42.5	54.7	37.1	
,, 12	30.16	48.6	S	0	48.8	46.2	60.6	45.0	O.
,, 13	30.13	49.1	E N E	0	49.1	46.6	58.3	44.8	O. M.
,, 14	30.04	50.0	E	2	49.1	48.8	59.7	39.9	O. M.
,, 15	30.30	50.0	N N E	3	43.4	42.2	46.2	42.4	O. D.
,, 16	30.29	49.0	N N E	2	43.0	41.2	46.1	41.5	O. M.
,, 17	30.37	48.2	N W	2	38.3	37.3	48.4	36.5	O. M.
									O.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date	Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Rainfall Inches 1923
Jan. 11	40 0	36.8	54.0	56.0		
,, 12	47.0	42.0	58.6	55.0	Trace	Nil.
,, 13	48.0	42.0	59 0	49.2	0.04	Nil.
,, 14	43.2	41.0	58.0	57.0	Nil.	Nil.
,, 15	43.0	36.0	52.0	55.0	0.09	Nil.
,, 16	41.0	30 0	45.0	40.8	0.24	Nil.
,, 17	33.0	26.0	47.8	42.2	0.14	Nil.
					0.12	Nil.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SOUTHERN Rhodesia which was inaugurated as the youngest self governing Colony of the British Empire on October 1, 1923, and which had previously for 33 years been ably administered by the British South Africa Company possesses one of the finest climates in the world with long hours of sunshine, breezy temperate days and cool nights. For those who wish to take up farming or ranching in order to make the most they can of their capital, energy and technical knowledge, or for those who wish to retire from strenuous business or professional life and make a home, Rhodesia offers many advantages unequalled elsewhere. The business, social, sporting, educational and medical facilities bear favourable comparison with those of other countries. Native labour is plentiful and when properly managed is cheap and efficient. Taxation is light. Good land in healthy surroundings and amidst fine scenery is plentiful and not expensive.

Full information is obtainable on application to The Secretary, Southern Rhodesia Settlers' Board (attached to the Government of Southern Rhodesia), P. O. Box 372, Salisbury S., Rhodesia.

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CHINA AND ITS CONSTITUTION

Jan. 21.

CHINA has a written constitution which is supposed to embody the principles of its government and the fundamental rules and principles for the conduct of its affairs. As otherwise defined, a constitution is a body of rules and maxims in accordance with which the powers of sovereignty are habitually exercised. The Chinese Constitution declares that "The Sovereignty of the Republic of China is rested in the whole body of the People." It follows that the people of China should be familiar with the Constitution in order properly to exercise their powers of sovereignty. Yet it is extremely probable that among the 400 millions of Chinese not one in ten thousand has ever heard of the Constitution or has the remotest conception of the meaning of the word. Very few really understand the system of government it defines, or have the slightest intention of observing it except so far as it may serve their own personal interests. On October 10, 1923, the twelfth anniversary of the Chinese Revolution, a revision of this Constitution was promulgated to replace the Provisional Constitution of fifty-six articles promulgated at Nanking on March 11, 1912. It is evident that the compilers of the original and revised Constitutions considered the similar documents of other republics, as there are many resemblances. But there is no slavish adherence. The Constitution of the United States was no doubt studied most closely, and the variations from it, particularly those concerning the Presidency, throw no little light on the state and trend of politics in China.

It is a common remark that the powers of the President of the United States exceed those of any constitutional monarch. The powers and immunities granted to the President of China are greater still. In the United States all voters take part in the election of the President and Vice-President at an election specially held for the purpose. In China, the President is elected by the members of Parliament and the vast majority of the people may be completely ignorant of what is happening. There may be several candidates for the Presidency and when the parliamentary electors are venial—as those certainly were at the last election who received $5,000 each for their votes—it is the judicious distribution of money or other substantial gifts which decides the issue. The will of the people finds no expression and the personal qualities of the candidates, their political ability and integrity, are very minor considerations. Of course the presidency, apart from the honour, is a prize well worth contending for. It has immense patronage. "The President shall appoint and dismiss (all) civil and military officials, with the exception of those provided by the Constitution or other laws, which shall be duly observed." The civil and military officials "provided" by the Constitution are very few, and as there is no Civil Service Law the President is well able to reward his followers and others when it is worth his while. In this connexion, a comparison of the sections relating to the official monetary compensation of the respective Presidents deserves notice.

In the United States—"The President shall at stated times, receive for his services a compensation which shall be neither increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States or any of them."

In China—"The salaries of the President and Vice-President shall be fixed by law."

Indicative of the dubious state of Chinese politics is the article relating to the grounds of impeachment of the President and other officials.

In the United States.—"The President, Vice-President, and all civil officers of the United States shall be removed from office on impeachment for and conviction of treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanours."

In China—"With the exception of high treason, no criminal charges shall be brought against the President before he vacates his post."

Here is no mention of "bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanours." The President may be guilty of bribery, and everyone be aware of it, but during his term of office he has only to "sit tight" and he can safely laugh at his accusers, the more so as their own hands are not likely to be very clean. The omission of any reference to the impeachment of other guilty officials is also very significant.

Doubtless there are intelligent and patriotic Chinese ready to swear they will observe, protect and defend this Constitution of a republican government, but their number must be very small and steadily diminishing. Constitution or no Constitution, the republic is a failure. The bright hopes have vanished that were entertained when the Manchu dynasty was overthrown and it was thought the revolution betokened that the Chinese were "not degenerated, not drooping to a fatal decay, but were casting off the old and wrinel'd skin of corruption, to outlive these pangs, and wax young again, entring the glorious waies of truth and prosperous vertue, destin'd to become great and honourable in these latter ages." Is the expectation of a better day of good government and peace and prosperity for China nothing more than an iridescent dream? In any event, to make the dream come true, sterner measures will be required than the drafting of a Constitution which politically and socially is so alien to the best traditions and customs of the people.

THE LIBEL ON MR. CHURCHILL

Jan. 22.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL may have many admirers in Shanghai: he has certainly many unfriendly critics whose views are coloured by a dislike of his political career. These, however, now that reports of the case have reached Shanghai, must agree that Mr. Churchill came out of the recent libel action which he brought against Lord Alfred Douglas with credit. Atrocious allegations had been made by the latter against Mr. Churchill, and had they been in the least degree susceptible of proof the slur which would have been cast on the integrity of British public men of the rank of Cabinet Minister and so forth would not have been removed for years to come. It was not Mr. Churchill alone who would have been involved but the whole Cabinet, including Mr. Asquith and Mr. (now Lord) Balfour, while permanent Civil and Admiralty officials would certainly not have escaped. As it is, there does not seem to have been the remotest justification for the allegations and only Lord Alfred Douglas's typical passion for trouble can be held responsible for what in his different publications he succeeded in thrusting upon the public. The case is so important from the point of view of British public morality that certain of the salient facts emerging should be noted, and it will be seen from them that a request made to Mr. Churchill to call at the Admiralty immediately after the Battle of Jutland was turned to such account as finally to lead to the concoction of the libel. Readers will remember that the libel referred to the first unfortunate *communiqué* issued with respect to Jutland, and how that has been used in the present case is almost fascinating in its interest.

The facts which the Court had before it in reference to the Jutland *communiqué* may be summarized roughly as follows. On June 1, 1916, Mr. Balfour, as First Lord of the Admiralty, issued it, and not only was it one of the most depressing announcements of the war but also one of the most misleading. In the meantime he had telegraphed to Admiral Jellicoe for further information, and on the arrival of this about six hours after the original *communiqué*, a second was published. It was realized that the effect of the first *communiqué* coupled with the "mendacious communication from Germany" (to use Lord Balfour's own words) might create a false impression on the mind of the public, and the decision was adopted to issue an appreciation of the situation. Mr. Churchill was well-known to the public through his service at the Admiralty; it was equally known that he was not at that time friendly to the Government; and the Admiralty officials concluded that an appreciation issued under his name would be the best possible in the circumstances. Mr. Churchill was accordingly asked to call at the Admiralty and at the First Lord's request wrote the appreciation. These facts were proved by such witnesses as Lord Balfour in the course of the trial, and this was shown to be the sole connexion that Mr. Churchill had with the *communiqué*—one which started many hours after its issue. In Lord Alfred Douglas's hands, however, that visit by Mr. Churchill to the Admiralty was made the basis for an amazing set of accusations.

Here we come to the late Sir Ernest Cassel, a German by birth but a naturalized Englishman. Mr. Churchill had known him since the days of the Boer War, and Sir Ernest had invested for him the money he (Mr. Churchill) made from his lectures on that topic. Sir Ernest continued to invest and reinvest Mr. Churchill's money from time to time, and when Mr. Churchill married in 1908 gave him a wedding present of £500. There seems nothing out of the ordinary in all this, but it gave Lord Alfred Douglas the foundation on which he built his extraordinary libel. Before we come to the charge connecting Mr. Churchill with Sir Ernest Cassel we have to consider an even wilder allegation, this time against the Cabinet. Here was the Battle of Jutland, since proved one of the most far-reaching victories of the war, described as little better than a defeat, and why? Lord Alfred Douglas's suggestion was that the Treasury hoped to make a large amount by depressing British securities through this report and buying them in cheaply. The scheme, however, failed, for with the assistance of Mr. Churchill (so the libel ran) Sir Ernest Cassel got in ahead and made eighteen millions. Mr. Churchill's reward for his share in the work was at one time stated to be £40,000, at another that Sir Ernest Cassel had furnished an expensive house for him. The basis for this latter suggestion was that in 1905 Sir Ernest Cassel furnished his library for him on the suggestion of Lady Randolph Churchill. The whole libel seems to have been based on theories concocted by Lord Alfred Douglas's morbid brain, and only one attempt appears to have been made to prove them. This consisted of an alleged remark by Mr. Churchill while at Dundee to a Captain Harold Spencer that "we did it to get money out of the Yanks." Mr. Churchill denied this, and it transpired in cross-examination that Captain Spencer had spent six months in prison for libel and on another occasion had been fined for insulting behaviour. Obviously hardly one to be considered the most trustworthy of witnesses.

These are the outlines of the case. No proof was ever forthcoming that Sir Ernest Cassel had made the huge sum suggested as the result of the *communiqué*, and after considering the case it is hardly likely that even the most prejudiced will entertain any suspicion that he did. We have seen a good deal of mud-slinging in politics, but hardly any has been so outrageous as this, carrying as it does the suggestion that a man of Mr. Churchill's standing should have attempted to amass a fortune by the manipulation of news at a great crisis in the nation's affairs, especially as he had not been long returned from France where he had commanded an infantry battalion. The opinion may be well held that six months, the sentence on Lord Alfred Douglas, is somewhat too brief a period for the disappearance of such a mischief-maker.

THE DOG WITH THE BAD NAME

Jan. 23.

WHILE it is not too much to say that the whole world waits to see what British Labour, at last in office, will do with it, it is of interest to glance back over some of the speeches of Labour's chief exponents during and since the election and to note what they forecast. Of course those speeches may have been diabolically contrived to lull the country into a false security. But situated as the Labour party is in the House of Commons, if would be very bad policy to give the Opposition so easy a means of casting up its promises against it, if it prove false to them. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's announcement at Aberavon on November 30 that the capital levy would be dropped, if found unworkable, has recently been noticed. His next important utterance dealt, immediately after the election, with the Allies' war debts to Great Britain, of which he said that, if no general settlement were reached, we could not go on paying to America and allowing France, industrially better off than we, to disregard her debts to us. Labour, said Mr. Macdonald "will never agree to anything which victimizes Great Britain in the interests of any other State."

On January 8 Mr. Macdonald addressed a Labour demonstration at the Albert Hall. This was the occasion of the "broad foot and big heel" phrase, with which, he said, they would "stamp on the embers existing in every capital, which a fresh glowing wind would scatter over the inflammable material of Europe and start a fresh war." The object may be difficult to attain, but it is certainly laudable. Mr. Macdonald added that "the pompous folly of standing aloof from the Russian Government will be ended"—there are certainly many outside Labour's ranks who think, rightly or wrongly, that it should be—and that the pinpricks and irritations between France and Britain were "absolutely deplorable and unworthy." For the rest,

"We are not going to take office in order to prepare for a general election but to do work. If capital flees from the country, when we come into power, the panic mongers will be responsible and not the Labour Party." They were a party of idealists who had built their habitations away on the horizon, but "we are not going to jump there; we are going to walk there. One step is enough for me, provided it leads to the next step."

In the House of Commons Mr. Macdonald was necessarily taken up to a large extent with criticizing the Speech from the Throne. But some general indications of policy were not wanting. We read that

He urged the necessity of bringing the solemn influence of Britain to bear in order that a new leaf might be turned. He advocated more skilful handling of diplomacy and at the same time a friendly, firm and emphatic assertion of our own interests. No party could take responsibility today, without feeling that it would rather avoid it if it could, because the state of Europe and affairs at Home were so bad. But the Government of the nation must be carried on. Whoever carried on the Government in these circumstances was entitled to appeal to the fairplay and sportsmanlike instincts of Englishmen and the support of the House so long as it did its duty.

development in the gold franc issue and promised to keep Parliament informed in that connexion.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Some Admirable Intentions: Suppression of Cultivation of and Traffic in Opium

Peking, Jan. 24.

Mr. Wang Ko-ming, the Minister of Finance, and Mr. Chang Kuo-kan, the Minister of Education, have assumed office. They attended the meeting of the Cabinet this morning at which its first real business was transacted.

The meeting resolved to draw up a mandate instructing the provinces and administrative areas to turn their attention seriously to suppression of opium cultivation and traffic and ordering the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, War and the Interior to co-operate in drawing up a definite workable plan for that purpose.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

WILD STORY ABOUT SIR F. AGLEN

Speculators Trying to Bring Down Bonds

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 18.

It was rumoured throughout Peking, late in the evening after Parliament's ratification of Mr. Sun Pao-chi's appointment, that Sir Francis Aglen, Inspector-General of Customs, had suddenly died.

The following morning the Inspector-General made the most energetic denials of this report in person and he has since appeared frequently in both Chinese and foreign social circles, showing every evidence of exceptionally good health. The local native press nevertheless clung to the story of his demise with unusual tenacity and now inquiries are coming in from the South which indicate that local Chinese correspondents for southern papers have been sending out accounts of the "I.-G.'s" serious illness with the prospect of death just in the offing.

How and why these rumours were started was something of a puzzle at first, but it is clear enough now that they were circulated by domestic bond manipulators. Whoever these people were, they were gambling upon a fall in bond quotations. Mr. Sun Pao-chi's unexpected endorsement by Parliament as Premier threatened to push the bonds up a few points, so the manipulators resorted to the desperate measure of killing Sir Francis Aglen off in the press, hoping for a slump on the market.

DR. SUN'S ATTACK ON THE CUSTOMS

Sir F. Aglen Warned that Commissioner Must Take Orders from New Government

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 19.

Sir Francis Aglen is in receipt of a telegram from Dr. Sun Yat-sen announcing the imminent proclamation of a full-fledged Government in Canton and advising the Inspector General of Customs that the Canton Commissioner will henceforth be expected to take the new Government's orders.

Sir Francis Aglen is not replying, since the only possible reply for him as a servant of the recognized Government is too obvious.

It is believed here that, lacking a reply, Canton will appoint its own commissioner, whereupon the gunboats will again be forced to proceed to Canton.

SHANTUNG RAILWAY AND WU PEI-FU

Warlord's Demand for Revenues to Finance Navy: General Indignation of Chinese

From a Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Jan. 15.

The Chinese of this city have been considerably agitated over the report, which has not been denied, that attempts are being made by the Chinese authorities to avail themselves of the earnings of the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway for the purpose of assisting Wu Pei-fu in the maintenance of the squadron now in port. The squadron consists of six vessels, *viz.*, Hai-To, Yung-Hsiang, Yuan-Hsiang, Chu-Yu, Hai-Tan and Chao-Ho, which are moored in the outer harbour, and the Tung-An, which is anchored in the inner harbour.

Mr. Liu, the head of the Railway Administration here, was recently called away by Marshal Wu Pei fu to negotiate with the latter the question of supplying funds for the maintenance of the warships taken over from the South, and is reported to have acquiesced to the demand of the Loyang War Lord for financial assistance. On the other hand, the Chief Cashier of the Railway, who is a Japanese, is determined not to part with a single cash for any purpose whatever, except for the maintenance of the railway itself, and the securing of the capital and interest owing to Japan, and very likely has express instructions from his own authorities to this effect.

Under the terms of the Sino-Japanese arrangement arrived at Washington, the Chinese undertook to refund to the Japanese the sum of Yen 40,000,000 for the return of the railway of the railway. Up till the present time the railway has only been able to meet the interest charged by the Japanese, namely six per cent. per annum. The Railway Administration has all along deposited to the credit of the Japanese Government with the Yokohama Specie Bank the sum of the monthly interest to which the Japanese Government are entitled.

Meantime, Chinese merchants and public bodies here are also showing their disapproval of the scheme to finance the Loyang War Lord's navy,—nobody for one moment considers it as belong to the Central Government,—at the expense of public revenues; and, fearing that the usual demand will be made of the Chamber of Commerce to supply at least a portion of the money required, some forty prominent Chinese traders have either already resignified their determination to resign as members of the Chamber. The whole matter is consequently a three-cornered fight, between Wu Pei-fu and his supporters, Chinese commercial interests and the Japanese.

DISAPPEARANCE OF REVENUES.

The amount required for the upkeep of the squadron now in port is $400,000 immediately and $100,000 monthly. The reason why they are anxious to get money from the Railway Administration here is because none can be obtained from the other utilities, such as the Wharf Administration and the Slaughter House. The revenues of these two utilities have somehow trickled away and the officials running them have salaries in arrear, some for two months and some for a longer period.

The reason why the Chinese object to having the earnings of the railway wasted on Wu Pei-fu's navy is that the railway needs all the money itself for its own development, the rolling stock at present available being insufficient to meet business requirements. Cargoes are held up all along the line from Tsinanfu on account of the present shortage of rolling stock and trade is consequently hampered, and native business men refuse to see the logic of having the earnings of the railway wasted over a useless venture before an attempt being first made to widen the scope of the railway's operations.

Just what will happen within the next few days is difficult to foretell but this much is certain, that there will be no end of trouble if the demand for money from the Railway Administration here is persisted in.

Foreign residents are surprised over the present state of affairs because, at a dinner given in their honour by Governor Hsiung Ping-chi at the end of December to local foreign officials, business men and journalists, he asked in a speech for the co-operation of foreign capitalists in an endeavour to conserve the revenues of public utilities for the benefit of the port's administration. "How can the Chinese authorities expect an influx of foreign capital" they ask, "if they themselves do not endeavour to conserve the revenues of public utilities for the development of Tsingtao?"

The Citizens' Association here have petitioned Governor Hsiung as well as Mr. Liu to withhold the railway's revenue from the fleet, maintaining that any diversion of the railway's earnings for purposes not compatible with its operations would further affect the trade of this province. The Association have also sent four petitions to the Tsingtao Administration, as follows:—

(1) Prevention of any use of the railway's income for the maintenance of the ships in port;

(2) Preservation of forests in this region;

(3) The use of Tsingtao as a naval base;

(4) Unpaid wages of local police.

THE NEW PREMIER'S "BAD PRESS"

Sun Pao-chi Denounced for Vacillation and Insincerity by Chinese Critic

The "*Sinwanpao*" criticizes Mr. Sun Pao-chi, the new Premier, for his vacillating attitude and lack of courage. Sun manifested no objection to President Tsao nominating him as Premier. Yet as soon as the Cabinet Ministers were appointed by Presidential Mandate, he refused to receive visitors and acted in a way that signified his unwillingness to accept office. Then, after making himself inaccessible for two days or so, he suddenly turned round and assumed office.

If he were unwilling to sacrifice his reputation for the sake of an unpopular government, why not refuse his own nomination at the outset? If he felt regret at vacating the very secure post of Director-General of the Customs in favour of Mr. Kao Ling-wei in order to take up the premiership, which is certainly notoriously insecure, he could not have expected, surely, to hold two such important posts simultaneously. As to the suggestion that he was dissatisfied with the appointment of the Minister of Finance, he could have insisted upon his right to appoint his own man if he had one in mind; but having countersigned the Mandate including that appointment without even a murmur, thanks to his own lack of courage, he had better preserve a discrete silence and proceed to serve his country in good grace.

SUN PAO-CHI'S POLICY.

The Premier Sun Pao-chi has announced his policy as follow:—(1) Reunification of the country according to the Constitution. (2) Readjustment of foreign and Chinese loans by increasing the Customs Tariff. (3) Abolition of extraterritoriality and elevating China's International position. (4) Effect the reconciliation of North and South, and reorganize the finances of the country.

Now comments the "*Sinwanpao*," Mr. Sun, being well aware of the unpopularity of the Peking Government, is evidently trying to overcome opposition by making utterances as agreeable to the people as he can. But as long as present conditions prevail, the reunification of North and South is quite out of the question, while the readjustment of finances is rapidly becoming a problem more and more difficult to tackle. The "*Sinwanpao*" can scarcely believe that Mr. Sun is ignorant of these home truths.

THE CAPTIVITY OF MRS. KILEN

A Woman's Wonderful Fortitude in Hands of Bandits: Strenuous March over Mountains and Valleys When Avoiding Troops

Peking, Jan. 21.

The outstanding feature of Mrs. Kilen's recent captivity was her wonderful fortitude in circumstances that would have been extremely trying to a robust man, said Major Magruder in speaking to representatives of the Press to-day.

In the march from Tsaoyang the bandits struck northward, avoiding the highways and populous centres where strong forces of soldiery might be expected to be lying in wait. Over mountains and valleys the ragged army pressed feverishly forward as though fleeing from hot pursuit. Yet there were no troops in their rear and their desire to rush to the north has not yet been explained.

The main bandit force of seasoned outlaws was divided into units that worked under Lao Yang-jen with military precision. Mrs. Kilen was handed over to one of these units and she remained with it until her release. Most of the force were on foot, but a mounted unit carried out advance, flank and rear guard duties with real efficiency, each guard having connecting files to pass information to Lao without denuding the guards of their strength or interfering with their formation.

A day ahead of the main body advance scouts searched the country continually for regular troops. On several occasions the bandits turned east with the intention of crossing the line, but they always came into contact with troops and veered again to the north. Once they resolved to turn to the west with the intention of entering Szechuan, but they had not gone far when their scouts were fired on by troops on a mountain and they once more turned back. On no occasion did they make any serious attempt to overcome the troops, which was probably due to the fact that they had very little ammunition, none of the small towns and villages sacked having yielded much ammunition.

BURNING AND LOOTING.

The bandits devastated a strip of country about a mile wide as they rushed away from the south. Any opposition was met with immediate death. Numbers of houses were burned and with them all the supplies of the inhabitants. The consequence was that the people thus ruined, faced with starvation, went along with the bandit horde, whose numbers were thus continually swelled. It is said to have totalled some 20,000 men, women and children when it was eventually beaten and dispersed. Of these about 8,000 men carried arms. Asked how many of the band escaped, Marshal Wu Pei-fu's officer said about a thousand, all men of Lao's old guard.

ENCIRCLED BY TROOPS.

With daily reports of the bandits' movements coming in Marshal Wu allowed them to come northward until they came into the loop of a line of troops spread north-west and south in the shape of a fish hook. There they turned first to the west, then south and then east, always finding troops ahead. They then began to ring like a mob of sheep with no outlet. There the soldiers made a general attack, in which a brigade of Wu Pei-fu's own 3rd Division took part. There Lao Yang-jen died. As far as can be ascertained he was mortally wounded by the troops, his head being afterwards brought in by some of his own men in the hope of thus buying freedom. When they saw that the column was doomed, Lao's old men endeavoured to get away in small bands, while the people who had joined from sheer necessity readily surrendered. What to do with these thousands is a problem for Marshal Wu.

At first Mrs. Kilen suffered acutely. Knowing Chinese, she heard her captors continually making offensive personal remarks. She was always under close personal supervision, and the strain told heavily for some days, but as time wore on she learned to take no notice of what was said. The march itself called for tremendous physical endurance. Her description of the bandit column on the march was interesting. The unit she was attached to occupied the middle of the force. Looking ahead once, she saw a stream of people wearing all sorts of dress, with a motley collection of arms and equipment, toiling up the side of a mountain, their faces eager and strained with anxiety to cover as much ground as possible as quickly as they could. In the rear, similar groups pushed forward as fast as human endurance would permit, each loaded with something of value either to the force or themselves. Yet the column covered approximately 100 li a day.

UNFULFILLED THREATS OF DEATH.

In a group of ruthless outlaws such as these it is surprising that no greater personal indignities were offered to the captive, but this seems to have been due principally to the impression Mrs Kilen gave these men of her simple faith. On three occasions, however, she was threatened with death, apparently because the troops were making the situation so hot that the bandits came to the conclusion that if they got rid of their captive, they could inform the soldiery that she was dead, and so the activities of the troops might cease.

On one occasion, as they were going down a steep hill, her captors resolved among themselves that she should be killed. They discussed the matter quite openly and told off an old man to perform the unwelcome task. When they reached the foot of the hill the old man led Mrs. Kilen into a pretty glade, where the sun shone on a clear rippling stream trickling down a narrow valley. The columns had halted. Mrs Kilen turned to the old man and said: "Why do you want to kill me? I am not afraid to die, but it will do you no good."

He replied: "You are a good woman. I cannot kill you."

Thereupon he took her back to the column and said to his comrades, "I cannot do this thing." Just then the column moved onward, and the incident was forgotten for the time. Two similar experiences occurred during the march.

Without being able to take off her shoes more than once, without a halt of more than six hours, poorly fed and roughly treated, few women could have survived such a journey.

RELEASE AT LAST.

Mrs. Kilen's freedom came about the time Lao was killed. She was then suffering severely from the hardships of the march. Thinking that her end had really come, she was taken into a small building and told to lie down with a woman and child. Shortly afterwards two Chinese gentlemen made their appearance and she was agreeably surprised to learn that they were trying to arrange for her release. Not being successful in arranging terms, the negotiators took her to two other places. At the third similar discussions ensued and at last she was informed that she was free. From there to Loyang she journeyed in comparative comfort. She has since gone to Hsuchow to rest before returning to Tsaoyang.

Major Magruder and Captain Woodbridge speak highly of the operations against these bandits carried out under the orders of General Wu Pei-fu.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE STATE OF THE UPPER YANGTZE

Jan. 26.

THE condition of the Upper Yangtze, glaringly illustrated by the recent murder of Captain Brandt and by daily indiscriminate firing on every steamer that passes through the Gorges, has long been a scandal and has now become intolerable. It is safe to say that nobody who is not absolutely compelled to do so travels in the Gorges; and there appears no redress, nor any solution. The attacks on the steamers whether by soldiers or pirates are due to nothing but the generally disordered state of the country. For the soldiers, the excuse for shooting is that the vessels may be carrying spies, soldiers, arms, for the party in opposition to whoever controls the locality where the outrage occurs, and such shooting frequently if not usually follows a demand that the vessel shall submit to be searched. Of this it may be said that the foreign owners can give all guarantees about arms and soldiers so long as the latter are in uniform; but they are at the mercy of the Chinese crew and cannot possibly guarantee the character of all their Chinese passengers. It is possible—we merely make a surmise—that the companies might not object to an orderly search, as it might be done in other countries. But they have no assurance, first that it would be orderly; second, that the people claiming to search the ships are *bond fide* soldiers and not pirates. The cases of the Alice Dollar and the Tzesui are ample justification of these doubts.

There then arises the question of naval guards. Of this it is to be said that the British Navy has not the available men and that the principle of doing what the Chinese authorities should do, of relieving them of a responsibility which devolves on them and no one else, is not lightly to be admitted. This attitude, we believe, British merchants on the Upper Yangtze appreciate and do not question. For this further consideration has to be remembered. Even if foreign guards were available and permissible, they might not be altogether welcome on board the ships, unless they could be put under the control of the master, which is manifestly impossible. With the ship under one command, the guard under another, it is easy to realize that in the difficult waters of the Gorges differences of opinion might arise. Firing from the bank occurs or is anticipated, and the guard may call upon the master to heave to or do something else, which he, with his knowledge of the river, knows to be impossible. In the main, therefore, the situation is accepted as it is. It is bad; but trade is done after a fashion; and every solution hitherto propounded seems to involve a danger of making matters worse instead of better.

Nevertheless, as said at the beginning, the situation is really intolerable. It is a disgrace to China and the almost unquestioned neglect of it by the Chinese authorities reacts far and wide on foreign interests and prestige. Moreover, lawlessness of the kind prevailing on the Upper Yangtze is specially mentioned and provided for in the Iancheng Note. In that the Powers emphatically say that they will not tolerate China's evading her responsibility to keep order; that if she persists in doing so, they will not hesitate to take the necessary steps to protect their nationals; and that they will make it their business to see that provincial officials guilty of failing to keep order are duly punished. It is this last clause which might surely be enforced in respect of the Gorges. It cannot be hard to find out who is directly responsible for the behaviour of the district in which Captain Brandt was murdered, and to insist on his being cashiered; not just allowed to resign and immediately afterwards be promoted as in the case of Tien Chung-yu, Military Governor of Shantung; but publicly castigated and dismissed by Presidential Mandate. Too readily, perhaps, do we accept the excuse that Peking's word carries no weight in the provinces. That plea has never properly been put to the test in respect of the complaints of brigandage. Even if the guilty official held his ground in defiance of Peking, and we doubt whether he would if the Powers showed that they meant what they said, both he and Peking would have lost face through the mandate, which would prove to other misdemeanants that their cynical neglect of responsibility was no longer to be tolerated. The public disgracing of one prominent and demonstrably guilty official would have a wonderfully stimulating effect throughout the country. And it involves no intervention nor repercussion on innocent country-folk, and it can be done.

THE JAPANESE WEDDING

Jan. 26.

TO-DAY the thoughts of Japanese all over the world will be centred upon two greatly beloved members of the Royal House, the Prince Regent and his bride, Princess Nagako Kuni. Scarcely any event is more calculated to stir the imagination of the Japanese than this royal wedding, for throughout the island kingdom the same atmosphere of divinity attends the Imperial family that there was in past centuries. In normal circumstances a wedding of this sort would be the occasion for almost unlimited pomp and splendour, of a kind which must be dear to the heart of the Japanese, but with great solicitude for their people Their Imperial Highnesses have resolved that the ceremony with its attendant public functions shall be as simple and inexpensive as can be. Their feeling is that the country has to face such a period of struggle to enable it to recover from the terrible disaster of the earthquake that the splendour of royalty must on this occasion be limited. The fact that the Prince Imperial has paid a visit to our homeland and that immediate relatives of Princess Nagako Kuni have also been there suggests that the Japanese people will have liberal-minded and progressive rulers in the future, and this must be a source of satisfaction to the friends of the country, which may find fitting expression in their rejoicings along with the Japanese to-day.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Famine Fighting

The work of the Chinese Foreign Famine Relief Committee, of whose report we give some extracts to-day, deserves equal attention and praise. Handling considerable sums of money they have spent them in a thoroughly practical way on actual repair work and on laying down plans for the future. The latter in particular deserve examination. Anybody with a few years' recollection can recall repeated occasions of agonized appeal from certain notorious districts, of which certainly none is worse than the Huai River. A glance at the map shows exactly why this region is so bad. Starting in the neighbourhood of the Han River, the Huai forms with it and the Yangtze an irregular triangle and discharges its waters into a chain of marshy lakes on the borders of Anhui and Kiangsu. In times of excessive rain, the country becomes waterlogged for months, as happened two years ago. It is most uneconomic to go on merely appealing for money to save the starving when famine occurs and hence the C.F.F.R. Committee's plan, in which we wish it all success, as also in the other work contemplated in Chêkiang, for which Mr. Carey's energy and Mr. von Heidenstam's efforts in survey work are greatly responsible. One point, however, may be noted. The Committee are hopeful that the United States will give some of the Boxer indemnity for their Huai River project. It will be very kind of America if she does. But why should not the Chinese Government find the money? With 60,000,000 mow of land to be kept in a perpetually good working condition and 50,000,000 more to be reclaimed and made to produce food, the scheme is so eminently a paying one that no Government worthy of the name would ever have the slightest difficulty in raising the necessary money. Imagine Britain or America borrowing for a similar purpose. The loan would be oversubscribed in an hour. But in China, a scheme which would bring inestimable benefit on millions of people—indirectly, on the whole country—cannot certainly be carried out unless some foreign nation pays for it. Will Young China kindly note?

Indian Patriots

The situation in the Indian Central Provinces Legislature is distinctly interesting. The elections at the end of December gave the Swarajists a majority and their leader, Dr. Moonje, was invited to form a Ministry, which, while thanking the Governor for his constitutional usage, Dr. Moonje refused to do—just as the Swarajists in Bengal declined a similar offer. Now, however, Dr. Moonje and his friends are doing their utmost to make government in the Central Provinces impossible, blocking all bills and informing the Governor that his Ministers do not enjoy the confidence of the House. Nobody, of course, will feel any surprise at the behaviour of Swarajists or any other breed of Indian Nationalist. But what is the Government of India going to do? It is responsible for the well being of millions and millions of defenceless peasants who "cannot tell their right hand from their left" as the Old Testament tersely puts it, and even the academicians at Westminster, who have been doing their best for years past to throw away the Indian Empire, hardly suggest that the British Raj should abdicate just yet. Inasmuch, then, as the Swarajists will not govern themselves and thwart everybody else who tries to do so, they must simply be over-ridden. The Central Provinces Government must carry on in defiance of the Legislature—which indeed would be an excellent lesson for that unnecessary and wasteful body. The question is whether the Government will have the courage to take the only practical, even if unconstitutional course, and whether the House of Commons would support it. With all that may be said against Labour, we do not somehow see hard-headed men like Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. Clynes, with their practical experience of the iron autocracy of trades unionism, truckling to impossible creatures like Moonje and his satellites.

The Fall of the Franc

With the franc now fluctuating wildly at over 90 to the £, Paris is trying the expedient, which has been favoured for years, of raising her bank rate, and it is now 6 per cent. The theory involved in raising a bank rate is that it brings money into the country, and in normal times this principle works admirably. Thus if London were short of money the bank rate could be raised by a fraction and, finding so much more profitable employment there than in other financial centres, money would flow to London from all over the world. As a result of the war, however, and the changed conditions of to-day, certain economists have openly expressed doubts as to whether this operation of manipulating the bank rate to suit the needs of the case is still sound, and whether the disadvantages it brings with it do not outweigh possible benefits. A high bank rate means that money is diverted from the industries of the country, and as these are invariably in need of money for their ordinary business operations we see the first disadvantage, and a serious one. Then comes the question whether after a point an increase in the bank rate will have the desired effect of attracting money from other countries. People with money in a stabilized currency become chary of venturing it in depreciated currencies, especially if these have recently been subject to violent fluctuation and heavy drops, and the more cautious their sentiment the less will the bank rate operate in the desired direction. In view of these considerations it is by no means certain that this last rise in the French bank rate will have the effect of stopping the fall of the franc.

The Arctic Icefields

The "New York World's" merry gibe to-day at the American annexationists who propose to conquer the Arctic icefields by means of the airship Shenandoah is a perfectly good piece of criticism. Judging by what happened to another spot in the Arctic circle the airship might proceed to plant the Stars and Stripes all over the place, but unless a physical occupation followed it is unlikely that future generations, if they wanted these icefields, would allow such a claim to annexation. The precedent is the case of Spitzbergen. In the reign of James I a party of Scotsmen proceeded thither and annexed the place, and then probably finding it too cold for their comfort, departed and nobody seems to have worried much about it until the war. Then, however, at certain seasons of the year the British Navy paid some attention to it in pursuit of the blockade, and certain historians raked up the story of its being a British possession. There are large deposits of coal there, and suggestions were heard of a company being formed to exploit them. When, however, it came to treaty making at the close of the war the fact that the Scandinavian countries had all the interests worth having at Spitzbergen proved too much for the annexation dating back to James I, and the place went either to Norway or Sweden. Nobody in Britain worried very much about its doing so, and the capital that was to have gone into the coal mines went into something else. In view of all this the probability is that unless there are these long-range guns to protect the Pole, which the "New Yorw World" suggests, by the time the Arctic icefields have a real commercial value somebody else will probably be in real possession.

Opium in Canton

The institution, by Dr. Sun Yat-sen's new Government in Canton, of an opium monopoly, will be watched with interest. From the strictest standpoint of morality, it is a retrograde step. If it is obnoxious to license houses of unfortunate women, merely for control and not for revenue, it is more obnoxious to license opium, when, in addition to control, you want the money it will bring in. On the other hand, from the point of view of practical politics, the avowed monopoly which Dr. Sun intends is far preferable to the enormous illicit trade in opium which has grown up since importation of foreign opium was stopped. Just a year ago Sir Francis Aglen advocated the Chin-Chinese Government's establishing a monopoly. He was at once howled down by all the good people of ostrich tendencies, who seem to think it is more creditable to China to pretend that she has abolished opium, while actually it is grown in nearly every province, than to confess frankly that the evil has got out of hand and can be coped with only in one way. It is significant now to see that the attitude of the International Anti-Opium Society has somewhat changed. What has yet to be proved is whether Dr. Sun will be able to make his monopoly good. He stands a better chance of doing so than Peking would have had, which cannot enforce its will in a single province. But Dr. Sun's power in Canton rests so largely on the Yunnanese troops that it is an open question whether he will be able to carry through a reform which is very unlikely to please them.

The Latest Piracy

Another has been added to the long list of piracies between Hongkong and Canton, and it may be hoped that now, in spite of their other pre-occupations, the Canton authorities will agree to cooperate with the British in dealing with the menace. There is a strong hope that they will, following the conference last week between the commander of H.M.S. Tarantula and the Chief of the Canton Police, but unless that cooperation is immediate and complete in every respect, the evil will not be eradicated. On the contrary it will grow, as it has already given signs of doing, an extension as far north as Amoy having been noted. This latest is a repetition of too many which have occurred in the past: the pirates travelled as passengers and at a pre-arranged moment flung themselves on the guard, murdered the captain and looted to their hearts' content. Not only so, but they took certain of the passengers away to be held to ransom, and it may be that this will be their undoing. It may disclose their lair, and an expedition energetically carried out might strike them such a severe blow as to disorganize them completely. All depends upon the attitude which Canton is prepared to adopt, and if Chinese officialdom there can for once overcome its wonted dilatoriness very important results may well ensue. A long time ago the Hongkong authorities took measures to safeguard steamers by insisting on guards and the examination of passengers, but the pirates have all along had facilities for their operations at the other end, and they will not be laid by the heels once and for all until Canton comes fully into line with Hongkong.

THE favourable treatment afforded the Boy Emperor by the Chinese Republic is in danger of being abolished, states a Northern paper, if a group in Parliament has its way. M.P.'s are rankled at the Manchu Emperor issuing public decrees conferring honours on Chinese who are citizens of the Republic. It is proposed that the favourable treatment clause in the Republic's treaty with the Manchu House should be invalidated. The present palaces in the Forbidden City would then be turned over to the Ministry of the Interior together with the Summer Palace.

Mr. Clynes, the next Labour chieftain to be fully reported in the telegrams, dwelt primarily on the necessity of improving markets in Europe, but, if they failed, with a special eye on the Dominions: there was not a word in his speech to arouse any fear that Labour would weaken the ties with the Dominions, but very much the reverse. And then came Mr. Thomas, beginning with the ideal which Labour sets before itself of bringing the peoples of the world together, but adding, it might almost seem incongruously, that the conditions of Central Europe necessitated Britain's spending money on her own defence. Then in conclusion a fine passage about France. Heaven forbid that the Labour party should in any way impair the good relationship with France, or even suggest by its attitude any lack of sympathy with her; but that was not to say that if it saw her heading for disaster, it should not tell her so frankly.

All these speeches, be it remembered, were delivered in the full consciousness that if Labour gets into power and proceeds to inordinate lengths, the Opposition can turn it out as soon as ever the country has had a sufficient experience of its folly to be trusted to elect wiser rulers. But there does not appear much to be frightened at in them. It may be objected that they do not represent the views of the rank and file. That, of course, has to be proved and one may well anticipate that the Labour Government's worst troubles will be among its own followers. On the other hand, we know that avowed Communists and candidates of pronouncedly Communist views trying to get in on the Labour ticket, failed conspicuously at the elections. Furthermore, we seldom hear of the wild silly things said at country meetings by subordinate members of the Conservative party, but when Labourites of similar importance or unimportance deliver a tirade, it echoes all round the world. Assuredly this is no time for rash experiment: but since the leading representatives of Labour found themselves actually [illegible] we have heard nothing from them yet to contradict belief that they fully share that opinion

THE FIRST LABOUR CABINET

Jan. 24.

The first Labour Cabinet of Great Britain cannot but evoke [illegible] What are the red neckties and the ex-[illegible] Three of the members cut by any means to the best imperial pose, but from the Grand Chamber. Another is a descendant of baronets. At least one was born in Park Lane. Those who are best known for "queer" ideas, Mr Sidney Webb and Mr. Trevelyan, are certainly anything but manual workers, while those born of working parents, as the phrase goes—do none really deserve to be called workers but they who wield the pickaxe and the crow?—are quite of the moderate wing in respect of Labour views. But, after all, why not peers in a Labour Cabinet? Was there not an Egalité Prince of the Blood in the French Revolution? And then Lenin, dictator of Russian Bolshevism owned a far more aristocratic name than that by which the world will ever remember him.

Nor will there be any real disposition to speak or think derisively of Mr. Macdonald's colleagues. On the contrary we believe the general verdict will be that they represent a high average of brains and soundness. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Clynes have long enjoyed the respect of all parties. Mr. Stephen Walsh has twice discharged secretarial duties of a kind to prepare him for his present task. Sir Sydney Olivier is an authority on colonial questions, with first hand experience of them, which is a much better preparation for the India Office than many of its occupants have boasted. Mr. Burton is an expert on farming, Mr. Trevelyan on education and Mr. Sidney Webb has at least no lack of theoretical qualification for the Board of Trade. Mr. Philip Snowden, apart from other possible equipment for the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, has one great recommendation: he has travelled in Russia during the height of Bolshevism. The three most interesting Ministries to watch, however, will be those of Labour, of Public Works and of Foreign Affairs. In the two former, whatever socialistic tendencies there may be in the new Administration will have most scope. As for the third, the state of the whole world is index of the intense interest with which Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's work will be watched. Already, we are told, the Chinese are paying far closer attention to British politics than they have ever done before.

The very qualities in the Cabinet which will tend to reassurance of the nation in general may cause grumbling among the Jack Jones's of its own side of the House. But their influence can be exaggerated. The House of Commons has been found to exert a wonderfully steadying influence on the extremists. Those who fail to submit to it like the egregious Sakletvala, soon find themselves outside. Moreover, be it remembered that every party that was ever in power has had its wild men whom the leaders, in order safely to disregard, were first obliged to study. In the main, the Labour Cabinet appears typically British. It is somewhat in the neighbour of a compromise, though with this recommendation that its leaders appear to know exactly what they want to do. "There's the respect must give us pause," or so the [illegible] will say. For some experimentation the nation must be prepared and no doubt it will have to pay for it: though whether, in the long run, it will have to pay more than it has, almost traditionally, done for the experimenting of bygone Governments, is a question which, perhaps, only the angels could answer. Two sentences from Labour leaders' speeches in the past few days may be recalled. From Mr. Thomas, that Labour has been trained in a hard school: and from Mr Macdonald that though Labour has built its ideals on the horizon, it would not jump, but walk, thither. Of both these sayings the new Cabinet seems typical.

LENIN

Jan. 24.

It is probable that, from the death of Lenin, history will date the collapse of Bolshevism. The All-Russian Congress of Soviets may sit to consider how best to carry on his work. But in spite of them all, the indications are that that work was done and over even before he died. A new aristocracy has arisen in Russia, growing out of the revolution as a century ago it grew out of the French, expressing its supremacy and pride in a wealth, luxury and extravagance hardly excelled by the wildest of the old nobility. Class shuts off class. Private trading is once more permissible. The shops vie with each other in display of beautiful and costly things. Money circulates. It is to be admitted that State control continues to exercise its benumbing influence. But the Communism of to-day in Russia is a pallid sham compared with that of three or four years ago and every month the irresistible instincts and practices of human nature must denounce and neutralize more and more of the transient artificiality of its disordered dreams.

On Lenin himself there is no man now capable of pronouncing judgment. Even those of his own race, who should by nature be able to find a key to much in his life and character which is incomprehensible to western peoples, may hesitate to offer a fixed opinion about him. Of the principles which he embodied, history has but one inexorable verdict, that wherever they have been tried they have proved an utter and most calamitous failure, because they are in flat contradiction of the whole constitution and governance of Nature. But of the man himself it is not so easy to be positive. No one who can so long and so irresistibly dominate a vast people like the Russians is to be measured by ordinary standards. None among his fellows came near him in dominance and ability, though they were certainly no fools. That he was a monster of ruthlessness there appears no question: the rivers of blood that had to flow for the accomplishment of his dreams proclaim him that, while, curiously, his physical appearance was wholly incongruous with all the associations that his name conjured up. And yet that he could so persist, in defiance of history, in despite of all the world, in contempt of the glaring misery and anguish that he and his fellows had brought upon Russia, argues something dæmonic in him, if not greatness. And in the long run, however execrated his memory, it may be that his rule will have proved for the betterment of his country. Attila must have been a thousand times more detestable than Lenin, but history calls him the Scourge of God. Had the rule of the Tsars been worth preserving, it must have been preserved: and for the growth of the nation itself, perhaps nothing nalder than the awful harrowing of the past seven years could ever have served. These are speculations which must be left to the future to decide: and with them the final word on the late Dictator and Bolshevist Tsar.

THE POSITION OF THE FRANC

Jan. 25.

Nobody has the prescience to enable him to say where the franc will ultimately stop, whether, as the majority hope, it will return to a normal rate of roughly twenty-five to the pound sterling, or will descend to unprecedented depths, for instance over the hundred mark. In the circumstances one of the world's principal gambles today is in francs, and all the great financial centres are engaged in buying and selling as the sentiment of the market suggests. The result is that in relation to sterling French currency has fluctuated as much as two francs a day, and the disorganization of business has been considerable. When we mention that for a short time past business between China and France in certain important lines has been done on a sterling and not on a franc basis, we realize that francs are now a commodity to be handled carefully. At the same time francs are one of the world's great currencies and bound to play an important part in trade operations, so it is necessary to give close attention to their country of origin, in other words to consider daily the political and financial conditions in which France finds herself. Admittedly this ought to open the largest question with which the world is faced to-day, but after mentioning it with its well-known possibilities and potentialities, we may usefully confine ourselves to effects, the sum total of which has been to bring the franc to its present low level.

In times of peace economists point to the balance of trade as an indication of a country's prosperity, and when favourable the conclusion is for strength in the country's currency. France last year had an adverse trade balance of 1,400,000,000 francs, but this was very small in comparison with 1920, when it was 23,000,000,000. Yet in 1920 the franc fluctuated only from forty-eight to fifty-nine to the pound sterling, as against practically ninety-four to-day. Since that time the pound sterling has improved considerably in relation to the gold dollar, yet the franc is barely more than half its 1920 value in relation to the pound, and is a cause of uneasiness such as even the advent of a Labour Government has failed to impart to British currency. In the meantime we know that France has been working hard and has been able to undersell British manufacturers in their own Home market in certain cases. Yet to-day the financiers and politicians of France have admittedly received a bad shock because the franc has gone so low. They have raised the bank rate by a half per cent., making it six and a half against the London rate of four, this to keep money in the country and to attract funds from elsewhere, but the effect on exchange has been negligible. Now, proposals for very greatly increased taxation have been placed before the Chamber and will doubtless be passed. They will not however come into force until June, but even so the present financial year should see a considerable advance on the amount for which the Government has budgeted in the past. This is all in favour of an improvement in the franc, and moreover it is not at all certain that the French financial position does not balance itself through the instrumentality of invisible imports. The trade balance against the country, as noted above, was 1,400,000,000 francs last year, but this probably does not take into consideration the amount of money brought into France by tourists and other visitors. It is believed that the amount from this source will equalize the deficit mentioned, and if so here is undoubtedly a condition making for the stabilizing of the franc.

If, as we see, economic conditions are equal, possibly actually favourable, we must turn to the political side of the case for the position to-day of the franc. Unhappily it stands out plainly that in the financial markets of the world there is distrust of French policy, and in the unsettled condition of Europe this is working havoc now with the franc and will undoubtedly exercise an influence on it until a settlement is reached. As far back as December 14 the "Financial News" commented upon the failure of the franc to improve on information of the decision to appoint a committee to inquire into Germany's capacity to pay, and in explanation it said:—

"The market appears to be distrustful as to the sincerity of French intentions, and in business circles it is feared that M. Poincaré will not hesitate to stop the inquiry as soon as it comes into collision with his policy. . . . The distrust, although justified by the past attitude of France, is anything but advantageous, as it means trouble half way. It ought not to be forgotten that the mere fact that Germany's capacity to pay is being discussed is well calculated to stimulate optimism and that it is highly essential that the conference of experts should be held in an optimistic atmosphere."

If the "Financial News" is correct M. Poincaré's policy has resulted in the depreciation of the franc to a great extent and the natural inclination of financial centres to speculate in currencies has brought it to its present level. These same business circles are apparently much more interested in the political than the economic position of France, and presumably the franc will now fluctuate more or less in relation to European political sentiment. In this connexion a further point may be noted. A New York banker has laid it down that sterling has to bear in large measure the brunt of falling European currencies and that this is always reflected in the London-New York rate of exchange, so that the future movements of the pound in relation to the dollar must not be considered merely from the point of view of a Labour or any other Government being in power, but almost as much from the condition of the franc.

According to the vernacular press the Shanghai Chinese Bankers' Association is protesting against a loan from certain foreign banks to the Shanghai Mint as, they state, they have made all arrangements for the loan themselves, but are now awaiting Peking's reply as to what will be the security for such a loan.

A PROVINCE UNDER BANDIT SWAY

Honan Completely at the Mercy of Brigands: Populace Terror-stricken

From Our Own Correspondent.

Fukow, Ho., Jan. 11.

That we should have been allowed or have been able to stay on here, in this bandit ridden province, is nothing short of a miracle.

In the spring, you may remember, we had to leave the city for a week, "Old Foreigner," the bandit leader, having passed through shortly after he and his hordes had re-enlisted in the army. It was this man and his followers who looted Fukow in June, 1922, and who carried off so many missionaries in Honan last autumn. After having been made an official. "Old Foreigner" and his gang remained quiet for six months. On refusing, however, to be transferred to another province, he was permitted to return to his evil ways. Soon he was abroad again for plunder. He passed quite close to us, the whole community being frightened out of the their wits.

This event took place just after another band of brigands had taken Sihza, only 20 miles from here, carrying off with them Miss Sharpe and Miss Darroch. As there were grave fears that Fukow would be attacked, we had to leave once again, it actually having been reported to the authorities that we had been taken.

When we were away in the summer, local bandits were very active. They carried off two of our schoolboys, who were not released for some months afterwards. On returning in the autumn all missionaries were again advised by the officials to seek a place of safety. The letter was addressed to all missionaries in Honan. But as no place is safer than another in this province, the missionaries stayed on. Then came the rescue of the Sihza lady missionaries after nearly two months' captivity.

LAO YANG-JEN'S RETURN.

Later.

Last week I was at Hsuchow. Most of the missionaries there had left for Hankow and Chikong. They were gathered in conference from Ruchow, Kiahsien and U-chow, when an official telegram was received saying that Kiahsien, 120 *li* west of Hsuchow, had been taken by Lao Yang-jen. This proved untrue, but it was a fact that he had returned to his old haunts in the west, so of course, all the neighbouring towns were terrified.

The officials and people here were also terrified. Hundreds of men are employed in digging out the city moat, the city gates have been kept shut, while a strong guard is mounted on the city wall every night. As there are no soldiers in the place and hardly any ammunition, it is pitiable to see the brickbats at each embrasure and pots of quick lime to hurl at any one attempting to climb the wall. Logs of wood and beams are also being placed all round the wall for the same purpose. Outer gates have been built outside each of the four main gates of the city, although it is hard to see what use they can be.

The other night there was considerable alarm, it being reported that the bandits were close at hand. A riderless horse proved to have been the cause of the scare. Yesterday we heard that "Old Foreigner" was near the railway at Linying, coming east so the city gates were shut all day.

Today we learnt from Sihza that that city had had a fright, brigands being quite close to it. On sifting the story it appears that the Shantung brigands under Fan, who carried off the Sihza ladies, have now left the main band under Lao Yang-jen and are returning to their homes in the east. They are only a small band of 300 or so and are taking the back roads, molesting nobody on the road.

Three *ying* of soldiers have been sent to Chowkiakow. One disquieting feature of the situation, however, is that the civil official cannot be found, as in the case of Sihza and Kiehshan, so the city is left to its self and is a prey to more fears than ever.

A new official has arrived here who seems efficient. He actually is abroad in the middle of the night to make sure that a proper watch is being kept.

It looks like snow to-day, which is much needed. It would do good to the land and also stop the bandits.

KIANGSU AND CHE-KIANG

More Peace Talk at Hangchow

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hangchow, Jan. 17.

The Fukien-Chêkiang agreement for the preservation of peace has not yet been signed, but we hear that will be shortly. Chêkiang and Kiangsu gentry are working hard for the preservation of peace between the two provinces, and we are told that success is assured.

Chang Tso-lin and Wu Pei-fu both have deputies here. At present they are talking over peace plans. Doubtless they have other business, too, of which we so far are ignorant.

At this season of the year when economic pressure is great, local arrangements are being made to see that too great an advantage is not taken of those who possess a little more than they actually need. Offices are being throughout the city for the examination of travellers to make sure that those who have no right to enter are dealt with, and to guard against those going out taking with them that to which they are not entitled.

The Treasury funds, we hear, are very low, and we are told there is nothing for it but to put an extra tax on wine and tobacco.

The Good Roads Association is still working out plans for the future, and we hear that the road from here by way of Tsintamen and the sea-wall as far as Sungkiang is to be undertaken shortly, and finished within two years. Strength to their elbow! We hope that their good intentions will be carried out. Next to peace throughout the country Chinese needs good roads.

ARMS SALES IN MANILA

Manila, Jan. 21.

The arrest of five American soldiers for the alleged theft and sale of Army revolvers has revealed a plot to export arms to Dr. Sun Yat-sen through local Chinese sympathisers.

These thefts have been an almost weekly occurrence for more than a month. Several hundred pistols and also a quantity of dynamite constitute the loot.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

INSECURITIES OF LIFE IN KUEICHOW

News of the Yihyang Maru's Officers: Will Japan Strike? Battle Royal with Bandits for a Country House

From Our Own Correspondent

Kueiyang, Kuei., Dec. 15.

Travelling is difficult and dangerous and some missionary friends who wanted to come into the province have been seriously delayed through the movements of soldiers and bandits. At one centre near the Kueichow border a foreign gentleman saw two Japanese dressed in Chinese garb and detained in prison. In answer to his inquiry he was told that they were from the Japanese steamer that was attacked at Foochow, Sze., and the Chinese officials are hoping that $1,000,000 will be paid for their release.

The same gentleman heard in another quarter that the representatives of the foreign Powers have already assured the Japanese Minister in Peking that if the Chinese show any treachery toward these two men and the Japanese Government want to inflict punishment on the Chinese, the foreign Powers will do nothing to hinder. It is to be hoped that there is some truth in this report, for surely it is high time for the foreign Powers to try and educate Chinese officials and populace alike that it pays better to live as peace-loving citizens with honest occupations, than to give themselves over to thieving in any form.

From the northwest corner of the province comes the news that the people are face to face with famine conditions again through not having sufficient grain for their supply. They are often called upon to leave their homes and belongings at almost a minute's notice and flee to the hills when the robber bands are about, and when they return they find little left, for, in addition to helping themselves, the unbidables destroy what they have no use for.

The following was received from the affected area a little while back and may be of interest to your readers.

"I have just returned from a strange errand. A letter came asking me to go and care for a wounded man some 75 *li* away. He had been hurt in a robber raid. I went and on the way heard that he had died. My guide informed me that there were others, and sure enough there were. We arrived at the home of a wealthy family about midnight and I soon set to work but did not finish my first round until about 3 a.m. This big house with two stone walls round it was dependent upon a guard of 100 soldiers for protection, and some 45 of them were in the compound when it was attacked at daybreak by a band of 1,000 brigands. The fight continued until noon and the death rate included three of the five sons, three soldiers and one woman. In addition another son was shot through the thigh bone, and 20 or more folk wounded. A reward of $2,000 was offered to the man who first made an entrance and the robbers tried hard to gain it, but they had to give in and leave without gaining their objective. I remained there several days and had to work hard. There were constant alarms that the robbers were returning with a larger band to wipe out their shame, and the members of the family fled into the city. One morning we were all hurried out on to the hillside to hide from band that was surely approaching but nothing happened and we returned. I returned to the city as soon as I could leave the wounded."

Since last writing the Rev. G. and Mrs. Cecil-Smith have returned to this city to resume their connexion with the China Inland Mission. Their friends and well-wishers are very glad to have them here again, and the desire has been expressed that this term of service may be better than former terms.

Communication with the outside world does not improve and the postal authorities are to be congratulated on the way they strive to maintain an efficient service in spite of so many hindrances and difficulties. In this connexion it may not be out of place to say that the report has come through that the Acting-Commissioner, Mr. Cheung Man-ling, has been promoted to the rank of Commissioner and there are very many who hope that the report will be confirmed, for Mr. Cheung is worthy of the promotion.

KUEICHOW GOVERNOR IN MOURNING

Unmannerly Schoolboys: The Case of Dr. Schmalzried: Veteran Missionaries

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kueiyang, Kuei., Dec 21.

The fact that Governor Tang's aged mother had passed away having become officially known, the Governor handed over the Administration to the now Acting-Governor Chang and thus freed himself to perform his duties of mourning. In accordance with custom the tablet supposed to contain the spirit was escorted out of the city by representatives from all classes. It was then that some waiting schoolboys showed their boorishness and lack of knowledge by failing to rise when their mourning Governor passed by. The Governor has formed the laudable project of sending $10,000 to the students in Japan who were sent by this province. So study there. Two pence might be added for manners.

The government of Kueichow is doing its utmost to secure the release of Dr. Schmalzried, recently captured by brigands in the northeast of Kueichow. The story goes that the brigands have a quarrel with some officials there, who, when they knew the brigands were to be enrolled in the army, failed to to give them full recognition. Dr. Schmalzried was devoting his life to the welfare of the inhabitants of that district, but by capturing him the brigands hope to revenge themselves by getting the officials into trouble.

The capture was made possible by the negligence of a military man named Yan Yu-tang who, though he had promised escort for a certain date, nevertheless failed to keep his promise. This man Yang is an ex-bandit chief. To save his own face in the matter he promptly concocted and sent to his superiors in Kueiyang a false report on the whole matter. Being very unpopular throughout the district he has since been removed. (Mr. Schmalzried has been liberated since their was written.—Ed).

Two veteran missionaries in the persons of Rev. and Mrs. G. Cecil-Smith have just returned to this capital city. Having laboured nearly 30 years in these parts people from all grades of society went out to welcome them back.

HANGCHOW STILL QUIET

Diplomas for Pharmacists at C. M. S. College

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hangchow, Jan. 22.

On Saturday there was an interesting ceremony in the Lecture Hall when four chemists received their diplomas from the Church Missionary Society's College of Pharmacy. Dr. Main, handing the diplomas to the graduates, gave them a little sound advice. He advised them, as they held the lives of patients in their hands as much as doctors and nurses, to be careful, faithful, magnanimous, to trust in the Lord and do good, and if they did that, said the Doctor, he would be satisfied and happy about them.

Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Moin and their charming little daughter have just returned after a short furlough in Bonnie Scotland. They look fine and fit. During their absence much executive work has fallen on the shoulders of the doctors, who rejoice at their return.

The sun is shining again and giving the contractors of the new Medical College a fine opportunity to get the roof on.

The city is quiet in spite of rumours that are anything but peaceful.

ANOTHER NEW SECT

Shansi's Long-haired Visionaries: To Effect a Change of Government

From Our Own Correspondent.

Taiku, Sha., Jan. 17.

The native newspapers have reported the growth of a strange "sect" in the southeast of this province. Its propagandists, several tens in number, came from Shantung in the spring of last year, wearing long hair and garments of an ancient pattern. They began preaching in Tunliu-hsien, about 100 miles south of this city. They demanded that their converts sell land and houses and turn the proceeds over to them for the support of "old father and old mother" in Shantung. Many have complied with this suggestion, some even in official and literary circles. High office was promised to the most liberal contributors, lower offices to those who gave less, these promises to be redeemed when a certain change in the government of China takes place.

Up to this time the number of followers gathered is said to be about 8,500. Because of its political character, and also because no accounting was given by the sect of the moneys received, officials in Hsiangyuanhsien and in Chinhsien have driven out the preachers and returned sums collected to the contributors.

The headquarters of the movement are at the village of Yuan-tsun in Tunliu Hsien. The head man, one Wang Sang-feng, is said to be living in rather lordly style in that village and conducting himself generally after the manner of an old-time official. The fact that the meetings of the sect are held in the evening should of itself lead to some suspicion. It is to be hoped the Shansi government will watch this thing carefully.

The Cheng Tai Railway has now altered the schedule of its daily trains so that the expresses connecting with the early afternoon train on the Kin-Han line at Shihchiachuang, the eastern terminus, now run each day instead of twice a week as formerly. This will be a great convenience to travellers.

DIPHTHERIA RIFE.

The scourge of dipatheria in this part of the province continues unchecked and unabated. An effort has been made by several mission hospitals, with the support of the Police Commissioner of the province, who is responsible for sanitary measures and the control of epidemics, to gather statistics as to the number of deaths from this disease, but so far the returns have been rather unsatisfactory. Anyone who is informed as to what is going on, however, knows that the total of deaths from this disease in the last two years in Shansi would reach a startling figure. Surely the time is approaching when the "model province" should undertake some quarantine measures, such as were used so effectively in stamping out the epidemic of pneumonic plague in 1918.

The Salvation Army has just opened a preaching hall in this city. They are now working in four of five of the more important cities of Shansi and are meeting with encouragement everywhere.

The long drought of two and a half months in this part of Shansi was broken by a light fall of snow last night. While the comment of the man in the street today is, "Not enough," this precipitation at least revives hope. Those of your readers who live in regions where rain and snow are frequent can hardly understand what it means here not to have had a drop of rain or snow since the end of October. However, this is unusual even for Shansi.

THE Commissioner of Foreign Affairs in Hunan has requested the Peking Government to forbid foreigners to travel in that province owing to its present chaotic state.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

IN THE BANDITS' MIDST

Miss Darroch and Miss Sharp Again in Hourly Peril of Being Captured

The following letter has just arrived from Miss Darroch who with Miss Sharp recently spent several days in the bandits' hands. Now, at Sihwa in Honan, they are again in like peril. The letter vividly reveals the intolerably disgraceful state of that province.

Sihuahsien, Jan. 13.

We are again at the bayonets' point. We were roused at 12 p.m. last night by a letter from Chowchiakow. Mr. Brock had a telegram from Mr. Lack that Lao Yang-jen, the robber chief, was near and trying to cross the railway line. To-day we hear he is over and looting near Fukow. Yenling 35 *li* from Fukow has fallen and some other places. Our people are very scared and say flee! But where? No place is safe. The brigands' great aim is to capture Chowchiakow, and they are very desperate men.

We are dressed ready to leave. If any word comes that they are travelling in this direction, we will simply try to hide in some village, at least that is our idea at present. It presupposes that we will get warning in time to flee.

We do not think we will stay in the city to-night, but sleep in one of the villages, probably about three *li* from here. It is a trying life, never knowing when these people will sweep down on one, and this Lao Yang-jen is such a terror.

Mr. and Mrs. Bird (C.I.M. missionaries) are in their path. I don't know if Mr. Bird is at home; the last news we heard he was not. I hope Mrs. Bird and Miss Fox will get away safely if they are attacked. One does feel so exasperated with the soldiers: they could do so much but; they would not. They are not anxious to get the robbers. What they want is the loot. One would think this Lao Yang-jen had made plenty of wealth by this time: he might retire now on his ill-gotten gains, but I suppose, as the Chinese proverb says, "Man's heart is never satisfied." And he dares not do anything else.

If he disbanded his bandits, the government would have him right away. The soldiers in this city have no chance to defend it. There are only about 100, and what is that number compared to those who come against us. Our hope is in God. He never fails and we know that "not a single shaft can hit, till the God of Love sees fit." We felt that this was so when we were in their hands before.

THOUGHTS OF DISGUISE.

Sunday evening.

We have arrived here in peace at this hour. I mean we are still in Sihwa. The Evangelist went to the Lieutenant and he says there is no danger and advises us not to flee. He fears if we go there will be a panic in the city. A good many have left already. He says they have not heard if Yenling has fallen. He has sent out spies to a distance of 20 miles but they have not yet returned, so we are staying and taking what fate the gods send us.

Our women have been busy planning disguises for us. If we flee Miss Sharp's is easy, as she is dark with eyes, like what clothes would ever disguise me? Some of them say "go away at the first sound: don't wait till they come. But if we run at every rumour, we would never be here. It is pathetic to see their anxiety that we should not be captured again. I think our own women felt rather bad because we were seized last time. They had saved themselves and left us to our fate, and they want to make up for it this time.

THE BRIGANDS DRAWING NEAR.

Monday, morning.

The news has come that the brigands are only eight *li* away. We were prepared for flight, but the soldiers would not let us out. So here we are. They hope either to defend the city or give the robbers money and prevent them from coming in. I will give this letter into a native's hand, so that they can post it if we are carried off. I do sincerely hope they won't come in. Of course the city is in terror; where to go for safety no one knows. They enter every single house, so there is no chance of hiding anywhere. I pity the poor Brocks (C.I.M. missionaries) with their three children at home. Chowchiakow is the robbers objective. There are 2,500 soldiers here, but Lao Yang-jen is a very determined man. They have left for Yanchen on the railway.

[A telegram and later letters state that the bandits have moved on and that the ladies are quite safe.—(Ed.)]

DASTARDLY OUTRAGE BY PIRATES

Attack on River Steamer Near Hongkong: Members of Crew Mortally Wounded

Hongkong, Jan. 22.

One of the most dastardly stories of piracy was reported with the arrival last night of the Chinese river-steamer Tailee, which travels between Hongkong and Kongmoon. The Tailee was attacked by pirates off Wangmoon on Sunday night. The No. 1 Chinese boatswain was mortally wounded by a revolver-shot. Captain Willox, whom the pirates dragged from the lavatory, was later found unconscious in a pool of blood.

The pirates, who travelled as first-class and deck passengers, simultaneously obtained control of the whole steamer, having overpowered the six Indian guards, one of whom was mortally wounded and two others seriously wounded. The two latter were taken to hospital on their arrival.

The pirates systematically looted the steamer and carried off a considerable booty in money and jewellery from the passengers, of whom there were about 300 on board, all Chinese.

At the point of revolvers the pirates ordered the Chief Engineer, Mr. Dwyer, off his bed and forced him to proceed to the wheel-house, where, with the Chief Officer, Mr. Fletcher, he was kept a prisoner.

CHINESE PASSENGERS KIDNAPPED.

On arriving at the coast off Tungsai Maling the pirates lowered three of the Tailee's lifeboats, in which they made off to the shore with a large number of the better-class Chinese passengers, whom they intend to hold for ransom.

Report of the occurrence was made at Pakkai on the West River, from which the British gunboat Robin made off to the scene of the outrage. The Robin found no trace of the pirates, but discovered one of the Tailee's empty lifeboats.

The bodies of Captain Willox and the Indian guard have been brought down to Hongkong and the police have taken charge of them.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ANOTHER FOREIGN PRIEST TAKEN

The Belgian Fathers inform us that a telegram sent at 12.20 p.m. on Tuesday from Kweihsuting, in Shansi, announced that Rev. Frederic Van Peset had been taken by bandits, who carried him away to the surrounding [illegible] of Tolesu. As usual, their terms for his release are to be enrolled in the army.

This Belgian Father has his residence at Tolesu, at a distance of 20 miles from Tokoto (Suiyuan). He has been in China since 1908.

TSINGTAO'S HUGE BEEF EXPORT

More Than Double That of Year Before: Japan's Increasing Appetite

From a Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Jan. 15.

The total value of beef exported from Tsingtao during the year 1923 amounted to some $2,300,000, or an increase of $1,000,000 in comparison with the total value exported during the previous year. The demand resulting from the earthquake calamity of last September in Japan has been responsible for this increased total value to a large extent, with extensive speculations indulged in by Japanese beef dealers contributing a share. Nearly all the beef exported from this port goes to Japan with a very small percentage indeed destined to Shanghai and other points.

The Okura Company are the largest buyers of Shantung beef for Japan and supplied the earthquake area with an enormous amount after the earthquake disaster. This company also supplies beef to the Kure and Yokosuka naval stations.

BEEF REPLACING FISH.

The trade in beef is most brisk in winter as its transportation is easier during this season, the cold weather assisting in keeping the quality intact until the time of delivery in Japan. This winter, the importers in Japan are vying with each other in an endeavour to show an enlarged turnover. Since the earthquake in Japan, beef, especially that imported from Shantung through Tsingtao, has replaced fish as the principal commodity, there being hardly an eating house in Japan that does not use beef as its chief item at present. In view of this increased Japanese consumption, dealers in beef in Shantung have found it difficult to cope with this demand. In the meat markets in Moji and Shimonoseki, the chief Japanese ports importing beef, Shantung beef stands unchallenged. The poor fishing in the neighbouring waters of Shimonoseki, due to the cold weather, aids the marketing of Tsingtao beef in Japan.

From five to six hundred tons of beef are imported into Japan from Tsingtao on every steamer at the present time but the exporters are still clamouring for more space. In order to cope with the increased demand, a Japanese concern is starting to run a service of refrigerator ships, in addition to such well-known vessels engaged in the trade as the Hanamet, Nisshin Maru, Kaio Maru, Shikotan Maru and Hakuai Maru. The Neisei Maru, one of the regular liners, operating between Tsingtao and Japan, will shortly be replaced by a larger steamer, the Harada Maru, which has some refrigeration facilities to offer.

During the winter, the price of beef is higher than in summer time by some 10 to 15 per cent. In summer, some exporters ship live cattle to Japan.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE CHARGES.

The slaughter house here charges $3 per head for slaughtering cattle and $1.75 per head for pigs, which latter are not exported to Japan except in unnoticeable quantities because the Japanese, unlike the Chinese, do not show any preference for pork.

The slaughter house is a Sino-Japanese undertaking, with a capital of $100,000. 46 per cent. of which is Japanese money and the balance Chinese. It is proposed that three months from now the company shall be turned into a public liability company, giving those who are not directly interested in the beef business a chance to participate as shareholders. Of the net profit of the company, 10 per cent. goes to the Chinese authorities who likewise impose an export duty of $1.70 per head.

The Chinese authorities, following the indiscriminate killing of cattle, are now exercising strict control, in an endeavour to stabilize demand and supply.

Formerly, when the Japanese were in possession of the Kiaochow territory, Chinese dealers allowed one month's credit to Japanese exporters, but some unscrupulous Japanese traders did not hesitate to betray the confidence placed in them by the Chinese, with the result that the latter, especially after the Japanese withdrawal, have withdrawn the credit system and now do no business except for cash, with very special exceptions. The Japanese exporters on the other hand are compelled to allow their friends in Japan at least a month's credit. This makes the business very difficult in view of exchange fluctuations, especially at the present time when the value of the yen is so unsteady.

SHANTUNG RAILWAY DISASTER

Nine Burnt to Death: Forty-Seven Injured: $20,000 Damage Done

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsinanfu, Jan. 19.

The death roll in connexion with the fire on the Shantung Railway, is not so high as was at first reported. At least nine people, however, were burnt to death and 47 were injured, some of these very severely. The injured are said to be in hospitals at Fangtzu, Weihsien and Tsinan. Two third class carriages and a goods waggon were burnt out, the damage being estimated at $20,000 Mex.

The cause of the outbreak, which was at first stated to be defective electric wires, is now said to be carelessness on the part of passengers. Someone threw a lighted match near a supply of methylated spirit. The fire occurred between two and 3 a.m., and witnesses state that they were roused from their sleep to find the carriage a mass of flames. The third class carriages were well-filled so that the panic and the struggles to escape the devouring element must have been frantic. Numbers of passengers climbed through the windows and were injured by their fall to the ground. The train could not be brought quickly to a standstill because there were no communication cords on the train. The train guards, hearing the noise, thought that bandits had boarded the train.

It is not more than two months since a serious fire occurred on a Tientsin-Pukow train. Perhaps this accident will rouse the railway authorities sufficiently to make them provide better fire-fighting apparatus and methods—perhaps not!

We wonder how many railway lines in this country lack that most necessary self-protective device, the communication cord.

BANDIT EXECUTIONS.

During the last few days several public executions of bandits have been held here. One day five miserable men were shot in a very public place. The crowd of sightseers was so great that the temporary execution ground would not hold them. Three spectators were killed through the collapse of a wall.

Evidently the officials think that these spectacles have a deterrent effect on would-be law-breakers. China is still in the dark ages, in spite of this being the 13th year of the Republic.

Peking, Jan. 19.

Five persons were killed and 40 injured in a fire on a train from Tsinan to Tsingtao. The train left Tsinan at 11 on the night of January 17. The fire occurred at two on Friday afternoon between Hutien and Chinglingchen. An accident to electric wires is said to have been the cause. No foreigners are reported to have been injured and no further details have been received.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE OUTRAGE ON THE TZESHUI

How Capt. Brandt Met His Death: Insecurities of Life on Upper Yangtze

From Our Own Correspondent

Chungking, Jan. 7

Last night the Chinese-owned steamer Tzeshui came into port with only the pilot in command and the Captain was missing. They reported that robbers had attacked the ship, murdered Captain Brandt, the steward and one of the compradores. They threw the captain's body into the river.

This morning your correspondent interviewed one of the Chinese passengers who had come up on the Tzeshui. There were no other foreigners on board. This passenger reported that 15 or 16 men armed with revolvers got on the steamer at Wanhsien. They were dressed as ordinary passengers and no one suspected them. Owing to the short days the steamer was not able to make the big city of Fengtu, which would be the usual anchorage and was compelled to anchor opposite the town of Gao Gia Djen which is about 40 *li* below Fengtu. The ship was anchored across the river from the town.

About 11 o'clock a whistle was heard on the bank and a shot was fired. Instantly the accomplices on board drew their revolvers and forbade anyone to move. Captain Brandt was on the upper deck and he rushed to the side of the boat. When he saw two small boats pushing off from the shore loaded with men he fired on them with his rifle, so this man says. At the same time some of the men already on board rushed on to the top deck, shot him dead, and then threw his body overboard. Sometime during the *mêlée* the steward was killed and one of the compradores and two other people were wounded.

After the captain had been killed the robbers held every passenger up at the point of the revolver and relieved them of all money and valuables. They went ashore with all they could get and disappeared. This passenger stat that he does not think that the whole affair took more than 20 minutes.

MORE BANDIT OUTRAGES.

Captain Brandt has many friends in this port and along the river as he was one of the captains who had been longest on this run, if not the longest. He was with Capt. Plant and took over the Shuhun from him and was her captain in the days when she was the Queen of the Upper River. He ran her on a regular timetable for a long time and one knew almost the exact time to expect her at any port.

This incident occurred some distance from any large city but things are no better here right under the noses of Yang Sen's army. On New Year's night we heard sounds of firing but did not know where it was. The next day we found out that a party of bandits had attacked the home of a well-to-do Chinese family just across the river from the city and right next door to the Canadian School for Foreign Children.

Several shots came close to the homes of foreigners in that vicinity. The bandits entered this home and took out one little lad but he was not the one wanted so they went back and took two more so as to be sure to get the right one. Later they left one boy by the road and he was found next morning. The boy carried off was a little chap, only nine years old and suffering from whooping cough. He is the only son of a widow and is heir to quite a large estate.

Gen. Ma Chi, a leading Kuangsi leader now giving his support to Marshal Wu Pei-fu in Hunan, is reported by the Kuo Wen News Agency to have sent one of his commanders, Lu Chen, to Shanghai to approach a foreign firm in connexion with the purchase of arms and ammunition for his army.

THE GOING ROUND AND ROUND OF LAMAISM

And the Tibetan's Trinity: The Art of Successful Meditation

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tachienlu, Sze., Dec. 17.

The biggest word in Lamaistic nomenclature is circumambulation the philosophy and simplicity of simply going round and round some inanimate holy object. Some religions are comparative, Lamaism is entirely and completely round. The devotee of this mystic system spends his life on earth going round something and turning round, and his life in Hades continues the unending movement the Wheel of Transmigration. The poor Tibetan, morning, noon, and night with hands and feet and brain is eternally going round and round. He walks round sepulchres, cenotaphs, and holy symbols: he walks round stone heaps, temples and mountains: he will patiently and laboriously and persistently circumambulate any and every holy object and while doing so manipulate his rosary in one hand and turn his prayer wheel in the other. Whoever invented and perpetuated this form of religion bequeathed to the inhabitants on the Roof of the World a system at once so simple and ingenious, so satisfying and accommodating, so free from hypothesis and argument that the Tibetan have adopted it *en masse* and now spend the greater part of their lives walking round some sacred edifice, firmly believing the more they go round in this life the less they will go round in the next.

Imagine Dean Inge spending 40 years walking round St. Paul's Cathedral, or Bishop Tucker passing his days circumambulating Lake Chad. If it were not so absolutely serious and so pathetically hopeless, this whole system would seem utterly ridiculous. There is a wealthy Tibetan temple in Tachienlu, situated quite near the river side. An old man nearly 70 and an old woman just about the same age, spend their days walking round this building. The old man's lips mumble "Omnipadmehum," the old man's hand turns "Omnipadmehum," and the old man's legs walk round "Omnipadmehum." We occasionally meet him and he smiles but keeps on forever going round and round. His rosary tells him how many times he has prayed and how often he has circumambulated the holy temple.

The Lama walks round the sacred building, the nomad goes round the venerable pile of stones, the merchant circumambulates the solemn mountain. Circumambulation is considered one of the most meritorious and indispenable duties in the Lamaistic religion and is performed sometime, somewhere by everybody in the Forbidden Land. The Lama has no more ardent wish than to be finally released from this perpetual going round or wandering of the soul, and to successfully escape from metempsychosis is to enter that state of pure bliss known as Nirvana. And the devotee firmly believes that by assiduously going round in this life he assuredly decreases the painful going round in the next.

CONTEMPLATION.

The next word in the Lamaistic nomenclature is contemplation. Circumambulation is a general exercise—contemplation is a particular devotion. Circumambulation is performed by the crowd—contemplation is the lonely vigil. Circumambulation calls for no concentration—contemplation demands intense cogitation. The nomad may circumambulate, only the Lama can contemplate. The simple meaning of the word is to "look" and involves an act of the mind or will. Apparently the Lama can look in different ways and contemplation is no doubt the "holy look." He has, however, a number of other "looks" enumerated as follows: the elephant's look, the lion's look, the magic look, the attracting look, the repulsive look, the precipitating look, the paralyzing look, the mild look, the powerful look, and the striding look. Contemplation implies none of these. It is the steady fixed look or gaze on some holy object, image or symbol. The Lama, within the confines of his own private apartment, sitting *à la* Buddha, places on a low table before him the image of some saint. In front of this and with his mind firmly fixed upon it he will sit in contemplation for hours, days, months, years. There is the story told of a Lama who for 34 years retained his vows as an anchorite. During that long time he sat with an image of Buddha in front of him. At the end of that long time, it is said his features became like unto the picture he gazed at.

MEDITATION.

The third word in this mystic system is meditation. This takes us a step higher than contemplation and involves separation from the world, friends and earthly pleasures. Meditation implies and demands a very high type of scholarship. If the Lama gives himself to meditation and presupposes, he has something to meditate upon. This form of devotion is indulged in only by the highly educated priest. The Lama who would meditate has in his stomach (the repertory of learning) a complete knowledge of all the sacred books and writings. With his extensive store of wisdom he devotes himself to intensive rumination and this, in its simplest form, is meditation. Contemplation demands the concentration of the eye on some holy object; meditation requires the determination of the mind on some sacred subject. To avoid mere wool-gathering, effective meditation assumes three things: first, clarity. If the Lama is to get anywhere in his meditation it must be characterized by clearness. Secondly, there must be firmness, there must be decision in thinking along certain lines, otherwise nothing will be accomplished. Thirdly, there must be absolute freedom from distraction. This is perhaps the most important thing in successful meditation. It may also account for the lonely situation of many of the Tibetan temples. In his sequestered cell, perhaps some cave along the mountains, far removed from the haunts of men, the gloomy Lama sits in silent, solitary, vigil. He may be daily and assiduously repeating the *Omé formula* or simply following Lord Riddell's advice on concentration. It is difficult to find out as the Lama generally sits alone in his secluded cell. His hands are clasped in prayer. In the intensity of the meditation he forgets food, comfort, cold, home, friends, everything but the theme that occupies his mind. Ecstacy or frenzy may now take possession of him, ecstasy because the mind has revelled in some satisfying soliloquy, frenzy, because the power of meditation has surrounded him with the object of his desire. When his soul is filled with sweetness and his cell with demons his weary vigil ends in the accomplishment so dear to the Lama, namely, "the grasping of the intangible." This appears to be the *summum bonum* of lamaism—the acquisition of the spiritual and the realization of Nirvana. To attain these he will labour, watch and pray.

THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF LAMAISM.

Realization is the last word in lamaistic nomenclature. After long years of weary circumambulation, steady contemplation, holy meditation, the Lama believes that he has attained or accomplished something. In all these three forms of devotion he has applied himself persistently and patiently and what has he gained? By his own efforts he has triumphantly escaped the torments of Hades: by his own virtues he has successfully assured himself of the pleasures of heaven. In popular, every day Lama language, hades and heaven, reward and punishment, failure and attainment, play a very large and important part. This, however, touches lamaism closely on its temporal side. In its spiritual and philosophical aspect lamaism reaches very high. Successful circumambulation, contemplation and meditation end in the realization or appropriation of three things. First, there is the idea of rendering a god subject to human power, forcing him to perform the will of man. The coercion of a god is effected in two ways—the common people perform a vast amount of prayers and conjurations intended for the god that is to be made subject. Secondly, the ability after a long, arduous and painful process to change or transform oneself into something different. This is considered the highest acquisition of any man, that by his own efforts and holiness has assumed or attained divine nature. He is still, however, in the flesh and capable of eating, drinking and sleeping, and will continue to do so until he has been absorbed into that blessed state of nothingness. The third and last attainment, whether by circumambulation, contemplation or meditation, is the complete annihilation of every known and unknown enemy, spiritual, physical and temporal, past, present and future. Passion, pleasure, pain, as enemies obstructing the path to the realization of his highest aspirations have all been overcome and subdued and the Lama now sits in perfect bliss with one step between him and Nirvana—nothingness. Thus we find in popular lamaism these three forms of worship—circumambulation, contemplation and meditation, followed by three attainments, namely, coercion of the gods, acquisition of divine nature, and the subjugation of every hindering influence in the path that leads to the Lama's goal. And John answered him saying, "Master, we saw one casting out devils." So the devils besought him, saying, "If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine."

"Rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you: but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

And the 70 returned again with joy, saying, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name."

WHY?

In this dark, closed, forbidden land, the lonely Lama sits in solitude; in the mud-built gloomy temple, they sit in thousands; the solitary traveller wends his weary way across the snow bound mountain pass; the mendicant, encumbered with his charms and talismans, trudges day by day along the endless, barren plateau. And if you ask the simple question, "Why?" the artless answer is: "Devils confront me and surround me wherever I go, I want power to subdue and overcome them; lamaism tells me that hades is a place of torture and torment, from that I wish to escape; heaven, the Buddha's Elysium is a place of perfect rest and peace, I want to get there. If circumambulation or suffering, if contemplation or seclusion, if meditation or hardship can assist me in the accomplishment of my desires, I will endure anything and everything for them."

Y. M. C. A.'S NEW BUILDING AT KOWLOON

Hongkong, Jan. 22.

The Governor yesterday evening laid the foundation stone of the new Y.M.C.A. building at Kowloon. It is estimated that construction will cost $300,000.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NEW HONGKONG COMPANY

Hongkong, Jan. 21.

A new company called the China Underwriters, Ld., with a capital of $5,000,000, has been incorporated under the management of Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Company.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE Chinese press reports that there are at present in China more than 60,000 Russian refugees.

UNLOVED SOLDIERS OF JAPAN

Young Husbands Must be Civilians but Marriage Now Becoming a Romantic Adventure

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Jan. 10.

The marriage-desiring sons and daughters of Japan still continue to turn down the soldier and sailor, and the fascination of uniforms, shining brass buttons and gold braid still fails to have any extraordinary attraction for the younger generation as was the case in the few years immediately preceding the earthquake.

Time was when the soldier and the sailor were gods. Maidens hankered after young men belonging to the fighting professions, while young men who had decided to enter into the bonds of matrimony eagerly scanned the horizon of their acquaintance to discover a girl whose parents had some connexion with the Army or the Navy or at least some of her relatives.

Things have changed considerably. The earthquake and its aftermath, when uniformed men stepped into the limelight for a considerable period, it was hoped, would tend to veer the thoughts of the young folks once again towards the fighting professions when it came to seeking life partners. The expectation has proved a mirage. The soldier or sailor continues to be as unwelcome, as a husband, as in pre-earthquake days.

It is difficult to assign a reason offhand for this. Girls generally maintain that a husband of the Tommy Atkins or Jack Tar variety tries to maintain a species of discipline akin to the barrack-room or to the forecastle in the home and that, therefore, such men are very undesirable as home-building companions. Then, again, there is the very important matter of emoluments to be considered. The soldier and the sailor in Japan get a farcical wage, the private's monthly income being such as is insufficient to keep him in a decent brand of cigarettes for a fortnight. Patriotic considerations melt like dew before the morning sun when one has to consider the difficulties of running a household on a meagre salary, and this inelasticity in the pay envelopes of the Services, perhaps, has most to do with the young ladies of Japan turning up their noses at a naval or military man who does not happen to have a fair private income.

On the part of the young men who are not over-anxious to wed the daughters of soldiers of sailors, it is maintained that the reason for this dislike is because the parents-in-law are unduly strict on the son-in-law and that this generally leads to differences that mar domestic harmony and felicity.

OLD, LOVELESS MARRIAGE DOOMED.

The loveless marriages, in which go-betweens figure more than the principals, which is the generally accepted view of wedlock in Japan and in which ceremony and gaudy clothes mark the first chapter of married life and the end of romance in the greatest adventure of one's life, are becoming fast extinct in Japan to-day. Go-betweens still have their part to do, but the young man or the marriage-seeking lass gives the go-between sufficient knowledge to tell on whom affection has been centred. This is the case in the cities to a large extent, though in the countryside the prosaic and loveless "arranged marriages" system is still the vogue.

The sweep of Western customs in the cities has brought about the death of the system whereby children are betrothed in their infancy and parental and family commands compel them to obey the arrangements made by their elders. In fact, many a Japanese young lady staunchly refuses to enter into a marriage with the young man selected for her without her consent or her knowledge, and it needs considerable spunk and bravery for a Japanese maiden to thus set at defiance the cherished institutions of old.

One of the chief results brought about by the inrush of Occidental ideas into the realms of marriage and the heart has been the establishment of Marriage Bureaus fashioned on Western models. There have been quite a number of these marriage bureaus, but the majority of them, especially after the earthquake, have proved to be of a suspicious nature, thriving only on the sanctity of their signboards, and publicists, known to the public, have stepped into the breach to put affairs on a more satisfactory footing.

CONGENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS.

Accordingly, the Society of Social Education, a Japanese organization, has added to its many duties that of bringing love into a loveless life, and has just announced the opening of a marriage agency. The eligibility of a person for membership rests on he or she being single and of sound health without any malady or defect such as would mar married life. To back these requirements, the applicant, when seeking membership, must add to the application a doctor's certificate, a copy of the family connexions from the Registrar's office and the conditions under which he or she desires to marry.

The conditions demanded by would-be grooms and brides are chiefly interesting for two reasons: one, the patent disinclination to form an alliance with the fighting services; and the other, a desire to marry a person who belongs to an occupation that looks "respectable" in public. These occupations generally are that the person in question should be an employee of a shop or of a doctor's office. In this case the inelasticity of the pay envelope is not regarded as of much account, as the "respectability" of the job makes up for this defect. But as for marrying, say, a chauffeur or a skilled labourer who makes far more than the Western-style-tailored shop assistant, why, certainly not!

JAPANESE MINISTRY TOTTERING

Cabinet Unable to Survive Despite Seiyukai Split

Tokio, Jan. 22.

The reconvening of the Diet today after the holidays recess took place under unprecedented conditions. The attitude of the Lower House is hostile towards the new Cabinet, which appears to be doomed in advance to overwhelming defeat by a combination of the leading parties and factions. Exactly when the *coup de grace* will be delivered has not yet been decided, but a vote on a resolution of lack of confidence will be reached after the Imperial wedding on January 26.

Throughout the past week Viscount Kiyoura and his followers successfully split the Seiyukai Party, over 100 members of which seceded and organized a new party called the "Shinsei," which is expected to muster equal to the remaining Seiyukai strength. But the Kenseikai and other parties are able to muster about 170 which, it is confidently expected, will be the minimum majority on the vote of lack of confidence.

Some political wiseacres predict that the Premier will resort to dissolution before the vote is reached.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Tokio, Jan. 23.

As a result of an emergency meeting to-day, the leaders of the Seiyukai Party have decided to resign *en bloc* and have tendered their resignation to Viscount Takahashi, President of the Party.—Eastern News Agency.

THE officer to succeed Major-Gen. Sir Neill Malcolm, when he retires from the command of the Straits Settlements early in the year, is Gen. James Ronald Edmonston Charles, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E., says a Singapore paper.

FIGHTING FAMINE IN CHINA

Admirable Work of the Chinese-Foreign Relief Committee in Past Year

The Chinese-Foreign Famine Relief Committee has issued its report of money received and expended and work done between October 1, 1922, and September 30, 1923. In these 12 months the Committee handed over $1,983 and with every penny accounted for they have a vast amount of good work to their credit. They began their next financial year with a balance in hand of $205,986. The following are some of the most interesting items of the report.

CHINHAI SEA WALL.

Two years ago our Board granted the sum of $86,000 to our Ningpo Committee to assist in repairing this wall, which protects Ningpo and the surrounding districts from inroads of the sea with its attending loss of crops, and famine. The people of the district raised a further $64,000, and the work was efficiently carried out, although there is still a further stretch of earth-dike requiring attention. A ceremony to mark the completion of the repairs to this old historic and essentially practical stone-wall was held at Chinhai on August 5, 1923, and was attended by representatives from the Governors at Hangchow as well as other officials, by Taoyin Wong Yee-tse of Ningpo and Mr. F. W. Carey and others from our Ningpo Committee, and by Messrs. Wang I-ding, Yuan Li-tung, Chang Yie-tsing, Chen Liang-yu, W. E. Souter and F. C. Zung from our Board. Great credit must be given to the Chinhai Association and our Ningpo Committee on whose direct initiative this most effective bit of work was undertaken and in the carrying out of which our Board is glad to have had a large share.

PREVENTION-WORK IN CHEKIANG.

It is a *sine qua non* of famine distribution that, following such necessary work for the saving of life, there be the collection of data relating to possible constructional work to be undertaken, to, so far as possible, prevent a recurrence of famine in the same areas. In the case of this disastrous flood and famine in Chêkiang it is well-nigh impossible for our Board, with its limited resources, to do any more than initiate investigation work, and that only in a comparatively small part of the province. Yet the work we have done in the Tsao-ngo River covers a large area, and if the investigations conducted lead to constructive efforts by the people of Chêkiang, it will prove of lasting benefit to the whole province as well as preventing famine in the direct area affected. On the initative of Mr. F. W. Carey, Commissioner of Customs, Ningpo, and Taoyin Wong Yee-tse, the Chairman of our Ningpo Sub-Committee, and by the kindness of the Whangpoo Conservancy Board, Mr. H. von Heidenstam, engineer-in-chief of that Board, has undertaken surveys right along the Tsao-ngo River basin. Mr. von Heidenstam and his engineers and surveyors have put in an immense amount of work and have produced a full report, too long to give here, but it is a much-valued contribution to the study of famine prevention in that large area. Nor must we omit to mention the work undertaken by Mr. C. F. Rhodin, an expert on reafforestation who was specially engaged by the Ningpo sub-Committee to make a reconnaissance trip through the area. In a most interesting report which he has compiled, giving details of his journey, he urges most strongly the necessity for reafforestation of the denuded hills of the interior as a preventive measure. We hope to publish these reports in full and give them the widest publicity in both Chinese and English, with a view of obtaining a large measure of public support for these necessary prevention measures. The thanks of our Board is extended to our Ningpo Committee, and to Mr. Von Heidenstam and the Whangpoo Conservancy Board, for this very material help in our prevention-work.

OUTLINE OF PREVENTION WORK.

The prevention-work outlined by our Hangchow International Famine Relief Committee is a scheme for the deepening of the South Lake, Yuchang, a great reservoir built in ancient times to relieve the plains of North Chêkiang from the floods from the mountain streams. This work will materially benefit the following districts: Kashing, Tunghiang, Tehtsim, Tsongtch, Wukang, Wuhsin and Yuhang. Our Hangchow Committee has already interested the Government and gentry in the proposal and got their approval, the Military Governor having visited the reservoir and promised his full support. Our Hangchow International Famine Relief Committee propose that, in the joint Committee to be formed for this work representative of the Government, the provincial Conservancy Bureau, and the local gentry, together with our Hangchow International Famine Relief Committee, they be adequately represented and have power to audit all accounts. The whole scheme is expected to cost about $400,000 of which our International Famine Relief Committee will put in approximately $80,000.

Expert reports from competent conservancy engineers and others will be published giving the widest publicity to the suggested prevention measures for all Chêkiang.

We trust that not only the people of Chêkikang but others interested in work of such far-reaching consequences will join with us in promoting the skilled recommendations thus placed before us, the execution of which will go a long way towards making the Chêkiang province free from flood and famine.

This is one of the world's biggest conservancy schemes for prevention of famines, a large increase in the rice production of the world, greater trade prosperity, and the providing of educational facilities for the masses of China.

We have a special Board at work on this large and important prevention scheme, and estimates (covering a period of from 18 months to two years) for a competent engineering survey and investigation in the Hai Valley have been prepared; while we have collected plans and available data from the various governmental and other sources in the three affected provinces of Kiangsu, Anhui, and Honan, so that as much material as possible may be at disposal of the engineers undertaking the survey and investigation work.

The Pan-Pacific Commercial Conference in session at Honolulu on November 3, 1922, endorsed this Huai Valley Conservancy project as of "vital importance in the conserving and developing of the enormous potential food supplies of China with its bearing on the world rice situation," and the attention of the Government of China and all governments interested in Pacific problems was invited to the governmental authorities of the three provinces concerned, viz., Anhui, Kiangsu and Honan, headed by Marshal Chi Shih-yuan, Inspector-General for Kiangsu, Anhui and Kiangsi provinces, are strongly urging that this work be commenced without further delay.

The large financial and general interest taken by the government and people of the United States of America in famine relief work in China forms a natural relationship when it comes to a discussion of ways and means for financing a great famine prevention project like the Huai Conservancy scheme. Therefore, when a member of the U. S. A. Congress, on a visit to China, raised the question of the best use of the unexpended portion of the American Boxer Indemnity money, should the American Government remit this payment, there was given a strong expression of opinion from both influential Chinese and foreigners that our Huai Project afforded "the best opportunity of lasting service to the Chinese people;" and service of this kind would be in keeping with the spirit of the American people in remitting this money back to China. We have accordingly submitted a proposal for the use of the Boxer Indemnity in which we suggest that the money form a revolving fund, under sufficient guarantees, for the carrying through the Huai Conservancy Project and other similar prevention schemes in North and South China. In presenting this proposal to the U. S. A. Government at Washington we are fortunate in having as our personal representative there Mr. George A. Fitch, a member of our Huai Conservancy Board, who, in addition to many interviews at Washington and elsewhere, has also undertaken general publicity work for the projects in the U. S. A. Mr. Fitch has been ably assisted, for part of the time, by Mr. O. J. Todd, an engineer well known for his effective work in China and who is conversant with and very much interested in the Huai Valley Conservancy Scheme. Mr. Todd is now giving his whole time to our China International Famine Relief Commission as their engineering representative.

MILLIONS ON STARVATION'S EDGE.

In the three provinces of Kiangsu, Anhui and Honan there are millions of people just living or existing from hand to mouth; and great sufferings oof the people from ever-recurring floods and famines are too well known: indeed, we have almost got so accustomed to hearing of intense suffering and deaths from famine that now famine-relief appeals are not meeting with much response. It will, however, always be necessary in times of emergency to call for help for famine-relief, and we know that there is always a heart of the general public of all lands responsive to help in drawing men, women, and children "out of the jaws of death." Yet it would be to allow these preventable famine conditions in the Huai Valley to continue without exerting every effort to regulate and control the Huai River. In the last famine of two years ago 62,000,000 mow of land was inundated in the Huai River area, resulting in a loss of rice-production amounting to over $613,000,000 (Mex.). Furthermore this reclamation scheme in the Huai Valley would bring under cultivation an *additional* 50,000,000 mow of land, capable of producing rice to the value of $375,000,000 (Mex.).

The Annual Meeting

The International Famine Relief Commission has just completed its annual sessions, adjourning on Wednesday evening, after having been continued through Monday and Tuesday. Officers for the ensuing year were elected, as follows:—President—H. E. M. T. Liang, Vice-President—Dr. Gray, Treasurers—Admiral Tsai Ting-kan and Mr. J. E. Baker of the Ministry of Communications. The Secretary is Mr. W. H. Mallory and the office of the Commission is in Peking.

Detailed reports of the societies and their activities and work done during the year were brought in and introduced into record. The main business of the meeting just concluded was, however, the formation and adoption of amendments to the constitution, all of which were designed to add to the cooperation of its members and to speed up facilities for relief work where most urgently needed.

JAPANESE CAPTIVES FROM YIYANG MARU

Peking, Jan. 21.

According to Chinese reports the Japanese Minister has again made representations to the Waichiaopu urging that delegates be sent to Szechuan to procure the release of the two Japanese officers belonging to the Yiyang Maru who were captured by the Szechuan Army.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DAME ANDERSON AT NINGPO

The Difficult Problem of the Welfare Worker in China

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ningpo, Jan. 16.

Ningpo, which is steadily becoming a centre of modern industrialism has just been visited by Dame Adelaide Anderson, M.B.E., former Lady Inspector of Factories in Great Britain, accompanied Miss Agatha Harrison and Miss Mary A. Dingman, who are prominent members of the industrial section of the Y.W.C.A.

The visitors reached Ningpo on Saturday morning, and immediately set out upon their investigations by inspecting the Tsing Dao Match Factory and Messrs. Olivier and Co.'s Hat Factory, while later in the day they interviewed the Ningpo Chamber of Commerce by special invitation of the Taoyin. After this they conducted a public meeting, chiefly for Christians, in the Riverside Girls' Academy where questions of social betterment were discussed among the Chinese.

On Monday further visits were paid to the canning factory for fruits and bamboo shoots and to the various matting factories. The ladies were entertained at lunch by the manager of the Ho Fong Cotton Mill, Mr. Liu Tsechen, after which a tour of the mill was made.

In the evening a conference was held at the house of Bishop and Mrs. Molony, where Dame Anderson and Miss Dingman met a large gathering of foreigners in the Settlement. Miss Harrison having been compelled to leave previously for Shanghai. Mr. Handley Derry (H. M. Consul) presided and welcomed the ladies. He declared his sympathy with the object of their visit, dwelling upon the importance of conserving the well-being of what we commonly call "labour" as well as of the machinery and other vital necessities of an industrial system. The assets of a nation, he affirmed, of which labour was perhaps the most important part, were in the highest interests of everybody, to be carefully preserved and guarded. Industrial nations in the past had made mistakes in this respect, but now their attention was being more and more turned to the task of social improvement of the labouring classes, fully realizing that a better class of labourers did better work.

DAME ANDERSON'S SPEECH.

Dame Adelaide Anderson expressed pleasure that this note had been struck at the beginning and quoting Henry Ford's dictum that the "Economic Fundamental is Labour," proceeded to show both its importance to the life of a nation and also labour's weakness to protect itself.

Referring more particularly to the improved conditions now in existence in the British Empire (especially in Great Britain and in Australasia) she showed how these had been brought about by a variety of agencies—legislation, humane employers, social workers, agitations among the workers themselves and the development of mechanical and social sciences, all of these had been influential in securing the operation of the fundamental law of the protection of the worker.

In China, where conditions were so bad, where protective measures had perhaps only gone one-fourth of the way they had attained in other countries some basis for the same idea of development could perhaps be found in the guild system which, in this country, gave opportunity for co-operation and friendly discussion between employer and employed. The creation of a humane and enlightened public opinion would of course forward this and from this point we could press forward to make the first step in establishing this fundamental law.

As a practical plan to follow, Miss Dingman suggested the formation of co-operative groups of workers: *e.g.*, a medical group who might compile useful statistics, a legislative group who might work for the promotion of legal enactments, an educational group who might disseminate ideas and study social sciences, and so forth. At present the great defect was that the Chinese were waiting for the foreigners to take action and the foreigners were waiting for the Chinese, so that very little was being done. The speaker admitted that there was no ready made plan to hand by which the thing could be worked out in such a country as this but such a plan would be found as soon as public opinion became strong enough to make itself felt on the question. It was therefore our duty to meditate, even to "brood" on the problem, assured that the interest taken in it by a great variety of human beings would tend towards some definite movement for its solution.

On Tuesday morning the Dame Anderson and Miss Dingman continued their tour of inspection, visiting many of the smaller industrial establishments of Ningpo, and in the afternoon embarked on the C. N. S. Hsin Pekin for Shanghai.

YANG SEN'S ADVANCE ON CHENGTU

City Now Filled with Troops Retreating from Chungking: Tibetan Border Warfare

Chêngtu, Dec. 31.

The situation in Chinese Tibet has improved. The people of Batang and the seven villages have defeated the Nankang Lama and the brigands are becomtions in the surrounding districts are still very bad. In some cases the Chinese magistrates have fled and the the brigands are becoming better organized and more powerful.

Gen. Hsiung Ko-wu is reported to have fled to Tungchuan. Gen. Yang Sen's army is slowly advancing on Chêngtu. Gen. Hsiung's second in command, Gen. Liu I-chiu, is remaining at Chêngtu, whither large numbers of the troops defeated at Chungking have returned, including Kueichow troops. Large numbers are coming into the city daily. They are retreating before Gen. Yang Sen and no stand has yet been made.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BANDIT'S HEAD BROUGHT TO KAIFENGFU

Followers Brisk as Ever

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 18.

The Chinese press reports that the head of Chang Kuo-hsin, *alias* Lao Yang-jen, has been brought to Kaifengfu where it will be exposed to the public as a warning.

The death of the chief does not seem to have quelled the spirit of the band, however, for the same papers which report the arrival of the bandit's head in the Honan capital publish messages from Honan which indicate great activity among the bandits. General T'ien Wen-ch'in, a Shensi commander who has been operating against the bandits in Honan, wired on the 14th that a body of Lao Yang-jen's followers, after getting the worst of a skirmish in the Piyang district had gone into the Linyinghsien district and were near Tashihch'iao. The railway section chief resident at Chengchow has also reported to the Ministry of Communications that more than 1,000 of Lao Yang-jen's men were reported from a place 30 li west of Linying and 20 li from Ta Shih Ch'iao. In the report which he received he was warned that the bandits were preparing to hold up a train on the Kin-Han line, so he had train No. 5 stopped at Hsichow and train No. 4 stopped at Yench'eng, while General Wu Pei-fu and Chin Yun-ao were notified. Orders for troops movements were given, of which the bandits got warning. They disappeared abruptly and the regular train service was resumed.

THE YOSHIWARA EVIL OF JAPAN

Disgrace the Earthquake Was Thought to Have Ended: Revived Despite Many Earnest Opponents

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Jan. 11.

The earthquake never did a greater service to the Japanese than when it wiped out of existence the sinks of iniquity, the Yoshiwara in Tokio and Maganecho in Yokohama—that marred two of Japan's otherwise most charming cities. To conjure up memories of the Yoshiwara and Maganecho that were is far from pleasant. Of the two, if any preference can be made, the "Red Light" district of Tokio was the less repulsive, largely due to the abolition of the *Oiran Dochu*, when a new victim to the Moloch of prostitution was accorded "honours" that had all the sham and hypocrisy that one could ever think of, and also due to the abolition of the practice whereby the unfortunate women were compelled to disport themselves in a large, caged room, visible to passers-by, the majority of whom would taunt the unfortunate girls, while others, on their way into this den of shame, would first linger at the barred doors to exchange unsavoury pleasantries and to select a woman with much less care than would be expended on the selection of a beast of draught. In Yokohama, however, up to the terrible catastrophe of September 1, the system whereby women were confined to a room surrounded with barred doors and windows continued to exist.

Then came the heaving of the so called solid earth when houses, towns, dwellings were dragged down more quickly and with greater facility than angry waves suck down a frail sampan. With the general destruction went also the licensed quarters, and the slavery of prostitution was thought by many to have been dealt a death-blow.

EFFORTS THAT HAVE FAILED.

Furthermore, the horrors connected with these quarters proved to be amongst the most revolting and saddening of all the tragedies that were born on the noon of September 1. In many of the houses belonging to the licensed quarters, the women perished by the score. The most deplorable thing was that, chained throughout life to a sordid career, several of these women did not have the least chance to save themselves. Convicts were let out on parole as the fires swept in the direction of the penitentiaries, but for these imprisoned women in their Yoshiwara "cages" no such opportunity was offered. According to reports, the opposite rather was the case, and their task-masters, who have paid for the women body and soul for a certain period, did their utmost to keep these human goods and chattels who, from a strict legal point, were really theirs. The result was the deaths by tens of these women when the flames had reached a pitch that made escape out of a segregated region cluttered with bamboo, tinder wood and paper buildings entirely impossible.

Following the earthquake came the demand from far and wide that this must not be again, that the Yoshiwara system and all it stands for had better be eliminated from the land. The destruction of these quarters was regarded as an excellent opportunity for doing away with sordid traffic altogether; and those who visioned a better and a purer Tokio looked with the eyes of the spirit and insisted that a system like the Yoshiwara should not re-arise. But the noble attempt has failed.

THE RAPACIOUS KEEPERS.

The agitation for the abolition of the brothels has fallen on deaf ears—so far as the authorities are concerned. In fact, there is as much activity—if not more—in the reconstruction of the destroyed licensed quarters as anywhere else in the ruined regions. Brothel-keepers not merely laugh at the idea of Virtue trying to conquer Vice but are even growing far more rapacious than of old. It is no use mincing matters and affecting a silly prudishness. The system has been established by the brothel keepers, in much the same way as a chain of restaurants under the same management might have meal-tickets, and these tickets are good for all the licensed houses. With characteristic brazenness, the brothel-keepers declare that this is in order to "cope with the trend of the times" and by way of "putting the interests of customers before everything else!"

The system has proved immensely successful so far as the brothel-keepers are concerned. It also, of course, hastens the unfortunate girl victims to the grave quicker, spreads more disease, especially at a time like the present when there is in admitted dearth of disease preventives, and has tended to increase libertinism and profligacy. The brothel-keepers are getting rich, fattening in fact on the women they hold in what is worse than prison, and are quickly making up for the losses they have sustained, including the "loss" caused by the deaths of the girls after the quake who were not permitted to escape when opportunity offered.

PUBLIC OPINION AROUSED.

A wretched system like this cannot be productive of anything good. A nation that permits harlotry for its daughters and blesses it with the benedictions of the law cannot hope for the respect and esteem of others, especially one whose womenfolks are certainly amongst the finest of their sex in the world. But it would be a mistake to conclude that the Japanese people, as a whole, endorse this system. On the contrary, the voice of opposition to this nefarious trade has been raised more than once in the past and was particularly loud after the recent disaster. The individual Japanese, however, has a very faint idea of his or her individual rights, and so matters like this, of life and death, nay more, of honour and disgrace, are left to the officials; and officials, every-where, when at their jobs, are a woodenheaded, red-tape-worshipping lot.

To stop the traffic in human flesh is no easy matter, especially in Japan. But an admirable blow can be delivered at the Yoshiwara system by making it illegal for human beings to be sold or purchased, all parties to such a transaction being severely punished. A bill to this effect brought before the Imperial Diet could not be easily side-tracked, and it seems perfectly certain that the authorities would never dare to ignore it, and thereby allow the world to understand that Japan believes in the barter and sale of human flesh.

THE OLD FALSE ARGUMENT.

Opponents of the abolition of licensed prostitution maintain, with parrot-like insistency, that, with the abolition of legalized vice, private immorality and disease would increase. This argument has been refuted more than once and is merely a means of attempting to hide behind the issue at stake. Statistics made by the Imperial Japanese Army during 1922 prove the falsity of such a position. According to these statistics, which were taken in connexion with recruits for conscription, the number of men afflicted with sexual diseases in places where licensed prostitution is the vogue far out-numbered those in places where legalized vice had been abolished. In Amagasaki, for instance, where an institution on the lines of the Yoshiwara does not now exist, the proportion of those who were diseased was much smaller than in Osaka, Tokio, Kobe or Nagasaki—the last, despite its immense facilities, supposedly without danger of infection and with the connivance of the law, leading in the number of persons diseased, the figure being nearly a half of the able bodied men of the prefecture. Another relevant fact was that the largest number of patrons of these sinks of iniquity were men between 25 and 40 years of age—and therefore married men. Thus the institution that aims—or apologists for it contend it aims—at making the home secure by catering to the irregular appetites of young bloods is really slowly, but surely, infecting the most sacred institution of the country, the home.

There is probably nothing that has done more to lessen the admiration of the world for Japan and the Japanese than this Yoshiwara system, to which can be attributed the go-easy manner in which Japanese women proceed to foreign lands there to do the same sordid "business" for some task-master, thus ruining the reputation of the women of this country and smudging the nation's escutcheon.

INSURANCE POLICIES & EARTHQUAKES

Attitude of British Companies Justified by Recurring Disasters in Japan

London, Jan. 17.

The newspapers point out that the new Japanese earthquake completely justifies the attitude of British companies in declining to admit claims on policies excluding earthquake risk.

They say that the recurrence of volcanic disturbances after so short a period shows that, were such claims met once, possibly an occasion would arise for further similar demands within a very short time and business on this principle would become impossible.

The business of companies transacting fire insurance had up to the present been built on the solid rock of experience and scientific rating of risks and the companies, if they departed from these fundamental principles, would find themselves on shifting sands.—Reuter.

TANG CHI-YAO NOT FLED FROM YUNNAN

On the Contrary Holding It More Strongly than Ever

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 18.

It is reported here on good authority that Tang Chi-yao, Military Governor of Yunnan, who was recently said to have been driven out by his subordinates and to have fled to Kueichow, is not only still safe and sound in Yunnanfu, but has established much better control over the whole province of Yunnan than he has hitherto enjoyed.

Through the exercise of much tact and the expenditure of a little money he was able to organize all the really serious minded bandits in Yunnan into two armies, one of which he sent into Szechuan and the other into Kueichow, so that he is now free to put his own subordinates, supported by his own regular troops, in the districts once wholly under bandit control. He, of course, has no intention of allowing the bandits to return if they fare badly on their expeditions.

As part of the ceremony at the marriage of the Prince Regent of Japan will be conducted in accordance with the time-honoured customs, there will be an exchange of poems between the Prince and Princess on the day previous to their marriage. The Prince Regent will present his bride-to-be with a poem of 31 syllables, giving vent to his sentiments of love, and the Princess will do likewise.

THE LEVY OF TAXES IN KUANGTUNG

Iniquitous Imposts to Supply Funds for Military Operations

Canton, Jan. 12.

The past week in Canton has not been a happy one for anyone concerned. While Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his War Cabinet were drafting plans for a consolidated "Government of China" and the unification of finance in Kuangtung, news again reached Canton that individual military commanders are still interfering with civil affairs. Gen. Li Chai-hsin, of the Cantonese army on the West River, has appointed new magistrates for Takhing and Loting, and the Yunnanese in Canton are legalizing a minor but very harmful lottery, Pak-kop piao, and other evils in return for protection money. Conflicting authorities in tax collection, who are forcing the people to pay double taxes, still remain the chief menace in Canton and district. The restaurant tax on meals is being collected by two syndicates, one for the provincial Government of Kuangtung and the other for the Kuangsi troops under Gen. Chu Pei-teh, while three collectors, one appointed by the Provincial Government, one by the municipality and still another by the Garrison Commander of Canton, are disputing the levying of a surtax of six coppers from each passenger using the ferry service between the north and south bank of the Pearl River, which intersects the city. After the Municipal Government has just exacted three per cent. of the value of the property of residents in Canton for a review and re-validation of their title-deeds, the Provincial Finance Bureau is now putting out its hands for another examination of deeds and the consequent fees.

RAILWAY SERVICE SUSPENDED.

The Canton-Samshui Railway suspended operations on January 10 owing to quarrels amongst the Yunnanese forces of the 3rd Corps, who have been guarding and controlling the line in order to raise money for their support. Fighting between others of Dr. Sun's commanders is also reported. In Toyshan, Comdr. Chuck Yen-ki disarmed a battalion commanded by a subordinate of Gen. Wong Ming-tong, who is a supporter of Dr. Sun, as is also Comdr. Chuck's superior officer, Gen. Li Chai-hsin.

The General Headquarters have denied the reports that the Hunanese under Gen. Tan Yen-kai and the Yunnanese under Gen. Yang Hsi-min are on the point of coming to blows.

THE KUOMINGTANG CONVENTION.

The Cantonese are awaiting with great interest the forthcoming National Convention of the Kuomintang Party in China, which will open on January 15 at the Canton Teachers' College. Delegates will attend from many parts of China, including delegates from Mongolia. The former Givil Governor of Kuangtung, Mr. Hu Han-ming, and Mr. Liao Chung-hoi, the present Governor, with many other prominent Cantonese Mintang, who held a meeting in Shanghai before coming here, are all now in Canton. Should they succeed in regaining control of Kuangtung politics from the hands of the younger leaders of the party, headed by Mr. Sun Fo, the son of Dr. Sun, a change in the policy of the administration will be inevitable, it is generally believed here. It is understood that Mr. Liao will not resume active charge of the Governor's Office until after the Convention. His resignation so far has not been accepted.

MILITARY CONTROL IN KUANGTUNG.

Kuangtung is still divided in territorial control among the more powerful militarists. The districts east of the East river are in the hands of Gen. Chen Chiung-ming's army; the Kochow, Luichow, Yamchow and Linchow sections of the province are now under the control of forces unfriendly to Dr, Sun, but not wholly in sympathy with Gen. Chen; Gen. Shen Hung-ying and the remnants of the recently defeated Kuangsi mercenary army have just regained Linshan and other cities along the Kuangtung-Hunan-Kuangsi borders; the Yunnanese are occupying Kuangtung City and the Hunanese the upper section of the Canton-Hankow railway in Kuangtung. Of the six commercial ports in Kuangtung General Chen's followers now control Swatow, Hoihow and Pakhoi, while Dr. Sun's control Canton, Samshui and Kongmoon. All the railways in Kuangtung except a small part of the Canton-Kowloon Railway, are nominally under Dr. Sun and are actually in the hands of the Yunnanese and Hunanese.

Information reaching Canton indicates that fighting will soon be renewed on the east front as Gen. Chen is planning another offensive against Canton.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

OPIUM MONOPOLY IN CANTON

Authoritative Control Likely to Lessen Consumption and Increase Revenue

Peking, Jan. 18.

The International Anti-Opium Association learn from one of their correspondents that a straightforward opium monopoly has been established in Canton. This correspondent suggests that Dr. Sun has been greatly influenced by the reprint in Canton papers of Bishop Brent's speech at the Geneva Convention, which was published and circulated through China by the Association, and wishes to lessen opium consumption by authoritative control, and at the same time reap the benefit of the taxation imposed. Dr. Sun is faced with two problems; first, how to deal with the large numbers of his Yunnan soldiers in whose province it has been authoritatively asserted that eight men out of 10 smoke opium, and who have carried on in Canton an irregular but very extensive traffic in opium during the last year; and, second, how to raise funds for his armies.

In using the word "straightforward monopoly," it must not be inferred that the International Anti-Opium Association has gone back on its original policy of opposition to all opium monopolies. As an Association they firmly adhere to their policy. The word "straightforward" is used as a contrast to the scores of other monopolies in China under military, civil and commercial combines, which claim allegiance to the Central Government, publish the Government Anti-Opium Mandates, send reports through the Anti-Opium Commissioners that their respective provinces do not contain one poppy root, whilst at the same time they reap millions of money out of compulsory cultivation and taxation.

DR. SUN OPPOSED TO OPIUM.

This correspondent asserts that Dr. Sun has always been opposed to the use of opium, and there is much evidence in support of this statement, but finding Canton in chaos under the unbridled opium traffic of the Yunnan soldiers who are selling off the overproduced tons of Yunnan opium, he is of opinion that a Government monopoly will not only supply military funds, but establish control. It will be interesting to follow the course of this recent experiment, and should it prove that suppression even slowly follows control, it will encourage all who are against this great evil. Dr. Sun has appointed four military commanders to the Monopoly Directorate as well as civil members, and a complete system of licence and taxation has been promulgated.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Gen. Sun Chuan-fang, Tuli of Fukien, has sent his agents to Shanghai to purchase heavy supplies of foodstuffs for his army, states the "Shanghai Journal of Commerce."

THE COMMUNIST'S CHRISTMAS

Russia Demands Religion for All the Atheists

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chita, Jan. 3.

As the 25th and 26th of December (new style) drew near here in Russia, the Professional Unions or Department of Labour, one of the principal communist institutions in the country, came forward with the declaration that December 25 and 26 new style would be observed as "days of rest," not holidays, because that would envolve naming the particular holiday. In the official list, prescribed by the Labour Law, there is no mention whatever of December 25 and 26 being "days of rest" and why they should be so recognized, particularly in view of the fact that these two days followed so closely upon the heels of Sunday the 23rd, the officially recognized day of rest, is highly interesting, for it marks an important epoch in the history of Russia's revolution.

The man in the street, in a general way, settled the question by christening these two days of rest as the "Communist's Christmas," which, of course, is a contradiction because the Communists are sworn atheists and have fought the religious sentiment of the Russian people since the first day they seized the power of the country. Among other things, they re-adjusted the calendar or in other words discontinued the use of the Gregorian calendar.

As the Russian Communist creed is founded on the teachings of one Karl Marx, a Jew, it naturally follows that the story of "The Star of Bethelem" and "Who is He in yonder stall," together with everything pertaining to the Christian religion, are simply myths to the followers of that theory. Therefore the idea of these two days, December 25 and 26, being the "Communist's Christmas" is a contradiction.

THE NEGATIVE STREAK.

Russia, however, has always been a country of contradictions. The negative instinct, propounding negative theories, has predominated in the race for ages. For instance, the Nihilist and Bolshevik movements are examples. Even certain names of the Russian people commence with a negation so there is no need to marvel at the attempts of the Bolsheviki to establish atheism in Russia.

The Russian, whose only weakness is an inveterate addiction to his vodka, breaks, smashes and demolishes everything he lays hands on when in a state of intoxication. This is how he expresses his negative thought. The other Russian, whose only failing is a twist in his exceptionally clever brain, loses faith in his religion sooner than any other person in the world. In the days of the secret revolutionary movement, when the student class of Russia flourished as the most daring, atheism formed the foundation upon which the whole revolutionary structure rested. It serves the revolutionists much in the same manner as whisky does to another type of our own people, namely—it furnishes the nerve and energy. The most desperate student type of Russian atheist, strange to say, is he who received his education in the religious schools. This is the callous individual whose one and only thought was the "triumphant revolution" in his own country to provide him with the opportunity of sweeping religion out of the country root and branch. He could conceive of no compromise. The negative instinct had abandoned itself to all the most wanton practices that the brain of an arch-villain could imagine.

A PARABLE IN ROMANCE.

The story of Anya Samartseva's life as described in the article entitled "The Student Lead" is typical of the majority of those whose fate threw them on the path of revolution in the old days. A Russian refugee in Paris—victim of the revolutionary movement, educated at the Progymnasium at Rostov-Yaroslav, she received the finishing touches in atheism from a student, deported from Moscow, who like most of them was a slovenly ragged fellow with a brilliant brain. After a life of ups and downs in Paris her first child, a baby boy, dies and is given a common grave without any religious rites whatever. Her conscience immediately awakens and, disappointed with her life, she—revolutionist and atheist—nevertheless thinks that had only her child been christened, he might have been spared to her. Remorse and terror seize her at the thought which became a conviction that the student had lied and she ends her life in the manner most Russians use under similar circumstances.

THE TRUE RUSSIA.

And so it is with Russia to-day, the difference being, however, that Russia has not committed suicide nor does she intend to because she has never lost her faith in Christianity. For every slovenly ragged student with the brilliant brain steeped in atheism there are millions of staunch believers in the Faith. The Russian revolutionary atheist struck deep at the very heart of his own country's religion. Brandishing the fire-brand and flourishing threats of imprisonment, he degraded temples, churches and shrines, imprisoned ecclesiastics, publicly mocked and scoffed at religious worshippers and even persecuted them, but the religious spirit of the people was never daunted. Russia silently bore the insult and when the hour seemed darkest the voice of the civilized word rose in condemnation of her atheist and she knew then that the student had lied.

The French experienced the same during their revolution and when Richelieu, the Red Cardinal, came to Napoleon and reported that the people demand religion, he answered:—"Let them have it, but don't trouble me." This stage in Russian revolution has already been reached and the "Living Church" is the atheist's compromise, but the people know this. They know it to be the "Red Church" and this explains the reason for the Communists agreeing to declare December 25 and 26 as "days of rest." They will eventually be known as "Christmas days," but not before the Holy Synod succeeds in reconciling the Russian religious sentiment to discard the Gregorian calendar and fit in the saints' days, etc. with the new style.

SOVIET'S GREATEST FAILURE.

Revolutionists may alter the calendar, atheists may make compromises on the word "Christmas" and the man in the street may ironically talk of the "Communist's Christmas," but all the same Christianity in Russia has withstood the shock and has emerged victoriously and the greatest proof of this fact is that the Russian Soviet Government recognizes to-day its utter hopelessness to win the support of the population without recognizing the religion of the country. The people have passed through the labyrinth of all phases of atheistic madness and all it has done is only to strengthen the Faith in the old Church.

HUGE NEW HARBOUR FOR TOKIO AND YOKOHAMA

Tokio, Jan. 18.

The outline of the scheme for the construction of a harbour in the Tokio Bay and of a canal between Tokio and Yokohama, which is to be introduced in the coming session of the Diet by the Department of Home Affairs, independently of the reconstruction enterprises, has been decided upon. The total cost of the said construction is estimated at Y. 46,500,000.—Eastern News Agency.

MR WANG YUNG-PAO, Chinese Minister to Tokio, reports that during the last earthquake, no Chinese merchants or students were hurt in Tokio, while reports from Yokohama and Osaka are still waited.

YOKOHAMA AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

Coolies with Gold Watches and Diamond Rings and Money to Burn

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Jan. 4

Workmen may wear silk shirts in the United States but they wear handsome and valuable gold watches and chains, often with gold American or English coins hanging therefrom, in Yokohama. I paid a visit to the stricken port city which still is shrouded in the shadows of sheer neglect and apathy—Tokio is always the spoilt child in weal or in woe and until Tokio has had more than it can chew, the attention that will be paid to the other devastated towns will be purely nominal—in order to see how New Year was celebrated there. The only celebration I could see was of coolies and such kind swilling beer and sake (Japanese wine) with a disdain and contempt of money such as I remember only among the narikin (nouveaux riches) of the hectic, war-boom days. Not that the coolie spent even a fraction of what the narikin did: but none the less his new wealth flaunted about in a manner that had all the narikin's contempt for the money that the latter earned so easily and so quickly in those bygone days when the European war poured gold undreamed of into the laps of the Japanese. The quake seems to have done the same in so far as the coolie class is concerned. But the gold watches and heavy eighteen-carat chains, with five-and-ten-dollar gold pieces dangling or good old English sovereigns, in some instances with even mystic sterling gold masonic emblems and other more mysterious charms depending, were something I was totally staggered at seeing.

THE COOLIE'S SPOILS.

I hailed a ricsha at the Sakuragi-cho station (the electric overhead trams now runs from Tokio to the Sakuragi-cho terminus as they did before September 1 last year) and on came a gold-chain-with-Western-coin-adorned individual who pewed for a few moments, then struck a bargain whereby he was to receive two to two-and-a-half times the fare charged before the quake. I was at first for indignantly waving him off, but the desire to see more clearly whatever was the trumpery that Kuruymaya-san (Mr. Ricsha-coolie) was disporting made me consent. I believed that he had perhaps invested some of the very good wages made during the period immediately following the earthquake on some trinket of brass or nickel. When we had gone a fair distance towards the old Settlement and were in the heart of ruins and desolation, the feeling grew upon me to make sure. Telling the man that I desired to locate the place where a friend of mine formerly used to live I dismounted, walked about a bit and then, as though a sudden thought had struck me, asked him whether he knew what the time was. Out came a pretty gold watch and the time of day was proudly announced. I pretended I couldn't quite understand, and desired him to show me the dial. He did so with the pomposity of a primate. It was a beautiful Elgin watch worth anything from Y. 200 to Y. 300. I commented on the fine watch he had, and a great, broad smile spread across his face. I asked him whether he would sell it. He would and mentioned a figure which showed full well that he knew the value of the article he then possessed. I then asked to see the coins and charms that dangled from his chain. There was a five-dollar gold-piece, a gold sovereign, a masonic emblem and a damascene fish.

MEMORIES TOO SAD.

Yokohama still presents a scene that tends to make one's eyes water. I intended to go up the Bluff, but, hardened though a newspaper man is generally supposed to be, my soul revolted at going through scenes where so many friends and acquaintances had perished or were reduced to absolute penury. I turned my steps towards "The Quake," which declares boldly, yet modestly, that "Eats and Drinks" could be had there. It is a small zinc-and-wood structure and is perhaps the only decent place in Yokohama where the self-respecting foreigner can go. It is, incidentally, under the benevolent aegis of Mr. A. G. Bennett, former manager of the Grand Hotel, or rather manager of the former Grand Hotel, and Mr. Tom Laffin, one of the best-known foreign figures in Yokohama, now and before the seismic upheavals.

Here I learnt on authority that I can safely call unimpeachable—in fact my authority was no less than a former foreign employee of the British Embassy in Tokio—that ricsha coolies and their ilk were far better off than wearing gold-dollar-dangling watches and chains. In fact, he said, he had found one clearing *débris* at a wage of three yen a day with a beautiful diamond ring flashing forth imprisoned rays from his mud-begrimed hand.

WHERE WERE THE POLICE?

Once again I saw in fancy those foreign refugees who believed and were told that the police would prevent looting of their premises until they were in a position to get back and excaviate the *débris* for what little can yet be retrieved.

PNEUMONIC PLAGUE AT CHITA

We are indebted to Dr. Wu Lien-teh, Head of the Manchurian Plague Prevention Service, for the following news regarding pneumonic plague at Chita, capital of Transbaikalia, Siberia:

Two cases of pneumonic plague among Russians have recently occurred at Chita in the month of December. It transpires that Dr. Spielberg, a lady physician working part of the time in the Veterinary Institute and part at the local Plague Laboratory, accidentally spilled an emulsion of plague culture upon her apron. Five and a half days afterwards (December 16) fever, tightness of chest and dyspnœa developed, followed by cough and bloody sputum in which the characteristic bacilli were seen under the microscope. Forty-eight hours after appearance of the first symptoms she died.

A male assistant, who had been in contact with the patient, also fell sick on the 18th with typical signs of pneumonic plague, and died two days later.

Among other contacts, was a lady doctor who attended the female patient without a mask; also a male nurse, who sat face to face with the patient for nearly an hour. Fortunately, neither one contracted the dreaded disease.

Most stringent precautions were taken at Chita after the truth was known, and no more cases were reported.

OIL AND WHEAT CARGOES FOR VLADIVOSTOK

Harbin, Jan. 14.

On January 10 the steamer Naniha arrived in Vladivostok with a cargo of Russian petroleum from Batoum on the Black Sea.

The steamer Dekabrist is expected to arrive in Vladivostok shortly with a large cargo of wheat from Black Sea ports.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING, Jan. 21.—The Shantung Members of the 1921 Parliament have issued a circular telegram addressed to the President contending that the Parliament was elected in accordance with the former election law and that it should resume office instead of new elections in the Spring.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

AMERICAN FLEET AND CHEFOO

Again Visiting the Port This Summer: Increase in the Cost of Living

From a Correspondent.

News has been received in Chefoo to the effect that the American Asiatic Fleet intends again making its headquarters during the coming summer at that port. According to present information 60 war vessels are expected to arrive in Chefoo on April 25 and will remain there for several months.

The mere reading of such an announcement will not convey to the average outsider anything out of the ordinary but, to Chefoo residents, the news comes, in some respects, as a nightmare. Chefoo is a comparatively small outport which is not, by any means, self-supporting. The business and missionary community, including the children resident at the schools, does not total 1,000 persons. The "nightmare" comes in the prospect of a further increase in the cost of living which will result from the visit of the American Fleet. That such slender resources as those possessed by Chefoo should be taxed by expecting them to make provision for several thousand men during several months each year is literally an imposition.

It is an uncontested fact that, during the past four years, the cost of living has advanced anywhere from 300 to 400 per cent. The responsibility for this increase lies entirely with the American Fleet and, unless provision is made in the future for the Fleet, during its stay in Chefoo, to be entirely self-supporting, the residents of that port are going to be still affected.

As a result of complaints from the authorities an attempt to alleviate the situation was made last year and the majority of the Fleet's meat supply was obtained in Tsingtao. Local prices were accordingly not affected in this direction until late in the season. They nevertheless rose and, what is more, they have not fallen during the winter months to the level from which the rise took place. In respect of fresh vegetables the situation is decidedly worse. Prices rose and have not declined at all. When the Fleet again arrives in Chefoo there will be a further increase and next year will reveal, unless steps are taken, an even worse state of affairs.

GOOD DISCIPLINE MAINTAINED.

Thanks to adequate shore patrols and the excellent organization of the Navy Y.M.C.A. the behaviour of the men on shore leaves very little just reason for complaint and it is not on account of any such reason that the residents of Chefoo object to the annual visits of the Fleet. The objection, and it is a very sound one, comes solely as a result of the way in which these visits affect the cost of living. With an organization such as the American Navy possesses it would be nationally expected that so important a point as the victualling of it's men would be a matter which would receive a hundred per cent. consideration. At the same time one would be led to anticipate that those in authority would show some consideration for the ports which afford protection for their vessels and of whose facilities they make a convenience.

Very little of this consideration has been shown to Chefoo in past years and, as a result, it is paying for the privilege of having an oily beach more and more, each year.

Such a situation demands the immediate attention and consideration of those in a position to rectify the injustice. Chefoo does not mind the Fleet but it objects to paying for having it, and it is to be sincerely hoped that those in authority will do their utmost in the future to rectify a matter which has, to say the least, reflected upon their past organization.

SHANGHAI NEWS

RETIREMENT OF MR. W. A. H. MOULE

Anglo-Chinese School Head Master's Fine Record: Old Shanghai Memories

Educational circles in Shanghai will in the course of a few weeks be marking with regret the departure of a distinguished and esteemed member, Mr. W. A. H. Moule, who is retiring from his position as Head Master of the Anglo-Chinese School in Shanghai after 33 years' faithful and extremely valuable service. Mr. Moule said good-bye to the school at the annual prize giving on Friday evening, and proposes to leave for home in March. His departure will be greatly regretted by all who have the pleasure of personal acquaintance with Mr. Moule, and especially by the Governors of the School which he has served so admirably and which has met with such manifest success under his careful and efficient guidance.

THE SCHOOL.

Mr. Moule's connexion with Shanghai extends as far back as 1888, in which year, at the age of 18, he came out to assist Dr. Muirhead, the well known missionary, who was then in charge of the London Mission School, a small establishment in Shanghai representing pioneer work in the foreign education of Chinese which has since so rapidly grown. In those days, however, there was no great demand for education, and it is an interesting as well as significant recollection by Mr. Moule that there was a decided quickening of Chinese interest immediately following upon the close of the war with Japan. Mr. Moule's connexion with the Anglo-Chinese School began in 1890. This school, among the first of the kind established in China, was started in 1885, and had the late Mr. George Lanning for its head master, but the enterprise was abandoned about 1888. It became Mr. Moule's task to revive the institution, and so well did he plan its foundations that steady progress was the order from the beginning, and in a few years time the little school in Museum Road, with its original dozen or so scholars, outgrew its home and a move had to be made to more extensive quarters. Thus in 1903, the School was moved to Range Road, where now close upon 200 Chinese receive education on the lines of a first class Middle School. During all these years Mr. Moule has applied himself with the utmost interest and fidelity to the development of the school, modestly building up for it a record and a reputation which makes it now not the least in value among British institutions in Shanghai.

CRICKET ACHIEVEMENTS.

A busy schoolmaster can have but few interests outside the schoolroom, and thus Mr. Moule's name has not come into public prominence except in one traditional field, the world of sport. In his school days at St. Lawrence's, Ramsgate, Mr. Moule gave promise of the athletic excellence which in later years he displayed in most branches of sport. Pride of place in his recollection is given to the many years he was a playing member of the Shanghai Cricket Club, and a very capable one. He joined the Club during his first year in Shanghai, and for many years afterwards played in all the leading matches, including, of course, Interport games. His first Interport game was against Hongkong at Shanghai in 1891, and he was a member of the team again in the following year, that disastrous year when the Bokhara was wrecked on the Pescadores and all but two members of the Hongkong team lost their lives. During this playing career Mr. Moule scored over 11,000 runs for the Club, with an average of over 50, whilst he knocked up 15 centuries, his best score being 151 not out against the Recreation Club. To the delight of members of the Club, among whom "Willie" Moule has ever been esteemed and popular, he gave a glimpse of his old-time form only this last season in compiling 103 not out against an Interport XI. As a bowler, also, he was no mean performer, and there is a useful record of six wickets for one run standing to his name. Mr. Moule was an equally keen Rugger and Soccer man, and also an excellent tennis player, on one occasion, we believe, being runner up for the Shanghai championship.

SENSATIONAL SCENE IN NANKING ROAD

A Traffic Hold up: Was it Negligent or Merely Deliberate?

The Sikh policemen on traffic duty at the Nanking-Szechuen Road crossing on Saturday morning were presented with a somewhat unusual problem. A few minutes before noon, when the streets were crowded with the usual variety of traffic, a sudden and unexpected halt occurred in the vehicles proceeding westward, due to the fact that a car driven by a quite respectable looking gentleman came to a standstill right in the middle of the crossing. A breakdown? No. The engines were running beautifully. What could the matter be? A Sikh signalled the driver to proceed, but instead of doing so he produced a cigarette and settled down to a comfortable smoke, to the amazement of the police and the amusement of a big crowd which rapidly gathered.

"Move on please," said the Sikh, smiling encouragement and pointing to the heavy accumulation of traffic.

But the motorist refused to budge, and the crowd began to suspect a "movie" stunt, or a daring piece of work in connexion with a wager, especially when he produced a watch and carefully timed himself to a five minutes' rest in the middle of Shanghai's busiest thoroughfare at the busiest hour.

Five minutes had elapsed when a foreign traffic inspector appeared on the scene and the motorist, just then preparing to drive on, politely handed him his card, that of Dr. Tartois, a member of the French Municipal Council.

A SELF-IMPOSED PENALTY.

With reference to this action and on the ground that he considered it his duty to explain his conduct to the Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council and his colleagues, Dr. Tartois has written to Mr. Fessenden to the following effect:—

He states that his action was done deliberately for the benefit of both the French Concession and the International Settlement. He points out that the Municipal Councils are facing great difficulties arising from the interpretation of by-laws however well framed they may be. While expressing great respect for British justice and not questioning the ruling of Mr. King in the recent case from a strictly juridical standpoint, Dr. Tartois remarks that if the by-laws are interpreted as literally as in the Wilder case the administration of the community will become impossible, especially in a city so international as Shanghai. It was to demonstrate this that he took this extreme course of action. On the other hand, he readily admits that he is aware that an appeal has been lodged against the Wilder verdict in the British Supreme Court where it may be quashed, acknowledges his own culpability and fines himself $100 which he has sent to the Chairman of the Council to be donated to any charity the latter deems deserving.

OBITUARY

The Late Mr. John Blechynden

Far Eastern residents will learn with regret of the death, which took place on January 8 last on a farm near Nelson, New Zealand, of Mr. John Blechynden, who came to Shanghai in the early nineties. For a number of years he was prominently connected with the activities of the New Engineering & Shipbuilding Co., whose works stand as commercial monument to his memory.

Born in Falstone, a small village in Northumberland on June 3, 1846, Mr. Blechynden spent a great deal of his boyhood in Woolee, a country town situated near the Cheviot Hills. When in his teens he went to Newcastle to serve his apprenticeship as an engineer, and was articled to Messrs. Thompson & Boyd who were then famous as marine engineers, though their works were situated far from the River Tyne.

It was most interesting to hear the old gentleman describe the methods of construction of engines and boilers then in vogue. A great deal of manual labour was entailed, as the machine tools then in use could not cope with the growing sizes of jobs required.

No doubt his extremely healthy surroundings in boyhood, and hard manual work and exercise which he had in his youth helped to build up the magnificent constitution which he possessed. He had gone in for various forms of sport, fishing, swimming and walking being his favourite pastimes.

FROM EGYPT TO JAPAN.

His apprenticeship being completed in 1867, he went out to Egypt where he had a most adventurous career, working on railways and also serving in a Turkish Government vessel operating in the Red Sea before the Suez Canal opened, the engineers being the only foreigners on board.

Returning to England, he went to sea in the capacity of a marine engineer, eventually leaving for Japan in one of the Yubin Kaisha's vessels. He sailed some years under the above company, which was the predecessor of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. It is of interest to note that in order to do so he had to qualify for a first engineer's certificate under the Shipping Laws of Japan. This certificate, which was one of his cherished possessions, was the third one issued.

After some years service in Japanese vessels, in one of which he acted in the dual capacity of captain and chief engineer, he went Home, marrying a Miss Lindsay of Berwick-on-Tweed and then went to New Zealand in 1879. He commenced farming in Cabbage Bay, doing extremely well, his three elder children being born there. Misfortune, however, overtaking him he sold out his farm and stock and went back to Japan where he obtained the post of manager and engineer of a large paper works near Kobe, which were in a very run-down condition at that time. By his resource and capability he soon had the concern in a most flourishing condition.

Mr. Blechynden next commenced a small shipyard near Kobe, where he soon had an excellent business; but here misfortune again overtook him as he lost nearly all his money by the failure of a bank in Kobe.

During his stay in Japan he lost his wife, who died in Victoria, B.C., in 1888 whilst on a visit there. After the lapse of some time he married Miss Newton, whose father had come out to Shanghai from the Elswick Works and was employed as a specialist in the gun department, Kiangnan Arsenal, Shanghai.

PIONEER OF SHIPBUILDING IN SHANGHAI.

In the early nineties, Mr. Blechynden came to Shanghai, joining the Shanghai Engine Works in the capacity of manager. Here again his indomitable energy coupled with his wide experience soon made great changes in the development of the concern, as Mr. Blechynden was a man in whom implicit confidence was placed and who rarely failed to carry but what he set out to do.

Business increased so rapidly that it was soon seen that an extension was necessary and for which larger premises would be required. Backed by some influential shipping interests a large piece of land situated on the Pootung side of the river was acquired and a new company formed, called The Shanghai Engineering, Shipbuilding & Dock Co., Ld., of which Mr. Blechynden assumed the management. Under his guidance and supervision, and assisted by the late Capt. J. P. Roberts, a large dry dock was constructed—the Oriental Dock (now known as the International Dock). This dock was completed in 1898 as also the adjoining workshops which were fitted out with the latest and most up-to-dae machinery. Unfortunately owing to the treacherous nature of the sub-soil, considerably more money had to be expended in the construction of the dry dock than had been foreseen, leaving the company with practically no working capital, which so hampered progress that it was compelled to merge its business with Messrs. S. C. Farnham Co., Ld.

The confidence reposed in Mr. Blechynden and his acknowledged ability as an engineer soon found other and new support, resulting in the formation of a private company called the New Engineering & Shipbuilding Works, which commenced operations in 1900, though in a much less pretentious manner. From small beginnings, on rented property occupying only about 15 mow of land, this private concern was made into a limited company in 1903 with a capital of Tls. 102,000. Its history is now too well-known to require repetition, beyond stating that the success since achieved, has necessitated many extensions, occupying an area of over 200 mow of land with workshops and plant second to none in Shanghai and a dry dock known as the Yangtszepoo Dock of sufficient size to accommodate most of the largest vessels calling at this port.

These works are the outcome of Mr. Blechynden's energy and able management and will be ever a credit to his sterling abilities and enterprise.

In the autumn of 1914 he retired and returned to New Zealand with the object of spending leisurely his declining years on a farm which he had meanwhile acquired near Nedson. Being of a robust constitution he was able to enjoy his well earned retirement, though very unfortunately this was only of comparatively short duration, as about three years ago he was suddenly struck down with a paralytic seizure from which he never completely recovered. His death took place on January 8 this year to the great regret of all his friends and relatives.

Mr. Joseph E. O'Mahony

The death occurred at the General Hospital last Friday morning of Mr. Joseph E. O'Mahony of the S.M.C. Public Works Department.

Mr. O'Mahony, who was only 32 years of age, came out to Shanghai about two and a half years ago for the special purpose of mapping and surveying the country in and around Shanghai, a task which outside the actual limits of the Settlement has hitherto been left to amateur initiative. He was a clever and experienced draftsman and fond of his work, which was always most accurately executed. For the past 18 months Mr. O'Mahony had been residing at the Rubicon Club, from which centre he had been carrying out recent surveys; but recently his quarters were transferred from the Rubicon Club to the Settlement. A week ago he was taken to the General Hospital with double pneumonia, but after battling with it for a week passed away last Friday.

During the war Mr. O'Mahony served with H. M. Forces Overseas in a topographical section of the R. E. He was a member of the Field Artillery Battery, S.V.C., and was given a military funeral on Saturday by his fellow gunners in that unit.

BUBBLING WELL ROAD BUILDING SCHEME

China United Assurance Society's Huge New Offices and Residential Flats

Outgrowing their present quarters on the corner of Szechuen Road and Peking Road, the China United Assurance Society Ld., are going to build a six-storey building just opposite the Race Course on Cadastral Lot 6, B.C. 764, which is situated directly to the east of the Horse Bazaar on Bubbling Well Road. The ground space required for the structure is 2,069 mow and according to the present building plans the completed structure will cost about Tls. 500,000. Mr. Elliot Hazzard, an American achitect, who has designed the new Columbia Country Club house and the new Standard Oil Building and many department houses in America, has been engaged to prepare detailed plans for this one.

The management of the company, well-knowing that it will be but a few years until the business district has spread well outside its present confines, and as it must go to the West, have anticipated the movement and will have the first permanent home of any organization of its size west of Chêkiang Road. Although their new home will be large enough to accommodate their entire organization now there will be additional space not demanded at the moment by them, but which it is believed will in a few years be required. So another new departure for Shanghai will be inaugurated in giving over four floors to sleeping and living quarters which will consist of bachelor rooms or suites and apartments with kitchens for family use.

When the building is finished the company will use the first floor and the main floor for their present quarters, in the latter of which are to be housed the agents' rooms on the west side and the medical rooms, while to the rear will be a large workroom and to the east staff and accounting rooms. The manager's office and secretaries' room and the library and board room will find accommodation near by. Below, room has been allotted to two magnificent shops and to the rear, dining quarters and recreation rooms for the staff are planned, with two strong rooms for archives in the middle.

RESIDENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES.

The second, third and fourth floors have been set aside for modern apartments, of two, three, four and five rooms, according to what number the tenant may desire. Spacious four and five-room apartments with south aspect will occupy the corners of each of the three floors, the smaller ones being to the rear. On the next storey provision has been made for 21 bachelor rooms while on the top another splendid apartment and five more bachelor rooms are to be let out. A common dining room and kitchen are above for the use of tenants, while either corner of the top on the south will be devoted to large conservatories, a roof-garden in summer and a winter garden the rest of the year, all for the convenience and use of tenants of the building. The proposed rates will be much more moderate than those asked in many sections of the Settlement and with the additional feature of being within 15 minutes' walk of any office. The rent will be $50 to $60 for single rooms and there will be some apartments for as low as Tls. 80. The bachelor rooms will be furnished before letting.

Construction will begin shortly and the building should be ready for occupancy in 1925.

The Society, though it was organized in 1912, has grown by leaps and bounds. The original founders were Mr. A. J. Hughes and Mr. Lu Yoh-chuen, which gentlemen were assisted in the first few years by Mr. F. Defries, who lost his life in the Great War. The authorized capital is Tls. 1,000,000, that subscribed Tls. 615,000, of which Tls. 129,150 has been called for. Death claims of Tls. 1,000,000 have been paid.

FUKIEN'S FRUIT INDUSTRY

Extinction Feared: Trees Sold for Firewood to Avoid Unjust Taxation

From Our Own Correspondent.

Changchow, Fu., Jan. 12.

Last July I gave an account of the agitation which had arisen in this district in regard to the threatened imposition of a tax on all fruit trees.

The promoters of the agitation succeeded in securing the defeat of this proposal for the time being. Popular opinion does not however, count now, for as much as it did then, and although the tax is directly in face of public opinion on the matter it has now been imposed, and is likely to do great injury to one of the principal industries in this part of the country.

Numerous boats come to Changchow now laden with fruit trees that have been cut down to be sold as firewood in order to avoid payment of the tax. In this way the number of pumelo and orange trees especially is being greatly decreased. Fruit tree growers are required to notify the number of trees upon which the tax is leviable. If it is found that there is any discrepancy the former are seized and thrown into prison and large sums extorted from them in fines by the tax collectors. Moreover certain timber trees have a close resemblance to some fruit trees. Tax collectors unable to distinguish them inflict fines upon the growers for having underestimated the number of taxable trees.

Opium is again being extensively grown under the coercion of the officials. In some parts not only are the people required to pay the opium tax whether they plant opium or not, but those who do not plant are punished for daring to disobey the order to do so. School teachers in the government schools in the city have had to be content with receiving only 20 per cent. of their salaries for several months, but have been comforted with the assurance that the arrears would be forthcoming when the opium taxes are paid up.

ROADS AND SCHOOLS.

A [illegible] schools of middle grade in the Liong-chi district is to be effected in the interests of economy and efficiency in working. Schools of this grade in agriculture and commerce, as well as those for normal and industrial work are to be accommodated in a new building which is to be erected for next autumn. The staff of teachers required for such a union institution will be [illegible] parts of the city.

[illegible] in the villages have practically come to a standstill as they have very few scholars and no money to pay the salaries of the teachers.

Business is very quiet, as at the present time business men will not venture money in any enterprises while the general unrest prevails. Money is very tight, large quantities [illegible] exported to Shanghai where they [illegible]

[illegible] hotel in the city and the country district. A great main road has been planned from Changchow through Chenghai and on to Swatow and beyond to Chowchowfu, the section between Changchow and Chenghai is now in course of construction. A road for motors and a light railway is also under construction, to connect Changchow and the market town of Chuhkiu on the North River. It will be about 14 miles in length, and will be a more direct and convenient way of bringing the produce of the North River district to Changchow.

We have four military chiefs in this city. Each works entirely on his own lines. There is no co-ordination between them. It is said that one of them has been in communication with Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and he has the support of the troops that were formerly bandits. Apprehension is felt lest this may encourage Gen. Chuang Tsz-ping to endeavour to join forces with him in an attempt to recover this part of the country, and so embroil the district in renewed fighting.

SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY

The staff of the chemistry department of Soochow University will be increased by the coming of Dr. M. G. Frank, PH. D., from the University of Chicago. Dr. Frank is now in Peking and is due in Soochow within two weeks. The work of the department will be further facilitated by the arrival of a large quantity of new equipment and supplies, which is expected at the opening of the spring term. Eight courses in chemistry will be given.

The new science hall is rapidly approaching completion, and is expected to be in full working order in the autumn. The building is of reinforced concrete consisting of four stories, with an attic. It will be very thoroughly equipped, and when completed will be the best of its kind in China. It is certainly a relief to the already over congested laboratory quarters.

Owing to the change from the five-years to the four-year course of the university requirements there will be a graduating class this winter. The commencement day is to be on the 25th of this month, when 18 seniors will receive diplomas. The class is preparing a very elaborate programme to celebrate the occasion.

Brilliant Scenes at Commencement Exercises

From Our Own Correspondent.

Soochow, Jan. 21.

The 18th commencement of Soochow University began yesterday morning with the baccalaureate service at St. John's Methodist Church. The Rev. Frank Rawlinson preached the sermon, which was interpreted by the Rev. T. C. Chao.

The commencement exercises will continue until Friday, closing in the afternoon, when Dr. Hodgkin will deliver the commencement address.

The graduating class have decorated the University campus with scores of electric lights. In England and America, Chinese and Japanese lanterns may be used as decorations, but in up-to-the-minute China, we realize that this is truly the electrical age!

MORO INSURRECTOS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jan 24.

The Constabulary report that two Moros from the Siassi Islands, Mindanao, killed nine Dutch subjects and wounded 19 on board a Dutch vessel and then jumped overboard. Dutch subjects fired at them and killed both. Both were followers of Panglima Sapudin, a Moro chief, who was ostensibly fishing in the Celebes. While they were there Sapudin's men had an altercation with the natives, who wounded two Moros. The latter were taken on board the Dutch steamer on which they ran amok. Sapudin and his band were arrested by the Dutch authorities for being concerned with the crime. Governor-General Wood intervened and secured their release and return to the Philippines. — Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPANESE LOAN IN NEW YORK

New York, Jan. 10.

The Japanese Government and New York bankers are reported to be negotiating a loan. The amount is not stated.—Reuter's American Service.

BANDITS THREATENING N. KIANGSU

Suchien Their Reported Goal

From Our Own Correspondent.

Suchien, N. Ku., Jan. 16.

Report has it that the tufei are gathering in the north country. They have boasted that they are going to "loot Suchien." If the report is true, work will surely not be started on dredging the canal, the people say.

Suchien is remarkably situated for protecting itself. On the west is the old bed of the Yellow River, supplying water for the good part of the city. In the Revolution year it was at this spot that an opposing army was met, engaged and hindered from crossing. The Canal flows past the north and east sides of the town, and if, as it is intended, a barrier is erected to stop the flow of water till the dredging is finished, it will leave Suchien without its natural barrier on two sides.

Some little time ago, one of our camp officials reported that a priest in one of our largest temples was harbouring tufei. He was arrested and sent to Nanking. We hear the "tables are turned" and the priest has accused the said official to a higher authority, and he has been ordered to Nanking to answer for himself.

OFFICIAL ROUGHLY HANDLED.

Last Sunday an inspector of government schools was rather badly handled by the boys in three schools. He has charge of the teachers' salaries. If all one hearts is true, he has not been dealing very faithfully with them. The boys took him to the public street, beat him and covered him with mud. He was rescued from them by the police. As nothing seems to have been done to the offenders, one surmises they had pretty good reasons for their action.

Suchien has had its first snow storm this year. It fell noiselessly for two successive nights. The first morning there was just a little white seen; next morning, however, the country was all white. The clouds are so heavy to-night, that we hope to-morrow's light will show the ground still more deeply covered and reassure the farmers' hearts over the wheat crop.

INSURRECTION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Colorum Outbreak Spreading: Large Reinforcements Necessary

Manila, Jan. 19.

It is learned from the highest authority that the Colorum outbreak is extremely serious and is spreading to Surigao, Leyte and Samar. Branches are reported to be all over the Philippines, even in the City of Manila, though up to the present they have been entirely peaceful.

Colonel Clarence H. Bowers, commanding the Constabulary now in the vicinity of Bucas Island and Surigao where the recent massacre occurred, has wired to Governor-General Wood to night as follows:

"Colorums are in an ugly frame of mind. Anticipate trouble."

Colonel Bowers also urgently asked for adequate reinforcements. The United States gunboat, Sacramento, is already patrolling Bucas waters. Six hundred fanatics on Bucas Island are concentrating for a probable attack on the Constabulary.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Manila, Jan. 24

More than a hundred Colorums have escaped from Bucas Island to Surigao where they are blockading the line from Placer (?) to Mainit (?). A Constabulary Patrol Captain and a dozen men have been cut off. Their fate is unknown.

The Colorums are rapidly recruiting followers on the mainland and are spreading riot, murder and pillage. The prospects are that United States troops will be called out.

COLORUMS COMPLETELY ROUTED

Aided by a machine-gun barrage from the U.S.S. Sacramento 100 constabulary under Colonel C. H. Bowers landed on Bucas Island at eight o'clock yesterday morning and charged the trenches of the Colorums, whom they routed completely. One constabulary man was killed. The loss sustained by the Colorums is not known. Two dead and two wounded were found.

Colonel Bowers immediately returned on board the Sacramento after burning the Colorum town, fearing that weather conditions would force the Sacramento from the coast.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

"BECHSTEIN"

Concert and Miniature Grands

USED BY THE GREAT ARTISTES

ROBINSON PIANO CO./LD.

THE DEFENDANT' STORY

When the action was continued on Wednesday Mr. Tsah, the plaintiffs representatives, was further cross-examined by Mr. Seader Harris. He said that the capital of the Empire Optical Co. was divided into 30 shares of $100 each, and of these ht held two. It was not true that witness had removed stock from the safe, and he did not know that Rakusen had had to engage a policeman to look after the place.

In answer to Mr. Wing, witness said that if he had not taken action against Dr. Thompson in this matter, neither had he released him from any obligation which he might have incurred.

Dr. R. A. Thompson was then called and prefaced his evidence by saying, in answer to Mr. Wing, that the prosecution against him by defendant had been dismissed by the American Court on the previous afternoon.

Questioned with regard to the advertisement in which witness was said to have received references from Presidents Taft, Roosevelt, Wilson and Harding, and Gipsy Smith, the Doctor said that some of the statements were true and some of them were not.

THE "GOOF" SIGNS.

Witness went on to say that he arrived in Shanghai in 1922, and was attracted by the position of the plaintiffs' shop. He called on them several times and said he would like to take the place over and eventually the Chinese agreed to let witness in on a share of the profits. Witness conducted the business for two months and gave the Chinese a percentage of his receipts. Having no money, witness began to look round for some capital. Hearing that Rakusen had been in the optical business in America, witness put the proposition to him, it appealed to defendant, and he said he would put up the money to buy the business. Upon this, witness entered into negotiations with the Chinese and, after asking $4,000, they finally agreed to take $2,300. The arrangement was that witness was to go into partnership with defendant, and pay his share of the capital out of the profits he received. Actually, witness considered the business to be worth at least $2,500 gold, while the location was worth at least as much more. Witness agreed to pay the water bill and give $2,300 for the business. When the agreement was ready, Rakusen placed it on the table, put a pen in Tsah's hand and said "sign here," and Tsah signed without reading the document. When he had done so, Rakusen exclaimed: "Did you ever see such a big goof in all your life!" "I never did," answered witness. Rakusen then took the document and filled in the addition to clause 3 in ink. "What are you putting there?" witness asked, and Rakusen replied: "Leave it to me and we will get the place for nothing." As the Chinese had been fair to witness and as he did not want to see them lose their money, he told Tsah not to accept a cheque, and not to give up the lease until they had received full payment. Accordingly, Tsah refused to give up the lease except for cash, and there was an occasion when Tsah stood holding up the lease and Rakusen held up a bundle of notes. Neither would trust the other and consequently the lease did not pass. Witness continued with the business until the end of April or early in May, leaving then because he did not like Rakusen's methods of doing business. Whenever the Chinese called for their money, Rakusen put them off by saying he would pay them later. He said to witness: "If you will leave it to me, I will find cause to get the place for a few dollars." Rakusen added that if there was a controversy about stock and he put in a claim for three or four hundred dollars, and with the water account, the business would cost them nothing. Witness did not like this, and so he left. Rakusen advertised witness as having a London office, but he never had had one. Some of the instruments defendant advertised as being in possession of the company were never on the premises; they were intentions conceived in Rakusen's own mind.

AN EYE ON THE BUSINESS.

How was it (asked Mr. Reader Harris in cross-examination) that having left the business because you did not like the defendant's methods, you suggested a new partnership agreement?

Witness—The agreement prepared by my lawyers gave me a loophole to buy the business. It was so drawn up that Rakusen was sure to refuse to sign and thus witness would get a chance of buying the business.

Witness admitted that he had given information against Rakusen in an affidavit, the reason being that defendant had told him that when he had "cleaned up" in China he intended to go to America; this was no place for a White man to live in.

Counsel—You knew that when Rakusen put into the agreement the words "and the water bill," he was swindling Mr. Tsah?

Witness—I did.

And knowing he was swindling the Chinese, you remained with him as partner for two months and then tendered another partnership agreement!

Witness—That was a loophole whereby I might get the business.

Knowing that Rakusen had got the business for nothing, you thought you could get it cheaply from him?

Witness—No. I offered him the full price.

Witness concluded by saying that he was giving evidence in order to help the Chinese, because they had treated him fairly and he did not want to see them lose then business for $5.

THE MAN WITH THE LEASE.

One of the Chinese shareholders in the Empire Optical Co., gave evidence that he had possession of the lease and demanded $1,200 of the purchase money before he would hand it over to defendant.

His Lordship observed that it was perfectly obvious why witness had taken this attitude, he being personally liable under the lease.

Witness went on to say that on one occasion Rakusen, Thompson, and another foreigner called at his house, and the foreigner whose name he did not know tried to obtain the lease by force, causing witness to go and hide in another room.

THE CASE FOR THE DEFENCE.

In opening the case for the defence, Mr. Reader Harris said that the highest amount plaintiffs could claim was $2,295, on the principle that where the buyer was in default the measure of damages was the price. The premises of the Empire Optical Co. having such a fine location, it was of the utmost importance that the partner who held the lease refused to hand it over unless he received a great deal more than his share of the purchase price.

His Lordship—Did it matter to you what the relations between the partners were? They could have fought it out afterwards.

"The trouble is, "said his Lordship later on, "this wretched agreement makes mention of a date on which the money should be paid.

The defendant, C. P. Rakusen, gave evidence when the case was continued in the afternoon. Dr. Thompson (he said) originally suggested plaintiff's concern, and said that he wanted to open in Shanghai a branch of his "World Wide Optical Company." He produced a book containing photographs of what purported to be branches of this company in other parts of the world and suggested that they buy the Empire Optical Company for the Shanghai branch. Witness agreed, and it was understood, they should put up G.$5,000 each, but Thompson intimated that he had not got the funds, and they then agreed that he should leave his share of the profits in the business till it amounted to one-half of the purchase price. Negotiations then went ahead and they eventually agreed to purchase the business for $2,500. Witness was dealing with Mr. Tsar, who had a power of attorney from the rest of the partners, and received from him satisfactory replies regarding rates and rent. He was told that the water rate was included in the lease, Tsar explaining that Mr. Hardoon paid his partners and himself a lump sum, as a private arrangement between themselves for payment of the rate, and that he would have to get this from the partner who held it.

LEASE MORE VALUABLE THAN THE BUSINESS.

Speaking as to the $5 "bargain money," witness said this was merely paid as a nominal sum to clinch the agreement. At that time witness was a trifle suspicious of Tsar's power of attorney, since in business it was always his policy not to believe anything he did not know for certain. Further more, he did not wish to pay the money until he had the lease, and up to that time had never seen it. In fact, he saw the document for the first time during these proceedings. The partner who held it refused to hand it over unless he were paid $1,200. Tsar objected to his receiving this sum, saying there would be nothing left for the other partners when the water and other bills had been paid. On one occasion witness actually gave Tsar $1,200 and received a receipt for it, but even then the other Chinese would not hand over the lease, and in disgust witness took his money back, tore up the receipt and left the house. There was mistrust on both sides with regard to the lease, which was the basis of the whole agreement. The Optical business was nothing without it. A fresh lease had been obtained from Mr. Hardoon.

Asked by Mr. Wing if he thought $2,300 was a fair price for the business, witness said he had always understood that the lease was the greater part of the purchase. The business itself was worth nothing; it was so small that plaintiffs rented out one of the windows at $70 or $80 a month.

On the point raised by witness that one of the Chinese, Mr. Hwa, refused to hand over the lease unless he received $1,200 counsel asked how it was witness did not get the document when (on his own evidence) he handed this sum to Mr. Tsar; and witness answered that he did not know, but there was a certain amount of distrust.

Counsel—You realize now that immediately you got the new lease, Hwa's only hope had gone?—I do not know that.

What else had he got to bargain with—I do not know what his object was in refusing to deliver the lease.

Did you not get a new lease from Mr. Hardoon before the expiration of plaintiff's term?—No. Mr. Hardoon held that, the rent for march being more than 15 days in arrear—the lease had gone.

In answer to Mr. Reader Harris, witness explained that he made arrangements with Mr. Hardoon for the new lease on March 7, on which day terms were agreed upon, provided that plaintiffs did not pay their rent before the 15th.

In summing up, Mr. Harris suggested that his Lordship should believe Mr. Rakusen's story, in which event he would deduct from the claim the amount of the water bill and advertising accounts, amounting to $11,000 or $1,200, and deduct also from the purchase price the value of the articles which had been stolen.

Mr. Wing, addressing the court, said it had been suggested that the parties had never trusted each other, but actually at the beginning plaintiffs implicitly trusted Rakusen, to such an extent that they signed the agreement and handed over to him the whole of the assets.

The court adjourned on the conclusion of counsel's speech.

In compliance with a petition addressed to him, Marshal Chang Tso-lin, the Mukden leader, has approved of a plan for the establishment of a school in Mukden for the training of future diplomats.

HONGKONG COMPANIES ORDINANCES

The Registration of Mortgages

An application under section 98 of the Companies' Ordinances (Hongkong) 1911 was made before his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner on Monday on behalf of Messrs. Hawkings, Reed & Co., Ld. The motion was for an extension of time for delivery to the Registrar of Companies of copies of two mortgages, dated October 6, 1923, the first made between the company (then known as Little Bros. Ld.) and Mr. C. H. Bell, to secure the repayment of Hankow Tls. 7,000, with interest, and the second, of a similar nature and amount, made between the company and Mr. L. T. Beddowe.

Mr. J. H. Teesdale, for applicants, put in an affidavit by Mr. J. H. Reed, in charge of the company's Hankow branch, showing that copies of the mortgage, submitted to the Registrar of Companies within the specified time, were returned for verification. Some difference then arose between the company's representative and the British Consul at Hankow, and when this had been settled the time limit had expired.

The Crown Advocate (Mr. H. P. Wilkinson) appearing for the Registrar of Companies, said he did not oppose the application. He pointed out, however, that the copies of the mortgages as first submitted could not be accepted by the Registrar, who required a statutory declaration that they were correct copies.

His Lordship—Could not that have been made in Shanghai?

The Crown Advocate—No. The originals were at Hankow, where the land and buildings, the subject of the mortgage, are situated.

Mr. Teesdale suggested that in the circumstances the company ought not to be asked to pay the costs of the application, and the Crown Advocate intimated that he would not apply for costs.

His Lordship made an order for 28 days' extension of time, and noted that no order for costs had been applied for.

UNHAPPY NEWSPAPER VENTURE

Action by Printers Regarding "Shanghai Answers": The Month's Bill

A newspaper enterprise which failed, and a partnership dispute, came before his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner at H. M. Supreme Court on Thursday when Ernest A. Paige (and when Ernest A. Paige (and "Shanghai Answers") was sued by the Oriental Press for Tls. 134.55 and $616.10, money paid for and on behalf of defendants at their request, and for work done. There was also a claim for $2,210.80 for goods sold and delivered and printing work done. Mr. J. G. Priestwood appeared for plaintiffs.

Mr. Priestwood stated that defendant first approached the Oriental Press with a suggestion for producing a paper to be called "The Humorist," but this project was abandoned. Subsequently defendant who was acquainted with Mr. Bickel, plaintiff's assistant manager, arranged for a month's credit for other newspaper work. This defendant denied, contending that Mr. Bickel was his secret partner in this second enterprise. According to defendant, Mr. Bickel was his partner in the production of "Shanghai Answers," costs in connexion with which were the subject of the present claim, but counsel contended that it was no defence to the action to claim that Mr. Bickel was a partner. Mr. Bickel had no authority to enter into any such partnership on behalf of the Oriental Press, and if he actually did enter into partnership with defendant, the fact was never disclosed to his employers. Partners were jointly liable, but in this instance the court could not give judgment against both because Mr. Bickel was an American citizen and not subject to the jurisdiction.

Defendant admitted the correctness of the accounts rendered, and that he carried on "Shanghai Answers," but in partnership with Mr. Bickel.

His Lordship—I understand your defence to be that, as there was a partnership, it is unfair you should be called upon to pay everything and Mr. Bickel nothing.

Defendant—Yes. I kept the partnership secret at his request.

ATTRACTING THE CHINESE.

Mr. Matteo Bos, General manager of the Oriental Press, gave evidence that Mr. Bickel had no authority to bind the company to a partnership or any other agreement. He had absolutely no authority to make the firm a partner in any venture. The suggestion with regard to "The Humorist" was that competitions should be started which would attract the Chinese, competitions for guessing the number of people carried on the tramways, but witness did not think Chinese would be interested.

His Lordship—That is very interesting, but I do not think we need go into it.

Witness added that the account for this work was kept in the name of "Shanghai Answers," with defendant's name attached.

Defendant repeated that he worked in actual partnership with Mr. Bickel, who would have received half the profits, if there had been any profits.

His Lordship—You are being sued as one of the partners, and your complaint is that the other partner did not play the game?

Defendant—Certainly. I trusted him because he was assistant manager of the Oriental Press. Had it been anybody else, the money would have been put up.

His Lordship—You may have a strong case against Mr. Bickel, but I do not see that that forms any defence here. I cannot see why the partnership should not be liable for work done by Mr. Bickel's firm.

In answer to his Lordship, Mr. Bos stated that he had absolutely no idea, until some time after the paper ceased publication, that Mr. Bickel had any interest in or was connected in any way with "Shanghai Answers."

NO DEFENCE IN THIS CASE.

His Lordship—If part of the arrangement was that the partnership should be kept secret, Mr. Paige has played the game?

Witness—Yes, When I asked Mr. Bickel it, he denied it.

Other evidence having been called on the question of the alleged partnership, his Lordship said it was quite impossible for the Court in those proceedings to decide the question as between defendant and Mr. Bickel. It was, perhaps, unfortunate for defendant that he could not bring his alleged partner into that Court in order that the question of the partnership could be threshed out. In giving judgment for the amount claimed, with costs only in connexion with the larger sum, his Lordship added that defendant might have his remedy as against Mr. Bickel which he could take in his own way.

THE COMPRADORE

Discharged for Incompetence after Providing Loan

David Goldman appeared before his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner on Thursday upon a summons by Cheng Chong-yuen for payment of $877 ballance under a judgment of the court in August last.

Mr. R. C. Faithfull, who appeared for plaintiff, was asked by his Lordship why he had taken out a fresh writ when judgment had already been given, and counsel explained that an arrangement having been come to after the judgment was given application was made to discontinue it.

His Lordship—You can discontinue a judgment summons but not a judgment. That must stand.

Defendant stated that when the case was before his Honour Judge Grain, the latter ascertained that witness was paying a debt to the Gas Company at the rate of Tls. 50 a month, and suggested that

PAPER HUNT CLUB FOR LADIES

An Organized Club, but to Work in Co-operation with the Men's Hunt

Somewhat of a flutter amongst riding people—who constitute a very large section of the foreign population of Shanghai—was caused on Monday by the announcement that the ladies were to form a paper hunt club of their own. The suggestion is not new, for it has been [illegible] season for several years. There [illegible] very accomplished in the saddle. [illegible] there is any valid reason why they should not be permitted to ride with the men: they have pressed their case repeatedly, and on each successive occasion, when the men steadfastly have held [illegible] heard the reply, "Well then, we will form an independent hunt club for ourselves." So, when it was announced definitely that the ladies were to establish a paper hunt club, most people presumed [illegible] independent as the Women's [illegible]

Just as there are wise old hands amongst the men who know how to exercise a judicious measure of restraint upon the thrusters and so to prolong their lives, so there are many ladies whose keenness in the country does not cause them to overlook stern facts. They know that there are scarcely half-a-dozen amongst them who could live through such a hunt, for instance, as was laid last Saturday. They know that Sunday's little pleasantry may be repeated at any time and that on such occasions a few men are handy things to have in the neighbourhood. They appreciate [illegible] already hunting the country regularly, there is quite enough paper about as it is to make it very difficult to put down a good trail and that a third would spoil the sport of all. They know also that it costs no small amount of money to run a paper hunt club.

So there is no question of the ladies breaking away and doing things for themselves. They are immensely grateful to the Stewards and members of the Paper Hunt Club for all the assistance given in the past and they are prepared to continue along the same lines, but it is considered that the time has arrived when the ladies' hunts should be put upon a regular basis and not simply be run as haphazard events subject practically to no rules. They wish to have a regular organization, under their own Master, and for the rest to rely upon the Paper Hunt Club as hitherto. In Tientsin the ladies hunt with the men and it is believed that in Chefoo there is, or was, a separate hunt club for ladies, but there is a wide difference between conditions in those little places and in Shanghai.

MRS. HICKLING ELECTED AS FIRST MASTER.

The meeting at Mrs. Hickling's house to form the Ladies' Paper Hunt Club, on Wednesday afternoon, was attended by 23 ladies and, counting upon the promises of support from others who were not able to attend, it appears probable that the club will start with a membership of about 65, which will make it far stronger than most people would have imagined. The ladies at the meeting wasted [illegible] discussion, for, as indicated above, [illegible] them of branching out on independent lines. They all [illegible] desirous of continuing to hunt under the auspices of the Shanghai Paper Hunt Club and the matter was not questioned.

To Mrs Hickling fell the honour of election as the first Master and two Stewards also were appointed, Miss Perrin and Miss Coutts. Mrs Pardoe kindly consented to act as secretary. In general, the hunting rules of the Paper Hunt Club were adopted, but a few distinctions were made. The winner of a hunt will stand down for one of the two succeeding hunts, making her own choice. A lady riding side-saddle and finishing first will win the hunt outright, as in the case of a heavyweight topping the card in the other hunt. With the men in such an instance there is no lightweight winner: with the ladies there will be no astride winner unless one finishes first. The winners of hunts will be entitled to wear red rosettes. If a wade should be laid by a bridge the ladies will be compelled to take the wade and not cross by the bridge.

U. S. CONSULAR INVOICES

Goods Which are Exempt

[illegible] Regulations now permit entry, without consular invoices, of the following classes of merchandise:

1.—Merchandise not exceeding U. S. $100 in value, including such merchandise imported [illegible]

2—Merchandise damaged by fire [illegible]

3.—Merchandise recovered from a wrecked or stranded vessel.

4.—Household effects used abroad and personal effects, not imported in pursuance of a purchase or agreement for purchase and not intended for sale.

5.—Articles sent by persons in foreign countries as gifts to persons in the United States.

6.—Tools of trade of a person arriving in the United States.

7.—Personal effects of citizens of the United States who have died in a foreign country.

FIRE IN LUMBER SHIP

Serious Outbreak at Sea Confined to Aft Hold

A fire occurred on Thursday of last week aboard the str. Warren of Manila, loaded with timber consigned to a Chinese firm in Shanghai.

The conflagration which took place in the aft hold must have been serious in the early stages, for the smoke even found its way into the engine-room. As it occurred at sea the crew had an anxious time in getting the ship to port. Fortunately, the Warren is an old American army transport converted into a lumber ship, consequently well equipped with fire fighting appliances and by damping down the hatches and pumping steam into the affected area the crew managed to keep the blaze under control until the ship reached Shanghai early last Friday morning.

The vessel lay till the afternoon waiting for a favourable tide in order to be taken to Kiangnan Docks' buoys. As her steering gear was out of order it was found necessary to use two towboats for this purpose, an operation which was rendered even more complicated by the fact that the ship suffered from a list due to the fact that the water pumped into the hold had worked its way to one side of the vessel.

SPONTANEOUS COMBINATION?

No cause has yet been found for the fire though the theory of spontaneous combustion has been advanced. Nothing definite will be discovered, however, until it is possible to remove the deck cargo and unbatten the hatches. It is not even certain yet whether the [illegible] ed, though judging from the [illegible]

[illegible] Amoy

THE FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Adoption of a Constitution: Status of Members: Possibility of a Press Club

A second meeting of the Foreign Press Association of China was held on Tuesday evening at the Palace Hotel, a representative gathering of journalists, publishers, printers and members of associated professions being presided over by Mr. J. Em. Lemiere. The committee appointed at the inaugural meeting presented a draft constitution which was adopted with slight amendments, after a prolonged discussion which centred around one point. This was as to the status of members of the association, certain members objecting very strongly to the admittance to the association of people who, having regular employment in other professions, had secondary engagements with newspapers. It was pointed out that these people, by accepting standing salaries from some newspapers, for which they filled regular reportorial engagements, made things very difficult for members of the profession who were not in a position to retaliate by also accepting secondary employment. An assurance was given that such people, described by one member as "parasites," would not be admitted to membership.

The committee previously appointed to consider the advisability of forming a Press Club as headquarters for the association reported that, pending the adoption of a constitution, they had thought it better not to make any definite suggestions. However, after the adoption of a constitution including corporate membership for daily newspapers and magazines, in addition to individual members, it was decided that there was every prospect for a Press Club becoming a substantial institution and the committee were instructed to proceed with the drafting of by-laws.

MR. ROWLAND AND UNION CHURCH

Minister's Resignation Refused by a Large Majority

A meeting was called on Wednesday of the members of Union Church and congregotion to considtr the resignation of the pastorship of the church which Mr. Rowland had sent to the Committee.

Without entering into detail into the causes which led up to this resignation, it may be said very broadly that some members of the congregation differed from Mr. Rowland's standpoint doctrinally. Mr. Rowland was not present at Wednesday's meeting, but these differences were very fully canvassed and good testimony was given to the fundamental soundness of Mr. Rowland's teaching.

At the end of the meeting the congregation's wishes were taken by ballot, the result being a very large majority against Mr. Rowland's resignation being accepted. On this happy result his many friends will be glad to congratulate him.

MR. and Mrs. I. J. Soulevich announce the marriage, which will take place on Sunday, February 3, at the Obel Meishe Synagogue, 11 Seward Road, of their daughter, Olga Beatrice, to Mr. Mark Rosenbloom, of Messrs. H. S. Honigsberg & Co., Inc.

H. E. J. Michelet, Norwegian [illegible] Peking, and Mrs. Michelet left for Home by the P. & O. s. Macedonia on Monday evening. Mr. Aal, the Norwegian Consul-General in Shanghai, gave a banquet at the Cercle Sportif on Mr and Mrs. Michelet's honour. About 120 guests were present, of all nationalities. Dancing followed dinner and a very pleasant evening was spent.

LAW REPORTS

EMPIRE OPTICAL CO.

Allegation of a Purchase Contract with Five Dollars Bargain Money

The purchase of a business in Nanking Road on a deposit of $5, alleged to be bargain money, was the subject of an action in H. M. Supreme Court on Tuesday before his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner, the case being that of M. Tsah (acting on behalf of himself and six other Chinese) against Charlesworth P. Rakusen. Plaintiff claimed $4,000 damages for breach of a contract under which defendant agreed to purchase the Empire Optical Co., owned by plaintiffs, defendant having failed to pay for the stock-in-trade and goodwill of the business which was handed over to him. The defence was that payment was contingent on plaintiffs handing over to defendant the lease of their premises in Nanking Road, and that certain expenditure had been incurred for which plaintiffs were liable and which should be deducted from the contract price.

Mr. Tycho Wing appeared for plaintiffs and Mr. Reader Harris for defendant.

THE PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE.

The matter, said Mr. Wing in his opening statement, was not a very complicated one. Plaintiffs were men of small means who went into partnership and carried on this business as makers of spectacles, etc., and towards the end of 1922 they came into touch with Dr. Thompson, an American, who took charge of the technical side of the business. This arrangement continued until January of last year when, with the New Year approaching, plaintiffs were not averse to selling the business, while Dr. Thompson seemed to have thought it might advantageously be purchased. Not having the means himself, he got into touch with Mr. Rakusen and conducted negotiations, these eventually resulting in an agreement—in some ways a rather remarkable document—being entered into. Defendant agreed to purchase the business — machinery, fixtures, stock, good will—for $2,300, but reasons were found for not making the payment and nothing but $5 was actually paid. The arrangement between Mr. Rakusen, who had the means, and Dr. Thompson, who had the experience, was that the doctor should receive a certain amount out of the profits, and from this he would gradually pay Rakusen half of the purchase price. They separated not long after, and such agreement as there was between them was never carried out. So far as the present case was concerned, the only person who ever had the assets of the company was Mr. Rakusen. No sooner was the agreement signed than he raised the point that the money should not be paid until the premises had been handed over and an inventory taken and plaintiffs had to consent to this. The business was handed over on February 12 and an inventory begun, defendant being from that time in control. Plaintiffs absolutely denied the statement that part of the stock had been removed by them.

A SUSPICIOUS PARTNER.

The inventory was completed but still the money was not paid, this time on the ground that defendant had not yet got the lease. This lease, obtained from Mr. Hardon, was in the hands of one of the partners, Mr. Wang, who was rather suspicious about the whole transaction and absolutely declined to hand over the lease until at all events he himself and others associated with him had adequate protection: he demanded that at least $1,200 should be paid to him, and there was a "performance" of one man holding up the lease and another a bundle of notes, and a grab being made at them. In the course of further remarks counsel mentioned that among the celebrities the company advertised having received references from were President Taft, President Roosevelt, President Harding, President Wilson and Gipsy Smith. Concluding his remarks on the agreement, Mr. Wing said that in brief the business amounted to this: that defendant bought the business for $5, which amount was enclosed with the agreement. Plaintiff did not understand why the money had been put in, but came to the conclusion that it must be a pleasant foreign custom.

AGREEMENT DRAWN UP.

Tsah Ming-chao, representing the plaintiffs, gave evidence as to their purchasing the Empire Optical Co. for $3,000. They Optical Co. for $3,000. They took Dr. Thompson into parnership in September or October, 1922, and shared the profits of the business with him. He left after two months, but frequently called in and wanted to purchase the business. Later he brought Rakusen with him. The latter offered $2,000 for the business and witness asked for $4,000. As short of cash, he agreed to sell the business for $2,000, defendant to pay the water bills and Dr Thompson to pay $300. An agreement was drawn up and signed. In this defendant afterwards made an alteration with reference to payment of the water bills, and when witness asked why this alteration had been made he answered "Oh, never mind." Plaintiff understood that the money was to be paid immediately on the agreement being signed, but defendant then said that he wanted to take an inventory, and payment was thus delayed. An inventory was taken, and it was expected that payment would be made, but defendant then said he would pay as soon as he had the lease. This was in the possession of one of the partners, who wanted $500 in cash before he would give it up. The next thing was that they all assembled at the home of one of the plaintiffs, and all expected that the purchase money would be paid but their expectations were disappointed. Accordingly they took legal advice. As to the $5 said to be "bargain money," witness was under the impression it was a motor car fare.

DR. THOMPSON OR DEFENDANT?

In cross-examination by Mr Reader Harris, witness said he did not know whether he had been swindled by Dr. Thompson or the defendant, but he did know that the money had not been paid. He did not know that Dr Thompson had sworn an affidavit to the effect that he verily believed Rakusen intended to abscond.

Counsel—Dr. Thompson is now your friend, and you have entirely released him from liability?

Witness—He ceased to have anything to do with the business and an announcement was published saying that Rakusen was the sole owner. The latter had financial control. Witness added that he never thought the $5 would be considered as "bargain money." It was such a ridiculously small sum.

Counsel was proceeding to question witness as to a three months' water bill unpaid by plaintiffs, and other items, when his Lordship observed: You agreed to pay $2,300 for the business and you have paid nothing more than $5, and now on your client's instructions you are accusing this man of not having paid a bill of $30 or $40. It does not seem to be the sort of thing which should come from your client's mouth.

At this stage the hearing was adjourned until next morning, Mr. Wing intimating that Dr. Thompson's presence was required in the United States Court that afternoon, he being prosecuted there by Mr. Rakusen.

There was an apparent difference between it and the signature on a number of cheques (the other exhibits).

Replying to Mr. C. S. Franklin, he said that the signature had been painstakingly written and differed from the others in that the "g" and "m" were not connected.

Mr. Rodger (cross-examining) asked whether anyone of normal mind would be able to note the forgery of one's own signature and was answered by the statement that the writer of the cheques should be able to notice the difference.

Mr. Peter MacDougall, bank-clerk at the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, said that he would not accept the signature on the receipt were it presented on a cheque to be drawn against Mrs. Slegman's current account at the bank. He also was of the same opinion that she would be able to recognize it as not hers if she saw it.

Mr. Rodger asked for an adjournment so that he might also call several experts and his Honour, in acceding, stated that he would like to hear oral argument. To Mr. Rodger's statement that he could dispose of his case in 10 minutes, Mr. Franklin countered that if he (Mr. Rodger) could finish in 10, he could do with less; eight minutes would be enough.

Adjourning the case until Wednesday at 12 noon instead of 12.30, as was suggested, the Judge said he found that lawyers were very unstable in matters of time.

Elaborate Researches Ordered

Photographic enlargements of cheques and the alleged receipt in controversy in the action by Euly Greenfield to recover G.$5,500 worth of jewellery from Lucille Slegman, were produced at the U..S. Court on Wednesday when the hearing was resumed by Judge Lobingier. Interesting evidence was given by one of plaintiff's witnesses on the study of handwriting and attempts of criminologists to detect forgeries. The case was adjourned to enable laboratory tests to be made of the signatures.

Mr. H. D. Rodger appeared for plaintiff; Mr. C. S. Franklin for defendant.

In order, he said, to hurry the proceedings, Mr. Franklin stipulated to the identification of the enlargements of the signatures, but objected to their use as evidence by the expert, stating that an expert was qualified by examining signatures not enlargements. The fair method was to show the originals first.

His Honour said that if photographs would be of assistance to determine forgery or identity, he would over-rule the objection.

To Mr. Rodger's suggestion that there were variations in the letter "S" the Judge said that from time to time on the cheques there were slight changes, but as for comparison with the receipt it would be difficult to ascertain at once the similarities. The cheques were drawn on smooth paper, but the receipt was on a mildly corrugated paper, perhaps a book cover.

Mr. Rodger (to Mr. W. Smith, sub-manager of the Asia Banking Corporation)—Would you accept the signature of the receipt at the bank if you had accepted all the cheques?

Witness—I would question the signature for the time being, but I would not form an opinion now, even with the magnified specimens before me. I would hesitate to form an opinion without at least two hours' intensive research. I could after that probably give a much better idea as to the validity of it. I am willing to try it.

Judge Lobingier—That is what we wish, anything to assist justice.

Mr. Smith—Experts in criminology have studied this matter for many years and have evolved rules and procedure which may followed with remarkable correctness. It requires elaborate research into the angles and the general outline of the specimens rather than continuity. There is in Shanghai a volume prepared by a qualified man; his book is used with confidence by bankers in the Pacific Coast cities. I am willing this afternoon or to-morrow afternoon to give these thorough laboratory scrutiny.

After agreement by counsel to this procedure, Mr. Franklin reiterated that witness would question the signature, to which Mr. Rodger rejoined "after passing all the cheques." Witness then said that he would question "some of the cheques," asserting that the paper drawn in 1923 would by no means form as ample a test as those written at the time of the receipt in 1920, because of the time element.

The hearing as stated, was adjourned.

NEW YEAR CAFE FRACAS

Elmont and Johnson Sent for Trial for Alleged Assault: French Officer's Revolver

Sensational allegations against the French police were made at the U.S. Court on Tuesday when J. Emont, C. Johnson and R. Libby when charged on remand before Mr. N. E. Lurton with assault upon French police officers during the New Year's night fracas in the New Maxim's Café. Elmont said the police refused to allow him to communicate with his Consul, confined him in a "filthy cell, the floor and walls of which were dirty," and that when he asked for a drink he was spat upon.

Det.-Sgt. Douglas, who witnessed part of the affair, stated that he entered the café at about midnight and remained until after the trouble. When it started his view was obstructed by a pillar. He saw Johnson holding the constable Durocher with one arm, his hand crooked round the officer's neck and striking him with the clenched fist of his free hand.

In answer to Mr. F. J. Schuhl, who defended, witness said he heard some one say, "He's got a gun, he's got a gun," but the sound came from one side near the stairs and he could not see either the man who shouted or who had a gun. After the crowd had separated somewhat he could see that a number of people were holding Durocher and later saw him in a semi-conscious condition on the floor. In the crowd of 25 or 30 people, he did not notice any constables in uniform, though later he saw two men dressed as such upstairs. When he got to the half conscious constable he did what he could for him, assisting him to the lavatory.

Mr. Schuhl—Did you see Johnson strike anyone else?—He was swinging round wildly and I cannot say that I saw him hit others. Libby did not strike anyone as far as I know.

Having heard Det.-Sgt. Douglas's evidence, Insp. Dupuy applied for a warrant for one Taylor, who is alleged to have been a participant. Mr. Lurton replied that the formalities would have to be gone through as in all other cases—a formal complaint would have to be made.

Det.-Sgt. Tinkler said he heard a great noise and commotion, but was not greatly interested until he heard some one say, "He's got a gun." Then he began to get into the middle of things. Johnson was in difficulty and he tried to quieten him and was leading him downstairs when he met Taylor at the bend. Witness did not then know the latter's name. Without warning Taylor struck him and blacked his eye. "I had to let go of Johnson, but as I was striking to defend myself he hit me again," said witness. "I then hit and Taylor went on upstairs."

EVIDENCE FOR THE DEFENCE.

The first witness for the defence was Johnson, who stated that his real name was Charles Wilson. He had given the alias on the night in question because he hoped it would avoid publicity. He had joined company with Libby that night and the two had a table together in the eastern end of the room. They ordered drinks. Libby excused himself and went to the lavatory. Witness also went out for a moment. When he returned the drinks and table either had disappeared or some one had sat at their table. So he asked the man at the adjoining table whether they had taken them (he later found that his name was Sells). The man took offence and said, using a certain expression, "You must be looking for trouble." Witness then asked him to go downstairs, but the man swung on him while his hands were being held by Libby. The blow landed on his left eye, broke the glasses he was wearing and cut his eye badly.

Libby, in evidence, said "I asked Mr. Johnson to come and sit with me and have a drink, then we went out for a moment and when we came back the table was gone. The big question was, 'Where had it gone?' When that man Sells said to Johnson in answer to his question, 'You are a son-of-a-gun,' I thought maybe the table was not ours. I got between Johnson and the table and was holding him when I heard the spectacles crack and the air was full of names all round. Trouble began. I thought Durocher was a friend of ours because he was trying to keep people back from the fight. I know that I did not hit anybody. I was too busy holding Johnson, and I could get no details of the battle."

Mr. Schuhl—Did Johnson strike the constable?

A SERIES OF FIGHTS.

Witness—He didn't have a chance, I was holding him. The general brawling continued, There must have been many fights in the house. Then six or eight Chinese policemen took me away and at least six and more, perhaps 10, had Johnson. Some had him by the shoulders, the others by the feet and by the arms. The police seemed scared. They didn't appear to know what they were doing. They had lost their heads. I was asked to follow one of them, which I did. We passed Johnson and I saw the seat of his pants trailing on the ground as they were dragging him up Avenue Edward VII. He looked as if he were trying to stand up.

STRONG MAN OF THE EVENING.

A. F. Wilson, against whom no allegations have been made, told the Court that he saw the other man take off his coat and strike Johnson. He also saw Durocher try two or three times to pull out the gun. He got it out halfway several times.

A sensation was caused when Mr. R. O'Brien said he was the man who knocked Durocher down and sat on him as he tried to extract the pistol. While Johnson had his back to the wall witness say the constable trying to get out his gun.

Mr. Schuhl—What did you do?—I shouted that he had a gun and then I up and hit him under the chin. He went down, hit the floor.

What then?—I put my knee into his stomach until he got quieted. Then I lifted him up. When he went for the revolver again, I pushed him against the wall and took it away, reaching over his shoulder. All the crowd went for him when they saw the gun. I then turned the pistol over to the American authorities.

ELMONT "SPIT UPON."

The third defendant, Elmont, then gave evidence. In reply to Mr. Schuhl's question whether he hit Durocher or not, he replied, "No sir, but I saw O'Brien pop him under the chin."

Mr. Schuhl—Were you arrested?

Witness—No sir, I walked to the station to see what I could do for Mr. Johnson's bad eye, but they would not let me into the charge-room. One man asked me to follow him. I thought that he wanted to take my name and address, so I went along and found myself in a cell. A Mr. Goldman was there too as being mixed up in the affair, but he was let out the next day with a weak apology. I believe he tried to help Johnson in the cells. I told them that I wanted to be permitted to call my Consul by telephone, but I was not. I was cold, my gown was gauzy and the air got into it. The cell was filthy, the floor and walls dirty, spider webs hung down from the ceiling and excrement lay round the floor. I asked the warder for a drink, but was spat on for my trouble. They said that I stole a gun, but I told them that it was hardly possible with the clothes I was wearing. I then asked them to search me.

Reviewing the evidence, Mr. Lurton said it was sufficient to warrant the committal of Johnson and Elmont to the higher court on charges connected with the alleged assault on Delimatski and Pancrezé. The evidence against Libby was insufficient and he would therefore be discharged.

Johnson and Elmont were released on $50 bail.

Formal Charges by J. Elmont Against French Police

The U. S. Consulate-General is in receipt of a letter written by J. Elmont, who was arrested on the night of December 31, after the alleged assault on French constables in Maxim's Café. The memorandum is a protest by Elmont with reference to the conditions to which he was subjected during the night and the subsequent morning, details which Elmont outlined at the hearing before Mr. N. E. Lurton. When asked for a statement last evening by the "North-China Daily News" Mr. J. K. Davis, Executive American Consul, declared that there was nothing to say except that Department correspondence is not given to the press. What action has been or will be taken was not divulged.

The complete text of the letter follows:—

"I wish to call your attention to the treatment I received at the hands of the French Police Authorities on the night of January 1.

"(1) I was imprisoned at the French gaol without knowing on what charge and was refused any information.

"(2) I was refused permission to telephone to the American Consulate or friends.

"(3) I was held a prisoner in an unspeakably filthy cell beside Chinese prisoners from about 2.30 a.m. until 8 a.m.

"(4) I was then only permitted to go free by paying M.$50 to the officers in charge as bail money.

"I respectfully request that you give the matter the attention it deserves, as it will prove to you the outrageous treatment myself and two other Americans and one Britisher received at the hands of the French authorities."

ALLEGED ASSAULT ON A CHAUFFEUR

Strained Relations Between Oculists Followed by Court Proceedings

The case against Dr. R. A. Thompson, who is alleged to have assaulted Liu Kwei-sung, the Chinese chauffeur of Charlesworth P. Rakusen, was heard before the U. S. Commissioner for China, Mr. N. E. Lurton, on Tuesday afternoon. The special assistant district attorneys, Messrs. H. R. Snyder and F. J. Schuhl prosecuted. Defendant was not represented by Counsel.

Liu Kwei-sung, the chauffeur, stated that on January 10 at the corner of Peking and Yuen-ming-yuen Roads, as Mr. Rakusen had entered the car and witness was about to drive on, the defendant came along, cursed at his master and tried to assault his master, who paid no attention but told witness to drive on. As he attempted to do so, defendant struck him on the face.

In cross-examination Dr. Thompson asked: "Is it not a fact that Rakusen told you to come up and tell a lie?" This was denied by the witness and Dr. Thompson then stated that he would prove that the charge was merely malicious persecution and that he would impeach the credibility of the witness.

The second witness was C. P. Rakusen, who stated that Dr Thompson jumped on the step of the car and began using obscene and abusive language. After hitting the chauffeur, he wrenched the side curtain off the car, and trampled on it, "Doing a war dance on it like a baby." When he saw witness getting out of the car he ran away.

In cross-examination Dr. Thompson asked: "Is it not a fact that you were compelled to leave Washington for conducting a fake business?" to which the witness responded "You should not judge every one by yourself" and later answered in the negative. When asked whether he had not bribed his chauffeur to perjure himself, the witness replied that the insinuation was "an unmitigated lie."

Recrimination on both sides grew so lively at this point that the Commissioner was obliged to rule out extraneous irrelevant testimony. He eventually ruled that the evidence was insufficient to to bind over defendant and dismissed the charge.

ENGINEERING CONCERN IN DIFFICULTIES

Assets of the American Engineering Corpn. to be Disposed Of

An alleged preferred claim involving $3,000 on a special order for American stoves against the American Manufacturing Co. of China, Inc., in liquidation, was the subject of an interesting application to Judge Lobingier in the U. S. Court on Wednesday.

Major A. Bassett attended on behalf of the applicants, Messrs. Mustard & Co.; Mr. H. S. de Vault for Haskins & Sells, the auditors Mr. J. S. Potter, receiver, for the company in liquidation.

The matter was stated to have been listed among the preferred claims unless objection was made, but the auditors, were not clear about a mortgage in connexion with the claim.

Major Bassett, a director of Mustard & Co., said applicants had let a contract with the American Manufacturing Co. to make a number of stoves according to patterns furnished, which were similar to an American brand. But before the contract was completed the insolvent organization requested for funds to carry on and was granted $3,000 to complete the stove business. In return they gave a mortgage for the output, any surplus parts and boxes (moulds). The funds were to pay off labour demands. Both parties were anxious to complete the terms of the first agreement.—one needed the stoves, and the other the profits from the lead. When the defunct firm could no longer carry on, it was found that something like $1,600 could be realized from the sale of surplus parts to a Mr. King, who was requested by Mustard & Co. to hand over this money to the Receiver which was done. Had the parts been sold as scrap, not more than $300 could have been received for them.

Mr. Bassett further stated it was his opinion that the mortgage was obtained on a special arrangement and was to be devoted to the carrying out of a contract of special benefit to the ordinary creditors, in that the labour always preferred, would have been satisfied. Replying to his Honour witness said that the company could not have made the stoves unless the money had been supplied.

"BADLY INSOLVENT."

Mr. De Vault said that at the time of the mortgage the American Manufacturing Co. was badly insolvent and therefore the mortgage should not be held against any of the assets.

Mr. Potter said that the material used had been bought from Anderson, Meyer & Co., who had not contested the claim. They had a claim of Tls. 11,000.

Several other claims were mentioned. Having suggested another report on the affairs as they now were, the Judge said that he would issue an order to dispose of the assets, plant, equipment and materials, which was the unanimous desire of the creditors.

witness should reduce this amount in order to pay some thing to plaintiff in the present case. Referring to the fact that plaintiff was now asking for costs and 8 per cent. interest, witness pointed out that this would amount to 40 per cent. of the original debt.

His Lordship: An allowance of 8 per cent interest on a judgment is not possible under our Rules of Court.

Defendant offered to pay $30 a month, but Mr Faithfull asked for more, saying that the money was advanced by plaintiff, who acted as defendant's compradore, within a month, during which plaintiff was discharged and was never paid.

Defendant I discharged him because he was incompetent.

His Lordship gave judgment for the amount claimed, to be paid at the rate of $30 a month, with 5 per cent interest, and warned defendant that if he got into arrears with a single instalment plaintiff could issue an execution warrant for the whole amount.

INDIAN PROPAGANDA CHARGE

Garlands and Rosewater for Accused at Police Court: But Found Guilty

Indians were present in force again at H M Police Court last Friday to hear further proceedings against four of their number charged before Mr G. W King with engaging in propaganda likely to produce or incite a breach of the public peace. The accused, Sandar Dass, Kapur Singh, and Abond Suntra, who answered to their bail, and Harbaksh Singh, who was remanded in custody, again were given a rousing reception, satellites with garlands of flowers and perfume to sprinkle over their heroes being to the fore again. The majority of sympathizers with the accused were black turbans, signifying their adherence to the Indian Nationalist movement.

Det Sub. Inspector Yorke gave evidence as to visiting No 327 Rue du Consulat and there finding the accused engaged in producing the newspaper complained of.

The Sikh constable who translated three articles containing attacks upon the senior officer of the Sikh Police Jemadar Budda Singh, was recalled and cross-examined by Mr Tycho Wing, who now appeared to defend Harbaksh Singh. A great deal of time was spent in going over the documents, and it was found that the originals and the translations were all misplaced, the Court according adjourning while they were put in proper order.

ALLEGED MISTRANSLATIONS.

Mr. Wing further cross-examined on the resumption to show that the translations were incorrect. Proceeding to address the Court on behalf of Harbaksh Singh, counsel said the documents on which the case was based had been presented to the Court in such a way that the charge must fail. He did not propose and did not think it was his duty to call evidence to show what the correct translation was, and contended that accused was entitled to be discharged unless the prosecution could show he did publish certain documents, the meaning of which it was for the prosecution to establish to the satisfaction of the Court. This counsel suggested the prosecution had signally failed to do.

After dealing with what the defence contended were inaccuracies in translation, inaccuracies which gave a sinister meaning to perfectly reasonable statements, counsel went on to say that the articles had nothing to do with rioting or sedition but were connected with a private quarrel. There was nothing in them which invited or suggested disturbance of the public peace, nothing relating to any public or class feeling. They all dealt with one particular person. They were attacks upon Jemadar Budda Singh and made certain charges against him: malversation of public or semi-public money, using his official position for his own private ends, bribery, and lies super or officers for the same reason. If there was any offence, the remedy was an action for libel, and it would then be open to defendants to plead justification and public interest. Counsel quoted remarks used by Mr Justice Cave in connexion with the prosecution of Mr John Burns, to the effect that newspaper articles of this description should be given certain latitude on the principle that, while abuse of the press should be checked, its liberty should be preserved. Counsel then commented upon the orderly character of the crowd which had attended the proceedings, and asked if that looked like an attempt to create disturbance.

His Worship: No, because they have been told that if they make any disturbance they will be dealt with summarily.

Mr Wing: No doubt they are aware of that. But they are not an angry crowd, they are just interested. If defendant had been trying to create a breach of the peace he surely would have been a little more successful than this, counsel added.

PRIMA FACIE CASE MADE OUT.

His Worship agreed that the translation had been shown to be inaccurate in one instance, but there were other very material words which had not been dealt with, such as the phrase in which Budda Singh was described as the servant of the "evil administration" (the Government), and another which said that "all persons should become familiar with the corrupt and evil policies of the Police." Was anything more likely to make public trouble than an attempt to get the Sikh police seething with dissatisfaction? Accordingly, his Worship held that the accused had a *prima facie* case to answer.

None of the accused elected to give evidence, but all contended that the translations were wrong, and one said that the writing was solely against Budda Singh.

Mr F T Maitland, Police Prosecutor, asked that the ringleader, Harbaksh Singh, be bound over in a surety of at least $2,000, and the others in smaller sums.

His Worship bound all the accused over to be of good behaviour, Abond Singh in the sum of $25 for one year: Sandar Dass and Kapur Singh also for one year on a personal bond of $150; and Harbaksh Singh for two years in a personal bond of $150 and three approved sureties of $250 each.

Upon leaving the court after having signed the bonds, the Indians were hailed by their friends with acclamation, rosewater and garlands being administered as before, and coppers thrown into the air a proceeding greatly appreciated by coolies in the vicinity. An organized and quite orderly procession then passed off towards the Gurdwara, chanting by the way, black turbaned revolutionists leading the choir.

THE MAN WHO FOUND A WATCH

Police Court Sequel to a Midnight Incident in Hongkew

A young man named A. Ismail, with aliases of Alfred Tip, appeared before Mr. G. W. King at H. M. Police Court on Tuesday charged with having stolen a gold watch valued at $95, the property of H Huddleston.

As the accused, described as a British subject, was the son of a Turkish father and an Arabian mother, and born at Hongkong, and now carried the papers of a Malay seaman, the hearing was adjourned till the afternoon in order that his nationality might be inquired into. It was found that he had a British passport issued by the Hongkong authorities, and accordingly the case was proceeded with. Chief Inspector O'Toole appeared for the police.

Det. Sub-Inspector Condur, who arrested accused at the Wayfoong Room on Monday, said that after denying he knew anything about the watch, accused said that he picked it up outside or beside the Astor Bar.

Complainant stated that owing to his war service he was subject to epileptic fits, and was overcome by one just as he was getting into a rickshaw outside the Astor Bar about 12.30 midnight on the 17th instant.

Other evidence showed that when complainant was seized with the fit, accused was among those who assisted him, calling out for some one to fetch a doctor and assisting to carry Mr Huddleston into the bar.

Accused admitted that he picked the watch up on the floor of the bar and put it in his pocket.

His Worship observed that the theft was a peculiarly mean one in the circumstances, and he could not deal with accused as a first offender. He would have to go to prison for one month with hard labor.

A FOREIGNER SHOT IN AVENUE JOFFRE

Charge of Assault Against British Subject Following Shooting of Foreigner

Proceedings were begun in H.M Police Court on Thursday before Mr G. W. King in connexion with the shooting affair which took place in Avenue Joffre on Wednesday evening. In view of developments likely to ensue, full details of the case cannot now be given, but it may be said that the French Police had occasion to visit the residence of a man named W. H. Shaw, known in local boxing circles as "Charlie White," having suspicions that he was interested in trafficking in drugs and arms and ammunition. It is alleged that money had been obtained from Chinese upon a promise to deliver opium or other drugs, but that the goods were not delivered, and this allegation was being inquired into. On two or three occasions a French detective visited Shaw's house at 280 Avenue Joffre, presenting himself as a prospective buyer, and it is understood that on Wednesday evening he called with the idea of receiving a sample. The detective had an interview with Shaw and alleges that he was attacked, whereupon he drew his revolver and fired, Shaw receiving a wound of a serious nature. It was learned yesterday afternoon that he lies in a critical condition and may not recover.

At 1.05 a.m. yesterday Chief Detective Inspector Cruickshank and Det. Sub-Inspector Conduit went to No. 86 Range Road and there arrested Charles Lowry, charging him with having assaulted George Emilianof, an officer of the French Police, at No. 280 Avenue Joffre about 8 o'clock on the previous evening. It was upon this charge that Lowry appeared in court yesterday.

Mr. H. E. Sidaine appeared on behalf of the French authorities, and Mr. P. W. Goldring represented the defendant.

AN ALLEGED TRAP.

The Magistrate asked whether the French Police proposed to bring more than one charge against Lowry, and Mr. Sidaine replied that they were charging him with assault and with laying a trap for the police.

The Magistrate—Another British subject will be implicated and for reasons which I need not state now will not be able to appear to-day.

Mr. Goldring—It will be some time before he is able to appear.

Chief Inspector Cruickshank then gave evidence of arrest. He stated that at about 12.30 that morning he received a warrant for the arrest of accused and, accompanied by Det. Sub-Inspector Conduit went to the Imperial Hotel, 86 Range Road, where they found accused just going to bed. He was told he was wanted and the warrant was read. As they left the hotel, Lowry began to talk, and was warned, then making the following statement: "I have nothing to say in the matter. The whole thing is this: this afternoon I was invited by Shaw, who is a friend of mine, to go to his house in the French Concession. I was there all the afternoon with him. Shaw and a friend went out for a ride and I stayed behind with the ladies. During the time Shaw was absent a man came in and requested to see Shaw. This was about 7 o'clock. He was told Shaw was not in, and came back at 8 o'clock and, as I thought he had private business to discuss with Shaw, my friend and I left the room. The Inspector interposed the remark that Lowry did not mention who the friend was. Continuing, Lowry said: "I heard a scuffle and then a shot, and I jumped into the room and saw that Shaw had been shot. I and my friend —you saw him there—took Shaw to the hospital. That is all I have got to say."

Mr. Goldring reserved cross-examination, and the case was adjourned for a fortnight.

The police asked for bail of Tls. 1,000 cash, but defendant offered two sureties of $500 each and the Magistrate agreed to this security.

It was ascertained late last night on inquiry at the General Hospital that the injured man is now out of danger.

THE U. S. SHIPPING BOARD SUED

Missing Cargo: An Interesting Question of Exchange: Judgment for Plaintiffs

Judgment was given on Saturday in the U. S. Court for China in the case in which the American Sales Corporation sue the United States Shipping Board for sums of G $1,752.42 and Tls. 377.39, on account of the loss of 146 bundles of corrugated concrete reinforcement bars, shipped by defendants for plaintiffs in a consignment from San Francisco to Shanghai by the str. West Calera in May, 1920, and missing on arrival.

Defendants admit the loss, but state that they paid plaintiffs Tls. 1,704.07 (the equivalent at the prevailing rate of exchange of G.$1,708.33) in May 27, 1921, in full settlement of all claims. To this plaintiffs' reply that "plaintiffs and defendants are American corporations: the goods were American goods valued in American money: and this case is being tried before an American Court."

Messrs. Schuhl and Schoenfeld appeared for plaintiffs and Messrs. Davies and Bryan for defendants. In giving judgment his Honour Judge Lobingier said:—

We do not find in defendants' brief any reasons advanced or authorities cited in support of the proposition that defendants' liability can be discharged in Chinese currency. That proposition seems to have been assumed without proof or argument, but the liability seems clearly one in United States currency. This case is different from some of those cited by defendant where payment in a foreign currency was expressly stipulated. Here there is no such provision. . . .

A contract of affreightment such as this is governed by the law of the place where it was made. This one, having been made in San Francisco, is governed by the American law under which damages for non-performance of the contract are payable in the legal tender of the country. Moreover this bill of lading fixes the limitation of liability in "dollars" which evidently means American dollars.

THE RATE OF EXCHANGE.

Had the amount been payable in Chinese currency we would be disposed to adopt defendants' contention that the rate of exchange should be that of the date of the arrival of the ship which should have carried the cargo. For, while the subject has been one of conflicting decisions by the Courts, the later and better rule appears to be that the date of the breach ordinarily fixes the rate of exchange. In an exhaustive article on the subject in one of the leading American periodicals the author sums up his conclusions as follows:

The general rule, therefore, in converting the amount of foreign currency found due to the plaintiff into currency of the forum, should be to apply the rate of exchange prevailing at the date with reference to which the damages are ascertainable whether the action be in contract or in tort. Ordinarily this date will be the date of breach of a contract obligation, whether for a liquidated or unliquidated amount, or in the case of tort the date the cause of action arose, or, as to any particular item of damage, the date on which that item became liquidated."

The date of breach is adopted in a recent Federal case containing a critical review of the authorities and also by the New York Court of Appeals. The arrival of the ship and the delivery of the cargo on the wharf would constitute performance of the contract and failure to deliver at that time would constitute a breach; so that we are disposed to adopt the view of those witnesses who testified that such was the customary date.

But even if this were a contract providing for payment in other than the currency of the country in which the contract was made, we would still be unable to apply the rule contended for because we find in the record no evidence of the rate of exchange prevailing on that date. Defendants allege, as we have seen, that the rate was 100¼, but no witness so testified and their counsel offered no other evidence. The only testimony in the record as regards the rate of exchange is that given by plaintiff's witness, who says that "when plaintiff settled with its dealers I had already paid for the missing cargo, the rate was 58¾." As the shortage was discovered at the time of delivery and both parties would naturally wish the settlement to be effected as promptly as possible, we might infer that the date of settlement was not far from the date of the ship's arrival. But in any event the rate of 58¾ is the only one mentioned in the evidence and being once established, it must be presumed to have continued. It is, therefore, the only rate which we could apply if we were to adopt the rule contended for by the defendants.

It appears that defendants' payment of Tls. 1,704.07 was accepted "on account only" and plaintiff is accordingly entitled to recover the difference between that sum and the amount of the G.1,752.42 for which defendants expressly admit liability.

Defendants' motion for judgment "notwithstanding the evidence" and their request for special findings which are not based on the evidence or the law and do not comply with the court rules, are therefore, overruled and it is hereby considered and adjudged that plaintiff have and recover from defendants the sum of dollars 1,752.42 United States rency, less the sum of Tls. 1,704.07, (to be credited at the proved exchange rate of 58¾) together with the costs of this action.

JEWELLERY OR JUNK?

Remarkable Document Alleged to Be Receipt for Valuables in U. S. Court Case

Before Judge Lobingier at the U.S. Court on Monday, the hearing was resumed of the action brought by Euly Greenfield to recover G.$5,500 worth of jewellery from Lucille Slegman, to who it is alleged, plaintiff gave the jewellery to sell for her as her agent. Evidence was called with regard to an exhibit, which plaintiff alleges is a *bona fide* receipt, but which defendant says is a forgery. The document read: "20/9/20. Received a lot of junk valued at about G.$5,000, Lucille Slegman (gold rings, precious stones, jades, bangles, pins, pearls, etc.)."

Mr. Mortimer C. Cooke (for defendant), who said he had three years' experience as a signature expert with the Park Union Bank and the Asia Banking Corporation and had examined at least 500,000 signatures, stated that he would question the signature Slegman on the receipt

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Jan. 25.

Bank's demand selling rate for £1 at 3/4⅛=Tls. 5.98 at 717==$8.34	
Bank's demand selling rate for G $100 at 70½=Tls. 139.86 at 717=$195.06	
Mex. Dollars, market rate	71,925
Native Interest	07
Copper Cash	246,000
Bar Silver	33 13/16
Bank rate of Discount	4%
Paris on London	94.60
New York on London	422⅝

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/4
Demand	3/4⅛
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	70¼
Demand	70½
PARIS—	
Demand	1573
INDIA—	
Demand	231½
HONGKONG—	
Demand	72¼
JAPAN—	
Demand	63¾
BATAVIA—	
Demand	197
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	70¾

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/4⅜
4 m/s. credits	3/6
4 m/s. Docs.	3/6½
6 m/s. credits	3/6½
6 m/s. Docs.	3/7
NEW YORK—	
Demand	71½
4 m/s. credits	73¾
4 m/s. Docs.	74¼
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1650
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/3¾
New York T.T.	70¼

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR JANUARY.

Hk Tl. 5.44 @ 3/3⅝	£1
„ 1 @ 1370½	Frs. 15.27
„ 1.24 @ 72⅛	Gold $1
„ 1 @ 66⅜	Yen 1.68
„ 1 @ 230½	Rupees 2.57
„ 1 @ 1.50	Mex. $1.50
„ 1 @ 16.40	It. Lire 18.27

Marks and Roubles no quotation

Sino-Italian Bank Quotations

Selling Rates, Jan.. 25.

It. Lire 16.00	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 4.02	Tl. 1
It. Lire 10.20	Y. 1

Week's Exchange Notes

Jan. 26.

At the close of business on the 24th instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 24,838,000 and $34,020,000.

These figures include Tls. 11,050,000 and $20,270,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 618 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—
3,883 bars from America.

Shipments were:—
1,999 bars to Nanking.
779 „ „ Hangchow.
100 „ „ Yunnan.
2,878 bars.

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—
Nil.

Shipments were:—
Tls. 900,000 to Tientsin.
470,000 „ Hankow.
40,000 „ Dairen.
1,410,000

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—
$1,170,000 from Hangchow.
400,000 „ Chinkiang.
300,000 „ Soochow.
300,000 „ Kashing.
80,000 „ Ningpo.
$2,250,000

Shipments were:—
$700,000 to Manchuria.
200,000 „ Dairen.
100,000 „ Tsinan.
80,000 „ Hankow.
$1,080,000

SILVER.

The London market has been steady with an advancing tendency during the week Thursday's prices being 1/16d. higher for ready, and 7/16d. higher for forward delivery as compared with last week's when the quotation was 33½d. spot and 32⅞d. forward as against the present price 33 13/16d. ready and 33 5/16d. forward. Buying orders are being sent from Shanghai, Japanese banks being reported as buyers. The price of silver in America on Thursday was 63 13/16 small business done. Stocks of Sycee have declined Tls. 4 lakhs on the week but stocks of dollars have improved $12 lakhs. Dollars continue to be shipped in large quantities to the north and Manchuria. The Mints will close down to-day or to-morrow for at least one month.

EXCHANGE.

Business has been quiet during the week. A fair amount of export paper came on the market earlier in the week, but the supply appears to have dried up. The closing rate for T.T. selling last Friday was 3/3 1/16d. which remained unchanged till Tuesday, when rates opened at T.T. selling 3/3⅜d. There was a further rise on Wednesday to T.T. 3/4d. which was the opening rate yesterday morning, but banks finding a fair demand and no suitable cover the rate dropped shortly after the opening to T.T. 3/3⅜d. at which level the market is steady. G.$ T.T. is quoted at 70 for cash, 4 m/s L/C is quoted 3/4⅜d. January, and 4 m/s L/C G$72 January. The New York/London cross rate is 422½.

LONDON BULLION

Samuel Montagu & Co.'s Report

Reporting on the London bullion market on December 12 Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co. state:—

The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue on the 5th instant, was £126,044,760, as compared with £125,945,270 on the previous Wednesday.

Fairly substantial supplies of gold came on offer this week, the bulk of which will be absorbed by the United States of America, as Indian and Continental requirements were only moderate.

Gold valued at $2,700,000 has arrived in New York from London.

We hear from Bombay that the bullion market there was very excited over the announcement of the Government sales of gold, and that there was strong opposition on the part of the Indian Chamber and the Bullion Merchants' Associations to the conversion of gold to sterling securities, notwithstanding the cogent reasons which actuate the action of the Government.

The Transvaal gold output for November, 1923, amounted to 780,639 fine ounces, as compared with 793,842 fine ounces for October, 1923, and 764,476 fine ounces for November, 1922.

GOLD IN AMERICA.

The American Mining Congress Bulletin thus deals with the import and currency use of gold in the United States of America:—"The Department (? of Commerce) reports that there seems little possibility of a renewal of a heavy inflow of gold. While our gold surplus will eventually flow outward, it says there is no very active world demand for gold, and that there are advantages for Europeans keeping their gold balances in the United States. Effort may be made at the coming session of Congress to repeal the Act of 1918 regarding bank reserves. This matter has been presented informally to the Congressional Commission investigating the Federal Reserve Bank system, but it is understood that it has not been favourably received. The 1918 Act was passed to permit credit inflation during the war, but there is sentiment to the effect that the act should now be repealed, which would permit of banks holding more reserve in bullion or specie than of Federal Reserve notes."

SILVER.

Again the market has remained fairly steady. The clearance of supplies involved by the large shipment last week to the East naturally rendered it rather difficult to cover bear transactions falling due, even though orders from India have not been much in evidence. Yesterday's sharp rise was an indication of a market depleted to a large extent of available stocks. Silver shipments are still being made on a large scale from San Francisco, whence consignments have left for China and are still on the way—amounting to 7,500,000 ounces—in addition to the very heavy shipments which have been despatched to Shanghai during the last month or so. In present conditions any marked improvement in the value of the pound sterling is bound to be reflected in a lower London price for silver.

AMERICAN INTERESTS.

The "Capital" of Calcutta thus refers to the proposed combination of silver mining interests in the Americas:—"It is, perhaps, not generally known that the first move in this direction of controlling the price of silver was made in Mexico, now the largest silver producing country in the world. In view of the continued fall in the price of silver, the Government of that country wanted to help the producers by forming a silver commission, the aim of which was clearly expressed by the following terms:—"It will be the object of this commission to help the silver producers, freeing them from the control of New York buyers, who through loans, it is declared, are able to force them to sell their silver under its market value. Besides granting loans to producers, the commission, which will be capitalized at 5,000,000 pesos will encourage silver producers and attempt to stabilize the market. It will be composed of two bankers, two miners and two representatives of the Ministry of Finance.' Recently the Financial Department of the Mexican Government suggested also to the banks that their reserves should consist of coins, specially of silver. This attitude of the Mexican Government encouraged the United States producers, the second largest in the world, to develop the plan of a silver export association, and in conference at Reno, practically all the American producers combined to make a common cause."

Mocatta and Goldsmid's Report

In their report of December 13 Messrs. Mocatta & Goldsmid state:—

Business has again not been very active during the past week, and the market has been sensitive to the orders received, the rate fluctuating between 33 7/16d. and 33d.

India has been a small buyer, and China has alternately bought and sold; there have been no offerings from America, as all spot supplies there are being eagerly bought up by China to arrive in Shanghai before their New Year.

In view of the scarcity of supplies no set-back of importance is to be looked for at present.

Gold.—There has been a better demand from India this week, and although the proportion of the arrivals which they have taken is still not large, they have also purchased gold from the Indian Government and for direct shipment from Durban. The price has varied between 94/9d. per ounce fine and 94/1d. per ounce.

Dutch Bank Rate

Amsterdam, Jan. 24.

The Bank of the Netherlands has increased its rate of discount from 4½ to 5 per cent. and its rate on securities from 5 to 5½ per cent. —Reuter.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Chinese Year Closing with a Strong Piece Goods Market and Better Expectations

Jan. 26.

This is practically the closing week of the Chinese buisiness year last piece goods auctions prior to China New Year have been held, and next week the Chinese will be employed in effecting their annual financial settlement. This is expected to go through satisfactorily, for with constantly rising values throughout the year most of the dealers have made money. The piece goods market has closed strong and the sentiment is on the whole optimistic.

Yarn and cotton have been under the influence of the New Year settlement and no special activity has been displayed. There is no news yet as to how many mills propose to close down for a prolonged period over the New Year.

In produce groundnuts seem to be the strongest article of export, but purchases of untanned goatskins at high prices have created much interest.

PIECE GOODS.

As was to be expected, the approach of the holidays has caused the volume of business in piece goods to diminish, but the year closes with a healthy outlook. What business has been passing has been largely on the part of speculators who, apparently anticipating higher prices when the holidays are over, have shown a certain eagerness to buy. It is understood that a few of the better known chops have been booked during the week, especially by those prepared to pay slightly over to-day's level of values.

As far as the auctions are concerned the demand for Italians has continued strong to the last sale, the market for Greys and Whites has again been largely in the hands of speculators. These have obviously hesitated to increase the value of chops which have soared very high during the past few months. For medium and lower quality Whites the tone continues strong. On the assumption that the better exchange ruling during the week with firmer forward rates and at one period a slightly easier tone in Manchester has enabled certain quantities of Greys and Whites to be booked by the trade, it may be expected that auction prices in the Spring may be influenced, but on the other hand it is doubtful whether stocks can arrive here in sufficient time to change the situation appreciably.

Woollens—The market for Woollens closes healthy. A little buying has taken place during the week, and deliveries have been better.

COOTTON AND YARN.

Chinese Cotton—The position so far as Chinese cotton is concened is practically unchanged since last week although in some respects the market is slightly easier. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange, however, there has been a rise in quotations, these being about 75 cents higher for January and between 40 and 50 cents higher for forward delivery. Yesterday morning's closing quotations on the Exchange were as follows:—January 47.30; February 47.35; March 47.35; April 47.35; May 47.30; June 47.40. Spot quotations:—Tungchow 47; Shanghai 45; Shensi 46; Hankow 43.

Yarn—Owing to the approach of China New Year no sales of yarn have been taking place. Prices remain steady, as is also the case with cloth, clearances of which have been good during the week. The position of most of the Chinese yarn dealers is understood to be satisfactory, but there is talk of a couple of concerns going into liquidation. On the other hand, it is believed that three or four new firms will make their appearance after the settlement. It will not be known until next week for how long certain of the mills will close by way of "holidays," but it is expected that some Chinese concerns may not re-open until a month after the New Year. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the position of yarn is stronger, a rise of one tael being recorded for January although the forward months are unchanged. Yesterday morning's closing quotations were:—January 178; February 179.90; March 180.90; April 181; May 181; June 180.40.

American Cotton—After a rise American cotton declined through selling on the reaction theory as well as Wall Street selling. On Wednesday the Agricultural Bureau of the U. S. Government gave the ninth official forecast of the crop as 9,946,000 bales as against 9,808,000 bales in the eighth forecast. New York quotations are:—March 33.53; May 33.75; July 32.60; October 28.05; December 27.60; spot 33.80; highest March 34.15; lowest March 33.53. Liverpool quotations:—March 19.75; May 19.75; spot 19.75.

SILK.

The silk market has been dull during the week, with very little doing, and in certain silks some concessions might be obtainable. Most of the dealers seem to have fixed their financial settlements for the China New Year, and there is no pressure to sell, waiting for the developments after the holidays.

Tussah fil. best 1, 2 Tls. 800.

PRODUCE.

Adverse exchange rates have tended to hamper the negotiation of new business.

Sesamum Seed.—There is nothing of interest to report.

Groundnuts—A fairly steady demand is still in evidence. Home crushers apparently finding this article more suitable and priceworthy.

Hides—Both in America and Europe the markets are appreciably stronger.

Untanned Goatskins—A surprising feature of the opening of the season is the purchase of fair quantities by two or three operators at prices much above the parity of the current quotations in America.

Tobacco—There is a scarcity of stocks at present owing to large quantities having been absorbed by local factories. Prices are consequently high and this scarcity has forced European buyers to come into line.

General Produce—The markets are inactive.

Banque de France

Paris, Jan. 18.

The weekly statement of the Banque de France shows that during the last week individuals have paid into their current accounts more then Frs. 313,000,000 and the State has reimbursed Frs. 100,000,000 to the Bank. On the other hand, borrowers have repaid Frs. 49,391,000 on their loans on securities. These sums together largely explain the decrease of Frs. 494,000,000 in the note circulation. The *"Temps"* states that the Banque de France, the public and the State are thus making efforts to reduce the tension of the situation.—French Wireless through Reuter.

U. S. Wheat Banks Trouble

Washington, Jan. 19.

The Cabinet has approved a plan to extend the assistance of the Federal Reserve Banks and the War Finance Corporation to the North-Western Banks in the Wheat-growing district, which have closed or are in danger of closing.—Reuter's American Service.

Hongkong Land Investment Co.

Hongkong, Jan. 20.

The Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd., report a net profit last year of $4,034,186, which, with the carry-over, leaves available for division $7,265,886. It is proposed to pay a dividend of $1.50 and a bonus of $2, and to place to the reserve $6,000,000.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SERIOUS AFFRAY AT KAIYOSHA WHARF

Fatal Fight Between Firemen: Ship's Officers Severely Ill-treated

The story of a most serious fracas, which resulted in the death of a Chinese fireman and the sending of three others to hospital, on board the str. Paul Regendanz (lying at the Kaiyosha's Pootung Wharf) on Saturday morning at about 9.30 o'clock, was vividly described by the captain and the chief engineer to Mr. N. A. Allman (American Assessor) and Mr. Li Sieu-mei (Associate Chinese Magistrate) at the Mixed Court on Tuesday.

Seventeen Chinese, described as firemen, were charged "for that they; together with seven others not yet in custody, did unlawfully assault and beat the complainants, Captain Fuhrmann, First Officer Lexow, Second Officer Moltzau, Third Officer Haach, First Engineer Eggebrecht and Superintendent Engineer Munzel, thereby occasioning them bodily harm, on board the str. Paul Regendanz, whilst lying at the Kaiyosha Wharf, Pootung, Shanghai, at about 9.30 on January 19, 1924, contrary to Article 316 of the Chinese Provisional Criminal Code. The accused were Woo Keung-yoong (deceased), Yih Li-yuen, Oo Foh-nyen, Kuang Ah-yeu (No. 1 fireman)—the last-named three being still in hospital—Dzung Kyih-zung, Wong Ming-liang, Woo Zee-yoong, Tsang Ah-lai, Dzien Yoong-pau, Yue Z-kyung, Sung Zung-loong, Sung Tseu-yoong, Nyung Ah-ziang, Yah Yue, Kyung Da-hyung, Ting Ah-feng and Tsang Ding-mei.

THE CASE FOR THE PROSECUTION.

Mr. A. S. Allan represented the captain and the officers of the Paul Regendanz, Mr. L. K. Kentwell defended, and Deputy Superintendent W. C. Woodfield was present for the River Police. Chief Inspector J. E. Wheeler watched proceedings on behalf of the Municipal Police.

Chief Inspector Wheeler stated before the Court commenced with the hearing of the case, he would say for the benefit of the Magistrate that at the inquest a witness named Dzung Kyih-zung (the fifth accused at present before the Court) identified the body lying in the Public Mortuary as that of Woo Kyung-yoong (the first accused) whom he last saw alive at about 9.30 a.m. on Saturday last, January 19, after he had been shot aboard the str. Paul Regendanz. Dzung had stated that he had carried the deceased to the saloon. He (Chief Inspector Wheeler) would therefore ask that the inquest be adjourned pending the result of the present criminal case.

The Magistrate questioned Dzung, who admitted the facts given by Chief Inspector Wheeler. The inquest was thereupon adjourned and the criminal case was proceeded with.

EVIDENCE OF ARREST.

Joe Kittchok, a constable in the River Police, said that on Saturday morning at 9.30 o'clock, while on patrol duty, he noticed a ship on which were hoisted the police and hospital flags. He made for the scene and went aboard immediately, doing this against the tide in less than 15 minutes. Upon going aboard he saw the chief officer, who told him that there had been a fight between the old and new crews of firemen, that the engineers and officers were assaulted and wounded when they tried to interfere, and that the latter were obliged to use guns. Witness asked where the offenders were and was told by the chief officer that he had five men, of whom two were badly wounded, the other three of whom he had personally arrested. In compliance with witness's request, the five men were placed in his charge and he took them to the River Police hulk. Later on, at 11 a.m., two other men came back to the steamer and these also were arrested by the chief officer and handed over to him.

Deputy Superintendent Woodfield deprecating the charges of a Sunday newspaper that the River Police were late in reaching the scene, stated that the River Police had done extremely good work in view of the state of the tide, which was against them. At two o'clock in the afternoon on the day of the fray ten of the accused went aboard the River Police hulk and asked for permission to go to the Paul Regendanz and get their clothing. As witness had already received instructions from the American Assessor, he kept the men on board the hulk and sent for the captain and the officers. Upon the arrival of these gentlemen, accused were transferred to the Central Police Station, witness asking the Municipal Police to detain them. In all, 17 of the men were arrested, and these by the River Police, but seven were still at large.

Examined by Mr. Allan, witness stated that after sending the wounded men to hospital, he went to the Norwegian Consulate and asked the Vice-Consul to accompany him and to give him authority to take whatever action was necessary. The captain was a Norwegian, as were two of his men, the chief engineer and the other foreigners were all Germans, the accused were all Chinese, and the ship was flying the Panama flag, which came under the protection of the United States Consulate here. Witness therefore obtained warrants from the U. S. Consulate.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kentwell, witness stated that neither he nor the previous witness knew anything about the fighting personally, other than what they had been told. When they arrived, the fight was all over.

Mr. Allan opened the case for prosecution, and called Captain Fuhrmann, who said that the chief engineer came into his room with the No. 1 fireman of the new crew and complained that the old crew were stealing ship's parts, and that the old crew were complaining that they had been paid off after a few days' service, although they had signed on for six months. Witness suggested that he should go to the American Consulate with them and if they were in the right, they would receive all that was due them. If they were not, however, he would ask them not to cause any trouble.

"I was sitting down," said the captain, "when suddenly we heard an awful noise on deck and went down. The superintendent engineer, who was near the door, was there before me, but when I came out I saw the Chinese crowding the officers: the chief officer was lying on deck bleeding. All of the men were armed with iron crow-bars, pikes and so on, wrapped in canvas, evidently having made all preparations for the affair. I seized the bars from three of the men and managed to wrench them away. The superintendent engineer received a kick in the belly and could not come to Court this morning. I saw trouble and had to do my best to stop it. I told my officers to hoist the police and hospital flags and the Chinese retired. I tried to find out if they had any more bars in their possession, but when I saw the trouble was starting again and we had no chance against them, I went to my room, opened the safe and took out six revolvers. This took some time, because the safe is difficult to open. (Vehemently) I distributed the revolvers and told the officers to shoot if they were attacked. The chief officer struck one of the crew on the face, but I did not shoot as my revolver was out of order, so I had to use a file to strike.

"I heard shots fired, but could see nothing as everything was mixed up. Some men were lying on the floor, others ran away, and I put the head of the gang in irons and forced the others into the saloon."

Witness identified three of the men and stated that 14 or 15 were armed. He did not know about the impending trouble or its cause at the time, but was now sure that the first fight was one between the two crews, and the second one between the crews and the foreign officers. Accused were members of the old crew.

Mr. Kentwell (cross-examining): Did you ever have any trouble with the German crew you had. Witness: Yes. The German crew demanded heavier wages than they signed for, they created trouble and disturbances on board and they attacked me and several others. I took them aboard at Colombo (where I took over command), but at sea they demanded higher wages, as high as American seamen get. I protested, but promised them everything as I wanted to get the ship to Hongkong.

NO USE FOR REVOLVERS.

Counsel: Did you use revolvers?—No, I did not. When out at sea, the crew refused to do duty, the ship was let adrift and went 40 miles out of its course. I had no assistance from the crew, the officers or the engineers. I was more or less isolated, so I sent a radio to the commander of the Naval Yard at Manila for assistance. When we were nearing Hongkong I was knocked down by the German crew and sent to bed for three days. I was locked up until released by the Police. This set a very bad example to the Chinese.

Why did you not serve out revolvers? They were locked up. Besides I do not like to fire unless forced to. I have been to sea since 1890, but this is the first time I have had trouble with my crews.

Witness here repeated his story, stating that he had to step on the body of a man to wrench an iron bar from the hands of another man. He had no grudge against the old crew, nor had they any against him so far as he knew. He did not see the second officer fire and he certainly never fired himself. The crew had no revolvers. Witness did not get out the revolvers until the second fight.

CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE.

The chief engineer, Eggebrecht, (who appeared in Court with his head bandaged) said that he was a German and had joined the ship in Shanghai. He corroborated the captain's story and said that all of the men were armed with iron bars and files. He personally had told the new crew to come aboard and had ordered the old crew to leave. The two No. 1 firemen (the old and the new) started the fight and the others did not join in until the old No. 1 ordered them to take part. The old crew were all armed (their arms being hidden under their coats), but the new men were not. Witness tried to intervene but was hit six or seven times, after which he was rendered unconscious. He had blood all over his face which ran into his eyes. He was struck both on the head and about the body.

Witness identified five of his assailants and stated that one of the old crew was armed with a knife which he secured from the cook.

The case was adjourned until next day.

The Defence Opened

Proceedings were continued on Thursday morning.

Evidence for the prosecution was given by Second Office R. F. Moltzau and Third Officer O. Haach, these officers corroborating previous evidence for the prosecution.

Mr. Allan stated that another one of his witnesses, the chief officer, was still in hospital in a serious condition, hence he was unable to appear to give evidence.

CASE FOR THE DEFENCE.

Mr. MacDonald did not object to going on with the defence, allowing the complainants the right to call their witness when he had recovered. The accused, he said, all desired to give evidence, but he (counsel) would suggest that three or four of them be placed in the box. If any of the others had anything to add they might do so. He had four other witnesses of the affair to call.

The No. 1 of the old crew of firemen said that, on Friday last, the firemen had been ordered to remain on duty all night, which they did. On Saturday morning, some of the men had been ordered to go to bed, while the others remained. They had been given these orders by a man from the dock whom witness did not know. (This latter transpired to be Eggebrecht, the chief engineer. Eggebrecht, the chief engineer.) At 8.30 a.m., he said this man told him to get up and take his men out, saying: "We have finished with you and do not want you any more."

"DEFENDING OURSELVES."

Continuing, witness said that the captain told him to get out. He then went down on deck and there met the new crew and told them what had happened, urging them not to take his or his men's places and work until the matter was settled. Then, he told them, they could come to work. The new crew insisted, saying that they had been instructed by foreigners, whose order they would obey.

"The fight then started," said the No. 1, "and the chief officer and chief engineer, together with four other Germans and a couple of other hands, brought out crowbars and spikes and handed them to the new crew. With the assistance of these men, the new crowd licked us. We then picked up some files and snatched others from our opponents' hands and defended ourselves."

The second officer came out with a pistol and began to fire on us without any reason. Naturally we had to return this attack. There are a number of people who saw him shoot.

Witness said that after the fight was over, the police flag was hoisted and a number of the men decamped. He was seized by four foreigners, handcuffed and severely beaten with iron rods. After that the River police arrived and he was taken to the police Hulk. Witness stated that he and his men were treated very unfairly by the captain and the officers, the latter breaking their rice bowls and employing other men when they had been employed for a period of six months. They had their wives and families to look after.

Cross-examined by Mr. Allan, witness denied that the captain offered to take him ashore to the Consulate and company's offices. He simply had said, "Get out," and closed the door. He had no grudge against the captain or the officers, but simply asked to be sent back to Hongkong if the captain did not want him and his men for a six months' term. He admitted that the old crew started the fighting, and denied striking the foreigners until they came to the assistance of the new men and began to strike them and fire at them with pistols. Nobody was lying on the deck, Chinese or foreigners.

Witness said that he and his men had started the fight simply in order to try to stop the new crew from working until a settlement had been brought about.

Dzung Kyih-zung said that he had taken part in the fight, but did not strike the foreigners until they had fired and shot down one of his comrades. He was rubbing this wounded man and had asked the foreign officer to send for a doctor, but the latter refused, saying "Maskee." Soon afterwards he was taken into custody.

The case was adjourned until Tuesday morning next.

A Japanese seaman, of the str. Shanghai Maru, who was arrested with more than $400 worth of heroin in his possession, was sentenced at the Japanese Court on Wednesday to five days' imprisonment. It appeared from the evidence that he had safely got his contraband ashore, but was suspected of having it in his clothes, with the result that he was taken into custody. The drug was ordered to be confiscated.

EX-LABOUR LEADER CHARGED

Former President of the Seamen's Union on Bail from the Mixed Court

Described as a former President of the Seamen's Union, Dzung Bing-zung (Chen Ping-sung) was brought up at the Mixed Court on Wednesday charged with obtaining goods by means of false pretences by presenting native orders which he knew were worthless.

Det.-Sgt. Tinkler stated that two of the complainants went to Hongkew Police Station on the previous night and produced native bank orders for sums of money on the Teh Tah Native Bank, stating that these had been signed and presented to them by accused. The notes were payable ten days after signature. Complainants had told him that they had been to the native bank and were unable to collect, being told that accused had no money there. They also told him that they had reason to believe that accused would abscond.

Witness then accompanied them to accused's shop, where there were a number of creditors. He understood that some creditors had been at the store all the afternoon and that a number of civil actions were pending against accused. Upon reaching the shop and questioning accused, the latter admitted having made out the cheques, but stated that he hoped to receive some money in a few days. He did not intend to defraud anybody. He admitted also that he had no money in the bank either at the time of making the cheques or afterwards.

Zung Teh-ming stated that accused had given him the native bank order, which was payable 10 days after signature. Witness went to the native bank. He was told that accused formerly had an account there, but had no more money in the bank at the time of signing or afterwards.

The Magistrate (Mr. Li) asked witness who had written several characters on the back of the order asking him to call in a few days' time, to which witness answered, "The bank."

Have you been back to the bank since?—No, because I was told that he had no money there.

At this stage, Chief-Insp. Wheeler asked for a week's remand to allow the police to make further inquiries.

This application was granted and accused was ordered to furnish bail in the sum of $600.

THE family of the late Gen. Hsu Kuo-liang, former Director of the Shanghai and Woosung Constabulary, have addressed a petition to the Military and Civil Governors of Kiangsu and to the Military Governor of Shanghai, requesting them to hasten the trial of Li Dah-sung, found guilty of the murder at the Mixed Court three months ago, and now detained by Gen. Ho at Lunghua.

COL. Lu Yung-chien, acting Director of the Shanghai and Woosung Constabulary, has issued a proclamation forbidding the practice of extortion. The order states that a band of loafers and unemployed men have organized themselves into what is known as the "*San-shih-liu-tang*" (the Thirty-six Societies). When stores hold their opening ceremonies and when there are weddings, members of this organization approach those concerned and demand money from them, thus starting trouble and proving themselves to be a menace to the peace and safety of Shanghai. Hence, the police are ordered to keep a sharp look-out for these men and to arrest them when found. "You," the proclamation adds, addressing the members of the organization, "are hereby ordered to give up this life and lead one that is honourable and respectable."

Smoked Sheet ... ... 173 cents
Jan.-Mar. 48½
Apr.-June 49½
Market open firm but closes easier.

DEBENTURES.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
S'hai Municipal Council	1903 6 to 20	26-9-22	T98½	6	June-Dec.
	1904 do.	11-1-23	T98½	6	do.
	1905 do.	12-5-22	T96½	6	do.
	1907 do.	24-4-22	T94	6	do.
	1908 do.	6-12-23	T100	6	do.
	1909 do.	15-3-23	T99	6	do.
	1910 do.	11-5-23	T99	6	do.
	1911 10 to 30	8-1-23	T95	6	do.
	1912 do.	3-1-24	T99	6	do.
	1913 do.	3-5-23	T100	6	do.
	10 to 50	8-5-22	T78	5½	do.
	1914 10 to 30	8-1-23	T91	5½	do.
	1915 do.	22-9-23	T91	5½	do.
	1916 do.	4-12-23	T99½	6	do.
	1918 10	18-10-23	T103	7	do.
	1919 10	4-12-23	T104	7	do.
	1920 10	17-11-23	T105½	7	do.
	10 to 30	3-10 23	£105½	6	do.
	1921 do.	9-9-23	$112	8	do.
	1921 do.	15-1-24	T112	8	do.
	1922 do.	24-1-24	T105	7	do.
	1923 do.	24-1-24	T99	6	do.
French Municipal Council	1911 do.	8-10-23	T96	6	May-Nov.
	1914 do.	12-2-23	T88	5½	June-Dec.
	1915 do.			5½	do.
	1921 do.	20-11-23	T108½	8	do.
	1923 do.	17-12-23	T95	6	May-Nov.
S'hai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	1921 10 to 30	2-10-23	T112	8	June-Dec.
	1922 do.	6-6-22	T108	8	do.
	1922 do.	2-10-23	T105	7	do.
S'hai Gas Co., Ltd.	1909 do.	29-11-23	T94	6	do.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
	1905 5 to 20	31-8-22	T96½	6	June-Dec.
	1909 do.	27-3-23	T98	6	do.
	1911 do.	26-9-22	T92	6	Mar.-Sept.
	,, do.	27-3-23	T98	6	do.
	,, do.			6	May-Nov.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.	1912 do.	3-4-23	T98	6	Jan-July
	1913 do.	3-4-23	T98	6	June-Dec.
	,, do.	11-1-24	T94	6	April-Oct.
	,, do.			6	May-Nov.
	1914 do.	22-3-23	T98	6	April-Oct.
	1916 5 to 25	21-8-22	T90	6	June-Dec.
	1922 do.	12-2-23	T98	5½	do.
	1922 do.	10-1-24	T98	6	Mar.-Sept.
Shanghai Club	1907 20			6	May-Nov.
Country Club	1901 Perpetual			6	do.
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd.	1914 5 to 20			6	June-Dec.
	1915 do.			6	May-Nov.
Anglo-French & Co., Ltd.	1906 do.			6	Mar.-Sept.
Land Invest. Co., Ltd.	1911 do.	7-6-23	T98	6	June-Dec.
				6	do.
S'hai Hotels, Ltd.	1916 30	6-1-23	T88		
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd.	1923 10 to 20	27-2-23	T95½	6	do.
S'hai Race Club	1923 25	15-1-24	T100	6½	Mar.-Sept.
Cultry Dairy Co., Ltd.	1915 10				
Hall & Holtz Ltd.	1914 5 to 20	14-10-22	$92	7	Feb.-Aug.
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	1922 5 to 20	..	..	7	Jan.-July
			T500,000	7	Jan.-July

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment. †See also under section headed "Companies' Notices, etc."

a—Now Issuing; Redeemed or Unissued: —*b*—Tls.65,100; *c*—Tls.51,100; *d*—Tls.34,100; *e*—Tls.68,500; *f*—Tls.262,400; *g*—Tls.189,800; *h*—Tls.12,300; *i*—$18,900.

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
			lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	8.87d.	..	22,000	21,000	25,000	68,000
Amherst (New)	,, 500,000	Oct.	72,382	81,440	80,500	*4.34d.	..	..	9,784	9,236	19,020
Anzio-Dutch	£200,000	Dec.	700,000	650,000	600,000	0/6.92d.	364,700	54,500	55,900	60,000	535,100
Anzio-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,511,575	1,524,711	1,550,000	6.95d.	1,116,100	168,600	189,000	183,000	183,000
Ayer Tawah	Tls. 300,000	Sept.	369,417	58,042	360,000	†0.24.41	..	..	..	..	..
Batu Anam	,, 400,000	Dec.	221,030	258,510	185,793	0/7.34d.	142,092	..	12,450	8,200	165,742
Bukit Toh Alang	,, 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,645	345,000	7.54d.	139,189	30,893	26,000	26,600	222,682
Bute	,, 300,000	Dec.	253,300	230,067	159,516	10.11d.	121,250	17,700	16,606	18,800	174,350
Chemor United	,, 360,000	Dec.	271,636	340,791	245,192	0/7.15d.	194,568	..	26,044	25,800	246,412
Chemomedak	£35,000	Oct.	145,760	163,063	..	1/5.42d.	..	..	14,000	16,700	30,700
Cheng	Tls. 675,000	June	151,922	145,748	..	11.09d.	52,730	18,016	15,574	15,760	102,014
Consolidated (1914)	,, 375,000	Dec.	591,033	669,899	574,660	0/6.58d.	456,199	62,339	56,548	58,552	633,638
Dominion	,, 350,000	Dec.	203,042	271,150	306,867	11.01d.	211,506	28,111	25,596	27,928	323,140
Gula-Kalumpong	£500,000	Dec.	1,023,600	1,113,000	1,215,000	1/0.7d.	755,000	98,000	..	85,000	938,000
Java Consolidated	£85,000	Dec.	739,726	675,800	..	7.03d.	411,106	67,300	70,600	72,000	620,400
Kapayang	,, 150,000	Dec.	176,890	189,239	..	†26.90	110,683	11,782	11,648	12,597	146,710
Karau	,, 250,000	Mar.	111,879	104,783	84,000	8½d.	41,012	6,623	5,574	6,858	60,067
Kota Bahroe (1921)	,, 300,000	June	138,330	339,970	..	11.09d.	78,957	24,885	27,343	29,933	169,818
Kroewoek	£70,000	Dec.	493,730	449,000	540,000	0/7.24d.	386,800	61,000	62,000	59,000	549,800
Langkat	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	842,589	943,000	975,000	Gls.0.28	..	..	86,800	92,500	179,300
Ledang	Tls. 500,000	April	209,711	220,232	..	10d.	66,300	17,200	17,000	20,000	120,500
Penjakalan (1921)	,, 150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,753	176,088	†10.19	..	..	..	..	..
Permuta	,, 250,000	Oct.	98,303	86,299	..	0/8½d.	..	..	9,012	8,573	17,585
Repoh	,, 275,000	Dec.	27,000	68,583	240,000	1/3½	153,578	24,886	19,521	20,200	217,185
Sarnegara	,, 300,000	Sept.	360,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
See Kee (1918)	,, 100,000	June	129,665	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	97,613	..	10,896	12,000	120,509
Semaon	,, 300,000	Dec.	170,102	161,105	158,264	0/9.37d.	119,529	..	15,267	10,800	245,596
[illegible]	,, 875,000	Jan.	106,500	277,500	..	*†7.35d.	180,800	28,100	24,400	21,700	254,000
[illegible]	,, 100,000	Sept.	313,411	246,542	..	8.12d.	..	22,827	21,14	23,680	67,625
[illegible]	,, 515,000	Dec.	113,355	126,106	..	0/9.35d.	84,115	8,000	8,400	8,500	109,715
[illegible]	,, 600,000	Dec.	413,635	573,111	392,000	..	223,531	23,850	20,336	21,439	289,156
[illegible]	,, 200,000	June	209,881	188,016	..	9½d.	52,721	20,430	15,618	12,204	100,973
[illegible]	,, 325,000	Dec.	176,588	173,213	..	0/8.67d.	103,486	13,998	13,650	15,900	147,034
S'hai-Sumatra	£500,000	Oct.	661,339	679,710	650,000	Gls.0.38	..	..	50,239	61,102	111,341
[illegible]	,, 240,000	Dec.	184,000	141,889	..	..	..	14,200	13,500	..	27,700
[illegible]	,, 100,000	Mar.	30,279	105,757	..	†7.20	6,126	..	..	..	6,126
[illegible]	£40,000	June	308,073	296,568	220,000	11.61d.	64,560	23,502	18,774	19,773	126,409
Tanah Merah	Tls. 236,000	Dec.	705,550	107,011	99,000	*†30	79,652	8,065	7,573	..	9,290
Tebong	,, 750,000	Mar.	415,000	399,000	..	7.92d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,800	234,900
Zianglie	,, 599,000	Jan.	534,590	630,848	717,725	0/7.66d.	459,500	66,500	67,000	72,000	656,000
	£750,000	Dec.	616,432	514,566	600,000	7.24d.	382,500	45,800	49,100	46,200	523,600

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses † Straits $ cents.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
S'hai Pahang Rubber Estates, Ltd.	$										
S'hai Serembau Rubber Estates, Ltd.	$										
S'hai-Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ltd.	T 500										
Sua Manggis Rubber Co., Ltd.	T 34										
Sungala Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T 11										
Sungei Duri Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T 85										
Taiping Rubber Estates (1913), Ltd.	T 6.70										
Tanah Merah Estates (1916), Ltd.	T 0.75										
Tebong Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T 1.32										
Zianglie Rubber Co., Ltd.	T 3										

COTTONS, ETC.

Ewo Cotton Mills, Ltd.	ord.	T	121		12.40			43)	1,000,000	T5	
,,	8% cum. pref.	T	113		113			43)	10,000	T100	
Laou Kung Mow C. S. & W. Co., Ltd.		T	10						20,000	T10	
Oriental C. S. & W. Co., Ltd.	ord.	T	5		4			60)	500,000	T5	
	pref.	T						3)	5,000	T100	
Shanghai Cotton Mfg. Co., Ltd. (Shanghai Boshoku K.K.)		T	[illegible]		[illegible]		39			T50	

INDUSTRIAL.

British-American Tobacco Co., Ld.	ord:	£			24:18:6	£5 1/32		66)	13,000,000	£1	
	5% cum. pref.								4,500,000	£1	
China Im. & Ex. Lumber Co., Ltd.		T	350						5,000	T100	
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.		H $	260		261				20,000	H $100	
Green Island Cement Co., Ld.		H $	37½		37½				400,000	H$37.50	
Maatschappij, &c., In Langkat		T	13½		12½				200,000	Gs.10	
Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ld.		T	[illegible]		[illegible] (comb. T94)		[illegible] (comb. T94)		250,000	T5	
S'hai Exploration & Development Co., Ld.		T	11½						250,000	T5	
Major Brothers, Ltd.		T	5					10)	6,000	T10	
John Richards & Co., Ld.		T	10					11)	25,000	T10	
Shanghai Gas Co., Ld.		T	45		45		50		24,000	T50	
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.		T	140					19)	50,000	£20	

STORES.

Hall & Holtz, Ld.		$	0.90	7				‡16)	28,000	$20	
S. Llewellyn & Co., Ld.		$	30						1,200	$50	
S. Mostrie & Co., Ld.		$	50					17)	10,000	$50	
Weeks & Co., Ld.		$	11			11		‡50)	30,000	$10	
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ld.		$	102		103½			‡)	2,500	$100	

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cultry Dairy Co., Ld.		T	13						10,000	T10	
S'hai Electric Construction Co., Ld., "B"		T	179		165						
	London	£1			£2 11:6		£2:14:0		40,000	£10	
S'hai Horse Bazaar & Motor Co., Ld.		T	50						5,400	T50	
Shanghai Mercury, Ld.		T	25						3 000	T50	
Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. Ld.		T	74	73	74			‡63)	40,000	T50	
Oriental Press (L'Imprimerie Francaise)		$	100						940	$100	

(a Loss)	T26,956	Oct.	T0.60, 1921-22	.. ..	30-12-22
(c	T119,293				
(a	£17,022	Dec.	Final 16s. (mkg. 40s., 1922, less 1/T at 5s. 3d. in £) Coupon 22		1-6-23
(c	£114,315		1st Int. 12/-, less 1/T at 4/7½d. in £ Coupon No. 23		
(a	T18,548	Dec.	T5, 1922		1-10-23
(c	T215,237				20-4-23
(a	T10,285	Apr.	T1 50 1913-14		31-3-15
(b	T70,000	Mar.	T4.50, 1922-23		31-5-24
(c	T220,016				
(a	$109,513				
(b	$9,000	Mar.	$10, 1922-23		5-7-23
(c	$21,101				

(a	$110,937	Feb.	$2, 1917-18		1-5-18
(b					
(c					
(a	$10,697	Dec.	$6, 1922		12-5-23
(c	$26,000				
(a	$20,282	Mar.	(Final $2 & Bonus $4 (mkg. $9, 1922-23) ..		2-6-23
(c	$323,195		Int. 6%, 1923-24		30-11-23
(a	$37,633	Feb.	$1.60, 1922-22		30-5-22
(c	$210,000				
(a	$5,539				
(b	$20,000		$8, 1922-23		24-5-23
(c	$250 000				

(a	T23,791	Dec.	T3.50, 1922		13-4-23
(b	T50,000				
(c	T666,891				
(a	T29,595	Dec.	(Final 1922, 20s. at Exchg., 3/2½		6-4-23
(b	T75,000		(Interim 1923, 10s. at Exchg., 3/0½		31-7-23
(c	T1,630,295				

For all Dollar shares quoted on the Shanghai Stock Exchange the Exchange rate is fixed at 73.

REFERENCES.

a Carried forward at last Ann. Genl. Meeting.
b Dividend Equalization Reserve.
c General and Other Reserves.
d Uncalled liability [illegible] per sh.
[illegible]
[illegible]
h [illegible]
r Working Account 1922
u Working Account 1923
v Working Account 1921
y Working Account 1919
z Working Account 1918 and Previous Years.
† Registered; ‡ Bearer (Loan "B").
†† See also overleaf [illegible]
** Issued Capital: [illegible] Ordinary, 16,[illegible] Pref.

§§ Subject to Estate Managers' Commissions
* [illegible] Dividend Tax.
[illegible]

1—11,000 sh. unis'd.
2—[illegible]
3—5,000 "
4—1,000 "
5—10,261 "
8—10,000 "
9—16,470 sh. unis'd.
10—300 "
11—15,200 "
12—50,000 "
13—1,387 "
14—3,000 "
16—1,062 "
17—3,832 "
18—3,589 "
19—184,668 "
20—15,000 "
22—10,000 "
24—76,[illegible] "
25—125,00 "
26—60,000 "
27—8,121 sh. unis'd.
28—4,633 "
29—2,000 "
31—5,121 "
32—50,000 "
33—50,000 "
34—102,570 "
35—200 "
36—180 000 "
39—2,695 "
41— "
43—1,000 "
46—[illegible] "
(Net to be issued for less than 950 ea.)
47—3,000 sh. unis'd.
48—100,000 sh. unis'd,
50—8,178 "
54—49,000 "
55—80,000 "
56—10,634,850 "
57—5,000,000 "
59—100,556 "
60—280,080 "
61—240,000 "
62—401,055 "
63—15,000 "
64—500 000 "
65—200,000 "
66—1,884,535 "
67—66 057 "
68—5,644 "

In order to ensure accuracy of the above details, Agents and Secretaries of Companies are requested to notify Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of any alterations, errors or omissions.

COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Subject to audit, the Directors will recommend at the forthcoming meeting:—

To pay a final dividend for the year of £3 and [illegible] of £2 subject to deduction of Income Tax.

To add to Silver Reserve, 10 Lakhs.

To write off bank premises account, 10 Lakhs.

To write forward [illegible], 55 Lakhs.

The Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estate, Ltd.—Shareholders who have not paid the Call advertised by Call Letter dated October 15, 1923, are reminded that same is payable on or before January 15, 1924, and that all calls unpaid on the date will bear interest [illegible] per annum from the date fixed for payment.

The Shanghai Cotton Manufacturing Co., Ltd.—Share certificates in New Issue of the above Company are now ready and will be handed over to the shareholders against the official receipts at the Company's Head Office, 49 Szechuen Road, Shanghai, on and after January 21, 1924.

The Kali Glidik Coffee Estates, Ltd.—The Statutory Meeting will be held at No. 10 [illegible] on Tuesday, January 29, 1924, at [illegible].

The first Ordinary General Meeting will be held at the same place immediately after the Statutory Meeting.

The Transfer Books will be closed from January 25 to 29, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Ltd.—A net profit last year of $4,034,186 which, with the carry-over, leaves available for division $7,205,886. It is proposed to pay a dividend of $1.50 and bonus of $2, and to place to the reserve $6,000,000.

Share Report for Week Ending January 25, 1924.

No. 244

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use: A1 Cod[illegible]
A.B.C. 4th 5th and 6th Editions
B. Broomhall's Imperial Combination Code
Bentley's Complete Phrase Code.
Telephone Cent. 171,174.

[illegible] Shanghai

[illegible]

[illegible] improvement have continued steady [illegible]

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	£ 72.	0.	0 (Mean)
" " " " " " " B.I.	66.	10.	0 " ex B.I.R.S.
" " " " " " " O.I.	64.	5.	0 (Sellers) "
" " " " " " " Reig. I.	62.	0.	0 "
" " " " " " " R.I.	61	0.	0 (Mean) cum B.I.R.S.
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. "B"	3.	7.	6 "
[illegible]	1.	10.	0 "
[illegible]	2.	1.	0 "
Shell Transport & Trading Co. "B"	1	0.	0 "
British American Tobacco Co. "B"	1	0.	0 "
Consolidated Rubber Estates Ltd.	7/6	10/-	0 (Mean)
Imperial Tobacco of Great Britain (Ord)	3.	11.	6 (Mean)

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to-day is 3/4.

Shanghai, January 25, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:—

JANUARY	19th		21st		22nd		23rd		24th		25th	
	Last	Mar.	Last	Mar.	Last	Mar.	Last	Mar.	Last	Mar.	Last	Mar.
RUBBERS												
Anglo-Java Est., Ld. .. Tls.	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Permata Rub. Est. Ld. .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bukit Toh Alang R. E., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 15/16	1 13/16	..	..
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS												
Langkats (combined) .. .. Tls.	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33½	..	..
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd. .. "	74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Loan & Invest. Co., Ld. "	..	..	6.60	..	..	..	..	6.40	..	..	..	..
Yangtsze Insce. Asso., Ld. .. $	..	..	..	..	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Dock & Eng. Co., Ld. Tls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94	..	..	..
COTTONS												
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. Ord.) .. Tls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	12½	..	..	..	12½	..
DEBENTURES												
S. M. C. 1923 6% Debs. .. Tls.	99	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	99	..	..	..

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

January 29, Tuesday. February 26, Tuesday. March 25, Tuesday.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, JANUARY 25, 1924.

STOCK.	Last [illegible]	Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Par Value	Issued Capital	Year ended	Last Dividend etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.									
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Cor	£ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	61) 400,000	H $125	(a H $3,350,212 (c H $[illegible]	Dec.	Final $1.50 Bonus $2 (mkg. $3, 1922) less I/T [illegible]	2
Chartered Bank of I., A. & C.	£ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£10	(a [illegible] (c [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-4-24
INSURANCE.									
Union In. Society of Canton, Ld.	H $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	/ $	(a [illegible] (c [illegible]	[illegible]	Final 10s. (mkg. 40s.) ex 1921 Work. a/c., Interim 24s. & Bonus to Contributors, 30s., ex 1923 Work a/c.	26-4-24
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.	$ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10,000	$ 215	(ar T610 687 (c [illegible]	Dec.	Final [illegible] 1921 Work. a/c. and Interim 15s. ex 1922 Works. a/c.	30-6-24
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ltd.	$ [illegible]	[illegible]	87	48) 250,000	$10	(au $1,024,996 (au $2,408,039 (c $1,063,212	Dec.	$2 (or T1.46) ex 1923 Work. a/c. payable in Taels at Exchg. 73	11-6-24
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ltd.	$ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$20	(c [illegible]	Dec.	T1.20 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	30-6-24
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.	H $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	/ H $100	(au H $2,172,375 (au H $[illegible]	Dec.	Final H $22 (mkg. H $10) ex 1921 Work. a/c., and Interim H $18 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	11-7-24
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	g H $50	(au H $441,091 (c H $1,876,385	Dec.	H $32 ex 1921 Working a/c.	24-4-24
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	H $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	20,000	h H $20	(c [illegible]	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/c.	26-6-24
Assurances Generales d'Indochine	$ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11,000	$100	(c [illegible]	Dec.	None, Floated 1918	....
SHIPPING.									
Indo-China S.N. Co., Ltd. ... (6%cum.pref.	H $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2) [illegible]	$ [illegible]	(a [illegible]	Dec.	Pref. 6s. at Exchg.—2/4 London Warrants less I/T a/c., 1922. Def. Ord. Nil	15-6-23
(def. ord.	H $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2) [illegible]	$ [illegible]	(c [illegible]			
Shell T'sport & Trading Co., Ld. (ord	£ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£1	(a [illegible]	Dec.	Interim 2s. free of I.T., Coupon 12	5-1-24
(5% cum. pref.	£ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£1	(c [illegible]			
(7% cum. 2nd pref.	£ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	£1	(c [illegible]			
Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld. (ord.	T [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	T25	(a [illegible]	Dec.	(Int. Ord. T2.50 a/c., 1923)..	
(pref.	T [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10,000	T50	(c T170,000		(Int. Pref. T1.75 a/c., 1923)	9-7-23
DOCKS AND WHARVES.									
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld. ..	T [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10) [illegible]	T75	(a T102,533 (c T1,943,000	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
Hongkong & W'poo Dock Co., Ld. ..	H $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	H $50	(a U $583,080 (c H $4,994,998	Dec.	Interim H $4, 1923 Final H $5 & Bon. H $5 (mkg. H $12, 1922)	11-10-23 27-3-24
New Eng. and Shipbuilding Works, Ld. .. .. .. (ord.	T [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	85) 500,000	T5	(a T82,417 (b T300,000	Dec.	Ord. T0.60, 1922 Pref. T0.40, 1922	10-3-24 10-3-24
(8% pref.	T [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	85) 500,000	T5	(c T1,290,000			
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ld... ..	T [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	T100	(a [illegible] (b [illegible]	Dec.	Final T12 (mkg. T15, 1922)	13-3-24
						(c T1,941,750		Int. T3 a/c., 1923	30-8-24
H'kong & K'loon W. & G. Co., Ld.	T $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	80,000	H $50	(a U $363,194 (b U $500,000 (c H $300,000	Dec.	H. $6 & Bonus H. $3 (mkg. H $9, 1922)	20-2-23
MINING.									
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld. ..	£ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	21) 500,000	G.$10	[illegible]	June	G $0.50, 1920-21	26-7-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Bearer).	T [illegible]	20	[illegible]	†364) 2,000,000	£1	[illegible]	June	Final 5½% (Coupon No. 23) free of I/T, 1922-1923	11-12-24
London	£ [illegible]	£2.5.0	£3.0.0						
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld.	H $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	200,000	£1	(a £23,614 (c £4,873	Mar.	1s. 2d., 1909-10	21-5-10
LANDS AND HOTELS.									
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. ..	T [illegible]	115	117½	‡) 78,000	T50	(a T25,529 (b T250,000 (c T2,105,253	Dec.	(Final T3 & Bonus T2 (mkg. T8, 1922)	23-3-23 26-7-23
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld. ..	H $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	240,000	H $25	(a H $7,231.50 (b H $2,000	Dec.	(Interim 1923, T3 Int. H $6 a/c., 1923	24-7-23
Humphrey's Est. & Finance Co., Ld. ..	H $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	150,000	H $10	(a H $123,716 (b H $50,000 (c H $357,362	Dec.	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.70, 1922	10-2-23
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld.	T [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3,674	T20	(a [illegible] (c [illegible]	Dec.	T1.20, 1922	24-2-23
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld. ..	T [illegible]	120	120	‡3) 18,000	T100	(a [illegible] (b T20,000 (c T350,000	Feb	Int. Divid. T3½, 1923-24	21-9-23
The Shanghai Hotels, Ld.	$ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	‡45) 150,123	$7.50	(a $175,121 (c $2,465,534	Dec	$3 on 50,000 shs; Scrip Div. 199 new Ord. shs. for ea. 123 Founders' shs., 1920	11-6-21
Carlton, Ld.	T [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	14) 10,000	T50		Mar.	Interim, $3.30 on 74,500 shs., 1921, Final, Nil.	
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	G $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	‡18) 10,000	G $100		Dec.	Floated April 1, 1922.	....
Raven Trust Co., Inc. .. .. (ord.	G $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	G $10			Incorporated under the laws of Delaware Ord 1922, 7%	4-1-23
(pref.	G $ [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	**100,000	G $10			Pref. 1st gr. 1923, 11%	4-1-23
PLANTATIONS.									
Alma Estates, Ld.	T [illegible]	6	6½	70,000	£1 at T9	(a T28,940	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23	19-12-23
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld. ..	T 0.50	[illegible]	0.50	‡62) 500,000	T1		Oct.		
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld. ..	T 2.90	[illegible]	[illegible]	12) 400,000	10$.	(a T42,500	Dec.	T0.30, 1919	7-4-20
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T [illegible]	6.75	[illegible]	4) 500,000	10$.	(a T129,151 (c T378,570	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c 1923	14-9-23
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T 25	[illegible]	[illegible]	27) 30,000	T10	(a T10,225 (b T22,500 (c T69,966	Sept.	T2.00, 1922-23	28-12-23
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Ests., Ld. ..	T 1	[illegible]	[illegible]	400,000	T1	(a T20,758	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	10-4-20
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T 1.12½	1.10	[illegible]	500,000	T1	(a T20 102	Mar	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1916-17)	25-7-17
Bute Plantation (1913), Ld.	T 0.75	0.80	[illegible]	300,000	T1	a (Loss)T13,677	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkg. T0.10, 1916)	29-3-17
Chemor United Rubber Co., Ld. ..	T 1.07½	1.05	[illegible]	400,000	T0.90	a T37,537	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	6-11-23
Chempedak Rub. & G'bler Est., Ld. ..	T 6	[illegible]	[illegible]	39) 35,000	£1	a (Loss)T3,139	Oct.	2nd Interim, T0.50, (mkg. T1, 1916-17)	16-10-17
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T 1.40	1.60	[illegible]	115,000	T5	a T4,129	June	T0.20,1917	1-11-17
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld..	T 2?	2.10	[illegible]	25) 500,000	2s.—To.75	(a T23,182	Dec.	T0.10, 1922	20-4-23
						(c T30,000		Interim T0.05, 1923	15-10-23
Dominion Rubber Co., Ld.	T 2	[illegible]	[illegible]	19) 350,000	T1	a T13,813	Dec.	T0.40,1919	18-5-20
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T 9½	8½	[illegible]	‡48) 750,000	(21;450,000 (5s;200,000	(a [illegible]	Dec.	2s. less I/T at 5s. in £1922, "B" Coupon 20)††	28-3-23
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee, Est., Ld.	T 14	[illegible]	14	8) 85,000	£1 at 2,31¼	(a T54,465 (c T330,114	Dec.	Interim, T0.50, 1923	3-9-23
Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ld. ..	T 12	[illegible]	[illegible]	35) 15,000	T10	(a T6,977 (c T4,022	Dec.	T0.50, 1922 (Interim 1923, T0.50	19-4-23 17-7-23
Karan Rubber Estate Co., Ld. ..	T [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	25,000	T10	(a [illegible]	Mar	T0.60, 1922-23	1-6-23
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1921), Ld. ..	T 1.0	[illegible]	[illegible]	90,000	T1	a (Loss [illegible]	Dec.	(To.05, 1923	17-4-24
Kroewook Java Plantations, Ld.	T 11	[illegible]	[illegible]	200 [illegible]	£1 at 11.50	(a [illegible]	Dec.	(Int. To.50 a/c., 1923	7-9-24
Padang Rubber Co., Ld.	T 6½	[illegible]	[illegible]	50,000	T20	(a [illegible]	Apr	To.05, 1922-23	2-5-23
Pangkalan Durian Estates (1921), Ld. ..	T 1.10	1.05	[illegible]	200 [illegible]	T1	a (Loss [illegible]	Dec.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Permata Rubber Estates, Ltd.	T [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	200,000	T1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

CORRESPONDENCE

BANDITS, THE PEOPLE'S DEFIANCE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—I would recommend any of your readers who have not read Mr. Sokolsky's article on the subject of China's Banditry in your to-day's issue, to read it, as an excellent supplement to the series Mr. Rodney Gilbert has been contributing to your columns during the last three weeks. With all deference to Mr. Rodney Gilbert, I would say he has not treated in his usual comprehensive way, this Chinese way of getting rid of an oppressive government, sanctioned by long traditions.

Mr. Sokolsky looks forward to the future for a proof of the truth of the assertion, that the rising of bandits in China is the people's way of showing their dissatisfaction and defiance to the reigning government. But if he refers to the records in our history, he will meet there sufficient evidences for this proof. With the exceptions where change of dynasties took place as a result of foreign conquest, it will be found in all instances that a general rising of the people was invariably heralded by small bands of marauders, apparently without any higher motive for their existence than that of making a living by it. The leniency some of the more honest and energetic officials have shown to the bandits may also be traced to their inner consciousness of this historical fact. At any rate, those of us who would read this significance in the banditry now rampant in the country, are not inventing, but only repeating the wisdom of experience.

In your last Saturday's Leader on "China and Its Treaties," you said that before foreigners could co-operate with the Chinese in redressing their wrongs, the Chinese must give them a lead to show in what way they could co-operate. This wide-spread brigandage in China is the only practical method we have in our power to make our sense of wrongs felt by those in authority. It would be, any way, a mistaken idea to think that this brigandage can be stopped by any temporarizing with the very elements which have forced the people to this crude way of expression.

We Chinese should all be grateful to Mr. Rodney Gilbert, and Mr. Sokolsky for their searching articles, and to you for your yesterday's leader, in which you expose the arbitrary powers invested by the new constitution in the President and the Parliament and the immunity afforded therein to the President from criminal charges. Articles like these shed a great deal of light on what otherwise must appear an inexplicable muddle to your general readers. Only when a problem is intelligently understood, can it be finally solved. Therefore, thanks to you all.

I am, etc.,
K. C. K.

Shanghai, Jan. 22, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Friends, who know my identity, have, since the appearance of my last letter in your columns, bestowed on me the complimentary sobriquet of "Bandit chief." Honestly, I have no insurmountable objection to being so styled. I prefer it by far to that of "President," "Tuchun," or any other honorific official title. There would be a reflexion on my character, while the name of "Bandit chief" only questions the soundness of my judgment.

But while I do not mind the nickname, I do not like the gentle insinuation behind it. These friends evidently thought I was trying to make a virtue of the necessity which I claimed to have driven the Chinese people, without means, training and organization, to adopt this form of righting their grievances. Really, nothing could be further from my motive.

If China were in the same isolated position as before the time of foreign intercourse, it might be possible that, after long periods of waste and bloodshed, a concentrated force would be evolved out of the present dispersed energy, with sufficient strength to subvert the ruling government. But all Chinese problems have now an international importance. If the Chinese people had the philosophy to wait for this primitive adjustment of their national affairs, would the foreigners share in their optimism and see their compatriots murdered, their possessions looted and their trade injured, without advocating drastic measures for their immediate suppression?

Besides, the important educational centres in this country are permeated with Bolshevistic propaganda and teaching. When the last Soviet Representative came to China, a deputation of the University professors in Peking, in a speech of welcome, expressed their willingness to learn from him the new lore of social revolution since the political revolution of 1911 had turned out a failure. And these same professors practically determine the course of education and the books to be used in the schools all over China. One sees a disquieting prospect in the day when the students should take it into their heads to transmit some of the doctrines they have imbibed through this channel from these professors, to the bandits.

But a more imminent danger is in the ignorance and lack of definite objective of these bandits. They are at the mercy of any unscrupulous and astute politician or official, and can be easily worked upon in such a way as to ascribe all their wrongs and hardships to the presence and interference of foreigners and foreign interests.

In the face of these considerations, it is hardly likely that I would conscientiously recommend that this brigandage in China should be left to take its natural course without check and hindrance. What I do advocate is this; that it can never be suppressed and may, on the contrary, be aggravated so long as we have a military force which wrecks people's homes, takes away their means of livelihood and drives them to the highway; so long as we have an official class who will waste a few hundred million dollars every year in maintaining gangs of riff-raff coolie soldiers, rather than spend one tenth of it on famine-relief measures, shifting the whole burden of them on the resources of foreign and native philanthropy; and so long as we have a code of laws stringent only to those who are too poor to buy, and too feeble to coerce, justice.

As Burke says, the people have no interest in disorder. If they do wrong, it is their error and not crime. Mr. Rodney Gilbert has made a splendid start for the discussion of how this error of the people may be stopped from taking greater dimensions. Will not other students and thinkers on the question of China's misfortune follow up the discussion, so important to the future welfare of all residing in the country?

I am, etc.,
K. C. K.

Shanghai, Jan. 24, 1924.

CHINA'S SALT AND ITS REVENUE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—There are very few, if any, other nations who would take crude dirty salt for their diet. China is most probably the only one. Yet Chinese eat more salt than any other race of people and like salt better than sugar.

Now China's salt is controlled and monopolized by a few avaricious merchants, who with their divided territories granted hundreds of years ago, control the sole supply of this human necessity. Besides charging high prices for salt, they mix it with a great amount of dirt. In some districts the percentage of salt runs as low as only 40. People have to pay exorbitant prices for salt which would be prohibited by most nations to feed animals. This is probably one reason why disease in China is so prevailing and the death rate of Chinese people is so high.

Fortunately, a few Chinese Salt Refineries have been organized, but the output of those refineries is small, that very few people have enjoyed the privilege of getting clean pure salt to help their health. The refined salt, when analysed, is of the same quality as the table salt of western nations, yet the price is practically the same as that of the crude salt on the market.

In nations of strong financial position, the tax on human necessities is always exempted, but conditions are bad in China, and governmental expenditures are mostly dependent on such. The Salt revenue is one of the most important items. Through the improving and revision of regulations continuously, the salt revenue increases every year. But there is still a big leakage of tax which cannot be checked unless the salt is produced by organized companies and be taxed right on the spot of its manufacture, as the refined salt is.

Through years of experience, the writer is of the opinion that, if the salt Gabelle would encourage the people to establish more salt refineries, or make the crude salt merchants start compulsory refineries, the following advantages would follow. First; the salt revenue of the whole country will be known more definitely. At the present time, the crude salt is taxed upon its arrival at the point of destination for sale; the system of organization of those merchants is unknown, while from the producing region, much salt is shipped out and sold to different districts without being taxed.

With salt refineries, the case is different. These companies are organized on a modern system and the output of the factories is definitely known. Government tax every picul of salt produced, so there is no possibility that any salt refined could get away from tax.

Secondly; No discount or smuggling could exist. When the crude salt is being taxed, the merchants always demand a certain percentage of allowance as brine, but for refined salt the tax is paid in full, 100 per cent. As the crude salt is not taxed in the producing region, big amounts are smuggled to different districts without paying any tax. Both the brine allowance and smuggling mean a loss to the national salt revenue.

Thirdly; Recently, owing to the non-unification of China, much of the salt revenue is detained by provincial governors. If salt refineries are encouraged, this undesirable situation will be avoided, on account of the tax on the refined salt being prepaid and duly received by the central government. Fourthly; public health be improved, the culture of mental, moral and physical development will be more progressive; this will give great benefit to society.

I am, etc.,
T. L. C.

Shanghai, Jan. 19, 1924.

THE EDITOR'S REWARD.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS"

SIR,—My office boy has strange ideas. When I read him the beautiful lines of the above, he contributed the following:—

What thing? What for?
The Editor?
No can walkee?
Too much talkee?
Some man wanchee,
No got punchee?
Coolie man-man,
So fashion no can.
Have got die-lo,
Say good-bye-lo,
Newspaper man
Must wanchee fan;
Suppose no got
To muchee hot.

I am, etc.,
A. L. B.

Shanghai, Jan. 19, 1924.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

THE PAPER HUNT CLUB

Mr. J. H. Liddell Wins his Pink in a Dead Heat with Mr. Sparke after Long Ride

Excellent weather conditions favoured the hunt on Saturday afternoon and the going was splendid, for the dust which has been such an unwelcome feature of recent hunts was conspicuously absent, thanks to the rain which had fallen earlier in the week. The paper was laid by the Master (Mr. G. Grayrigge) and the trail began at a village north of Rubicon Road, three-quarters of a mile from the junction with Hungjao Road. The hunt was remarkable in that it resulted in a dead heat for first place between Mr. J. H. Liddell and Mr. N. L. Sparke, the former winning his pink after five years of strenuous endavour.

On the finishing run, Messrs. Liddell and Sparke, on Spark Plub and Wild Chance, respectively, made a ding-dong race of it and, passing the flags neck and neck, were adjudged joint winners. They were followed closely by Mr. A. J. P. Heard, on Letchfield, and Mr. R. Moon, on Wee Mac. There were no heavy weights on the card, which read as follows:—

*1.—Mr. J. H. Liddell, on Spark Plug.
*1.—Mr. N. L. Sparke, on Wild Chance.
3.—Mr. A. J. P. Heard, on Letchfield.
4.—Mr. R. Moon, on Wee Mac.
5.—Mr. R. L. Read, on Wild Thyme.
6.—Mr. P. Stang-Lund, on Oldsmobile.

*Dead heat.

THE LADIES' HUNT

The third hunt for ladies this season took place on Sunday afternoon, 20 ladies going for the run after an address by the Master. The start was at Mr. Beith's Bungalow on Hungjao Road and the first jump was at Dallas's Grave. A great deal of misfortune occurred during the run, which went over part of the country beyond Rubicon Creek, the exact route not being ascertainable. Several ladies were on the ground at the same time on Pinkerton's Line and one or two of them had rather far to walk. One lady fell four times in all, but quite enjoyed herself.

There was an unpleasant incident at the Long Village, where Chinese waited with buckets of filth which they threw at the ladies as they rode past and several had their habits ruined. Mrs. Rodger endeavoured to remonstrate and was nearly pulled from the saddle. Fortunately, Mr. Rodger came up in time to intervene and saved her from further annoyance, but he had a worse time himself.

The hunt was won by Miss Billy Coutts, who has been successful in all the three ladies' hunts this season. Mrs. Fitzgerald won the prize for the first lady to finish on side-saddle. The finishing jump was at Marah, close to where the hunt started. It is understood that in future the ladies will have their own hunting organization, the hunts so far this season having been held with the permission and assistance of the Stewards of the Paper Hunt Club.

SWIMMING RECORD

New Figure for 880 yd. Put Up by Charlton 16 yr. Old Boy

Sydney, Jan. 19.

Alan Charlton beat Arne Borg, the Swedish champion, by 15 yards in an 880 yards swimming race to-day. Charlton's time was 10 min. 51⅘ secs., a world's record.

Charlton, who is 16 years old, last week beat Borg by 20 yards in a 440 yards race. His time was 5 min. 11⅘ secs., tieing the Swedish champion's world's record for that distance.—Reuter.

A RECORD BILLIARD BREAK

155 by Mr. C. W. Porter

Playing at the Shanghai Club on Wednesday evening Mr. C. W. Porter made a break of 155 at billiards. This is the highest amateur break recorded for the Shanghai Club, and is believed to be the highest for the whole of Shanghai. The previous best was that of Mr. R. C. K. Johnson who scored 154.

Mr. Porter played a beautiful all-round game while compiling the break, and there was never the suspicion of a fluke in the course of it. When it came to his final stroke he had the balls in hand, but to get position he had to try for a six shot into the middle pocket. He just failed, and concluded at 155.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Results in Brief

INTERPORT TRIAL.

Colours,	3	Whites,	2

SECOND LEAGUE.

Thos. Hanbury,	1	Recs,	0
S. F. C.,	6	Pub. School,	3
Lusitano,	5	Police,	2
St. Xavier's,	1	Jewish R. C.,	0

Customs a walk-over Navy scratched

Saturday afternoon's football was not of a particularly interesting order. Amongst the seniors the Interport trial game was the only one, and though the play, as indicated by the score, was level, it was of a very moderate order. In the Second League, the Navy again had to scratch, owing to their inability to get a team together, and of the other four games two were runaway victories.

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

England Beat Wales by 17 to 9 after Fierce Struggle

London, Jan. 19.

The international rugby football match between England and Wales at Swansea to-day resulted in a win for England by 17 points to 9.

The weather was showery. Forty thousand people witnessed the game.

England pressed at the outset but after a quarter of an hour Tom Jones scored for Wales, Rees failing to convert. Soon afterwards Catcheside scored a try for England which was not converted. A minute later Jacob got over for England and Chantrill converted. Just before the interval Locke ran half the length of the field for a brilliant unconverted try. The score at half-time was England 11 Wales 3.

A minute after the resumption Catcheside scored another unconverted try for England. The Welshmen rallied and there followed desperate forward tussles in front of the English goal. The players went over in a heap but a try was disallowed. Johnson then gave Wales two tries in quick succession and towards the end Jacob added another unconverted try for England, who won a comfortable and deserved victory by 17 points to nine.—Reuter.

INTERNATIONAL GOLF

San Francisco, Jan. 21.

The English professional golfers Havers and Ockenden defeated the Americans, Sarazen (professional) and John Black (amateur) by one up over 36 holes.—Reuter's American Service.

San Francisco, Jan. 23.

The British golfers, Havers and Ockenden, to-day defeated the local professionals, Naole and Novak, by 5 and 4 in a 36 hole match.—Reuter.

COMPANY MEETING

THE CHENG RUBBER ESTATES LD.

The Reorganization Scheme

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Cheng Russer Estates Ld. was held on Monday. Dr. R. S. Ivy presided and was supported by Mr. A. K. Craddock, Mr. Hugo Reiss, Mr. A. J. Welch (directors), and Mr. G. J. L. Stewart, representing Messrs. Wattie & Co. Ld., secretaries. Addressing the meeting the Chairman said:—

The business before this meeting is simply to confirm or reject the resolution that was passed at the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders held on January 4, 1924.

The resolution, which is as follows, is now submitted for confirmation as a special resolution:—

"That each of the existing 135,000 shares of Tls. 5 each in the company's capital, numbers 1 to 135,000 inclusive, be divided into five shares of Tls. 1 each and that three out of every five shares of Tls. 1 each resulting from such sub-division be surrendered to the company for future issue and that 270,000 shares of Tls. 1 each resulting from such sub-division and not surrendered be credited as fully paid up and be numbered 1 to 270,000 inclusive and that out of the 405,000 shares of Tls. 1 each resulting from such sub-division and surrendered to the company one share of Tls. 1 each be offered for subscription at par to each member of the company in respect of every five old shares of Tls. 5 held by him but if the reduction of issued capital proposed to be effectuated hereby shall not be confirmed by the court on or before June 30, 1924, this resolution shall on that day be void and of no effect and this resolution shall be conditional on a scheme of arrangement between the company and its members for giving effect to the provisions of this resolution being adopted and sanctioned under Sec. 121 of the Companies' Ordinance (Hongkong) 1911."

It is proposed by myself and seconded by Mr. Craddock, and I will now ask you to vote on it in the usual manner.

The resolution was carried.

The Chairman added—I have to inform you, should the scheme for reorganization as proposed be confirmed by the Court, a further extraordinary general meeting of shareholders, by order of the Court, will have to be convened for the purpose of obtaining your sanction to proceed with the scheme.

MEI LAN-FONG, China's leading actor, and his equally celebrated troupe, left for Peking on Monday night after a successful season here.

Thursday of last week, the 25th anniversary of his coming to China, was the occasion of a warm demonstration of regard by the Rev. C. E. Darwent's parishioners at Union Church, Tientsin. Mr E. W. Carter, who presided over the large gathering, the minister was surprised to find assembled on entering the church, said they were celebrating a unique event. In paying a tribute to Mr. Darwent's ministry, he said he had heard him Sunday after Sunday. Though it was only during the last few years that Tientsin had got to know him, the more they knew of him, the more they had a friend. Happily paraphrasing the stalwart captain, Miles Standish, the speaker described Mr. Darwent as "little of stature but great of heart, magnanimous, courtly, courageous." Mr. Hugh Mackenzie read a congratulatory letter from the Rev. Arthur Smith. Dr. J. C. Ferguson, Adviser to the Chinese Government, Mrs. G. W. Clarke and the Rev. A. King also spoke. Mr. Darwent, to whom a presentation was made, responded characteristically with a sincere, compelling speech.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

COLUMBIA COUNTRY CLUB'S NEW HOME

The New Premises in Great Western Road: Swimming Pool and 28 Tennis Courts: The Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Columbia Country Club was held in the club house in Route Doumer last Friday. Mr. L. Everett (President) presided, supported by the Board of Governors. The President's report having been read, the new officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows:—Mr. L. Everett (President), Mr. E. H. Staber, (Vice-President), Mr. R. T. Bryan, JR., (hon. secretary) and Mr. R. D. Bunn (hon. treasurer). With the addition of Mr. W. M. Morris, the Board of Governors is the same as last year and includes Messrs. George Brush, R. Buchan, R. D. Bunn, F.J. Courtney J. Eichwald, B. C. Haile, H. B. Lane, W. M. Morris, H. E. Page, E. H. Staber, J. S. Potter, E. W. Torrey.

The balloting Committee will be composed of these gentlemen and eight more as follows (new members):—Messrs. L. R. Andrews, J. J. Sheridan, W. R. Rice, A. Basset, W. Wilson, A. F. Kimball, C. Crow and E. B. Gregory. It will be noted that on the balloting committee, three British gentlemen are now serving, Messrs. R. Buchan, L. R. Andrews and J. J. Sheridan.

A large number of by-laws adopted in the past year by the Board of Governors was ratified by the meeting and included regulations on membership, initiation fees and dues. House rules, library, mah jongg, bridge and tennis by-laws, as well as an incorporation providing for the addition of two further members to the Board, making now 14 in that body.

In his annual report Mr. Everett, said that he was of the opinion that the club had had a most prosperous year and that a good sound basis assured them continued progress, while the establishment of the office of a paid secretary and the appointment of a new steward had served to bring the executives into closer touch with the various departments. The club had had a very successful financial year as the financial statement showed a net profit of $13,000.

The introduction of some bachelor quarters into the house made a more satisfactory arrangement and both guests and committee were highly pleased with the system. Not only was the new library introduced with great success, but it had had a steady growth and development throughout the year which had been furthered by a fund consisting of all the odd change from the Mah Jongg games and a thousand dollars was recently authorized to be spent. The growth of membership had been steady and a net increase showed.

With reference to the new Club House the speaker said, "I am sure that your next interest is as to when we can occupy the new premises, and I would announce that in addition to the filling, fencing and draining contracts which are well under execution, the contract has been let for the first unit which comprises the gymnasium, bowling alley, locker room and swimming pool, this contract to give us occupancy of this unit by July 1. The gymnasium and bowling alley will be fitted up temporarily for use as general quarters until the whole is completed. It is hoped that the specifications and requisite funds will permit the completion of the whole by the early part of 1925."

A short description of the new grounds and buildings follows:—

The club's new home will be an elegant and comfortable structure. As was outlined in Mr. Burns address last Sunday at the cutting of the first sod, it is the policy of the club to secure for members and friends a place of peace and tranquillity and a home-like atmosphere such as is not always encountered in China.

Working along these lines the Committee have secured this new piece of property consisting of 43 mow in Great Western Road for their new home. Situated within 20 minutes of the Bund by motor and a short distance from the present club house and within what is bound to be a popular residential district, the establishment will meet the needs of a large part of the membership, and its position will cause little inconvenience to those who reside the farthest away, thanks to the work done on Great Western Road. In order that site to the south of the throughfare, acquired a strip of land 60 ft. in width and 175 yards long and constructed a private roadway into the heart of the grounds. This may also be used as a parking space in addition to a large area reserved for that purpose to the side.

After consultation with the architects it was decided by those in charge to adopt the "Mission" style of building not only because of its simplicity and adaptibility to the climate and ease of construction (for Chinese labour), but also to conform with the policy of having everything restful for the family.

FACILITIES FOR SPORT.

Provision is being made in the new structure to give members the advantages which at present can only be obtained by belonging to several clubs. One of the most attractive features is an open-air swimming tank, 42 ft. wide and 100 ft. long, which is to be surrounded by a Spanish pergola. The space to one end will be allotted to spectators. The usual slides, diving boards and apparatus will be added. The refrigeration plant of the organization is to be diverted in winter-time to the pool and an artificial rink for ice skating will be the result. Further sporting activities will be housed in the gymnasium, 48 ft. by 80 ft. this being large enough for basketball. Adjacent to this room are four bowling alleys, while three squash courts to the rear, enclosed and roofed over, will give devotees an opportunity during the winter months and inclement weather to keep in trim.

The larger portion of the lawn has been designed to accommodate tennis players and courts of mud, asphalt and turf have been set out—20 double and eight singles. Additional lawns have been set aside for croquet, lawn bowls and clock golf and the minor sports which appeal to the individual. Surrounding these activities will be erected decorative devices drawn out by the landscape expert.

INDOOR RECREATIONS.

As a country club must also cater to the social wants of its members, the committee has arranged for space for cards, dancing, eating and drinking. A dining room, 32 ft. by 56 ft., bar and grill, 26 ft. by 42 ft. and a ball room nearly 100 feet long by half that distance in width, the clubhouse should not be on the road itself, the Committee after purchasing the principal are situated in the east end of the main building. Edging round the actual dancing surface is to be a raised circle 10 ft. in width to accommodate the tables at which those participating may be seated. The area will be large enough to allow 250 couples to dance in comfort. Towards the west are the card room and mah jongg room. The portion of the building which will appeal mostly to those desiring to lunch and lounge is the loggia, facing to the south, open in summer and glass-enclosed in winter while on a lower level is a much larger terrace directly facing the tennis courts.

— SOUTH ELEVATION —

This Sketch Shows what the New Columbia Country Club Will Look Like from Outside

The entire building is to be constructed of good quality local brick, lined with hollow bricks to allow for the dampness of the atmosphere of some seasons, and will be faced with stucco cement, rough trowelled. Foundations of reinforced concrete will form the basis for the structure while the roof will be of red Spanish tile.

THE CLUB'S ACTIVITIES.

The social activities of the club extend throughout the entire year, beginning with the New Year, Day "At Home" to the New Year's Eve party, 365 days later. March finds the Red Dog party in full swing, April has its Easter festivities for the children and a spring ball for the grown-ups, while July Fourth is celebrated in fitting style. The big Jinx party in October, the Hallowen Party (children) and October 31, the Thanksgiving dance and the Christmas party for the children are notable events, and every Sunday afternoon a tea dance takes place.

To meet the cost of building debentures to the extent of Tls. 350,000 have been issued which the finance committee report well subscribed. The club with a membership of over 400 is international in its scope, its members being of the different nationalities represented in Shanghai.

HARDING MEMORIAL

American Association to Raise Funds in China

The annual meeting of the American Association was held at the American Court on Thursday evening. Dr. W. T. Findley presided, supported by Messrs. George Brush, J. S. Potter, Leonard Everett, Major Bassett, and Captain Eisler.

With the adoption of the President's report and the treasurer's statement of accounts, the meeting proceeded to elect officers. Messrs. H. A. Wiley, E. C. Stocker, George Brush, Stirling Fessenden, E. L. McCloskey, J. B. Powell, J. Eichwald, Dr. W. T. Findley, Dr. C. S. Lincoln, Major Bassett and Capt. Eisler were chosen as the new Executive committee. From these Major Bassett was elected President in succession to Dr. W. T. Findley (retiring), Mr. E. C. Stocker Vice-President, Mr. J. B. Powell secretary and Mr. J. Eichwald treasurer.

A communication from the Harding Memorial Association of which the President of the United States, Mr. Calvin Coolidge, is honorary President and the Cabinet members are on the Executive Committee, was read. It invited Americans of China to associate themselves with the movement, Dr. Findley brought to the notice of the meeting the suggestion of Mr. Edwin S. Cunningham, U. S. Consul-General, that the Association should assist the scheme. It was resolved that the new committee should investigate the conditions of the Memorial. The Harding Association desire to raise funds amounting to G$2,000,000, of which $1,250,000 is to be devoted towards the actual construction of the monument and purchase and improvement of the Harding home, while the remaining three-eighths, $250,000, is to be invested and the interest applied to the upkeep. Should there be any surplus, it is to endow a chair in some American University.

A vote of thanks to the retiring committee was adopted and the assembly adjourned.

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FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

BRITISH LABOUR'S RISE TO POWER

Government's Defeat on Amendment to Address: Mr. Baldwins' Resignation: Mr. Ramsay Macdonald Summoned by the King to Take over the Premiership

PERSONNEL OF THE NEW CABINET

London, Jan. 18.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, Labour Member for Derby, resumed the debate on the Address from the Throne in the House of Commons to-day before a thin House. He said that the Labour Party did not regret and were not going to apologize for their association with the Internationalists. Labour was resolved to spare no efforts to give the world and civilization a common organization which would bring people together and enable then to understand each other. The more they understood each other, the more difficult it would be for other people to plunge them into war. (Loud Labour cheers.) He declared that British prestige had never been lowered so much as it was to-day.

The speaker declared that a situation was being created in Central Europe necessitating expenditure on our own defence. No party was entitled to claim party advantages out of danger to the nation. The Ministerialists asked how Labour was going to deal with France and by implication suggested that it would be by war, but it was not real friendship to pretend that all was well when it was not. No nation paid greater tribute to another nation paid greater tribute to anotner nation than we did to France, but that did not mean that, if we believed France was heading for disaster, we ought not to say so. God forbid that any word should be construed as meaning that Labour was anxious to break with France or to talk about war, but it was not surprising that France did not believe the Government and treated them with contempt in view of their vacillating policy.

Mr. Thomas described Mr. Asquith's speech yesterday as one of the greatest in his life.

The statements that the first steps of the Labour Government would be to corrupt the Army, the Navy and the police, to abolish marriage and to introduce free love, he declared, were rubbish. Decent men and women of all classes were anxious to remedy social conditions.

Mr. Thomas added that the Labour Party had graduated in a very hard school. They would make mistakes, but experience of the responsibility of government would good for them and in spite of difficulties, they would work with the single desire to make the country worthy of the citizens who showed patriotism in the time of the greatest trial.

The Dominions' Offer.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain said that the Government had plainly told France that they would not answer for the continuance of friendly relations if she continued to occupy the Ruhr. All desired to avoid war but it might come to a point when the nation had to choose whether to carry out its views by force or to take the other alternative. Mr. Thomas was opposed to war in any circumstances and it did not lie with him to accuse the Government of not taking action which would inevitably lead to war.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer begged the Labour Party not to dismiss hastily the Imperial preference proposals out of any pedantic theory. He emphasized the enormous importance of Dominion trade, instancing how preference had stimulated trade in Australia. He hoped that the Labour Government would treat the proposals with all the sympathy possible. Mr. Chamberlain predicted that the Labour Party would find it impossible to abolish all food taxes, and if they could be satisfied that the proposals were expedient, they might well, without departing from their principles, re-arrange the food duties so as to enable them to be carried out. The proposals were in the nature of a moral gesture and the direction in which the gesture was made might affect very seriously the future attitude of the Dominions to Britain, when a generation or two hence the Dominions were among the greatest nations of the earth. The action of the British Government to-day might determine the value they would be to the Empire and the help they would be to the people of Britain. (Cheers.)

A Chameleon Flag.

Mr. Chamberlain commended to the Liberals the letter from Mr. Churchill declaring that a Socialist Government would be a national misfortune. He said that the red flag appeared to resemble the chameleon in changing its shade according to its environment. If they always had speeches like Mr. Thomas's, he would call it only a very faded pink (laughter), but a powerful section of the Labour Party, which made up in vociferousness what it lacked in respect for the rules of the House, was determined to exercise a powerful influence on the fortunes of the Party. A prominent member of this section had recently declared that it would be political madness to leave the impression that the Labour movement did not menace the vested interests (loud Labour cheers) and it would be betrayal of those who voted for them unless they destroyed Liberalism.

The speaker added that the Imperial preference proposals would not affect the question of unemployment now, but they would have a profound effect on trade and employment in Britain in the future, perhaps the not very distant future (cheers).

Duty to Women and Children.

The Duchess of Atholl (Conservative member for Kinross) in her maiden speech supported the Government's proposals to develop juvenile unemployment centres, to protect children born out of wedlock, to amend the law relating to maintenance and separation orders and to call an agricultural conference. She declared that if the Liberals elected with the help of Conservative votes were true to their election pledges, they would save their Party the odium of turning out the Government.

Mr. George Lambert (Liberal Member for South Molton) emphasized the necessity for continuity in foreign affairs. He said that he would vote for the amendment without enthusiasm, reserving liberty of judgement.

The debate was then adjourned until Monday.—Reuter.

Mr. Churchill's Gloom

London, Jan. 18.

Few members of the House of Commons yesterday evening were aware of the issue of Mr. Churchill's manifesto which caused a flutter in political circles when the contents became known.

Sympathizers with Mr. Churchill's point of view expressed the opinion that his eleventh hour intervention was too late to affect the Liberal wavereres as the Liberal members generally were undoubtedly delighted with Mr. Asquith's speech and the Labour Members still anticipate an Opposition majority of at least 70 on Monday night.

The Whips of all parties have warned members not to leave London for the week-end as the railway strike, which is now regarded as inevitable, may prevent them from returning in time for the division.

In connexion with Mr. Winston Churchill's letter it is noteworthy that the Parliamentary Industrial Group have given notice of an amendment to the Address saying that, as an overwhelming majority of the members returned are definitely against Socialism, it would be a violation of the expressed will of the electorate to place in power a Government which manifestly cannot on its own declared policy effectively carry on the administration.

The Defeat of the Government

London, Jan. 21.

The Government was defeated in the House of Commons tonight. The Labour amendment to the Address from the Throne was adopted by 328 votes to 256.

After the division had been taken on the Labour amendment, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald requested the House to adopt the Address forthwith and let the House meet the new Government. Amid strong Conservative protest the amended Address was carried by 328 votes to 251.

The Inquest on the Government.

Cries of "Speech," at question-time in the House of Commons to-day when ardent Members pressed supplementaries marked the impatience of the Members to reach the final stages of the decisive debate.

The debate was resumed by Sir John Simon, Liberal Member for Spen Valley, Yorkshire, who described the proceedings as not the execution of the Government, but the inquest on them. When referring to the Labour Party, Sir John Simon was exhorted by the Ministerialists to call them the Socialist Party. He did so amid loud back bench Labour cheers. He continued that he would support liberal measures and would oppose unliberal measures proposed by Labour, declaring that the verdict of the elections showed that the country was as firmly opposed to Socialism as to Protection, but the vast majority favoured the new spirit of Government.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Conservative Member for West Birmingham, said that Sir John Simon's speech reminded him of the dog who "to gain his private ends went mad and bit a man" (loud laughter). Nobody would be in the Socialist camp sooner than Sir John Simon when that camp became popular (Ministerial cheers). Mr. Chamberlain predicted that Mr. Asquith would be the last Liberal Prime Minister and that the country at the next election would vote Labour or Conservative.

Miss Margaret Bondfield, Labour Member for Northampton, in her maiden speech said that the arguments of Sir John Simon and Mr. Austen Chamberlain had little to do with the paramount question of unemployment and proceeded to make an attack on the Government for failing to deal with it.

Naval Construction.

Mr. L. C. M. S. Amery, the First Lord of the Admiralty, dealt with the Government's special programme of naval construction with a view to relieving unemployment in the shipbuilding centres. The Government proposed to lay down immediately eight light-cruisers of 10,000 tons, armed with 8-inch guns, three of which would be constructed in the Royal Naval Dockyards and the remainder would be submitted for tender. In addition to this special unemployment programme, this year's programme would include three submarines and one submarine depot-ship, two destroyers and one destroyer depot-ship, two gunboats for special service in the Persian Gulf, one aircraft-carrier and one mine-layer, all of which were urgently needed. The whole programme would employ 32,000 men and would involve a special addition of £5,000,000 to the Navy estimates. Mr. Amery was confident that the present Opposition were not indifferent to the needs of naval security and the urgent situation in the shipbuilding yards, but would give the proposals prompt and sympathetic consideration when Parliament reassembled.

The Premier's Speech.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, who was loudly cheered by the Ministerialists, termed Mr. Asquith an obstetric physician about to bring a child into the world and saying, "If this child is not such as I fancy when it is born, I shall smother it" (Ministerial laughter and cheers). He declared that the Liberal Party only got its numbers at the last election by telling the voters to keep out the Socialist Party.

Mr. Baldwin reviewed the Government's achievements, like the settlement of the American debt, the maintenance of the *entente* with Turkey and the practical settlement of the Tangier question and the boot-legging difficulties with the United States, leaving relations with the United States better than they had ever been. He said that the Government would leave their successors no outstanding problems (Opposition cries of "Oh!") except reparations, which were looking more hopeful, and unemployment.

A Clean Conscience.

The responsibility for the policy with which the Party went to the country, Mr. Baldwin said was his alone. He had not been driven into it by someone else, but the decision to go to the coutry was the decision of the united Government. He had a clear conscience.

The Prime Minister declared that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald would not be able to build up a Socialist State on the shifting sands of one-fifth of the national vote. The Conservatives looked to the future confidently and without apprehension, standing on three basic principles, namely, maintenance of the institutions of the Empire, preservation and development of the Empire, and improvement of the conditions of our own people. He asserted that the future lay between the Labour Party and the Conservatives.

Referring to the decision to go to the country, Mr. Baldwin said that he had for himself no regrets but many for those who fell in the fight.

Liberals and Socialism.

Captain F. E. Guest, Liberal Member for East Dorset, intimated that he would support the Labour amendment in order to condemn Protection, but wanted other amendments taken in order to give the Liberals an opportunity of recording anti-Socialist views, otherwise he would vote against the closure.

Commander J. M. Kenworthy, Independent Liberal Member for Central Hull, declared that the Conservatives during the past five years had disgraced the British name in Ireland, India and Russia.

The galleries were packed for the concluding stage of the debate, the spectators including the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York.

Labour Leader's Address.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald said that the House was going to take a step which he believed with all his heart and soul would be marked in the history of the country for good. He appealed to the House, if the amendment were decisively carried, then to adopt the Address forthwith and let the House meet the new Government. The remainder of the sentence was drowned by Ministerial and some Liberal cries of "No!"

Resuming Mr. Macdonald said that a Labour Government might create many fears, but what would be still worse would be action which would degrade the House, bring it to a deadlock, produce a sort of stalemate and thus show their incapacity to govern. He claimed that the chief reason for the foreign position improving was the prospect of a change of Government. One of the great continental diplomatists had said to him: "Since you had an election in England the ice, which was getting thicker round about us, is beginning to break."

Sir Douglas Hogg, the Attorney-General, wound up the debate for the Government.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald thereupon moved the closure, which was carried without a division. The House then divided and adopted the Labour amendment to the Address from the Throne by 328 votes to 256.

Amended Address Adopted.

Immediately after the division, which was taken in the keenest excitement, Mr. Macdonald claimed the main question, namely, that the Address be put. The Speaker accepted this, which is allowable, thus wiping out the other amendments. Amid strong Conservative protests the amended Address was then carried by 328 votes to 251.

On Mr. Stanley Baldwin's motion the House adjourned until to-morrow.

There were wild Labour cheers as Mr. Ramsay Macdonald left the chamber. Mr. Stanley Baldwin was also rousingly cheered by his supporters as he departed.

The following Liberals voted for the Government: Sir Beddoe Rees (South Bristol), Sir Thomas Robinson (Stretford, Lancs.), Sir Ellis Griffith (Anglesey), Mr. C. H. Duckworth (—), Mr. Hugh Edwards (Accrington), Mr. John Leng Sturrock (Montrose Burghs), Mr. H. Hogbin (North Battersea), Mr. W. A. Jenkins (Brecon & Radnershire), Mr. W. E. Robinson (? Chelmsford), and Colonel Abraham England (Heywood & Radcliffe).

The Premier Resigns.

London, Jan. 22.

Mr. Stanley Baldwin has resigned.

Mr. Macdonald's Responsibility.

Later.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald is forming a Cabinet.

"It is not a moment for elation, it is a terrible responsibility. Fail or succeed, no Government responsible for affairs will more honestly try to serve."

These were the words in which Mr. Ramsay Macdonald replied to congratulations on the result of the division and judging by the present attitude of the Liberals as holders of the balance of power, Mr. Macdonald is embarking on an historic adventure assisted by much sympathy and goodwill.—Reuter.

Personnel of the Cabinet

London, Jan. 22.

The personnel of the Cabinet is officially announced as follow:—

Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald.

Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. J. H. Thomas.

Secretary of State for India, Sir Sydney Olivier.

First Lord of the Admiralty, Viscount Chelmsford.

Secretary of State for War, Mr. Stephen Walsh.

Lord High Chancellor, Viscount Haldane.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Philip Snowden.

Lord Privy Seal and Deputy Leader of the House of Commons, Mr. J. R. Clynes.

Lord President of the Council, Lord Parmoor.

Secretary of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Arthur Henderson.

Minister of Labour, Mr. Thomas Shaw.

Postmaster-General, Mr. Vernon Hartshorn.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Colonel Josiah Wedgwood.

First Commissioner of Works, Mr. F. W. Jowett.

Secretary of State for Air, Brigadier-General C. B. Thomson.

President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Sidney Webb.

President of the Ministry of Health, Mr. John Wheatley.

President of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Noel Buxton.

Secretary for Scotland, Mr. William Adamson.

President of the Board of Education, Mr. C. P. Trevelyan.

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

Water Supply.

Further correspondence with the Waterworks Company in continuation of that published in the issues of the Gazette of April 18 and June 21, 1923:—

Shanghai, Dec. 12, 1923.

SIR,—I am directed to refer to your letter of May 31, 1923, my reply of June 5, to the visit of the Treasurer and Comptroller and the Commissioner of Public Works on September 4, and to the interview between the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of this Company on November 19. At this last interview the Chairman of the Council, on hearing that the Company had received a telegram containing the opinion of Sir John Simon, K.C., requested that the Council be informed of this in writing.

Sir John Simon, K.C.'s opinion is that the Company cannot be compelled to accept a price based on maintainable income.

The attitude of my Directors in adhering to their demand for a price based on the value of the Company's assets, as more fully set forth in my letter of April 13, 1923, is the result of advice obtained from experts in England; they desire me to express a hope that the Council will appreciate that they cannot do otherwise than follow this advice including as it does the opinion of Sir John Simon, K.C., stated above.

In addition, my Directors' attention has been drawn to a considerable discussion in the United States of America on the valuation of public undertakings of this nature to determine the price payable for the same by Municipal and other similar Authorities, which discussion culminated in a decision of the Supreme Court this year that the value of any such undertaking is properly measured by the cost of its reproduction, or, more elaborately, the cost of construction to-day at prevailing prices of materials and labour.

I am directed to draw the Council's especial attention to the fact that the Company has been required to expend large capital sums to maintain and improve the efficiency of the service, that during the same period the cost of supply and the consumption per head have very largely increased, but that the Company has enjoyed no commensurate increase in revenue during the same period.

I am further directed to urge my Directors' desire for an expression of the Council's views as soon as possible, to point out that the negotiations for a new Agreement began a considerable time ago, and that the Company is only reasonable in asking for some early decision, either that the undertaking is to be purchased, or that a new Agreement is to be made.

F. B. PITCAIRN,
Engineer-in-Chief & Manager,
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.

E. S. B. ROWE, Esq.,
Acting Secretary,
Municipal Council.

Council Chamber.
Shanghai, December 17, 1923.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 12, on the subject of the method of computing the purchase price in the event of the municipalization of the Waterworks undertaking, and informing the Council of the opinion of Sir John Simon, K.C.

In reply, I have to inform you that this matter is receiving the Council's careful attention and that I shall address you further on the subject in due course.

E. S. B. ROWE.
Acting Secretary.

F. B. PITCAIRN, Esq.,
Engineer-in-Chief & Manager,
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.

Council Chamber,
Shanghai, January 18, 1924.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of December 12, 1923, and to former correspondence relative to the purchase of your Company by the Municipality, I am now directed to inform you that for some time past the Treasurer and Comptroller has been engaged on an investigation of your Company's accounts with a view to preparing for the Council's consideration a counter offer to that contained in your letter of April 13 last.

At the conference which took place on September 4 between officials representing the Company and the Council, a verbal intimation was given of the Council's attitude on the question of the "basis of valuation," which was to the effect that the price to be paid should be based on an agreed number of years' purchase of the net maintainable profits. The tenor of your letter now under reply, however, suggests that any attempt to discuss the matter on comprehensive lines would at the present time be valueless by reason of the fundamental difference of opinion which exists on the basis of valuation to be taken. If it is possible to reach an agreement on this all-important principle, the Council is of opinion that the remaining points at issue could be reconciled without any great difficulty by local Chartered Accountants acting for either side, thus avoiding what may possibly develop into a long and costly arbitration. To enable your Directors to appreciate more fully the grounds upon which the Council's attitude is based, extracts are appended from a Joint Opinion from the Hon. Sir Malcolm McNaghten, K.C., and Mr. S. B. J. Merlin —

"It is to be observed that, although the contract provides that in the event of the Company and the Council failing to agree as to the price to be paid, such price should be fixed by arbitration, it does not prescribe on what basis the arbitrators or umpire (as the case may be) should ascertain and fix the price. All that the contract does is to prescribe the subject matter of the sale namely, "the Company's business and undertaking" and "all the lands, buildings, plant, machinery and effects belonging to the Company.

Since, however, the subject matter of the sale is an undertaking for the public supply of water to the inhabitants of Shanghai, we think that the arbitrators or umpire ought to value the property, the subject matter of the sale, on that basis and on no other; that is to say, they ought to have regard to the profits which the property will earn as an undertaking for the public supply of water and disregard the value which any particular parts of the property might have if used for some other purpose.

For the purpose of ascertaining what profits the undertaking will earn in the future the arbitrators or umpire should ascertain the profits which the undertaking earns at the present time; and they should consider whether those profits will in the future be maintained, or increased, or diminished. Having ascertained what in their opinion is likely to be the net maintainable trading profit of the Company year by year, the arbitrators or umpire should award so many years purchase of that net maintainable profit.

The dividends paid by the Company in recent years are, in our opinion, irrelevant on the question of price. These dividends may have been much less than the profits earned by the Company in recent years; on the other hand they may have been provided out of profits accumulated in past years and considerably exceed the profits actually earned in the years for which such dividends were paid.

So also the appreciation of the capital assets such as land and the pumping plant is, in our opinion, irrelevant. So far as the land is concerned it must be treated as appropriated for the purpose of the water undertaking. The fact, if it be a fact, that the land could be sold for a high price for some other purpose than that of a water undertaking, ought, in our opinion, to be entirely disregarded. With regard to the pumping plant, we apprehend that this cannot have appreciated in value, except in the sense that the cost of erecting such plant to-day would be greater than the cost that was actually incurred in erecting it. But this fact is also, in our opinion, irrelevant. The question which the arbitrators or umpire have got to consider is not what it would cost to-day to buy the land and erect the plant, but what is the value to-day of the land and the plant for the purposes of a water undertaking. That must, as we think, depend upon what profit can be derived from the undertaking as a whole, though the condition of the works, including the pumping plant, must, of course, be one of the factors which have to be taken into consideration in estimating the capacity of the undertaking to continue to earn profits.

There are also various other matters which will have to be taken into consideration in arriving at the price payable, e.g.,

The debenture or mortgage debt of the Company may or may not be taken over by the Council; if it is taken over by the Council, then the annual interest, which has been payable upon that debt hitherto, would have to be deducted from the net maintainable trading profit for the purpose of fixing the price.

The Company cannot make any claim for compensation in respect of the fact that the undertaking is acquired compulsorily since the Council have an absolute right to purchase under Clause 9 of the Agreement of 1905, and the considerationn for such compulsory purchase has already passed to the Company."

I am directed to express the hope that the detailed support of the Council's views outlined above will influence your Directors to reconsider their attitude on the question of basis of valuation, and on this assumption I am authorized to state that the Council is prepared (subject to the Ratepayers' approval to be sought at the next Annual Meeting) to purchase the Company's business and undertaking, and all the land, buildings, plant, machinery and effects belonging to the Company at a price to be arrived at on the basis of 15.3846 years' purchase of the profits earned during the year 1922. Your Directors can rest assured that should this basis be agreed upon, the resulting negotiations will be conducted by the Council's representatives in as conciliatory a spirit as possible, having due regard to the conflicting interests involved. The actual amount of the purchase price cannot be definitely ascertained at the present stage as it will depend very largely on the question as to whether or not the Council is prepared to take over the debenture obligations of the Company.

I am also directed to refer to Resolution 6 passed at the Annual Meeting held on April 18, 1923, and to inform you that the Council is advised that the effect of passing this Resolution, with the *proviso* contained in Sub-section 3, is that the Council cannot exercise the powers already definitely entrusted to them except with the authority of a Special Meeting at which a quorum is present. Under the circumstances it may be necessary to lay the whole matter *de novo* before the Ratepayers at the next Annual Meeting.

In order to meet the views of your Directors as to an early expression of the Council's views on the matter of purchase, it is now suggested that this letter be accepted by your Directors as an intimation of the Council's intention to purchase, subject to confirmation at the next meeting of Ratepayers.

E. S. B. ROWE,
Acting Secretary.

F. B. PITCAIRN, Esq.,
Engineer-in-Chief & Manager,
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.

Tramways.

Council Chamber,
Shanghai, January 15, 1924.

SIR,—With reference to your letters of August 30, and September 18, 1923, on the subject of Fares and Sections, I am directed to inform you that the Council has assented to the proposals therein contained, and that there is no objection therefore to your putting them into effect accordingly.

E. S. B. ROWE,
Acting Secretary.

D. MCCOLL, Esq.,
General Manager,
Shanghai Electric Construction Co., Ld.

Police Report for December.

Serious Crime.—This includes the murder of a pawnshop assistant who was shot at and fatally wounded on December 5 by armed robbers at a shop on Woosung Road where he was employed; the attempted murder of a member of the Police Reserve who, whilst functioning with a search party on the night of December 12, was fired at and seriously wounded by one of the members of an armed gang which was attempting to cross the Fokien Road Bridge in a motor car; the murder of a Chinese who was fatally stabbed in an alleyway off Tongshan Road on December 25 during a quarrel arising out of an affair connected with a woman; and the murder of a coolie who was fatally wounded by a bullet fired by armed robbers in the Harbin Road District on December 31. Six arrests were made in the first mentioned instance, two in the second, four in the third and six in the last. All the accused were under remand at the end of the month. One man arrested on a charge of murder committed in Kompo district in October last was handed over to the Chinese authorities concerned.

The case against the foreigner charged with the attempted murder of a Chinese female on November 3 was concluded on December 11 when he was acquitted. One further arrest was made, in addition to the man already in custody, in connexion with the murder of a Chinese in a field off Kwenming Road on November 11. In this case one of the accused was sent to the Court of the Military Governor while the other received a sentence of two years' imprisonment. The case of attempted murder in the Wayside District on November 19, mention of which was made in my report for November, was concluded during the month when the four accused were sentenced to imprisonment. A Cantonese who has been sought for since the end of 1919 in connexion with a murder perpetrated in a teashop on December 12, 1919 was captured during the month, tried and sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment.

Robbery.—Ten reports of armed robbery from dwelling houses and shops and two of armed highway robbery were received during the month. In three instances where an alarm was given shots were fired by the robbers, resulting in the wounding of four persons, two of whom subsequently died. In connexion with the foregoing and reports of armed robberies occurring prior to December 1, sixteen persons in possession of four pistols and two revolvers were arrested. Two were sentenced to imprisonment and the remaining fourteen were under remand at the end of the month. Three men arrested for armed robbery in territory under Chinese jurisdiction were handed over to the Chinese authorities concerned, and five men apprehended in connexion with an armed robbery committed in the French Concession were handed over to the French Police. Six of the sixteen persons mentioned in my report for November as being under remand charged with armed robbery, were dealt with, two being remitted to the Court of the Military Governor, three to imprisonment and one to expulsion from the Settlement. The trial of the remaining ten had not concluded at the end of the month.

Property Stolen.—527 reports made under this heading during the month represent a total estimated loss of $115,662 and include 28 cases of burglary, 12 of house-breaking, 7 of godown-breaking and 8 of shop and office-breaking. Successful investigation was made in 168 cases, resulting in the recovery of property valued at $53,151, in addition to which recoveries to the extent of $12,155 were made in connexion with reports received prior to December 1.

Trafficking in Firearms.—Three foreigners arrested in connexion with the traffic in firearms were sentenced respectively to 18 months, 6 months and 20 days' imprisonment. Eighteen pistols and revolvers were seized together with 595 rounds of ammunition. Eight automatic pistols were seized by a Police search party in the Settlement on December 10. The carriers made good their escape.

Hwo Wei Lottery.—Eleven Chinese were charged in connexion with the promotion of Hwo Wei lotteries and sentences ranging from a month's imprisonment to a fine of $3.00 were inflicted.

Crime beyond Settlement Limits.—Three cases of murder and fourteen of robbery and piracy were reported during the month as having occurred in territory under Chinese jurisdiction in the neighbourhood of Shanghai. In four instances the occupants of houses or boats plundered received bullet or knife wounds. Three boatmen were carried off and held to ransom.

Executions.—Eight Chinese, six of whom had been found guilty of armed robbery within the Settlement limits and two of the murder of a Chinese female in the Wayside District, were executed at Lunghua in the presence of representatives of the Municipal Police. Eight prisoners, found guilty of armed robbery, attempted murder and piracy outside Settlement limits, were also executed during the month, six at Lunghua and two outside the West Gate of Paoshan City.

Fire Brigade Report for December.

The total number of calls received was 47, of which 40 were genuine fires, 36 (including one chimney fire) occurring within the Settlement and four outside. The remaining seven were either false alarms, or else not traced.

The damage on assessed property within the Settlement was estimated at Tls. 11,000 (Foreign Tls. 250: Chinese Tls. 10,750), whilst the property at risk was estimated at Tls. 2,512,000 (Foreign Tls. 1,860,000: Chinese Tls. 652,000).

Six lives were lost at fires during the month, and nine other persons (including three firemen) were injured.

Three houses were destroyed and 34 were damaged.

In dealing with these calls Brigade machines travelled approximately 408 miles. Hose used 25,260 feet, and time occupied approximately 175 hours.

December 6, 7.54 a.m., 11 55 Newchwang Road.—These premises were practically gutted on arrival. A girl aged eight years lost her life, and four other persons and three firemen were injured.

December 18, 4.08 p.m. LC 4 SeZang Line—off Canton Road.—Four bodies were found in the debris and a woman was badly burnt about the face and body.

Loss (1923).—The total loss during the year on buildings and contents within the Settlement is estimated at Tls. 253,513 (Foreign Tls. 69,715: Chinese Tls. 183,798) being an increase of Tls. 18,210 on the previous year. It is interesting to note that excluding the abnormal fire at North Soochow Road in 1921, the average loss for the past four years has been under 2¾ lakhs, i.e., Tls. 267,630.

Risk (1923).—The total property at risk on buildings and contents within the Settlement is estimated at Tls. 18,542,665 (Foreign Tls. 14,943,980; Chinese Tls. 3,598,685) being an increase of Tls. 493,965 on the figures of the previous year. A risk is considered as Foreign when the building comes under the Foreign Building Rules, and Chinese when under the Chinese Building Rules.

FURTHER MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT

London, Jan. 23.

The following additional Ministerial appointments have been announced:—

Minister of Pensions, Mr. F. O. Roberts.

Attorney-General, Mr. Patrick Hastings.

Solicitor-General, Mr. H. H. Slesser.

Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. William Graham.

Financial Secretary to the War Office, Mr. John James Lawson.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip, Mr. Ben Spoor.

Under Secretaries.

India, Professor Robert Richards.

War, Major C. R. Attlee.

Colonies, Mr. Sydney Arnold.

Foreign Affairs, Mr. Arthur Ponsonby.

Home Affairs, Mr. Rhys John Davies.

Health (Scotland), Mr. James Stewart.

Parliamentary Secretaries.

Admiralty, Mr. C. G. Ammon.

Agriculture, Mr. Walter R. [illegible].

Board of Trade, Mr. A. V. Alexander.

Education, Mr. Morgan Jones.

Health, Mr. Arthur Greenwood.

Labour, Miss Margaret Bondfield.

Mines, Mr. Emanuel Shinwell.

Overseas Trade, Mr. William Lunn.

All the foregoing are members of the House of Commons except Mr. H. H. Slesser, the Solicitor-General, and Mr. Sydney Arnold, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A Discussion of Policy.

Later.

A *communiqué* states that at a meeting of the Cabinet to-day which lasted two hours, preliminary decisions were taken with regard to a number of questions, including unemployment, housing, agriculture and those affecting ex-Service men, with a view to effecting immediate improvements in the administration and working out the details of the policy to be announced when Parliament meets.

Later.

The Stock Exchange opened to-day with a confident disposition. The Cabinet appointments are viewed favourably. Gilt-edged securities were one half per cent. above yesterday's closing rates. Consols were quoted at 55½ and War Loan at 99⅝. Railways were a half to one point higher, and industrials also participated in the rise.

Small Committees for Domestic Phases of Policy.

Jan. 24.

An interesting innovation in the Cabinet system was agreed to at yesterday's meeting of the Cabinet in the shape of a plan for small committees to deal with separate phases in the domestic policy and to prepare schemes and decisions for the full Cabinet to enable the latter to devote its time to a broad policy.

Mr. William Leach has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for Air.—Reuter.

India's Approval.

Bombay, Jan. 24.

The constitution of the British Ministry is generally acclaimed as a able, well-qualified combination.

The "Hindu," a Madras daily paper, publishes a message from Mr. Ramsay Macdonald pleading for peace and goodwill between India and Great Britain and declaring that "no party in Britain can be moved by threats of force or measures designed to bring government to a standstill, and if any Indian sections imagine such events will sadly disappoint them."—Reuter.

U.S. Socialist's Message of Congratulation.

Washington, Jan. 23.

Mr Victor Berger, the only Socialist Member of Congress, has cabled congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, adding: "To-day Americanism and Capitalism have come to mean the same thing. The working class of Britain is the hope of the white race and the world. Therefore, down with the hellish Versailles Treaty." — Reuter's American Service.

GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO MANY QUERIES

Empire Wireless: Singapore Base: White Crews for British Steamers

London, Jan. 21.

In the House of Commons to-day Sir Laming Worthington Evans, the Postmaster-General, stated that no agreement had been reached between the Post Office and Marconi's with regard to Empire wireless.

Mr. L. C. M. S. Amery, the First Lord of the Admiralty, told Captain A. U. H. Hudson, Conservative Member for East Islington, that the Admiralty did not propose to abandon the Singapore scheme.

Replying to Lieut.-Comdr. A. Cooper Rawson, Conservative Member for Brighton, who asked whether regulations could be adopted for manning passenger ships with white crews, thereby contributing to the greater safety and comfort of passengers and to the relief of unemployment in Britain, Lord Wolmer, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, said that the exclusion of Lascars, who were mainly British subjects, from British ships would require legislation and there were very serious objections to any such proposal.

Anglo-Persian Oil Shares.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, informed Commander Kenworthy that the proposal for the sale of the Government's shares in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company had first been made by the Managing Director of the Burma Oil Company, but it was understood that the Shell and the Royal Dutch Companies were also interested.

Replying to further questions, Mr. Neville Chamberlain said that the Anglo-Persian Board had not been officially consulted. The Government did not feel able to take a final decision as it had intended to refer the matter to a Cabinet committee prior to a decision. The two Government directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company had been consulted, but it would not be in the public interest to disclose exactly what their advice was, because the question was undecided and might be decided by some Government in the future, who would desire to have the information given to them.

Asked who conducted the negotiations on behalf of the Government, Mr. Chamberlain said that the proposals had originally been submitted to the President of the Board of Trade. He himself, the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretary of State for War had also been consulted.—Reuter.

THE RAILWAY STRIKE IN BRITAIN

Mr. Thomas's Call to Men Not to Repudiate Representatives' Undertakings

London, Jan. 18.

An important circular issued by the National Union of Railwaymen this morning, signed by Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Parliamentary Secretary, and Mr. C. T. Cramp, the Industrial Secretary, declares that it is incumbent upon all members of the Union to realize that the honour and prestige of the Union are at stake.

Any member ceasing work is a blackleg to the signature of his accredited representatives and a traitor to the decision of the special general meeting.

The circular appeals to all members to be loyal to the Union and to the great causes of trade-unionism and collective bargaining.

Jan. 19.

Mr. J. Bromley, the secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, has issued a statement declaring that he is astounded by the circular of Mr. J. H. Thomas cabled yesterday. Publicity is thus given to the disagreement between the railway leaders, which threatens to nullify the earnest efforts of intermediaries who, under the auspices of the General Council of the Trade Union Congress, conducted negotiations throughout yesterday in an effort to effect a setltement. The negotiations were adjourned until to-day.

Twenty thousand drivers belonging to the national Union of Railwaymen will remain at work thus enabling essential skeleton services to be carried on. The air transport companies are mobilizing every machine.

The Ministry of Transport is planning food conveyance by road, but the steadiness of prices in the commodity markets, especially coal, bespeak prevailing confidence that the strike will be short-lived.

Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., presided at the meeting this morning of the Council of the Trade Union Congress and the three railway unions. The fact that the secretary of the Council, Mr. J. Bromley, arrived late is interpreted optimistically. It is understood that he interviewed the railway managers with a view to settlement.—Reuter.

Further Discussion.

London, Jan. 20.

A day of crowded industrial conferences ended at 2.30 this morning when it was announced that the delegates of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen had refused to agree to tentative proposals which had been drawn up as a result of an earlier meeting of the General Council of the Trade Union Congress and the railway managers, but there still remains a possibility of another meeting with the managers to-day. After the fruitless meeting of the delegates of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen with the General Council yesterday morning, the latter immediately requested a meeting with the managers and suggested temporary postponement of the wages award. The meeting adjourned to-day to enable the railwaymen to discuss the proposals separately with the aforementioned result.—Reuter.

Failure of Efforts to Mediate by Trades Union Congress

London, Jan. 20.

It transpires that the representatives of the Trades Union Congress Council and the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen sat separately and never held a joint conference, although Mr. Fred Bramley, the secretary of the Council, consulted the executive and reported the efforts of the Council to meet the grievances of the Union.

The Council representatives, while awaiting the call from the Union, sang songs led by Mr. Ben Tillett, M.P. They appeared very disappointed at the failure of their efforts at mediation and at the decision of the executive to proceed with the strike.

Mr. Bramley stated that, as far as the Council were concerned, there would be no further conference with the railway managers to-day. The Union's decision had rendered this unnecessary.

Mr. John Bromley, the secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, said that the position was exactly the same as before the intervention of the Trades Union Congress Council, whose efforts had been rendered abortive by the attitude of the railway managers. The arrangements for the strike would stand. He had every confidence in the loyalty of the men to fight it out to a successful issue.

Railway Managers' Terms.

Later.

The railway managers have issued a statement that the terms which were agreed on between the Trades Union Congress and the managers yesterday, but which were rejected by the Locomotive Engineers' Society, were as follows:—

Provided the strike notices are withdrawn, the companies give the assurance that an immediate meeting with the two unions concerned will be held with a view to considering and alleviating any hardships affecting individuals or groups of individuals arising out of the findings of the Railway Wages Board, which after discussion both sides are satisfied should be so alleviated. Any agreement reached would be applied immediately. The companies also give the assurance that there will be no dismissals arising out of the application of the decisions.

Labour circles now regard the railway strike as inevitable. It is learned that the decision of the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen was due to the refusal of the railway companies to offer putting the Wages Award into operation.

There is considerable uncertainty with regard to the attitude of the members of the National Union of Railwaymen. It is believed that many of them will support the Locomotive Engineers' Society.

A Strike Inevitable.

Later.

Determination to adhere to their decision to go on strike marked the crowded final meeting of the London members of the Locomotive Engineers' Society, held at the South London Palace this evening.

The secretary of the Society, Mr. John Bromley, was warmly received and greeted with cries of "Honest John" and "We are going to strike back!"

Mr. Bromley declared that he had received a message threatening to shoot him if the strike occurred, but such a threat would not prevent their protest. The general managers of the railways seemed to believe only in their pound of flesh. He contended that the men paid on a mileage basis would lose 20 per cent. under the award and said that the Society were determined to stop the never-ending slide down into pre-war conditions.

The speaker continued that they would not object to any Government running mails and carrying food for the people, but any Government, even a Labour Government, which helped to run private railways during the strike, would be black-legging. They would stop nine-tenths of the passenger and goods trains.

Mr. Bromley asserted that the companies had been told that the Union were bluffing, but at mid-night they would have the surprise of their lives. He intended to go calmly to bed knowing that their men would cease work at midnight from one end of the country to the other.

The Strike Started

Jan. 21.

The headquarters of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen shortly after mid-night announced that the strike had officially started and that the men had obeyed the call throughout the country.

Later.

Early morning reports throughout the country confirm the claim of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen that its members are striking solidly. Few cases are also reported of men of the National Union of Railwaymen striking in sympathy. Thus members of both unions have made it a common cause at Warrington while a number of N.U.R. men at Crewe are acting as strike pickets.

The most optimistic strike timetable is that of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, which is promising 60 per cent. of the normal service, but the extent of N.U.R. defection on which everything depends cannot be determined until later in the day.

Stoppage of Traffic Only Partial.

Later.

While Paddington is congested with derelict mainline trains, the situation in the other London termini is not so bad. All officials at Waterloo stated this morning that two or three mainline trains had been run since midnight and that the suburban trains were arriving very well. St. Pancras is comparatively busy. An official at Euston optimistically declared that they could get passengers on their system anywhere to-day with luck.

It is understood that the railways, buses and trams were crowded to capacity this morning, while thousands of motor-cars were employed to bring workers to the city.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 21.

Mr. John Bromley, the secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, stated this morning that the response to the strike call had exceeded expectations, and asserted that the position would strengthen in the next two or three days. He claimed that locomotive engineers belonging to the National Union of Railwaymen were in a great many cases already with the strikers.

Contrary to Mr. Bromley's claim, it is stated at the offices of the railway managers that a vast majority of drivers and firemen belonging to the National Union of Railwaymen are remaining loyal to the Union. A few men here and there have struck in sympatly with Mr. Bromley's Union, but most of the N. U. R. men reported for work this morning and more are expected this evening.

Reports from various parts of the country this afternoon show that the railway stoppage is only partial. Substantial services are being maintained. Boat trains are running from Victoria and from Waterloo.

Inter-Union strife in connexion with the strike is further exemplified by the fact that the N. U. R. executive have telegraphed to the secretaries of their branches throughout the country declaring that Mr. Bromley's speech last night "clearly shows that efforts are being made to prejudice the position of our Union for propaganda purposes and to disintegrate our organization. It is therefore imperative that our men should be solid in their loyalty to their organization."—Reuter.

The Labour Government's Dilemma.

London, Jan 22.

All eyes are watching to see how the new Government will deal with the strike which, although in no way complete, seems more serious than the statements of the companies before the strike foreshadowed. The National Union men are generally carrying on. Little inconvenience to travellers is reported in a number of centres, notably in Birmingham and Manchester, and mails are everywhere being handled expeditiously, but N.U.R. defections in several districts have upset the temporary schedules and have caused severe disorganization, especially in the South of England. Liverpool Street and Waterloo stations closed down early yesterday evening. An indication of erratic running is provided by the Scottish express which arrived six hours late. Up to the present the Ministry of Transport considers it unnecessary to provide food transport, although plans for it have been prepared.—Reuter.

4,000 Welsh Colliers out of Work

London, Jan. 22.

The chief feature of the railway strike continues to be the conflict between the leaders of the National Union of Railwaymen and of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

Mr. Thomas Cramp, the industrial secretary of the N. U. R., in a statement this morning declared that the position was even better than yesterday, dwelling on the loyalty of the members of his union, in spite of the offen

An Audience with the King.

Later.

The Baldwin Cabinet held its final meeting this morning, after which the Prime Minister motored to Buckingham Palace and tendered his resignation. He advised his Majesty to summon Mr. Ramsay Macdonald.

Mr. Macdonald arrived at the Palace at noon, accompanied by Messrs. Clynes and Thomas and other Labour leaders. The audience lasted for an hour and Mr. Macdonald was sworn in as a Privy Councillor.

The Labour leader received an ovation as he left the Palace.

The party analysis of yesterday evening's division on the Labour amendment to the Address was as follows:—

Majority—187 Labour Members, 147 Liberals, 2 Irish Nationalists and 2 Independents.

Minority—245 Conservatives, 10 Liberals and 1 Independent.

Eight women voted, five against and three for the Government.

The House Adjourned

Later.

The House of Commons was crowded to-day. Mr. J. H. Thomas provided a novelty in dress for Labour members, appearing in a morning coat. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald entered later, attired in a frock coat which is the regulation dress for an audience at Buckingham Palace. He took a seat on the front Opposition bench and was greeted with Labour cheers.

Major M. Mackenzie Wood (Liberal Member for Central Aberdeenshire) in a successful ballot on a private Member's motion, announced that he would raise on the Naval estimates the question of the Singapore base.

Mr. Baldwin, moving an adjournment until February 12, announced that the resignation of the Government had been accepted. He said that the date of reassembly had been chosen to suit Mr. Ramsay Macdonald.

Mr. P. A. Harris (Liberal Member for South West Bethnal Green) protested against three weeks' adjournment with a railway strike.

The House agreed to the adjournment.

Mr. Macdonald did not speak. Major G. M. Kindersley, Unionist Member for Hitchin, during the ballot on motions, gave notice that on the Civil Service estimates he would move a resolution on the subject of Empire development.

Several Ministerialists gave notice that they would call attention to the position of the Air Force.

A meeting of Liberal Members of Parliament to-day passed a unanimous resolution, declaring, inter alia, their steadfast determination to resist every attempt to destroy private enterprise and to establish socialization of industry.

Chamber of Commerce Support.

Later.

At a meeting of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce at Birmingham, Sir Arthur Balfour, the President, said that as long as the Labour Government was not controlled by Communists, the Chambers of Commerce would give it all possible aid in its undertakings for the benefit of the country. We were on the verge of an improvement in trade. The Chambers would oppose nationalization. He believed that a capital levy would be disastrous.

Sir Arthur Balfour understood that the coming budget would show a million or two surplus, but economy was necessary to relieve taxation.

The meeting by a large majority passed a resolution urging on the Government the desirability of a Bill carrying out the economic resolutions of the Imperial Conference, and also passed a resolution in favour of an Imperial penny post.

Another resolution urged the Government to approach the French and Italian Governments with regard to their debts to Britain.

A Banker's Views.

Baron Colwyn, the Chairman, speaking at the annual meeting of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Bank, said that, if the bankers were called upon to give their advice and assistance to the new Government, they would render any help in their power whatever their personal political views. The nation was greater than party.

Cabinet Surprises.

Jan. 23.

The announcement of the constitution of the Macdonald Cabinet came quite unexpectedly. It was made within two hours of the Prime Minister obtaining the Royal approval of the appointments. This Mr. Ramsay Macdonald sought in the course of a second visit to Buckingham Palace during the day, when he kissed hands on his appointment. Most of the appointments as already had been announced, but very great surprise has been caused by the inclusion of Viscount Chelmsford as First Lord of the Admiralty, which had been kept a dead secret. His name had not even been mentioned among the possibles.

A Sympathetic Reception.

On the whole the personnel of the first Labour Government meets with a remarkably sympathetic reception. Even the extreme Conservative organs, noteworthily including the Rothermere and Beaverbrook anti-Socialist press, give a blessing to the new experiment. A large degree of its popularity is undoubtedly due to the diverse and well-balanced nature of the Ministry, which comprises trade unionists and intelligentsia in somewhat equal proportions and a good leavening of experienced administrators, while except for Mr. John Wheatley, the President of the Ministry of Health, who is probably a hostage for the good behaviour of the Clyde extremists, the complexion of the Ministry is decidedly moderate.

Surprise is expressed at the non-inclusion of women, but amends for this will probably be found in the list of Under Secretaries. Mr. Macdonald's list necessitates at least one new peerage in conformity with the law requiring that at least one Secretary of State shall sit in the House of Lords. This will probably be Sir Sydney Olivier, the Secretary of State for India.

The Singapore Dockyard.

The "Daily Mail," in a leading article which is unusually sympathetic towards Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, urges the Government to adopt the strictest military economies and incidentally to cut out the Singapore dockyard. "There is no reason with sane diplomacy why Britain should fear a quarrel with her old friends, the Japanese."—Reuter.

French Press Comment.

Paris, Jan. 22.

The newspapers of the Right foresee nothing but ill from the advent of a Socialist Government in Britain, but the papers of the Left and Extreme Left hail the event as a triumph for democracy and the opening of a new era. The Centre and Governmental organs confine themselves to the hope that things will be all right.—Reuter.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON NEW MINISTERS

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's Career.

Mr. James Ramsay Macdonald, who attains the proud position of being Britain's first Labour Prime Minister, was born at Lossiemouth, Scotland, in 1866 and educated at a board school. He early threw himself into the Socialist movement, and not long before long, as organizer and writer, an important figure in it. He was appointed secretary of the Labour party in 1900 and held the position to 1912 and became editor of the Socialist Library in 1907. He naturally turned to politics and served on the London County Council from 1901 to 1904.

In 1906, according to the biography in the Encyclopædia Britannica, he was elected by a plurality as Labour member for Leicester, and held the seat for a dozen years. It was as chairman of the Independent Labour party—the section held by Mr. Keir Hardie—that he entered the House of Commons; and he explained at the congress of the party in April, 1907, that its object was to mould society into the Socialist State. He adapted himself easily to parliamentary conditions. One of the points which he constantly pressed, with eventual success, was that the terms of Government employment should be as good as those offered by the best private firms. In the controversy with the House of Lords he openly proclaimed himself a Single Chamberite man. On the National Insurance bill in 1911 he pointed out that a fundamental change of opinion had taken place, both parties now accepting the principle that social welfare was the care of the State. In that year he became the chairman of the Labour party in Parliament. He brought the whole weight of his party to bear in favour first of the Parliament bill, and afterwards of the Home Rule bill. But he was suspicious of Sir Edward Grey's policy, which he thought too slavish in its following of Lord Lansdowne; and he opposed the naval increases of the years before the World War, as the socialists in Berlin had opposed the German increases which provoked British rejoinders.

Anti-War but Anti-German.

His devotion, indeed, to the ideal of international socialism caused him, at the outbreak of the World War, to lose touch not only with British public feeling in general, but even with the sentiment of the Labour party which he led. In response to Sir Edward Grey's statement in the House of Commons on August 3, 1914, he contended that no proof had been given that the country was in danger; that the conflict could not be confined to the neutrality of Belgium; that the action of Russia was suspicious; that France could not be annihilated; and that, in consequence, virtue Britain should remain neutral. He found, however, that the ranks of the Labour party were cemented by the words of Sir Edward Grey and by the action of Germany; and he resigned the leadership of his party, being succeeded by Mr. Arthur Henderson.

He remained a pacifist throughout the war, and used his influence in this direction in the labour and socialist movement, but he seldom spoke in Parliament, though he associated himself with the occasional anti-war demonstrations of Mr. Snowden and Mr. Arthur Ponsonby, and claimed the right of public meeting and free speech for pacifists. He endeavoured unsuccessfully to prevent the Labour Conference in January, 1916, at the time of the first Military Service bill, from pledging themselves to support the Government in the prosecution of the war; but he declared at the same time, to the general surprise, that he and his friends were the most bitterly anti-German section of the people.

Penalties of Pacifism.

He was active in the summer of 1917 in promoting the participation of representatives of the English Labour and Socialist parties in an International Socialist Conference at Stockholm, to which German representatives were coming, and he went to Paris with Mr. Arthur Henderson on a fruitless mission to secure the co-operation of French and Belgian socialists. He himself did not go to Stockholm, as the Soldiers' and Fleet's Union, whose distrust of Germany was based on practical knowledge of the crimes at sea, refused to grant him a pass. His constituency first chose him his successor, Leicester at the general election of December, 1918, he received only 6,347 votes to the 20,570 polled for his opponent, Mr. J. F. Green, a leading member of the Coalition Unionist party. However, in the election of November, 1922, he got back again, for Aberavon, and became Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Macdonald has published several works on socialism and labour, besides a couple of books on India, which he visited in 1913 as a member of the Public Services Commission.

THE RT. HON. JAMES HENRY THOMAS, P.C., 1917; M.P. (Lab) Derby since 1910. The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas was born in Newport, 1878, educated in the council schools and commenced work at nine years of age as an errand boy, after that working as engine-cleaner, fireman and driver. He was elected Town Councillor of Swindon, Wilts, in 1910 and is now the General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen.

SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER, K.A., LL.D., K.C.M.G., cr 1907; C.B. 1917; C.M.G., 1898, b. 1859. Educated Lausanne, Keneton School, Tonbridge School, Corpus Christi College, Oxford; Germany. Entered Colonial Office in 1882; Secretary Fabian Society 1886-90, official appointments in British Honduras, Leeward Islands, West India, Washington, Jamaica; Permanent Secretary of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 1913-17; Assistant Comptroller and Auditor of the Exchequer 1917; retired 1920.

1ST VISCOUNT CHELMSFORD, cr. 1921; Frederic John Napier Thesiger; 3rd Baron (U.K.) cr. 1858; P.C. 1916; K.C.M.G., cr. 1906; G.C.M.G., cr. 1912; C.M.S.I., S.M.I.E. 1916; G.B.E., cr. 1912; Viceroy of India, 1916-21; barrister; b. 1868. Educated Winchester College; Magdalen College, Oxford; Member London School Board, 1900-4; of London County Council, 1904-5; Alderman, London County Council, 1913; Governor Queensland, 1905-9; Governor of N. S. Wales, 1909-13; a Knight of Justice of St. John, Jerusalem, in England; late Chancellor of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

STEPHEN WALSH, M.P. (Lab.) Ince Division, Lancs., since 1906; b. 1859; Parliamentary Secretary to Ministry of National Service, 1917; and to Local Government Board, 1917-19.

HALDANE, 1st Viscount of Cloan, cr. 1911; RT. HON. RICHARD BURDON HALDANE, F.R.S.; K.T.; O.M.; Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, 1912-15; Member of Judicial Committee of Privy Council; P.C.; LL. D.; Rector of Edinburgh University; Chancellor, University of Bristol; b. 1856; Educated Edinburgh Academy, Edinburgh and Gottingen Universities. M.A.; M.P. (L.) Haddingtonshire, 1885-1911; Secretary of State for War, 1905-12; Barr. 1879; Q.C. 1890; Hon. D.C.L. (Oxon.) Author various essays and philosophical works.

PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P. (Soc.) for Blackburn, 1906-18; b. 1864. Educated Board School and privately. Entered Civil Service 1886; retired 1893; journalism and lecturing; Chairman Independent Labour Party, 1903-6, 1917-19; Member Royal Commissions on Canals and Waterways, Civil Service, Venereal Diseases; Member Central Control Board (Liquor Traffic). Author socialistic works.

PARMOOR, 1st Baron, cr. 1914; of Frieth, CHARLES ALFRED CRIPPS, P.C., K.C.V.O., cr. 1908; K.C. 1870, M.A.; Judicial member of the Privy Council, specially appointed, 1914; Attorney-General to the Prince of Wales, 1895; reappointed 1901 and 1912; Vicar-General of Canterbury; Chancellor and Vicar-General of York since 1900; Chairman of Quarter Sessions in Bucks; b. 1852. Educated Winchester; New College, Oxford. Chairman of Canterbury House of Laymen; M.P. (C) Stroud Division of Gloucestershire, 1895-1900; Stretford Div. of Lancs. 1901-6; (U.) Wycombe Div. Bucks 1910-14.

SIDNEY WEBB, LL. B., b. London 1859. Educated private schools; Clerk War Office (Low. Div.) Surveyor Taxes, Barr. Gray's Inn, 1885; Mem. Faculty and Board of Economics London University; Mem. Royal Commissions under Development Act, 1910; Trade Union Law, 1902-6; on Coal Industry Commission, 1919; Member various departmental committees, hon. Prof. of Public Administration, University of London, principal founder London School of Economics and Political Science. Author numerous socialistic and economic works.

RT. HON. ARTHUR HENDERSON, P.C., 1915; late Member War Cabinet (Minister without Portfolio); M.P. (Lab.) Barnard Castle Div. Durham, 1903-18 and Widnes since 1919; b. of Glasgow; b. 1863. Served apprenticeship as moulder at Robert Stephenson & Co.'s works, member Newcastle City Council and Darlington Borough and Mayor, 1903; Chairman Parliamentary Labour Party, 1908-10 and 1914-17; Sec. of the Labour Party; Member Railway Royal Commission and on Oxford and Cambridge Universities; also numerous govt and departmental committees. Pres. Bd. of Education, 1915-16. Paymaster General and Labour Adviser to H. M. Govt 1916. Govt. Mission to Russia, 1917.

TOM SHAW, C.B.E., 1919; M.P. (Lab.) Preston since Dec. 1918; Sec. International Congress of Textile Workers since 1911; b. Colne, Lancs., 1872. Educated elementary schools.

VERNON HARTSHORN, O.B.E.; M.P. (Lab.) Ogmore Div. of Glamorganshire since Dec 1918. Served on the Coal Organization Committee and also on the Coal Controllers' Advisory Committee.

JOSIAH CLEMENT WEDGWOOD, D.S.O., 1915; late Commander Royal Naval Vol. Res.; Col.; M.P. (Lab.) Newcastle-under-Lyme since 1906; C. C. (Staffs), 1910-19; D.L. (Staffs); V.-Chairman Labour Party since 1921; b. 1872. Educated Clifton Coll; Royal Naval Coll.; Asst. Constructor, Naval Architect; Capt. Elswick Battery, S. Africa, 1900-1 (medal and 2 clasps); European War, 1914-16, Antwerp, France, Dardanelles, East Africa, (Wounded, D.S.O. despatches twice); Mesopotamia Commission 1916, Asst. Dir. Trench Warfare, 1917; on Mission to Siberia with temp. rank Col., 1918.

FREDERICK WILLIAM JOWETT, J.P., M.P. (Lab.) West Bradford, 1906-18; b. Bradford, 1864. For 15 yrs City Councillor and eight yrs Chairman of Public Health Committee; Publication: The Socialist and the City.

NOEL BUXTON, M.P. (L.) N. Norfolk 1910-18; b. 1869. Educated Trinity Coll., Cambridge. A.D.C. in S. Australia to his father (the Governor) 1896; served on Whitechapel Bd of Guardians and Central Unemployment Body; Member various committees, founder of Farmers' Co-operative Society; M.P. (L) Whitby 1905-6; Chairman Balkan Committee; Author various books on Balkan situation, etc.

RT. HON. WILLIAM ADAMSON, P.C., 1918; late Chairman, Parliamentary Labour Party; M.P., (Lab.) West Fife since 1910; Gen. Sec. of the Fife, Kinross and Clackmannan Miners' Associations; b. 1863, the son of Jas. Adamson, miner.

CHARLES PHILIPS TREVELYAN, b. Park Lane, W., 1870. Educated Harrow and Trinity Coll., Cambridge; Secretary to Lord Crewe, when Lord-Lt. of Ireland, 1892-3; Member London School Bd., 1896-7; Parliamentary Charity Commissioner, 1906-8; M.P., (L.) Elland Div., West Riding, Yorks., 1899-1918; Parliamentary Sec., Bd. Education, 1908-14; resigned from Government as protest against the policy which involved Gt. Britain in the war.

RT. HON. JOHN ROBERTS, P.C. 1918; (J.P., M.P. (Lab.) Manchester (Platting Div.) since 1906; Chairman Parliamentary Labour Party since 1921; b. Oldham, 1869. Pres. National Union of General Workers and Chairman of the Executive Council; Parliamentary Sec. Minister of Food, 1917-18; D. L. Lancashire; Food Controller, 1918-19; D.C.L. Oxford and Durham, 1919.

ciates found ready support from the funds of the German secret service, and it happened eventually that the Kaiser, who deemed himself the champion of monarchical principle in Europe, assisted Lenin and his retinue to reach Russia after the overthrow of the Tsar.

From that time onwards his career has been merged in the general history of Russia, where he established himself as President of the Soviet Government. At the Eighth Congress of Soviets convened a Moscow on December 23, 1920, Lenin was head of the so-called Right Wing. Meanwhile he had been elected President of the Council of People's Commissioners in Moscow in November, 1917, and his speeches influenced greatly the Fourth All-Russian Congress of Soviets in 1918.

On January 1, 1918, when leaving the Mikhailovsky School, where he had just made a speech to the first contingent of the soldiery leaving for the front, several shots were fired at the back of his car, but he was not wounded. On August 30, 1918, there was another attack on Lenin, this time from the "Left Wing" Socialist Revolutionaries, and he was very seriously wounded. On the verge of death for several days, it was not until September 6 that he was said to be out of danger.

He became seriously ill again in June, 1922, and since that time had been in a very weak state of health, but was strong to the end in upholding his personal ideas on the subject of communism.

Mourning for Lenin has been proclaimed throughout Russia for one month. Local Soviet commercial enterprises will close their offices for one day and the Russian Plenipotentiary Mission's offices will close for three days.

THE REBELLION IN MEXICO

Rebels' Blockade of Tampico: U. S. Men-of-war Ordered to Vera Cruz

Houston, Jan. 17.

A wireless message picked up from oil tankers in the Gulf of Mexico states that Mexican rebel gunboats are bombarding Tampico Beach.—Reuter's American Service.

Tampico, Jan. 17.

The blockade ordered by General Huerta has not become effective and the rebel ships have disappeared. Shipping of all classes entered and cleared yesterday unhindered. Railway traffic is also not impeded.—Reuter's American Service.

The U. S. S. Tacoma.

Washington, Jan. 17.

The Navy Department learns that three compartments of the stranded cruiser Tacoma are flooded. It is hoped that the cruiser will be pulled into deeper water when the heavy seas subside. —Reuter's American Service.

Chinese Houses Shelled by Rebel Gunboats

Tampico, Jan. 18.

Rebel gunboats here and at Saragoza yesterday sent four shells into the suburb of Varadero on the left bank of Panuco River, destroying several Chinese houses. The number of casualties is not known. Shore batteries forced the warships to retire out of range.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Jan. 19.

The cruiser Omaha and six destroyers from Panama waters have been ordered to Vera Cruz. The repair ship Prometheus will accompany the flotilla for operations to the Tacoma and to maintain the destroyers in seaworthy condition. The Tacoma is aground on the Bantauillas Reefs.

Rear Admiral Magruder, on board the Richmond, which is standing by the Tacoma, is in command of the force as senior officer. He states that he has no instructions except to relieve the Tacoma, but the opinion is expressed that the gathering of the ships at Vera Cruz will constitute a demonstration that is likely to convince the de la Huerta party and its leaders that the United States does not intend to permit inerference with American commercial shipping at Tampico and other Mexican ports.

The United States Hydrographic Office has warned mariners that the Salina Cruz Harbour in Mexico is mined and that the revolutionaries intend to mine Puerto Mexico, Vera Cruz, Frontera and other ports.—Reuter's American Service.

Federal Troops' Trip Through U. S. Territory

Naco, Ariz., Jan. 20.

About 2,000 Mexican Federal troops began crossing the international boundary this morning on a 19-mile trip through American territory, intending to reenter Mexico viâ El Paso.

Authority to allow this movement was received by the immigation inspectors from the State Department. — Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Jan. 21.

The U.S.S. Richmond has arrived at Vera Cruz. This is intended to serve as a warning that the Mexican rebels must not interfere with American vessels in their attempted blockade of Tampico.—Reuter's American Serships.—Reuter.

The Blockade of Tampico

New York, Jan. 21.

Following threats by General Huerta to destroy the Mexican Petroleum Company's property at Tampico unless $400,000 in advance taxes is paid to the rebels, the State Department at Washington has advised the Company to protect their property by paying the demand, adding, however, that this should not be done unless the rebels actually seize the property or indicate their intention to carry out the threat.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Jan. 21.

The blockade of the oil port of Tampico by the revolutionaries has been postponed until the end of January, according to a despatch from Rear-Admiral Magruder, commanding the United States flotilla on the Mexican coast, to the Navy Department.

Navy officials say that this really signifies that the blockade will not be revived, the warning of the United States emphasized by the presence of American warships having sufficed.

The U. S. S. Tacoma.

Owing to the heavy weather it is feared that the light-cruiser Tacoma, which is stranded on the Bantauillas Reefs, has been battered beyond hope.—Reuter's American Service.

London, Jan. 22.

The American Consul at Vera Cruz has informed the de la Huerta party that if the mining operations reported by the United States Hydrographic Office to have been carried out in Salina Cruz harbour and to be projected at Puerto Mexico, Vera Cruz, Frontera and other ports are carried out partially or wholly, the United States Government would be constrained to adopt appropriate measures for the protection of its commerce.—Reuter's American Service.

Sale of Arms to Mexico

Washington, Jan. 23.

The United States Government has sold to President Obregon more war material, including 5,000 rifles and 2,500 automatic pistols.—Reuter's American Service.

Collapse of Rebel Line on the Jalisco Front

Washington, Jan. 23.

The United States Consul at Vera Cruz reports that Captain Sparlow and two wireless officers of the cruiser Tacoma were accidentally killed while performing their duties during the storm.

The Mexican revolutionary leaders have informed the United States Consul at Vera Cruz that they have decided to raise the blockade of Tampico.

The Mexican Embassy has been officially advised that the entire line on the Jalisco front has collapsed.

Jan. 24.

It is stated that the rebels, while nominally respecting the American protests and affirming that the bockade has been technically lifted, will declare a zone of naval warfare off Tampico, through which merchant ships will pass at their own risk.—Reuter's American Service.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Too Much Centred on Europe: Chinese Member's Complaint

London, Jan. 17.

Addressing a meeting of the League of Nations Union, Mr. Chu Chao-hsin strongly supported the League, but urged that its methods of policy and its debates should not be dominated by European politics. If it ever ceased to be a world-wide concern, the American nations would establish their own League and those of Asia would follow suit.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 19.

Mr. Chu Chao-hsin, addressing a meeting of the League of Nations Union on January 17, complained that the League paid more attention to Europe than to the rest of the world. He declared that when China was ousted from the Council it would not have been unreasonable for the Asiatic members to withdraw from the League.

With regard to the irregularity of the Chinese contribution, which was second only to that of Britain, Mr. Chu pointed out that China was not alone in this respect and that the arrears were now being paid up.—Reuter.

The Traffic in Drugs

Geneva, Jan. 20.

The Secretary-General of the League of Nations has invited all Governments belonging to the League or parties to the Opium Convention of 1912 to take part in a conference at Geneva on November 17 to seek measures to limit the manufacture of morphine, cocaine, heroin and their respective salts to the needs of doctors and scientists, as well as the production of raw opium and coca leaf to the amount necessary for the manufacture of alkaloids.

The programme of the conference will be drawn up by a committee of six members, appointed by the League of Nations Commission for the Suppression of Opium Traffic, including a representative of the United States and two European assessors of the Opium Commission.

In order to facilitate the drawing up of the programme, the Secretary-General has asked the States concerned to transmit any proposal that they wish to make to the committee for preliminary examination.—Reuter.

League of Nations and Hungary

London, Jan. 23.

The sub-committee of the League of Nations has concluded its work with regard to the financial reconstruction of Hungary by unanimously accepting the loan proposal. This will be forwarded to the Reparations Commission for approval.

The loan will be of 250,000,000 gold crowns, to be used for two and a half years and repayable in 20 years, during which time the treaty charges will be limited.

The League of Nations will appoint a general controller not belonging to one of the Allied nations.

Certain securities, on which the Reparations Commission will raise the liens, will be pledged for the service of the loan.

The terms of the protocol which has been drawn up with regard to the political conditions of the loan provide that there shall be no political disturbances between Hungary and other nations.—Reuter.

LLOYD'S REGISTER OF SHIPPING

Decrease in British Output for 1923: Lowest on Record in Peace Years

London, Jan. 2?.

Thirty per cent. lower tonnage was launched from British shipbuilding yards in 1923 than in any peace year since 1892, states Lloyd's Register of Shipping, namely, 645,000 tons, a decrease of 385,000 tons as compared with 1922, representing 39.2 per cent. of the world's output for 1923 as compared with 41.8 per cent. in 1922 and 58 per cent. in 1913.

Tonnage launched in all parts of the world during 1923 totalled 1,643,000, a reduction of 824,000 tons as compared with 1922, and no fewer than 5,250,000 tons as compared with the record year, 1919.

The tonnage being built in all parts of the world on December 31 was 2,444,000, a reduction of 510,000 tons as compared with twelve months previously.—Reuter.

SHENANDOAH'S AIM AT NORTH POLE

1,000,000 Sq. Miles of Unknown Territory which America Must Control

Washington, Jan. 19.

Mr. Edwin Denby, the Secretary of the Navy, addressing the House of Representatives Naval Committee to-day, said that the prime purpose of the proposed flight of the airship Shenandoah to the North Pole was exploration of the Arctic regions with a view to annexation of the land in that area to the United States.

Mr. Denby said that "the mere fact that there is an unexplored area of a million square miles adjacent to the United States constitutes a constant challenge to the United States. We cannot permit that vast territory to fall into the hands of another Power. If we do not make this flight this summer, the entire Arctic region will be photographed and mapped by another Power within a year. We are not trying to discover the North Pole, we do not question Rear-Admiral Peary's feat: we want to explore and the Shenandoah is admirably fitted for the task."

The Secretary of the Navy added that the airship showed no structural or navigational weakness during its recent runaway flight. He estimated that the cost of the proposed exploration would be $183,000. The Shenandoah would follow a zigzag course over Northern Alaska in order to get data but it would not attempt to pass over the Pole unless weather conditions were favourable. If the airship succeeded in reaching Spitzbergen, it would visit England on its way back to the United States and might later attempt a flight round the world.—Reuter's American Service.

Guns to Protect the Pole

New York, Jan. 21.

The "New York World," commenting on the proposed trip of the Shenandoah, suggests that after the annexation of sufficient ice-fields it will be necessary to cover them with long-range guns to protect the Pole.—Reuter's American Service.

Claims of Canada to Arctic Icefields

Washington, Jan. 23.

It is reported from Ottawa that the Canadian Government has requested the British Embassy at Washington to keep it fully posted with regard to the United States plans for the airship trip to the Arctic, where Canada claims vast areas by reason of adjacency and exploration.—Reuter's American Service.

ARCTIC ROUTES FOR AERIAL COMMERCE

What Expeditions by Airship to the North Pole May Initiate

Washington, Dec. 8.

A prediction that air commerce by Arctic routes will be possible in the near future was contained in a letter from Mr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, received to-day by the Naval Air Board, which is planning an expedition next summer to the North Pole and Arctic regions.

Mr. Stefansson predicted that the day would come "when the Arctic would be covered by a net of airways somewhat as the Atlantic is now covered by the track of steamers." The explorer placed at the disposal of the Navy Department his wide experience and knowledge of Arctic conditions.

"If this enterprise succeeds in initiating such an era," Mr. Stefansson wrote, "then it will, in my opinion, be in the class of the voyage of Columbus, doubtless not quite so important, but nevertheless entitled to comparison in that very exclusive group. The Arctic, after having been a barrier between North America and the Old World, will now become a connecting link."

Rear-Admiral William A. Moffett, head of the Air Board, announced to-day that "as soon as the project takes definite form and the decisions have been approved by the Secretary of the Navy, all details of the naval expedition will be given to Captain Roald Amundsen, who is preparing for an independent expedition by air to the Polar regions next summer."—Reuter's American Service.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN LIQUOR TREATY

Signed at the State Department; Conditional Clause as to Abrogation

New York, Jan. 19.

The British schooner Kwasing has been ordered to be returned with her cargo of liquor to the master of the vessel. It is understood that she will be escorted to the three-mile limit and will thence continue her voyage to Halifax.

The Kwasing was seized by United States authorities off Wilmington, North Carolina, after the vessel, which was carrying intoxicating liquors, had put in for repairs.—Reuter's American Service.

London, Jan. 18.

The diplomatic correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" learns that the Dominions have now forwarded their comments on the subject of the draft Anglo-American Rum-running Treaty. The comments are generally favourable. Consequently no further delay can be expected in connexion with the signing of the Treaty.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 22.

The Embassy at Washington has been authorided to communicate to the American Government the draft Liquor Treaty as approved by the British Dominion Governments. It is understood that the treaty entitles the United States to search within an hour's steam or sail of the shore, as stated by Mr. Baldwin in the House of Commons on January 16, and British vessels are permitted to carry sealed liquor into American ports for use on the return journey.—Reuter.

Washington, Jan. 23.

The State Department announces that following each signing of the Anglo-American Liquor Treaty similar treaties will soon be negotiated with other maritime Governments. — Reuter's American Service.

of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen to take N. U. R. men into their membership immediately with full benefit. Mr. Cramp stated that the N. U. R. refused to accept into membership members of their rival society. "It seems a pity that the public should be embroiled in a question of Union jealousy over membership."

Mr. Bromley, secretary of the Associated Society, in a statement claims that the position of the strikers is strengthening every hour. He estimates that at least 75,000 men are on strike, including thousands of N. U. R. locomotive men.

Mr. Robert Williams, secretary of the National Transport Workers' Federation, has issued a statement denying the report that the Federation had telegraphed wishing the locomotive men success.

The railway strike threw 4,000 South Wales colliers out of work yesterday and it is expected that 40,000 will shortly be idle unless means can be found to return empty wagons from the ports to the pits and to maintain clearances.

Stoppages have already occurred in certain steel and tin-plate works and in three coalpits at Leigh.

Mail Traffic Maintained.

Jan. 23.

With the exception of a slight improvement due to organization of the men available, the strike situation yesterday did not improve. The essential food and mail traffic is maintained. The passenger services throughout the country are dislocated. The companies are endeavouring to cope with the situation in South Wales, where coal export is practically at a standstill.

A meeting between the managers and representatives of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen will be held to-day at the request of the latter.—Reuter.

30,000 Colliers Idle in South Wales: Increasing Defection of N. U. R. Members

London, Jan. 23.

The railway strike position is easier in London this morning, there being a fair number of trains running. Further Welsh collieries have been rendered idle. The defection among the members of the National Union of Railwaymen is increasing at Carlisle, where a joint strike committee has been formed.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., has resigned the Political Secretaryship of the N. U. R.

Later.

The dislocation of industry in South Wales owing to the railway strike has become worse. It is estimated that over 80,000 colliers are now idle.

The strike committee claim that 150 locomotive men belonging to the National Union of Railwaymen have joined the strikers at Derby.

Attempt to Wreck a Train.

Officials of the London and North Eastern Railway report an attempt to interfere with an express from Glasgow to Edinburgh this morning. Pieces of wood and a heavy coping stone were found on the line near Bishopbriggs. A goods train which was preceding the express cleared the obstruction without damage.

Shortage of Coal at Liverpool.

Railway managers are meeting in secret to consider the request of the locomotive men for a conference.

Meanwhile the strike continues to affect industry in various parts of the country and has led to a serious shortage of coal at Liverpool. Cargo-boats are already delayed and a partial hold-up of shipping is threatened. A large oil mill has closed down and work at the Hull docks has practically come to a standstill. Some large coalpits at Doncaster [illegible] thousands of miners in South Yorkshire will be thrown out of work by the end of the week failing an improvement in the situation.

Later.

The meeting of railway managers has adjourned without arriving at a decision in regard to the locomotive men's request for a joint conference.—Reuter.

POINCARE'S FOREIGN POLICY

Vote of Confidence Passed by Large Majority in Chamber of Deputies

Paris, Jan. 18.

After M. Poincaré had given a long review of France's foreign policy, the Chamber of Deputies passed a vote of confidence in the Government by 415 votes to 151.

In the course of his statement, the Premier said that France had rightly rejected the frequent British proposals for a revision of the German debt which had not been accompanied by an offer of compensation in respect of France's debts to Britain.

Referring to the means to apply possible recommendations of the committee of experts, M. Poincaré suggested that reparations payments might be obtained by the working of the railways in the occupied regions by inter-Allied companies. France was willing to agree that a portion of the prospective German loan should be devoted to the restoration of German finances, but the bulk must be handed over for reparations.—Reuter.

The French Wireless report says:—

The Premier, replying to previous speakers, notably M. Herriot, pointed out with satisfaction that M. Herriot, as well as the Government, would accept no reduction of France's credit on Germany. He recalled: "I have always asked for united action of the Allies in the Ruhr and considered our isolated action only in the event where an understanding on this matter could not be reached." After having recapitulated the succession of events after he had advised the necessity of taking pledges, he expressed the hope that the Allies would finally reach an agreement for the publication of the documents which would form a Yellow Book giving an exact account of the exchange of views.

Fiscal Measures in France

Paris, Jan. 22.

The Finance Committee of the Chamber, concluding the examination of the fiscal measures, adopted the proposal of M. Isaac, which had been accepted by the Government, and later began the discussion of the measure for the increase of postal charges.

The "*Matin*" publishes statistics showing (1) that in the last five years the civil and military expenses of France have decreased by more than Frs. 11,000,000,000; (2) that the revenue from taxes is advancing in constant progression, increasing by nearly Frs. 2,000,000,000 in 1923; (3) the reimbursement of loans to the Banque de France is continuing and that there was due on December 23, 1923, Frs. 22,400,000,000; (4) that France is having less and less recourse to loans, having borrowed Frs. 44,000,000,000 in 1920 and only 13,000,000,000 in 1923; and (5) that the commercial balance, which showed a deficit of Frs. 23,000,000,000 in 1920, tends to recover its equilibrium, now being only Frs. 1,400,000,000 in arrears. —French Wireless through Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 18.

Fiscal measures embodied in the Bills adopted by the Finance Commission include an increase by 20 per cent. of all taxes, a heavy increase in the excise duties, imposition of severe penalties for default and also administrative reforms involving a saving of Frs. 1,600,000,000 annually.—Reuter.

THE BRITISH ZONE IN GERMANY

French Order Cutting Down Railway Transport

London, Jan. 19.

Surprise is expressed in official circles in London at news from Cologne to the effect that the French Regie have issued a proclamation practically prohibiting all railway goods traffic with the British zone except foodstuffs and military transport, but comment is for the present being withheld on the ground that information is insufficient to explain the the reason for the measure.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 19.

It has been ascertained from Mayence that the Regie's action in respect of the Cologne zone is due to their inability to utilize the lines traversing the zone salient and the consequent use of another route, which necessitates withdrawal of facilities for considerable traffic at Cologne in order to avoid congestion. The Regie are of opinion that the situation will not be altered until utilization of the Cologne lines in obtained.—Reuter.

Protest Against Action of Rhineland Regie

London, Jan. 21.

The Marquess of Crewe, the British Ambassador in Paris, called on M. Poincaré yesterday. It is understood that he conveyed the British Government's protest and requested an explanation of the action of the Rhineland *Régie* in issuing a proclamation practically prohibiting all railway goods traffic with the British zone except foodstuffs and military transport, in which connexion the diplomatic correspondents of the newspapers comment warmly. They anticipate another Anglo-French crisis and declare that the action is a reprisal for Britain's refusal to hand over the Cologne railways to the *Régie*.—Reuter.

BAVARIA OPPOSED TO AUTONOMY

Separatists Largely Composed of Outside Elements: The British Zone Blockade

London, Jan. 21.

Mr. Ronald McNeill said that Mr. Clive, the British Consul-General at Munich, who was making inquiries in the Palatinate, had telegraphed after five days' hearing of the views of every class that he had reached the conclusion that the overwhelming mass of the population was opposed to autonomous government; which could never come into existence without French support. Mr. Clive said that 75 per cent. of the Separayists came from outside and included a large criminal element.

Commander J. M. Kenworthy, Independent Liberal Member for Central Hull, referring to the ordinances of the French *Régie* prohibiting the import and export of articles in the Cologne area, asked if this virtual blockade of the British zone continued, whether any form of reprisals could be adopted. Mr. Ronald McNeill, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, admitted that such ordinances had been issued, but was not prepared for the moment to accept Commander Kenworthy's description. He said that the Government was making inquiries into the matter and the attention of the French and Belgian Governments were being called to it.

PARIS, Jan. 16.—Exploitations under the direct control of the Régie in occupied Germany and under the management of French engineers yielded on January 14, [illegible] tons of coal 6,213 tons of coke, 73 tons of sulphate of ammonia 83 tons of benzol, and 2,533 tons of lignite briquettes. On the same day 12,932 10-ton waggons were loaded, including 8,450 waggons of coal.—French Wireless through Reuter.

GERMANY'S FINANCES INVESTIGATED

First Meeting of Committee of Experts: The Evidence of Herr Schacht

Paris, Jan. 21.

This afternoon the first committee of experts, charged with finding means to balance the German budget and to stabilize Germany's currency, heard Herr Schacht, the Governor of the Reichsbank, on Germany's financial situation and the plans of the German Reichsbank to issue gold notes.

The inaugural sitting of the second committee, charged with estimating German capital abroad, took place this morning. M. Barthou opened the sitting, and the reply was made by Mr. McKenna, representing Britain and President of the Committee. The members of the Committee are as follows:—United States, Mr. Robinson, President of the First National Bank of Los Angeles; Italy, Signor Mario Alberti, Director of the Credito Italiano; Belgium, M. Janssen, Director of the Banque Nationale de Belgique; France, M. Laurent Allhalin, Director of the Banque des Pays-Bas. M. Barthou explained the objects of the second committee. He said that the Germans had formed abroad in the form of deposits and in partnerships in existing businesses a considerable capital which affects Germany's capacity and in consequence diminishes her powers of payment.

The "*Temps*" expresses the hope that the present inquiry is preparing the way for a settlement of reparations and emphasizes the declarations made to the "Observer" by Herr Luther, the German Minister of Finance, that as a whole it can be said that the revenue of the Reich is equal to its expenditure.—French Wireless through Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 22.

A *communiqué* states that the First Committee of Experts has concluded that an independent gold bank should be established in Germany with the co-operation of foreign capital.—Reuter.

Berlin, Jan. 23.

The President of the Board of Directors of the Rentenbank has informed the Ministers of Finance and Foreign Affairs that stabilization of German currency cannot be effected if it is necessary to continue to pay the costs of the garrisons of the occupied territories, as these cannot be met by loans or available resources and meeting them would lead to further inflation. The Ministers promised to submit the matter to the Cabinet.—Reuter.

SUDDEN DEATH OF M. LENIN

A Remarkable Figure in Recent Russian Politics: Leader of Communist Party

London, Jan. 22.

The Russian Telegraph Agency in London announces that M. Lenin died suddenly in Moscow yesterday.

Later.

A Soviet *communiqué* says that M. Lenin died at the hills near Moscow. His health had recently considerably improved, but his condition suddenly became worse yesterday evening. He lost consciousness and died of paralysis of the respiratory centres.

The All Russian Congress of Soviets is now sitting in Moscow to take the necessary decisions to continue M. Lenin's work. "The Soviet Government stands firm at its post, watchful over the conquests of the proletarian revolution."

M. Lenin's body will lie in state in Moscow till the funeral, which will take place on January 26.—Reuter.

Communists Carrying on Former Leader's Policy: Bolshevist Activity

Paris, Jan. 23.

The autopsy on M. Lenin proved that he succumbed to cerebral hæmorrhage. M. Zinovieff affirmed his determination to continue M. Lenin's work.

The "*Matin*" publishes the instructions addressed by M. Zinovieff to French Communists on the subject of the forthcoming electoral campaign and recommends this text to the attention of the American Senate, which is opening an inquiry into Bolshevist activities. M. Zinovieff declares that "it is not by Parliament that Socialism can be instituted, as the leaders of the British Labour Party imagine but by the overthrow of the whole bourgeois state, including Parliament." Fortunately, the journal adds, M. Zinovieff's predictions will not readily be realized in France.

The Italian newspapers, commenting on the death of M. Lenin, emphasize that he saw before his death the ruin of revolutionary hopes beyond the Russian frontiers. The solid and healthy organisms of the great nations of the West, the "*Corriere Italiano*" writes, have resisted the threatening Muscovite epidemic.—French Wireless through Reuter.

The late M. Vladimir Ilich Lenin (originally Oulianov), the Russian Communist leader, was born in 1870 at Simbirsk, where his father held an official position as district inspector of schools. In 1887 his elder brother Alexander was hanged for being concerned in a plot to assassinate Emperor Alexander III. M. Lenin entered the University of Kazan as a student of law, but was expelled for taking part in revolutionary agitation. Later he went to St. Petersburg and passed his Bar examination there. He did not practise law for long, however, but joined a secret organization of professional revolutionists. In the late 'nineties he was arrested, but made his escape and went abroad. In the meantime he had joined the Social Democratic movement, which in those days was spreading widely in Russia. Struve and Plekhanov were at that time the chief exponents of Marxism, in which scheme the rise and the growth of capitalism was considered to be a necessary preliminary to social revolution, and it was thought that Russia was not yet ripe for a social upheaval. Lenin was in agreement with these views for some time, but while Struve and Plekhanov were induced to seek an alliance with Liberal intellectuals in their struggle against Tsarism, Lenin and others forsook the Liberal platform and strove for a violent outbreak of downright class war. This produced a split in the ranks of Social Democracy in 1903 and at the Third Congress in 1905 it led to the formation of two parties—the Bolsheviks meeting in London and the Mensheviks in Geneva.

The revolution of 1905 saw Lenin again in St. Petersburg, but he did not play any part in the Soviet of workmen and disappeared when it became clear to him that the troops and people were not on the side of the revolutionists. During his second stay abroad (1906-17) he published several pamphlets and books in which he announced that terrorism was inevitable as a weapon in the hands of revolutionists and heaped abuse on idealistic philosophers and religious teachers of all schools and creeds.

When the World War brought about the long-expected upheaval of European society, Lenin was one of the leading spirits of the Zimmerwald and Kienthal meetings, and urged a general revolution of the workmen of all countries against the war, but felt that the social catastrophe would be most likely to break out in Russia, as being the worst governed and least civilized country. Therefore he upheld to the full extent of his influence the cause of Germany against the Entente. He and his [illegible]

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER

Shipping Subsidies for Eastern Trade: Forlorn Attempt to Restore Influence in China Markets: Good Wheat Harvest and Trade Outlook for 1924 Generally Promising

From Our Own Correspondent.

Melbourne, Dec. 22.

It may be accepted that politically, not only considering the time of year, but also the results of the British elections, politics in Australia are dull. There is little question that it is a false calm, one of those with which quite inexperienced novelists invariably presage a storm. Some one has said that the centre of a tornado is absolute stillness. It may be so; I never was there. The political calm in Australia is not the prelude to a storm Australian political storms mean so very little, that to speak of a storm is preposterous supererogation.

In Victoria the State government has dragged itself clear of the tentacles of a State Treasurer who was piling up surpluses and at the same time making every person pay, except those declaring handsome dividends. In other States the people who can pay are doing so. Even Queensland, the Labour State with an Unemployment Insurance Act, can only show that those receiving doles, allegedly collected from all parts of the Commonwealth, are only some 2.5 per cent. of the unemployed, involving a payment of about £8,000 a quarter. As one-third of this money has already been collected from the workers, and another third from the employers, it is difficult to understand the extreme conservative Press which throws handsprings on the subject.

On some of the coalfields of New South Wales there is continuous talk of overwhelming grievances, with accompanying threats of strikes. These last matter but little; several collieries have actually closed down. In due course they will re-open. In the base metal area of Broken Hill, which has been the shocking example of bolshevism for some time past, we find that in 1922 nearly £1,000,000 sterling was paid in dividends, and there are other profits forthcoming early in the new year. These facts all make for poltical calm, though it must be admitted that the average member of the political public does not regard (through his newspapers) a political calm as something to be desired.

EASTERN TRADE.

It is questionable whether the Commonwealth Government will, within the present generation, wipe out the reproaches which can be heaped upon it for the neglect of Australia's Eastern trade.

Mr. E. S. Little was summarily got rid of, for strictly political reasons, but the same Mr. Little is being extensively quoted as an authority upon the shortcomings of Australian exporters. It is all a sad and sorry business, and goes a long way to create a faith *in dominum ressort*, not in private enterprise but in the very interference which the protagonists of such enterprise denounce.

The Commonwealth Government some time ago promised to subsidize a shipping line in order to develop the Eastern trade. A suggestion that certain Commonwealth steamers should be placed on the Eastern berths was dismissed with ridicule, yet the very same government is now considering the question of granting subsidies to privately-owned steamships.

This country is still miles behind other competitors in the trading race. The faults of packing are at least not denied, and lately some explanations have been laggardly forthcoming for complaints that once shrieked to high heaven. Thus canned Australian fruits were opening up with a taste of kerosene. Complaints were met by a flat denial, and a charge that the price of Australian sugar was too high. It now transpires that during the war scarcity of materials kerosene was used in the soldering of tins, and the penetrative odour affected a comparatively small consignment, before the trouble was discovered. Seeing that the Commonwealth assumes the right to control all exports its failure to protect the reputation of the canning trade, at the proper time, carries its own condemnation.

"OUR" POST OFFICE.

At last there seems a not unreasonable claim that the Australian Postal Department is once again becoming the servant and not the master of the people. Perhaps it is hardly realized inside the Commonwealth, certainly not outside, that the service employs about 23,000 persons, and pays salaries amounting to £5,000,000 a year. There was a time when the employees used to send deputations to the Postmaster-General, and there came a day when the latter advised his own employees to form unions, so that he could deal with them collectively. The unions were formed, the Minister disappeared, and for quite a time the unions amused themselves extracting "their rights" under threats of hanging up the whole service. Something seems to have happened. The Government, has arranged the retirement of the permanent head, and in his stead, *mirabile dictu*, is placed a rank outsider at double salary.

But more things are happening, and Australia will, in a few weeks, hardly know herself. It may be added that the postal officials will hardly know themselves. To let the postal sorters enjoy a Saturday half-holiday to the full it was decided to suspend the sorting of inter-state mails arriving in Melbourne on Saturdays and the suburbanite thought himself fortunate if upon returning home on Monday evening he found awaiting him the inter-state letters which had arrived on the previous Saturday morning. This may sound wildly improbable but it was a fact. Now, if a man pays for a box at a suburban post office, he can get his letters at any time during the week end. Lettergrams, which are nowadays a commonplace, have been restricted to domestic messages only, and could not be lodged for transmission until after 6 p.m. The telegraph operators who were accustomed to sleeping through the night have suddenly found that they have something to do. The public is getting quite cheery. It is even said that the Postal Department will in future make itself liable for losses up to £50, whereas in the past it has regulated its maximum liability down to £2. There would almost seem to be a Mussolini at work.

Whether it is the Postmaster-General, Mr. Gibson, or the newly imported autocratic Secretary, Mr. H. P. Brown, remains to be discovered. Mr. Brown was an alleged discovery of Sir Auckland Geddes or his brother when the re-organization of the British and French railway systems was undertaken during the war. An electrical engineer, he is considered the last word in telephonic experience, and as the Department is spending some £10,000,000 in bringing the telephones up to requirements, he was borrowed from the Home government and duly installed as permament head of the Department, which double the salary of his predecessor, who agreed, for a consideration prematurely to retire.

CHRONIC STATE OF FISHING INDUSTRY.

Both the New South Wales and Queensland State governments have been trying to establish trawling for fish, and in each case considerable losses have been made. For several years the Commonwealth government maintained a steamer, the Endeavour, and paid a well-known Norwegian fish expert to supervise the operations of the vessel, identify the old and name the new fish caught, and chart the fishing grounds along the coasts. There is a perfect mine of valuable information, but private enterprise has not troubled to make use of it.

Fish in Australia is practically unobtainable, on a modern scale. A few men go out in boats, and fish with lines, and the distribution is almost entirely in the hands of Greeks. People living in the country get no fresh fish, except such as may be caught in the limited number of rivers and creeks. Mr. Danrevig, the Norwegian, and able son of an able father in the fishery business, went down with the Endeavour, which was despatched in 1914 upon a foolhardy expedition to Macquarie Island, to relieve the crew at the wireless station. The ship has never been replaced. The failure of the above two States in the trawling business has been welcomed with much rejoicing by the good folks who are mad on the virtues of private enterprise, and chronically disgruntled if government should ever invade that domain. Their newspapers breathe the spirit of Cobden, who would not even help to get slavery abolished in America, because that was the Americans' own business. When Lord Jellicoe reported on naval defence of Australia he particularly emphasized the necessity of developing the trawling industry in order that we might have ready at hand the means to clear our waters of mines in the event of war. As the trawlers have been sold private enterprise may now at last give the industry some attention.

Whaling in the Southern Seas has once more been taken up, and the other day a fully-equipped fleet of half a dozen whalers left Tasmania for Ross's Ocean, which lies to the south of New Zealand.

STATE PREMIER'S VISIT TO LONDON.

Considerable interest centres in the departure of the Queensland Labour Premier for London during the next few days. Mr. Theodore, who has Slav blood in his veins, is undoubtedly a man of exceptional ability. After eight years of office he still manages to control the outside Labour organizations, and secure their suffrages at elections, while retaining the confidence of thousands of small men who are settled on the land.

It is said that he has wasted immense sums upon Socialistic experiments, but this is largely mere political talk. He established two new central mills and created out of the tropical jungle two new sugar districts, containing the homes of nearly 400 farmers. So well have the mills succeeded that he proposes to hand one of them over to the farmers, and let them manage it, just as similar co-operative mills are managed in other parts of the State. He has now let tenders for the erection of a third sugar mill, at a total cost including tramway services of about £750,000, and already new farmers are breaking up the land to feed the mill, which should be at work in 1925. That sort of Socialism is much more important than a score or so of State butchers' shops, but the latter are the more attractive for political window-dressing.

In 1924-5 Mr. Theodore has to convert something like £24,000,000 of old loans, and this is the reason of his visit to London. He has also got to face the charge that his government repudiated the pastoral leases, when it decided to increase the rents at a higher rate than provided in the leases. As the money to convert the loans is usually forthcoming from the big pastoral companies in London, Mr. Theodore's outlook is not very hopeful. The loans falling due chiefly date from the Griffith *régime* of the early eighties, and in order to get the money pastoral leases, mostly with a 42 years tenure, were granted, rent to be appraised every 10 years, but not to involve an increase of more than 10 per cent. at any-one time. But the 40 years have seen great changes, and much progress. Railways have been built into the interior, meatworks have been established, and what was at one time a precarious way of making a living, chiefly out of the hides and offal of the cattle has developed into a highly profitable export trade. The Labour government decided to amend the leases, so as to be able to increase the rents. Governments and parliaments are by no means averse to committing acts which some people call repudiation, but it was unfortunate that the people affected in this case happened to be the creditors of the State. Queensland is not much in sympathy with the pastoral companies in London. The charge of repudiation has not moved the electors who have twice, since the passing of the measure, returned the Labour government to power. The parliamentary Opposition is maintaining silence in order not to embarrass Mr. Theodore, and a barrister, who was at one time a bitter opponent of the ministry, has pointed out that the Government cannot with reason be expected to repeal its measure. It is probable that Mr. Theodore will succeed in his mission. The fact that the pastoral leases are nearing their expiry will give him a useful weapon to bargain with.

THE FRUIT INDUSTRY.

Anyone who had read the columns and columns of declamatory matter in the newspapers, in which the fruitgrowers were all "ruined" because they grew too much fruit, the canners were "killed" by the cost of sugar and therefore advised the growers of fruit to destroy their trees, the failure of Australian canned fruit to compete with California, and the overwhelming stupidity of the State governments which settled returned soldiers on the land without first of all seeing that they had a market for their produce, and then turned to Prime Minister Bruce's Imperial Conference campaign for preference, and the promises of the Baldwin Government to help "nuts and raisins"—must rub his eyes to-day and see if perchance he has not awakened from a post-prandial nap. Grocers in Australia are complaining that they cannot get canned fruits; at Mildura, the home of the dried fruit industry, American raisins are being sold in the shops and preferred to the local production; in England the whole of the Australian canned fruit stock is selling like hot cakes, despite the unpropitious Christmas season; the thrip has cut down the supplies of berry fruits, which a few days ago the jam-makers said were excessive; sugar in Australia is half the price of sugar in Great Britain and well below the cost of any sugar which could be landed from America, even if there were no import duty. All the correspondence has suddenly ceased, and only a few canners are still murmuring about the conditions imposed by the Commonwealth Government if they want to earn the subsidy of £140,000 which is offering. A strange world, my masters! Can we wonder that Australians are as prone to gamble as any Latin race?

RINDERPEST HERDS CREMATED.

Generally the outlook for the coming year is a satisfactory one—entirely satisfactory to a people who seem almost Oriental in their fatalism. Officially we are told that the outbreak of Rinderpest in Western Australia is considered to be well in hand. A few additional herds have been cremated, and a buffer area around the affected districts converted into a desert.

The dairying industry generally is pulling itself together and, thanks to recent rains, the pastoral industry throughout Australia is good for cattle and excellent for wool. The price of the last named is something to conjure with, and that despite the still unsettled condition of the European markets.

As mentioned already the mineral industries have responded to the increased price for metals, and there is no immediate prospect of a change for the worse, while copper, with a European settlement, may recover its pre-war status.

The wheat crops, now being harvested, are coming up to expectations. West Australia anticipates a record output.

In most of the Queensland sugar districts the new crops on a greatly increased area have received good early summer rains, and the latter half of next year will probably see a crop of well over 300,000 tons of sugar harvested. There is a downward tendency in costs, especially of coastal shipping.

The railway from Brisbane to Townsville—some 700 miles—is now working, and travellers from the Queensland capital can reach Townsville by rail saving two days in time and about £2 in the cost of the journey. The cotton industry continues to grow, and the prospects are that last year's crop of 13,000,000 lb. will probably be doubled.

IMMIGRATION BACKWOOD.

Immigrants are not coming into Australia as rapidly as could be wished, but they are being readily absorbed. At present the bulk of the immigrants are going to Victoria and Western Australia, New South Wales only just beginning to move in the matter. The figures which are given to the public are by no means illuminating. We are told that of 26,368 immigrants 9,366 came to Victoria, 7,366 to West Australia, 5,015 to New South Wales, 2,367 to Queensland, 1,648 to South Australia and 106 to Tasmania. What period these figures cover is not disclosed. In 1922 the excess of arrivals over departures for the whole Commonwealth was 38,138 persons, though of course many of these could not be classed as immigrants. The New Settlers' League, which gave the figures quoted above, also stated that the immigrants brought in with them declared capital amounting to £433,550, which, it was considered, really represented about £600,000 actual cash.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

The Lesson of the General Election: Rising Tide of Socialism in the North

From Our Own Correspondent.

Edinburgh, Dec. 12.

Unionism has held its own, but Liberalism has lost heavily to Socialism—that in a nutshell is the outcome of the polls in Scotland.

The Unionists now hold 16 seats instead of 15; the reunited Liberals 24, as against 28; the Socialists 34, as against 29; while Mr. Scrymgeour in Dundee remains as a party by himself. Thus the Socialists have made a net gain of five seats.

This advance of Socialism in our midst is the most unpleasant feature of the situation. Formerly its strength lay mainly in Glasgow and the Clyde and the industrial part of Lanarkshire, but it has now spread its tentacles in Eastern Scotland, particularly in the mining areas bordering on the Forth. In the North and in the South of Scotland the hard-headed sons of the soil remain proof again ,its blandishments. A factor in Scotland undoubtedly of importance has been the relaxation of the party organizations of Unionism and Liberalism consequent on the Coalition period. The Socialists, on the other hand, kept their activities at the highest pitch of efficiency. The Unionists have suffered even more from this defective preparation of the ground than have the Liberals. In no fewer than 10 cases Socialists will sit as minority representatives. That is a consideration which should surely bring home to both the constitutional parties the folly of recklessly splitting the

Washington, Jan. 23.

The Anglo-American Liquor Treaty was signed at the State Department to-day.

Later.

The British Ambassador, Sir Auckland Geddes, and Mr. Hughes, Secretary of State, signed the liquor treaty, which, however, requires the ratification of the Senate.

The treaty can be terminated at three months' notice after a twelvemonth. One clause provides that, if owing to a judicial decision or legislative action the terms are modified the whole treaty shall be abrogated. Provision is also made for a joint commission to settle claims for compensation where a British vessel suffers loss or injury through any unreasonable or improper exercise of the rights conferred by the treaty.—Reuter's American Service.

BOK PEACE PRIZE COMPETITION

Donor Charged with Attempt to Influence Government's Foreign Policy

Washington, Jan. 21.

Mr. Edward Bok, who organized the recent competition for the best plan whereby the United States could co-operate with other nations to prevent war, was called to-day before a Senate committee and charged with carrying on propaganda designed to influence the action of Congress and the Government's foreign policy. It is stated that the committee's purpose is to determine whether relations exist between the Bok award and the organizations whose purpose is to secure American adherence to the League of Nations.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Jan. 22.

Mr. Edward Bok has written to the Chairman of the Senate Committee, before which he was called yesterday to answer a charge of carrying on propaganda designed to influence the Government's foreign policy, offering another prize of $100,000 for any peace plan selected by the Committee.—Reuter's American Service.

CLAN KENNEDY ASHORE

Bumping Badly: Insurance Involved £59,500

London, Jan. 18.

It is reported from North Foreland that the steamer Clan Kennedy is badly ashore on Sizewell Bank, bumping badly. The main engine is broken but prospects of salvage are good provided the weather becomes moderate. It is understood that the vessel is insured for £59,500. It is loaded with nickel ore from Pagumene for Glasgow and copra from Papeete for Hamburg. Cargo was discharged at Rotterdam and Hamburg.

A message from Blackwall says that the Dutch steamer Holendrecht, which was beached after a collision with the steamer Corea, has been refloated and docked.—Reuter.

Jan. 19.

The steamer Clan Kennedy, which grounded badly on Sizewell Bank, has been refloated and is proceeding to dock towed by tugs.

A steamhopper belonging to the Port of London Authority collided near Mucking with the Japanese steamer Katori Maru, which was leaving for Antwerp. The Katori Maru returned and anchored off Rosserville, damaged on the port side above water amidships.—Reuter.

An Imperial Penny Post

London, Jan 21.

A postal conference at Birmingham under the auspices of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce to-day unanimously passed a resolution in favour of an Imperial penny post.—Reuter.

SWARAJIST OBSTRUCTION IN INDIA

Government Bills Blocked

Nagpur, Jan. 17.

The Swarajists, who command the majority in the Central Provinces Legislature, have successfully obstructed five Government bills by voting for their postponement or re-circulation. A two-day programme was thus finished in two hours.

Jan. 19.

The political deadlock in the Central Provinces consequent on the refusal of the Swarajist majority to undertake Ministerial responsibility is intensifying.

An exciting debate in the new Legislative Council, which lasted seven hours, 17 speakers taking part, resulted in the passing by 44 votes to 24 of a motion to be submitted to the Governor declaring that the Ministers do not enjoy the confidence of the House and should be requested to resign.

The Council has adjourned *sine die*.—Reuter.

EMERGENCY MEASURES IN INDIA

The Revival of Revolutionary Conspiracy: Statement by Lord Lytton

Calcutta, Jan. 24.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council yesterday the Governor of Bengal, the Earl of Lytton, referred to the revival of revolutionary conspiracy and explained that the Government's use of emergency measures was in order to strike at the leaders and commented on the fact that notice had been given of resolutions recommending the release of political prisoners.

The Earl of Lytton did not doubt that the whole public opinion of Bengal would support the Government's action if they knew the facts. The Governor did not believe that any Member of the Council would demand the release of the men at present interned if he believed they were guilty of organising robbery and murder. He announced that the Government had submitted its case to the impartial examination of two judges who concluded that the existence of revolutionary conspiracy had been proved. The Governor strongly appealed to the Council to support the Government's efforts to prevent Bengal from reverting to past anarchy.—Reuter.

U. S. IMMIGRATION LAWS

Exclusion of Asiatics Causing Tension with Japan

London, Jan. 20.

The Washington correspondent of the "Sunday Times" anticipates tension between Japan and America as a result of the immigration legislation which is shortly to be introduced into the House of Representatives aiming at the absolute exclusion of Asiatics.

The correspondent declares that the frank object of the originators of the Bill is to abrogate the Gentleman's Agreement.—Reuter's American Service.

EGYPTIAN NATIONALISTS IN POWER

Cairo, Jan. 17.

The Zaghlulists captured 27 out of the 37 seats, on which a second vote was taken to-day, making 177 Zaghlulist victories out of the 207 results received up to the present. Only seven results are outstanding.—Reuter.

Cairo, Jan. 18.

The Cabinet has resigned.

The King has requested the Premier to continue in office until His Majesty has returned from his visit to the Suez Canal on January 25, when he will undoubtedly summon Zaghlul Pasha.—Reuter.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

HOPELESS OUTLOOK IN RLWY. STRIKE

Financial Support from Australian Engineers: More Miners Out of Work

London, Jan. 24.

The railway companies regard the position as about the same, but certain industries are feeling increased effects from the strike. Over 100,000 miners in South Wales and 6,000 in the Lothians are idle.

The railway managers this morning replied to the request of the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen for a fresh conference. This is being considered by the executive. Mr. Bromley, the secretary of the Society, stated that the reply still refused to recognize the findings of the National Wages Board as other than a compulsory arbitration award. He claimed that the position of the strikers was strengthening and mentioned the receipt of a telegram from the Federation of Engineers in Australia offering the utmost financial assistance, which, he said, the executive had decided to accept.

The reply of the railway managers to Mr. Bromley, it was later learned, was in the form of a letter which was sent at midnight. It emphasized that the managers are not prepared to discuss a revision of the decision of the National Wages Board but, if the locomotive engineers' executive will indicate the "existing differences" they have in mind, a meeting will be arranged if the differences are such as can usefully be discussed at present.

Later.

The executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen have decided to inform the railway managers that the strike must continue.—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S ABILITY TO LEND MONEY

Best Market for Foreign Loans: Danger of Labour Disputes and Shadow of War

London, Jan. 24.

Dr. Walter Leaf, presiding at the annual meeting of the London County, Westminster and Parr's Bank, voiced a definite feeling of confidence and hope that in the coming year Britain would have resumed her place as a lending nation.

The London market was the best for the foreign borrower. Foreign and Colonial loans issued last year amounted to £130,000,000. These overseas loans formed the best foundation for expansion of the export trade. The fact that imports had risen from £1,000,000,000 to £1,098,000,000, while we were at the same time lending freely abroad, conclusively proved a satisfactory growth of invisible exports, but, while the outlook was good, any real advance was conditional upon the absence of serious Labour disputes, anxiety regarding which constituted the darkest spot on the horizon.

It was vain to talk of prosperity while the shadow of veiled war overhung Central Europe. The industrial collapse of Germany was now complete. The new currency, the rentenmark, as soon as it was thrown open to sale and purchase, would follow its predecessor, the Reichsmark.

One thing was certain and that was that the payment of reparations by Germany was only possible through excess of German exports over imports. We must be prepared to accept German goods on an unheard of scale, mostly in direct competition with our own, but it was impossible to contemplate with equanimity an increase in Germany's competitive world trade by 40 per cent. over her best year, 1913, which was requisite for the payment of reparations.

In conclusion, Dr. Leaf said that the election had dissipated the fears of rash experiments like the capital levy, and hence there was no occasion for alarm by nervous amateur investors.—Reuter.

THE RECOGNITION OF SOVIET RUSSIA

Almost a Foregone Conclusion: Capt. O'Grady Suggested as Ambassador

London, Jan. 24.

Reuter's Agency learns that it can now be stated definitely that should the Russian Government be accorded recognition by Great Britain, the appointment of Captain James O'Grady, M.P., as Ambassador at Moscow will be announced immediately.

The opinion is expressed in Ministerial circles that diplomatic recognition of Russia is a foregone conclusion as a result of the General Election and of the attitude of manufacturers generally.

Note:—Captain O'Grady, Labour Member for East Leeds, is a furniture maker and secretary of the National Federation of General Workers. He was sent by the Government on a special mission to Russia in the spring of 1917, and also in November, 1920, to meet a representative of the Russian Soviet Government at Copenhagen and negotiate the exchange of British prisoners of war and the repatriation of all British civilians at that time in Soviet Russia.—Reuter.

MOSCOW'S TRIBUTE TO M. LENIN

An Impressive Procession: No Change in Foreign Policy of Soviet Regime

Riga, Jan. 24.

A telegram from Moscow states that the body of M. Lenin, in a red coffin covered with wreaths and flags, was brought into the city to-day with much ceremony. It was accompanied by his widow and relatives and hundreds of delegates and was conveyed through draped streets, lined with troops, to the Trade Union House, where guards of honour, composed of prominent officials, will take ten-minute turns. The public are being admitted to view the coffin.

It is stated that the Congress of the Soviets will elect MM. Kameneff, Ryoff and Tsurupa joint successors to M. Lenin in the presidency of the Council of Commissars and that there will be no change in the home and foreign policy of the Soviets.—Reuter.

Moscow, Jan. 25.

The Petrograd Soviet has decided to rename the city Leningrad.—Reuter.

THE CHARGES AGAINST MR. A. B. FALL

U. S. Ex-Secretary of Interior Accused of "Graft": An Alleged Deal in Oil

Washington, Jan. 24.

Mr. Edward L. Doheny, the Californian oil operator, testifying before the Senate committee which is investigating the charges against the ex-Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Albert B. Fall, in connexion with the Tea Dome Oil leases, stated that he lent Mr. Fall $100,000 on November 30, 1921. The loan was made by the witness personally and the money did not belong to any oil company in which he was interested. The purpose of the loan was to enable Mr. Fall to enlarge his ranch-holdings in New Mexico. There was no discussion at the time of any contract between the Government and the Doheny oil interests and the loan had no relation to any subsequent transactions relative to oil leases. Mr. Doheny declared that he left Los Angeles on January 17 in order to give this information, travelling via New Orleans to apprize Mr. Fall of his intention. He did not regret not giving the facts when he was previously before the Committee, for to have done so would have been "volunteering something in no way connected with the contracts with the Pan-American Petroleum and Transport Company." Mr. Doheny said that he had known Mr. Fall intimately for 30 years and his only thought was to help an old friend. He intended to require Mr. Fall to repay the loan.

Mr. Doheny's attorney suggested that President Coolidge should be asked to appoint a board of experts to examine all facts with regard to contracts with the Pan-American Oil Company and if the board reported that the contracts at the time of making were not wise, desirable and advantageous for the Government, the Company would re-convey to the Government all interests in such contracts.—Reuter's American Service.

REPORT ON IMPERIAL DEFENCE

Co-ordination of Navy, Army and Air Force Considered Impracticable

London, Jan. 24.

The report of the sub-committee of the Imperial Defence Committee dealing with the co-ordination of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force has dismissed as impracticable the proposals for subordinating the Ministerial heads of the three services to a Minister of Defence or for amalgamating the three services.

On the other hand, the subcommittee are of opinion that the existing system of co-ordination by the Imperial Defence Committee is insufficient to secure full initiative and responsibility and needs strengthening.—Reuter.

BRITISH TRADE MISSION TO BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 24.

The members of the British financial and economic mission to Brazil have been appointed honorary members of the local Commercial Association. Mr. Edwin S. Montagu in a speech at the Assembly of the Association declared that British capital would continue to go to Brazil. Britain was desirous of being in the forefront in economic co-operation with Brazil.—Reuter's American Service.

COMMUNISM IN THE RUHR

Paris, Jan. 24.

A despatch from Mayence states that in consequence of information by soldiers the French police discovered a Communist conspiracy to distribute anti-militarist propaganda among the French troops. It is stated that over 70 arrests were made, including many Germans.—Reuter.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND PANEL DOCTORS

London, Jan. 24.

The Court of Inquiry into the dispute between the Ministry of Health and the panel doctors under the State Medical Insurance scheme, following the rejection by the doctors of the Minister's offer to reduce their fee by 1/- to 8/6d., has fixed the capitation fee at 9/-, recommending that it shall remain in force for three years.—Reuter.

CHINESE MINISTER AS FREEMASON

Mr. Chu Chao-hsin at Gallery Lodge in London

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Dec. 5.

Mr. Chu Chao-hsin, Chinese Chargé d'Affaires in London, was the guest of honour at the Installation night of the Gallery Lodge, London, on December 1, this Lodge being the one to which Parliamentary journalists belong. He was asked to respond to the toast "The Guests" and did so as follows:—

"I appreciate very much the honour you have done me by calling upon me to respond to the toast of the visiting Brethren.

"My Blue Lodge is called the International Lodge at Peking under American jurisdiction. I have been raised to the 32nd degree under the order of a Scottish rite, and I am also a Shriner of the Islam Temple at San Francisco. I understand there is no barrier between the English-speaking Lodges and therefore, as a member of an American Lodge, I am admitted as a visitor to your Lodge here. We cherish the best spirit in the Masonic Order. There is no discrimination between different nationalities or different races; one from the East is treated as a brother by one of the West. Kipling said: "East is East and West is West and ne'er the twain shall meet." This is untrue to-day. Confucius said: "Within the Four Seas all are brethren." If you were to tell the man in the street that you call a Chinaman your brother, he would be surprised—he would not believe it. I feel quite at home here with you, since you treat me not only as a guest—through your politeness—but as a brother in the spirit of fraternity.

"I am very glad to come here to-night to get acquainted with our brethren. This is a good opportunity for me to present myself to you, and through our acquaintance we hope to be able to bring about a still better international understanding. Some of you, no doubt, have quite a wrong impression of my countrymen, especially if you judge your views on what you may see on the film or on the stage. In fact, to take the rôle of a Chinaman on the stage is becoming a bit overdone. If you knew us in person you would realize that we are not the terrible creatures we are often depicted to be. After all, we are ordinary human beings and we possess a considerable amount of Eastern culture.

"I note with great satisfaction that this Lodge is known as the Press Lodge, all its members being journalists. I am delighted to meet our brother journalists for I, also, was engaged in journalism before I joined the Government service. Some officials are afraid of talking to journalists because they do not want to be quoted. I do not mind your quoting me and furthermore, I prefer to be quoted, not merely for sake of personal propaganda but for the sake of my country which should be made better known to your country. I would welcome your paying a visit to my country. There you would see the real Chinese life, entirely different from that depicted by the moving pictures and stories written by those who have not yet been in the Far East.

"I have great confidence in journalists who, like we diplomatists, always do their best to promote international interests and better international understanding."

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—The International Olympic Committee has ruled that Mrs. Mallory is not eligible in the Olympic tennis contests as an American. Mrs. Mallory has not decided whether to compete as a Norwegian by birth. —Reuter's American Service.

CHINA AND LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Recent Arrears of Payment

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Dec. 13.

A problem has come to the front within the last few days with respect to the League of Nations China has, as is well-known, been somewhat in arrears with the payment of her assessments of the funds of the League, but now it is understood that she has remitted 310,000 gold dollars, a sum which roughly brings her up to the middle of 1922. It also seems that she has promised the payment of the balance at an early date.

At the same time, the Foreign Office at Peking, while announcing that the money has been remitted, has once more put on record its strong dissatisfaction at the elimination of China from the Council. It points out that the non-permanent members ought, by resolution of the Assembly, to be re-elected on a geographical basis and this has been absolutely disregarded on the occasion of the last vote which resulted in the substitution of China by Czecho-Slovakia.

Most people rather sympathize with China's point of view and deem it rather a mean device to eliminate her. I am beginning to understand, however, why Czecho-Slovakia wanted to secure membership of the Council of the League. It is because this body has a goood deal to do with the coming loan to Hungary which all surrounding nations do not seem particularly keen about. Of course, Czecho-Slovakia always poses as the Good Boy of Europe, but as a matter of fact, its policy is rather selfish and ultraracial.

LUDENDORFF'S BAPTISM OF FIRE

Scornful Story of Bavarian Rising

It has now been established (says the Berlin correspondent of the Central News) that the battle of the Odeonplatz, in Munich, which made an end of the short-lived Bavarian rising, also meant the baptism of fire for General Ludendorff. There is a witness in the person of Max Schoberth, of Asch, who stood next to the police sergeant who fell in the fight and was next but one to Ludendorff. His testimony is also borne out by members of the police troops.

The police had taken up a position across the end of a street and waited the oncoming of the revolutionaries. Captain Schraut, the commander of the police troops, advanced a few steps and called to Hitler: "Stop, and dissolve ranks." Without stopping Hitler called back: "Come with us." The left flank of the police Everybody, all Bavaria, is with us." To left flank of the police made a movement as if about to run over to Hitler, but Captain Schraut controlled them by a motion of his hand and shouted sternly back: "I don't negotiate. Don't come nearer."

At the same moment, without a word of command being given, the first shot was fired by someone in the Hitler ranks, and Captain Schraut fell dead on the pavement. Several policemen started firing then without waiting for an order, and the troops of the revolutionaries replied. A sergeant who carried two boxes of ammunition under his arm was the second to fall on the side of the police. Directly the police replied to their fire the Hitler troops became confused. They were only armed with revolvers and Hitler was pulled to the rear by some of his men.

Only Ludendorff ran up to the firing police, greatly excited, and shouted: "Stop firing. It's all up." He then walked to a police officer standing in the second rank. The shooting had stopped at once, and Ludendorff, after talking with some of the police officers, entered a motor-car standing in the rear and was driven off. All this had taken but a few seconds.

The *"Prague Tageblatt,"* an old German daily newspaper, voices what a large number of Germans think when it says: "The moment was historical, not because Ludendorff was captured but because for the first time in his life he heard the whistle of a bullet and smelled the smoke of powder." Better late than never. A symbolical moment. The cadet receives his baptism of fire as ex-field marshal. So his military career is rounded up to perfection. Even the death of a hero, to which he so often sent his men, turns away from this field marshal the first time it meets him. The chance for Ludendorff was better than it had ever been in the whole five years of the world war. But Ludendorff threw up his hands—"Stop firing, please!"

SEEING BY WIRELESS

Scientist on a Dream of the Future: Experiments for the Amateur

"The day will come when people sitting in a picture theatre will be able to see a horse race on the screen while it is being run."

Not yet, however, is the scientist's dream of television completely fulfilled. The above prediction of Professor A. M. Low, the consulting engineer, of Victoria Street, S.W., may come true within the next 20 years, which he thinks is the earliest time that television will be a commercial proposition.

The Professor, who had been reading the accounts of Mr. C. F. Jenkins's recent success in television in America, began making experiments in wireless vision in 1914.

SEEING LIGHTS.

"To reproduce sight to a certain extent," Professor Low explained to a "Daily News" man yesterday, "is an easy thing. It is, however, very complicated and expensive, and the results are hopeless from a commercial point of view. I have not seen any suggestion that the main difficulty has been overcome.

"Any amateur who cares to spend the necessary time and money can fit up an apparatus in his house by which he can see whether a light in a room, say 20 miles distant, is burning or not.

"He may also be able to say that three lights, arranged in a certain way, are burning. But that is a long way from the stage when one can actually distinguish a face or the figure of a man or an elephant. At present that stage is incalculably difficult."

WIRELESS PICTURES.

"A picture to be wirelessed consists of thousands of little spots, and to reproduce a picture three inches square spot by spot may take an hour. It is rather coarse, after the fashion of a half-tone block printed on paper.

"If you could reduce that time," said the Professor, "to the period of cinematograph retentivity of vision, say, four-fifths of a second; the result would be wireless vision, but it would flicker badly."

There was nothing new, he went on, in reproducing lights and shadows by wireless, but it was a distinct advance if a method had been found of reducing the coarseness on the screen, so that it showed not merely rather shapeless shadows, but detail.

He thought that all that had been accomplished in this latest experiment was to use a mechanically-improved screen method.

ANGLO-POLISH COMMERCIAL TREATY

The Foreign Minister, M. Dmowski, the Minister of Commerce, M. Szydlowski, and the British Minister, Sir William Max Muller, signed the Anglo-Polish Commercial Treaty at the Foreign Office on November —. Both the public and the press express the greatest satisfaction at the signature.

The *"Gazeta Warszawska"* writes:—The treaty assures British and Polish citizens so-called national treatment, granting them equal commercial and industrial rights, and imposing equal taxation with the citizens of the country in which the business is carried on. Amongst the commercial treaties already signed the Anglo-Polish Treaty takes a special place. It differs from others in several characteristic clauses, opening wider scope favourable for both countries. The treaty forms a solid basis for economic co-operation between both countries, which, although it is as yet unsupported by treaty, is developing favourably, the last example being the credits opened by Sir George Talbot representing a union between British electrical concerns and Polish electrical concerns for the purchase of equipment. Thus Great Britain, who is already interested in the beet sugar and textile industries of Poland, is now co-operating also in the electrification of the country."

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SKIN POISONED BY INSECT BITES AND BAD WATER

Inflamed Sores Soothed and Cured by ZAM-BUK

Bites from disease-carrying insects and the use of bad water so badly poisoned Mr. C. Breakspeare's skin that it broke out into terrible sores, through which he had to be invalided home. Mr. Breakspeare, who, with the Berkshire Yeomanry, served in the Eastern campaign, writes from Waverley Rd., Reading, England, as follows:—

"My terrible skin trouble developed whilst I was out on service in The East and it was complicated by insect bites and by poisoning through washing in unclean water. In spite of four months' treatment from a Military doctor, the fiery disease never showed sign of abating, and I had to be invalided home with the 'unfit.'

"It was then that I was persuaded to get a supply of Zam-Buk. After only two dressings of this wonderful herbal balm my sores were a deal better, and there was less pain. Thanks to Zam-Buk it wasn't long before my skin was completely freed of the poison and the sores perfectly healed."

Mr. E. H. Burnes, of Tamkohi P.O., Gorakhpur, N.W Province, writes: "Through the effects of heat, hard itching, inflamed lumps, similar to those caused by mosquitos, appeared on my chest.

"The places bled, discharged, and formed into scabs. Medical treatment failed, but in this powerful herbal Zam-Buk I found speedy ease. It soon stopped the irritation, softened the scabs, and healed the sore places quickly and permanently. I also find Zam-Buk an excellent first-aid for everyday cuts, burns and wounds."

No mere "dressing" or compound of animal fats and crude drugs can possibly possess the unique curative virtue of Zam-Buk, which is a pure, concentrated balm made of rare and costly herbal extracts. For its great value in bad legs, eczema, itch, heat sores and rashes, piles, ulceration, abscesses, inflammation, sore feet, insect bites, and all skin injuries, a box of Zam-Buk should be kept always handy. Of chemist and dispensaries everywhere. Direct from agents:—Messrs. Wakefield & Co., (China), Ld., S. Y. Sheng Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

FURLOUGH

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anti-Socialists vote. It will be noted that in each of these cases, with the exception of the Kilmarnock Division, it was the Liberal nominee who was at the bottom of the poll. Liberals would have been well advised to avoid these suicidal contests, but unfortunately local difficulties generally intervened. The desire of each side to have a candidate of its own is natural and intelligible. But under the new conditions it can be indulged in most cases only with highly unpleasant results.

The results of the Election in Scotland contain a vital lesson for the moderate voter, who is less concerned with the return of a Unionist or Liberal candidate than with defeating Socialism. If we had Scottish Home Rule to-day, and the same short-sighted electoral tactics on the part of the opposing parties, Scotland would have a Socialist Government in power, with such extremists as Mr. Wheatley or Mr. Kirkwood, as Prime Minister, and with Mr. Maxton at the head of the Scottish Education Department. Yet such a Government would represent a hopeless minority of the people of Scotland, for the anti-Socialist vote was in the ratio of more than two to one. Nevertheless, the Socialists are only six short of having an absolute majority on the Scottish Grand Committee.

COMBES IN EVIDENCE

Quite a number of gaffers of respectable attainment have been returned to Westminster. Though the two games go together very much, golf does on the one is seldom assisted by a noticeable flair for the other, indeed only two Prime Ministers have ever won the Parliamentary Handicap and Balfour has done quite to lose count off a handicap in the region of seven, and if years ago, when his handicap was 16, the late Mr. Punch Law came out on top. The golf of David Lloyd George is as erratic as we might expect it to be. One cannot help thinking that some bunkers must have heard the Limehouse touch. Yet there is a tablet on the New course which says: "Mr Lloyd George did this hole in one." There's fame for you.

LOCAL OPTIONISTS

Polling in Scotland on the Local Veto Vote was practically concluded, and, taking the country as a whole, "No Licence" has lost ground during the last three years instead of gaining it.

The leading Prohibitionists are themselves admitting a disappointing result. Further, in almost every case, especially in the cities and large towns, in which "dry" areas have been created, the result has merely been to increase the custom of licence-holders in adjoining "wet" areas.

There is no reason to believe that organisation by the Prohibitionists for another three years will alter the mood of the country in any substantial way. Those who voted "No Change" did not mean to affirm that they wished no change in the licensing laws—the third option, "limitation" of licences obtained only a negligible number of votes. Indeed the desire for change may be said to be unanimous in Scotland; even the Trade professes an anxiety on that score. What is eagerly looked for is a reform which is practical and will do something definite and tangible to mitigate the admitted evils of the drinking customs of this country.

AN UNWILLING "SPORT"

A West Stirlingshire canvasser who volunteered to amuse the baby so as to permit a female voter to go to the polling station and was off on a charge of the milk for a prolonged period has suffered more, he says, from the chaff than from the experience. It seems that he had had a fellow victim at Edinburgh. This second one was not kept waiting for long but when the voter returned she announced to his chagrin that she had voted for the other fellow. "But you're a nice man all the same," she added by way of compensation and his comment was a grudging "Oh, I'm a sport." But Echo heard stronger language later on.

WHEL IT BE A "KILL JOY"

In the opinion of that good judge, C. B. Macfarlane, the golf ball with the lighter core—if it does come to be the standard fixed upon—will sound the death knell of the mashie niblick, a club which, he says, is responsible for many failures. The game, he admits, however, will become even more interesting, and scoring will be just as low. That, of course, may be quite all right from the point of view of the first-class golfer. But what about the rank and file? The greatest joy of the ordinary player is to get in a hefty drive. The heavy core (31 pennyweights) suits them nicely. They have come to like it. And now with the lighter core they are going to lose at least 10 yards with their drive, and a like distance with the second. There is certainly not much for them to enthuse over in the proposed change.

HE COLLECTED HALFPENNIES.

The much-paragraphed Wiltshire man who has just died after having spent the last dozen years of his life collecting halfpennies, and who, when offered his choice of a sixpence and a copper always chose the latter coin, may not have been so eccentric as he was believed to be. In fact, there may have been method in his madness, as there was in the case of the old Scots worthy who had the same peculiarity. He was once challenged by the village minister on the matter. His reply was illuminating in the extreme. "Eegs, but I ken fine the saxpence will buy me mair tobacco. But it's just like this. Gin I tak' the saxpence I'll no get another chance at the bawbees." Which was good reasoning on the half-penny wise, six-pence foolish basis.

LAUGHTER IN COURT.

In the course of a lecture on "Humours of the Scottish Bar," Sheriff Orr told the following stories. A prisoner who was charged with theft at first pleaded guilty, then withdrew his plea, and the case went to trial. After the case had been heard the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. Discharging the accused, the Judge addressed him thus—"Prisoner at the bar, you have admitted you are a thief, the jury have found you are a liar, you now leave the Court without a stain on your character."

In another case the jury had retired to consider their verdict. By and by they rang the bell to ask if they could have a glass of water. According to the law of Scotland, it should be said, the jury are forbidden meat or drink once they have been enclosed until they have returned their verdict. The Judge, looking quite grave, delivered his decision slowly and deliberately. "Well, ye canna' ca' it meat; and it certainly isna' drink: they can have their water."

LABOUR IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

The Women's Vote Taking Place as Arbiter of National Destinies

From Our Trade Union Correspondent

Manchester, Dec. 10.

A reporter who visited the headquarters of the Conservative Party on the eve of the General Election was informed that the leaders had a quiet confidence in the result. At the Liberal headquarters they were more optimistic and foretold a great victory. At the Labour headquarters he was told that Labour expected to come out of the contest with 171 seats. At the time of writing there are 16 results to come in and those cannot materially affect the result. The Conservatives have lost 87 seats, and now number 252. Labour has made a net gain of 47, and now number 192. The Liberals have made a net gain of 33, and now number 153. All parties are amazed at the result. The Conservatives were dubious of success, and disturbed if they had not foreseen such a crushing defeat. The Liberals, who had the most known stockers, the support of the whole of the popular press, the most attractive election cry, "Everything you buy will cost you more," and a definite unity between its long-united leaders, are astounded that all these advantages have only achieved so small an advance, for the united party has less than a quarter of the seats in Parliament. But the Party that is most amazed at the result is Labour.

LABOUR "READY TO FIGHT"

Labour strongly objected to the General Election. Its leaders saw in the Tariff Reform proposals a serious menace to Labour's monopoly of votes for dear bread, and foresaw that its enemies would reunite the Liberals. They were also very short of money for a new electoral campaign. Nor had they any immediate cure to offer for unemployment. The Capital Levy is not advocated as a cure for unemployment. They thought they would be lucky if they lost no more than 50 seats. But as the campaign proceeded they became more optimistic. Candidates were nominated who were compelled to borrow the nomination fee, and who collected the money at out-of-door meetings to have accommodation for indoor meetings. Everywhere canvassers reported that working women were taking a great interest in Labour propaganda. It was thought that the Party would not, after all, use any seats. Younger members thought it might gain some. The result surpassed all their expectations. Constituency after constituency in which a Labour candidate had been put up for propagandist purposes and without any expectation of success fell to Labour. It polled 4,348,379 votes and came so near success in many constituencies that 20,000 more votes distributed where they would be most effective would have made Labour the strongest party in the House of Commons. If their present rate of advance can be maintained they should, in a year or two, be more powerful than all the other parties combined.

All Parties are united in agreeing that the women have achieved this. On the whole this cannot be denied. Prior to the extension of the franchise to women there used to be great differences of opinion on how women would vote when they had a vote. Some said it would be for the nicest and most pleasant spoken man. Others thought it would be for the policy. Events have proven both theories to be right. The most handsome and best groomed men had a walk-over in the 1918 election as far as the bulk of women's votes were concerned. Money was plentiful, employment was good, voting was a new game that two could play at in those halycon days. And bloody revolution was always a sure anti-Labour card to play. Labour and Bolshevism were then almost synonymous terms in anti-Labour propaganda, and every woman dreaded civil or any other kind of war.

THE PROMISED HEAVEN UNREALIZED.

But in 1920 a change began to take place. Wages came down heavily, unemployment grew, and universal peace seemed as far off as ever. Women were unlike their menfolk in that they had not been born little Liberals or Conservatives. Their outlook was more matter of fact and utilitarian. They began to realize that the vote might mean better houses, more housekeeping money, cheaper food, and greater security against unemployment and sickness. It had a money value. Its use or misuse might affect their babies, or start and stop wars in which their sons might fight.

It was widely remarked in the 1922 General Election that women were beginning to take a deep interest in politics and were asking the candidates very pertinent questions. Their great mistake was a disposition to take election promises on their face value. No small part of the disorders that have been a feature of Conservative and Liberal meetings during this election have sprung from the women voters' indignation that the candidates who promised them a new heaven and earth at the last General Election have not delivered the goods yet. The consternation of some of the older politicians at being taken so literally has been very amusing to witness. They are slowly beginning to realize that the women do not know the elementary rules of the game.

THE ADVANTAGE OF NO PAST.

It can be seen by this that Labour's major asset is the fact that it has no past. It promises much and has never had an opportunity to show what it can perform. Its success lies not so much in its own positive virtues as in the vices and mistakes of its opponents. And the things it does promise are those calculated to make the greatest appeal to women. A noticeable feature of the election has been the way in which many small Labour majorities at the previous election have been increased. It is normally supposed that the swing backwards and forwards of the electoral pendulum transfers this kind of seat to the opposing party at the following election. It is now evident that electors who in the past have swung from one side to the other are sticking to Labour until it has shown what it can do when in Power.

We have asked the Labour workers in several constituencies where Labour men have been returned what they consider to be the most effective propaganda work. The answers are the same in every case. Persistent house to house canvassing and a wide circulation of the anti-Labour candidates' Parliamentary record. Labour meetings and the Labour press were said to have very little value. It is difficult to persuade any but Labour enthusiasts to come to the one or buy the other. Systematic canvassing is now almost exclusively confined to the Labour Party. It is an unpleasant task demanding great enthusiasm. Liberal and Conservative organizations are now sufficiently grateful for any working class support at the ballot box and do not expect their proletarian supporters to actually work for the cause. Personal canvasses by the candidate or his wife are going out of fashion. The electorate is too big to make it feasible. The old type election literature, doggerel verses, and cartoons, have no effect on women.

A SIMPLE TEST FOR CANDIDATES.

The great vote-catching device of Labour is a comparatively new development. It is well known that Labour moves many amendments to Parliamentary Bills and that all these amendments favour the workers. Many people consider it a waste of time as there is no possibility of any of them being carried. They would not think so if they saw the use made of them in the constituencies. If Labour is attacking a seat held by a member of one of the older parties that member's record of votes on all these Bills and amendments is ensured enormous publicity by huge posters on the walls and handbills delivered from house to house. It is useless for him to plead the Party Whips. The question put to him is quite definite. Did he, or did he not on such a date vote for a reduction in Old Age Pensions, or against the Labour Amendment to increase the unemployment allowance, or against any other item that personally touches the querist?

If a Labour member is endeavouring to retain his seat a different form is used. All the pro-Labour votes for working class measures are given in one column, and all the anti-Labour votes of his predecessor are given in another. "Who is your friend now?" and an invitation to ask the anti-Labour candidate his reasons for so voting is the customary conclusion to this, the strongest propagandist weapon Labour now possesses.

FAILURE OF THE PRESS.

Another great cause for satisfaction among Labour workers is the surprising impotence of the syndicated popular press to do them any harm. All the London and provincial newspapers of Lord Rothermere and Lord Beaverbrook; including this recently acquired Hulton group, were unanimous in advising their readers to do one thing—vote against Labour. Its first favourites were Winston Churchill, McCurdy, and the other ex-National Liberal members. After them the rest of the Liberal Party, and the rank and file of the Conservatives. Then came Lord Curzon, and Mr. Baldwin, and last of all; disguised under a German rendering of the Second International—the British Labour Party. It is noticeable that the most sensational defeats were suffered by members of the first group. Churchill, McCurdy, Sanders Sir Alfred Mond, and others were easily defeated. The most sensational successes achieved by Labour, and in those parts of the country where the Beaverbrook and Rothermere newspapers have the largest circulation. 22 seats were won in London, 13 of them being net gains.

Few features of the election are so surprising as the mistaken estimates of the older Party leaders on the mentality of the working classes. Liberal organizers appeared to think that Winston Churchill was a strong candidate. He is the most hated man in politics by the workers. They distrust his cleverness and will always associate him with some of the most disastrous episodes in the war. To a lesser extent this distrust and antipathy is felt for all the better-known pre- and post war politicians. Hardcastle, the best known man in the Labour Party, has been defeated. Asquith has only retained his seat through a division in the local Labour ranks that resulted in two Labour candidates putting up for election. Their joint votes exceeded his by over a thousand. Lloyd George, for all his famed oratorical wizardry, would not stand any chance in an English industrial constituency.

COMMUNISTS EJECTED

Another noticeable feature of the election was the defeat of all the avowed Communist candidates and all those well known Communist who put up for election with the Labour ticket. There are no avowed Communists in the new Parliament but many Communist sympathizers. Among the unsuccesful were Saklatvala the Parsee windbag; Paul, the editor of the "Communist Review," who polled just over 5,000 votes in Rusholme, Manchester; and Phillips Price, who nearly achieved success in Gloucester. A surprising feature of the elections was the size of many of these extremists' polls. Communists believe that if a Communist candidate was put up in every constituency the Party would poll a million votes.

With the termination of this General Election Labour believes that the older political parties have played their last and most powerful card, and lost. With the solitary exception of Commander Kenworthy all the old Radical elements in the Liberal Party have left it or joined the Labour Party. It has nothing to offer the worker. Its ultimate end is fusion with the Conservatives. Protection will come in due course. It is inevitable. But it will be Labour that will put it on the Statute book.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19. As a consequence of opposition on the part of the Philippine Government and people to the application of the United States Shipping Laws to the Islands for the present.—Reuter's American Service.

ern Kuangtung, from among whom Chen Chiung-ming prefers to recruit his troops, are much more closely akin to their neighbours in Kuangsi than to any breed in Kuangtung.

There are 13 languages spoken within the geographical bounds of the province of Kansu, six to the writer's knowledge in Sinkiang and no one knows how many in Szechuan, Yunnan and Kueichow. In Fukien the Foochow and Amoy people regard each other as foreigners and speak a different language. The Kansu Mohammedan differs as radically from the Kansu son of Han as the German does from the Frenchman, and the two breeds like each other no better. One could cite these illustrations by the column and the further one goes the more obvious it becomes that if provincial lines were to concide with lines of breed or language China would be a much worse patchwork than modern Europe and that its division into 50 provinces would not satisfy the Chinese people if they were all breed-conscious self-determinists.

TENDING ONLY TO DISRUPTION.

The propagation of the local autonomy idea serves to foster prejudices in China which make for disruption and distintegration. It serves no good purpose to help the Chinese crystallize their prejudices along provincial lines. Everyone who has lived in the interior of China knows that inter-community prejudices are often stronger than inter-provincial suspicions and dislikes. The rank outsider from the Occident is received more tolerantly in any unspoiled Chinese community than the northerner is in Canton or the Shanghai man in Peking. The Pekinese regards the Tientsin man with suspicion, dislikes his mannerisms cordially and finds his dialect more annoying than the sputter and lisp of a Southerner trying to speak Mandarin. The villager in China makes every allowance for the "distant guest" and feels called upon to overlook his peculiarities with a fine magnanimity, but he has no patience whatever with the benighted barbarian from the other side of the mill stream who says lei for lai, or tsang for chang, who goes through his funeral rites in a slightly different fashion, or puts a different sort of roof tree on his house. In one sense of the word the untravelled Chinese people are intensely provincial, but the less difference there is between any two breeds of them, the more do these differences grate upon them. Neither a brogue nor a burr are barriers to any stratum of society in London, but Cockney puts a man in a class from which there is no exit. An English accent is neither a social nor a business disadvantage in Chicago. It may even elicit sympathy and make friends for the afflicted one. But there one has to live down a Boston or a Georgia accent.

Chinese provincialism is no more a conscious provincial feeling, split into 22 and coinciding with 22 provinces, than is inter-district provincialism in America a state feeling, split into 48 parts coinciding with 48 states.

Chinese provincialism furnishes no better warrant for splitting China into 22 semi-independent states than American provincialism furnishes for a similar decentralizing process in America. Types and dialects vary almost as much in England, Scotland and Wales from district to district as they do in China. But if the British Government were to collapse and disorder were prevalent, the man who suggested that unity and peace could be restored through a federation of semi-independent shire governments, each adapted to the temperament and idiosyncrasies of its native folks, would be thought criminally insane.

HOW FEDERATION SERVES.

Federation is a step towards unity and centralization when separated units are being brought together which have never before been united under one highly centralized authority. Federation to this end in America when the 13 American colonies, which had no tradition of unity, were first imperfectly welded into a nation. It served the same purpose for the grandfather of William II when the German kingdoms, principalities, duchies, free cities and what not were first formed into a loose jointed Empire. In a state which has developed a tradition of unity, which has outgrown federation of autonomous units and has achieved centralization of authority, a tendency to revert to federation on a plea of provincial rights or prejudices spells nothing but disintegration and is an omen of collapse. The United States once displayed this retrogressive tendency, which was fostered by a provincialism the like of which China has not experienced for centuries. This tendency was crushed in a war which cost a million lives, but there are few Americans now who do not believe that the results were worth the price.

Those who play upon Chinese provincialism, attempt to group Chinese prejudices into provincial blocs and advocate provincial autonomy are engaged upon a work of destruction which is all too easy. To rebuild a new China out of the scattered fragments, once they were effectually scattered and were conscious of it would we quite a different task. It would be just as difficult to rebuild China and provide her with an efficient Government after her dismemberment into autonomous little states with a newly developed state consciousness as it would be to form a closely knit federation of the portions of Europe, Asia and Africa which once went to make up the Roman Empire. China is no more homogeneous than modern Europe and if she were split into as many mutually hostile or suspicious parts as Europe and each part were to develop its petty local prejudices under self-government, it would be just as much of a task to reunite China as it would be to evolve a European federation with a respectable central government at this moment.

NO POPULAR FAITH IN IT.

If all tradition of unity in China were dead, if the provinces had already developed the provincial consciousness of little independent nations, the recognition of provincial autonomy might be an essential step towards federation, and federation a normal step towards reunification, peace and the evolution of a government enjoying real authority. The point is that China has not reached this pass and, under the worst conditions, could not reach it for many years to come. Such division as there is in China is not along provincial lines, but along military and political lines which are of absolutely no interest to the great masses of the people. The tradition of unity built up under several millenniums of Imperial government is by no means dead; and opposed to the centrifugal tendency of the unassimilated border peoples of China and to narrow provincialism there is growing up a new spirit of nationalism, born in part of improved communications but more largely of fear of foreign aggression. This promises to knit China more closely together than she has ever been in her history.

The truth of the matter is that as a popular movement the provincial autonomy movement simply does not exist. As a political faith it does exist because it serves the ends of the fathers of disruption and disorder and gives them some sort of an apology for reverting to a feudal system of Government which China outgrew 2000 years ago and which has been subject to spasmotic revivals only in the epochs which the Chinese regard as the darkest in their history. There used to be some reason to believe that the provincial potentates were sincere in their profession of the faith. There is none now. The advocacy of provincial autonomy now brands a provincial chief as a would-be reformer who has not the courage to announce himself a rebel and raise the standard of revolution, or as an exploiter of the people who jealously guards his monopoly upon the loot of a province and has not the courage to proclaim himself a bandit—in either case a hypocrite. Repuplican history, particularly recent history, proves this to the hilt.

ALWAYS AN OFFICIAL DODGE.

One hears virtually nothing of provincial autonomy when there is a weak Government in Peking which is not likely to interfere forcibly with the provincial chiefs, unless it is from Tuchuns who are themselves weak, are afraid of their neighbours and are seeking the moral support of the radicals. A central administration which threatens to be strong and aggressive and which promises to exact some degree of obedience from the provincial chiefs always elicits loud professions of the autonomist faith from the independent exploiters. More was heard of provincial autonomy at the different times when Yuan Shih-kai, Tuan Chi-jui, Chang Tso-lin and Wu Pei-fu dominated affairs in Peking and threatened to reunite China under a Central Government than at any other time.

Chang Tso-lin believes in autonomy, the autonomy of Manchuria, but not in provincial autonomy because he governs Kirin and Heilungkiang as well as Fengtien. If he were to recover his former influence in national affairs and were to shift his headquarters to Peking he would make short work of Manchurian autonomy if anyone there had the temerity to proclaim it. Lu Yung-hsiang believes in the autonomy of Chêkiang because, for several years past, the Peking Government and all his neighbours have been hostile to his party and his chief. If Marshal Tuan were restored to power in Peking General Lu's first step, by way of celebration, would be to throw the provisional constitution into the fire and cancel autonomy.

Chen Chiung-ming has always been one of the sturdiest champions of provincial autonomy. He said that he wanted complete independence so that he could make Kuangtung into a model province and that he would then be ready to join other model provinces in a federation. The majority of foreigners in the South had great faith in his sincerity and gave him much moral support. The writer, among others, assisted in boosting him and more than once tried to spread the Chen Chiung-ming gospel in Wu Pei-fu's camp. Wu Pei-fu has never believed in provincial autonomy but, up to a year ago, gave General Chen all credit for sincerity. Then when Dr. Sun went to Canton again and General Chen was forced to retire to Waichow (Huichow) Loyang received a telegram from Chen Chiung-ming asking for support, which appeal was supplemented by an offer to drop all talk of provincial autonomy. The impression which this made can easily be imagined. Chao Heng-ti has always pretended to believe in provincial autonomy. When Tan Yen-kai invaded his province and threatened to take Changsha again as he had done in the Spring of 1920, Chao also called upon Wu Pei-fu for help and his first offer as a *quid pro quo* was the cancellation of Hunan's autonomy.

The whole autonomy movement was officially inspired in the first instance and autonomy propaganda has waxed and waned from time to time as it has suited official interests. Some popular interest was once aroused because the idea fostered local prejudices and flattered local vanities, but the popular reaction against the idea is now stronger than the movement ever was. The people want peace under an efficient government so badly that they do not want to see time wasted on any more experiments with imported ideas which are wholly foreign to their history and traditions. The new nationalistic spirit, which has grown out of a fear of foreign aggression, which was fostered by Japan's policy for so many years and which is now growing in confidence and assertiveness, completely swamps all popular thought of reuniting China by first dividing her into a number of independent parts and then reuniting them.

IN SPIRIT UNITED.

In spirit China is more of a unit now than she has ever been. Only officialdom is divided within itself. This is sufficient to keep China in turmoil, but it is no warrant for dividing the people of China into separate administrative units and for cultivating provincialism, since such steps would serve the interest of no one but the provincial chiefs who farm the various provinces. They would naturally be delighted to trade with a Central Government, paying lip service in exchange for a sealed charter to loot their bailiwicks with impunity. A peace founded upon a federation of provincial chiefs secure in their autonomy would simply put the seal of authority upon existing impossible conditions. It would be a step towards fresh revolutions and fresh interprovincial feuds and more banditry because it would put a blessing upon the worst features of the Tuchun system. Under such a peace the Central Government would have even less power than it now enjoys to interfere, to remove evil officials, to check official rapacity, to force bandit suppression or to direct the movemantt of the provincial armies. In reply to an order from the capital the provincial chief would stand on his autonomy and flatly refuse obedience. He would say that under his provincial constitution (written at his dictation and amended at his pleasure) he had certain rights, that his provincial assembly (appointed from the various districts by his military subordinates) had granted him certain other rights, and that the assembly (sitting under the "protection" of a brigade of his troops with machine guns, pointed inwards, at the doors) had sustained him in these rights. Until the Government from above or the people from below have established some sort of a check upon provincial officialdom, the extension of the provincial autonomy idea would not mean autonomy or self government for their worst enemies so that the people would be left wholly at their mercy without recourse or appeal.

It is the silliest of all silly schemes for restoring peace in China because it plays directly into the hands of the very people who are the fathers of turmoil and frees them from discipline, instead of eliminating them or beating a sense of their obligations into them, as any workable plan for permanent peace must do.

THE EDITOR'S REWARD

I.

St. Peter stood at Heaven's gate,
With golden key in hand,
Who'd shuffled off this mortal coil,
Wh'd shuffled off this mortal coil,
And sought the Promised Land.
Quoth Peter, "Name one earthly deed
"That merits golden crown."
Replied the shade, "O Peter, heed
"The plea of one in direst need
"Of rest: nor send me down!"

II.

"Know then, that I, an editor,
"Long dwelt in far Cathay.
"Full many decades was compelled
"To read the letters, all mis-spelled,
"The postman brought each day.
"No topic fresh e'er pierced the gloom.
"Forgive this salty tear!
"Bethink you of the nom de plume
"Misguided writers all assume,
"Nor vary, year by year!"

III.

"Old Reader.—Veritas.—A Friend.
"Subscriber.—Victim.—no
"Surcease from him with axe to grind,
"Although his ev'ry screed is signed
"Pro Bono Publico!
"An Anxious Mother.—X. Y. Z.—
"Indignant and Fair Play.—
"No sooner was each out of bed,
"He'd read what yesterday was said,
"Then give his pen full sway."

IV.

"Enough!" cried Peter. "Come within."
And straight unlocked the door.
Yet, ere he entered into bliss,
Some trepidation smote, I wis,
The tearful editor.
Till he beheld a golden line
Of letters, high exposed.
Then, thrilled, as by the strongest wine,
He gazed upon the welcome sign—
"All correspondence closed."

R. R. L. F.

THE BALLAD OF BURIED FLOWERS

(*Translated from the Chinese.*)

The cold rain sings, the vine-leaf flies,
The blossom with its fragrance dies,
And in a corner of the skies
The petals of the sunlight fall.
Fading, the red forsakes its glow
And pale the tints of summer show
Where dallying perfumes fainter grow—
And no one pitieth.

The wandering thread-like silken blaze
That trellised all the autumn days
And garlanded with trembling haze
The old pavilion's carven wall
Is gone with all the ghosts of spring—
And light the leaves of willow cling
Where soft embroidered curtains swing
To wait the winter's breath.

There where the maiden silently
Sees how the lengthening shadows flee
And grieves the day that cannot be
But must go down to other days,
The cords of sorrow wind and wind
And, silken too, creep in to bind
Her heart with pain and ever find
New torment for her breast.

She thinks the flower that shines so gay
Must somewhere bloom, when once away
To mouldering death and dark decay
Its earthly splendour disappears.
The willows and the elms forsake
Their pastures by the reedy lake
And send their 'prisoned souls to take
In Heaven their glorious rest.

The dainty stars of plum and peach
For ever paths of dalliance preach
And whirling madly call to each
Their counsel: in the dance be gay!
Nor care they for the fatal sob
Of icy winds that foully rob
Their lives away—but wait the throb
Of spring's recurring scene.

For surely comes the year again
And peach and plum and swallow-train
To build its nest for April rain
And twitter in the sun-warmed caves.
Ah me! though Nature's love be great
Who knows the seal of next year's fate,
Or whether any maid shall wait
Beside the painted screen?

ANONYMOUS

SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE PILLARS OF CLOUD AND FIRE

A Sermon Preached by the Rev. A. N. Rowland, in Union Church, Shanghai, on January 6, 1924

"The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might go by day and night."—Exod. xiii. 21.

Life has often been likened to a journey, but it is the Bible that gives it the Land of Promise for a goal. How different is Matthew Arnold's preface:

"With weary footsteps we pass
Slowly, oppressed as storm or
Or night or gathering
Soon to be out of our way.
In the heavy air and the noise
Where the great and fortunate live
Stands or lies Overmind."

From that grim description we are glad to turn to the story of Exodus which lights up the perilous way with gleams of hope and a sense of guidance. Life is distinguished from mere existence by having a goal, some prize ahead to quicken our steps and set teeth on our perverse. Hope is a staff, walk hence with that, and manage it against despairing thoughts.

Besides the sense of a goal life consists in what we gain by the way, increasing knowledge and power over the conditions of existence. And it is right to make progress in regard to everything around us in visible world. But what is the good of getting on, and what is the value of progress, if it is confined to things that are less than ourselves? A man as he grows gets a bigger hold on language, on money, on position, but these are only instruments of his soul, and the question is what does he do with them. Does he prostitute his gifts or keep his gains to himself? Then it were better for him to be unsuccessful and obscure. Along with all progress, and the soul of it, must be advance in the knowledge of God through obedience and in power with God through prayer. (This is life eternal that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.")

A CHEQUERED JOURNEY.

True life then is an advance in the knowledge, faith and service of God, and on the first Sunday of a new year we might consider the terms of that advance. It is evidently a chequered journey dark and light keep one another close company like the squares on a draught board. You don't proceed long in the sunlight before your way is shadowed by a cloud, you don't tramp far in the shadows before there comes a burst of sunshine. You will admit that life has been made up like that so far, and you may be sure it will be so in 1924.

What is the meaning of it? Surely it is to keep us spiritually on the move. That is the lesson of the alternating signals in the wilderness. In the daylight gloomed the cloud, in the night time glowed the fire. And by this very contrariness of things the people were reminded and convinced of a Presence that could guide them. The Lord went before them" in this fashion "that they might keep moving by day and by night."

THE PERIL OF MONOTONY.

Read the story of experience, how we have got into the clutch of habit, mood or circumstances, and said within ourselves, "I shall never be moved." Then came the contradiction—the gloom on our gladness, the shine on our sorrow. And we were wise to accept these changes as the signals of a Will that was greater and wiser than ours—"the holy, perfect and acceptable will of God." When we read them as the call to move on we can

"Rejoice that man is linked
From change increasingly
The soul engages to be fretted".

It is not long since Father Stanton of St. Alban's, Holborn, finished a life of many hard storm and sunshine. His ritualism was too high even for the present Bishop of London, but his heart was full of the love of God. He was preaching on the text, because they have no changes therefore they fear not God," and went on to say:

Monotony is very perilous to the spiritual life because it saps every healthy tide in the soul's spirit. Monotony of health or sickness, prosperity or adversity, even of the weather, leads men to forget God. That is why God sends changes." I believe that is the key to the parable of the changing pillars in the wilderness by which the people of Israel were taught to advance from one stage to the next of promise.

A CHANGE SEEN.

(1) The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud. When he says that was not meant to the physical eye, the Lord manifested himself in a cloud, not a casual, harmless, distant cloud, but such as often rises in the [illegible] and the centre of it, seen from a point of perplexity, or disquiet and fear. A cry [illegible] towards Heaven has given this vivid description in a recent book. Suddenly a [illegible] dust storm from the North [illegible] Cairo was on [illegible] the centre of the storm was [illegible] as the place where it would [illegible] the horizons of a mile. The very shape of a cloud [illegible] changed its aspect [illegible] as like that one [illegible] come a phantom because of some cloud that has risen from without or within. [illegible] disturbance of our ease, the disintegration of our plans. The details of life are blown about our eyes and ears and our world [illegible]

Here is a man who can be [illegible] has business for the sake of his son, and he [illegible] the plan of his own [illegible] for the news came that his boy had been struck down in the fields of Flanders or worse than that, stunned by [illegible]. And his landscape became [illegible] night, as the promise [illegible] his goal.

COMFORT IN THE CLOUD.

What shall he do [illegible] that pillar of cloud? What can he do but invest it with the presence of God, and take it for a signal to advance to a new perception of values, a new understanding of you? That was the message that John Bright made at the instance of Richard Cobden, who roused him from the apathy of his sorrow at the death of his wife, and persuaded him to take this pillar of cloud as a sign to go forward in the service of God and service of God. So may we in the [illegible] to grow harder, rise up and walk humbly with our God!

But the cloud sometimes [illegible] from within. Here is the case of a wealthy father. Such [illegible] loss and every kind of [illegible] What there does it mean? He, as people carelessly say, he has all that heart can wish. But has he? There is the rub. A pillar of cloud [illegible] but to cause [illegible] pause, but to cause [illegible] to call things to [illegible] them, to show [illegible] needs that [illegible] Life is [illegible] losing wasted on [illegible] the sun of the [illegible] becomes a [illegible] to [illegible] the young [illegible] and [illegible] Now [illegible] has found [illegible] the way to [illegible] cloud of their dissatisfaction [illegible] and they have passed on to [illegible] a nobler estimate of their fellows, a dearer consciousness of God.

It is to this we are called forward in the events that seem most adverse and forbidding, and it is not so easy to say Yes because it means surrender of the will. The difficulty is reflected in Newman's hymn:

"I was not ever thus, nor prayed
that Thou shouldst lead me on:
I loved to choose and see my path;
but now lead Thou me on."

A PILLAR OF FIRE BY NIGHT.

(2) But there is another sign of the divine presence and leadership. There was a pillar of fire by night—a glow against the dark, a herald of the morning in the long watches of the night. That is surely a parable of the Lord's presence, and it is written in many a man's experience. How often the conditions of life have settled on like a cold mist from a sullen sky and adversity stares in upon us through the decades of [illegible] ment, to no apparent reason, without any traceable cause the [illegible] and sunshine appears. And the dark background [illegible] only enhances the glow of the divine goodness [illegible] presence. Those [illegible] pictured a soul in very grievous trouble, with God bending over as a mother would. "See, I will allure her and bring her into the [illegible] and speak comfortably [illegible] and her vale of trouble shall be her doorway of hope and she shall sing there." The sensitive William Cowper [illegible] on the strength of [illegible] and gave us the glorious hymn which begins, [illegible] a light surprises the Christian while he sings, His the Lord who rises with healing in [illegible] These may be poetical [illegible] but they are also [illegible] experiences, and I [illegible] from the time of which we [illegible]

[illegible] during the Great War, [illegible] "Elie Khan," Russian [illegible] near Paris, wrote in his diary: "My faith did not shed its soothing [illegible] and the [illegible] thing better beyond, I know not how one's heart would endure it all. But thanks to that faith, if we are not, and ought not to be [illegible] [illegible] a pillar of fire, and it was a sign [illegible] to keep moving in faith and hope and the labours of love.

[illegible] is another witness, this time a soldier disabled, whose record has reached me only this Christmas. He describes his night of doubt and sorrow" in these words; "Sick at heart and [illegible] for the woman who had promised to love me whatever [illegible] turned scornfully away when weariness and wounds had shattered my life. [illegible] my back on my friends, and set out upon the [illegible] that haunt [illegible] Pot one [illegible] poisoned [illegible] Chinese road, [illegible] velvet [illegible] led me gently upward, and [illegible] discovery of [illegible] and health [illegible] for the body as the soul" "Sometimes a light surprises" because God is the Father of lights and has [illegible] [illegible] is only a [illegible] and, like [illegible] of this earth that [illegible] can only stand for a little while between us and the "joy that cometh in the morning." When we are visited [illegible] cloud of sorrow, the [illegible] the gloom, or [illegible] the shadow of death we [illegible] shall surely find [illegible] tinged with the [illegible] sun that is still [illegible] below our horizon.

What can we do, o'er whom the unbeholden
[illegible] which we
[illegible]
[illegible] and, with
[illegible]
[illegible] the softly of a Hope."

[illegible] parable which we might take for a motto through the year. (1) The Lord goes before us to keep us moving on alike through the perils of the garish day and of the gloomy night, for as George Meredith said, "The soul's one road is forward" (2) We may recognize His leadership by day in the cloud that we fear to enter, and by night in the fire that bids us hope still in God. "Through cloud and sunshine Lord abide with me."

CHINA'S SEARCH FOR PEACE

IV.—The Talk of Provincial Autonomy: A System That Never Was and Which Answers No Chinese Need

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 11.

The idea of a federation of self governing Chinese provinces, semi-autonomous but united in a voluntary league, has captured the imaginations of many sincere persons and has also furnished a very convenient political war cry for scores of consummate rogues. It is an idea which is entirely foreign to Chinese tradition and finds no sanction whatever in Chinese history. This is no reason why it should be rejected off hand as a way to reunification and peace, but it is an all sufficient reason for challenging it and for approaching it with caution and suspicion. It is an idea which neither the older officials nor the masses of the people can grasp, any more than they can grasp our conception of republicanism, and therefore one which all well-wishers of China should hesitate to foist upon the nation until it is absolutely certain that it will work and that no other scheme which conforms to Chinese tradition and can be understood by the Chinese people will work.

Before the Revolution of 1911 there was no distinction was ever made, for 20 centuries, between provincial rights and national rights. Nothing of the sort was even thought of. All right was vested in the Emperor, in the first place, and in the family group in the second place. The whole machinery of officialdom, from the time of the building of the Great Wall down to the Revolution, was nothing but an elaborate medium through which the Emperor conveyed his will to the family group and through which the family group paid tribute to the Emperor. The only rights delegated to the [illegible] or Viceroy were those [illegible] for geographical reasons [illegible] Emperor could not exercise [illegible] Whatever rights the [illegible] provincial official enjoyed he exercised, not as a local ruler but as the Emperor's representative and in the Emperor's name. The only exceptions to this rule, the only periods during which provincial chiefs came to have any other conception of their positions, were the interregnums, the periods of chaos and disintegration between the collapse of one dynasty and the erection of another.

HISTORY'S UNVARIED LESSON.

It was in these periods that the governors became kings and made and broke treaties with one another like modern Tuchuns, insisting upon their individual rights as princes, bullying or bargaining with weak central governments. There are hundreds of thousands of untutored citizens of the Republic of China who regard this immediate epoch as one of those periods and who secretly review China's history to learn how such periods in the past ended. As it happens, they ended in every instance with the appearance upon a turbulent stage of some hard-fisted, strong-willed individual who set up a new dynasty and exacted respect for it with lance, sword and bill. They search in vain for instances during the past two thousand years when the numerous local kinglets got together in a federation and restored order by erecting a Government based upon a mutual recognition of their rights as rulers. They find on the contrary that each new conqueror [illegible] a fresh dynasty [illegible] high [illegible] more [illegible] less [illegible] fashion that the only right, distinction or honour which they could possibly enjoy lay in acting faithfully as mouthpieces for the Emperor in his dealings with his people. It is folly to believe that the great masses of a people so bound up in the past as the Chinese are can conceive of any other relations between a central authority, the provincial authorities and the people, which is consistent with order or good government.

One of the arguments advanced by many advocates of provincial autonomy is an echo of the Occidental cry for self determination. They recognize rightly that the Chinese are not strictly homogeneous, but differ widely from district to district in racial origin, language, customs, mode of living and temperament. They try to prove that provincial boundaries follow fairly closely the lines of divergence and that the provinces have been shaped in the past to corral the peoples of different types and ways within individual folds. They argue that the various peoples of the various provinces should have the right to select forms of government suited to their needs and temperaments and to elect their rulers from among themselves. These ideas are founded upon fallacies; they cater to prejudices and not to tradition; they do not promote unity but encourage dissolution; they only serve to add impetus to the centrifugal tendency which a dozen strong dynasties have had to fight in China; they come into direct conflict with the new Chauvinistic spirit that pervades the whole country; and they please no one but the provincial satraps who are delighted to have an excuse for defending their personal autonomy as exploiters of the people.

NEVER YET ATTEMPTED

Except in so far as the modern provinces are superimposed upon the old feudal divisions of China, when the people of Yen or Chihli were of one breed, the people of Lu or Shantung another, the people of Wu or southern Kiangsu of another, there has never been any deliberate attempt made to keep the peoples of different racial origin within provincial watertight compartments. The whole study of every dynasty was to obliterate differences and distinctions and never to accentuate them. A glance at the map will show that in the great majority of provinces political boundaries coincide rather with natural geographical boundaries than with ethnological boundaries and that many comprise the territories tapped by confluent river systems. Convenience of administration, based upon lines of communication, had more to do with the mapping of provinces from age to age than any consideration for difference of breed.

The result is that groups within many of the modern provinces differ more radically from one another than they do from neighbours in other provinces. The people of northern Kiangsu, for instance, are as different from the people south of the Yangtze as the Chihli men are from the Hunan men, though the men of northern Kiangsu are very like their neighbours in Anhui and Shantung. The men of the mountainous Shantung peninsula are as different from the Shantung plains people, in language and physical type, as the Kiangsi people are from the Cantonese. Apart from the Hakka, there are two distinct languages spoken in Kwangtung, besides many dialects, and the Swatow man is not at all like the native of the delta, while the hill folk in west

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

"The Modern English Series" is a new library of books consisting of abridged editions of well-known copyright works and edited by R. B. Lattimer, M.A., and R. B. Morgan, M.A., M.LITT. Mr. Murray will publish immediately the first three volumes—"Scott's Last Expedition," "The Cruise of the Cachalot," and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"—and they may be had in two styles; either with full gilt front and spine, suitable for gifts and prizes, or with design in ink for general use. Although each volume has been carefully abridged, nothing has been done to disturb the narrative as presented by the author, or to sacrifice any vital part. Some illustrations are included and each book contains a suitable introduction and a glossary of unusual words and phrases. Other volumes will be added in due course.

***

Mr. Brand Whitlock, who was American Minister to Belgium when the war broke out, has a novel appearing with Appleton. He was writing it at Brussels when he heard the war bugle sound, very much as Wellington, at the Duchess of Richmond's famous ball, heard of the advance of Napoleon. Mr. Brand Whitlock put his manuscript aside and worked no more on it until he left diplomacy in 1922. Then he took it out again, finished it and entitled it, rather oddly, "J. Hardin and Son." It is a story of a little town in Ohio which the author loved well as a small boy.

***

A habit which was popular with the Victorian novelists, of having a quotation, in prose or verse, on the title-page of a story, seems to be returning in high quarters. We shall find, when we get Mr. Joseph Conrad's new novel, "The Rover," in a week or so, that it takes this motto from Spencer:—

Sleep after toyle, port after stormie seas,
Ease after warre, death after life, does greatly please.

"The Rover" has the Mediterranean in the early years of 1800 for a background rather than for a stage.

***

The Scottish invasion of Ireland, under Edward Bruce, has never been treated in detail as a separate event. It will be so treated in a book which the Murrays announce by Miss Olive Armstrong. The invasion marked a moment of extreme importance for Ireland, because it was the dividing line between the highest good of English rule and "the beginning of all evil." Miss Armstrong has drawn her work from original sources which include many unpublished manuscripts, and this circumstance enhances its value to students of Irish history.

***

Very notable indeed is "Selwyn Brothers" (7s. 6d.; Hodder & Stoughton), Miss F. E. Mills Young's latest addition to her stories of South African life. Each of these stories there must be close upon a dozen of them now has been marked by individuality and distinction, but with the present absorbing yet painful romance the author gives us what is perhaps her finest achievement.

***

The Hon. J. W. Fortescue has been varying the heavy literary labour of his history of the British Army by writing a book, which Macmillan announces, about "My Native Devon." He is a son of the third Earl Fortescue, and so a member of a family which has intimate and, indeed, historical associations with the "Shire" of the Sea Kings." His "Story of a Red Deer" was a study of the deer of Exmoor, and nothing more graphic about them has been written. In this new book Mr. Fortescue has much to say about the various sides of Devon, its sea, its land, its people and its history.

***

"Historic Textile Fabrics," by Richard Glazier, is one of those monographs for which the house of Batsford is justly famous. It gives "a short but nevertheless comprehensive history of figured weaving; tracing its development through what is termed the *characteristics* or *styles* of certain periods, communities, or countries," and is packed with well chosen and well arranged information, illustrated with representative example of textile design from the splendid collections in the Victoria and Albert Museum and from the Manchester Collections. The clear, authoritative text, joined to the abundant illustrations, makes this a book that no one interested in textiles and woven patterns can possibly overlook. It is emphatically a standard work. The price of the volume is 21/-.

***

Earl Buxton, who was Governor-General and High Commissioner of South Africa, has written a book about Gen. Louis Botha, with whom he came into close association. It is not a biography, but an attempt to give a picture of the man as a Prime Minister, statesman, companion and friend. This leads to the discussion of many questions and problems of South Africa and the Empire, as will be found when John Murray publishes the book.

***

It is pleasant to hear that Anatole France, though he is now an old man, is working on a new book. He began it in the summer, when he was at his country house, La Bêchellerie, near Touris. Eventually it will appear in the English edition of Anatole France's works which John Lane has been publishing. Meanwhile translations of two existing books remain to appear, a fourth series of "Life and Letters," which Mr. Bernard Miall has Englished, and "The Latin Genius," Englished by Mr. Wilfrid Jackson.

***

Somewhere in his letters Thomas Carlyle speaks of a journal which is in the British Museum as the "most interesting of all manuscripts." This is a diary which an Englishman of the Cromwellian time, Sir Simmonds D'Ewes, kept from the beginning of the Long Parliament to the opening of the trial of the Earl of Strafford. Carlyle urged that it should be published, but only now is this being done, and we owe the service to an American scholar, Dr. Wallace Nortenstein, of Cornell University. He has edited the journal for the Yale University Press, and it will be issued here by the Oxford Press.

STELLA BENSON IN CHINA

"THE POOR MAN." By Stella Benson. Macmillan & Co., Ld., London.

Readers of the earlier novels and poems of Stella Benson, now Mrs. O'Gorman Anderson, are prepared to welcome another of her original stories, lit with flashes of wayward fancy and adorned with imaginative verse. In her vivid portrayal of Edward Williams, the "poor man," the author has added a new type to literature, the partially deaf man whose infirmity makes him invest things half-heard with exotic beauty as in this conversation:—

"A woman's sharp voice said, 'Well, say, listen, what was that? It was a dandy piece.' And Edward heard the man with a cocktail shaker between his knees reply, "That was the song of the twelve eagles after the emerals of the South Sea lost their fragrance? Someone added 'They were crushed the day the love-tinker died on a hill of violets in Vienna.' Edward Williams was pleased with this conversation, although, of course, he knew that it had not taken place. He knew well that he was more than half deaf, and in many moods he welcomed the insight that his infirmity gave him into matters that did not exist. His two friends had been telling each other facts that both knew and that Edward did not wish to know. Neither would, of course, dream of mention-in emeralds or hills of violets except when it was really necessary and helpful to do so. Edward did not care. He felt that his mind's eye had acquired one picture the more without the trouble of acquiring a fact."

Edward is a neurotic, unhealthy, miserably self-conscious Englishman first met with in California, who pursues his unresponsive love, Emily, through Japan to Hongkong, and Peking, on to Ichang and back again to Shanghai. The reactions of visiting Englishmen to California are humourously, but not unkindly described and the most ardent "Native Son" could not object to the ardent, impressionistic depiction of the wonderful Western scenery. The book is irresistibly quotable and we yield to temptation again:—

"The father of Miss Webor was a retail merchant in Calistoga (California). He called his house not a house but a 'home,' 'My Pop has one elegant Home right in the classy part of the city of Calistoga' said Miss Weber. The American of the Weber type chooses many of his words for their potential catch in the throat, as it were, *Motherhood, manhood, lovelight, grip-o'-the-hand*, the movies have made words of this kind music in the American ear. But words with home in them are the most popular—*homestead, homeland, home site, home-town, home-builder*. We who can live in houses and can hear the word Mother in print with dry eyes or hear the glugging of someone else's baby over its food in a cafeteria without vicarious domestic ectasy, must seem very coarse to Americans. However, the missionary movies are with us now. We shall no doubt eventually suffer a change of heart."

The plot, while it holds the interest of the reader, is not the most important thing about this book which abounds in unexpected turns of thought, in character delineation and telling word-pictures of California and China. The incidental poems and the opening invocation to Kuan-yin, Goddess of Mercy, are worth careful reading.

E. P.

A TALE OF MYSTERY

"THE THING AT THEIR HEELS: By Harrington Hext: Messrs. Thornton, Butterworth, Ld. London, publishers.

In the course of many years of criticism of novels good, bad, and indifferent it would probably appear to the general public that the reviewer must become hardened not only to every kind of novel but, also, practically to every ending. It is therefore a tribute to the fiction writer that somehow or other he or she manages more frequently than not to serve up something really new. This is not always the case in so-called mystery story, but in "The Thing at their Heels" we find an author who maintains interest in his plot until practically the last page has been reached. As a mystery story, then, this book may very truthfully be described as a brilliant success. It is very safe to say that not one readers in 20 will guess at the solution to the mystery until its disclose—except by a lucky guess—and congratulations are accordingly due the writer on his particular score. Apart from this aspect, however, it is doubtful if the book will appeal to popular taste. We are given an old British family in the first chapter; and throughout the succeeding 14 chapters or so are presented in more or less harrowing detail with the extinction of member after member of the family, until as the "Finis" is approached we learn that a fanatic priest—one of the members of the family—has been responsible for a succession of murders before which even a Crippen might pale. It is almost pleasing indeed, to finish up—for a change—on a note of suicide instead of murder, the priest taking his own life, the last of the family, in order that the family fortunes may be left to a home for waifs—or was it stray cats? 'tis, 'tis true!! But, after all, mystery tales are usually expected to be gruesome: "The Thing at their Heels." Should satisfy even the most morbid pursuer of murder and tragedy.

J. W. F.

LAW AND ORDER

"THE ORIGINS OF ORDER AND LAW." By Herman Cohen. (Effingham Wilson, London).

The principal merit of this book lies in the fact that it causes the reader to think and to exercise his imagination. The problem of the rise of the human race from the earliest forms of existence known to us to its present civilization must ever be an interesting study, and the solution of this problem is still a matter of speculation and conjecture and attracts the intellectual mind to day. The author has endeavoured to lay the groundwork of knowledge to grapple with the *pros* and *cons* of all the various theories, and he has certainly succeeded in his endeavours.

The chapters follow one after another in natural sequence and the subject is unfolded step by step with ability and such continuity that the book forms a harmonious whole. A very interesting little book well worth reading, which might well be a text book for advanced students in schools and colleges, and can be perused with advantage by maturer people interested in social studies.

G. C.

JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND ART

Another Attractive Number: Public Appreciation Well Displayed

The editor is to be congratulated upon having produced another excellent number, the January journal containing several articles of first class interest. In an editorial note, progress is reported and it is particularly pleasing that a literary enterprise of this character is not only meeting with public appreciation but is attracting contributions of a high order, showing that the Journal has established itself as a medium for the discussion of the science, art, and literature of the East.

The number before us opens with a delightful episode from the novel "Ping Shan Leng Yen," translated by Elfrida Hudson under the title "Meet Guile with Guile." The story has the simplicity of a fairy tale, with a fine blend of poetry and realism, touched with excellent humour. Kiang Kang-hu continues his critical analysis of The Four Books, this month dealing with the Lun Yu, or "Confucian Analects," and the Book of Mencius. A further chapter in the fascinating history of Yang Kuei-fei, one of the most famous beauties of China, is contributed by Wu Shih-huan, and in this one of the most interesting features is the description of the poet Li T'ai-po, ranking among the first of China's poets. Li was a master of wine and song—the the two conspicuously went together—and it is amusing to read how the great man had frequently to be dug out of some Peking wine shop upon occasions when the Emperor required his presence at the Palace to compose a verse. The genius of the poet apparently was ever at command, so that he was able to respond instantly with verse of a high order.

In the Travel section, prominence is given to the significance of the recent discoveries in Mongolia, a highly interesting article on this subject being contributed by Prof. H. F. Osborn, of Columbia University. Dr. Herbert Chatley discusses the Mechanical Theory of Earthquakes, and other features of scientific interest, together with book reviews and notes, make up a well varied and uniformly interesting number.

MOLTKE FATAL BLUNDER

How Germany Lost the War

"GERMAN STRATEGY IN THE GREAT WAR." By Lieut.-Colonel Philip Neame, V.C., D.S.O., p.s.c. Edwin Arnold & Co. 10s. 6d. net.

Count von Schlieffen became Chief of the German Great General Staff in 1891. It was a providential circumstance for the Allies that he was not Chief of the Great General Staff in 1914. If he had been the chances are that Germany instead of paying reparations would to-day be receiving them. For it was the genius of Schlieffen, described not too extravagantly by Ludendorff as "one of the greatest soldiers who ever lived," which conceived the great German plan partially put into force at the very beginning of the world war.

There cannot be the slightest doubt that it failed because Schlieffen's successor, the younger Moltke, threw over an integral and vital part of Schlieffen's masterly conception. Schlieffen was an extraordinary being. He was merely a human embodiment of military problems. Colonel Neame relates one or two casual incidents who cast light on his singular character. Schlieffen made a habit of setting his subordinate staff officers holiday tasks on all festive occasions such as Christmas, for he said that then they could devote their brains to the larger military problems undisturbed by routine work.

He thought of nothing but the German army and its task in war. His war-plan occupied all his thoughts even on his death-bed. Almost the last words which he murmured to his son-in-law, General Von Hahnke were: "It must come to a fight. Only make the right wing strong." Alas for the shade of Schlieffen. Moltke, in the depths of his folly and weakness, made the right wing weak!

Moltke's plan maintained the neutrality of Holland, which Schlieffen had apparently intended to violate. But the principal difference between the two conceptions lay in Moltke's omitting from the right wing the "ersatz" formations intended to follow in rear of the armies, and only to reach the front at Paris. Moltke could probably have carried out these manœuvres, Colonel Neame thinks, without requiring any greater front to deploy on, and could therefore have maintained the strength of the right wing without marching across the Maastricht Peninsula. Presumably he intended to avoid all risk of invasion of Alsace-Lorraine; but in doing so he violated two leading principles of war: (1) Concentration at the decisive point, in that he had not the strength on his offensive wing to envelope the French armies without allowing gaps to arise in his own armies; and (2) economy of force, in that his detachments south of Metz failed to hold the French forces there. It may be considered, says Colonel Neame—and judging by after events no other conclusion is possible—that this violation of principles lost Germany the war.

LUDDENDORFF'S GENIUS.

Colonel Neame holds Ludendorff in high esteem not only as a great tactician, but as a strategist, and asks what finer examples of sound and brilliant strategy can be found than the campaign of Tannenberg and the Masurian Lakes and the second invasion of Poland in 1914. If Ludendorff had not been thrown out of the Prussian War Office by the politicians in 1912, he would have been Moltke's Director of Military Operations at Supreme Command in August, 1914. He was an ardent disciple of the great Schlieffen and his war plans, and his strength of character is admitted.

Would he have kept Moltke on the right path, and what then would have been the result of the Marne campaign? The author of this lucid and extremely fascinating analysis of German war strategy is clearly in no doubt about the answer.

LAO YANG-JEN THE TERROR OF HONAN

A Bandit Chieftain and His 2,000 Men: China's Excuses for Bandits but Not for Him

By George E. Sokolsky.

In the hills of Honan, away from the madding crowd, are 2000 bandits, who have been wandering about the domain of Lord Wu Pei-fu, free to do as they please, capturing Chinese and foreigners alike, looting towns and burning villages and occasionally wandering into Loyang itself at night, to serve notice on the redoubtable warlord that he is not yet master of the people of the province. Some even say that the small men in Loyang, hawkers and such, beggars on the streets and wanderers on the road, are of the type of Friar Tuck and Little John. Perhaps here and there a story-teller in a tea house is but another Allan-a-Dale, who rhymes to the people of the life of the Lo Ling, the paradise in the forest where one eats what he takes and goes where he pleases, where the rich are not rich and the poor are not poor. Over such a band rules one called Lao Yang-jen, "the old foreigner."

Naturally, Lao Yang-jen is not his name. It was given him by his comrade because of his appearance. Taller than almost any man, his head covered by a shock of thick hair, a long, full beard hiding somewhat the contour of his face, he looks to the Chinese like a foreigner. So they call him the Old Foreigner. And by that name, Lao Yang-jen alone is he known, although he was born with the name Chang and before his bandit days was called Chang Kuo-hsin.

In wandering about where such stories are told, one hears many tales and descriptions of this man and from them one can only select what appears to him to be the most probable. Some of his friends say that he was known years ago as a soldier in Shensi, but others insist that he is a new man whose name has been heard only within the past three of four years in the underworld of Chinese politics, that curious realm where one day bandits meet beggars and the next day Tuchuns meet Cabinet Ministers. For politics and banditry in China are not disassociated and the bandits are not always robbers nor are all the politicians always decent citizens.

[illegible]

Wu Pei-fu appears in this story as a misguided official, who lost his temper. For he had agreed to incorporate Lao Yang-jen's men in his army and to permit them and their leader to occupy East Honan. Then he changed his mind. He had rather have them in another province, in a place over which he had no direct control or responsibility. So he sent them into Anhui, but the people of Anhui protested and objected and sent delegations. Then Wu Pei-fu attempted to move them into Northern Kiangsu, about Hsuchowfu. Again he met with opposition. Northern Kiangsu has a bandit problem all of its own and it needed no assistance from him to make it worse. Finally, according to my informant, Wu Pei-fu suspected Lao Yang-jen of collusion with another chief, Fan Min-han, who operated in northern Kiangsu and Southern Shantung. Wu Pei-fu suspected that the Old Foreigner was double-crossing him, whereupon he immediately proceeded to double-cross the Old Foreigner. He issued orders to disband Lao Yang-jen and his men. When the disbandment officers arrived on the scene, the Old Foreigner had vanished and his men had vanished and there was nothing for Wu Pei-fu but bandit outrages in every place under his control.

This is the story of the Old Foreigner told in the places where he should be known. But they also say that he is not a bandit worthy of praise, since he has no objective and no social point of view. Other bandit chiefs understand the sufferings of the Chinese people and are striving to effect a fundamental revolution which will free the people from the yoke of the Tuchunate and the corrupt officials. But not Lao Yang-jen. He seeks simply a place for himself and his men. He is out for a job in the army. When he comes to a city, it is true that he loots the officials and the rich. But he also loots the poor and burns the place. Therefore he goes without praise among those who find something in Chinese banditry to praise.

THE PEOPLE'S PLEA FOR BANDITS.

In this connexion, one might just give a summary of what those who praise bandits have to say in their favour. They say that the country is in a worse plight than it has ever been before, that the officials and military ravage the countryside until farmers cannot reap what they sow, until maidens are unsafe and eldest sons are without prospects of success in life. The Government in Peking does nothing to protect the people. The provincial officials enrich themselves at the expense of the people. The military live off the fat of the land—and almost always are they strangers in the place. The whole country lives to support two provinces, Chihli and Shantung, whose surplus population is scattered everywhere from Kuantung northward into the new territories on the borders of Siberia. And all provinces are growing poor, feeding the sons of these two provinces.

Therefore the people must rise up. But the people have no arms and no funds and are untrained and without leadership. Therefore, they take to the hills and to the forests, there to carry on guerilla warfare against all officials. When an official cannot be defeated, he may be worn out. So, they kidnap the children of officials and foreigners and hold-up trains and commit other outrages, which result often in driving the official from public life or making it difficult for him to protect his province against invasion. He cannot become a bigger man than he is, because of internal troubles. Sometimes the bandit chiefs form alliances with politicians and militarists seeking power. They utilize these alliances to drive those in power, out of office. Then when the new ones come in, they fight them. Occasionally, one of them becomes a military officer and tries to work against the bandits—but he does not live long. For the officials are not to be trusted. Their word is without faith, and when a bandit works with the government, he sooner or later finds his food loaded with glass or a firing squad in the court-yard of his host's yamen. This was what happened to Sun Mei-yao, who was considered by my informants, a good bandit, one who had an objective and a special point of view.

To avoid a conflict with those who see red every time the word bandit appears in the public print, I must own that all that appears in these paragraphs was told me by responsible people, Chinese who ought to know and understand such things—but whether they spoke from their hearts or for publication, only the history of the next decade in China will tell.

In accordance with a warning from the British Minister, the Peking Government has ordered the military authorities of Kiangsu, Chekiang and Shanghai not to use the railways for the transportation of their troops. The railway administration have been instructed to see that this order is obeyed by refusing to place the trains of the Shanghai-Nanking and Shanghai-Hangchow-Ningpo Railways at the disposal of the militarists.

PERSONAL MEMORY OF LENIN

The First and Last Attempt at Democratic Government

By George E. Sokolsky.

The last time I saw Lenin personally was at the meeting of the Constituent Assembly. From all parts of Russia delegates had gathered to what was to be the national convention of the Russian peoples. This assembly was the hope of Russia; the pride of the first revolution. But Kerensky had been driven out of the Winter Palace before his aims could be achieved and Lenin had established a new government at the Smolny Institute. Lenin's government was to be representative of the Soldiers, Workers and Peasants, but again it was led by intelligentsia and aristocrates, now disguised as ultra-radicals, but always the same type that one met in all political circles. The characteristics of leadership were unchanged.

Lenin sat on the platform. Chernoff, that uncertain figure, now leaning toward the right, now toward the left, more left than Kerensky's following but too right for Marie Spiridonovna who had so much to remember of earlier miseries and a bitter youth. Trotsky was not there. He was at the Russo-German front settling the peace agreement between the two countries. The foreign office was already publishing secret treaties and beginning a world-wide propaganda. On the extreme Right of the Tauride Palace there were only vacant seats, the monarchists and Cadets had stayed away. The extreme left was not well-occupied. Seventy-five per cent. of the delegates were anti-Bolshevik.

THE SILENT DOMINANCE.

Lenin sat on the stage—a lonely figure. His bald head, fringed with greyish red hair, his short, stocky figure, his baggy clothes and fat hands, gave him the appearance of a German grocer. Always his eyes twinkled and to a foreigner sitting amidst these excitable, shouting, long-speaking Russians, this quiet, stolid person, whose smile was ever-present, whose wink to his secretary in the balcony attracted so much attention, was the dominant note of the gathering. There he sat, never a word, never a motion. Others spoke. Others shouted. Others banged the table. Tseretelli drew a revolver. Chernoff was proud. Skvortsoff was massive. But Lenin sat there an onlooker. Nothing seemed to interest him in that assemblage. Nothing seemed to worry him.

The Assembly adjourned for dinner and Lenin disappeared. Hours later the meeting gathered. They waited. Everyone was irritated. Everyone was worried, anxious. A note of tragedy was struck. Where is Lenin? About two in the morning, Lenin had been found again. He had gone to bed. He was asleep. He could not be awakened. Constituent Assemblies may be the hope of Russia, but Lenin had to sleep.

At 4 a.m. a sailor walked to the Rostrum. He addressed Chernoff who was presiding. "You have spoken enough, brother. We want to sleep.

"Nobody prevents you from sleeping," Chernoff bitterly replied as the sailors in the balcony prepared for business.

"Let us not quarrel, brother," the sailor said. "Go home in peace. We want to sleep, you have spoken enough."

And that was the end of Russia's attempt at democratic government.

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Professor H. B. Graybill, widely known as the author of "Mastery of English," agrees with leading educators that, apart from elementary study, this situation can best be met by teaching other subjects in English, especially subjects that will be useful to students upon entering careers after graduation. With Professor Lo King Tuen, of Canton Christian College, Mr. Graybill has just finished a Middle School Arithmetic which combines study in English and applied Mathematics to meet this widely felt need.

On the side of English this "Practical Arithmetic" contains the vocabulary used in shopping, travel, all sorts of business, the Customs and Postal Services, newspapers and in ordinary conversation. It also gives an English preparation is Higher Mathematical and Scientific study. The first part of the book is as much a study and drill in English as it is an Arithmetic.

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THE WOMAN'S PAGE

MEMNON

By Katharine Winstanley.

Between the desert and the stars
The dead King's image, carved in stone,
Stood up beneath the midnight's bars
Girt round with silence, and alone.

But when the light of morning stirred
And quickening, touched the stone apart,
Sweeter than voice of singing-bird
Gushed music from the still, stone heart.—

O Love! which, striking down the drear
Wastes of the night and thirsty sands,
Shattered the darkness — can you hear
My whole heart sing beneath your hands?

THE WELL DRESSED MAN

How to be Correctly Garbed for the Evening

By Elizabeth Pepys.

The importance of the evening suit can hardly be overestimated, so we have recently been informed. Business is business and business clothes are simply clothes. A man has to attend to the duties of the day and few employers would regard the absence of the latest tie as a proper excuse for a junior clerk's taking the morning off to replenish his wardrobe. But the evening—the clothes of the evening are a real index to the character of the man. Just as one's necessary occupation may not express the real spirit of the man but the amusements to which he turns in his leisure moments are indicative of his true self, so the clothes donned for social occasions are a true gauge of his soul.

One must not exaggerate. It might be unfair to set a man down as low-principled simply because his single cuffs have round points instead of the proper square variety, but it cannot hardly do otherwise than suggest that his standards are lax. Again should he fail to possess the pique shirt with double cuff recommended in the last issue of the "Tailor and Hatter" he may be fairly intelligent in spite of this defect. One would hesitate to say offhand that a man would take pennies out of a blind man's hat or kick his respectable grandmother merely because he wears a white tie with a dinner jacket, but appearances are certainly against him and any jury would make its own deductions.

THE TIE THAT TELLS.

Knowing then the supreme emphasis to be placed on clothes polite a useful suggestion is to buy a "thistle" shaped tie, which we understand can lend an air of jauntiness to even an old-fashioned coat. The ends of this bow must come outside the collar, which should have long, square-pointed wings. We understand that single-ended ties (meaning that one end is tucked beneath the collar and then hidden behind the shirt front) are permissible but it is better not to shirk the responsibilities of the double tie—difficult as its adjustment may be. And above all things *do* be careful to select a double-ended tie made especially for the size of the collar worn.

HSI WANG MU: QUEEN OF THE WESTERN HEVEN

The Home of Art Treasures Carefully Selected

A bas relief above the doorway depicting the abode of Hsi Wang Mu and an unobtrusive sign at [illegible] of Chinese art, has transferred many of his curios from his home [illegible] those who are interested may drop in as they will and enjoy the many choice things which he has collected with loving care, and now shares with the public at prices which are an agreeable surprise. The studio has kept the charm which surrounded Mr. Strehlneek's private collection and the various *objets d'art* are arranged so as to form a very attractive museum.

As one enters the outer hall one notes on the right the shrine of

RARE BOWLS AND VASES OF THE STREHLNEEK COLLECTION.

Hsi Wang Mu, her image, before which incense curls upward, the rock garden above and topping all, the temple. Near this stands a cabinet filled with blanc de Chine and five-colour Kang Shi porcelains, at the left a case of soft Sung celadons with some other beautiful bits, including a bowl of peach colour, with a bat design.

Passing between the marble fairies at the inner door one

A VISTA IN THE HSI WANG MU STUDIO.

lingers before a cabinet filled with Yung Ching and Chien Lung specimens before passing on to the table covered with bronze gods. Other cabinets with rare examples of blanc de Chine, exquisite Yung Ching bowls, varied sculpture and a bronze head of marvellous peace and serenity bring one to the rear of the room where the pictures are hung. The scroll which chanced to be hanging in the centre when we were browsing about, admiring the various works of arts as we would, was a [illegible] of the Moon Goddess holding on her knee a globe representing the moon, and within the ball could be seen the figure of the Hare of Immortality.

A marble head with a calm repose suggesting the balance of the classic Greek, some sculptures of the northern Chi period, set against a shrine like background suggesting the phoenix flames, examples of clair de lune and other lovely things too many to enumerate brought one back to the deer and to the jade cabinet which holds jades of every kind and description—museum pieces and small ear rings or bracelets so moderately priced as to be within anyone's reach. The carving on some of the pendants is done with exquisite delicacy, and the various colours are marvels of purity.

The centre table is given up to porcelains—bowls and vases on carved blackwood or ebony standards, beautiful in shape and glaze and ranging in price from the very reasonable to the higher amounts one naturally expects to pay for guaranteed antiques. Surrounded by these unique art treasures one is transported to the palace of Hsi Wang Mu where behind high walls, under trees gem-laden, according to Chinese fable the genii cultivate sesamum and coriander for the Taoist Votaries of Longevity.

FOGS—PHYSICAL AND PSYCHIC

The Advantages and Drawbacks of Obscurity

By Elizabeth Pepys.

You remember the grey-yellow mist that surrounded us the other morning, veiling the sun so effectually that nine out of ten Shanghai households over-slept. You remember the strange haziness, the semi-light, semi-dark effect which resisted even the electric lights. Each house was an island unto itself except that bleared lights indicated where your neighbours houses had been the night before.

Emerging into an unfamiliar world, a world of blurred outlines, one walked cautiously, almost groping one's way. To cross the road seemed greatly daring since at any moment a destruction-dealing motor might emerge from the grey cloud or an unseen and unheard bicycle might barge down upon our equally unobtrusive self. Yet the uncertainty of the situation was not altogether displeasing and the vagueness of the landscape added a charm.

Hitherto prosaic buildings now stood out against the enveloping foggy blanket in impressionistic blots of blackness. Outlines of passers-by were furry, there were no distressingly sharp contours nor irregular features. Strangeness and potential romance was everywhere. As one walked on into the mysterious thickness the advantages of mental and psychic nebulousness suggested themselves. Why not veil some of the unco-literally minded in a bit of vagueness so that they should not embarrass their friends as to precise figures on birthdays, incomes, and expenditures? Why permit such annoying rigidity as to *meum* and *tuum*, such inflexibility as to right and wrong?

We were just mentally composing a new world with no glaring publicities and no staring facts when a fat coolie hurrying through this poetic dream world dispelled the illusion by bumping us wide awake. Immediately our desire was for more illumination rather than less. "Can't you see where you're going?" we murmured indignantly. After all there is something to be said for clear sightedness and hard-headedness, and a misty morning now and then is as much fog as we actually need.

Mother: "Mary, see if the cake is done. Put a knife in it, and if it comes out clean you'll know that it is finished."

Long-suffering Father: "Yes, and if it comes out clean stick all the other knives in, too."

THE MODE IN SHOES AND HOSE

Paris, New York and Shanghai on the Subject

If Cinderella, safely married, were to drive up to the Place Vendome in her Rolls-Pumpkin, intent on replacing those old-fashioned glass slippers with what Monsieur Hellstern prescribes for princesses of her age and station, she would be not only charmed she would be bewildered, says "Vogue." Glass, she would perceive at once, was an inelastic medium at best. Patent leather, antelope, lizard, kid, brocade, satin—this wizard can do so many things with them that one has no choice but to wish oneself a centipede princess in justice to his inventiveness!

A LATITUDE OF CHOICE ALLOWED.

The result of this same inventiveness is, of course, that there is no one "smartest shoe of the moment" in Paris. For general street wear, the chic Parisienne, whose god is simplicity thrice simplified, inclines, perhaps towards her perennial favourite, the plain patent leather pump with the high Cuban heel—plain to the point of distraction, without even a bow. She also likes the simpler one-strap or two-strap models in patent leather. But there are other types in which Monsieur's imagination has free course to glorify his mediums. The black suede shoe with the wide strap of its own material,

having two little buttons on one side and the toe and heel of patent leather is a great favourite with the smart American. And many Parisiennes wear it, too. It draws a rather vague line between the tailored and the elaborate—a most adaptable shoe.

In New York the prevailing impression of the new street shoes is of high cut and fewer open-work designs than were evident in last season's models. Shoes that fit the foot like a glove are of frequent occurrence, a cunningly hidden rubber insert accomplishing the effect under shelter of a tongue or a buckle. There are plenty of small buckles securing strap designs, too, on the more elaborate models—though even the most elaborate models of the season are much simpler than those of last year, both in line and in colour.

TAKING STOCK OF STOCKINGS.

Practically all daytime stockings in New York are still noisette in shade. The one exception occurs when grey is adopted to complete that grey and black models which has become a step-sister to the favoured black and white mode. Where one's furs and shoes are grey, grey stockings are in order. This does not mean that grey and the fawn-biege-brown gamut may never be combined, but merely that it must be done with discretion. That all of us have not been blessed with slender ankles is a sad, but patent, fact. But to try to mitigate the impression by combining black stockings with black shoes is no longer wise, since such stockings are of themselves conspicuous by reason of the rarity of their occurrence. All one can say to the sufferer is to avoid the lighter shades of the grey and beige. Contrast one must have, but it need not be too violent.

Evening stockings are to be of the new albino shade, a little less pink, a little more yellow than last season's "nude." This blanching of the stocking mode is quite in line with what is happening to complexions, once so brown and vivid and gipsyesque, now returning to an aristocratic pallor more in keeping with our grandmothers ideas as to how a lady's skin should comport itself.

OPPORTUNITIES CLOSE AT HAND.

Here in Shanghai the Walk-Over Shoe Store has no less than 22 new styles to suit the fastidious and these represent the very latest thing in American shoecraft, especially selected and hurried out to the Far East almost before Fifth Avenue saw the new modes. There are five new patterns in patent leather and about as many in black calf with patent trimmings which are taking the fancy of girls at home. There are smart brown and fawn suede models in fancy and plain varieties. There is a wide assortment of satin shoes, plain for the street and ultra dressy for the evening. New designs in gold and silver dancing slippers will appeal to the dancing damsel as will also the charming buckles which slip on so easily over the straps and give a piquant sparkle to the side of the low cut sandal. Gekco hose is found here in all the new shades and also the Kayser hose with the open work clock.

THE PRINCESS PAT.

It has been difficult for the woman who persisted in walking, even in Shanghai, to find a shoe which would meet her needs. She has done her best to have her favourite models copied, but it has been difficult to impress upon the native shoe-maker the supreme importance of the proper arch. So important is the correct shoe from the standpoint of general health that the Young Women's Christian Association has been conducting a campaign for orthopedic footwear and has finally stamped with the seal of its approval the "Princess Pat" last, which may now be obtained from the Walk-Over Shoe Store. It has a low, broad heel, rubber tipped, a high sustaining arch, snugly fitting, a straight inside line with the scientific outer curve, and a slightly pointed toe—solving the problem of a shoe which shall be sightly and sensible at the same moment.

HOUSEKEEPING HINTS

Has there been any domestic contretemps in your usually smooth-running menage? Has the cook been taken suddenly ill on the day of a large dinner party or has the shadow of approaching China New Year disorganized the domestic staff? Why worry? There is always the Sweetmeat Castle conveniently located with provision for every need whether it be for truffled game pies in jelly, mince pies, cakes and puddings, tinned delicacies or sweets of any description. How it simplifies life to have a specialist of this kind!

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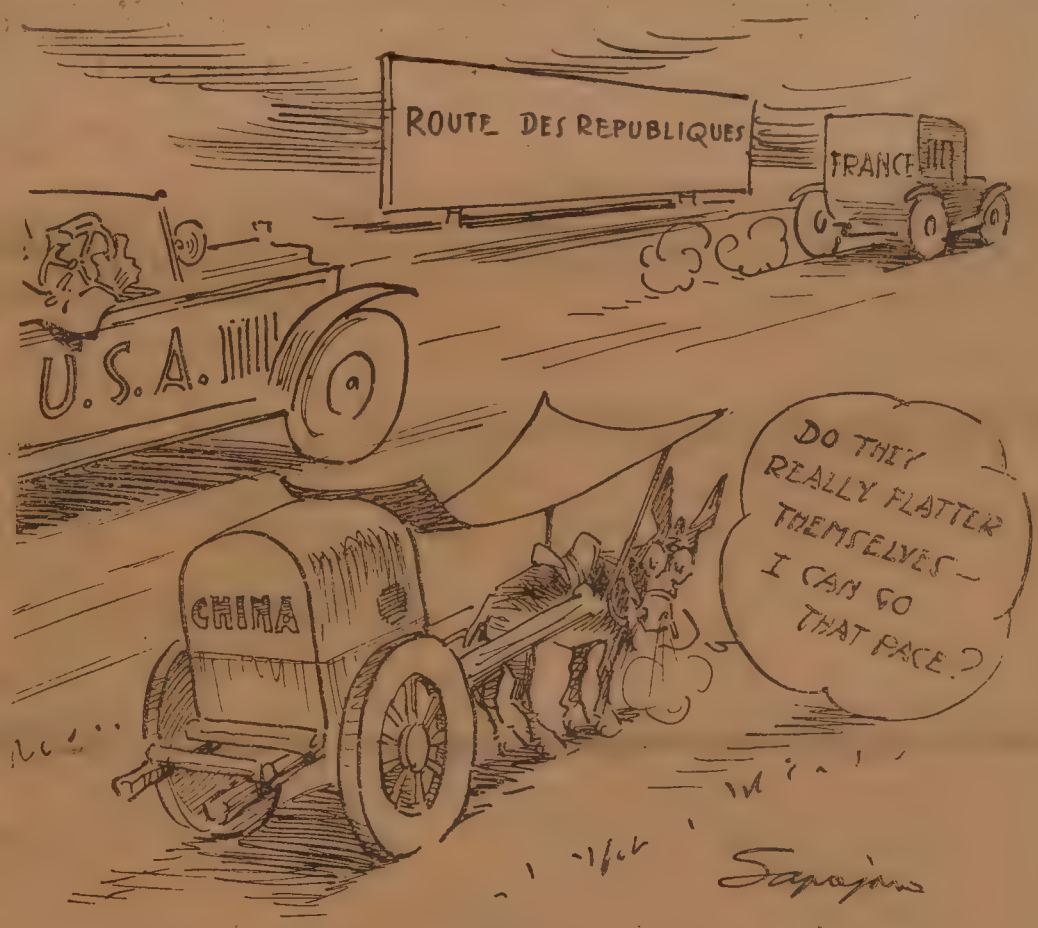

"... and you stand there and call this the Republic of China! Why you might as well nail a Packard name plate on a Peking mule cart and call it a limousine!"—The American enthusiast to the Chinese enthusiast.

THE NEW CHINESE TRADEMARK LAW

Merchants Dismayed at Prospect of Unqualified Acceptance by Diplomatic Body: Contrary to Treaty and Business Interest

Dismay was caused among foreign business firms by the telegram from Peking sent by the Easter News Agency to the effect that the Diplomatic Body are preparing to accept the new Chinese Trademarks Bill with certain modifications. The telegram was as follows:

Peking Jan. 27.—Despite the fact that the subs ance of the final draft formulated by the Diplomatic Corps concerning the China Trademark Bill is being kept strictly secret, according to accounts prevailing among foreigners here, the following appears to be the gist of the draft in question:—

(1) That on the whole the law now in force will be recognized, but if need be, a foreign adviser will be engaged.

(2) That as a practical method for the present, the Customs registration will be continued up to a certain time. —Eastern News Agency.

The report accords so closely with others on this subject that the British and other Chambers of Commerce have been receiving, that there is much anxiety. For unless the modifications mentioned are of a strong nature grave injury may result to foreign business.

It is of course well-known to all our readers that the want of protection given to foreign trademarks in China has been a cause of complaint for many years. This grievance is catered for in the Mackay Treaty, Article 7 of which says that the Chinese Government shall establish a bureau for the registration of trademarks and that that bureau shall be under the control of the Customs.

Like other items in the Mackay Treaty, this has never been carried out. But the agreement is perfectly clear and unequivocal and should specially be borne in mind now.

About six months ago Peking produced a Trademark Bill, under which a bureau for registration of trademarks was to be established. It was to be entirely under Chinese management and any appeal from it was to be, first, to three Chinese trademark judges; secondly, to the Board of Agriculture; thirdly to the Administrative Court. At every step, therefore, any question involving a foreign trademark would be subject exclusively to Chinese decision.

Now the value of trademarks is quite beyond computation. It certainly amounts to many millions of taels. The possibilities of abuse, of corruption and dishonesty in the registration bureau cannot unfortunately be excluded as China is to-day, in the matter of property so valuable.

Furthermore, the Trademark Bill is in flat contradiction of the Mackay Treaty as shown above.

Urgent representations have, therefore, been sent to the Diplomatic Body in Peking not to accept the Bill. Anxieties in the matter have been intensified latterly by a case of infringement of a British trademark at Harbin, when the infringement was admitted, but the case dismissed because the trademark had not been registered in the new bureau.

Questions have been telegraphed to Peking to ascertain what the Diplomatic Body really mean to do, and if no reply, or none in a satisfactory sense, is received by this evening, a meeting of foreign merchants is to be called at the General Chamber of Commerce rooms, 1 Yuenmingyuen Road, to consider the question further and decide what action should be taken. It is to be hoped that this meeting will be largely attended and fully representative. The authors of the Mackay Treaty knew very well what they were about when drafting Article 7, and it is of the utmost importance that its perfectly clear undertaking should not be burked.

Shanghai Businessmen's Meeting

At a meeting of National Chambers of Commerce, held on Thursday, at the rooms of the General Chamber of Commerce, the following resolution proposed by the British, and seconded by the American Chamber was passed unanimously:—

"That this meeting of National Chambers of Commerce, representing as it does the bulk of the foreign mercantile community, urges upon the Diplomatic Body not to recognize the new Chinese Trademark law except on such terms as will comply with the spirit of Article VII of the Mackay Treaty.

"That it is of the opinion that the reported stipulation of the Diplomatic Body for the employment of foreigners in the Bureau will not provide sufficient protection for foreign trademarks unless the foreigners employed are placed in a position enabling them effectively to supervise the administration of the law."

Diplomatic Body's Considerations on the Adoption of the Chinese Law

Peking, Jan. 29.

It is understood that the Diplomatic Body will shortly send a Note to the Waichiaopu containing the considerations on which they would be prepared to recommend their Governments to recognize the Chinese Trade Marks Law, the two main conditions being extension of the time limit for registration and employment of foreigners in the Registry Office so as to facilitate dealing with complicated questions which are bound to arise.

As already pointed out, the said law is a *fait accompli* except for foreign recognition, Some Japanese and German firms have already registered. The Diplomatic Body have recently been giving the matter their most careful attention and are doing their best in the interests of foreign merchants. It appears likely that the Chinese will agree to extension of the time limit, but employment of foreigners, who will be employees and not advisers, is more likely to meet with objection. Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEACE SECURE IN EAST CHINA

The Kiangsu-Chekiang War Rumours: Reassurances from Both Sides

EXPLICIT STATEMENTS BY CHI AND LU

The following is a translation of the official proclamation issued by Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang, Director-General for the Reorganization of Military affairs in Chêkiang, Gen. Chang Tsai-yang, Civil Governor of Chêkiang, Marshal Chi Shich-yuan, Military Governor of Kiangsu, Mr. Han Kuo-chun, Civil Governor of Kiangsu, and Gen. Ho Feng-ling, Military Governor of Shanghai and Sungkiang, urging the people not to be alarmed at rumours of impending warfare in east China. This says:—

"Because of unrest on the part of the people the treaty of peace between the authorities of Kiangsu and Chêkiang was signed, and this, apart from being published by the merchants and gentry of the two provinces, was conveyed to the Consular Body, at Shanghai for their information by the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs. This was done because we wished the whole world to know that we have been desirous of securing peace in this part of the country.

"Now, however, some unfortunate rumours have been spread by some unscrupulous persons and these are likely to redound on commerce and affect the situation greatly, especially as regards peace and safety. We are sad to know that the hearts of the people are still ruthless, but we are glad to see that the larger organizations of the provinces have sent delegates to us to discuss the question of how to dispel rumours and maintain peace. We all signed the treaty in good faith because we have loved peace always, but we know that in spite of all these rumours we can conscientiously and with all sincerity and frankness say that so far as we are concerned the treaty will be maintained. If the legal and recognized organizations demand anything, there is no question of our doing our best to meet their requirements.

"During the winter months our troops naturally should be moved at times for patrol duties, but these movements are simply in order that peace may be kept so that the people might live in safety. There is no reason therefore for any alarm.

"Fearing that the people of the two provinces do not know the real facts of the situation, and realizing that there are numerous attempts by rumour-mongers to stir up trouble, we now take this opportunity of telling everybody that they have no cause for alarm and that they must keep peaceful and go about their regular business as usual."

In a letter to his colleague, Marshal Chi, Gen. Lu states:—

"The situation in this section of the country is not as it should be, because rumours are constantly being spread. You and I have identical aims, which are the preservation of territory and the maintenance of peace and order for the benefit of the people. You will see that we are of one mind.

"Some persons, who have no other kind of business, are starting rumours of warfare and they try to make these appear true on the face. Fortunately the people understand and have gone to the trouble of running about from province to province sacrificing everything and undergoing many hardships in the interests of peace and to dispel these rumours.

"When we signed the peace agreement we did so openly and tried to show our sincere hearts and consciences. Therefore I hope that hereafter we will be able to

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For Manila, Australia and New Zealand via Hongkong:—

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PASSENGERS

INWARD

Per M.V. Glenbeg, January 21. From London. Messrs. J. R. Hogg and C. A. Purdon.

Per M.M.S. Cordillere, January 21. From Marseilles. Mrs. Marthend, Messrs. D. Comeck, Brebin, Dujon, F. Galville, Delega, D. Vauebrisesneyt, Mr. and Mrs. Fourniale, Miss Julliot. **From Saigon.** Messrs. H. Gros, Castel, Mr and Mrs. Balleravd and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Kounisky and child. **From Hongkong.** Messrs. Gibbons, Dunetier, Joffre, Revs. K. Duncan, C. O. Levine and T. H. Ware.

Per str. Suiyang, January 23. From Hongkong. Mrs. R. D. Thompson, Messrs. A. M. Aquino, G. G. Hume.

Per str. Kungwo, January 24. From River Ports. Misses E. G. Dexter, M. G. Cabot, Mr. and Mrs. Tsur, Messrs. C. M. Dixon, T. Phillips, Paxton, Mr. and Mrs. Rouse, Rev. Ivanchue and Captain G. Kirkham.

OUTWARD.

Per M.M.S. Andre Lebon, January 18 For Marseilles—Misses G. N. Oldroyd and S. M. Bosworth, Mrs. I. J. Bernis, The Hon. and Mrs. P. Dubosq, Miss Bernard and two children, Mr. P. B. Boesut, Mr. and Mrs. P. Mallet, Mr J. de Torsiac, Mr. and Mrs G. Choplin, Mr. J. Choplin, Miss S. Choplin, Miss C. Viany, Mr. C. Bourgery, Misses R. and S. Bourgery Mr. and Mrs. W. Starr, Miss Jacquet, Mrs. Taulier, Miss S. Arnoult, Miss Golding Messrs. Drayson, A. Allemao, J. Tussang, Mr. and Mrs. M. Morgulets, Mr. and Mrs. Vialy and child, Miss Clark, Mr. T. Wats, Rev. Peres Ver Eecke and Seys, Mrs. A. Per and child, Mrs. E. Riedlinger Mr. and Mrs. A. Dubost, Messrs. A. L. M. and J. Dubost, Miss P. Dubost, Mr. and Mrs. Feunteun, Mr. A. Mucho, Mr. and Mrs. A. Vernogliadoff, Misses G. and C. Verbogliadoff, Mrs. M. Michel, Mr. V. Bobowitch, Mr P. Bruzek. **For Singapore**—Mr A. Fuyet, Mr. K. S. Smith, Mr. G. S. Lucher. **For Saigon**—Mrs. Du Pac de Marsculies, Mr. de Raymond, Mr. F. Charbonnel. **For Hongkong**—Mrs. Turner, Mrs. L. Lay, Mr. W. S. McCarthy, Mrs. E. Cunio and two children Mrs. E. Elias and child, Misses S. and D. Tremaine.

Per str. Sinkiang, January 19.—For Tsingtao—Mr. and Mrs. Engelter, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Cornish.

Per str. Yingchow, January 20.—For Hongkong.—Mr. F. G. Ingram. **For Canton.**—Messrs. A. Tchérepanoff and N. Terechautoff.

Per str. Shuntien, January 20.—For Chefoo.—Mr. F. Smith, Miss Priestly, Mr. A. J. H. Carey, Miss Pharo, Mr. A. Rouse. **For Tientsin.**—Mr. E. J. Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lamb, Mr. L. J. Knudsen, Judge Peter Grain.

Per str. Tatung, January 21.—For River Ports.—Mr. and Mrs. Van der Vort, Mrs. Roots, Master Billy Sugg, Mrs. H. Cornaby, Miss M. Cornaby, Mrs. Lehrbas, Miss Deitz, Master E. Sperlay and Miss D. Barkley.

Per P. & O. S. Macedonia, January 22. For Hongkong.—Rev. and Mrs. L. B. Edwards, Messrs. H. Evenhins, R. Juillard, Y. L. Lee, F. Lobel, Miss J. Leveson, Mrs. W. D. Metzger, Messrs. G. McKay, F. C. Mancini, A. Oudenyzer, Mrs. W. J. Roope and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Smead, Misses E. M. and E. B. Smead Mrs. R. and Miss A. Schipper, Messrs. H. Tiefenbacher, F. Veerman, N. Westwood. **For Singapore.** Mr. A. Carr, Mr. G. C. Denham, Mrs. J. M. Dronfield, Miss C. Knockers, Messrs. F. G. Schwentzer, Mr. D. F. Steele. **For Colombo**—Mr and Mrs. L. Mitchell, Misses A. and S. Mitchell, Mrs. H. B. Sutherland. **For Bombay.** Messrs. D. W. Boonevyer, M. Daud, G. S. Kothalia, J. L. Simjee, H. C. Unwin. **For Marseilles**—Miss E. M. Bolton Messrs. C. E. Barham, F. J. Bigth, Miss I. C. Grand, Dr. E. D. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Powell, Miss E. E. Whitehead. **For London.**—Mrs. F. W. Ambrose, Misses A. and W. Ambrose, Mr. J. H. Ebraham, Mrs. E. Forsyth, Mr. R. W. Ford, Master E. Goslee, Mr and Mrs. O. H. Huime, Miss V. Hemming, Mr. J. Huddleston, Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Livesley, Mrs. J. Maycock, Master N. Maycock, Dr. D. D. Muir, Mrs. J. E. Richards, Miss M. Richards, Mrs. R. R. Staley, Miss Staley, Messrs. H. R. Sturt, R. Thomson, Mrs. G. J. Turnbull, Miss D. Turnbull, Rev. and Mrs. H. W. Watson, Miss I. Williams and three children, Miss Webb.

Per str. Wenchow, January 23.—For River Ports.—Mr. A. T. Gomery.

Per str. Chcking, January 23 For Chefoo.—Mr. and Mrs. Judd, Miss Keogh, Mr. Duncan.

Per str. Suiyang, January 24.—For Hongkong.—Messrs. Wheatcroft and Alabaster.

Per str. Poyang, January 24.—For River Ports.—Mrs. J. H. Cameron and child.

Per str. Kaiping, January 24.—For Chinwangtao. Monsieur Leopold Batarse.

BIRTHS

MAINGON.—On January 19, 1924, at the Maternité de l'Hopital Ste. Marie, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. A. Maingon, a son.

NOELTING.—On January 18, 1924, in Milan (Italy), to Dr. and Mrs. F. A. M. Noelting, a daughter.

DEATHS

GOLD.—On January 22, 1924, Marcia Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Gold, age 13 months.

O'MAHONY.—On January 18, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, Joseph E. O'Mahony (Public Works Department, S.M.C.), aged 32 years.

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SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month	Barometer 9 A.M.	Barometer Attd Therm	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Jan. 18	30.34	48.8	W N W	1	38.2	36.9	44.1	36.4	C.
„ 19	30.25	50.7	Calm	0	36.9	36.8	48.0	28.2	B. C.
„ 20	30.39	50.5	Calm.	0	38.9	38.3	50.9	33.1	B.
„ 21	30.43	50.0	N N W	1	36.7	33.8	44.1	27.7	B. C.
„ 22	30.38	49.8	Calm.	0	36.4	34.9	53.1	26.1	B. C.
„ 23	30.46	49.3	N E	2	40.8	37.4	47.5	31.8	C.
„ 24	30.34	46.3	N E	2	39.4	38.3	43.7	37.4	O. D. R.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date	Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Rainfall Inches 1923
Jan. 18	37.0	26.5	42.0	47.8	0.07	Nil.
„ 19	33.0	33.0	47.0	49.0	Nil.	Trace
„ 20	36.4	46.0	50.0	61.0	Nil.	Nil.
„ 21	33.0	53.8	42.0	71.4	Nil.	0.02
„ 22	32.0	40.8	50.0	62.5	Nil	0.11
„ 23	33.0	37.0	44.6	42.0	Nil.	0.06
„ 24	39.0	30.0	43.0	38.6	0.28	Trace (Snow)

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SOUTHERN Rhodesia which was inaugurated as the youngest self governing Colony of the British Empire on October 1, 1923, and which had previously for 33 years been ably administered by the British South Africa Company possesses one of the finest climates in the world with long hours of sunshine, breezy temperate days and cool nights. For those who wish to take up farming or ranching in order to make the most they can of their capital, energy and technical knowledge, or for those who wish to retire from strenuous business or professional life and make a home, Rhodesia offers many advantages unequalled elsewhere. The business, social, sporting, educational and medical facilities bear favourable comparison with those of other countries. Native labour is plentiful and when properly managed is cheap and efficient. Taxation is light. Good land in healthy surroundings and amidst fine scenery is plentiful and not expensive.

Full information is obtainable on application to The Secretary, Southern Rhodesia Settlers' Board (attached to the Government of Southern Rhodesia), P. O. Box 372, Salisbury S., Rhodesia.

The giving of advice to prospective settlers will be facilitated if applicants will advise the Board in detail of their circumstances and the amount of capital they would be prepared to invest in a suitable venture.

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THE SCIENCE OF PUNISHMENT

Jan. 28.

WE have already commented briefly on the Annual Report (1922-1923) of the Commissioners of Prisons in England but as the subject of penology is, or should be, of deep and enduring interest, it is worth while to consider the report again. On the whole it is most encouraging. Serious crime does not appear to be increasing. It is admitted that the laxity of conduct which had its origin in war conditions still gives rise to a substantial number of commitments, but in common with the great majority of commitments they are for offences directly or indirectly traceable to money difficulties caused by reduced incomes, the high cost of living, loss of employment, and so forth, difficulties which we can sympathetically understand. It is gratifying to know that the treatment of the convicted is humane and reformative. In most English prisons there are now educational classes, lectures, concerts, debates and recreational clubs, not with the particular object of making prison life pleasant, but to give the prisoners a training that will fit them to re-enter the world as respectable citizens.

It is interesting to consider the progress of prison reform. In the middle of the last century the movement, which had been gaining in strength, was powerfully reinforced and placed on a broader philanthropic basis by the discovery, from a new point of view, that in their essential nature men differ but little from each other; that all are of very lowly origin and possess a complex, obscure inheritance from the remote past. There are no born criminals, as there are no born saints. It is true that the mentally defective are more easily led into crime, but there are no persons born, as it were, with a genius for crime.

"The ordinary inmates of our prisons have been shown to be only in a very slight degree below the average in mental and physical fitness of the normal man, a difference easily explained by the environment and condition in which the ordinary criminal is bred."

Our psychological inheritance being what it is, there is in all a wild strain, which may be euphemistically termed the love of adventure. Whether the adventures shall be meritorious or perverse, leading to heroism or to crime, is uncertain and seems to be often determined by circumstances beyond our control. For instance, in his "Book of Remarkable Criminals," Irving observes that the foremost English criminal of the nineteenth century, Charles Peace, had many admirable qualities. He was a born fighter, absolutely fearless, with agility, resource, cunning, and determination. Had he flourished in 1914 instead of 1874, and entered the army, he would probably have won great distinction; as it was, he ended his days on the scaffold, a burglar and murderer.

It is this wayward inheritance of humanity which leads us to take a fearsome pleasure in discussing or reading about the lives of notorious criminals. On one occasion, Tennyson, the poet, and Jowett, the Oxford philosopher, sat up until the small hours of the morning discussing murders. The fascination of the subject may be felt at a very early age. When the youngest son of a recent Archbishop of Canterbury was between five and six years of age, a venerable clergyman presented him with a large Bible. With the innate courtesy of the family the boy thanked his generous friend very prettily for the gift and even went so far as to ask him to read some of it to him. "What shall I read, dear child?" said the delighted clergyman. "Everything about the Devil," was the unexpected and somewhat disconcerting answer. Most healthy boys pass through a period when a piratical career has great attraction. We may say this admiration of piracy is due to original sin, or is the outcropping of tendencies which at one time made the possession of some of the qualities of a pirate of considerable social value. At any rate, no hard and fast distinction can be made between the saint and the sinner. The saint, if he is humble, knows that if it were not for a power beyond himself he might be a criminal; the sinner, as we know, has within him infinite possibilities of goodness. Hence the greater sympathy now shown to prisoners and the practical kindness which works for their reformation. However, lest our sympathies should run away with us, it is well to remember that the powerful herd instinct, also a part of our psychological inheritance, impels men to show little mercy to those who gravely imperil the social order.

Brief reference only can be made to another phase of the subject. If there is little moral difference between individuals, there is still less between nations. It may be said that for ways that are dark and for tricks that are vain one particular nation may be peculiar. But the people of that nation may think the ways of some other nations are even darker. In this direction much progress has still to be made. The same moral code that governs the relations between individuals should also govern the relations between nations. Judged by this code many famous kings and statesmen were criminals. "If," said Frederick the Great to his minister, Radziwill, "there is anything to be gained by it, we will be honest; if deception is necessary, let us be cheats." Perhaps the League of Nations will accomplish a reform in this respect.

THE Imperial clemency on the occasion of the Imperial wedding has been exercised only in the cases of prisoners whose sentences have been finally pronounced, says the "Japan Chronicle." There is, in consequence, a large number of withdrawals of appeals against sentences, the appellants thinking that clemency is better than another trial. The *Asahi* thinks such acts are nefarious. But why should not a prisoner gain all the benefit he can by the imperial clemency?

THE COTTON EXPORT SURTAX

Jan. 29,

As a piece of special pleading the article which we publish today on the question of an export surtax on cotton has a special importance. The writer is Mr. Tung Teh-fu of the National Southeastern University of Nanking, and in view of the proposals which Chinese cotton interests have made to the Cabinet in Peking it is only natural that he should adopt the attitude he has taken. As, however, he accuses us of various "misunderstandings" in connexion with the matter, we are justified in enlarging upon the theme dealt with in our issue of January 11. It may be remembered that the first official intimation that the proposal to introduce an export surtax on cotton had been considered by the Cabinet was conveyed in a telegram which stated that it was "to serve as the basis of a loan to help the cotton interests at Shanghai," a sufficiently indefinite statement to make it applicable to a number of schemes which have from time to time come within the purview of the cotton industry. In the circumstances all that we did was to mention certain proposals which had been made by the Chinese in the past and then to point out that the new proposal was of a different character and referred to a scheme for the improvement of cotton grown in China, and that the scheme which it was desired to support was that which is being conducted in conjunction with the Southeastern University. The telegram in question may have given rise to what Mr. Tung describes as "misunderstandings," and if so we disposed of them in our explanation of the real purpose which the proposers of the surtax had in view.

In his article Mr. Tung has been so eager to obviate "misunderstandings" that he has omitted to deal with the real point at issue. There are two separate bodies working for the improvement of the cotton grown in China, one the foreign millowners and kindred associations who have Nanking University as their headquarters, the other the Chinese interests who have selected the Southeastern University, also at Nanking, as theirs. One important point to which we drew attention in the original article was that the first steps taken for the betterment of native cotton were on the part of the foreign millowners, and that when inaugurating the scheme they asked their Chinese fellow business men to cooperate with them, financially and otherwise, but although promises of assistance were duly forthcoming they were never implemented. It was only when they saw that real progress was being made, although necessarily at first on a comparatively small scale by the foreign element, that the Chinese bethought themselves to essay something of the same sort. Hence under their auspices the scheme at the Southeastern University was brought into being, and has been carried on ever since. Now, in support of their scheme, and in support of it only, they have brought forward this surtax proposal, and apparently it is meeting with a goodly degree of support in the Capital. As pointed out, it will yield about Tls. 90,000 a year, a sum much larger than has been available through private subscription in the past, and it is surely a fair question to put forward why this should be devoted to one scheme and not to the other—the original one. There is no suggestion that good work has not been done at the Southeastern University, but if ever a scheme called for tangible recognition by Government and actually by the industry as a whole it is surely that brought into existence by the foreign millowners, who were the men to bring experts from other countries to set it going.

In his advocacy of the surtax Mr. Tung has carefully omitted to deal with this very important aspect of the matter, and the greater the pity, as his remarks would be sure to be instructive. Instead he tells us that the idea of cotton improvement took root in the Chinese mind thirty years ago, but owing to lack of capital and so forth it had to be delayed. But if it was an idea of such long standing there was the greater reason for assistance when under foreign auspices it took practical shape in the country. Having these facts before us, there is all the greater case for calling for a close inspection of the surtax proposals before they are passed, and as matters are at present it looks as if the Cabinet in Peking had not fully considered the different aspects of the case. Everybody is in agreement as to the great possibilities of China as a cotton-growing country, and after examining such samples as what the students call "Million Dollar" cotton there can be little doubt as to the quality which should ultimately be arrived at. These possibilities make it important that if Government assistance is forthcoming it should be allocated in the best possible manner, and the obviously partial way in which the present proposal has been placed before the central authorities is not calculated to arouse any passionate enthusiasm for it.

THE ALLIED WAR DEBTS

Jan. 30.

A recent issue of "Outlook" gives a summary of President Coolidge's first message to Congress and comments on it as follows: "The greatest applause which occurred during the reading of the Message before the two Houses of Congress in joint session followed the President's statement that he did not favour the cancellation of the debts due to us from European countries. But almost equal to it was that which followed, approving without qualification Secretary Mellon's proposal for tax reduction." European nations, over-burdened with taxation and cursed with the problem of unemployment, must read with envy the record of America's abounding prosperity. For ourselves, we envy, but do not grudge our neighbours their good fortune. Europe would be in much worse case than it is if America were in the same plight as the peoples on the other side of the Atlantic. Nevertheless, it is not surprising that there are those in Britain who begin to question whether the contribution we are making to the wealth of America in the prompt settlement of our debt to the United States is justifiable, whilst other nations, to which we stand in the same relation of creditor as America does to us, refuse to honour their obligations. In a recent issue we quoted the dictum of a New York banker that "sterling has to bear, in large measure, the brunt of falling exchange in European currencies and this is always reflected in the London-New York rate of exchange."

We are willing to pay all that we owe to the last farthing and even to shoulder the obligations we have assumed on behalf of others, but when the burden is made heavier by the fortuitous fall in exchange caused by the policy or misfortune of other nations who pursue their own way in opposition to our wishes and, sometimes, in defiance of our protests, then, the situation threatens to become intolerable. A natural reaction to this feeling of intolerance has been voiced by no less a personage than Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, now Prime Minister of Great Britain. Mr. Macdonald said in a recent speech that if Labour came into office the Government would reconsider the question whether we should continue to discharge our debt towards America whilst the Allied nations ignored their obligations toward ourselves.

The attitude adopted by America is a strictly legal one. She says, "You entered into a contract with us on behalf of yourself and on behalf of others and whatever unpleasant consequences result therefrom you are bound to fulfil it. The court awards this verdict and the law doth give it." On the cognate question of German reparations and inter-Allied obligations America takes the position that these things are none of her business. She simply says, "Pay me that thou owest and settle your squabbles in your own way. I will not be again involved in European complications." Now, while this is, as has been said, a strictly legal attitude it must be remembered that the one question arises out of the other. The debts arose out of those very complications in which America willingly involved herself and, while the law of contracts is sacrosanct, there is also such a thing as the law of equity. We were at one time partners in a joint concern and though the partnership has been dissolved the present situation has arisen in consequence of acts done during the term of partnership. The question in equity is should one partner "bear the whole brunt" of making good the loss incurred while a second partner pockets his share of the remaining assets and the others disclaim responsibility? "Issachar," said the blind prophet, "is a strong ass couching between two burdens." Britain couches between the twin burdens of repayment of American debts and inter-allied default.

But what if the ass is unable even to "couch" and lies down? It is not enough to stand on a punctilio and say "Such is the law. What are you going to do about it?" The present Labour Government of Great Britain will not repeat the old shibboleths nor allow itself to be fettered by red tape precedents. There is to be a revaluation of old values and the question we have raised must again come up for discussion. We do not attempt to prejudice it nor to forget the very great obligations—apart from debts which are also obligations—which Europe owes to America, we merely desire to postulate that there is here a question for discussion. It ought not to be regarded as a *chose jugée*.

THE departure of the first group of Russian Cadets and their teachers to Serbia has been arranged to take place early in February.

maintain friendly relations and await for the coming of peace so that the people will not unnecessarily have to be alarmed. You are a man of intelligence and I know that you are right in [illegible] in the past, [illegible] alone.

Marshal Chi, in exchanging letters, says:—

"Kiangsu and Chêkiang are related as the lips are to the teeth, and [illegible] and are closely concerned with each other. In troubles, they should work together and bear with one another.

"Because of internal trouble, rumours have been spread, and I am sure that [illegible] have some object in view or are allowing themselves to be used as tools. Unfortunately, those who do not understand think that these rumours are true and become alarmed. Fortunately there is no truth in this and you and I are of one mind and our aim is to [illegible] benefit of the people. The men [illegible] have not much time to spare have sacrificed everything for peace—time, health, wealth and energy—and we should give them our support.

"Thanks to Providence, the peace is now concluded through the treaty and tranquility will be strengthened. Now is our chance to set an example to the other provinces. Then, if that is brought about how can we express our happiness in words? I hope you will give me your advice and friendly suggestions from time to time.

Peking, Jan. 23.

Proclamations were posted up in all prominent quarters of Nanking on January 24 announcing that there would be no war between Kiangsu and Chêkiang. The proclamations were signed by Gen. Chih Hsieh-yuan, Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang and the Civil Governors of the two provinces. This is said to have been the result of the efforts of Chinese businessmen in those provinces, who have not yet succeeded, however, in getting Gen. Sun Chuan-fang to subscribe to their peace plan.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DECREASE IN SALT REVENUE

But Foreign Obligations Fully Met and Surplus Funds Handed Over

Peking, Jan. 25.

The Salt Revenue for [illegible], after meeting administrative expenses, credited to the group of banks during the year an amount of $72,545,000, showing a decrease of $6,244,000 as compared with 1922.

All obligations secured on the Salt Revenue have been fully met and the surplus funds released to the Government amount to $71,500,000 (including $12,500,000 received from the Maritime Customs). Of this some $30,307,000 represents sums either retained locally or appropriated by provincial authorities or military commanders.

These retentions cannot be compared with the amount of $21,000,000 retained in 1922 as the sum of $30,307,000, representing local retentions in 1923, does not include the full amount of the revenue retained during the year by the Kuangtung local authorities, whose illegal and arbitrary action in direct violation of the Reorganization Loan Agreement and in spite of protests from the Consuls-General of the various Powers in Canton compelled the Chief Inspectors to close the local Salt District Inspectorate from May, 1923, and temporarily to close the Pakhoi Assistant District Inspectorate from the end of June until the middle of September.

From information received it appears that the revenue collected in Canton by the local authorities since May, 1923, to the end of the year amounted to $2,828,000, as compared with the collection of $8,027,000 during the same period when the Canton District Inspectorate was functioning.

The reserve in the Group banks was maintained during the year at $7,000,000.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SUN PAO-CHI AND THE SENATE

Premier's Explanation of Policy: The Gold Franc Issue Discussed

Peking, Jan. 23.

The Premier, Mr. Sun Pao-chi, [illegible] the meeting of the Senate was opened. Only 19 members were present. Mr. Ku [illegible] presided. After reading a statement on the gold franc issue, the Premier explained that under the constitution [illegible] Ministers were obliged to come to Parliament and submit their administrative policy to the House, but owing to the fact that several Ministers had not yet assumed office he had felt it advisable to come to the Senate and express his own personal views on national policy. Briefly [illegible] was to maintain the constitution, respect Parliament, and work for the [illegible] by constitutional and peaceful methods.

Replying to questions on the gold franc issue, the Premier stated that before taking up his present post he had given no little study to this question. The Waichiaopu had conducted the negotiations in respect of this issue, and he would keep the House informed of any development in this matter. He believed that Dr. Wellington Koo, who was opposed to the payment in gold, was capable of handling the situation. Nothing had occurred since the Note sent by the Waichiaopu to the Powers rejecting the demand for payment in gold.

Several members having expressed suspicions with regard to Mr. Wang Ko-ming, the Premier stated that these suspicions were unfounded, and he assured the House that there would be no betrayal of national interests in respect of this matter. With reference to the "Chaban," (motion for inquiry and prosecution), it had been sent to the Cabinet before Mr. Sun became Premier, but he would on his return to the Cabinet study the document.

40 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

Mr. Sun Pao-chi reminded the Senators that he had been in the Government service for nearly 40 years and stated confidently that during that time he had never been guilty of betrayal. He had always been loyal to the Government and to his official colleagues. Now that he was Premier he expected officials and departments to be loyal to him. While hoping for and expecting loyalty he would nevertheless watch closely to guard against betrayal.

This concluded the proceedings.

President Tsao is reported to have instructed the Cabinet to have several thousands of copies of the Constitution printed by the Government Printing Office for distribution in the provinces.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PREMIER TO VISIT SOUTH CHINA

Mr. Sun Pao-chi Undertaking Personal Mission in Search of Peace

Peking, Jan. 26.

It is reported on good authority that the Premier, Mr. Sun Pao-chi, intends visiting Chêkiang and probably Kuangsi, Fukien and Canton with the object of securing agreement and peace between the provinces and later reunification. Dr. W. W. Yen will act as Premier during the absence of Mr. Sun.

The Premier has also sent a circular telegram to the provinces urging economy privately as well as publicly and reduction of troops which he will personally bring to the attention of the provincial leaders during his tour.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

HUNAN'S AUTONOMY

Peking, Jan. 22

The Military Council is sending General Mr. Chi to Hunan as a special commissioner to discuss with General Chao Heng-ti cancellation of Hunan's autonomy.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING'S FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

Usual New Year Penury: Premier Sun's Optimism and Offer to See Things Through

Peking, Jan. 22.

Mr. Chang Kuo-kan did not attend the meeting of the Cabinet this morning, from which Mr. Wang Ko-ming was also absent, owing, it is asserted, to illness. The fact that Premier Sun called on the President again to-day indicates that Mr. Wang's indisposition may continue for some time, as it is stated on good authority that Mr. Sun will again offer to carry on the affairs of the Ministry of Finance pending Mr. Wang's recovery.

Premier Sun's friends state that he is quite optimistic regarding the present position and it is hinted that he is prepared to carry the Government over its financial obligations for the Chinese New Year himself if necessary.

The only business of the Cabinet meeting this morning given out by the Secretariat of the Cabinet is the appointment of Mr. Kuang Tso as Chief of the Administrative Department of Hupeh and acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Tang Cheh-chi, the former incumbent.

Mr. Chang Kuo-kan called on President Tsao this morning and asked for financial arrangements to be made to meet educational expenses as soon as possible as he did not wish to take up his post with arrears owing to the eight Government colleges for half a year.

A group of Senators called on the Premier to-day and urged that their salaries should be paid before the lunar new year.

Telegrams of congratulations to Premier Sun have been received by the Cabinet from Mr. Alfred Sze, Minister at Washington, and Admiral Sah Chen-ping, Civil Governor of Fukien.

MR. WANG KO-MING.

Peking, Jan. 24.

It is understood that the Finance Minister, Mr. Wang Ko-ming, submitted to the Cabinet to-day a plan for raising $3,000,000 immediately to meet lunar New Year obligations. Admiral Li Ting-hsin is said to have suggested providing funds to pay the men of the fleet at Tsingtao before the new year.

Mr. Wang Ko-ming's sudden resolve to attend office to-day is believed to have been due to some extent to representations made to him by the police authorities in Peking, who feared there would be trouble if their men were not paid.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Jan. 25.

The House of Representatives has for the time being dropped the proposed impeachment of Mr. Wang Ko-ming. The opinion in official circles is divided as to whether this development is the outcome of the favourable impression created by Mr. Sun Pao-chi's statement regarding the gold franc question or is due to the anxiety of the members to receive their salaries before the New Year.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINA NEW YEAR

Peking's Expenses

Peking, Jan. 20.

Expenses required by the Chinese Government for tiding over the Chinese New Year are, it is reported, at least four or five million dollars, including $3,000,000 as administrative expenses, $500,000 or $600,000 as military expenses, and a certain amount as salaries to be paid to those who are to be discharged consequent upon financial readjustment. The above figures do not include interest on foreign and domestic loans. The Ministry of Finance at first intended to issue $12,000,000 Tsung Wen Men exchequer bonds and to apply a portion of the sum thus raised to the expenses required, but in view of strong opposition to the issuance of the bonds in question as well as to various complicated internal circumstances, this plan will, it is expected, not be put in force. In these circumstances, there appears to be no alternative [illegible] over the Chinese New Year by securing $2,000,000 of Salt Surplus, $1,000,000 from the Chinese Bankers' Group and $1,000,0000 from a different source. It is, however, problematical whether the whole of the $2,000,000 from the Salt Surplus, as calculated by the Chinese Government, will be secured.—Eastern News Agency.

Salt Surplus to Help

Peking, Jan. 30.

Arrangements have been made for the Chinese Government to receive about $3,000,000 of salt surplus funds, of which a portion will be devoted to the Russian Reorganization Loan coupons held by Japan. The former French objection to such releases based on the gold franc dispute has withdrawn.

It is officially stated that the Government's New Year obligations are not heavy and the salt surplus release itself will be nearly enough.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

WU PEI-FU'S DEMAND FOR FUNDS

Peking, Jan. 26.

According to unofficial reports from Shantung, Marshal Wu Pei-fu proposes to call upon the Tsingtao-Tsinanfu Railway Administration to provide $500,000 for the repairs of the six Chinese warships at Kiaochou and for payment of the salaries of the personnel up to date. After this has been done he suggests that the railway, Chinese merchants at Tsingtao, the Tsingtao local government and the Customs should each provide $50,000 a month for the upkeep of the squadron. There is said to be considerable opposition locally to this plan. Three hundred marines from these vessels are now working with the local police in patrolling the city.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING DAY BY DAY

Was It an Earthquake? An Anfu Illness to Conceal a Political Journey

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 24.

There has been much dispute in Peking during the past few days as to whether an earthquake was or was not felt here a few minutes past 8 o'clock on Saturday evening, January 19. A decided shock, accompanied by a loud underground rumbling, was felt at the time stated in a number of widely separated foreign residences at the Race Course, a few miles west of Peking. After a very brief interval this was followed by a tremour, sustained for perhaps two or three seconds, which was accompanied by a very faint reverberation. There was the usual accompaniment of the creaking of furniture and beams and the rattling of stoves, lamps and pottery. On Sunday it was learned with surprise that the foreign community in Peking had neither felt nor heard the quake and the theory was generally advanced that one of the army ammunition stores west of Peking had blown up. This was not satisfactory to those scientifically inclined because the Government magazines are a long way off, while the shock felt and the sound heard on Saturday evening coincided, which would not be possible in the case of a remote explosion. The Race Course folk were greatly "bucked" on Monday morning when the Chinese press came out unanimously with a report of a quake felt inside the city during which five distinct minor shocks had been felt. On Tuesday there was again some doubt in many minds when the foreign press announced that the earthquake story could not be substantiated. The only paper loyal to the quake was the "*Journal de Pékin*" which reported that a severe shock had been felt in the Western Hills. Opinion here is still divided and it would be of real interest to the community to know what the Shanghai seismologists have to say.

MARSHAL TUAN'S ILLNESS.

Much concern was recently expressed here when it was announced that Marshal Tuan Chi-jui, who is living in General Wu Kuang-hsin's house in Tientsin, was seriously ill with scarlet fever. It now transpires that there was little, if any, ground for the anxiety expressed by his many friends and admirers. The writer has learned on good authority that though foreign physicians were called in to attend Marshal Tuan, he was not seriously ill and that the report that he had scarlet fever was published by his immediate supporters. The Chihli leaders in Tientsin claim to have proof that the former Anfu chief was planning to go to Shanghai and "staged" a serious illness in the hope that his movements would be less closely spied upon. The secret was not well kept, however, and when the Anfu folk, through counter-espionage, learned that their plans were known, the elderly Marshal effected a complete and abrupt recovery.

It is not believed here that the plan of carrying Tuan Chi-jui to Shanghai has been abandoned by the Anfu group. Another attempt to take him south will probably be made and there is no good reason why it should not succeed, because nothing could bar him from such a pilgrimage but an act of violence in the foreign concessions in Tientsin or a piratical attack upon a foreign vessel, if he went by sea.

The Chihli people here take it for granted that Marshal Tuan's purpose in going South is to get into closer touch with Generals Ho Feng-lin and Lu Yung-hsiang and with possible allies in Fukien and other southern provinces, but it is not believed that he would venture to go to Hangchow. The Chêkiang gentry would presumably interpret his visit to their capital as a war portent and oppose it vociferously in ways which would mean a loss of face for both Gen. Lu and Marshal Tuan. Peking does not believe that they are likely to risk this.

A REPUBLICAN DISGUISE.

Those who have to write about Chinese politics year in and year out are incessantly searching for new phrases and new figures of speech to impress upon the world that the Chinese "Government" is not a Government and that the Chinese "Republic" is not a Republic. The writer long ago exhausted a jaded imagination in this field; but he welcomed what he thought a new contribution from a fresher mind a few days ago when he heard an American in a semi-diplomatic position make the following tactful remarks to a youthful Chinese enthusiast who had rubbed him the wrong way:

". . . . . and you stand there and call this the Republic of China? Why you might as well nail a Packard name plate on a Peking mule cart and call it a limousine!"

Premier Sun's Official Calls: Sympathy Upon the Death of M. Lenin

Peking, Jan. 25

Dr. Wellington Koo, on learning of the death of M. Lenin, sent Mr. Tchou, Secretary of the Waichiaopu, to call on Mr. Karakhan and express his sympathy.

At the meeting of the Cabinet yesterday, it is reported, a Minister suggested that General Lu Yung-ting should be appointed Tuli of Kuangsi, and after some discussion the proposal was referred to the Ministry of War for consideration.

In Government circles it is reported that Premier Sun Pao-chi will shortly make official calls at the several Legations in Peking in his capacity as Premier.

President Tsao Kun has despatched Mr. Hsu Kuo-chen, one of his secretaries, to proceed to Tientsin to make inquiries regarding the health of Marshal Tuan Chi-jui. He is also carrying presents from the President.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINA AND THE SOVIET

Peking, Jan. 25.

An early opening of Sino-Russian negotiations is anticipated owing [illegible] report that Dr. C. T. Wang has telegraphed to the Manchurian delegates appointed to watch proceedings advising them that they should reach Peking on February 15.—French Wireless.

membership of only 200—while the American Red Cross did the work of administration and investigation. But the A.R.C. being entirely supported from Home, the Association tried to arrange with other American organizations to take over and finance this part of the work. The attempt failed, but another is being made which, with the aid of the American Club and the Columbia Country Club, looks more promising. The hope is to obtain a regular monthly income. In no selfish sense the members of other foreign communities in Shanghai would be glad if the scheme succeeded. It is a pleasing custom now of many years standing—and it was an American, Dr. Amos Wilder, who invented it—when one of our friends "goes West" to send something to a charity instead of buying a wreath; and when that friend is an American, what more natural than to choose an American charity? But, curiously, for a people that are most generous in giving and even lavish with endowments, there appears to have been a deficiency of organized philanthropies among Americans in Shanghai: at least we must confess to being ignorant of their names. The ideas of the American Association of China, therefore, in this direction are welcome on all counts; and when they set about collecting money, perhaps we might remind them of the title of one of their country's most brilliant comedies, that "it pays to advertise."

Mr. Wen Shih-tsen, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs and Superintendent of Customs at Nanking, and Mrs. Wen, celebrated their silver wedding on Tuesday. Mr. Wen, who is also adviser to Marshal Chi Shich-yuan (Military Governor of Kiangsu), has made a name for himself for his work at Lincheng in endeavouring to secure the release of the Chinese and foreign captives in the hands of Sun Mei [illegible] of the Pactzeku [illegible] and his men. President Tsao Kun sent one of his staff officers, Mr. Feh Yin-shan, to Nanking to present a huge pair of silver cups to Mr. and Mrs. Wen as the centre of the occasion.

An interesting statement has been made by the new Premier, Mr. Sun Pao-chi, to President Tsao Kun, this being to the effect that at a time during spring he will travel about the country for three months, to meet the leaders in the provinces and to urge upon them the necessity of peace and unification in China. During his absence he suggests that Dr. Wellington Koo (Minister of Foreign Affairs) or Dr. W. W. Yen (Minister of Agriculture and Commerce) should be acting Premier. Mr. Sun also suggests, reports the "Journal of Commerce," a loan to meet the expenses of the Presidential Office and for the payment of the Chinese and Foreign advisers of the Government.

A Peking newspaper states that the Ministry of Finance has instructed the provinces not to levy special taxes on cigarettes. Chêkiang was the first province to levy this extra tax which has been regarded by the British and American Ministers as a violation of treaty rights. To this the Chêkiang provincial authorities retorted that the tax simply meant an increase of burden for the consumers, but not for the cigarette merchants. Since then other provinces have followed suit. The British Minister warned the Government that such action on the part of the provinces might eventually affect the decisions of the Tariff Conference. Although tobacco and wine are luxuries, Customs regulations do not permit the provinces to levy extra taxes. The Ministry of Finance fearing that this illegal tax may embarrass China's position at the conference has instructed the Civil Governors concerned to cancel the tax.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Greek Dynasty

In his latest declaration to the Greek legislative assembly M. Venizelos shows himself true to his traditional policy *vis-à-vis* of the dynasty. To-day a republican element in Greece wishes the dynasty to disappear once and for all, and if given a free hand would finish it off immediately by Act of Parliament. M. Venizelos appears as a moderating influence in the case, and when he lays it down that there must be a plebiscite to test the sentiment of the whole country on the matter, we find him on similar ground to that which he occupied during the war. King Constantine had afforded some very pronounced examples of treachery prior to the Greek entry into the struggle, and correspondence on the part of himself and his spouse with Berlin, since published, has shown how to the very last he hoped to defeat the constitutional methods of M. Venizelos. As the leading Greek statesman M. Venizelos deemed it necessary in his country's interest to enter the war on the side of the Allies, and in this attitude he was backed by a substantial majority of his countrymen, yet Constantine made no bones about thwarting his policy. Even after the Allied troops had landed at Salonika and there had been further royalist treachery, M. Venizelos still hoped that Constantine might be brought to a reasonable state of mind, and not until it was absolutely certain that his efforts were futile did he raise the standard of revolt. Throughout his career he has shown a rare loyalty to an ungrateful governing house, and even in their absence to-day he stands out as protecting their interests.

The Cigarette Tax

That the Kiangsu authorities have found it necessary, in the face of public opposition, to postpone collection of the 20 per cent. cigarette tax till after China New Year, is very interesting. Of course it may really be just a postponement. But Chinese opinion is that the officials are only trying to save face and that the tax will never be levied. Just so, one recalls, the raising of postal and telegraph charges was put off to a more convenient season a year ago, in deference to popular objection. It is highly important to note these successful demonstrations of public opinion. In addition to the two mentioned, we have also the peace treaty signed last August between Chêkiang and Kiangsu and reiterated a few days ago. These manifestations of public feeling, be it remembered, take place on Chinese soil infinitely more valuable, therefore, than any number of denunciations from foreign settlement security have no military force to help them, are simply the result of men getting together and saying "This we will not stand." They show that the government of China is subservient to the people if they are determined it shall be.

Panama's Vulnerability

The American naval manœuvres having for their object the testing of the vulnerability to attack of the Panama Canal have resulted very largely in the same way as certain tests made by Great Britain in the North Sea shortly before the outbreak of war. The special idea on that occasion was to ascertain whether a raiding force could slip through the naval screen protecting the coast and effect a landing, and Admiral Jellicoe, in charge of the raiders, succeeded. He seems to have done his work extraordinarily well, disguising transports with dummy funnels and so forth. Subsequently the war, although falling short of such a definite conclusion, proved that coastal towns could no longer be considered immune from the guns of raiding cruisers. The British Navy proved exactly the same thing in respect of aerial attacks upon the German coast. What the American manœuvres have resulted in is an appreciation that the Panama Canal is in exactly the same position as mentioned above, and accordingly proposals are being made for elaborate aerial and naval defences. Here we come again to that debateable point under the Washington Agreement which has agitated Washington and London in turn increased elevation of long range guns on battleships. One of the Panama recommendations is that this greater elevation should be applied to the older battleships still in commission, and now that here is a definite proposal we shall no doubt learn at last whether it is permissible or not under the Treaty.

Mussolini and Macdonald

The arrival of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald as Prime Minister of Great Britain and the coming appeal of Signor Mussolini to the electorate of Italy form a conjunction of events which is intriguing. Up to a point the careers of Mr Macdonald and Signor Mussolini were so similar, but thereafter so divergent, that one well known Italian resident said the other day with a wealth of expression, "Ah! If the two could only meet!" It is easy to see what he was driving at. Both came from the working classes, and both flung themselves into the cause of Socialism early in life. Signor Mussolini eventually becoming a Communist. Then came the war and the striking difference between their careers, for while Mr. Macdonald became a Pacifist of the International brand, Signor Mussolini threw aside his politics and enlisted in the Italian army as a private. Signor Mussolini emerged from the war as one of the strongest opponents of Communism possible: he founded the Fascisti who saved Italy from a very real Communist menace, and in a recent article Lord Rothermere laid it down that he saved Europe from Communism by his action. To-day he goes out to convert to his line of action the least favourable parts of Italy. Mr. Macdonald is probably also developing, and it may be in a similar direction. Most people expected to see such men as Mr. Robert Smillie, the miners' secretary, taking power with him, but instead we have three peers presumably with capitalistic interests at stake. One, Lord Chelmsford, is the son of a distinguished general; a second, Lord Haldane, besides being a highly paid lawyer, is a landowner in Perthshire; the third, Lord Parmoor, also a lawyer, is interested in shipping. (Incidentally his son was in Shanghai not so long ago in connexion with the interests of the Blue Funnel Line). It was by noting facts such as these that our Italian resident was impelled to make his remark, and we fancy that a very great number of people are to-day thinking along the same lines.

The Philippines To-day

To the onlooker the resemblance between the Philippines and India becomes politically closer every day. America has placed a very strong man in the position of Governor-General of the Philippines, and when certain of the populace there get out of hand he does not hesitate to take action. A few months ago General Wood came into violent conflict with his Cabinet because of this very strength that he shows, and when the Cabinet resigned *en masse* to show their displeasure he made no bones about accepting their resignation. Recent disturbances throughout the country he has tackled in exactly the same spirit, and now that he is dealing thus with the Colorums, who seem to be well on the war path, he finds himself denounced by one of the leading politicians of the islands. The Indian Nationalists are not one whit behind the Philippine politicians in their use of like methods, and so we see the surface resemblance, at any rate, of the two dependencies amazingly close. It is unlikely that General Wood will trouble himself much about this latest attack on his conduct, for he knows his job and means to carry it through, but some other people in more or less influential positions are certain to disagree with him, and it will be a misfortune if they succeed in weakening his position.

True and False Money

Certain quasi-financial circles in the United States appear to be so much impressed with the absorption of gold and silver by India and China and the adverse effect which this may have on Europe's future financial position, that they are apt to lose the real significance of it, at any rate where China is concerned. In one of the most recent papers representing the circles quoted above—incidentally the same paper which predicted fireworks in silver many months ago on the assumption that Russia was about to embark on a great scheme of silver currency, and which never came off—we find the suggestion that India and China will probably take G.$25,000,000 worth of silver this year, and it emphasizes the point that the larger part of such consignments never leaves these countries. Its comment on the case is: -

While the rest of the world- exclusive of America -apparently deceives itself with "soft money" values, the Far East constantly fortifies its monetary position and builds for that inevitable period when there must be readjustments between false and true credit.

Remembering all the reports of silver hoarding that used to come from our up-country correspondents, and knowing how on occasion silver may vanish from Shanghai, leaving it short of even normal requirements, it may be doubted whether this is anything like a true presentment of the case here. The fact of the matter, of course, is that the Chinese have in the past had such an experience of "false" credit, in the shape of unsecured banknotes which rapidly depreciated, that ultimately they required silver for the payment of their debts. At times, accordingly, when considerable amounts of money have come into the country, a proportion of it must have been placed unproductive in holes in the ground. At some future date this money will no doubt be available to fortify the country's credit position, but that will scarcely be until Tuchunry and banditry have been exorcised, and judging by the present rate of progress towards that end Europe may have been able to recover somewhat before it comes about.

Terminological Changes

The resident who has been here for, say, a score of years may well bethink himself of how the principal foreign language of Shanghai, English, has altered in its aspect during these years By the post to-day ratepayers are receiving a pamphlet entitled "A Community Movement," and they find that it is the annual report of the Moral Welfare League. A score of years ago this would have possibly been called "A Public Movement," as having been brought into existence by public or at least public-spirited men and women, and nobody ever suggested that there was anything lacking in the signification of the title. The word "public," however, seems to have fallen on evil days, and not only do we have Community Movements and Community Christmas Frees, but there is a foursome at Kiangwan which describes itself as playing Community Golf. In exactly the same way, that beautiful word "holiday" is being steadily displaced by the uninteresting and commonplace "vacation," and the timetable which one used to scan at railway stations is a schedule (variously pronounced). After the summer, women buy Fall hats and men Fall suitings, and when they dine out or take a trip by steamer they make reservations. Against the last mentioned, however, one great institution has stood out. It is the theatre, and we still book seats.

Protection or Levy

After studying an analysis of election figures on the question of a Capital Levy or Protection which appears in the issue of Lloyds Bank Monthly following the recent contest, there must be some doubt as to how Great Britain as a whole stands in regard to Free Trade. The principal issue before the country was unemployment, and while the Conservatives held out Protection as the cure, the Labour Party put forward the proposal of a Capital Levy. The analysis we have quoted puts the position thus:—Protection—votes for, 5,300,000; against, 8,900,000; majority against, 3,600,000: Capital Levy—votes for, 4,300,000, against 9,800,000, majority against 5,500,000. The country thus is taken by the authority we have quoted as declaring itself against both Protection and a Levy. Yet it has by no means pledged itself wholeheartedly to the single policy of Free Trade (minus the Levy), as we can see by the present Liberal position in the House of Commons. Apparently about 10,000,000 of the electors felt that something must be done to remedy the position of the country's trade and so they either voted for Protection or a Capital Levy, and on their vote it might be argued that this majority believe that orthodox Free Trade as practised in the past is no longer adequate to our needs. Then comes the breach—fiscal reform or a Levy. Following the collection of the Levy the Labour Party would, of course, return to strict Free Trade, and as it is not in a position to impose the Levy at present, Free Trade will no doubt continue.

Mr. Little's Reply

Mr. E. S. Little's rejoinder to the attack upon him in the Australian Parliament, which led to that Government telegraphing to him to shut up the Commissioner's office and stop work makes a good showing even in the summarized form in the original far more so. If he were actually guilty of all the charges brought by his opponents, he ought at least to have been given a chance to defend himself, and after the Australian Government had sent Senator Bakhap up to Shanghai to investigate, whose report completely exonerated Mr. Little, the manner in which the latter was thrown to the wolves last summer does not impress one favourably with Dominion politics. Whether Mr. Little was or was not qualified (by experience, etc.) to be the Australian Commissioner, is beside the question: the Australian Government certainly thought he was at one time. The onslaught on him with no opportunity given him to reply, and his summary dismissal (especially after the Bakhap report) was, to put it mildly, not fair fighting. His real crime, one cannot but suspect, was first, that another Government had come in since his appointment, and the principle of spoils of office is unfortunately notorious in Dominion politics: secondly, that he is not Australian-born.

The Shell-Shock Patient

Mr. J. H Thomas, the new Colonial Secretary, has floated into office upon a wave of laughter. The remark made by the hall porter about his being "another shell shock patient" when he arrived to assume his duties is so typical of that type of man that it deserves to go down to posterity as a classic. Obviously nobody has appreciated it more than Mr. Thomas himself, and so the laughter is without malice. It was different in one beautiful case during the General Election of 1900, when a celebrated statesman, still to the fore, turned nasty over something very nearly as good. This individual has one of the most difficult pronunciations imaginable, and speaks so fast that to the listener, unless specially trained by experience, it is impossible to distinguish between such words as "impotent" and "impudent." Among the reporters at one of his meetings during the election in question was a youth whose mind ran principally on football, so that such names as Rovers, Ramblers, Rangers and the like were seldom out of his head. The statesman referred to the Conservatives as "khaki wirepullers," and to his horror found next day that the sporting reporter had transcribed it as "khaki warblers." Explanations and corrections were instantly demanded, and the Conservative Press then had the time of its life. One paper, being very rude, said that at last it had felt able to congratulate the statesman on making an original remark, but was disappointed on finding that the originality lay in the reporter. Possibly it was right, for the reporter is now an editor.

SHANGHAI'S MILK SUPPLY

Jan. 31.

It is to be hoped that all ratepayers will study the report of the Pure Milk Commission, issued as a supplement to the Municipal Gazette last Tuesday. It is interesting, it concerns us all and it proposes certain definite measures the bearing of which everybody should understand. The object which the Commission kept continually in view was to combine purity of the milk supply, sufficiency and price. For example, it would have been absurd to recommend such requirements in a dairy as the Chinese cow-keeper could only fulfil at a cost that would raise the price of his milk beyond customers' ability to pay. Accordingly two grades of licence have been suggested, A and B. With the conditions contained in A, there are already dairies which comply or very nearly so: with those of B no unnecessary difficulty or expense should be involved in compliance. The Commission did not attempt to force all dairies up to the standard of the best foreign dairies; the vast majority of consumers could not pay the price entailed. The wisdom of the case was to endeavour to secure milk of reasonably good quality fit at least when boiled for human consumption. This Grade B appears to do. It is interesting to note that the Commission heard the legal representative of a certain dairy, who "urged that when a sample of milk is taken for analysis, half the same should be returned to the dairy owner for the purpose, if desired, of an independent analysis." It is hardly surprising to read that "the Commission see great danger in this of the dairy owner substituting another sample." The same witness also urged that public notification in the Gazette, of adulterated milk having been found in any dairy, before conviction in the Mixed Court, did much more damage to the dairyman than even the conviction. The public reply to this will be immediately, "Then let us have more and wider publicity."

The Commission did not reach its conclusions without personally inspecting a number of dairies of which the following is certainly no exaggerated description:

The Commission was very adversely impressed by the insanitary conditions existing in many of the dairies inspected: conditions which in many cases might very easily be remedied without undue hardship to the dairy keeper. In many cases the cow stables were filthy, badly ventilated, lacking in drainage and ever crowded. Milk handling rooms were inadequate, and milking utensils and bottles of patrons very often [illegible] cleanse. Instances were observed where the boiler from which hot water should have been obtained for washing bottles, etc., had evidently not been in use for a considerable time. Open latrines and uncovered kangs were found in close proximity to cow stables and milk rooms. Generally there was evidence that, either the inspection had been very inadequately carried out, or that the Health Office Inspectors were lacking in power to enforce the licence conditions.

The conclusion is the need for strict enforcement of all regulations and conditions, with the special recommendation

that the licence be attached to the premises as well as to the owner and that on a flagrant breach of certain conditions after due warning, the Council should withdraw or suspend the licence.

This would stop the common practice of a delinquent carrying on by a proxy.

But when all other conditions are fulfilled, there is still at times a shortage in the requisite quantity of milk, which undoubtedly is made up by milk from unlicensed dairies outside the Settlement. The enormous difficulty of checking this influx is obvious and the Commission therefore lays stress on the fullest control being given to those who have to see that the new licence conditions are observed. But attacking the problem from the other end, the Commission finds that the dearness and occasional shortage of milk are due to the frequency of disease amongst cattle, and this leads up to its most important recommendation of all, namely the appointment of a Municipal Veterinary Surgeon. Here is its reasoning in a nutshell:

1. The question of the plentiful supply of pure milk at a reasonable cost is dependent upon the prevention and the spread of cattle diseases.

2. Health Inspectors are not qualified to diagnose diseases of cattle. Hence they cannot effectively prevent the spread of diseases.

3. Certification every three months by approved local practising Veterinary Surgeons would not prove sufficient to check the spread of tuberculosis, rinderpest or other infectious diseases.

4. Other matters which only an absolutely independent and fully qualified Veterinary Surgeon can control, and which are of the highest importance are:—(a) The disposal of carcases of animals dead from disease and (b) The movement of animals suffering from diseases over Municipal roads.

Space does not permit of going at length into all the reasons why the Commission presses for a new official and cannot accept the three monthly certification urged by the Commissioner of Public Health and mentioned in clause No. 3 above. They are given fully in the report and, although the appointment of a municipal "vet." will cost money and undoubtedly occasion the greatest controversy when the report is considered by the Council, we believe that the Commission will be held at least to have made out a strong case.

No summary can do justice to all the points in the report and it is certainly to be hoped that ratepayers will take the trouble to study for themselves a document which assuredly endeavours to make a real contribution to public health. But one more quotation may be underlined:—

In conclusion, the Commission would like to impress upon the public that, while the Health Department may do everything possible to protect their interests, it must be for the public to exercise their own personal supervision. If consumers would remove their custom from dairies convicted of serious breaches of licence conditions, and go to the trouble of visiting their dairies, they would be helping towards a Pure Milk Supply to a greater extent than can be accomplished by any Regulations which the Council may see fit to impose.

Just as people cannot be made virtuous by act of parliament, no municipal regulations can ensure hygiene in households whose mistress never enters her own kitchen.

Acting in response to a request from the Japanese Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has instructed Admiral Wen Shah-yeh, commander of the Tsingtao section of the Chinese Navy which recently arrived there from Canton, to take his gunboats to sea to suppress pirates, reports the Shanghai Journal of Commerce. Admiral Wen has suggested the establishment of a new naval college at Tsingtao.

FIUME AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Feb. 1.

While the public of Great Britain has been concentrating its attention first on a General Election and then on the advent of Labour to power, very important events have been culminating in Central Europe. After four years of the bitterest animosity, Italy and Jugo-Slavia have made an alliance, and the effects of it are so far-reaching that for the future they will react upon every phase of European politics. To realize the situation we must trace the position of these nations since the war. Italy and Jugo-Slavia, (the principal partner in which is Serbia) were allies during the struggle against the Central Powers, and so long as the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary remained a menace it held them together. When, however, the Austrian Empire broke up, trouble began. Italy, previously confined to the west coast of the Adriatic, gradually crept down the eastern side and reached the important port of Fiume. Now Fiume is in the most delicate position possible. Its population is almost purely Italian in character, but the surrounding country is pure Jugo-Slav. Moreover it is an important outlet both for Italian and Jugo-Slav trade, and naturally when the treaty-makers came to deal with it they found themselves in very great difficulties. The Treaty of Rapallo, which settled the disposition of this section of Europe, was largely dominated by President Wilson's ideas of self-determination, but while the diplomats took into consideration the general sentiments of the populace, they failed to contemplate the peculiar position of the hitherto isolated inhabitants of Fiume. President Wilson's obstinate belief in his theories overruled Italy and all the other Powers, and while leading to an amazing set of situations, might equally have led to war.

The theories of the treaty-makers, admirably calculated as they were, did not in the least appeal to the people of Fiume, who after years of Austro-Hungarian domination at length hoped to see themselves under the flag of Italy, whose territory they now adjoined following the war. When they found that Fiume was to be merely an independent, insignificant state—actually nothing more than a port—with no convenient standing for its citizens abroad, the mother instinct became dominant and the inhabitants declared for Italian nationality and Italian possession. Then d'Annunzio stepped in, and proceeded to hold Fiume for Italy against the whole world, and as it subsequently turned out, against Italy. He had Italian volunteers and Fiume residents as his army, and there was the spectacle of a poet with a mere handful of men defying the armed world. The armed world was, however, merciful and instead of crushing such impertinence, took steps to let the movement die with as little loss of blood as possible. D'Annunzio was allowed to retire to his country villa in Italy, and Fiume became independent although under Italian protection. Both Italy and Jugo-Slavia, however, had covetous eyes upon her, but the advantage lay all on Italy's side. She financed the port, and has spent no less than 300,000,000 lire upon it since. The position, however, was fraught with danger. And not until Signor Mussolini decided to risk everything so that Fiume should be Italian did the atmosphere clear. In doing so he almost courted war, but the very boldness of the step he took probably averted that event. The inhabitants of Fiume once more declared themselves Italian in a proclamation, and with that knowledge behind him Signor Mussolini intimated to Jugo-Slavia that he proposed to settle the question finally on the lines thus indicated. Porto Barros, a small seaport to the south of Fiume, would go to Jugo-Slavia; the port of Fiume would be a free port for Jugo-Slav trade and would be administered by a commission of Italians, Jugo-Slavs and residents of Fiume; and then Italy would ally herself with Jugo-Slavia. A moment of tension ensued, but the principle of the port's annexation to Italy was accepted by M. Pasitch, the Premier of Jugo-Slavia, who appears to have great statesmanlike qualities, and to-day the treaty has been signed to the general satisfaction of both nations.

We have dealt at this length with the history of Fiume not because of the dispute over Fiume but as leading up to the position which it will enable Italy to take in the most important question in Europe to-day—German reparations. So long as Italy was in bitter enmity with Jugo-Slavia she was at a disadvantage in talking to France on reparations. She found herself opposed front and rear. Her danger was increased when France started pourparlers with Czecho-Slovakia, and when the treaty between the two was signed and France secured a controlling influence in the Little Entente, composed of Czecho-Slovakia, Jugo-Slavia and Rumania, with Poland possibly giving a helping hand, it looked as if Italy would be isolated. Now, however, Italy and Jugo-Slavia have joined hands, and not only has an equilibrium in the Little Entente been established, but Italy is free to lay her views on reparations unreservedly upon the table. It happens that the pronouncements of Signor Mussolini and the Italian policy in general bear a very strong resemblance to what has been hinted at by British statesmen recently in office and what we know the Labour Party thinks about the matter. That being so, and Italy's hand now being free, we may well be on the eve of a very different policy in European affairs. Signor Mussolini has shown himself to be Italy's strong man. There is a belief that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald may equally prove Britain's strong man, as his interviews suggest, and the whole European situation may actually assume a different aspect, largely owing to the Fiume settlement.

The Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps has once more drawn the attention of the Chinese Government to the activities of the bandits in the vicinity of the southern section of the Tientsin-Pukou Railway and asked that steps be taken to suppress them.

It is understood that Dr. David Z. T. Yui, general secretary of the National Committee of Y.M.C.A.'s in China, will shortly leave for the United States to recuperate after a lengthy illness. Dr. Yui was formerly secretary to the ex-President, Li Yuan-hung, and for two years was a member of the Chinese Advisory Committee to the Shanghai Municipal Council.

AMERICAN ASSOCN. OF CHINA

Feb. 2.

The American Association of China, whose report for 1923 has just reached us, are much more modest in their outpourings than we remember in bygone days. In truth, the task of writing reports on "progress of events" (as the phrase goes) is a depressing one nowadays, consisting of nothing but the record of fruitless expostulation. To some extent the American Association appears to be overshadowed by its sister Chamber of Commerce. The Association's membership is only 207, resident, and the report urges that more Americans, especially those not eligible for the Chamber, should join. This is reasonable, experience having shown, certainly in the British, and we have no doubt in the American community as well, that there is scope for both Chamber and Association and work that quite obviously is better handled by one than by the other.

The report states that "the Executive Committee have made every effort to bring before the authorities at Washington the views of the Association on matters of vital importance to Americans residing in China." The Lincheng outrage is cited in particular, when the Association actively joined with other similar organizations, American and British, in telegraphic bombardment of Home Governments. It is the ceaseless preoccupation of foreigners in China how to enlighten public and official opinion in their home countries as to the true state of affairs in this. We find that great desideratum urgently dwelt on in the very first number of the "North China Herald" seventy-three years ago, and it remains as desirable and as unattainable as ever. In fact, the situation is really worse to-day than it was in 1843. Then, nobody knew anything about China and the people on the spot had a free hand. Now, every twopenny politician thinks he knows everything about China, and Ministers are simply bound hand and foot to their respective chancelleries. Thus we find the American Association writing to the President of the United States to urge "that no action be taken on the proposed remission of the unremitted portion of the Boxer Indemnity until China had a united government." As the report shows, the contingency does not appear imminent. But the mere reference is enough to illustrate the general state of trepidation of foreign communities produced by the sloppy sentiment which suffuses the eyes of Western—it is to be feared we must add, especially American, politicians looking towards China. It is not that these communities ask for the mailed fist: far from it. All they would make clear is that sympathy—the watchword, now, in every affair of the Far East—unless based on a full understanding of facts can only end in disaster, and that the class of person in China with whom the foreign diplomats deal is in no sense representative of the real people and true interests of the land of Sinim.

Some interesting paragraphs describe the work of providing relief among needy Americans, which, it need hardly be added, has grown largely in recent years. The Association undertook to raise the necessary funds—which it did to the tune of $8,000, no mean sum with

HIGHWAYS IN HUNAN

Good Prospects for Roadbuilders in the Province: 26-Mile-Road Nearly Complete

From Our Own Correspondent.

Changsha, Jan. 19.

We have had a visit from Mr. Todd, Chief Engineer of the International Famine Relief Commission, whose headquarters are at Peking, to inspect the work which has been done on the motor-road between Siangtan and Siangsiang and the prospects of its continuation to Paoking.

Mr. Todd was able to report to the local branch of the Association that the work done on the road was about the best he had seen in any road in China. Not only was the roadway well and substantially built, but the bridges were most suitable and so well designed that he wished to have a photo of one of them that it might be used as a model for bridge building elsewhere. Moreover, he had found the financial records well kept and in such order that he had no difficulty in getting to know the cost per unit.

A GLOWING TRIBUTE.

He congratulated the branch committee on the really excellent character of the work done. He was hardly prepared to find so great a difference between the conditions in Hunan and those to which he had been accustomed in North China, as, for instance in the number of rainy days, or the excessive rainfall on some of those days. When allowance had been made for this and also for the incompetence of the labour used at the beginning—which was designedly composed of underfed as well as untrained men taken right from the midst of the famine districts—he thought there was no reason to complain of the undoubtedly high cost of the road. He not only went right to Siangsiang (26 miles) where the final surfacing is now being laid and on which all the bridges, etc., are complete, but pushed right on to Paoking itself. For some miles beyond Siangsiang progress had been made with the embankment necessary for the continuation of the road; but the end of the available funds had checked construction and bridging and culverts were not even started. Beyond, he was able to assure the committee that expenses would be lower, both on account of much less bridging that would be required, and also because the nature of the soil rendered it easy to get the materials for construction. This also, of course, showed that the actual making of the road would be throughout of more suitable material than had been encountered on the lower parts of the river valley through which the part already constructed passes.

The committee were naturally very pleased to hear such a report on the excellent work done by the engineer, Mr. Wilson, under whom all but the construction during the first few months had been carried out, and to whom the designing of the bridge work was entirely due. The committee would have been glad both to continue the work and the engagement of Mr. Wilson, but the interruption to the funds ready for the work has caused the work to slow down to the mere surfacing of the part finished.

WORK IN 12 PROVINCES.

Mr. Todd interested the committee by an account of the plans of the national committee which now aim at unifying the relief work undertaken in some 12 provinces which have branch committees similar to the one he was addressing.

Replying to Mr. Todd, the Chairman of the provincial branch pointed out how the part of the road already constructed was an instance of provincial unification and therefore expressed of the welcome which would be given to similar planning on a national scale. Had the extra 26 miles been all the roadway that was anticipated, there would have been no particular reason for chosing the tract between Siangtan and Siangsiang. But in looking forward to a time when there would be hundreds of miles of motor roads in the province, he pointed out that the section constructed was not only joined to the capital by the military road from Changsha to Siangtan, but was designedly aimed in the direction where water transport was most difficult through rocks and rapids and also most extended in length by the tortuous nature of a channel running through mountainous country. Facilities of transport were amongst the best means of preventing famines in a province like Hunan, where the differences between the productiveness of the lands in the lower valleys and the lands in the hills were so great.

MILITARISM AND THE OPIUM EVIL

Strong Appeal by Chinese Citizens to the International Anti-Opium Association

Peking, Jan. 22.

The following petition has been received by the International Anti-Opium Association from Hueianhsien in Fukien under date of January 10:

The opium evil would have been entirely stamped out of Fukien at an early date, had military conflicts not occurred. Under the pretext of raising funds to meet military expenses the people are now compelled to cultivate poppy and to pay opium taxes. Under such conditions poppy is received again and will spread all over the province, poisoning the people in a serious manner. The Hueian District is in a bad condition. The local gentry are united with the troops and the opium commissioners to force the people to grow opium and impose taxes on it. Every mow of opium land is taxed $16, and a double fine will be inflicted if there is any one who refuses to pay such taxes. Moreover those who have no opium seeds to sow are likewise compelled to pay the taxes. The efforts of scores of years for opium suppression have been destroyed by the militarists and the wicked gentry such as Lin Chi-shih, Chen Ching-hu, Shen Li-kan, Ho Shen-chu, etc. They pay little attention to the law and the treaties. When will the end of such evil come? We, the petitioners, feel great sorrow and are pained to see the people poisoned, opium suppression retrogaded, and the treaties violated. We plead with your Association to ask the Central Government and the Fukien Governors to employ severe measures to stop opium planting and taxes and to punish the chief culprits in order to set an example for the future.

(Signed) CHANG YAO-NAN, LIU TSUNG-HEN HUAN CHANG, representing the people.
FANG YUAN-CHEN. CHUAN CHAN, representing the merchants.

Reuter's Pacific Service

THE NORTHERN CAUSE IN SZECHUAN

Usual Demand for Funds

Peking, Jan. 24.

It is semi-officially reported that the Military Council of the Presidency received a telegram from General Liu Tsen-hou, the Northern leader who is stationed in northern Szechuan, not far from the Shensi border, asking for funds for the payment of his troops. General Liu points out that he is holding an important strategical position, which it would be dangerous to leave.

General Liu was formerly Tuchun of Szechuan and was driven out by General Hsiong Keh-wu. He came over to the North some months ago.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BIG BUILDING SALE IN HONGKONG

Hongkong, Jan. 25.

The Hongkong Land Investment Company has sold St. George's Building for $1,250,000, to Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. Reuter's Pacific Service.

LIVELY EVENTS IN CANTON

Rice Labourers' Strike: Mass Protest Against Fresh Taxation: Mutiny of Soldiers

Canton, Jan. 18.

Cantonese labourers connected with the rice mills and wholesale rice firms of this city are now on strike, demanding an increase of from 15 to 50 per cent. in wages and a part of the waste or by-products of the mills. Owing to the sympathetic action of other labour unions, several steamers from the outports and Hongkong have been unable to unload their rice cargoes here since the strike became effective on January 15. As rice is the staple food in the south and suspension of this trade will undoubtedly affect Dr. Sun Yat-sen's military operations in Kuangtung- every effort is being made to bring about a peaceful settlement of the issue between the owners and workers in this trade.

A QUARREL OVER SILK.

Gen. Liu Chen-huan of the Kuangsi Army is pressing the Civil Governor of Kuangtung for immediate payment of the arrears due to his men, claiming $90,000. Gen. Liu has been moved to embarrass the Kuangtung Governor by a recent decision of the Canton Government to disallow further taxation of Canton silk goods for the benefit of the Kuangsi mercenary troops. The Civil Governor was forced to protect the silk trade last week by a mass meeting of more than 10,000 silk workers held in front of the governor's office. The meeting refused to adjourn until the Governor formally declared that he would repeal the order for an additional tax. The Kuangsi general is incensed at the Kuangtung Governor for repealing the order without his consent.

The district of Heungshan, the birth-place of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Mr. Tang Shao-yi, has returned to normal order. Admiral Chan Chak of the Kuangtung River Defence and Magistrate Jue Chock-man of the district, who have been fighting each other for the collection of certain sand-field taxes in the district, have been deprived of their offices.

Mr. Hu Han-min, former Civil Governor of Kuangtung, has refused the offer of Dr. Sun Yat-sen to restore him to office in succession to Civil Governor Liao Chung-hoi who has resigned. Mr. Hu has been twice governor of Kuangtung.

THE YUNNANESE REVOLT.

The mutiny of the 4th Division of the Third Corps of the Yunnanese Army, which lasted from January 10 to 12, resulted in the destruction of the administrative building of the Canton-Samshui Railroad at Shakuaitong, Canton, and the forced suspension of traffic for nearly a week. So far the Divisional Commander responsible for the mutiny has been permitted to transfer to another Corps unpunished Gen. Chiang Kuang-liang of the Third Corps has tendered his resignation.

ANOTHER ATTACK ON CHEN.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen, as Generalissimo of the Constitutional Army in Canton, has ordered preparation for another general attack on Gen. Chen Chiung-ming, in the eastern districts of Kuangtung. It is believed that there will be hard fighting around Canton again before the end of January. Gen. Chen Chiungming has declared to his friends in Hongkong that he expects to be in Canton again for the next Chinese New Year, February 5, while the Generalissimo is getting ready to become President of the proposed "Consolidated Government of China" about the same time.

The navies of Great Britain, the United States of America, Japan; France, Italy, and Portugal are still represented in Canton waters to guard against possible interference with the Chinese Maritime Customs in Canton. It is not believed here that Dr. Sun will carry out his recent threat to seize the Customs House on refusal of the Customs authorities to detain their revenue in Canton and hand over the surplus to the General Headquarters. The number of foreign war-ships in Canton, however, has been greatly reduced. At one time there were as many as 22 war-ships here, including six from the United States Asiatic Fleet.

A war college, providing for 600 cadets, with Dr. Sun Yat-sen himself as commandant will soon be opened in Canton to train officers for an anti-Northern expedition. Applicants for admission must be at least middle school graduates. A course of six months' training will be given.

A detachment of the Northern Army, supported by Gen. Wu Pei-fu and siding with Gen. Shen Hung-ying, a Kuangsi militarist who has been menacing Canton for some months, has occupied Linchow, near the Kuangtung-Kuangsi-Hunan borders.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CAPT. BRANDT'S BODY LEAVES ICHANG

Wonderful Farewell Ceremony: Crackers Fired and Ships' Flags Dipped

Ichang, Jan. 17.

The Tzesui brought the body of Captain Brandt down from Chungking and as the ship had been ordered to Shanghai, the best plan was for her to take the body right on with her, so that it might be interred where his wife and family are.

The steamer was due to leave for Shanghai yesterday forenoon, but before she left a wonderful ceremony took place on board, which shows the great respect the pilots of the Upper Yangtze had for the deceased captain. More than 100 of these pilots went on board, and they had a table placed in front of the coffin, on which they had candles, etc., burning: each one of the pilots had a buttonhole, and when they took their final leave of him, they placed their buttonhole respectfully and lovingly on the coffin. Besides this, they had brought bombs and crackers with them, and these were let off in a lighter which was tied up alongside the steamer. All had apparently contributed to the expenses of this ceremony, and it showed the esteem in which they held the deceased captain. He was a great favourite with them all, and was a fluent speaker of the colloquial language, and so was able to be on terms of particular intimacy with them. Even the compradore of the ship, who had worked with the late Captain Brandt for many years, was reduced to tears, as he thought of this, the final parting with an old friend.

When the ship weighed anchor and passed through the harbour, all ships, both mercantile and naval, dipped their flags to her, and so were carried away from here the remains of one who was a part of the life of the port, and who has done much for the opening of the Upper Yangtze to steamer traffic, but who has been so foully murdered.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE PHILIPPINES RISING

Governor Denounced for Strong Action Against Tribesmen

Manila, Jan. 25.

Fifty-four Colorums were killed, 19 wounded and 13 captured in a clash with the Constabulary on the mainland of Surigao near Placer to-day.

Senator Clarin (Coleptavista) criticized the Governor-General, Gen. Wood, last night in the Legislature for ordering the attack on the Colorums and for ordering their town on Bucas Island to be burned.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A FAMOUS JAPANESE SOLDIER DEAD

Tokio, January 27.

The death is announced of Field-Marshal Count Yoshimichi Hasegawa, the Senior Military Genro and the most famous military leader of Japan, at the age of 75 after a fortnight's illness.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BETWEEN TWO FIRES IN SZECHUAN

The Rival Generals: How the People Put an end to Paper-money

From Our Own Correspondent.

Luchow, Sze, Jan. 11.

In spite of long-standing rumours of another turn-over we are still in the hands of the First Army (the southern party). The situation is peculiar, and if it were not so tragic would be rather a ludicrous one. When Yang Sen was driven out of Chungking last October, Yang Chuen-fang was in charge, under Yang Sen, in Luchow. Liu Tsao besieged the city and Yang Chuen-fang, being completely cut off, went to the First Army and the two generals Yang and Liu have remained ever since in a sort of joint control of the city. Now that Yang Sen is in Chungking again, everyone knows that Yang Chuen-fang would like to turn over to the Second Army (Northern party) again but while Liu Tsao remains he does not dare. Ill-founded rumours had it one day that Liu Tsao had gone and that Yang Chuen-fang had turned over and we were once more under the Second Army., but Liu is still very much with us as an additional levy of $10,000 by his men clearly showed a day or two ago.

PROTESTS AGAINST PAPER.

Just before Christmas, paper money became so plentiful and so much depreciated that the shops all closed as a protest. They only remained closed a couple of days but gained their point, as paper has gone out of use for the time being. The military have evidently abandoned it for the more direct method of levy and for all concerned, especially the poorer people it, the levy, would seem to be the least oppressive method. Certainly it is the one least calculated to upset the ordinary routine of life and trade.

While the paper money was in use, since people were compelled to accept it at par from the soldiers, the farmers simply stopped bringing their rice and vegetables to the city markets and for some time provisions were very scarce in the city and even the soldiers were finding it hard to stock their larder. Paper notes were of no use if the people would not bring the provisions. This, along with the closing of the shops, no doubt persuaded the military to change their tactics and now all is going as usual except that the price of all commodities seems to be daily soaring. Native sugar that could be bought for 12 cents last year is 17 cents per cattie this year and other commodities are rising in proportion. The dollar too keeps mounting. It is now somewhere between 3100 and 3200.

Our soldiers, many of whom are ex robbers, are not any too well behaved sometimes. Quite recently the seventh brigade were putting on a performance in one of the theatres. They admitted their own men and some of their friends but, since there was no more space, refused admittance to the officers and men of the eighth brigade. One of these officers became much incensed at such treatment and ordered his men to fire. Two or three civilians and one soldier were killed outright and several more were wounded, some fatally. Life is indeed cheap in this land.

ONE ROBBER HUNTER.

At least one of our underofficers has been very diligent in his search for robbers in the city and his methods have been most peremptory when he has found them. While walking outside the west gate of the city one day I saw five of the unfortunates strewn about just where they had been shot. A few days ago a robber was caught in the near vicinity of our compound. He was taken out on the street and decapitated just in front of our gate and a poster on the wall set forth his crimes. Our boys came to me next day with a deputation on the street for the purpose of declaring to the authorities just who were sleeping in our compound. They were evidently impressed.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

RESUMPTION OF WAR IN KUANGTUNG

Dr. Sun's Adversaries Again Attacking: Another Serious Conflict Anticipated

Canton, Jan. 22.

Reports reaching Canton [illegible] Dr. Sun Yat-sen's enemies are again beginning to advance against him in more than one direction. Gen. Shen Hung-ying, who at one time sided with Dr. Sun, but is now with the Northern forces, has lately been attacking Linshan, Pingshek, and other towns bordering the Kuangtung-Kuangsi-Hunan frontiers. Dr. Sun's enemies are also active in the Yeungkeng and Yeungchun districts. The main forces of Dr. Sun and Gen. Chen Chiungming are both prepared for another serious conflict on the eastern front Dr. Sun's troops, with Gen. Yang Hsi min of the Yunnanese Army in command, are now concentrating at Sheklung, while General Chen's staff is assembling at Waichow to watch the situation.

The Kuomintang Political Party in National Convention at Canton, which opened on January 20, is expected shortly to recommend a "Consolidated Government of China" in Canton, with Dr. Yun Yat-sen as the President, to replace the present General Headquarters, of which the Doctor is the Generalissimo. A [illegible] already passed the Convention.

RICE SHORTAGE AND STRIKES.

A shortage of rice is being felt in Canton because of the refusal of the labourers in the rice mills [illegible] unless their demands for higher wages and better conditions are agreed to by their [illegible] tee on reconstruction is mediating between the strikers and the owners, but so far the latter have failed to appear before the committee. Both the Civil Governor and the Mayor at Canton have issued warnings against total suspension of the rice trade due to the strike.

The ferry service between the north and the south section of Canton City has been suspended since January 20 on account of the conflicting authorities in the city. The Garrison Commissioner of Canton, the Kuangtung Provincial Bureau of Finance, and the Canton Municipal Department of [illegible] are trying to collect the recently proposed surtax of five copper cash for every passenger carried. Each is trying to compel payment by armed force; thus the poor sampan man has to pay one and one-half cents for every half cent collected. It is believed that Dr. Sun will support the rights of collection to the Municipality.

Traffic on the Canton-Samshui Railroad, recently interrupted by the mutiny of the 4th division of the 3rd Corps of the Yunnanese Army under Gen. Cheang Kuang-Liang, has been resumed. The Canton-Kowloon line, however, has still not resumed its services, owing to the fact that Dr. Sun Yat-sen's men are holding the western, and Gen. Chen Chiungming's the eastern section of the Chinese line. The British part of the line is running as usual. The telegraph service between Canton and Hongkong is still interrupted.

THE THREAT TO SEIZE THE CUSTOMS REVENUE

Up to the present the Chinese Maritime Customs in Canton has not been interfered with, as was feared. Great Britain, the United States of America, Japan, France, Italy and Portugal are still maintaining from one to four gunboats here watching developments. It is believed that no further action will be taken by Dr. Sun Yat-sen regarding the Customs surplus issue until after the formation of the proposed Consolidated Government of China at Canton.

YUNNANESE TROOPS MISBEHAVE

Complaints are being received at Canton that the Yunnanese mercenary troops, stationed at Sheklung and other towns east of [illegible] are not respecting the local authorities there and that [illegible] number of local volunteer companies and appropriated their arms. Dr. Sun has ordered the Yunnanese to return the arms to their owners, but so far his orders have been disregarded.

The Yunnanese troops, led by Gen. Yang Hsi-min and Gen. Chiang Kuang-liang, have intimated to Dr. Sun Yat-sen that they will withdraw from the several tax-collecting offices so as to enable him to procure unification of local finance. Since January, 1923, the mercenary troops have practically commandeered all the public revenue of Kuangtung, forcing Dr. Sun and his followers to resort to many objectionable measures to raise funds to maintain themselves in Canton.

The licensing of the opium traffic is now managed by officials directly appointed by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, but in Canton gambling is still protected by troops without the formal approval of the Generalissimo.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DR. SUN TO MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD

Fraternal Greetings: Plea for New Consideration of China and Himself

Hongkong, Jan. 28.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen has cabled to the British Premier, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, fraternal greetings, hailing the Labour Party's accession to power as marking a new era not only in English history but in the secular affairs of the nations.

Dr. Sun looks to Mr. Macdonald to act in his dealings with China, not as if she were still a conquered nation of the days of the Opium Wars and the Boxer outbreak, but as the home of a people whose civilizing work in Asia entitles them to at least the same treatment as that now accorded to the nations whose sovereignty has been freed from its pre-war letters.

In particular, Dr. Sun asks Mr. Macdonald to examine afresh the fanciful views which some subordinate British officials hold of him, as a Labour leader and Socialist.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CULTIVATION OF THE POPPY

Central Government Said to Be Taking Steps to Suppress Opium Traffic

Peking, Jan. 25.

Mainly owing to the keen interest taken in the subject by Dr. Wellington Koo, there seems to be a prospect at last of the Central Government taking up the question of opium suppression in a way that will have some influence on the provinces and the military authorities.

Dr. Koo recently presented a memorandum to the Cabinet summarizing the protests of the British Minister regarding opium cultivation and emphasizing the world-wide attention that is being given to this cultivation in China. It was on this memorandum that the Cabinet acted yesterday, when it decided to draft the Mandate giving the provincial and military officials drastic orders to suppress such cultivation and traffic in the drug. Dr. Koo subsequently called on the President and made lengthy representations on the same subject. President Tsao promised to support the Cabinet in any action it might take.

Despatches from Marshal Wu Pei-fu show that he also is taking a keen personal interest in the matter, and with a sympathetic Cabinet, the President willing to support the action of the Cabinet, Dr. Koo working actively in the Cabinet and Marshal Wu Pei-fu enforcing the orders of the Government, it is hoped that the action taken to bring about improved conditions will at last be effective.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NAVAL MUTINY AT TSINGTAO

The Usual Complaint of Pay Withheld: Police and Teachers Equally Suffering

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Jan. 25.

The breaking out of a quasi-mutiny on the part of the sailors attached to the Chinese squadron now in port has just now come to light. It appears that the men dragged their respective commanders before them the other morning, threatening no end of trouble, if the money promised them prior to their arrival here were not immediatley forthcoming. Attempts have been made to hush the whole incident up, but the fact that the quasi-mutiny did take place is more than proved by the urgent messages despatched to Peking the day before yesterday and yesterday and to Marshal Wu Pei-fu for prompt assistance.

The story as told in Chinese circles is to the effect that when Wu Pei-fu negotiated for the withdrawal of the squadron from the Southern Cause, he promised to pay half a million dollars upon its arrival here and $100,000 monthly for its upkeep. When the squadron duly arrived, the Loyang War Lord made the discovery that the ships were in urgent need of an overhaul, not having gone into a drydock for some six to seven years. Moreover, the ammunition of the squadron was antiquated and a good many of the guns were only for ornament. This was more than he had bargained for, and taking into consideration the fact that a vast sum would have to be spent before the fighting value of the squadron could be brought out, he procrastinated, trying to get the Administration here to advance a portion of the money which he had originally promised. Now, the officials of the Administration claim that they had not the cash necessary for the purpose and suggested that the Railway could probably do something, though what on earth the Railway has to do with the Navy no one here has yet been able to discover.

RAILWAY AND OTHER FUNDS.

Matters having become fairly serious in the interval, Rear-Admiral Wen proceeded to Peking and Loying and eventually succeeded in obtaining from Wu Pei-fu some $200,000 and from the Kiao-Tsi Railway through the Communications Department a further sum of $50,000. It is learnt here that the money which the Department of Communications handed over as a contribution from the Kiao-Tsi Railway was handed over without the previous knowledge of the Japanese, who as already reported, have not yet been paid any portion of the capital of Yen 40,000,000 which the Chinese Government undertook to refund them for the return of the Railway. The Japanese naturally expect that all money not used for the development of the Railway itself would be paid over to them in an attempt to meet at least a portion of China's debt. It is likely that a protest will be lodged with Peking in due course although in some quarters the feeling is expressed that the Japanese will let the present instance slide.

It appears that when Rear-Admiral Wen returned from Peking and Loyang, he held a conference amongst his fellow-commanders and the Naval Staff here, at which it was decided first to settle the squadron's outstanding accounts for provisions, coal and uniforms, using the balance of the money towards pacifying the men until a further remittance could be obtained from Loyang. The men resented this action, wishing to have their wages settled first, and the other accounts later. In vain did the officers try to explain that further credit could not be obtained ashore unless at least a portion of the squadron's indebtedness to the merchants were satisfied. A high official attached to the Naval Staff went aboard the flagship for the purpose of explaining the real position to the men. His armed bodyguard were, however, not allowed to board the ship, the sailors seeing to it that they did not not leave the tugboat which brought them and the high official alongside.

After a good deal of persuasion, the quasi-mutineers agreed to wait until the end of this month, —some say they only gave up till the 29th,—for the balance of the money due them. Thus is the way in which Navies are bought over in China one from another.

POLICE ALSO UNPAID.

Leaving the sailors alone, we come to the question of the police. They too have been clamouring for their unpaid wages and have threatened to walk out unless something were done quickly. As in the case of the squadron, attempts have been made to hush the whole matter up, but where dissatisfaction prevails censorship becomes useless, since it is not likely that men who are dissatisfied with their position would care to assist those higher up to hush up a matter that could be more efficiently settled by means of wide publicity. The men on the police force here are quite a decent lot really and the community has shown more commiseration than pity in their case.

The sailors and the police are not the only ones who have not been paid. There are the teachers. They have not had their wages for some time now and despite frequent requests for payment, the Educational Department in Peking could not do anything. With the gradual approach of the Chinese New Years, they have become exasperated and have threatened to go on strike. Fearing that if this threat were carried out the Chinese Government would lose considerable face in view of previous assertions that they could make a success of Tsingtao, the Financial Department finally promised to pay one month of the unpaid wages at the end of this month, so as to enable the teachers to tide over the end of this year.

Every year-end the situation becomes worse and one wonders how long China could make both ends meet.

NANKING NAVAL PLOT

Non-Payment of Salaries the Cause of Grievance

Peking, Jan. 28.

Foreign telegrams from Nanking state that on the night of January 26, while the senior officers were ashore, the junior officers and men of the gunboats, Chutai and Kiangli, plotted to take the vessels to Shanghai. Information, however, reached the naval headquarters at Nanking and reliable men were sent on board while gendarmes and police were stationed along the river banks. Admiral Tu Hsi-kuei subsequently paid the men's salaries from his own funds and a court-martial was held on January 27 the results of which have not been reported. The men stated that non-payment of salaries was their only grievance. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE ALLEGED MASSACRE IN FUKIEN

Shanghai Street Union on the War Path

An interesting letter has been addressed by the Fokien Road Street Union to the Fukienese Residents' Association concerning the alleged massacring of some 3,000 Fukienese people by the troops under Gen. Wang Yung-yu, brother of the Associate Director of Military Affairs in Fukien, because they refused to grow poppy and to buy, sell and smoke opium. The letter urges that the Association take steps (1) to secure all evidence concerning the massacres, such as pictures of the burned houses and the murdered people, and any information of the dead and those responsible for their deaths; (2) to establish a citizens' Court for the judgment and sentence of the murderers; (3) to serve the sentences upon the murderers when they retire from office; (4) to bring them to Shanghai for punishment; and (5) to ask the foreign consuls and foreign commissioners to refuse to grant passports to any persons concerned.

MOSLEM KINGDOM IN TIBET

Racial Conquest of Country of Vast Resources: A New Chinese Province

From Our Own Correspondent.

Lanchow, Kan., Jan. 10.

There is something fascinating in watching the process of racial assimilation and conquest in full swing. On the western borders of Kansu a new province is being slowly but surely built up. The high grass lands of Onkokonor and the deep and beautiful valleys to the southward in what is more truly Tibet are being quickly brought under Chinese control. A new country of vast resources, of considerable mineral wealth, and boundless possibilities for the rearing of stock, is being settled before our eyes. And the man who has done most to make it real is Ma Chi, Moslem general and ruler of Sining and the Kokonor.

Would you see him, O dweller on the prosaic coast? Then take train from Tientsin to Poatwochen, on what was known as the Kalgan line, but now boasts the prouder title of the Tsin Pao railway—the Tientsin and Paotow line. Then take cart or boat or camel to Ningsia: Cart if you want reasonable speed; boat, if you want peaceful nights, and freedom from the annoyances of bad inns; camels, if you want a through journey direct to Sining, and the most picturesque and unpleasant way of completing your trip. The camels are slow, they travel by night and browse by day. They avoid the cities, and keep high on the grass lands in preference to the cultivated areas. The camel drivers camp out in the open. The weather they travel in is the coldest part of the year. Above all, camels are camels, and the "humph" Kipling described still clings to them. If they get on the ice, they often break their legs, for they are poor sliders. But travel as you may, in process of time you will get to Sining, that hoary and wealthy city where Machi dwells.

TIBETANS COWED AND SUBMISSIVE.

An oldish man he is, now 56 years old, and his power dates back but a few years, but he has the Tibetans cowed and submissive, and all the Kokonor is at his feet. The great monastery of Labrang he has forced into quietude, and the dangerous paths over the grass lands to the south, to the west and to the north, may now be travelled fearlessly by the unarmed merchant or missionary. He is surrounded, of course, by black turbaned, fierce Moslem soldiers, who are well armed, well mounted, and contented. We talk of a *Pax Britannica*. In Kansu today we might well talk of a *Pax Islamica*, wherever the Hochow Moslems have the sway.

But what will be the end of it all? More and more the compact, aggressive Moslems are getting the upper hand over the Chinese. Suppose they rebel, and form a new Moslem Kingdom. What rivers of blood will flow before this distracted country of China recovers her territory! It will be a convulsion to which the recent earthquakes here or in Japan will be mere bagatelle.

FRIENDLY TO FOREIGNERS.

Ma Chi is heavily bearded, fluent, friendly to Europeans. He has a stoop, and has not the commanding appearance of some of his followers. But since the days of the great Ma An-liang no Chinese Moslem has wielded such power, and a power fraught with such possibilities of good, or evil, as he.

Mr. Sun Pao-chi, the new Premier, has issued a circular telegram to the various provincial authorities requesting them not to send to him or recommend to him any applicants for positions, states the "Journal of Commerce." "There is not enough congee (porridge)," says Mr. Sun in his telegram, "but there are too many monks." The meaning is obvious. There is a plenitude of applicants for posts, but not sufficient work for all of them.

BANDITS GROWING EVER WORSE

Disease Incurable by Ordinary Means

From Our Own Correspondent.

Haichow, Ku., Jan. 21.

From whatever section of China we hear there is practical unanimity of opinion on two general subjects, soldiers and bandits. The need for disbanding the soldiers is everywhere acknowledged but it is also admitted that there is no hope whatever of it being accomplished: many columns have been written to show how any scheme yet put forward will inevitably fail, because it is contrary to the interests of those who would have to carry it out—the military officials.

With an exception here and there of some commannder who is cleaning house, banditry is growing worse and the consensus of opinion is that the soldiery of China either cannot or will not control the same.

Some are still pinning their faith to the force of Chinese public opinion which will finally be aroused when every family has either been looted or had a member kidnapped, but they fail to see that such will only be a little more noise in the ears of those responsible.

Desperate diseases demand desperate remedies and the writer brings forward again a suggestion made in these columns before, admittedly with small hope of seeing it carried out.

It is the writer's conviction that the same condition is responsible for the growth of banditry and the soldier menace and *that is the simple fact of an unarmed, helpless citizenry.*

Take the case of the soldier first: the pay of the soldier is so small and is so forever and hopelessly in arrears that it cannot be seriously said that they enlist for the sake of this dole. The plain truth is that while his salary is small and uncertain the "pickings" are just about what each soldier chooses to make. In the first place the mere donning of a uniform enables the coolie to exercise to the full his inmost longings to be a public bully and nuisance. From having been shoved aside all his life he now delights in swaggering down the middle of the road, making every man yield him the path. He "samples" every vegetable stand or basket he passes and goes down street munching his filched radish with gusto. In the larger shops he takes what he wants and throws down a few coppers that the shop-keeper may take or lose. When sent to the country he siezes every egg and chicken that he can lay his hands on and borrows (without returning) the mat he needs for a bed. Moreover he can gamble to his heart's content and no one can collect from him if he loses or withstand him if he gains. No wonder it is easy to recruit soldiers!

AN ATTRACTIVE.

It is still easier to state the attractions of the bandit's calling. The great bulk of robberies are perpetrated on unarmed, defenceless villagers and for the most part is as safe as the task of the butcher who has a dozen hogs to kill for the day's work.

The solution for the one is the same as for the other—Arm the citizenry! We are perfectly aware that there is coming to be a strong conviction that the only way to avoid war is to prohibit the manufacture of arms and ammunition, but war is a very different thing from home defence. The weapons that will give a home an adequate protection are only playthings in long range modern fighting.

Let us also not shut our eyes to present facts. There are immense quantities of arms and ammunition scattered over China to-day and they are in three hands. First the soldier, second the robber and third the man of means. We see as a consequence that the soldier is perfectly willing to let the robber alone. We see that except in the case of a very large land, the robbers are perfectly content to let the strongly armed villager severely alone. And finally that on the lower middle class both soldier and robber prey with impunity.

Arm the citizenry and the situation will take care of itself. It is candidly admitted again that the first fruits of such a policy would be discouraging as many who found themselves able would not scruple to become robbers, but it is contended that such would only make the final settlement the more speedy and definite.

This suggestion is advanced on a knowledge of the Chinese in North China that will be conceded by almost any old China hand. As already pointed out the enlisted coolie and the robber are essentially cowards and only play the game because of its safety. Another fact is that in defence of his home, be it only a one-room straw hut, a Chinese villager if armed will put up a terrific fight.

Those who may doubt that an armed citizenry would be free from bullying by soldier ruffians are asked to listen to the following incident that lately occurred in a near country district: A farmer was celebrating his son's wedding, and as usual everybody was welcome. All went merrily until some soldiers who had shouldered in began to be too free with the refreshments, towards which they had not contributed, and in due course their conduct was resented by some hotheaded member of the family and a fine row resulted. The soldiers combined with the spontaneity of chemical action and would have had a lovely time wrecking the place but for the fact that one of the villagers ran out and beat the gong that was the S.O.S. to the neighbouring villages. These villagers also displayed a remarkable spontaneity of action with the effect that in a very few minutes the braves found themselves surrounded by a large bunch of farmers armed with a medley of rude but effective weapons. The soldiers "retired" to a large room and tried to open negotiations. The farmers "negotiated" by firing their house and shooting down every one that tried to escape. The net result after half an hour was 17 dead soldiers.

It might have been expected that the commanding officers near would have descended on these villages for summary vengeance but nothing of the kind occurred. They had taken on these men in order to get rid of them and the farmers had most kindly aided in the task and made it permanent! The affair was promptly forgotten.

MUST CATCHEE CHANCE.

Any one who makes a suggestion for the betterment of China to-day without providing for the enriching to some extent at least of those who have to carry it out might as well burn up his blank paper and pour out his ink to begin with and save himself some labour. It is idle to argue for the free entrance through the foreign customs for anything in this line. But it is entirely feasible for provincial authorities to establish factories, not dignified by the name of arsenals, for turning out such simple weapons as the farmers would require. They could make it good business and at the same time solve their most vexing problem. And while they might see that it ultimately would take the edge from easy recruiting it has been our observation that the sight of an immediate dollar is always the decisive element in China's official eyes.

There are now being made and sold, evidently by plain blacksmith's and tinkers, immense numbers of what might be called "country cannon" for lack of a better name. The first of these appeared here about two years ago but now they are to be seen anywhere. The weapon is a piece of iron pipe of something less than an inch bore and perhaps seven feet in length. A removable receptacle, I hesitate to call it a breech block, contains the charge of an ounce or two of powder and this is simply set in the cavity left for it, with its end shoved into the rear end of the barrel. A wooden wedge holds it in place and it is instantly replaceable. Manipulation of the gun is provided for by a heavy iron stake attached to a movable joint near the centre of the mass. The stake can be driven into the ground and a play of ample proportions easily secured. One look at the heavy contraption identifies it as a weapon for home defence only, so whatever may be its legal status there is apprently no objection to its sale on a large scale. Loaded with scrap iron, old nails or lead slugs, in a narrow alley or gateway it would prove at close range a weapon of terrific deadliness.

It ought to be easily possible on the same terms to devise a rough arm, say for example after the pattern of a rough shotgun, which, loaded with buckshot at the close range it would undoubtedly be used, would be a satisfactory home weapon without being available for real military use.

Public opinion at this stage, even if it reach the point of a telegram every day from some Chamber of Commerce to some distant official will be as little protective value as a printed appeal in a rabbit hutch against a door open to a hungry dog. But one little porcupine on the inside would satisfy Mr. Dog's wildest lust for blood.

NEW POLITICAL PARTY IN JAPAN

Formal Inauguration of "Seiyu Honto": Outline of Policy and Principles

Tokio, Jan. 29.

The formal inauguration ceremony of the new political party, Seiyu Honto, took place to-day in the Imperial Hotel, when Baron T. Yamamoto delivered a speech on behalf of the organizing committee of the party. After the ceremony was over, a proclamation, the platform and regulations of the Seiyu Honto were formulated and passed. Then officers in charge of the party were elected, and several speeches were made.

The Seiyu Honto, in the course of its proclamation, states that moderation and impartiality are the vital points of its principle and adds that in its platform there are included the establishment of the constitutional system, the encouragement of education, the establishment of a social policy and the reform of party evils. As for its foreign policy, the Seiyu Honto declares that it will respect international faith on the basis of justice and humanity and do its utmost for the advancement of welfare and happiness of mankind in general.

In conclusion, the Seiyu Honto emphatically states that as to peace in the Orient, Japan will endeavour to maintain it herself. It has been decided that the new political party will carry on its affairs without a President, but adopt the "general management system." Baron T. Yamamoto, Messrs. H. Motoda, T. Nakahashi, T. Tokonami, and S. Sugita have been elected managers of the party.—Eastern News Agency.

CHINESE AND RUSSIANS

The Charges Against Local Officials in Harbin

Peking, Jan. 26.

At the meeting of the Cabinet to-day Dr. Wang Chung-hui, the Minister of Justice, recommended the abolition of the special commission charged with examining the suitability of Chinese officials dealing with Russian cases in Harbin and also the special department attached to the Harbin Court which was appointed to deal with outstanding Russo-Chinese questions. Mr. Cheng Keh, the Minister of the Interior, said that these duties had been completed satisfactorily.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

It is now reported that work on the new Hankow International Race Club and Recreation Ground is nearly completed. The arrangement of the race course and sports grounds is similar to that of the Shanghai International Race Club's premises. Mr. Wu Chun-sun, former compradore of the Yokohama Specie Bank, is directing the work. Agents have already been sent to Mongolia to effect the purchase of ponies. The "Central China Post" is informed that the value in the local market of shares in the new club is going steadily up day by day.

HANGCHOW HOSPITAL

Britain's Pioneer Medical Mission: Dr. Main's 40 Years of Service

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Church Missionary Society met on Wednesday afternoon at 273 Avenue Haig to hear Dr. Thompson speak, but unfortunately this gentleman was captured by bandits on his journey to Peking recently. Dr. S. D. Sturton, therefore, deputized and gave a most interesting lecture on the work of the Hangchow Hospital. The Ven. Archdeacon Moule presided.

Dr. Sturton said that the activities of the Hangchow Hospital constituted the oldest missionary work of the Church Missionary Society in China, whilst the Medical College attached to the institution was the only medical college controlled by the Society in China. For the past 40 years Dr. Main had done splendid work and if assisted by an efficient staff he would continue to do good work in the future.

After giving details regarding the foreign and Chinese staffs and students connected with the institution, Dr. Sturton described an imaginary tour of the hospital. After entering the hall where the patients were registered they passed into a hall fitted up as a chapel. While they waited there some of the best evangelistic work was done.

OUT-PATIENTS' DEPT.

Dr. Sturton then described the Out-Patients' Department where the patients were examined, their diseases classified and they themselves drafted to different parts of the building accordingly. In the Out-Patients' Department in 1922 31,555 cases were treated and 1271 minor operations performed. The work in this Department was very repulsive, inasmuch as many loathsome diseases were treated. Much difficulty occurred with some of the patients who were very obstinate and often would not do as they were told. A great many suicides were dealt with here.

MEN'S HOSPITAL.

The Men's Hospital was one of the best buildings in the compound. There were over 100 beds and four large wards—three surgical and one medical—as well as many smaller wards. Here male nurses were trained, passing through a three years' course after which they sat for the examination of the Nurses' Association of China.

It might interest them to know that in this hospital 30 of the students who were victims in the sensational school poisoning case at Hangchow were treated at the hospital and all of them saved.

In the Women's Hospital female nurses were trained under similar conditions to the men and were obliged to sit for the same examinations. Here there were 80 beds and over 200 major operations were performed last year.

X-RAY DEPARTMENT.

Dr. Sturton dealt in some detail with the X-Ray Department which is under his control. The department possessed two X-ray machines, apparatus for calculating the depth of a bullet from the skin in casualty cases, an automatic arc lamp used in tuberculosis cases with the same healing properties as the sun reflected from the snow in Switzerland or the sun in Egypt, electrical massage apparatus and the high frequency Violet Ray.

The work at the Maternity Hospital was developing very rapidly. There were 360 babies born last year and 15 students were being trained there at the present time.

LEPER HOSPITAL.

Leaving the hospital in the city, Dr. Sturton referred to the good work which was being done at another compound about two miles distant from Hangchow. He referred especially to the Leper Hospital where some of the most gratifying work of the Mission was done. Here the latest treatment with preparations of Chaulmoogra oil was employed with marked beneficial effect.

Archdeacon Moule brought the proceedings to a close with a few fitting remarks followed by prayers in which special mention was made of Dr. Thompson and his present plight.

SOLDIERS AND LABOURERS TOO

The New Military Spirit in Shansi: Peaceful and Prosperous Times

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kiangchow, Sha., Jan. 19.

Shansi is full of troops. The military spirit is strong—Universal Militarism confronts you at every street corner. Boy Scouts with dummy guns and fixed bayonet guard the doors of school entertainments. Yet a traveller might visit dozens of cities and stay many days without knowing Shansi had as Army—if he did not mistake the county police or village militia for The Chinese Thomas Atkins. But in the centres where there are soldiers they may be seen truly toiling for the good of the community.

The familiar grey uniform may be soiled. It is not the dirt of some opium den, nor greasiness that characterizes the idle loafing of certain troops known elsewhere than in Shansi.

You meet the Shansi Soldier hard at work if not at drill. He is building walls, repairing roads, clearing up open spaces in erstwhile untidy cities; he is cultivating a vegetable patch or it may even be a flower bed; he is carrying loads, wheeling barrows, digging wells driving carts, studying tactics. You meet him driving pigs, or delving in a mud swamp, and always doing something useful. It is plainly evident he has been taught well that the dirtier or harder the job the more glory attaches to the uniform he has presently to shake and brush and wash and mend, that on parade its use and not neglect may advertise the wearer's qualities.

If foreigners at the coast do not know the actual conditions up-country and have to pay for their lack of knowledge the same is true of the Chinese dealers here. As the year draws to a close cash shops and cotton stores are said to be tottering owing to the heavy losses resulting from contracts made without due foresight and from the haphazard methods of local finance.

Prices continue to rise notwithstanding the general air of prosperity. At the Yicheng big fair, where a brisk trade in many lines attracts several counties for a month about Christmas time each year, the salesmen have been congratulating themselves on really good times. "People pay what they are asked" seems quite new for Shansi, but is a remark that indicates present conditions.

Paper money however has come in recently like a flood, but old-fashioned cash are still much in use. Copper coins indeed seem scarcer than formerly. Even local shops are issuing notes although this practice was all but suppressed a few years ago when it had grown to absurd proportions. The Dollar has been changing for considerably over 220 coppers.

COTTON PLENTIFUL TOO.

The schools have nearly all closed a fortnight or even a month earlier owing to high prices prevailing and the need for economy.

There has been a good fall of snow, encouraging the farmers, but more is hoped for. The winter has been exceptionally mild and in places the ground has not been properly frozen this year. Cotton is in evidence everywhere. It is the chief article in every market, the most conspicuous item in transport by road and on every hand somebody is doing something with the raw material.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen has again resorted to the suppression of war news in the Canton papers, states the Chinese press. While this report is significant of his usual high-handed methods, it is worth noting that most of the papers are subsidized by him, and that he has been depending for a long time on their support.

WINTER ON THE UPPER RIVER

Journey from Chungking to Hochow: The Factory Chimneys of Far Szechuan

From Our Minchow Correspondent.

Chungking, Dec. 31.

On a beautiful day we started from Chungking. We did not get far, but stayed at a place 16 li up the river called Hsiangkuchsi. Here is a *likin* station, and several men came on board; one had a long harpoon which he poked remorselessly into bundles of medicine. The captain's wife who, as usual, takes a prominent part in the proceedings says they have had to pay $61.

There is a large silk factory at this place, built apparently with many modern conveniences. A large steam pump was busy pumping water up from the river. Stone-quarrying and other work is going on in connexion with the erection of another factory.

There are many indications along our route that the new industrial spirit is spreading up here. Foreign enterprise is also turning towards this river (the Fuh) and hopes are being entertained that it will soon be opened to steamer traffic. It is quite likely that in a year or two shallow draught steamers will be running up to Suining; and in summer-water perhaps even higher. It will be bad for the trackers who are a good-tempered, hardy race. They eat well, sleep well, and when it comes to work they are not all of a tremble.

After wasting most of the morning between fog and *likin* we got away about noon.

The scenery is somewhat similar to that on the Yangtze above the gorges save that it is on a smaller scale, bold headlands and long platforms of rock. But there is more cultivation, for we are getting into the heart of Szechuan, the fruitful province. We saw beans, peas, wheat and turnips growing plentifully. At [illegible] we passed two huge masses of rock which lie parallel along the centre of the river, and must be very dangerous at high water. They are known amongst the trackers as the Stone Gates. Our boat, which is a huge junk capable of carrying [illegible] passengers, [illegible]

At about four o'clock we stopped at Tsichikeo, which is only 10 miles by road from Chungking. Ten miles in a day and a half! [illegible] try here, and several foreign looking [illegible] their heads above all the surrounding [illegible] An [illegible] industry is seen in the manufacture of various kinds of earthenware.

MILITARY AT THE RAPIDS.

[illegible] by river from Chungking there are two big rapids; their names are Chikuantan and Litan. A good deal of [illegible] at these rapids and notices are printed in white on the rocks giving current prices for hire in large characters. For example just above the Litan was a notice that the price per man was 150 cash.

Here and there the country becomes less rocky, and trees of various descriptions adorn the banks; acacias, poplars and cypresses, and sometimes a crowd of fruit trees marching up the hill in shaggy array.

Uehnanchang is 50 *li* from Chungking and here we arrived on the third. A huge pontoon blocked our way: crowds of boats were waiting to get through, for there are no stated times of opening the bridge for passing traffic. This bridge was controlled by the soldiers of the second army. The scene at the opening of this bridge was one of indescribable confusion. The fact of the matter is that opening it is by no means as simple as it looks. When it is remembered that the boats are all fastened to each other and to the shore, it is clear that if one boat is removed and the moorings loosened the rest will drift away down river towards the opposite bank. The pontoon was [illegible] per day and yet keep the rest of the boats in place. This was done by keeping the seven bamboo cables fastened to rocks on the shore. In addition two ropes were fastened to [illegible] at right angles to the bridge. But these ropes complicated the situation. every boat that went through had to pass under them with lowered mast; and with the larger boats it was a most difficult task: the boats stretched the ropes to their utmost and could only be got through by a series of frantic clutches moving the ropes onward as the boat passed under.

Several soldiers were moving amongst the boats trying to enforce an order of procedure from their point of view: while every boat endeavoured to be first in the rush to get through. Every now and then a huge soldier who was doing damage with his stick would fall upon some unfortunate. One boatman with a hair lip who looked a deplorable semi-human specimen tried to get through ahead of his turn, the soldier dropped on him and belaboured him till he howled with pain, and lay in the bottom of his boat. In another boat a respectably dressed man was lying on some goods rubbing a knee, which, groaning, he declared to be so hurt that he could not rise. Half an hour later when his boat passed through he was still rubbing and groaning.

BOATS DELAYED FOR DAYS.

When the down-going boats were all through, there were only two of the seven cables mentioned above still unbroken. A huge boat beautfully made had proved too much for the others after the strain they had already endured. Only a few of the up-going boats were allowed to pass; as a the bamboo ropes on his boats to replace those which had been broken.

Soon after we were through the pontoon was closed once more with many boats still not through, among them three post boats, one of which the boatman told me had been waiting there already for three days.

At the head of a bad rapid 80 *li* from Chungking by road is the market of Tutoh. It is a large busy place. Furniture and earthenware seem to be the chief industries. The people claim that the population is 1,800 families. The town stands on the side of a steep rocky hill, and the character [illegible] for some distance. In the middle of a steep gorge is Gandongdse, a large coal village. We were told there are from 20 to 30 "pits," each employing from 200 to 300 men. This was sufficiently indefinite; but there is evidently a good deal of coal extracted, which finds its way to places as far distant as Suining, Chungking and Wanhsien. There is also a good deal of coke made, and it is heart-breaking to think of the gas and other by-products that are wasted.

We saw also the initial stages of glass manufacture. The first stage was a man in a shed breaking pebbles into pieces, but the second stage was specially interesting as supplying an instance of how the Chinese set a piece of work going and leave it to do itself.

What we saw was a pestle and mortar worked by a water-wheel crushing these broken fragments to powder. The powder is carried to a glass factory some 50 *li* inland. I cannot here include a description of this primitive machine which marks the first stage in the manufacture of China spectacles.

We spent the night of January 4 at Pehpei, a market town. There were a good many boats afraid to proceed up the river because of the fighting that is going on between the 1st and 2nd Armies. There are two rapids here of considerable size. We were told there was fighting just above Tsaokiaitse and so did not know what we were in for, but we sent a messenger on ahead to get permission to go on from the 2nd Army leader there. The way to Tsaokiaitse is through a steep gorge. At this place the soldiers, who were expecting us, boarded our boat and went through the form of examining us to see that we carried no firearms! Not finding any they gave us at our request a slip to say they had passed us.

On the night of the 15th we slept at Mahuping, being now not [illegible] from Hochow. In the middle of the river about 20 *li* before Hochow there is a rock [illegible] as we approached, looked very like an oval. The natives call it Tsaochehsih, in allusion to its bird like appearance.

HOCHOW THE BEAUTIFUL

As we drew near to the city of [illegible] was [illegible] quiet. Inquiry elicited the information that the first army had left the city. They are said to have left at midday to-day, having first broken down the pontoon —greatly to our convenience. The 2nd Army are not here, but outposts of the first seem to be coming back on their way after the main army. Two or three young soldiers passed us and asked anxiously as they passed "Have any of the 2nd entered the city?," looking very relieved when some natives told them, "No."

Hochow, on some maps written Howchow, is a beautifully situated city 180 *li* from Chungking by road. It stands on the left bank of the Fun river, just at the junction with the Kialing river. As we stood and looked at it on the hill we were impressed with its possibilities. Doubtless in the China that is to be it will grow in importance, placed as it is at the confluence of such busy waters.

There on the hill opposite is the white pagoda rising to a height of 13 storeys, graceful and picturesque against the evening sky. No one would wish to see this beautiful structure disappear from the landscape. Even when it loses its false significance as a controller of wind and water, it might well remain till the days when electric light has arrived. A bright light from its crest throwing its rays across the expanse of waters would beam a cheerful welcome to the belated traveller by road or river.

Later.

Since writing the above we have learnt that the 1st Army are still in the city. We hope to get away to-morrow before the trouble begins.

ACCIDENT TO UPPER RIVER STEAMER

Chi Chuen on the Rocks Between Ichang and Chungking

Advices have reached Shanghai that the str. Chi Chuen, on the Ichang-Chungking winter run, has gone on to the rocks.

The Chi Chuen is owned by the Yangtze Rapid Transport Co., and it is understood that Messrs. Gillespie & Co. have considerable interests in the vessel. The American West China S. N. Co. are the local agents.

We have been informed that Capt. Tornroth, who was in command of the Alice Dollar during the dastardly shooting outrage of four months ago, was in charge of the Chi Chuen. Nearly all of the crew of the Mei Ren have been signed on to the wrecked ship. No official report has so far been received by the Shanghai agents.

The str. Chi Chuen, built to the order of the Yangtze Rapid Steamship Co., Inc., for service on the Upper Yangtze, was launched from the shipyard of the Kiangnan Dock & Engineering Works on October 30 and was designed to operate during the winter months between Ichang and Chungking and in summer above Chungking as far as Suifu. The Chi Chuen was ordered on August 6 last and was completed and ready to begin on service by the end of November—a record piece of construction work. Messrs. Eisler, Reeves & Murphy, supervised the construction of the vessel to the requirements according to the American Bureau of Shipping (American Lloyd's) for this special service, and her sub-division by athwartship bulkheads carefully considered to minimize risk of sinking as the result of contact with rocks or other obstructions in the rapids.

With further reference to the accident to the str. Chi Chuen, we are now courteously informed by Mr. R. B. Mauchan, Superintendent of the Kiangnan Dock & Engineering Co., that he has communicated by telegraph with Mr. C. R. Cox, agent at Ichang for the Chi Chuen, who reports that the steamer struck the rocks on the way to Chungking and sustained some damage three small holes in the bottom of the hull. These were repaired, temporarily, by the ship's crew and the vessel reached Chungking safely. She has since made another return trip between Chungking and Ichang and will return shortly to Shanghai for permanent repairs.

YENCHOW'S CITY WALL

Ming Bulwark Whose Builder Died to Save It Menaced with Destruction

By Our Yenchow Correspondent.

The famous parapet of Yenchow city wall is fast falling into decay —the parapet which resembles two others and a fragment in all China and has a dramatic history.

Its configuration is peculiar, in shape it is like an apricot leaf, so that it has always been known as the "Apricot Leaf Wall." "There are only two and a half like it in the whole of China," say the inhabitants. It was modelled from the old imperial wall of Ming times, a fragment of which was left in Nanking prior to the Revolution.

As only half of the Yenchow wall was completed on time the leading official of those days was commanded as a punishment to destroy what had been built or commit suicide. He chose the heroic course. On taking the poison which ended his days, he exclaimed "By dying I leave a reputation; if I live my fame will be destroyed." He preferred death, so that the peculiar fashion of the bulwark, which would be forbidden to be copied in any city, might stand to his memory. But alas! the days of Chinese city walls are apparently numbered.

YENCHOW'S HERMIT.

What seems to be the only other famous feature of Yenchow is its name, taken from the old hermit Yen Tsi-ling. He was a recluse in the Han Dynasty and was making history well nigh 2,000 years ago. As history goes, he was a close friend of the Emperor of those days, when the Court was established in Honan. He was urged by Kuang Wo to take office but refused choosing rather to spend his life as a wanderer. Eventually he found his way to the region of Luchow—the old name for Yenchow—and lived a hermit life. The Emperor sent in search for him. After a long time he was located in a humble abode on the banks of the Chien Tang River.

A temple has been erected to his memory in the gorge, mid-way between Tong-lu and Yenchow. It is a beautiful spot with two high cliffs which make a fine headland, and goes by the name of the Fishing Platform. Old Yen was very fond of fishing. In the streams of the district there is a small fish something like a sardine, a delicacy, only for special guests, and this fish is called after him.

Yen Tsi-ling, was buried at Yuyao, near Ningpo, but his ancestral hall stands on the banks of the East Lake in the city of Yenchow. His ancestral fields are still planted by people who claim a direct lineage from the great man.

AVIATION FATALITY IN JAPAN

Tokio, Jan. 30.

Two naval aeroplanes, piloted by Sub-Lieutenants Aoyama and Ando, respectively, while flying yesterday over Kasumigaura, Ibaragi Prefecture, collided with each other, resulting in the fall of the aeroplanes and in the instant death of the two pilots. The officers have been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. It is expected that the funeral of the deceased will take place on February 1.—Eastern News Agency.

EARTHQUAKE TREMORS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jan. 28.

An extensive earthquake, originating near Babuyanes Island, of intensity 4 to 5, was felt last night in the provinces north of Latitude 7 N.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE HANGCHOW WAR FEARS

Warlike Preparations Still Afoot but no Fighting Yet

From Our Own Correspondent

Hanghow, Jan. 21.

Rumours of trouble are still freely ventilated, and war-like preparations are going on, but we fear no foe and believe that peace will continue in Hangchow.

The Tupan has promised to withdraw the troops on Chêkiang borders.—The Chêkiang Kiangsu gentry's peace agreement is now being broadcasted, and placarded everywhere.

The Kashing-Huchow long distance telephone is being extended to Hangchow, and to be for public use.

Mr. Chien Kan-chiu, a former Minister of the Interior, is shortly paying a visit to his Hangchow family burying ground, and grave questions no doubt will be asked him when among the tombs. He is to be consulted about the repair of the Chien Wang Temple, we are told.

Mr. Judson, who now lives in Shanghai since his retirement, was here for a few days looking after his Industrial work. The carpets he makes have quite a reputation.

A new male missionary was born a few days ago to Mr. and Mrs. McMullen, of the Southern Presbyterian Mission.

At last the rain has come, this time with a little sleet, and is making itself felt.

THE OPIUM FIGHT IN FUKIEN

Compulsory Sowing for the Tax Officials' Desire

Peking, Jan. 24.

The following is issued by The International Anti-Opium Association:

Telegram from the Union of Kien Ou gentry, merchants and students at Foochow under date January 16: To the Fukien M.P's, International Anti-Opium Association, Fukien Students in Peking. The Students' Union, Peking, Peking Fukien Fellow Association, Shanghai Fukien Fellow Association, Shanghai Students' Union, Nanking Fukien Fellow Association, Nanking Students Union, Loyang Fukien Fellow Association, Chekiang Fukien Fellow Association, and Wuchang Fukien Fellow Association.

"We are in a receipt of a telegram from Messrs Chang Wei-chun, Wei Lieh-yin, Liu Chi-hsi and Chu Fei, members of the Provincial Assembly, stating that the new magistrate Tsou despatched persons to various villages to distribute opium seeds and compel the people to plant them, and those who did not grow opium are likewise compelled to pay taxes according to their land. Our Kien Ou district has been for years under heavy taxation, and the people are overburdened with the taxes imposed, nevertheless the people at the present are taxed again under the name of land tax to compel opium cultivation. Since poppy is a poisonous plant which not only weakens the people but destroys the fame of our nation, public protest and sympathetic action are hereby expected."—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MEMORIALS TO HEROES OF FILIPINO WAR

Manila, P. I. Jan. 15.

A number of prominent Filipino and American veterans have expressed their approval of a proposed plan for the erection of memorial tablets commemorative of the valour of the soldiers of both races on the battle fields of the American-Filipino war. The few monuments that have been erected are to the memory of fallen leaders and nothing has been done to mark the battlefields where the rank and file rendered efficient service. One of the places suggested as a suitable spot for a tablet is historic Santa Mesa, a suburb of Manila, where the first shot of the insurrection was fired.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TRADERS IN TIBET

The Long, Long Trail from Tachienlu to Batang: Romance of Business on the Roof of the World

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tachienlu, Sze., Jan. 4.

In spite of every obstacle and in the face of every danger a few Chinese Merchants on the Tibetan border carry on business as usual. Moving a case of sardines from Shanghai to Chungking is child's play compared to transporting a box of hams from Tachienlu to Batang. Along the coast you can have a box moved anywhere without ever seeing it: on the Chinese frontier there is every possibility of never seeing the case if it ever leaves your sight. From a purely commercial standpoint the road between Tachienlu and Batang is one of the most romantic journeys in central Asia. During any season of the year you run every possible chance of being frozen, drowned, killed, robbed, stranded, fleeced. What would drive a Shanghai merchant crazy apparently only amuses these Chinese merchants. If a band of brigands were the only thing to be encountered the Chinese merchant would not consider this an obstacle at all.

In the first place this tremendous business adventure begins in the merchant getting his money safely transported from Batang to Tachienlu. Fortunately the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank assists him here. The Europeans in Batang give the Chinese merchant a bank draft which is cashed by the Chinese Post Office in this city. Thus we find that splendid institution, the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, facilitating commerce in the heart of Asia and on the Roof of the World. Getting out over this long stretch of country is not easy and may take from 30 to 40 days. Getting in is the problem. The merchant comes out empty—handed: he goes in with 5,000 dollars worth of merchandise. Frequently the *postal* courier is robbed by Tibetan brigands and no doubt some of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank cheques are being used by these religious bandits as prayer flags on the high Asiatic steppes. The Chinese merchant with his money safe in Tachienlu, now begins preparations for the return journey. Tea, oil, wine, silk, tobacco, sugar, cloth, and paper are all securely packed in boxes and covered with yak skin. Wine and oil simply must be carried right side up, and to impress a Tibetan nomad with this fact begins the journey. Some years ago when travelling into Batang we inadvertently carried with us a box containing pots and pans. From the moment they went on the yak's back till they came off it was just like someone turning a barrel-organ the wrong way. One day this box of tins and cans slipped from the yak's back and went rolling down the side of the mountain. In this part of Asia where 13 high mountain passes and interminable rivers have got to be crossed the Chinese merchant wisely avoids carrying things which have a tendency to rattle. In the eyes of a simple Tibetan a thing greatly increases in value when it has a propensity to rattle. A solid load of tea or butter or tsamba sinks into insignificance when carried along side of something that persistently bangs.

BARGAINING FOR TRANSPORT.

When the Chinese merchant has carefully packed, covered, and numbered his varied assortment of merchandise his next step is to negotiate with the Tibetan nomads to carry his goods a certain distance over the border. Should his return coincide with the transport of military supplies for the interior Chinese garrisons, he may travel along under friendly escort. This possibility, however, occurs only two or three times a year.

There is something peculiar about negotiations with a woolly nomad. He is not inclined to hurry or sympathize with you in any difficulty: it is a matter of moonshine whether he starts in January or February or starts at all. Somehow, nobody can really or fully explain how, why, or where, a bargain is struck and the Chinese merchant moves off with a precarious agreement that the nomad and his yak will see him as far as Hokow, five days beyond Tachienlu. This gets him over the Che-do-la (14,5000 feet high) and over the Ga-shi-la (15.000 feet) and down into the valley of the Yalung.

ACROSS THE BORDER.

This part of the journey to Batang presents very little difficulty as there is a strong Chinese garrison at Hokow. Across the Yalung Chinese prestige ends and the Chinese merchant's troubles begin. From here on to Litang (14,000 ft.) he is under the protection and at the mercy of native chiefs, lawless brigands, and scheming lamas. His obstacles now are not simply physical, but spiritual and temporal. From this point on his woolly nomad will give no guarantee that the merchant and his goods will get anywhere. The caravan with its yak loads of silk and wine and oil now enters the territory ruled by the native Prince of Chong-hsi.

The unfortunate thing about travel in this part of Eastern Tibet is that these native chiefs will see you courteously, politely, and safely, just over the edge of their own territory and villainously rob you one mile in the next. By a system of asiatic manœuvring the merchant and his precious wares safely reach Litang.

RIDGE OF DESOLATION.

The Ridge of Desolation, on the other side of the Litang plain, now lies before him. The sheer good fortune in reaching Litang demands somewhat of a prolonged stay in this Lama town. No doubt experience has taught the Chinese merchant wisdom and a stay of one month here puts the waiting brigands off the scent. Beyond this point anything may happen; the country is in a desperate condition and absolutely chaotic. Hsiang-cheng on the south, Chan-tui on the north. Hokow east and Batang west, and Litang in the centre with a resident population of 2,000 Lamas. How to negotiate successfully all these disturbing, procrastinating, devouring elements, requires very subtle wits and no mean knowledge of Asiatic ways. At one point bravado carries the day, the merchant with the big voice gets through; like the lizard, the tail is sometimes dropped in the shape of a case of wine, and while the nomads are spluttering round this the caravan escapes. All the devices known to animal nature are sometimes tried and sometimes successful, but occassionally there is a dead stop and nothing, absolutely nothing but hard silver rupees paid each down will get you through. For the Chinese merchant the most difficult and dangerous part of the whole journey is just two or three days from Batang. How to get $5,000 worth of precious goods into that robber infested, robber surrounded town requires some ingenuity. If he can safely reach Batang his merchandise will probably bring him $10,000 or $12,000. The merchant has now reached a point where daring and bravado count for very little; cunning and stealth are the counters now. The most powerful nomadic tribe in the district is approached. Get me and my goods safely into Batang, says the Chinese merchant, and I will pay so much down and so much in Batang. All right, says the nomad chief, pay so much down and as a guarantee leave $1,000 worth of goods in our hands two days from Batang, return what you owe us and we will return the goods. Why the rough nomads don't rob the merchant there and then is one of those peculiar subtle Asiatic mysteries.

TRUE TO HIS BOND.

With all the merchandise piled up, and all the nomads round about, and the Chinese merchant and his servants in the centre, the arguing and bargaining goes on for days till at last a compromise is made. There are two remarkable things worth noticing: the native nomad chief may be wild, barbarous, extravagant, but he will abide by his word once he has given it; the merchant knows this and trusts him implicitly. The Chinese merchant, once a contract has been agreed on, will stand by what ever promise he gives. Strange—and on the Roof of the World, and with a nomad outlaw—if he gives his word he will protect you with his own blood. The whole thing is purely business: you pay Butterfield and Swire $50 to carry you from Shanghai to Hankow. You pay the nomad chief $50 to do the same thing; the question is simply one of geographical location. The marvellous thing is that business persists; it may be Urga or Lhasa, somehow or other the Chinese merchant has got to get there, do business, make money, and come back again. Gen. Pereira, in his last journey on the border, used these same native chiefs to get him and Dr. Thompson from Batang to Kanze.

RUSSIAN PEDLARS

Unable to Compete with Chinese

From Our Own Correspondent.

Yenchow, Chê., Jan. 19.

A company of Russians have caused a great deal of curiosity to the people of this quiet countryside. They speak but very few words of Chinese and seem to be quite unfamiliar to the customs of the natives save, perhaps, that of wine drinking. The purpose of their visit inland is to make a few dollars by selling cloth. They have not made much of a turnover, for competing with the Chinese in this line of business, is far from an easy proposition.

It is safe to say that in the province of Chêkiang opium growing has been rigidly suppressed. There is however, without doubt, a serious recrudescence of the use of the drug and an extensive sale is being transacted in secret. There is scarcely a market of any size but what opium may be bought. A short time ago a quantity of the drug was being secretly conveyed through the city. The military were soon on the track of these clandestine traders who have received some ugly treatment at their hands. Heavy fines have been imposed and a beating in the bargain.

A large quantity of rice has been purchased with the penalty fees, and is being distributed to the poor, to help them over the new year.

PROJECTED HYDROPLANE SERVICE.

There is talk of bringing into regular use the hydroplane for the quick passage of passengers up and down the Chien Tang River.

A short time ago another successful trial was made. From Hangchow to Chuchow the distance can be covered in about six or seven hours as compared with the old-style sailing boat travelling, when some six or seven days are required.

The present "Express boat" is a great improvement on the uncertain cargo boat, for the company guarantee to transport passengers a stage per day—about 100 *li*.

An electric lighting plant has been established in the town of Shuenan. A young man, who has received some practical training in the works at Woosung, is head of the company. The light is good and is very popular with the shopkeepers. The same company will run the light of the busy market of Kiangkeo, some seven miles distant from Shuenan, on the Hueichow river. One electric light company has been promoted in Yenchow and operations are to commence early in the new year. The machinery has been supplied from Germany.

ATTEMPT TO WRECK A TRAIN IN JAPAN

Tokio, Jan. 31.

An ineffective attempt was made last night near Nagoya to wreck a train in which leading members of the Opposition, including Viscount Takahashi, and Messrs. Ozaki and Inukai, were returning from an anti-Government demonstration at Osaka, according to a *"Hochi"* special, which cannot at present be confirmed.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE VOICE IN THE WELL

A Strange Tale from Anking

From Our Own Correspondent.

Anking, An., Jan. 22.

It is often demonstrated that a person deprived of one sense has his other senses developed to a higher degree of acuteness. Now there is some discussion among local scientists as to whether a blind person is better able to find his way about in the dark than a person with normal eyesight. At any rate there is one blind man now confined in the mission hospital here who is an interesting case in point.

A few nights ago the blind organist of the mission chapel while returning home from the house of some friends apparently got upon the wrong road and whether it was the darkness of the night or too much moonshine that lessened his sense of direction is not quite clear. However he did not get back to his room that night.

—Early the following morning, before daylight, a coolie came to the well to draw water for his foreign master's ablutions. As he let down his bucket he was suddenly paralyzed with fright to hear the sound of some one singing, for the voice seemed to ascend out of the depths of the well. It is a newly dug well belonging to the Anking Cross Stitch and has not been heard to possess any special spirit good or evil, but the sound emanating from the cold stone neck of the dark well was something more than the slosh of the bucket and the sliding rope. The song was somewhat liquid in tone and was accompanied with a flapping sound as of a dragon's tail on the surface of the water.

But before the frightened coolie could withdraw his bucket and run away he detected, in spite of his fright, such a human tone in the plaintive voice now unmistakably calling for help that he thought perhaps some defamed widow might have sought a confirmation of her virtue in suicide and had repented in the afterthought of the icy-cold water.

He ran for help and a stong rope and soon had the sorry looking organist hauled to the surface. With the exception of a few misplaced verterbræ he seems none the worse for his 30 foot fall and having spent the better part of a long winter's night in four feet of water.

JAPANESE DIET DISSOLVED

Tokio, Jan. 31.

The Diet has been dissolved.—Reuter.

Shanghai, Jan. 31.

An *"Osaka Mainichi"* special despatch to the Eastern News Agency reports that an Imperial edict was issued this afternoon at 4 o'clock, dissolving the Parliament.

Later.

An *"Osaka Asahi"* special despatch to the Eastern News Agency reports that this afternoon the House of Representatives was thrown into such unprecedented confusion that the Diet was compelled to suspend its sitting and that when the sitting was resumed, the chamber was again so disorderly that the Government finally dissolved the Diet at 3.50 p.m.

The Government has issued the following *communiqué*, announcing the dissolution of the Diet:—

In view of the fact that the three political parties in the Lower House recently repeatedly declared their determination for the overthrow of the Cabinet coupled with the fact that the condition in the chamber of the Lower House to-day clearly indicated that they attempted to impede national affairs, the Government petitioned the throne to dissolve the Diet, considering that M. P.'s of the said three parties had no idea of discussing national affairs with sincerity and that this sort of Parliament was by no means compatible with the real intention of the nation in general. —Eastern News Agency.

ACCORDING to the *"Shunpao"* the National Aeronautical Bureau in Peking has definitely decided to inaugurate the Peking-Tientsin-Shanghai Air Mail Service next spring.

DYNAMITE SMUGGLING IN PHILIPPINES

Used by Moros for Killing Fish: A Practice Long Prohibited

Manila, P. I. Jan. 15.

Smuggling of dynamite from British North Borneo into the Sulu archipelago is on the increase despite the efforts of the Customs authorities of the Philippines, it is learned at the Bureau of Customs. The dynamite is chiefly used by the Moros to kill fish in the waters of the southern islands, although the practice has been prohibited by law for many years.

The Moros, who are familiar with all the small coves and harbours, are able to evade the Customs authorities which have only a limited patrol service in that region. In their fast sailing vintas (native boats) the Moros are able to load their cargoes of dynamite, and frequently a shipment of opium, on the Bornec coast and under cover of darkness slip across to one of the small islands in the Sulu group, only a few miles away.

Only in rare instances are these smugglers caught, Customs officials say, as their cunning is far superior to that of the agents of the government.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE SWEDISH SCHOOL ON CHIKUNGSHAN

From a Correspondent.

The Swedish Union School on Chikungshan, Honan, was able to open its new-built school-home on January 19. Since the establishment of the school in 1918, when a very fine lot with some houses on it was purchased, no new buildings had been added, but preparations were made during the last two years to have suitable dormitories built. The foundations of this four-storied house were laid in June last year and the work on the building was completed just before this spring-term was to begin. There are altogether 70 rooms in the house and, besides office, dining and sitting-rooms, five apartments for teachers and manager, day-room for the children and a few guest rooms, there is space enough to receive about 90 pupils.

The contractor was a Chinese, Liu-Lin, while the Rev. G. Cederlof of the S.U.S. has supervised the whole work. The designs of the house as well as the plans have all been drawn by the Rev. Ivan Ehne. The house is furnished with electric light, running water, and partly with a heating system. The whole cost is about $40,000.

The Swedish Union School, which is a co-operative enterprise undertaken by six Swedish Missionary Societies and open to all Swedish children in China, comprises a public Lower and Higher Primary and High-School, recognized by the Swedish State, and is staffed by six well qualified teachers and three assistants. The Principal of the School is Mr. Daniel Olsson, Phil. Lie., and the Rev. G. Cederlöf is manager for the School-Home with Mrs. Cederlöf as headmatron.

We wish the School every good prospect during years to come in its solid and stately new Home.

THE humorous side of Prohibition, says a New York correspondent, is illustrated again by Federal statistics which show that in the 12 months ended June 30, 11,268,469 doctors' prescriptions ordering liquor for patients were issued in the United States. Invalids thus provided with medicinal refreshment drank on their doctors' advice altogether 1,469,611 gallons. Of this, whisky accounted for 1,347,573, wine for 30,752, brandy 9,945, gin 8,173, rum 2,015, and alcohol 2,156 gallons. Fifty-thousand physicians or one-third of the total number in the country, availed themselves of the privilege of prescribing intoxicating liquors for their patients.

BURNS'S BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

Peking's Honour to Ploughman Poet: Dr. Yen's Address and Interesting Comparisons

Peking, Jan. [illegible]

Dr. W. W. Yen was a guest at the dinner in celebration of the birthday of Robert Burns given [illegible] Grand Hotel de Pekin.

Dr. Yen, proposing the toast of the evening, said:—I consider it a great privilege to join you this evening to do honour to the memory of your national poet, Robert Burns. At the same time I see no particular reason why I should be asked to say anything, except perhaps for the fact that he is the ploughman poet of Scotland and that I happen to be the Minister of Agriculture of China.

By profession a diplomat, and speaking as I do to Scotsmen, noted for their cautiousness in speech, I am reminded of the visit of Confucius to the Ancestral Temple of the Chow Dynasty. There he saw in the courtyard of the temple a golden statue with its mouth sewn up with a triple [illegible] his disciple to explain its meaning, and the Sage responded by saying that the statue represented [illegible] careful of speech. I think myself that Confucius was too vague in his reply. I should have replied that the statue represented an ancient diplomat, or some unknown Scotsman.

TWO OTHER POETS

It is not my intention to recall to you the ups and downs, the lights and shadows, in the life of your ploughman poet. You know the details much better than I do, but in a way his sad and disjointed career, and the extraordinary range of his poems, from the noble "Cotter's Saturday Night" to the rant and riot of "The Jolly Beggars" remind us of two other poets. The one lived and died in the United States. He was in fact an alumnus of the same university where I happened to study, and his name is Edgar Allan Poe, whose best known poem is "The Raven." The other lived in China in the Tang Dynasty, and of him it is said that he was without doubt the greatest of Chinese lyric poets. He also was fond of deep passion, [illegible] is enough for one thought. Like Burns, he collected old songs and poems and infused them with the fire of his own genius. That man [illegible] whose works are known to [illegible]

If you ask what I think is the reason of your [illegible] admiration for Burns, I will say [illegible] is because he has "Scoticized" [illegible] He is, as it were, the demigod-prophet, priest and king of Scotland, the Scotsman who more than any other man of men [illegible] moment Scotsmen all over the [illegible] and may [illegible] to-night for ages the surrounding circumstances in which the Battle of Bannockburn and the anti-prelatical reformation under Knox were [illegible], it may be, hardly as powerful [illegible]

In a word Burns is to your [illegible] and [illegible] no [illegible] world. [illegible] Americanism may be coined, a one hundred and [illegible] Scotsman.

THE MOST HUMAN POET

To the rest of the world Burns appears pre-eminently as the most human poet. Many others may surpass him in their love and portrayal of nature and in their devotion to her. But he seems to stand by himself as the author of so many singable or declaimable songs wherein we find an unalloyed sincerity, and an intense sympathy so vivid and intimate as to pass instantly into the domain of imagination and give forth imaginative results and potencies.

PRIVILEGE OF INDEPENDENCE

His is the cry of toiling and suffering humanity, protesting against social inequalities and political monstrosities. "A man's a man for a' that and a' that," and let us hold dear the "glorious privilege of being independent." True to the best instincts of the human race, he yet counsels acquiescence in one's lot and a [illegible] of one's duties in the sphere where one is placed.

Out of his titanic, soul-piercing thunderings against the injustices of mankind has come to pass, the great uprising of the middle class against the privileged minorities, an uprising which first worked politically in the American and French Revolutions, and which, not in governments so much as in education and in social order, has changed the face of the earth.

What is the debt which oppressed humanity owes to our ploughman poet, a debt which it can ill repay? Can we then err in excess, if we crown him in our grateful hearts the king of long-suffering humanity? Can we exaggerate our emotions if we revere his memory?

If you ask me, as true Scotsmen, what you can do further to spread his ideas and immortalize his fame, I venture to suggest that some of his best poems should be rendered into the Chinese language by some Scottish sinologue. Only a few days ago I came across in a vernacular paper a translation of some beautiful lines from Longfellow's "Hiawatha," and I see no reason why some attempt should not be made to make Robert Burns better known to the scholars of China.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SMUGGLED OPIUM IN CHEKIANG

Unpleasant Rumour of a Huge Consignment

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hangchow, Jan. 26.

Some weeks ago it was rumoured that an enormous quantity of opium, about $20,000,000, worth, had been brought from India and smuggled into Chêkiang by way of the Chusan Islands, landed first at Shih-pu and then transhipped in little boats to Chapu, where it is now. It is brought, we are told, by the Military Governor's subordinates, who are said to know all about it.

I have refrained from writing you about this because there are so many rumours current in these days that have no foundation in fact that I thought this also might be one of them. But I hear, on what one believes to be good authority, that the opium is really in the province, and that the Chief of Police knows it is. Such a disgraceful affair, if indeed true, ought to be exposed and the foreign press should help in the exposure.

Chêkiang has long been free from poppy growing, and the Chinese have been proud of the fact, and so have the missionaries and all who are interested in the welfare of the people.

SHANTUNG BANDITS AGAIN!

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsinanfu, Jan. 24.

The fate of a victim of local brigands is just now occupying the attention of the newspaper reading Chinese. On the night of December 3, one of the line superintendents on the Shantung Railway was cleverly captured. He was in the Station-master's office at Changtien station when several well-dressed men appeared and on some pretext inveigled him outside when he was promptly carried off.

The man is a native of Ningpo, and is said to have influential friends in Peking. This may account for the high ransom which these robbers demanded. Negotiations *à la* Lincheng have been proceeding for some time. The authorities advised paying up, although it is said that troops knew the whereabouts of the band. The ransom was to have been handed over on the 18th instant, but it was not forthcoming and the negotiators (whoever they were) announced on the 19th that the poor captive had been shot.

Early on the 20th the body of a young man dressed in foreign clothes was found by the roadside not far from the Tsinan Foreign Settlement. He had been shot through the heart, and the remains were soon identified as the Ningpo captive.

It looks as though the bandit stronghold were not far from Tsinan.

NEW SILVER COINAGE IN SIBERIA

Strange Appearance of Romanov Roubles: Are They Mexican Dollars Reminted by Japan?

From Our Own Correspondent.

The recent disappearance of silver dollars from Shanghai was accompanied by a rumour that they were being smuggled into Siberia. Inquiry of our Chita correspondent for possible information has produced this very curious story.—Ed.

Chita, Dec. 16.

To begin with, quite recently, that is to say, not more than two weeks ago, a perfectly newly minted rouble bearing the old [illegible] of 1915, [illegible] double-headed eagle with the crown, sceptre, etc. and the year 1915 on one side and the image of Tsar Nikolas II on the other, made its unexpected appearance here in Chita for the first time.

Needless to say, it produced great dissatisfaction among the Communists who clamoured for *the new Soviet rouble*, regarding which so much had been written and talked about. It is very significant and undoubtedly has some bearing on the matter that the Soviet Government intended to circulate the new Soviet rouble at the beginning of the present year 1924, but now the matter has been postponed until the first of May, at least, so I was informed by Mr. Kantner of the State Bank. In addition, Mr. Kantner informed me that 300,000 of these new Romanov roubles have already been received from Moscow and a further consignment of 800,000 is expected to arrive in Chita this month. In view of the fact that the present Soviet Government has long since destroyed everything belonging to the Tsar *régime*, the supposition is that these new Romanov roubles were not minted in Moscow, although they are being received from that place.

WAS IT MADE IN JAPAN?

There are certain factors that go to prove this supposition. First, is the date or year which the new rouble bears, namely, 1915. The second circumstance is that in 1920 some four cars of small silver denomination bearing the same year and exactly the same coat of arms etc. were delivered in Vladivostok from Tokio and were seized by the Reds who took the four cars in question to Habarovsk in the month of February of that year. Another very important factor which goes to prove that these new Romanov roubles could not have been minted in Moscow is the fact that, had this silver been in Moscow's possession last year or the year before, when it decided to introduce the silver and gold currency into the territory of the Far Eastern Republic, it would certainly have supplied this latter with these new roubles and not have called in all the available silver in Russia Proper to keep the Far East supplied with currency, so it seems there is some direct connexion between the appearance of these newly minted roubles and the disappearance of Shanghai's silver dollars.

It is also necessary to bear in mind that Siberia has also lost much of her silver supplied by Moscow in the early days, particularly the old silver roubles, doubtless on account of the good and full quality of silver they contain. When in Vladivostok in 1920, the seizure of these four cars of small denomination, Romanov silver currency, by the Reds and its circulation at that time (during the term of the Medvediev Provisional Government) caused quite a lot of discussion and the then Minister of Finance, Mr. Zimmerman, personally informed me officially that this new silver formed part of an order placed by the Tsar Government with the Japanese Government and that the Russian Government had been sadly disappointed with the quality of the silver currency which was exceedingly low in silver. This explains the reason for the depreciated value of this particular currency even to this day, namely two roubles 34 copecks small silver denomination equalling one large rouble.

It is perfectly reasonable to conclude that had Moscow been in possession of silver, she would have minted her own Soviet rouble, which bears the image of a workman on the one side and the coat of arms, *i.e.* the hammer and sickle on the other.

RUSSIAN SILVER DISAPPEARING.

From inquiries made by me among my friends here who occupied important positions in the Tsar Government, the question of Japan having received an order from the Tsar Government to mint silver Romanov currency is borne out. I have been unable to discover the sum of this order. In a conversation which I had to-day with Mr. Boris Berlatzky, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Dalbank in Chita, regarding this matter, he stated that Russian silver had been disappearing from Siberia for some long time and in considerable quantities. Mr. Berlatzky succeeded Mr. Zimmerman as Minister of Finance in Vladivostok in 1920 and also confirmed to-day that the four cars of small silver were obtained from Tokio, but he did not confirm nor deny that the new Romanov rouble was minted in Moscow. He only stated it came from Moscow.

There is a shortage of silver in this country as can be seen from the enclosed translation of the Government order published in to-day's official newspaper "Far Eastern Post."

In conclusion, I have to state [illegible] from the information at hand, it appears that Japan has fulfilled the order placed by the Tsar Government and has supplied Russia with these new roubles. She has also returned Russia the gold seized by the Japanese Expeditionary Forces during the latter's occupation of Siberia. In all probability she did not possess the requisite amount of silver to execute the order and was forced to take from both Siberia and Shanghai.

IMPORT OF SILVER AUTHORIZED.

The following is a translation of the order by the Far Eastern Revolutionary Committee quoted by our correspondent. It was published in the "Far Eastern Post" No. 13, January 16, 1924.

The Far Eastern Revolutionary Committee has decreed:—

1. To alter the first paragraph of its resolution passed on June 15, 1923 (Bulletin Far Eastern Revolutionary Committee No. 48, clause R13) to read as follows:—

(a) The import of silver currency, both of small and large denomination, which is legal tender in the Far East, is permitted without any let or hindrence into the territory of the Far East.

(b) The importation of said silver currency from localities adjoining R. S. F. S. R. (Russia Proper) to be limited to the sum of 25 Roubles large silver and 10 Roubles small silver denomination.

Observation:—The present decree does not apply to gold currency.

2. Clauses Nos. 2, 3 and 4 of the resolution of June 15 to remain in force.

3. The present resolution to come into effect as from the date of its publication.

President of the Far Eastern Revolutionary Committee:

(signed. Pavlov.

Secretary:—(signed) Kopeetin.

At Lausanne, on December 28 last, M. Alfred Heimendinger, of Heimendinger Bros., Shanghai, was married to Mlle. Aline Villiérs, of Strassburg, Alsace. The newly-married couple will leave France for China, *viâ* America, at the beginning of next month.

THE JAPANESE PRESS RESURGENT

Splendid Results of Energy and Resourcefulness

From Our Own Correspondent

Tokio, Jan. 15

An increase in its circulation by 750,000 in four months—from 250,000 before the quake to close on a million subscribers to-day—that is what enterprise of the "*Hochi*," one of the biggest vernacular papers published in the capital has brought as a reward. The story is almost an epic in the history of the Fourth Estate in Japan and for that matter, perhaps anywhere in the world.

Most of the big Tokio dailies were destroyed by the quake and fire that swept the capital on September 1 last year. The building of the "*Hochi*," a magnificent five-storied, steel-and-concrete structure, escaped the flames, but its machinery was badly knocked about, while the type cases were thrown about scattering the type in all directions. When it is remembered that there is no such thing corresponding to a linotype in Japanese newspaper offices, and that some 2,000 different types, representing as many characters are used in an ordinary issue of a Japanese newspaper, the difficult situation can well be imagined. Nevertheless, the "*Hochi*" had an "extra" 12 minutes after the September cataclysm, running the edition off mimeographs.

For several days after the September quake mimeograph editions did the work needed: other newspapers engaged an army of writers and the important news of the day were written out and posted on walls and telegraph posts; while yet another newspaper hired a number of motor-cars, filled them with reporters armed with megaphones, who megaphoned the news to the people.

ENTERPRISING TOKIO DAILIES.

Most of the big Tokio dailies are now issuing editions just as large as their pre-earthquake ones. The "*Hochi's*" luck in having its building and plant practically undamaged enabled it to get on the job first and, as a result, is to-day enjoying a paid circulation of a million, four times what it had before the catastrophe. Twelve rotary presses work day and night printing the papers.

Notice should be taken of the fact that the newspaper industry in Japan is, compared to Western standards, a fledgling. That they could have recovered so soon and so well—they are as good or even better than their pre-earthquake issues—is certainly an augury for good, and if reconstruction in other quarters is brought about as speedily and as efficiently as the newspapers have done, then the destruction that is now to be seen everywhere will soon be but a dream.

ANOTHER CAPTURE

Dr. Thompson with Brig.-Gen. Pereira's Effects

Peking, Jan. 29

Dr. Thompson, who was on his way to Peking with the object of handing over Brigadier-General Pereira's belongings and making a full report regarding the death of the latter was captured by bandits on January 24 at Paotowchen, some distance to the west of the terminus of the Peking-Suaiyuan line. Dr. Thompson's last report said that he hoped to reach Peking on January 24.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Gen. Tien Chung-yu and Chang Shao-tseng and several others are organizing a big electric company for the Province of Chihli, to [illegible] is reported that $5,000,000, which represents half of the total capital of the company, has already been collected. It will help the different districts in developing electric business either by advancing money [illegible] ing materials on credit. The company may formally come into existence next spring.

the people in various parts of the devastated areas and assisting in devising means for their help.

ANCIENT WEDDING RITES

Peculiar Ceremonies Attending the Imperial Japanese Wedding

By Our Tokio Correspondent.

The wedding of the Prince Regent and the Princess Nagako Kuni, which is to take place on January 26, will be held in the Imperial Palace which lies beyond the ancient moats and the even more ancient cedar and willow trees that stand like so many sentinels on the rampart-like walls in the heart of Japan's capital. The solemnization of the nuptial rites will commence with the ceremony of reporting the wedding to the Imperial Ancestors which will take place early on the morning of the wedding day in the Korei Hall.

Shinto priests, to the accompaniment of Shinto music, will first of all purify the hall, after which the court ritualists and high officials, dressed in uniform, will enter, and to the accompaniment of solemn, ancient Shinto music, the high priests of the Court will open the Shrine which is dedicated to the spirits of the Imperial Ancestors. An offering of food, flowers and incense will follow, after which Prince Kujo, chief ritualist, will read a scroll announcing the marriage and felicitating the Imperial Ancestors. Neither the Prince Regent nor the Princess Nagako Kuni will be present at this ceremony.

THE SACRED WINE.

Immediately after an Imperial messenger will be despatched to the mansion of Prince Kunihiko Kuni, father of the bride-elect, to bring his eldest daughter, the Princess Nagako, to the Imperial Palace. By this time, both the Prince Regent and the Princess Nagako will be attired in ancient garb.

The wedding ceremony will consist chiefly of the drinking of sacred wine, the bride and bridegroom exchange little gold cups, filled with sake (Japanese wine), nine times, in accordance with ancient tradition.

Neither the Emperor nor the Empress is expected to be present at the wedding, the Emperor's state of health making it inadvisable for him to leave the Numazdu palace situated some 30 miles from Tokio where he is now staying. On the day following their wedding, the Prince Regent and Princess Nagako will proceed to Numadzu to pay their respects to the Emperor and Empress.

For the first time in history some 43,000 convicts will be released on the day of the wedding, while at the same time Socialists and anarchists of ultra-radical tendencies will spend the 26th within the four walls of a prison. The police intend to take these men into custody about a week prior to the date fixed for the royal marriage and will keep them under lock and key until the happy event is over.

BRIDE ELECT AS HOSTESS.

Out of consideration for the sufferings that a large number of the people are undergoing, celebrations in connexion with the wedding are to be simple and inexpensive. The palace of Prince Kunihiko Kuni, father of the future Empress of Japan, commenced entertaining on January 12 in connexion with the wedding. Four banquets are to be given by the bride's parents, the first in honour of the Princes and Princesses of the Blood; and the three following to some 100 officials of the Imperial Court, of the Imperial Household Department and to those who had been in charge of the education of the bride-elect.

The host and hostesses at these banquets will be the parents of the bride and the Princess Nagako herself. The latter will appear in foreign dress throughout the celebrations and ceremonies, except when ancient court tradition demands that the old Japanese garb be worn. It is said that Princess Nagako has more than 30 new foreign dresses to wear in connexion with the coming functions. Most of these were made in Paris, and more are being made in Tokio and Kioto.

Princess Nagako and her sister were vaccinated two weeks ago on account of an outbreak of smallpox near her home.

AKASAKA DETACHED PALACE

By Our Tokio Correspondent.

The Prince Regent has, according to the best reports, decided to live with his bride in the Akasaka Detached Palace when in Tokio, in preference to the Kasumigaseki Detached Palace, which has suffered some damage as a result of the September quake.

The Akasaka Detached Palace is one of the most magnificent of Japan's modern palaces. Construction of this palace was begun in 1899 and completed nine years later. It was at first intended to be one of the residences of the present Emperor when his Majesty was Crown Prince, but the present Emperor has never yet even stepped within its portals. The building, which is in French Renaissance style, is situated in the midst of spacious grounds, a long wide drive sweeping up from the front entrance gates of wrought iron to the white granite porte-cochére. The magnificent lawns in front of the Palace are reminiscent of England more than of any other place, certainly not of Japan, save for the golden peacocks which guard two star-decorated globes on the green copper roof. The long white building spreads out in a great semi-circle, three storeys in height.

PRINCE OF WALES THE FIRST OCCUPANT.

Long mirrors, marble walls and parquet floors, massive yet graceful chandeliers of glass, tall columns of pink and white marble, brocade wall panels of a green and gold hue adorn the palace which the Prince Regent and his bride will call their home for some time, while in outstanding relief are several sixteen-petalled, gilt chrysanthemums, at strategic p... emblematic of the Royal House of Japan.

The Prince of Wales was the first occupant of this gorgeous building during the visit he paid to Japan some two years ago. Till then, the magnificent pile was untenanted, if one *levee* that the Prince Regent held after his return from Europe be excepted.

Just beyond the main stairway is the State parlour, fronting the south and looking out over the gardens which fall away to a lake in the valley below. The ceiling above is painted with a goddess driving a chariot between rows of flowering cherry trees in the full light of a morning sun. The garden is a blending of East and West, with a little lake spanned by a lacquer bridge. Except for one or two roofs of other Imperial palaces and for the roofs of two red brick buildings in the distance, there is no visible sign that any other world, other than that of the Akasaka Detached Palace, exists. Perhaps it was for this reason that the Prince Regent chose this palace in which to spend the early days of his married life.

THE STATE DINING ROOM.

The dining room is in Louis XIV style and is a dream of gold and mirrors. The walls are panelled with Kiso wood, a valuable Japanese wood, polished until the panels catch and reflect the gold ornamentation of cornice chandelier and mirrors. Into the walls have also been fitted panels of cloisonne giving a touch of Japan to the French-style room. This is the State dining room and will be utilized by the Prince Regent and the Crown Princess in connexion with the many entertainments they will give to the Princes of the Blood, high Government dignitaries and members of Parliament after the wedding.

A marble terrace from the state dining room leads round to a smaller and more home-like dining room which the royal couple will use. This room is also finished in Kiso wood, with gold ornamentations, while a beautiful garden in landscape style is visible just beyond the bay windows.

The ground floor is that on which the Prince Regent and his bride will live, the floor above being used for official entertaining functions. Here the marble gives way to wood and cream-coloured plaster; the gold is present, symbolic of royalty, but soft green is the dominant tone.

VALUABLE OBJECTS D'ART.

The private sitting room is perhaps the most restful chamber of the whole palace. With walls of green brocade and creamy white wood, and with simple but beautiful appointments, the place soothes and pleases. A fine old Japanese gold lacquered screen stands by the door, surrounded by dwarf pine and cherry trees. The fireplace is of green marble with a fire screen on which is painted the famous Sacred Bridge of Nikko. Products of art, of ancient China and Japan, are to be found in profusion here.

There are 150 rooms in the Palace, all of them reproductions of the West except for the touches of Japan that are worked in here and there. Gold and crystal, marble and Kiso wood, mirrors and paintings and the sixteen-petalled gilt chrysanthemums—all these combine to make a rich splendour and luxury that singles out the Akasaka Detached Palace from all the other palaces of Japan.

KIYOURA CABINET TOTTERING

Its Fall an Hourly Possibility: More Political Turmoil in Japan

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Jan. 15.

The present Ministry which was formed by Viscount Kiyoura, formerly President of the Privy Council, when the Yamamoto Cabinet resigned as the result of the despicable attempt made to assassinate the Crown Prince on December 27, is being vigorously attacked on all sides. The papers are full of scathing criticism every day, declaring that the present Cabinet is a "Privileged Class Cabinet" because its personnel consists of Peers, or of persons who are directly connected with Peers, and that it is a menace to the development of constitutional government in Japan. As a sop to appease public opinion, Viscount Kiyoura promised to grant the people a measure of suffrage, but this has failed to minimize the detestation in which the public hold the Ministry, detestation that is openly expressed by means of angry mass meetings.

More interesting than the denunciations of the Press and the bellowings of street-corner orators, however, is the fact that the Seiyukai (the majority party in the House of Representatives) has decided to fight the Ministry when Parliament re-opens on the 21st, and for this purpose Viscount Takahashi, President of the Seiyukai and once Premier of Japan, has declared that he is prepared to resign his peerage and down to the House of Representatives.

It would be interesting to see whether Viscount Takahashi would really do this, as he has several times in the past made a similar assertion. The Cabinet has picked up the gage flung down by the majority party and the forthcoming session of the Diet will result—if the assertions being made are lived up to—in a tussle of strength between the Elder Statesmen who are the Power behind the Throne and who are responsible for the present Cabinet coming into being, and the House of Representatives. The Government holds a strong trump card—it has the power to dissolve the Diet in case the members of the House are able to secure a vote of non-confidence or seriously block the Government's programme. The fact that the Prince Regent's wedding is to be celebrated on January 26 makes all parties reluctant to force a political crisis at this time. The Government will, in all probability, live through till after the auspicious event, but the crisis will come soon after the wedding has been solemnized.

JAPAN'S LAST EARTHQUAKE

Awful Memories Responsible for Suicides and Homicides: Trade Envoys Terror-stricken

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Jan. 15.

Despite the statements of scientists and seismologists that Tokio would be immune from violent earthquakes for a considerable period, on the ground that two severe earthquakes do not follow each other in quick succession, this city and Yokohama, with the neighbouring regions were severely shaken by earth tremors that rocked the city terribly at 5.58 this morning.

The first tremor lasted for fully three minutes while for at least another three minutes successive shocks occurred. This earthquake is officially recorded as having half the intensity of the one of September 1 last year which laid waste about 1,000 square miles of territory in Japan. The greatest fluctuations of the seimologic needles on September 1, 1923, were 12 centimetres, while the greatest movement of the needless to-day was 6 centimetres.

With the awful memories of last September in mind the people, bare-footed and ill-clad, emptied themselves into the streets and open places, despite a raw winter's morning in mid-January. Several persons went raving mad, three mothers are known to have strangled their babes, while two fathers killed their children and then themselves.

IMPERIAL HOTEL SCENES.

The Imperial Hotel, in Tokio, was full, most of the guests being newcomers to Japan—tourists and merchants desiring to be on the spot and secure reconstruction orders—and these were naturally greatly terrified, for this was their first taste of a fair-sized quake. Nearly every person made a rush for the doors. Some, still clad in their night-attire and with valises in their hands, once outside, were asking what was the best way to get away—to China, Russia, Timbuctoo, anywhere so long as miles could be inserted between where they would be and Tokio with its disquieting earthquakes.

Several foreigners suffered injuries, though of a minor character. These were largely the result of attempts to jump out of first and second floor rooms to the garden. The hotel building rocked like a sampan in a tempest and your correspondent, who happened to be living in the hotel, actually thought that all was up and that the building, considerably strained and weakened by the big quake of September 1 and the 5,000-odd tremors we have had since then, would surely crumble.

EMBASSY OFFICIAL'S LEAP.

Among those who sustained bruises and lacerations were Mr. F. D. K. Le Clerq, who had just arrived the previous day from Paaris to join the staff of the American Embassy here. He suffered a severe bruise on the face and painful cuts on the body when he leaped from the top of a balustrade from his room on the first floor to the roadway. Mr. H. Ellis, of Shanghai, connected with the Linotype & Machinery Co., suffered a sprained ankle, when he, too, leaped out of his room window. Mr. Linton Wells, an American journalist, who came here to write up a series of articles on "Post-Earthquake Japan" for the Newspaper Enterprise Association, sustained an ugly wound on his leg through a large stone falling on him as he was running outside.

The total number of deaths, through the quake, so far as is known, however, is only eleven. The quake was felt all throughout these islands, but was most violent in Tokio, Yokohama and the surrounding regions. At least two persons are known to have died of sheer fright—one the young wife of a spinner in a muslin factory; and the other a school-teacher aged some 40 years.

The high ramparts that hide the Imperial Palace palace from the vulgar gaze crumbled in many places, while one of the main entrances to the Palace, known as the Wakuradamon Gate, collapsed completely.

Big fissures were produced in various parts of Yokohama, which, once again, suffered most, the origin of the quake being in the Hakone mountains, some 20 miles from Yokohama. However, there is hardly anything left in Yokohama to collapse, and the light zinc-and-wood structures, although they waved about like reeds in a storm, withstood the latest assault of Nature well. At the same time it should be noted that the shocks were all horizontal ones, which perhaps minimized the damage considerably.

SHINTO PRAYERS FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT

Unprecedented Scene in Imperial Holy of Holies: Welcome to Late President's Widow

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Jan. 15.

Sacred precedents and ancient customs were shattered when the Japanese Government and people welcomed Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, wife of the late Col. Theodore Roosevelt, twice President of the United States, to Japan.

Mrs. Roosevelt arrived just in time for the biggest of the earthquakes we have been having since the calamity of last year, but was perhaps the bravest of the guests in the Imperial Hotel for, despite the frantic appeals of the "boy," after the first shock, for her to leave the room, she positively refused to do so and told him to let her "sleep in peace".

The Japanese Foreign Office sponsored the numerous entertainments given in honour of the former American President's widow and accorded her privileges that hitherto had not been conferred even on foreign royalty. The day after her arrival she and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Roosevelt—she is accompanied by her son Kermit and Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt—were conducted in one of the large crimson-and-gold limousines of the Imperial Household Department to the Meiji Shrine erected four years ago to commemorate the elevation of the Emperor Meiji—the first Emperor Japan had since the country was opened to the world—to the seventh heaven of Shintoism.

Once in the sacred precincts, precious doors were unlocked and the two ladies conducted into rooms access to which has hitherto been permitted only to members of the Reigning Family and of those royal houses that are directly affiliated with the Throne. In these rooms are kept some of the personal effects of the Emperor Meiji, articles that are even more sacred to a large proportion of the Japanese people than are the relics of saints to Roman Catholics. Before the two Roosevelt ladies entered the inner shrine, Shinto priests, dressed in the purple and white robes peculiar to the faith of Japan's Imperial family, chanted incantations and prayers for their welfare, the prayers being the same as are offered to the gods on behalf of the Emperor himself.

GOOD WIFE AND WISE MOTHER.

The memory of Col Roosevelt is treasured with veneration, respect and love by the people of these islands. Many Japanese have often stated in the press and on the platform that they feel a kinship with the late American President that they have not felt in regard to any other son of the West. The Japanese are, of course, immeasurably grateful for the valuable services rendered by Col. Roosevelt when he interposed to end the Russo-Japanese hostilities at a moment most favourable to Japan; then there is the generous and magnanimous assistance that the big Republic across the Pacific has rendered to the Japanese nation so recently in the hour of their tribulation; while, last, but not least, Mrs. Roosevelt has always been hailed by the Japanese as a true type of "*kenby ryosai*" good wife and wise mother, a representative of the best type of womanhood.

JAPANESE IMPERIAL WEDDING

Great Demonstration in Tokio towards Prince Regent and Princess Nagako

Tokio, Jan. 26.

One hundred and one guns fired from a battery in the centre of the City at 10.15 this morning announced the conclusion of the main ceremony of the marriage of the Prince Regent and Princess Nagako Kuni which took place within the Imperial Chiyoda Palace. The salute was taken up by warships lying in Shinagawa Bay, Yokohama and other ports of the Empire.

The Capital City was awakened by aerial bombs soon after which hundreds of thousands of people filled every available point along the lines and marched in procession to and from the palace. The entire route was lined with soldiery and police, but at no place was there any evidence of disorder.

The Regent left his palace at nine and proceeded to Chiyoda Palace, receiving "Banzais" and every evidence of deep respect. He reached the palace very shortly before the Princess, who was accompanied by Viscount Iriye and a large number of attendants. Before their arrival the Imperial Family with the exception of the Emperor and Empress, the former being ill at Numazu, gathered at the palace and also some 700 Court officials and notable personages.

A PICTURESQUE CEREMONY.

The ceremony took place at the outer and inner ancestral shrines where Prince Kujo, the Acting Master of Rites, read the Shinto scripture. The Prince and Princess paid homage and the ceremony closed with the passing of the sacred wine cup by Prince Kujo first to the Prince and then to the Princess.

On leaving the palace the Imperial couple occupied the same State carriage followed by a long line of motorcars in which were Baron Makino, Viscount Chinda and Court officials and wended its way in procession in brilliant sunshine through masses of cheering crowds to the Akasaka Palace where in the afternoon a reception was given to officials. This was followed by a banquet the last act of which was the exchange of the wine cup between the bride and the groom.

The amnesty includes thousands of prisoners. Even the most desperate criminals are getting reduction of their terms.

It is expected that a number of promotions will be announced shortly. It is understood that Baron Makino will retire from the post of Minister of the Household and may be succeeded by Viscount Chinda

Jan. 27.

The Imperial couple departed for Numazu at 10.05 this morning by special train to pay their respects to the Emperor and Empress. Troops were [illegible] along the line and soldiers were stationed on either side 200 yards apart. A spectacular reception has been planned at Numazu where the couple will spend the [illegible] to Tokio tomorrow.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

IMPERIAL GIFTS IN HONOUR OF THE WEDDING.

Tokio, Jan. 26.

The Imperial House has published the names of 258 persons, including 14 foreigners, who have rendered great services to social enterprises in Japan, has donated Y. 1,000,000 as a fund for encouragement of social enterprises, Y. 1,000,000 as a fund for encouragement of study of destitute children, Y. 200,000 as a fund for encouragement of study of children in Korea, Formosa, Karafuto, Kuantung Province and South Seas Islands, given to the City of Tokio the Shiba Detached Palace, a portion of Saruye Imperial estate, and Uyeno Park, and to the City of Kioto the Imperial Museum.—Eastern News Agency.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM BRITAIN.

London, Jan. 27.

The Prime Minister [illegible] has telegraphed to the Japanese Ambassador in London on behalf of the British Government and people to the Prince Regent [illegible] of the marriage of His Imperial Highness.—Reuter.

THE FUTURE EMPRESS OF JAPAN

Life and Education of Princess Nagako

By Our Tokio Correspondent.

The formal announcement and betrothal ceremony of the Prince Regent and the Princess Nagako-Kuni, who after her wedding will receive the title of Crown Princess, took place on Saturday, August 25, 1923, one week before the terrible catastrophe that resulted in such dire devastation throughout Tokio, Yokohama and the surrounding country. Soon after the formal betrothal ceremony, the Prince Regent proceeded to the Imperial Shrine where he reported his engagement to the Imperial ancestors.

Princess Nagako Kuni is to-day almost 21 years of age, having been born on March 6, 1903, at the residence of her father in Toriizaka, Azabu, Tokio. The official residence of Prince Kuni, has a stately and elegant sound, but the house in which the Princess was born is really the least pretentious of all the residences of the Imperial Princes in Tokio. Opposite to it stands the mansion of Marquis Sanjo and next door is a magnificent edifice reared by an exceptionally well-to-do Tokio banker. The Kuni palace is rendered humble in appearance beside these two gorgeous homes of Tokio's merchant princes.

In this comparatively humble dwelling the future Empress of Japan was born at a time when war with Russia was hanging over the country. Prince Kuni, the father of the Crown Princess, then a soldier, was so busy with his military duties that he seldom got home before dark. On February 20, 1904, Prince Kuni, like many other soldiers, had to go to Manchuria, leaving behind his wife, two sons and little Princess Nagako. Prince Kuni joined the staff of the First Army and remained in Manchuria till the end of the war, returning to Tokio in 1905. The infancy of the future Empress was thus passed during the absence of her father and entirely under the influence of her

THE PRINCE'S BETROTHED READY FOR A GAME OF TENNIS. SHE BECAME AN ENTHUSIASTIC PLAYER DURING HER SCHOOL DAYS

mother, whom the Japanese call the ideal pattern of Japanese womanhood

Her mother, before her marriage, was the Princess Chika and came of the family of Shimazu, the feudal lords of the powerful clan of Satsuma, and was brought up in accordance with the disci[illegible] She was educated in a severe at[illegible] traditions of her family of warriors. She rarely ever gave ex[illegible] always kind and to her servants [illegible]

THE PRINCESS'S SCHOOL LIFE.

[illegible] was home from the war for scarcely a year when he was ordered [illegible] to study in Germany. Princess Nagako was then five years old. It was at this time that she was placed in the Kindergarten of the Peeresses' School at Akasaka Mitsuke, Tokio, which by the way was built to the ground on September [illegible] Until she was seven years old she was under the daily care of her mother, but then her mother also went to Europe to join Prince Kuni in Germany. The little princess entered the primary department of the Peeresses' School on April 11, 1909. General Nogi, hero of the Russo-Japanese war who slew himself and Mrs. Nogi on the day of the Emperor Meiji's funeral "in order to be able to follow my master in death as I did in life," was then president of the school.

Princess Nagako is now a little taller than the average Japanese woman, but then she was small

A CHARMING SNAPSHOT OF JAPAN'S FUTURE EMPEROR WHO IS TO WED THE 21 YEAR-OLD PRINCESS NAGATO KUNI TO-DAY. THE HAPPY EVENT HAS AROUSED WIDESPREAD ENTHUSIASM IN JAPAN WHERE 43,444 CONVICTS WILL BE RELEASED AND PARDONED.

for her age and wore her hair bobbed just below her ears as many Japanese school-going children do now. She is said to have liked her school, to have been an apt pupil and to have learned quickly.

It was just after her first summer vacation in the primary school that her parents returned to Tokio from Europe. At this time it became evident that the residence at Toriizaka had become too small for the large family, for, besides the five children of the family, there were two younger brothers of Prince Kuni. It was finally arranged for the family to move to one of the residences of Prince Iwakura, then Minister of the Imperial Household Department. The residence chosen was at Ichiban-cho, Kojimachi, one of the most picturesque districts of Tokio. The new mansion was, by no means, too spacious for the family, but it was far more comfortable than that at Toriizaka, Azabu, and it commanded a fine view of the green slopes of the outer moat of the Imperial palace and in the spring a fine view of cherry blossoms.

THE PRINCESS AS SCHOOLGIRL.

Here Princess Nagako lived from the time she was eight years old until three years ago when she was informally selected to be the future bride of the Prince Regent. She was undoubtedly popular and her bearing is said to have been easy and graceful.

It was not until she had finished with the primary school that she really began to grow and attain the stature usual for a girl of her age. She became a good tennis and pingpong player. Every day she wrote in her diary. Some passages of her writing, which have been printed by the Japanese press, reflect the beauty of her home life and the charming thoughts she entertained during her adolescence.

EDUCATION BEFITTING EMPRESS.

After this it became necessary for Princess Nagako to enter upon [illegible] education to [illegible] position. Therefore, she left the Peeresses' [illegible] had finished the junior course there. A study, in pure Japanese style, was built for her in the premises of her father's official residence, and an able woman teacher, Kiku-ko Gogan, was called upon to instruct her in the lore that a Japanese empress ought to have. The Princess had, as companions in her studies, Miss Suda-ko Sato, daughter of Dr. Tatsujiro Sato; and Miss Nobu-ko Hirayama, daughter of Baron (then Mr.) Narinobu Hirayama, who to-day is President of the Japan Red Cross. Both of these girls were former students of the Peeresses' School and class mates of the Princess.

During this special phase of her education, Mr. Jugo Sugiura, who had studied in England and was then delivering lectures to the Prince Regent, was called in to give lectures in ethics to the Princess. The course was in general conformity with that of the Peeresses' School, but Princess Nagako and her companions were able to make greater progress in their studies than the schoolmates they left behind. Their lessons included the Chinese classics, Japanese language and literature, ethics, history, geography and science. The instructors were of course, the best in the land.

Princess Nagako finished her course in universal history the year before last and then took up physical geography, which she is said to be very fond of and in which she desires to specialize. She has also been having a series of lectures dealing with the current happenings in the world and this enabled her to follow the deliberations of the Washington conference very closely. She reads the foreign cables in the newspapers under the guidance of her teachers and also special political and economic articles. She is, therefore, supposed to be conversant with the trend of events and the currents of thought in the world. The Princess has also studied French and is said to be attaining considerable fluency in it.

Princess Nagako is gifted with a keen artistic temperament. She

THE IMPERIAL BRIDE PRINCESS NAGAKO KUNI IN THE HISTORIC BRIDAL COSTUME SHE WILL WEAR DURING PART OF THE CEREMONIES AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE TO-DAY

loves poetry and recently translated the sentiment of a poem: "A Spring Morning" into music of her own composition. This piece will be played by massed bands at the entertainment to the public which the Tokio Municipality hopes to give soon after the royal wedding in order to celebrate the occasion. The Princess has been taking lessons in Western music, both instrumental and vocal, for some time and is said to have a good soprano voice. Her artistic studies have now turned to water colour painting and to charcoal drawing and she is also interested in purely Japanese painting.

HONOURS TO THE GODS

Fond of athletics, the Princess has a particular liking for tennis Near her study she has a small garden which she cultivates herself and where she grows flowers, strawberries and some vegetables In keeping with an ancient Japanese custom she also raises rice in a tiny paddy field of her own, planting the rice in the spring and harvesting it in the autumn. Then she puts the white grains on a tray and takes it to the shrine near her study to make the customary offering of the year's first harvest to the gods.

That instrument of modernity, the typewriter, is also being used by the Princess, the one she possesses now being a machine made in Europe which her brother brought to her as a gift when he returned from Europe recently

THE CROWN PRINCE

Prince Hirohito the Prince Regent, was born in April, 1901, and at the age of seven entered upon a long and extraordinarily varied course of special education to equip him for his future high office, beginning with the elementary course in the school of Peers, then having the famous General Nogi for its President. Even in very early school days, the Prince manifested qualities which have since become notable and admirable characteristics, showing a keen and highly intelligent interest in his studies and exhibiting marked powers of observation and memory. Leaving this school in 1914, he continued his education under private tutors, history, geography, moral philosophy and the natural sciences claiming his particular interest, and in all these subjects he is deeply read. His interest in science and natural history is evidenced by the excellent collection now to be found in the small private museum founded by the Prince. His interest in the arts also has not been merely academic, since he has proved himself a painter of some merit, his habit being to make little studies of picturesque landscapes and any object of striking beauty or interest observed by him. He was given the title of Crown Prince in November, 1916, attained his majority in May, 1919, and was appointed Regent on November 25, 1921.

THE EUROPEAN TOUR.

Upon formal completion of his education, he set out on the European tour, in fulfilment of the wish of the late Emperor, and this he accomplished with marked ability and success—for it was an enterprise by no means light Indeed, in many respects, it was an exacting ordeal, and the Japanese people watched with as much anxiety as deep interest the progress of the Prince, and naturally were highly gratified at the manner in which he distinguished himself. A memorable incident of the tour was the Prince's reception at the Guildhall, where over 1,000 distinguished guests gathered to give him greeting. In silence and an atmosphere almost of solemnity the Prince was conducted to the platform from which addresses of welcome were delivered, and when his turn came to speak he responded with a brilliant speech, a performance which completely overcame any misgivings as to how he might meet the demands of so important an occasion. The tour was a personal triumph for the Prince and further established him in the esteem and popularity of his people. Returning to Japan and entering on the important duties of Regent, Prince Hirohito at once manifested great energy and practical ability, applying himself very thoroughly to a variety of affairs, and constantly being in touch with men of authority in science, art and education as well as of government, and in intercourse of this kind he has shown personal ability of no mean quality and an inexhaustible interest in affairs of the day. The Prince is very keen on sport, and his principal recreations are riding and golfing. He has given a lead in encouraging a variety of games, supporting Western innovations and at the same time maintaining interest in the national games of Japan.

Prince Hirohito was very deeply concerned in the fate of the unfortunate victims of the great earthquake and spared no personal effort in visiting and comforting

OBITUARY

Mrs. Frank J. Courtney

With deep regret we have to record the death Mrs. Frank J. Courtney, which occurred at the Isolation Hospital on Saturday night.

The deceased, who is numbered among the younger set of the American community, fell suddenly and severely ill about a fortnight ago and was taken to the General Hospital where the trouble was diagnosed as ptomaine poisoning; but later symptoms of smallpox were found and she was removed to the Isolation Hospital, where she lingered fighting with excellent chances for recovery. A sudden turn for the worse set in on Saturday night and it was seen just before midnight that she could not survive. Her many friends were hoping against hope for final word of improvement which did not come, and the patient did not recover consciousness during all Saturday.

Mrs. Courtney's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Montgomery, live in San Francisco, and besides her parents she is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Harry Fenstermacher, of Seattle, and Mrs. Fred Sarios of San Jose; and two brothers, Frank and H. James Montgomery of San Francisco.

Mrs. Courtney, known to all her friends as "Betty," was a lady of great charm and had not attained her 26th birthday. The news of her death has caused much grief among the large circle of close friends.

The funeral took place at Bubbling Well Cemetery on Monday afternoon, when many mourners attended. There was a profusion of floral tributes.

Mr. J. H. McMichael

Very widespread regret will be felt throughout the community upon the news of the death of Mr. J. H. McMichael, which took place at his residence in Sinza Road on Monday evening.

Mr. McMichael was among the oldest and most respected members of the community here, and there is to his credit a fine record of public service. He arrived in Shanghai in 1887, and within less than 10 years of his arrival—in 1896—he was elected a member of the Municipal Council. His work there was outstanding. Previous to that he had become a prominent member of the General Chamber of Commerce, and his public activities were further emphasized by the fact that he was one of the members of the commission appointed for the revision of the Land Regulations. Subsequently he was responsible for the formation of the American Chamber of Commerce, to-day a very influential body in the community, and he was its first chairman.

The funeral service for the late Mr. J. H. McMichael, prior to cremation, was conducted at the Bubbling Well Cemetery chapel on Tuesday afternoon by the Very Rev. Dean, C. J. F. Symons. The great popularity of the deceased gentleman and his family amongst old and young alike and the esteem and respect in which he was held had every proof in the attendance at the service, the chapel being filled with mourners and many more gathering on the steps. It would not be possible to identify them all, but amongst those who were noticed were:—

Mr. Stirling Fessenden (Chairman of the Municipal Council, of which the deceased formerly was a member), Sir Edward Pearce, Sir Skinner Turner, Messrs. A. W. Burkill, C. R. Burkill, Brodie A Clarke, H. J. Clark, L. Lienard, A. S. Campbell, A. J. Welch, J. H. Teesdale, R. S. F. McBain, E. Oxley Cumming, M. H. Logan, E. Gordon Lowder, W. L. Merriman, J. K. Brand, R. I. Fearon, C. Blix, P. W. Lambe, R. N. Macleod, Judge C. S. Lobingier, A. M. Wilkie, C. P. Holcomb, John Prentice, E. T. Byrne, R. G. Macdonald, G. C. Wingrove, R. W. Wingrove, V. Grosse, R. A. Curry, A. G. Mossop, C. G. S. Mackie, J. J. Dawe, and A. H. P. Koe. The deceased's son, Major E. H. McMichael, was the chief mourner.

A very large number of beautiful wreaths were sent.

Death of Rev. W. G. Thompson

In the early hours of Tuesday the Rev. Walter G. Thompson, an Independent missionary, passed away, leaving many sorrowing friends, both Chinese and foreign by whom he had been very greatly esteemed. Mr. Thompson came to Shanghai three years ago and during the past two years was a teacher in Beulah Schools, North Szechuen Road.

Mr. T. W. Richardson

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Thomas William Richardson, formerly a resident of Swatow, at the advanced age of 87. News of his death, which occurred on Tuesday, was received from London—where it is believed he passed away—by the firm with which he was connected as Governing Director, Messrs. Bradley & Co.

Mr. Richardson, who was one of the oldest residents in the Far East, was born in Edinburgh in 1836. He made his first acquaintance with the Far East at Hongkong, where he arrived in 1855. He did not remain there long, however, for in the same year he went to Canton and in the following year was sent to Takow in Formosa by the firm with which he was then connected. In 1857 he joined Messrs. Tait & Co., of Amoy.

A distinct change in his life occurred in 1860, for in that year he commenced his own business at Swatow in partnership with Mr. C. W. Bradley under the style of Messrs. Bradley & Co.; and until his retirement in 1918 from the Far East, was closely connected with that port. It is interesting to learn that in those early days all the European firms were stationed at Masu, a small island just off Swatow. Indeed, no Europeans were allowed to live in Swatow itself until Chaochowfoo became a Treaty Port. Mr. Richardson, therefore, may be regarded as one of the pioneers who built up Swatow as an important trading centre.

Mr. Richardson, whose wife died about two years ago, leaves a large family to mourn his loss. One of his sons is Commissioner of Customs at Tsingtao.

A TRIPLE MURDER IN TATUNG ROAD

Details are given in the official police report regarding a triple murder at 297A Tatung Road. It appears that at about 7 a.m. on Monday a man was admitted to the house as he wished to deliver a parcel to his friend Tsang upstairs. He was in the house about 45 minutes. At about 9.30 a.m. a woman named Tsang Wong-sz of 1688 Sinza Road visited the house and found her husband in bed with his third wife, Tsang Lee-sz, the man seriously wounded in the head but still alive but the woman dead. In another room the man's mother was found also dead. After the man's removal to the Police Hospital where he died, a medical examination was made the doctor stating that he believed the wound was caused by a bullet. As a result the pillow of the murdered man was examined and a spent bullet found. A thorough search is to be made of the room of the man's mother as there are indications that she was also shot, the bullet emerging from the top of the head and ricochetting against the wall of the bedroom. So far no motive has been discovered for the crime. The other occupants of the house, three families, deny any knowledge of a noise or dispute. Inquiries are still proceeding.

THE INQUEST.

Inquests were held at the Public Mortuary on Tuesday (Mr. J. E. Jacobs, American Assessor, and Mr. Kuan Chun, senior Chinese Magistrate, sitting as Coroners) to investigate the circumstances surrounding the deaths of the victims of the Tatung Road tragedy.

Formal testimony was taken and four Chinese (Tsang Chung-wu, Tsang Han-sze, Tsang Wong-sze and Wong Yung-sze) identified the three dead bodies.

According to the official police statements an empty 32 automatic pistol cartridge was found in the room of one of the deceased, and two of the same make in the other room where the double murder took place.

Medical certificates were produced, and the Court found that deceased came to their deaths as the result of bullet wounds from a weapon fired by some person or persons unknown.

THE SHANGHAI WAR MEMORIAL

FINANCIAL POSITION.

Tael subscriptions:	Tls.
Previously acknowledged	21,781.13
S. M. S. Gubbay	25.00
D. E. J. Abraham	50.00
	21,856.13
Dollar subscriptions:	$
Previously acknowledged	45,195.72
Shanghai Race Club	8,000.00
Secretary, French Municipal Council, part proceeds of Works of Art Exhibition	214.40
S. A. Hardoon	100.00
	53,510.12
Amount still to be raised	Tls. 16,517

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

The unveiling ceremony will take place at noon on Saturday, February 16, and will be performed by the Senior Allied Consul, N.U. Comm. G. de' Rossi.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to:
E. F. Goodale,
Hon. Treasurer,
c/o Administration Building.

THE BLIND SOLDIER

(The following poem appropriate to the day of entertainment in aid of St. Dunstan's first appeared in the "Spectator.")

"Will ye answer a question Mother, Say
Is it morn or early night?
It's funny at first, ye know
Not havin' your own sight,—
If I'm botherin' tell me outright"?

"Dearie boy, its the mornin', and
Don't you be 'shamed to ask
Of course I'll answer a hundred and more
And never think it's a task"

"Then tell me, d'ye see in the distance there
A misty haze o' blue
That hangs like a bunch of grapes untouched
Where the purple land's ploughed new
Mother, d'ye see the view?"

"I see it dearie, now you've spoke
My, how your eyes do see!
I've thought I saw all that was there
Since ever I was three!"

"Look then again, don't a red blush creep
Through the pines where the field dips low?
It used to mind me o' man and maid
A kissin' wi' cheeks aglow
Mother d'ye see the show?"

"Did ever! It's just like that, my dear,
As like as life an' fine,
But it's queer, I niver saw before
The look o' that bearded pine!"

"Nearby, d'ye see the willows waving?
Jist watch them in the breeze;
They're whisperin', noddin', blinkin';
I bet
Ye like gossips at their teas.
Mother, d'ye see the trees?"

"Yes an' I'm smilin'—an' cryin',
dearie,
At the lot you'be made me find
And to think it's you that's seein'
An' me the one that's blind!"

KATHERINE MANN.

THE U. S. Consulate-General, it is announced, will be opened in Tokio in the course of a few days. It will be in the Mitsubishi building in Marunouchi.

THRILLING TALE OF THE SEA

Steamer's Voyage of Sixty-One Days from Seattle to Shanghai in Teeth of Gales

Looking battered and bruised and evidently having suffered severely in a succession of storms, the str. Kurdistan, of the Hindustan Steamship Line, reached Shanghai from Seattle on Thursday. One shipping man who saw her reach port said that her appearance gave the impression of first having been sunk, then raised and set on fire, and it is probably difficult to improve upon this. The outward appearance of the steamer was due to the ice-coating which settled upon her and which did not really melt until within a couple of days of reaching Shanghai. For the rest the severe storms she encountered occasioned her appearance. Little wonder, either, for she had had to go as far north as Alaska for coal in the course of her voyage, and then prior to reaching Shanghai was burning woodwork and cargo to keep steam going. Her voyage required 61 days, practically double the usual length of time.

THANKSGIVING DAY DEPARTURE.

The Kurdistan left Seattle with her cargo of wheat on Thanksgiving Day, November 29. Twenty-four hours out she struck bad weather, and this continued for no fewer than 15 days. Seas broke over her continually, and so bad were the conditions that on occasion she made no more than 30 knots during the 24 hours. To make matters worse the sea was never true, the waves running in opposite directions and battling against each other. The lifeboats were lashed down, otherwise they would have gone by the board, and as it was they were all strained.

Making such slow progress as this, it became evident that coal would give out long before China was reached, and it was decided to run for Dutch Harbour in Alaska. This port was made under very great difficulties, and it is interesting to note that the Kurdistan was to some extent guided thither by wireless directions from other ships in the vicinity. Dutch Harbour is a place of about 450 inhabitants, most of them Aleuts, but there are also a number of Americans. Fortunately an American firm here had a good supply of coal, and the Kurdistan bunkered. The crew had to do the work, as local labour could only bring the coal to the quay-side.

FURTHER HARDSHIPS.

After staying at Dutch Harbour for seven days the weather prospects appeared to be more favourable and the Kurdistan set out for her destination. The port was left on Christmas Eve, but immediately the steamer plunged once more into the thick of bad weather. Without intermission this continued for the next three weeks, and then the only thing to do was to make for the nearest Japan port. Coal was again rapidly giving out, and whatever woodwork there was, fenders and everything else, was being used as fuel in conjunction with the cargo of wheat. By mixing these up with the coal it was possible to keep the furnaces supplied. By January 14 the weather fortunately moderated, and she was able to make the Japanese port of Kushiro.

To realize the hardships the Kurdistan had experienced up to this stage it may be mentioned that in the early part of the voyage the wind was blowing at any rate up to 150 miles an hour, while the temperature went as low as eight degrees Fahrenheit. To make matters worse, the Kurdistan had previously been on the west coast of Africa and at one period 22 out of 28 of the crew were down with malaria.

Kushiro was reached safely, but there it was difficult to make the ship's wants known as nobody really spoke English. The Japanese, however, did their best, each official, it is said, having three dictionaries to help him, and the Kurdistan secured enough coal to take her to Muroran. From there to Shanghai was a comparatively uneventful voyage after the original struggle towards Alaska and then Japan.

It is only a year or two since the London newspapers were full of accounts of the terrible experiences of Atlantic liners which made the passage from America to England with hurricanes of 100 miles an hour blowing, and it may be realized how much worse was the plight of this vessel, so much smaller than these, in its voyage across the Pacific under distinctly worse conditions, and the admirable seamanship and courage which brought her safely to her destination.

DAME ADELAIDE'S FIRST "ROTARY"

Guest of Shanghai Rotarians: Welfare of China's Workers

At the weekly Rotary Club meeting held on Thursday at the Astor Grill Room, Dame Adelaide Anderson was introduced by Mr. W. G. Hawkings, the President, as the speaker of the day. Complaining of a bad throat, Dame Adelaide much regretted that she would have to forego the pleasure of addressing her first Rotary Club meeting. There were two things in her life, she said, she had never enjoyed—although she was Australian and British—she had never attended a horse race or a Rotary Club meeting.

Miss Mary Dingman, Y. W. C. A. World Industrial Secretary, offered some helpful criticism on the industrial conditions in China. The world was fast realizing that it was now a single industrial unit, which was in great need of collective, creative thinking. Its ultimate aim was the solution of the intricate economic problems evolving from the relations of employer and employee and the horrible conditions under which thousands and millions existed.

The life of the child labourers in China was deplorable, even in Shanghai—if one were to visit the vicinity of the cotton mills between two and four o'clock in the morning an inkling might be gleaned of how they struggled for bread and butter.

It was a sign of improvement that silk filatures were adopting modern methods whereby the hot water process would be carried out by machine and the hands of the masses of workers saved for other labour.

With reference to the situation in America, the speaker quoted the report of a group of engineers under the supervision of Mr. Herbert Hoover, who though admitting the ingenuity of American mechanics, yet deplored great economic waste in American industry.

DOWN OF BETTER DAYS.

Miss Edith Johnson, local industrial secretary of the Y. W. C. A., graphically described the efforts of the organization for the welfare of labour round Shanghai, and those of the Shanghai Municipal Commission which had been at work for months now on a report of the mills and factories in Shanghai, which report she hoped would show the community light and lead them away from the vicious circle which employer and employees were running round. Perhaps the Council could and would introduce regulations which would prove an example for the provinces and Central Government of China.

In the opinion of the speaker it would be at least a decade before any visible results would appear, though the labourers were beginning to vocalize their troubles and the voluntary organizations for their relief were doing constructive thinking. Both were helping materially and the Chinese College Mission faculties had considered for some time the introduction of courses for training factory inspectors and industrial workers.

A memorial honouring the late Dr. Julian Petit was inscribed by the members present.

THE Chinese press reports a case of gland transplantation, mentioning a Cantonese staying at the Grand Hotel de Pekin who is over 50 years old, but now "feels stronger than ever."

SHANGHAI NEWS

MR. E. S. LITTLE AND THE AUSTRALIAN COMMISSIONERSHIP IN CHINA

Vigorous Reply to Attack in Australian Parliament: Demand for Open Hearing and Justice

Those who remember Mr. E. S. Little at Ratepayers' Meetings and how tenaciously he stuck to a point when convinced of the righteousness of it will not be surprised that the last has not been heard with regard to the cancellation of his office as Australian Trade Commissioner in China. Much was said in the Australian Parliament on the subject, columns have appeared in both Australian and China papers, but one is forced to admit, whichever side was right, that singularly little publicity was given to Mr. Little's side of the case. It is because of this that he has come forward once more and has published a pamphlet giving very fully, but not in a wearisome manner, the facts as he sees them.

Mr. Little opens very aptly with the following:—

"A great British statesman said words to the following effect, 'Men of our race, regardless of their political or party differences, have deep down in their hearts a profound sense of right.' It is to this 'profound sense of right' in the hearts of the Members Parliament that I now appeal for justice."

THE UNWARRANTED ATTACK.

Mr. Little then continues that in the summer of last year he was the subject of a violent attack in the Australian House of Representatives, that he had no knowledge such an attack was to take place, that he was not asked for any kind of explanation and consequently was unjustly condemned, defenceless and unheard. Yet the Ministry, he says, had in their possession the fullest and most detailed information which, if it had been put unreservedly at the disposition of Members, would certainly have placed a different complexion on the debate and would, undoubtedly, have led to a different result. Members repeatedly asked for this information, but the Minister declined to impart it. The Minister stated that he possessed some evidence which he did not disclose. This remark created suspicions of the existence of some misdemeanour or maladministration of his office by the Commissioner, which led one Member to say that the Commissioner must have done "something disgraceful to Australia." As to this, Mr. Little claims that there is not a shred of evidence, that his personal character is without reproach through 37 years in China and that his administration of the Commissioner's office has won the respect of the commercial and general public of China.

After showing that he received complete though belated exoneration on every count levelled against him, Mr. Little states:—"For that reason I am compelled to lay facts before Members of Parliament together with this my appeal and to ask, not for mercy, but for justice."

FINANCIAL CHARGES.

Mr. Little then details the circumstances of his engagement, as "an experienced and expert authority on Chinese commercial and other matters." He disclosed the whole of his share investments in China (which, he says, did not exceed $500) and received written permission to retain them on condition that he did not attend personally or by proxy any meeting and these conditions he claims to have scrupulously observed, and adds: "I wish to emphasize, in the most general and particular way, without any reservation at all, and in the plainest language I can command, that I have not made any money—not so much as a single penny—in any way, shape or form, except as stated above." This is in reply to the remark of a Member regarding Mr. Little and another Commissioner, that "it is common talk that they are there to make money for themselves and not to benefit Australia." Mr. Little informed the Minister by a special note that he had no interest in any of the three Shanghai firms using the name of Liftle, though his son-in-law was, but is not now, managing director of Little Bros., Ld.

THE FIRST ASSAULT.

In January, 1922, Mr. Little first heard of charges being made against him, and in the same month there arrived "Major I." with authority to conduct an investigation. Mr. Little writes of this:—

". . . the investigator informed me with some heat that they had been beaten in the first round, but that they intended to continue to throw all kinds of charges against me, regardless of whether they were true or false, in order to discredit me. He stated they were prepared to continue this conspiracy against me for 10 years, if it were necessary, to dislodge me so as to make room for one of their number to occupy my post. The investigator actually sent telegrams to the Government urging acceptance of my resignation and the appointment of my attacker to carry on my work and position."

After two and a half years—his contract was for five years—came his cabled dismissal, "as a bolt from the blue."

In the course of the Parliamentary debate, there was an obvious lack of knowledge as to exchange conditions in China, and one paragraph in Mr. Little's reply is distinctly illuminating. He writes:—

"Surprise was expressed that I was paid 30s.0d. for every £1! I have been paid, and have myself in turn paid to my employees, £4 for every £1! And yet, at whatever rate calculated, I and they have received and paid away again exactly the same quantity of silver which alone is current throughout China. I have paid my lady typist from £1,750 to £2,000 calculated in sterling and yet she only received the ordinary number of Shanghai taels and stated she did not have enough to live upon. If members had only understood and appreciated facts which are familiar to every junior clerk in China they would not have been betrayed into remarks which, when read in China, seem extraordinary."

CONVINCING EVIDENCE.

Mr. Little was paid Tls. 1,500 per month, whatever it cost the Commonwealth in sterling to purchase. For comparison he gives a table of the salaries of Municipal Council employees and suggests that his salary does not show a very favourable comparison with theirs. Again he denies his connexion with Little, Bros., Ld., and that he prostituted his position as Trade Commissioner to advance the interests of the company and stigmatizes it as a most cowardly and dishonest method of attack. "Messrs. Little Bros.," he writes, "were good enough, at my request, to engage a firm of chartered accountants to make a report on their Australian business. This report showed that the firm's total business with Australia since their establishment was £2,300, of which £1,700 had been put through before I was appointed Australian Trade Commissioner."

Samples which Mr. Little is alleged to have handed to Little Bros. did not, he states, arrive in China until two months after the charges were made.

It will be remembered that Senator Bakhap came to China to make a second investigation and Mr Little writes:—

It was stated on the floor of the House that Senator Bakhap stayed with me in my home as my guest, leaving the obvious inference that his report has been directly coloured in my favour. Senator Bakhap never came to my knowledge within 34 miles of my house; he never met my wife till just before he sailed, long after his work was concluded and his report sent away to the Minister in Melbourne, and then only for a few seconds on the public street; he never accepted the least hospitality from me, not even so much as a cup of tea; he absolutely refused to ride in my car from his hotel to the place of the inquiry, though I pressed him to do so since he was a sick man."

MY OWN DEFENCE.

Under the caption, "My Own Defence," Mr. Little writes:

I most earnestly desired to be allowed to make a statement, publicly and officially, in my own defence but was not permitted to do so. On September 5, I cabled the Minister in Melbourne as follows:—

"'Will you give permission to me to make public official statement concerning outrageous lies spoken of me in House of Parliament?'

"As I could obtain no answer I cabled again on September 24 as follows:—

"'Surely justice courtesy require [illegible] 5th.'

"On October 2 I received the following reply:—

"'Referring to your telegram September 5 consider it inappropriate that you reply in press to statement made in Parliament, will consider any reply you think fit make on subject.'

"On October 11, I repeated my request in the following cable to which no reply has been received:—

"'Will you give me permission to print my defence for presentation to every Member of Parliament both Houses of Parliament, this document to include fullest statement by me, and also copy of agreement, Bakhap's full report to Minister Rodgers dated April last year, together with all necessary correspondence, and a correction of the mass of misstatements made in Parliament, which were not contradicted, exposing me to gravest injustice to which I am quite unable to submit. Will you give me permission to appear at the Bar of Parliament asking for justice, since I have been wrongly condemned, undefended, upon no evidence but upon false statements and hearsay: absolutely no evidence can be produced by anybody against me or my administration. I do not understand your Parliamentary reason for dismissal, since 'results' never mentioned in any negotiations or correspondence at any time: further you have never once communicated with me on this or any other subject, consequently I am totally unaware of what you expect.'"

A DIRECT CHALLENGE.

To a Member "who did me the honour of describing my office as a pantomime" and who stated that various persons so described it to him, Mr. Little issues a challenge to give him the names of any responsible or reputable persons who made such a statement. Countering a statement made in the House that the way to do business was to frequent the clubs, Mr. Little replies:—

"In China it is with the Chinese that business is done and not a single Chinese is admitted as a member of these clubs, which are reserved for foreigners. The only Chinese found there are the bar boys and attendants. How can Australian merchants do business with Chinese by frequenting places where they are never seen It is a very good sample of the stuff that is served up to casual travellers. I heard of this suggestion 30 years ago and confess to surprise that at this late day anyone can be found to give credence to it. No merchant in China who values his judgment would be found giving serious utterance to such folly."

The same gentleman is reported to have asserted that the place for the office of the Trade Commissioner in China was in Yokohama, Japan!

In a final appeal Mr. Little asks that the office be re-opened, with himself at its head and that he be allowed to complete his contract. Attached to the pamphlet are copies of several letters and documents concerned with the case.

THE CATHEDRAL'S NEW SUB-DEAN

A letter was received on Thursday from the Rev. A. C. S. Trivett, Chaplain of the Church of St. John the Evangelist at Hankow, definitely accepting the offer made to him by the Dean and Vestry of the post of Sub-Dean at Holy Trinity Cathedral; he will be ready to begin work in Shanghai on May 1. Mr. Trivett, who is a Canadian, is a Bachelor of Divinity of Ottawa University. During the war he joined up in the Canadian Army as a private. Both he and Mrs. Trivett are very popular in Shanghai, and the Dean and Wardens feel they may congratulate themselves on their choice.

The engagement is announced of Mrs. Sophie Zwigin and Mr. G. S. Jensen of Shanghai.

TRAGIC END OF MR. M. FREDERICKS

Found Shot Through the Heart in His Office

The business community of Shanghai was shocked to learn on Tuesday of the tragic death of Mr. M. Fredericks who is stated to have shot himself through the heart during Monday night at his office at 201 Chung Foo Building in Jinkee Road. Death was instantaneous and the body was removed to the Mortuary in the morning.

The police reports state that Mr. Fredericks went to his office shortly before 10 p.m., remained a short while and then went out to return again just before 11 o'clock, after which as far as is known he did not leave again; further that he told his wife that he had a Chinese dinner party to attend and that he would be late in coming home. He telephoned her and said he was all right early in the evening. The police were informed by Mrs. Fredericks who went to the office and found the body of her husband. Mr. Fredericks' body was found on the floor with his back to the desk, the bullet having pierced the chest and heart and gone out through the back, after which it struck the desk, went through it and then into the chair behind the desk; struck a metallic substance and ricocheted into the ceiling where it was firmly imbedded. The instrument used was a .303 calibre S.V.C. rifle.

THE POLICE THEORY.

Although there were no witnesses and no one saw the body for some time after death, the police believe that the victim sat on the floor, facing the door with his back to the desk, after which he fixed the butt of the gun to the wall with the point of the barrel to his heart. The long ruler on the floor beside him suggests that he had used it to press the trigger. The night watchmen in the building report that they did not hear any sound at all, which was very likely, as the pressure of the barrel to the breast, must have certainly acted as an effective silencer, releasing the explosive gases very slowly. As a matter of fact the clothing showed how firmly gun had been forced between body and wall.

The first person to find the body was the coolie who was doing his daily cleaning of the halls and corridors, and who, seeing the door open and the light burning, peered in and discovered the tragedy. He notified the superintendent of the building, who came to the scene. Mrs. Fredericks herself was the first foreigner to arrive, having been worried over her husband's failure to return to the house. She immediately notified the police. The Spanish Consulate was informed, Mr. Fredericks having acquired Spanish citizenship, and Mr. V. Vizenzinovich, Chancellor attached, took charge of the remains. The Consulate is conducting a detailed investigation. Mrs. Fredericks called up the office between three and four in the morning but received no reply, whereupon she communicated with the police and asked if her husband had been heard of.

Mr. Fredericks had been suffering for a time from a severe attack of influenza and had been under doctor's care. The illness greatly weakened his physical and mental resources and his vitality and stamina had been considerably reduced. In this state it is thought that he brooded over minor financial difficulties, increasing them to an unwarranted magnitude, until he was not himself.

FOUGHT IN THE BOER WAR.

Mr. Fredericks had fought with credit in the Boer War while in his twenties. He was 53 years old at the time of death. While in Africa he acted as manager of several banks in the western portion and served as Acting Consul for Holland, Portugal, Norway, and Belgium in various South African ports. He and Mrs. Fredericks came to Shanghai two years ago, and he conducted an insurance and general brokerage business at 25 Jinkee Road.

With regard to the rumours of financial difficulties thought to have been troubling the deceased and that clients had failed to meet their obligations, we are informed that several years ago Mr. Fredericks had severe money reverses, but that he paid off every dollar that he owed. He was well liked and admired by the Chinese from compradore to coolie and was respected and well thought of by his foreign associates.

Mr. Fredericks is survived by his wife and his brother, Mr. J. A. Fredericks, with whom the deepest sympathy is felt.

MURDERED SKIPPER'S FUNERAL

Capt. F. J. Braudt Buried at Bubbling Well with Masonic Rites

The remains of the late Captain F. J. Brandt, which were brought to Shanghai from Ichang for burial, were interred at Bubbling Well cemetery. The service was conducted by the officers and brethren of the Ancient Landmark Lodge with masonic rites. The deceased was master of the str. "Tze-sui," and was murdered aboard his ship in circumstances which suggest that he met his death while resisting the piracy of his charge by Chinese at Kaochia chen, a village near Fengtu, a short distance down river from Chungking, West China. After dragging operations Chinese fishermen recovered his body from the river, into which he had either fallen or been thrown, wrapped it in silk, and coffined it, and the "Tze-sui," which went up river with the late Captain in command, came down again with all that was left of him. The coffin was covered with the red ensign.

The deceased was one of the best known masters on the upper river, popular alike with the foreign and native communities with whom he came into contact. He spoke Chinese fluently, was highly respected by all classes of Chinese, and loved by his crews. He was a colleague of the late Captain Plant, and shared with him the honour and dangers of his pioneering trips in the successful opening up of the upper Yangtze to steam navigation. As Chief Engineer on the famous "Shu-tung" he was yet a capable assistant on the bridge, and no little of Capt. Plant's success was due to the valuable co-operation of the deceased, who was unique in that he possessed both B.O.T. Chief Engineer's and Master's certificates, and was at home in the engine room as well as on the bridge. In recognition of which, when Captain Plant was appointed River Inspector of the Upper Yangtze and retired from his command, the deceased took his place, since when he had continued to justify his selection as an able master. The steamers Shu-tung, Shu-hun, Anning and Tze-sui, among others have known his captaincy at one time or another, and he was very successful in keeping his craft out of the upper Yangtze dangers, only to fall a victim to a gang of pirates on the eve of retirement, and at the comparatively early age of 45. There was a large attendance of friends represented at the grave-side, on the 24th instant in spite of the cold raw day, among whom were noticed many old friends and school-mates, and many expressions of grief and indignation were voiced.

The aged mother could not trust herself to attend. The chief mourners were the widow, brothers and sisters, and other relatives. A married sister, Mrs. Campbell-Heathcote is in England, and another sister in Geneva, while other relatives at Home have been advised of the sad fatality.

There was a very large number of beautiful wreaths, some of which had come all the way down river, and had been made by the crews with their own hands from materials obtained on the spot, and demonstrated the affection and grief of the senders at this sad last parting from one who was not only their superior, but comrade and friend.

According to the Chinese press, the San-men-wan Fisheries, Ld., an organization with a capital of $1,000,000, has been established and will begin operations in March or April.

"ALL-OF-A-SUDDEN PEGGY"

Production at Cercle Sportif

Anthony Lord Crackenthorpe ...Mr. S. H. McMurray.
(Fellow of the Entomological Society)
The Hon. Jimmy Keppel ... Mr. H. J. Collar.
(His Brother).
Major Archie Phipps (Retired) Mr. Lewis H. Rawson.
(Lady Crackenthorpe's Brother).
Jack Menzies ...Mr. R. C. Johnson, Jr.
Parker ... Mr. E. R. Morrison.
Lucas ... Mr. A. P. Stoner.
Lady Crackenthorpe ...Mrs. J. F. Feely.
The Hon. Millicent Keppel Miss Bunty Richardson.
The Hon. Mrs. Colquhoun ...Mrs. A. J. Stewart.
Mrs. O'Mara ... Mrs. A. L. Dickson.
Peggy ... Mrs. L. H. Rawson.
Stage Manager ... Mr. Edward R. Morrison.
Property Manager and Prompter Mr. R. C. Johnson, Jr.
Produced Mr. Lewis H. Rawson.

During the intervals and at the conclusion of the performance at the Cercle Sportif Français on Saturday night one heard a variety of opinions regarding the play, ranging from not too severe criticism all the way up to lavish praise, and all were correct in some degree. One easily could ride the company hard on both whip and spur, if so minded, but it would not be quite justifiable. They had many and bad faults, yet all excelled at times, and, at any rate, they selected a play with which there could be no quarrel. "All-of-a-Sudden Peggy" is a wonderfully droll thing and thoroughly enjoyable throughout. It is to be hoped that Mr. Frawley has seen it, for then he would understand how we British like our bad language served. The play simply bristles with every naughty word from "Tut-tut" to as high as the big "D," but they are brought in so naturally—by the author, at any rate—and in so quaint a way as not to offend. The company may not have scored a triumph, but at least they were not a failure and one can thank them for a very pleasant evening and recommend their performance as one quite worth seeing.

The most unfortunate point in the performance was the allocation of some of the parts, particularly of Peggy and her mother. Mrs. Rawson did not look anything like Mrs. Dickson's daughter and Mrs. Dickson did not look like Mrs. Rawson's mother. The two ladies easily could have changed parts and done as well, for they are both exceedingly clever, but even then one still would have been compelled to say that Mrs. Rawson, (Peggy), unless she affected a complete disguise, never would have looked like Mrs. Dickson's mother. Also, there was a trouble over the dialect. Mrs. Dickson succeeded quite well in maintaining an Irish brogue throughout, but Mrs. Rawson was not equal to it, and it was decidedly curious to hear the obvious difference in dialogues between mother and daughter, especially in a case where you can tell the relationship by our faces." Beyond this, there is only praise for both of the ladies, for their acting was very clever and natural and they were well deserving of all the applause they received during the performance and the loads of beautiful flowers when the final curtain came down.

Mrs. Feely, as Lady Crackenthorpe, never faltered throughout the several long and undoubtedly trying scenes in which she was engaged. She was admirably gowned and in every way looked the part. There was just one slight fault. When she was speaking she was perfect, but when she was silent she concentrated rather too much on her acting and rather overdid the haughtiness. Even the bluest-blooded ladies do not have their heads in the air all the time, for the backs of their necks would not stand the strain. Miss Richardson had not very much to do, but that little she did very well and she could be trusted with a more difficult part. The fifth lady was the one in all the play with whom no fault could be found. Probably with a professional company not too much would be expected of "the Hon. Mrs. Colquhoun," for she comes upon the stage but once, monopolizes it for a few minutes, and having, in her cattish manner, provoked a wealth of trouble, departs to allow others to put it right, and then she is seen no more. However, small though the part may be it calls for good acting and gives an amateur a splendid chance, and it must be remembered that many a famous player has been promoted for saying no more than, "Your Grace, the carriage waits" in the manner in which it should be said. Mrs. A. J. Stewart was the titled mischief-maker. Arrayed in a superb gown, she drifted on to the stage in the lazily impudent manner of the Society woman of the type, insulted everybody, clipped her words, drawled slang and never hesitated once. It was a really splendid impersonation and the audience gave her a great ovation which was thoroughly deserved.

Now one comes to the men. In a general way Anthony Lord Crackenthorpe (Mr. S. H. McMurray) was quite good. Mr. McMurray looked the part admirably, but he overdid the attempt to appear studious. No man, if *pincenez* fitted him so loosely as Mr. McMurray's apparently did, would continue to wear them. On the other hand, if Mr. McMurray fancied it was a natural mannerism to adjust them every six words, he went too far. Such little trifles irritate one rather than amuse. Also there was not a full stop, nor even a comma, throughout his discourse. Still, to repeat, he was good on the whole.

Mr. L. H. Rawson was not good as the Major. The part did not fit him at all. Never in the history of the Army has there been any Major, however foppish and dandified, though he be monocled, bespatted and corsetted, with so little emphasis as Mr. Rawson's Major. And retired Majors are the most vigorous, probably because most Majors are retired on account of their incompetence to become Colonels, and disappointed men always are the noisiest. Mr. Rawson was more mild than an elderly maiden lady who, when her pet pussy-cat hopelessly tangles up a skein of wool, exclaims, "Oh, dearie me," and then puts a penny in her mission fund box for having lost her temper and used bad language. More emphasis would have improved the part.

Mr. H. J. Collar was the best of the men At the opening he showed signs of nervousness and was often nervous when making a restart, but when he warmed up and got into the really exciting parts he recovered self-possession and was very successful. The part suited him very well and he did not disgrace it. Mr. R. C. Johnson, Mr. E. R. Morrison and Mr. A. P. Stoner filled minor parts. It is a pity Mr. Morrison had not more to do. He is a fine actor and he impresses one even in the trifling part of a footman. One would like to see more of him in local plays.

A feature of the play was the manner in which it was put on and the ladies all were splendidly dressed. It remains but to say that there was a report that the A. D. C. contemplated playing "All-of-a-Sudden Peggy" but for some reason dropped the project. It was a terrible mistake, for with their strong membership probably they could have given a performance which none would have questioned.

A NEW FORGE

Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. have been appointed general agents for the General Forge Products Co of China. This is a local Company under expert foreign supervision, and employs a number of Russian workmen who execute or supervise all the work passing through the forge. Bolts and nuts, rivets, screws and drop forgings of every description can be supplied by the General Forge Works, which are in Linching Road off Yangtszepoo Road.

Mr. Kuo Tung, a personal representative of Marshal Tuan Chi-jui, the Anfu leader, has arrived in Shanghai on his way to Hangchow where he will meet and confer with Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang, Director-General for Reorganization of Military Affairs in Chêkiang.

MOULE'S MEN

Tributes to Retiring Headmaster of the Anglo-Chinese School

A feature of the proceedings at the Anglo-Chinese School last Friday, when the annual prize distribution took place, was that the popular headmaster, Mr. W. A. H. Moule, officially said good-bye to the school in view of his approaching retirement after 34 years' service. The Rt. Rev. Dr. J. H. Malony was in the chair, supported by the Trustees, Messrs. L. J. Cubitt and J. H. Teesdale, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Dean Symons, Archdeacon Moule, the Rev. F. L. Hawks Pott, and Mr. G. S. Foster-Kemp (Headmaster of the Public School for Chinese).

During an interval in the proceedings, Mr. Moule was the recipient of several handsome gifts. The old boys of the school presented him with a purse containing $450, and the school and members of the Bible Class sent up a small deputation loaded with presents, these including a handsome mounted screen, and some beautifully designed panels done in silk, their spokesman paying a handsome tribute to the work and influence of the retiring Headmaster.

On behalf of the Trustees, Mr. L. J. Cubitt presented Mr. Moule with a handsome silver salver, bearing the signatures of the donors. He spoke in high praise of Mr. Moule's conduct of the school during his long term of service, and of the excellent results shown, saying that after many early embarrassments, when the present system was begun and Mr. Moule took charge there had never been an anxious moment, and the school was now in a properous way.

A MASTER HEADMASTER.

Bishop Molony, in his appreciation of Mr. Moule, said that the traditions he had established would live beyond him. He had been headmaster of the school for 34 years, a life's work. He found it a broken down institution, started it with a dozen boys, and now he was leaving it a flourishing school with 200 boys. He had had probably about 2,700 pass through his hands, and they were known in most of the old business houses of Shanghai as "Moule's Boys." Mr. Moule had just gone on "doing his bit." That seemed to be the way with the Moules. They all had what an old China hand had called "stickatability." They stuck to their jobs. Mr. Moule's father and uncle, both so well known here, stuck at it, each for about 50 years. His brothers and cousins were doing the same, and they were teaching China by precept as well as example that what the country wants is men. The Bishop went on to say that Mr. Moule had proved himself to be a master headmaster; and when he looked back on Shanghai in the years to come he might fairly think that he had made more than 2,000 men as well as the 11,000 runs at cricket, and that his 15 centuries were only child's play compared with the fine men he had produced in this character factory (applause).

Archdeacon Moule, in a short Chinese speech, referred to his father's interest in the work of the School, and his love for China, and to the work of himself in Ningpo and his brother in Shanghai side by side through many years. The name of the School had remained unchanged through its existence and gained an established reputation. It was, and he hoped it would remain under its new Principal, Mr. G. F. C. Newsam, a British Chinese School. He believed in both those races, and that British and Chinese, working in union, could do a real and lasting work for good.

Mr. Moule, in brief acknowlegement and thanks, expressed on behalf of Mrs. Moule and himself their deep appeciation of the various gifts, and their personal hope in the future welfare of the school and all who pass through it. Mr. Moule also gave a full and very interesting account of the school's history, going back to the early days of the Settlement, and with regard to its future, expressed the hope that the British Chamber of Commerce would not forget the appeal made by Mr Wilkinson that the school be not overlooked when the time comes for distribution of the Boxer indemnity. He expressed his thanks to the Trustees for their help and sympathy in all matters connected with the school, and particularly to Mr. Cubitt, who has been honorary secretary and treasurer for 16 years.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, pointing out that the school's title was "C.M.S." Anglo-Chinese school, said that whilst no doubt they had had the prayers of the Church Missionary Society for many years, they had had no help. He trusted the Society would be reminded that the School bore its name, and would realize that a subscription to the funds would make the lot of the masters easier than it was. The Trustees would have done more for Mr. and Mrs. Moule if they could have done, but they had to remember they were Trustees. Mr. Wilkinson hoped that when Mr. and Mrs. Moule arrived Home, the Church Missionary Society would pay in something more than good wishes the debt which they owed to them (applause).

"VICTORY OVER BLINDNESS"

St. Dunstan's Great Achievement: Where Hopelessness is Turned to Capability

"Victory over Blindness." This phrase, St. Dunstan's brave motto, must have been uppermost in the minds of all who listened to Mr. W. Evelyn Cowen, Travelling Commissioner for St. Dunstan's, at the Olympic Theatre on Monday, where an entertainment took place under the auspices of the four Shanghai British National Societies, the "North-China Daily News," the Race Club and the British Women's Association in connexion with the formation of a local committee which will regularly remit contributions to St. Dunstan's.

Mr. Cowen, in the course of his most vivid lecture, amazed his audience by showing how, thanks to the opportunities for proper training afforded at St. Dunstan's, hundreds of men were actually better off in blindness. To see them at work on the film was to believe that they were ordinary working men or clerks with unimpaired vision.

Assisting Mr. Cowen, who is blind, to the footlights, Mr. Sidney Barton, H.M. Consul-General, who presided, said the subject of St. Dunstan's and its great work for blinded soldiers and sailors needed no introduction to any British audience, still less the British community here who for some years past had contributed generously to St. Dunstan's, through various channels, but particularly through the "North-China Daily News" and the Race Club. What was required now was a reminder that the work of St. Dunstan's, although the war was over and the men blinded in the war were now taking their places in various branches of industry thanks to St. Dunstan's—had still got to go on. The reason for that was that not only did St. Dunstan's feel bound to look after the welfare of those already under its care. In addition to the thousands of men blinded in the war, there were now a considerable number of those whose eyesight was only injured during the war and who were now being overtaken by total bindness. This class were entitled to the same care as the others, and it was to enable it to carry on these two objects that St. Dunstan's was now making an appeal for further support from British communities throughout the world.

$3,000 SUBSCRIBED THIS WEEK.

The British Consul-General explained that it had been decided that Shanghai Britons should form a permanent committee which would undertake once every year to remember St. Dunstan's. Through the co-operation of the four national British societies here, the "North-China Daily News", the Race Club, and the British Women's Association it had been found possible to organize a committee to take charge of the matter.

Amidst cheers, Mr. Barton made the announcement that thanks to the activities of the committee and the generosity of a number of local firms no expenses had been incurred in holding the lecture and a sum exceeding $3,000 had been collected for St. Dunstan's.

Mr. Cowen, after thanking Shanghai for its former generous contributions, said that in addition to the war-blind who lost their sight in action, 30,865 men were discharged from the Services with damaged vision. Of this class St. Dunstan's was receiving men into its care at the rate of 120 per year. Many of them had since become completely blind. Putting this number at 10 per cent., it meant that a large number of men were still entitled to receive help from St. Dunstan's, in accordance with the late Sir Arthur Pearson's pledge. "No man," he said, "who should lose his sight in the war or as the direct result of the war should lack training and the common necessities of life." The latter class were entitled to just as much consideration as those blinded on the battle field.

"We confess to being very proud of St. Dunstan's," the speaker went on. It was a place where helplessness was turned to capability and courage in face of overwhelming difficulties. The heroism of their blinded soldiers, combined with the opportunities provided by St. Dunstan's enabled them successfully to fight the battle with darkness.

BLINDNESS NOT A CALAMITY.

Mr. Cowen astonished his audience in telling of the amazing proficiency of the blind and semi-blind at St. Dunstan's at various handicrafts and trades, and also in professional work. In many cases blindness, he said, was not a calamity but actually an opportunity. He recalled that one blinded soldier, formerly a booking clerk on the South African Railways, was now a barrister practising at the Supreme Court, Capetown. On arriving at St. Dunstan's this man showed more than average ability. He matriculated and finally went up to Cambridge, after which he was called to the bar.

He was only one of many. They had five or six barristers who were practising in various parts of the world.

There seemed to be little or no limit to the possibilities before a thoroughly well trained blind man in life. It was a truism to say that they simply had no blind men, but only semi-blind men. The blind were able to acquire a power of vision which could be very highly developed by intelligent effort.

BLIND MASSEURS.

Blind masseurs were not only as good, but better than those who could see. A very difficult examination had to be passed by all St. Dunstan's blind masseurs and they had yet to register their first failure. They were fortunate in having in Shanghai one of the best of them, Mr. A. A. Biggs. (Applause). He was third out of 300 in a masseurs' examination at St. Dunstan's and his success here was sufficient recommendation for the instruction he had received.

Passing to St. Dunstan's pressing need for support, Mr. Cowen said £100,000 a year was required for the care and after care of the blind. In spite of the most rigid economy the deficit last year was £48,000. Thus it was imperative to appeal once more to Britions all over the world.

"Shanghai has been most generous. I should feel I had not done my duty if I failed to express our deepest gratitude to Shanghai which, I believe, has confributed £23,000 to St. Dunstan's. This community holds the honoured position of having sent in more money than any other outside the United Kingdom." (Cheers).

The St. Dunstan's film was then shown. It bore amazing testimony to everything Mr. Cowen had said regarding the training of our blinded war heroes, depicting them as expert typists, basket-makers, gardeners, bootmakers, carpenters, and exercising their powers in a number of other useful activities. The Duke of York was seen at their annual athletic meeting at Regent's Park.

Mr. Biggs was another speaker and gave a graphic description of his own experiences at St. Dunstan's. Excellent films were also shown by the B.-A. T., which has most liberally supported the cause.

CIGARETTE TAX IN KIANGSU

Absolute Refusal of Chinese Merchants to Submit to Tax: Collection Now Postponed

There appear to be possibilities of the Kiangsu Provincial authorities rescinding their order for the imposition of a special tax of 25 per cent. on buyers of cigars and cigarettes in Chinese territory. An official letter has been received in which permission has been granted by Mr. Han Kuo-chun, Civil Governor of the province, for the postponement of collection until after the Chinese New Year holidays.

A report appeared in the "North-China Daily News" several days ago showing that, as the result of the proposed imposition of this tax, local merchants had refused to sell these two commodities, to show that they protested against and opposed the tax and were not going to accept it lying down. Upon receipt of the letter mentioned above, circulars were issued by the Cigarette Merchants' Guild urging members to resume sale of cigars and cigarettes until further notice. At a meeting on Saturday afternoon, it was decided to hold a mass meeting in the Ningpo Residents' Association this afternoon to discuss the situation and to formulate plans for passive resistance until the order for the imposition of the tax is withdrawn and cancelled.

The official letter mentioned is confirmed by a letter which had been addressed by the British-American Tobacco Co. to the Cigarette Merchants' Guild, in which it is stated that a letter had been received from the British Consul-General at Nanking, Mr. Pratt, through the Shanghai Consulate-General, reporting that the Civil Governor had assured him that the tax was not being imposed either in Shanghai or in any other section of the province, and that the administrative offices throughout the province had been notified to this effect.

Strong Speech at Mass Meeting

The imposition of the special tax of 25 per cent. on buyers of cigars and cigarettes in Chinese territory continues to attract much attention and excitement, with the result that a mass meeting was held on Monday in the Ningpo Residents' Association, Thibet Road.

The Chairman explained the reason for the merchants' opposition and said that, while all countries had the right and power to levy takes of their own this case was entirely illegal. "Other countries have their taxes on tobacco and levy much more than the 20 per cent. asked for in this case. It is not a case of opposing the 20 per cent., as many people think, but in our case merchants in the Settlement do not have to suffer while their colleagues in Chinese territory do. Such being the case, we would be forced to close our shops if we accepted the order.

"It is said that the money is to be used for educational purposes, but have we any guarantee to show that such money will not be used by other parties for other purposes.

"Officials in other parts of the country have tried to enforce the tax without success—in fact strikes have resulted. Thus it will be seen that the peace and safety of the place is at stake if the tax is enforced.

"We demand therefore that it shall be cancelled, and cancelled at once, as we will fight the matter out to a finish."

The shopkeepers' numbering over 600, present, elected four delegates to meet the directors of the Chinese General and City Chambers of Commerce to discuss the matter and the latter have consented to telegraph to the Civil Governor urging him to postpone collection of the tax until after the Chinese New Year.

TAX NOT POSTPONED.

The Ningpo, Shaohsing and Taichow gentry met on Sunday afternoon and decided to telegraph to Gen Chang notifying him that they oppose the tax and demand that it shall be rescinded forthwith.

In a notice issued on Monday, the Bureau for the Collection of the Tax in Paoshan and Shanghai deny that the Civil Governor had agreed to postpone collection of the tax temporarily and state that their instructions are the strict imposition and enforcement of the tax. They say that as the matter has been passed by the Provincial Assembly and that the funds derived are for educational purposes it is impossible for them to disobey orders.

CIGARETTES NOT FOR SALE.

The special tax on cigars and cigarettes has not been cancelled and merchants in Chinese territory who deal in these commodities continued on Wednesday in their refusal to sell them until the order for the imposition of the tax is withdrawn.

A circular has been sent by the Tobacco Dealers' Guild to its members urging them not to be alarmed or close their stores as such an action would attract loafers and other undesirables and trouble would be caused.

No reply has as yet been received from the Civil Governor of Kiangsu by the two local Chinese Chambers of Commerce in connexion with their request that the collection of the tax be postponed until after the Chinese New Year holidays when the financial market is easier.

In their reply to the British-American Tobacco the Guild state:—"You inform us that your consul has received an assurance from the Civil Governor that the tax will not be collected until a settlement is reached, and that the Shanghai and Paoshan Bureaux for the collection of the tax have been instructed to postpone collection . . . but, being very cautious, we are compelled to state that we are unable to resume business until an official notification is published stating that the tax has been rescinded. Meanwhile, you should note that the local Bureaux have issued a notice stating that the Civil Governor did not admit what were declared to be rumours. Hence we ask you to let us have an immediate reply in order to satisfy our suspicions."

The marriage has been arranged between Lt.-Cdr. Aubrey Charles Thursfield, R.N., H. M. S. Teal (upper Yangtze), fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Thursfield, of Lea House, Kidderminster, and Catherine Frances Shelley, only daughter of Major H. Fairfax B. Archer and Mrs. Archer, of Linnet House, Bury St. Edmunds.

Mr. Au Yang, department chief of the Chinese Government Bureau of Economic Information, gave a dinner on Monday at Kung Teh Ling, the vegetarian restaurant, in honour of Dr. Chen Chin-tao, ex-Minister of Finance and former acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is here on a visit. Among the guests were Mr. Hsu Yuan, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, Mr. William Daniel, Consul, and Mr. G. H. Boissevain, Vice-Consul for the Netherlands, Mr. C. C. Nieh, Mr. L. K. Kentwell and a number of prominent Chinese merchants.

EXCELLENT START MADE BY CHINA SOCIETY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS

How China Produces More Boys than Girls: Bandits and the Increase of Secret Societies: The Demand for a Good Chinese Government

On Saturday afternoon at 445 Avenue Joffre, where the China Society of Science and Arts held its inaugural meeting as the guests of Messrs. Arthur and Theodore Sopher, a large and representative audience listened to the Presidential address by Mr. Arthur de C. Sowerby, a fascinating lecture by Dr. F. Oppenheim on "Birth and Death Ratios in China," and an enlightening discussion by Mr. G. E. Sokolsky upon the subject of "Secret Societies in China." The names of all attending were taken by Miss Clarice S. Moise, the popular manger of the China Journal of Science and Art, who is acting as treasurer of the Society, and by Mr. Verne Dyson, the active secretary of the Society.

The meeting is the culmination of the efforts of Mr. Sowerby, and those associated with him, to rouse popular interest in matters of an intellectual nature connected with China, and the enthusiastic gathering was ample proof that the Society and Journal are now thoroughly established institutions filling a long felt want.

Mr. Sowerby touched upon "Science" as it existed in China, referring to Dr. Chatley's paper in the last number of the R. A. S. Journal. He then discussed the situation of Science in China today, mentioning the various institutions where research work is being done or instruction in science given, showing the marked progress in this direction during the last decade.

MORE CHINESE BOYS THAN GIRLS.

After an adjournment for tea, Dr. Oppenheim held the audience spellbound for nearly an hour while he produced from sets of figures and mathematical formulæ truly startling facts. It seems [illegible] males and females of the human population in China shows a greater of males than in any other country in the world for which figures are available. An excess of boys over girls at birth occurs in all European countries but owing to the greater mortality amongst boys this excess tends to decrease as maturity is reached. In China the reverse takes place, the excess of males over females (*i.e.* about 115 boys to 100 girls) increases till at the age of 30 the proportion is about 125 males to 100 females. The greater mortality amongst girls in China is believed to be due to their lower value in the eyes of their parents and the consequent neglect they endure.

Statistics gathered in Shanghai (by Dr. Oppenheim), in Peking (by Dr. Gray and Dr. Lennox independently), and Singapore (by the Government), all show that the ratio of males to females amongst the Chinese at birth is about 115 to 100—a most interesting fact to biologists and ethnologists. Dr. Oppenheim pointed out the importance of such investigation and appealed to medical institutions and this Society for help. The president then announced that Dr. F. Reiss had undertaken to form a Medico-Biological Section of the Society, not in rivalry or in opposition to the Medical Missionary Association, but in co-operation, to carry out investigations at present not undertaken by the older association. All medical men and biologists in China were cordially invited to join this section.

SPREAD OF SECRET SOCIETIES.

Mr. Sokolsky, who spoke next, said that in investigating the cause of the extraordinary political unrest of China he was brought into touch with members of an important secret society, from whom he learned that a large part of the bandit trouble was the result of secret societies whose avowed aims are to secure for China a good, sound Chinese Government and to curtail by every means possible the corrupt and oppressive activities of the present military rulers of the country. Bandits holding these aims were looked upon as "good bandits" and the others as "bad." The recent famous bandit case was the work of "good bandits" to get foreign pressure brought to bear upon the Peking Government in order to have certain officials removed.

Votes of thanks were proposed to the lecturers, the hosts and the chairman and passed amidst general acclamation, after which the meeting adjourned till the last Saturday in February (February 23), the programme to be announced later. All subscribers to the China Journal of Science and Arts" may become members of the Society without any additional fee by sending in their names to the office of the Journal, 102 Ben Bldg., 25 Avenue Edward VII, or to Mr. Verne Dyson (Far Eastern Review, 16 Junkoo Road), the Hon. Secretary of the Society.

THE ELLIS KADOORIE SCHOOL

Annual Speech Day: Sir Skinner Turner's Good Advice to Young Chinese

There was a large gathering of pupils and friends at the twelfth annual speech day and prize distribution of the Ellis Kadoorie Public School for Chinese, in the handsome new school hall last Friday afternoon. Mr. Stirling Fessenden, Chairman of the Municipal Council, presided, supported by Sir Skinner Turner, Lady Turner, Dr. D. MacGillivray, several members of the Municipal Council and the Education Committee and Mr. R. G. Dowie, the Head Master.

Mr. Fessenden, in a brief speech, referred to his own experiences as a lecturer in a law school and, commenting on the work done at the school, said he was convinced the boys there would in after life be a credit to the school, the Council and their instructors.

The Head Master, in the course of his report, stated:—

We have, during the year, had a remarkable run of success. In sport we won both the inter-school tennis and football tournaments, but had to acknowledge the superiority of the Public School for Chinese in the Chairman's Shield Competition. In our examinations we had two wonderful years. Last year we had 16 distinctions out of 40 awarded Shanghai schools by Hongkong University; and this year we had 13 out of 24, records which we think so good that attention should be drawn to them. This year we were the only Shanghai school to have a distinction awarded in drawing, and Mr. Millington deserves our very hearty congratulations. The success in Mechanics, too, during the past two years is remarkable and Mr. Kay also is due congratulations. The boys in Form VI have a wonderful record. As Juniors they brought the school 16 distinctions and as Seniors five, a total of 21.

SIR SKINNER TURNER'S ADVICE.

Sir Skinner Turner said that he heartily congratulated the few boys who were to receive prizes. He could sympathize with the many who would not receive any prizes—he supposed they were the larger number—because when he was at school he was nearly always in the same category, and upon these boys he would impress the value of the old saying, "If at first you don't succeed, try, and try, and try again." If they did that, sooner or later the big prizes in life would come to them. The keynote in the Head Master's report was "success." Success in any life was a very right and proper ambition for any one. They would go a long way in escaping failure if in everything they did they would remember one great maxim—"Be fit." They could not play their games and they could not do their scouting unless they were fit in body. They could not do their work in school or in their calling in after life unless they were fit in mind. Fitness of mind and body, coupled together and working together, would lead to that success in life which they would deserve by their efforts to get it.

"China, like every other country," concluded Sir Skinner Turner, "is looking for its future towards its youth, towards the part you boys are going to play in the development of this great and wonderful country. Here in school you are laying a sure foundation of fitness of mind and body to enable you in the larger world outside to play your part and to build up a proper structure and assist your country as well as yourselves."

Lady Turner presented prizes and certificates to the successful boys and an interesting programme of recitations was contributed by several of the boys. The visitors were greatly interested in an exhibition of work done by the boys, all of it being of a particularly high standard.

The French Minister has consented to order the suppression of all stock and produce exchanges in the French Concession at Shanghai, reports the "Eastern Times."

METHOD OF DRAWING I. S. S. PRIZES

An Explanation of the Process to Satisfy a Correspondent

Yet another correspondent writes with questions regarding the International Savings Society and its methods of drawing. It is understandable, perhaps, that amongst the many thousands of bondholders there should be some who have different notions to those of the directors with regard to the disbursement of premiums, though it should be impressed once again that the number of letters of approval received far outnumber those containing criticism. The letter of our latest correspondent, however, is rather more difficult to understand, for he asks for "some insight into the method of drawing as now practised." The I.S.S. encourages the attendance of bondholders at the monthly drawings, and our correspondent undoubtedly would gain better information if he attended personally than we can give him in print. Yet the effort will be made.

The monthly drawings take plaie on the 15th of every month, or on the succeeding day if the 15th is a Sunday or public holiday. The drawings are held in the large upper hall of the Society's offices, 7 Avenue Edward VII, a place capable of accommodating several hundred persons and which on such occasions invariably is filled with bond holders, Chinese being in the majority. The drawing is done by officers of the Society, assisted by some of the bondholders selected at random from amongst those present. In addition, there always is present, not an employee, but one of the partners of Messrs Seth, Mancell & McLure, the Society's auditors, to watch over and personally vouch for the correctness and straightforwardness of the drawing.

THE MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT.

For each bond issued there is a small wooden ball bearing a corresponding number in plain figures. These balls are arranged in their proper numerical sequence in trays, this task occupying four clerks for 20 days in every month. Before the numbered balls are put into the drawing drum any bondholder may examine the trays to satisfy himself that his number is there, and many people do take this precaution every month. It is quite possible the directors even might allow a bondholder here and there to put his own number into the drum, though obviously they could not wait for every one to do it. The trays are emptied, in full sight of the assembled bondholders, into an enormous brass drum about four feet in diameter. Inside this are five large teeth which work backwards and forwards when the drum is revolved, so that the numbers are thoroughly mixed. When all is ready a small tap on the drum is twitched, one ball only rolls out, well clear of the operator's hand, falls into a brass channel about 6 ft. long, runs down this and drops into a deep glass bowl, where it is examined and checked.

Into a smaller drum are placed similar balls on which are stamped the amounts of the reimbursements. Thus, to take last month's drawing as an example, there was one ball representing $20,780: 20, $2,000 each: 20, $300 each: 20, $200 each: 20, $100 each: one cash, $1,560, $250, $150, $68, and 4,156, $12 each. The process of drawing is exactly the same as for the racing sweepstakes. From the big drum a bond number is drawn, then a reimbursement ball from the other drum and the two go together. Thus the prizes come out in any order and the big prizes may be the first, the last, or anywhere in between. It is a recognized and old-established method and is carried out throughout in full sight of the audience.

According to the Chinese press the projected Peking Air Service will be as follows: From Shanghai, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; From Peking, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Feb. 1.

Bank's demand selling rate for £1 at 3/3½=Tls. 6.13 at 71.65=$8.55

Bank's demand selling rate for G.$100 at 70¼=Tls. 142.35 at 71.65=$198.67

Mex. Dollars, market rate	71.9125
Native Interest	20
Copper Cash	249,000
Bar Silver	33 5/16
Bank rate of Discount	4%
Paris on London	Frs. 92.10
New York on London	Frs. 4.28

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/3
Demand	3/3⅛
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	70
Demand	70¼
PARIS—	
Demand	1483
INDIA—	
Demand	226¾
HONGKONG—	
Demand	72¼
JAPAN—	
Demand	65¼
BATAVIA—	
Demand	193½
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	72½

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/4
4 m/s. Credits	3/5
4 m/s. Docs.	3/5½
6 m/s. Credits	3/5½
6 m/s. Docs.	3/6
NEW YORK—	
Demand	71½
4 m/s. Credits	73½
4 m/s. Docs.	74
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1560
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/3⅝
New York T.T.	70½

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR JANUARY.

Hk Tl. 5.44 @ 3/3⅝	£1
" 1 @ 1370½	Frs. 15.27
" 1.24 @ 72½	Gold $1
" 1 @ 66⅜	Yen 1.68
" 1 @ 230½	Rupees 2.57
" 1 @ 1.50	Mex. $1.50
" 1 @ 16.40	It. Lire 18.27

Marks and Roubles no quotation

Sino-Italian Bank Quotations

Selling Rates, Feb. 1.

It. Lire 15.90	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs 4.00	Tl. 1
It. Lire 10.15	Y. 1

Week's Exchange Notes

Feb. 2.

At the close of business on January 31 the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 23,443,000 and $34,900,000.

These figures include Tls. 12,120,000 and $21,850,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 242 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—
677 Bars from America

Shipments were:—
618 Bars to Hangchow.

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—
Nil.

Shipments were:—
Tls. 1,400,000 to Tientsin
50,000 " Dairen

Tls. 1,450,000

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—

$990,000	from Nanking
840,000	" Hangchow
450,000	" Chinkiang
350,000	" Soochow
180,000	" Wuhu
50,000	" Ningpo
$2,860,000	

Shipments were:—

$550,000	to Tsingtao
500,000	" Dairen
200,000	" Harbin
200,000	" Chefoo
200,000	" Mukden
150,000	" Changchun
100,000	" Tsinan
80,000	" Tungchow
$1,980,000	

SILVER.

Ready silver in London shows a decline of ½d. and forward ⅝d. on last week's quotations, the price on Thursday being 33 1/16d. spot and 32 15/16d. forward as against 33 3/16d. and 33 5/16d. last week. China has been more of a seller than a buyer, India has both bought and sold, bears' covering operations have been the only support indicated. Stocks of sycee in Shanghai have declined Tls. 14 lakhs during the week and stocks of dollars 9 lakhs. The price of silver in New York on Thursday was 63 7/16, business done and for delivery at San Francisco 64 buyers, sellers hold ing back. The New York/London cross rate is 4.30¾.

EXCHANGE.

Business all round has been quieter and most operations reported have been inter-bank. The closing rate on Friday last was T.T. 3/3⅜d. but dropped to 3/3½d. on opening on Saturday and remained unchanged till shortly after opening on Tuesday when there was a further decline to 3/3⅜d. The quoted rate at opening on Thursday, was T.T. 3/3d. the present level. There is very little exchange business doing. Merchants demand has to a great extent dried up; there is also very little doing in exports. The quoted rates T.T. 3/3d. February, 3/2⅞d. March, 3/2⅝d. April, G.$ T.T. 70 February, 69½ March, 69½ April, and for Bills 4 m/s. L/C 3/4½d. February, 3/4d. March, 3/3⅞d. April/June. 4 m/s. G.$ 72 February, 71¾ March/June.

LONDON BULLION

Samuel Montagu & Co.'s Report

The following report, dated London, December 19, has been issued by Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co.:—

Gold—The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue on the 12th instant was £126,196,335, as compared with £126,044,760 on the previous Wednesday.

India and the Continent have taken a fair proportion of the substantial supplies of gold which came on offer this week.

The United Kingdom imports and exports of gold during the month of November, 1923, were as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
Switzerland	—	96,100
Sweden	2,000	—
Netherlands	9,395	215,544
Belgium	—	1,480
France	—	30,596
Egypt	—	250,000
West Africa	101,452	—
United States	1,580	8,410,738
Java and other Dutch Indian Seas	—	10,000
Possessions in the Various S. American Countries	471	—
Rhodesia	221,790	—
Transvaal	2,754,327	—
British India	—	151,938
Straits Settlements	—	4,130
Other Countries	237	47,098
Total	£3,091,252	£9,197,675

According to figures issued by the Belgian Ministry of Colonies, the production of gold in the Congo has risen to 3,500 kilogrammes. In 1921 the production was only 2,100 kilogrammes.

SILVER.

On the whole the market has been quiet during the week. The Continent has been a moderate seller and America has been disposed to let out some supplies at the rising rates. Yesterday the quotation for cash—33 11/16d. was the highest fixed since November 7, 1922. The amount of speculative business open in this market on Indian and China account has been considerably reduced of late. As supplies are not yet plentiful, bear covering orders—even though they may be far from large—are bound to influence prices more than usual.

The latest United Kingdom silver coins have a more pleasing aspect than those to which we have grown accustomed, though with some reluctance. The use of nickel for alloying the silver to 500/1,000 fine has been abandoned for that of copper, and the exterior of the pieces has been blanched to a greater degree. The films of pure silver thus left upon the surface must eventually be removed by wear. We shall then be able to compare the appearance of the new copper with that of the old nickel compound, the greenish tinge of which failed to meet popular approval.

The following extract from a report by the "Times" correspondent from Peking throws interesting light upon the conditions in that country:—

"It had been generally expected that the widespread confusion throughout China would result in a serious check to foreign trade . . . . The Customs figures for the half-year, however, have falsified these forebodings and given proof of the extraordinary vitality of trade in China. The Customs revenue is ahead of all previous records, and even if a generous allowance be made for the increase consequent upon the application of the effective 5 per cent tariff for part of the period, there is a net gain of $2,000,000 (£225,000) compared with the "record" figures for the corresponding period last year. . . . The explanation is simple enough. It is that the Chinese are fast awaking to the utility of foreign manufactured goods, that their standard of living is steadily rising, and that the demand for foreign articles within the zones of the Treaty Ports alone is sufficient to maintain and increase foreign imports. In huge areas in the interior trade and enterprise are being stifled to extinction by the chaotic conditions prevailing, but the economic development of littoral and Riverine regions continues unabated. It is hardly affected by the political chaos and there seems to be no limit to its possibilities."

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Closing Settlement of the Chines Business Year: Little Difficulty Encountered

Feb 2.

This week practically all departments of the local market have been inactive as far as actual business is concerned, attention being devoted to the annual settlement consequent upon the New Year. This seems to be proceeding smoothly, but naturally while dealers and merchants are solely occupied with finance no fresh business is being considered.

The yarn market closes stronger, and developments in local prices are anticipated following the strike in the Bombay mills.

Interest is being shown in exports by consuming countries, but in several cases local values are too high to permit of firms operating.

PIECE GOODS.

Certain deliveries of auction cargo have been taking place during the week, but apart from this the interest in the market has been confined altogether to the Chinese New Year settlement. From all accounts this is going through without any hitch, for it is reckoned that between 70 and 80 per cent. of the Chinese dealers have covered expenses during the past 12 months and made certain profits. The remainder have been able to carry on their business without any grave difficulty. Some of the old established firms doing business on sound, conservative lines and who decline to gamble in exchange have not done quite so well as the other class who combine a speculation in piece goods with exchange. The latter have generally been able to get a better rate with the banks for the cost of their purchases than those who fixed a large proportion of their commitments at 3/1d., and so in this case the speculative element has scored.

The only other point of interest in the piece goods market to call attention to is the fact that the British Chamber of Commerce statistics of stocks as on December 31 have not yet made their appearance. This is not the fault of the officials of the Chamber but is due solely to the dilatoriness of certain firms who have neglected or been late in sending in their returns. The importance of these statistics as a guide to the position of the market and to future prices is apparently not fully realized by these firms, but it may be pointed out that they are greatly valued by the majority concerned in the piece goods business.

COTTON AND YARN.

While business in local cotton and yarn has come to a halt this week, the future is being looked forward to with interest. The length of the holidays which the local mills propose to take over the China New Year is an irregular quantity, varying from one week to a month, and it is pointed out that this curtailment of production when coupled with a shortage of Indian yarn owing to the mill strike in Bombay, may appreciably affect the situation in two ways In the first place yarn stocks are expected to reach a very much lower lovel than hitherto and higher prices would naturally be the outcome, while the absence of demand for Indian raw cotton by the Bombay mills would lead to a cheaper price of the staple. Too much stress, however, cannot be placed upon this aspect of the case, as a private advice received in Shanghai suggests that the Bombay strike will not be of long duration.

Chinese Cotton—The spot market for Chinese cotton has closed, and on the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the last trading day was January 30. Quotations then were:—February 47.05; March 47; April 46.95; May 46.95; June 46.95. Compared with the previous week there was a drop of about 35 points.

Yarn—The last yarn quotations on the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange were those of January 30, since when no transactions have taken place. The market will reopen on February 9. The last quotations were:—February 180; March 181.10; April 181.20; May 181.30; June 180.60. In comparision with the previous week these figures show a rise of from 20 to 24 points.

PRODUCE.

Sesamum Seed—It is reported that business has been done locally at prices 1 or 2 mace per picul higher than the previous week. Home market prices have also advanced but are still well under the parity of local values.

Groundnuts—Owing to heavy purchases made during the past week the Tsingtao market is firmer. Home buyers, however, have not yet come into line with the higher C. I. F. prices, although there is no evidence of any slackening in demand, America is also again inquiring for graded nuts, and in consequence there appears little likelihood of any local decline in the near future.

Tobacco—The market is much stronger on account of the continued scarcity of cargo available for export.

Peanuts—Interest in the new season's supplies is being shown both in Europe and America, and parcels arriving here have been absorbed more readily.

Wool—No business is possible on account of lack of supplies from the interior.

WHOLESALE PRICES IN SHANGHAI

Bureau of Markets' Index Number

The Treasury Department's Bureau of Markets in publishing the wholesale price index number for January, states:—

The total index number for this month is 156.7, being 0.5 per cent, lower than the previous month, while it rises 2.6 per cent. above the corresponding month of last year. Among the five principal groups only metals ascend a little higher than before, whereas textiles remain at a standstill and the other three groups decrease approximately from 0.5 per cent. to 1.45 per cent.

Our index number has hitherto been based upon the market prices on the last Wednesday of every month. Since the last Wednesday of this month falls on the 30th and it is near to the end of China year, nearly every line of business stops wholesale dealings then. Thus in the present index number we use the prices on the fourth Wednesday, that is, the 23rd. as the base.

Our monthly figures since January, 1923, are given below:

		Cereals	Other food products	Textiles	Metals	Fuels	Building materials	Industrial materials	Sundries	Miscellaneous Average	Total Average
Feb.	1913	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Jan.	1923	148.5	146.6	157.0	142.6	188.9	161.7	192.8	131.2	168.7	152.7
Feb.	"	153.5	150.2	160.6	153.0	185.5	164.7	197.3	133.6	170.3	157.5
Mar.	"	149.2	156.2	155.7	162.5	178.5	166.1	199.3	136.5	170.1	158.7
April	"	150.1	156.3	154.1	160.3	177.0	168.4	189.7	135.1	167.6	157.7
May	"	154.1	159.8	154.9	162.4	169.5	162.3	177.7	134.3	160.6	158.4
June	"	153.7	152.6	155.8	157.8	167.7	159.1	172.5	126.0	156.3	155.2
July	"	152.8	154.4	155.9	155.8	168.1	160.9	170.8	132.8	158.1	155.4
Aug.	"	150.0	148.5	153.8	156.8	164.2	162.4	162.9	132.4	155.5	153.1
Sept.	"	153.2	150.3	154.8	166.9	165.2	165.7	173.0	131.7	158.9	156.8
Oct.	"	146.1	152.9	160.0	160.8	166.0	166.3	180.6	129.5	160.6	156.1
Nov.	"	141.5	157.4	165.8	157.9	166.4	167.2	193.0	129.7	164.1	157.3
Dec.	"	141.2	155.8	165.7	161.0	172.2	162.9	189.6	129.7	163.6	157.5
Jan.	1924	139.1	154.9	165.7	162.4	169.9	163.8	183.5	128.8	161.5	156.7

HONGKONG COMPANIES' DIVIDENDS

Tramways and Hotels

Messrs. Benjamin & Potts are in receipt of a telegram from their agents in Hongkong, stating that the Hongkong Tramway Co., Ld. has declared a dividend of $1.75 per share; also that the Hongkong Hotel Co., Ld. has declared a dividend of $1.25. per share, and that subject to the approval of shareholders this company propose to make a new issue of one new share for every old share at par.

CANADIAN LUMBER

Big Deal by Robert Dollar Co.

The news letter of the Canadian Pacific Railway says:—

Negotiations which were commenced more than a year ago and which involve the transfer of a very large tract of fine timber on Vancouver Island in the vicinity of Campbell River, have now been concluded, whereby the Canadian Robert Dollar Company acquires possession of the tract. The deal is understood to run very close to $1,000,000 and gives the company a supply of standing timber of the finest quality, that will keep their mill cutting steadily for about the next 15 years.

Dutch International Bank

London, Jan. 30.

The "Morning Post" learns that the Amsterdamsche Bank and the Twentsche Bank have formed a new "Internationale Bank in Amsterdam" for the transaction of international business with a paid-up capital of 10,000,000 guilders Stockholm, Berlin and London banks, including Lloyd's Bank, are financially interested.—Reuter.

Permata Rubber Estate

The report of the directors of the Permata Rubber Estate, Ld., which has just been issued shows that the year closed with a net profit of Tls. 15,298.62, which with Tls. 16,423.03 the credit balance brought forward from the previous year leaves Tls. 31,721.65 at credit of profit and loss account. This the directors recommend to be dealt with as follows:—

	Tls.
To pay a dividend of Tls 0.30 per share	13,595.10
To be carried forward	18,126.55
	Tls 31,721.65

USSURI RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT

Opening of a Traffic Office in Shanghai: Facilities for Transport of Goods

The directors of the Ussuri Railway are making a determined effort to extend its operations and their latest move is the establishment of a traffic office in Shanghai, at 3 Ezra Road, in charge of Mr. P. Sery-Siryk. The Russian railways are all Government-owned, but they work independently and in some cases even sections of them also are independent, as with the Ussuri Railway, which is a part of the great Siberian Railway, the other sections of which are the Siberian and Amur lines. During the civil war all the railways, like every other service in Russia, were hopelessly disorganized and even when travel was re-established it was very dangerous. Now, however, conditions along the railways have become more peaceable and in Shanghai it is known at least that the Siberian Railway is operating very nearly up to the pre-war standard.

In the course of a conversation on Monday, Mr. Sery Siryk assured a representative of the "North-China Daily News" that perfect order has been established all along the railway lines and that very considerable quantities of merchandise are being transported over the routes used before the war. Every day, he said, 300 fully laden freight cars pass through Vladivostok and the railway is so well equipped with rolling stock that goods are not delayed even for a day, whilst freight cars are run from Vladivostok to Harbin in four or five days at the outside. The Government offers a guarantee by the Far Eastern Bank for the safety of goods carried on the railway. Only goods going to the interior of Russia require licences, which can be secured in Shanghai. Freight going through to other countries does not have to be licensed. He pointed out that the Ussuri Railway is particularly convenient for many business houses sending goods to Continental countries, as it saves a great deal of time in transport and the freight rates are much lower than those charged by shipping companies.

During 1922, the exports through Vladivostok did not exceed 29,769,903 poods (one pood equals 36 lb.), whilst for the first nine months of last year the figures were 30,229,518 poods. These figures are offered as evidence that many business houses appreciate the convenience of the railway route and are satisfied as to its reliability. The following points were emphasized by Mr. Sery-Siryk:—

1.—Customs examination of goods may be executed at Harbin.

2.—Customs duty is 33⅓ per cent. less than that paid on the same goods through Dairen.

3.—There is no transhipment of goods between Vladivostok and Harbin.

4.—The management of the Ussuri Railway, having the development of industry, commerce and trade as their main purpose, do their utmost to restore efficiency in operating the most convenient route for Manchurian exports and imports.

5.—The railway freight may be paid at the stations of destination to the Shanghai local offices.

6.—The Ussuri Railway is the shortest route; in consequence of this the freight is cheap.

7.—Shifting works at Vladivostok have been reorganized, and the supplementary charges are reduced.

8.—There is no necessity to have government licences for the transport of goods.

9.—The Ussuri Railway Commercial Agency at Vladivostok undertakes all formalities concerning loading, unloading and transhipment of goods at moderate rates.

10.—There are all conveniences for importing goods into Europe through Russia, or exporting European goods via Russia.

11.—If necessary, a Bank guarantee can be procured.

EX-GUNNERS' ROLL OF SHANGHAI

Through the courtesy of the Stewards of the Shanghai Race Club, the annual dinner was held in the dining room of the Guests' Stand on Friday evening, January 25. Brigadier-General Macnaghten, C.M.G., D.S.O., the President, was in the chair and 45 members of the Roll were present. The dinner itself was a great success, and old friendships were renewed and new ones made. The King's health was drunk with full musical honours followed by the impressive Silent Toast to the memory of those who gave everything in the War. The President then made a speech on "The Royal Regiment," which was greatly appreciated by all. With glasses upraised and everyone at attention, the Royal Regiment's march was played, after which the toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

During dinner the old songs were revived and later everyone drew in their chairs and sang them all again to the accompaniment of an excellent small orchestra. The dinner was voted a huge success and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

CRUISE OF THE YAWL SHANGHAI

Arrival at St. Helena: Interest in the Island: The Voyage Prolonged

Mr. H. E. Middleton, hon. secretary of the Shanghai Yacht Club, has received a further account of the cruise of the auxiliary yawl Shanghai, which left here nearly a year ago on a trip to Denmark. A letter received from Mr. E. Haugeland, one of the crew, dated St. Helena, November 23, 1923, describes another stage of the voyage, and says, in part:—

"Arrived here at St. Helena on October 17, after having been a fortnight out from Capetown, where we stayed nearly a month, during which we were received with the greatest hospitality and kindness, especially from the Royal Cape Yacht Club. A Danish journalist, Mr. Redsted, has joined us in Capetown, so the crew now consists of four members, and this I consider to be the best number for a yacht of our size. It is our intention to leave here on the 26th instant (November, 1923) for Sierra Leone, on the west coast of Africa, and thence to the Canary Islands.

"I think this is one of the most interesting and historic places we have visited yet, and, of course, we took the opportunity to visit Longwood, where are situated Napoleon's tomb and house. A French officer, who is residing on the estate as a guardian, presented to us a small piece of tapestry from Napoleon's sitting room.

"St. Helena appears to be very bare and desolate when being approached from the sea, but in the middle of the island, where palm trees and firs are growing together, the beautiful valleys, with whitewashed houses, are very charming.

"We have decided to prolong our stay in the Canary Islands to avoid the worst winter months of the North Atlantic, so I do not think we shall arrive in Denmark before April or May."

CHINA Journal of Science & Arts, edited by Mr. A. de C. Sowerby and Dr. J. C. Ferguson, is a bi-monthly, profusely illustrated magazine. It contains authentic articles written by experts on the Arts, Literature and Science of China. The annual subscription is $10.00 Shanghai currency, or $6.00 gold for U.S.A. and Canada. Office:—Room 102, the Ben Building, Shanghai. Central 3247.

Peps

For THROAT, CHEST & LUNGS

TO ward off coughs, colds, and night chills, and to protect throat, chest and lungs against climate and disease, everybody needs Peps.

As Peps tablets dissolve in the mouth they give off medicinal fumes that carry soothing and healing benefits to the entire breathing system. Inflammation or soreness in the throat or bronchials is quickly allayed, coughs and colds are nipped in the bud, and the chest and lungs are strengthened against Bronchitis, Asthma, and Pneumonia.

all medicine vendors.

"A PINE FOREST IN EVERY HOME"

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AGENTS:—Messrs. Wakefield & Co. (China), Ltd., S. Y. Sheng Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SOUTHERN Rhodesia which was inaugurated as the youngest self governing Colony of the British Empire on October 1, 1923, and which had previously for 33 years been ably administered by the British South Africa Company possesses one of the finest climates in the world with long hours of sunshine, breezy temperate days and cool nights. For those who wish to take up farming or ranching in order to make the most they can of their capital, energy and technical knowledge, or for those who wish to retire from strenuous business or professional life and make a home, Rhodesia offers many advantages unequalled elsewhere. The business, social, sporting, educational and medical facilities bear favourable comparison with those of other countries. Native labour is plentiful and when properly managed is cheap and efficient. Taxation is light. Good land in healthy surroundings and amidst fine scenery is plentiful and not expensive.

Full information is obtainable on application to The Secretary, Southern Rhodesia Settlers' Board (attached to the Government of Southern Rhodesia), P. O. Box 372, Salisbury S., Rhodesia.

The giving of advice to prospective settlers will be facilitated if applicants will advise the Board in detail of their circumstances and the amount of capital they would be prepared to invest in a suitable venture.

English and Mathematics Combined

Middle Schools to-day face a perplexing situation in adjusting the legitimate demands of students for more English with the actions of Educational Associations tending to lessen the amount of English taught. The mastery of English is the open door to world citizenship, and to the literature, the science and the news of the world. It is quite vital to business success in China. The question is to learn to handle it well in the time allotted.

Professor H. B. Graybill, widely known as the author of "Mastery of English," agrees with leading educators that, apart from elementary study, this situation can best be met by teaching other subjects in English, especially subjects that will be useful to students upon entering careers after graduation. With Professor Lo King Tuen, of Canton Christian College, Mr. Graybill has just finished a Middle School Arithmetic which combines study in English and applied Mathematics to meet this widely felt need.

In this "Practical Arithmetic" this "Practical Arithmetic" contains the vocabulary used in shopping, travel, all sorts of business, the banking and postal services, newspapers and [illegible]. It also gives the English pronunciation of Higher Mathematical and Scientific terms. The first part of the book is as much a study and drill in English as it is an Arithmetic.

As a mathematics the Lo Graybill "Practical Arithmetic" is unique, the first elaborate, original arithmetic written for China. It meets the requirements of commercial schools, and of middle schools preparing both for college and for immediate entry into business. In addition to the usual arithmetical processes its arithmetical foundation in Algebra and Geometry gives an excellent basis for work in college. Short cuts in calculation of great practical value are incorporated as well as the most complete and convenient series yet published of tables of Chinese, metric and English measurements *with their cross values*. This arithmetic introduces the study to the understanding of Exchange and to many other actual problems met with in everyday life in China. It is unique in its inclusion of over 60 very original *China-born* individual and class *projects*, a distinct advantage on other texts.

"Practical Arithmetic" is direct and natural in method. The student is helped to build up processes in Mathematics for himself so as best to grasp the basic principles. Arithmetical terms when first used are given with their Chinese equivalent. To secure speed, accuracy and skill, ample drills and exercises are incorporated. The teacher is given a wealth of problems for his selection, all of which will prove of great interest to Chinese.

This book is now ready. Its price is $1.60 Mexican. Principals and teachers who are interested may ensure a sample copy by forwarding [illegible] to Edward Evans & Sons, Limited, Shanghai. (Advertisement)

Mrs. R. says: "My boy was brought up on Glaxo, and is a fine healthy child. Apart from breast-milk, I am sure it is the only perfect food."

Baby's peaceful sleep

Peaceful sleep at the right time is as necessary to Baby as the right kind and quantity of food. If he does not sleep, or is restless in sleep, he is unwell, and a frequent cause of Baby's ill-health is indigestion.

A suitable form of milk is the only food for a baby up to nine months, and GLAXO is milk in its most nourishing and most digestible form.

Glaxo has only to be mixed with hot, boiled water to provide instantly the required quantity of pure, fresh, unadulterated milk—milk made specially digestible and safe for Baby by the Glaxo Process.

Ask your Doctor!

Glaxo

The Super-Milk

"Builds Bonnie Babies"

The safest, purest form of milk for every milk purpose

Don't buy Baby's feeder until you have seen the Glaxo Feeder.

Write to The British Medical Imports Co., 432 Kiukiang Road, Shanghai for Free Sample of Glaxo and booklet.

Proprietors: Joseph Nathan & Co., Limited, London and New Zealand.

Singapore, January 31, 1924.

Smoked Sheet	48¼	cents
Jan./Mar.	49	,,
Apr./June	50	,,

Market dull.

DEBENTURES.

LOANS		Term in years	Last business recorded		Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
S'hai Municipal Council	1903	0 to 20	26-9-22	T98½	*b* T440,500	6	June-Dec.
	1904	do.	11-1-23	T98½	*c* 214,500	6	do.
	1905	do.	12-5-22	T96½	*d* 320,000	6	do.
	1907	do.	24-4-22	T94	500,000	6	do.
	1908	do.	6-12-23	T100	650,000	6	do.
	1909	do.	15-3-23	T99	500,000	6	do.
	1910	do.	11-5-23	T99	313,800	6	do.
	1911	10 to 30	8-1-23	T95	350,000	6	do.
	1912	do.	3-1-24	T99	310,000	6	do.
	1913	do.	3-5-23	T100	755,300	6	do.
		10 to 50	8-5-22	T78	500,000	5½	do.
	1914	10 to 30	8-1-23	T91	900,000	5½	do.
	1915	do.	22-9-23	T91	800,000	5½	do.
	1916	do.	4-12-23	T99½	1,400,000	6	do.
	1917	10	18-10-23	T103	507,300	7	do.
	1919	do.	1-12-23	T104	1,793,300	6	do.
	1920	10	1-2-24	T105	2,240,000	7	do.
		1 to 30	5-1-22	T100½	£750,000	6	do.
	1921	do.	9-2-23	T112	$1,000,000	8	do.
	1922	do.	1-2-24	T111½	T5,095,100	8	do.
	1923	do.	30-1-24	T105	T8,000,000	7	do.
	1923	do.	1-2-24	T99	*e* T6,000,000	6	do.
French Municipal Council	1911	do.	8-10-23	T96	400,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914	do.	12-2-23	T88	500,000	5½	June-Dec.
	1915	do.			350,000	5½	do.
	1921	do.	30-11-23	T108½	2,000,000	8	do.
	1923	do.	17-12-23	T95	*e* T800,000	6	May-Nov.
S'hai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	1911	10 to 30	4-10-23	T112	2,000,000	8	June-Dec.
	1922	do.	6-6-22	T102	T500,000	8	do.
S'hai Gas Co., Ltd.	1903	do.	2-10-23	T105	T1,000,000	7	do.
	1904	do.	20-11-23	T94	*e* 800,000	6	do.

LOANS		Term in years	Last business recorded		Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
	1905	5 to 20	31-8-22	T96½	T250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1909	do.	27-3-23	T98	750,000	6	do.
	1911	do.	26-9-22	T92	250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld.	,,	do.	27-3-23	T98	250,000	6	May-Nov.
	1912	do.	3-4-23	T98	250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1913	do.	3-4-23	T93	250,000	6	April-Oct.
	,,	do.	11-1-24	T94	250,000	6	May-Nov.
	,,	do.			250,000	6	April-Oct.
	1914	do.	22-3-23	T98	250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1916	5 to 25	21-8-22	T90	*f* 500,000	5½	do.
	1922	do.	12-2-23	T98	750,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	1922	do.	10-1-24	T98	500,000	6	May-Nov.
Shanghai Club	1907	20	1-2-24	T93	450,000	6	do.
Country Club	1901	Perpetual			139,000	6	June-Dec.
Lane, Crawford	1914	5 to 20			130,000	6	May-Nov.
& Co., Ld.	1915	do.			110,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld.	1906	do.			250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1911	do.	7-6-23	T98	300,000	6	do.
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ld.	1901	Perpetual					
S'hai Race Club	1923	10 to 20	27-2-23	T95½	*h* 270,000	6	do.
Culty Dairy Co., Ltd.	1923	25	31-1-24	T100	1,200,000	6½	Mar.-Sept.
	1915	do.			50,000	7	Feb.-Aug.
Hall & Holtz Ld.	1914	5 to 20	14-10-22	$92	*i* 230,000	7	Jan.-July
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	1922	5 to 20	..	..	T500,000	7	Jan.-July

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment. †See also under section headed "Companies' Notices, etc."

a—Now issuing; Redeemed & Unissued:—*b*—Tls.65,100; *c*—Tls.51,100; *d*—Tls.34,100; *e*—Tls.68,500; *f*—Tls.262,400; *g*—Tls.189,800; *h*—Tls.12,300; *i*—$18,900

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital		Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
				lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls.	630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	8.87d.	..	22,000	21,000	25,000	68,000
Amberst (New)	,,	500,000	Oct.	72,382	81,410	80,500	*4.34d.	..	..	9,781	9,238	19,020
Anglo-Dutch		£200,000	Dec.	760,000	650,000	600,000	0/6.92d.	364,700	54,500	55,900	60,000	535,100
Anglo-Java		£250,000	Dec.	1,511,575	1,524,711	1,550,000	6.95d.	1,116,100	168,800	189,000	183,000	183,000
Ayer Tawah	Tls.	300,000	Sept.	369,447	58,042	360,000	†0.24.41	..	..	..	..	..
Batu Arang	,,	400,000	Dec.	221,030	258,519	185,793	0/7.34d.	142,092	..	12,450	8,200	162,742
Bukit Toh Alang	,,	500,000	Mar.	349,254	395,945	315,000	7.54d.	139,139	30,893	26,000	26,600	222,632
Bute	,,	300,000	Dec.	253,200	230,067	159,516	10.11d.	121,250	17,700	16,000	18,800	171,350
Chemor United	,,	360,000	Dec.	271,636	340,794	240,192	0/7.15d.	194,568	..	26,044	25,800	246,412
Cherupedak		£35,000	Oct.	145,760	163,063	..	1/5.42d.	..	..	14,000	16,700	30,700
Cheng	Tls.	675,000	June	151,923	145,338	..	11.09d.	52,730	18,010	15,574	15,700	102,014
Consolidated (1914)	,,	375,000	Dec.	591,033	669,399	574,660	0/6.58d.	456,199	62,339	56,548	58,552	633,638
Dotalian	,,	350,000	Dec.	203,042	271,150	306,367	11.04d.	241,506	28,111	25,590	27,928	322,140
Gula-Kalumpong		£500,000	Dec.	1,023,600	1,113,000	1,215,000	1/0$\frac{1}{16}$d.	755,000	98,000	..	85,000	938,000
Java Consolidated		£35,000	Dec.	732,726	675,800	..	7.08d.	411,100	67,300	70,000	72,000	620,400
Kapayang	,,	150,000	Dec.	176,890	189,239	..	†26.90	110,683	11,782	11,648	12,597	146,710
Karan	,,	250,000	Mar.	114,879	101,783	84,000	8¼d.	41,012	6,623	5,574	6,856	60,067
Kota Bahroe (1921)	,,	300,000	June	138,330	339,970	..	..	78,957	21,855	27,113	29,253	169,918
Kroewoek		£70,000	Dec.	493,730	449,000	540,000	0/7.21d.	366,800	61,000	62,000	59,000	549,800
Langkat	Gs.	2,500,000	Oct.	842,589	943,000	975,000	Gld.0.98	..	..	86,800	92,500	179,300
Padang	Tls.	500,000	April	209,711	220,232	..	10¼d.	66,300	17,200	17,000	20,000	120,500
Pengkalan (1921)	,,	150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,253	176,088	†40.19	..	..	..	..	..
Permata	,,	250,000	Oct.	98,303	86,299	..	0/8¼d.	..	..	9,012	8,573	17,585
Repah	,,	275,000	Dec.	97,000	68,584	240,000	1/3½	153,578	23,886	19,521	20,200	217,185
Sanagaga	,,	800,000	Sept.	381,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
See Kee (1918)	,,	100,000	June	179,686	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	97,613	..	10,896	12,000	120,509
Semambu	,,	300,000	Dec.	170,102	161,105	158,264	0/9.37d.	119,529	..	15,267	10,800	245,596
Senawang (1921)	,,	375,000	Jan.	106,500	272,500	..	*†7.35d.	180,800	28,100	23,400	21,700	254,000
Shanghai Kedah	,,	400,000	Sept.	313,414	216,542	..	8.12d.	..	22,527	21,115	23,680	67,625
S'hai-Kelsang	,,	515,000	Dec.	113,355	126,196	..	0/9.35d.	84,115	8,000	8,400	8,500	109,615
S'hai-Malay	,,	600,000	Dec.	413,635	373,111	392,000	..	223,531	23,350	20,336	21,439	289,156
S'hai Pahang	,,	200,000	June	209,381	185,216	..	9¼d.	52,721	20,430	15,618	12,204	100,973
S'hai Seremban	,,	325,000	Dec.	176,588	173,213	..	0/8.67d.	103,486	13,998	15,550	15,300	147,034
S'hai-Sumatra	,,	600,000	Oct.	661,335	679,716	650,000	Gld.0.38	..	..	50,239	61,102	111,341
Sua-Manggis	,,	230,000	Dec.	184,000	144,880	..	..	..	14,300	13,500	..	27,700
Sungala	,,	100,000	Mar.	30,279	165,757	..	17.20	6,126	..	..	..	6,126
Sungei Duri		£10,000	June	208,073	236,568	229,000	11.61d.	84,580	23,302	18,774	19,773	126,409
Taiping (1913)	Tls.	200,000	Dec.	705,550	107,011	99,000	*†30	79,652	8,065	7,573	8,399	103,689
Tanah Merah	,,	750,000	Mar.	415,000	395,000	..	7.92d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,800	234,900
Tebong	,,	750,000	Jan.	534,590	630,848	717,725	0/7.66d.	450,500	66,500	67,000	72,000	656,000
Zlangbo		£750,000	Dec.	616,432	511,586	600,000	7.24d.	382,500	45,800	49,100	46,200	523,600

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses † Straits $ cents.

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COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Subject to audit, the Directors will recommend at the forthcoming meeting:—

To pay a final dividend for the year of £3 and bonus of £2 subject to deduction of Income Tax.

To add to Silver Reserve, 10 Lakhs.

To write off bank premises account, 10 Lakhs.

To carry forward to next year, 33½ Lakhs.

The Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estate, Ltd.—Holders of 5/- in the £ paid shares who have not paid the Call advertised by Call Letter dated October 15, 1923, are reminded that same is payable on or before January 15, 1924, and that all calls unpaid on that date will bear interest at the rate of 10% per annum from that date until the date of payment.

The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Ltd.—A net profit last year of $4,034,186, which, with the carry-over, leaves available for division $7,265,886. It is proposed to pay a dividend of $1.50 and bonus of $2, and to place to the reserve $6,000,000.

The Weihaiwei Land & Building Co., Ltd.—The Annual Meeting will be held at the China Mutual Building, No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, February 12, 1924, at 11.30 a.m.

The Directors recommend a dividend of [illegible] declared from [illegible] at 10%.

The [illegible] & Shipbuilding Works, Ltd.—The Annual General Meeting will be held at the [illegible] General Chamber of Commerce Rooms, 1 Yuen-ming-yuen Road, Shanghai, on February 9, 1924, at 11 a.m.

A dividend of 5 per cent. on the Ordinary shares and 8 per cent. on Preference shares.

The Transfer Books will be closed from January 28 to February 9, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Permata Rubber Estate, Ltd.—The 13th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 44 Szechuen Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, February 14, 1924, at 4.15 p.m.

To Pay a dividend of Tls. 0.30 per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from February 7 to 14, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Oriental Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.—The 7th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 6 Kukiang Road, Shanghai, on February 9, 1924, at 11.30 a.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from February 4 to 9, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Electric Construction Co., Ltd.—A Second Interim Dividend at the rate of six per cent. less Income Tax at 4/7½ in the £, in respect of the year ending December 31, 1923, has been duly declared upon the share capital of the Company, and will be payable against presentation of Coupon No. 24 on and after the first day of February, 1924.

Share Report for Week Ending February 1, 1924.

No. 24/5

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use: A1 Code
A.B.C. 4th, 5th and 6th Editions
B. Broomhall's Imperial Combination Code
Bentley's Complete Phrase Code.
Telephone Cont. 171,171.

Members of Shanghai Stock Exchange.
Land, Estate & Insurance Agents.
Hon. Local & Shanghai Bank Building.
17 The Bund.
Post Office Box No. 241, Shanghai.

With China New Year holidays factor [illegible] the local share market has been less active during the past week though buying (post [illegible] exception "Rubbers," show[illegible] general improvement in many cases and a firm undertone notice[illegible] generally. London market advices show a marked rise in all shares in which this market is interested and the Chinese Government Loans have continued firm with [illegible] to advance in the case of Shanghai-Nanking Railway Bonds and the other more attractive [illegible]. The following are the latest prices received by us by cable this week:

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	£ 71. 0. 0	(Mean)
" " " " " " " F.I.	69. 10. 0	" ex B.I.R.S.
" " " " " " " R.I.	61. 0. 0	"
" " " Gold Loan 1912	71. 7. 6	(Sellers)
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. "B"	8. 11. 0	(Mean)
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ltd. (Fully paid)	1. 12. 6	"
" " " " (10/-paid)	0. 13. 1½	(Buyers)
Shanghai Electric Cons. Co., "B"	2 13. 3	(Mean)
Shell Transport & Trading Co., "B"	1. 8. 0	(Buyers)
British-American Tobacco Co., "B"	5. 3. 9	(Mean)
Singapore Electric Tramways, Ltd.	0. 2. 7½	(Sellers)

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to-day is 3/3.

Shanghai, February 1, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:—

JANUARY	26th		28th		29th		30th		31st		Feb. 1st	
	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.
BANKS												
Union Chartered Bank Ltd. Tls.			..	1.15	..	..	..	..	21	..	..	..
Consolidated Reb. Co., Ltd. "			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS												
H. & S. Bank $	1100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Tug & Lighter Co., (Ord.) Tls.	75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Land Invest. Co., Ltd. "	119	..	118	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Exploration & D. Co., Ltd. "	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd. "	..	..	74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chinese Eng. & Mng. Co., "B" "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21½	..	..	..
COTTONS												
S'hai Cotton Mfg. Ld. (New) Tls.	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
DEBENTURES												
S. M. C. 1922, 7% Debs. .. Tls.	..	..	..	..	105	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1923, 6% " "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	99	..
" 1920, 7% " "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	105	..
" 1921, 8% " "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111½	..
S'hai Club 6%, 1907 "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93	..

NO BUSINESS REPORTED

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

February 26, Tuesday. March 25, Tuesday. April 29, Tuesday.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, FEBRUARY 1, 1924.

STOCK	Last business done.		Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Paid-up Value	Reserve, etc.	Financial year ended	Last Dividend, etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.										
London	£	124								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp.	$	190			61) 100,000	H $125	(a H $[illegible] (c H $65,128,831	Dec.	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chartered Bank of I., A. & C. ..London	£	19½			000,000	£5	(a £322,201 (c £[illegible]	Dec.	Final 7s. & Bonus 6s. 3d. (mkg. £1 0s. 3d.), free of I/T, 1923	5-1-24
INSURANCE.										
Union In. Society of Canton, Ltd. ..	$	113	2.24	2.26	55) 200,000	$	(a $[illegible] (b $[illegible]	Dec.	Final [illegible] ex 1922 Work a/c	26-5-24
North-China Insurance Co., Ltd.	T	138			10,000	$ £15	(c $3,574,054 (a T610,687 (c T4,782,487	Dec.	Final 15s. (mkg. 30s.) ex 1921 Work a/c. and Interim 15s ex 1922 Works. a/c.	30-5-23
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ld. ..	$	27	25		48) 250,000	$10	(av $1,021,996 (av $2,408,630 (c $1,063,242	Dec.	$2 (or T1.46) ex 1922 Work. a/c. payable in Taels at Exchg. 73	30-5-23
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ld.	T	22			1) 50,000	T20	(av T518,340 (av T204,093 (c T9,361	Dec.	T1.20 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	30-5-23
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.	H$	725			10,000	ƒ H $100	(av H $2,172,375 (c H $6,618,802	Dec.	Final H $22 (mkg. H $40) ex 1921 Work. a/c., and Interim H $18 ex 1922 Work. a/c. ..	11-5-23
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld. ..	H$	550			8,000	g H $50	(av H $631,803 (c H $5,876,385	Dec.	H $32 ex 1921 Working a/c.	28-3-23
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H$	127	140		20,000	h H $20	(av H $1,328,920 (c H $3,225,050	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/c. ..	26-4-23
Assurance Franco-Asiatique	F	500	350		14,000	F500	(a F101,368, (c F3,784,339	Dec.	None, Floated 1918	....
SHIPPING.										
Indo-China S.N. Co., Ltd. ..(6% cum.pref.	H$	38	38½		2) 120,000	£5	(a £2,167	Dec.	Pref. 6s. at Exchg.—$2/4 London Warrants less I/T a/c., 1922. Def. Ord. Nil	15-6-23
(def. ord. ..	H$	140			2) 120,000	£5	(c £2,103,182			
Shell T'sport & Trading Co., Ld. ..(ord.	'B'				38) 30,000,000	£1				
(5% cum.pref.	£		£4:8:0		48) 300,000	£10	(a* £2,029,050	Dec.	Interim 2s.. free of I/T, Coupon 42	5-1-24
(7% cum. 2nd pref.	£				57) 10,000,000	£1	(c £5,000,000			
Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld. ..(ord.	T	75			20,000	T75	(a T22,358	Dec.	(Int. Ord. T2.50 a/c., 1923)..	
(pref.	T	53	52½		10,000	T50	(c T470,000		(Int. Pref. T1.75 a/c., 1923)	9-7-23
DOCKS AND WHARVES.										
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld. ..	T	94	90		10) 55,700	T75	(a T102,535 (c T1,948,000	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
Hongkong & W'pao Dock Co., Ld.	H$	165			‡ 60,000	H $50	(a H $583,080 (c H $4,081,695	Dec.	Final H $5 & Bon. H $3 (mkg. H $12, 1922) ..	27-3-23
New Eng. and Shipbuilding Works, Ld. ..(ord.	T	6½	6		42) 500,000	T5	(a T82,417		Interim 1923, H $4	2-10-23
(8% pref.	T	5.20	5.32½		65) 500,000	T5	(b T300,000 (c T1,290,000	Dec.	Ord. T0.60, 1922	10-4-23
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ld.	T	180	182½	185	‡4) 40,000	T100	(a T12,229 (b T200,000 (c T1,941,791	Dec.	Pref. T0.40, 1922††	10-4-23
H'kong & K'loon W. & G. Co., Ld. ..	H$	184		175	80,000	H $50	(a H $303,491 (b H $250,000 (c H $100,000	Dec.	Final T12 (mkg. T15, 1922)	13-3-23
MINING.										
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld. ..	£	12/-			24) 500,000	G. $10			H. $6 & Bonus H. $3 (mkr. H $9, 1922) ..	30-2-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Bearer).	T	21½			†384) 2,000,000	£1	——	June	G $0.50, 1920-21	26-7-23
London	£		£3:12:3	£3:15:9				June	Final 8½%)Coupon No. 23) free of I/T, 1922-1923	11-12-23
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld. ..	H$	5.10			200,000	£1	(a £23,613 (c £1,[illegible]	Mar.	1s. 2d., 1909-10	21-5-10
LANDS AND HOTELS.										
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. ..	T	118	117		‡) 78,000	T50	(a T25,550 (b T250,000 (c T2,166,583	Dec.	Final T3 & Bonus T2 (mkg. T8, 1922) ..	23-3-23
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld. ..	H$	103	105		240,000	H $25	(a H $3,231,700 (b H $250,000 (c H $125,746	Dec.	(Interim 1923, T3	26-7-23
(New Reg.)									Int. H $6 a/c., 1923††	24-7-23
Humphrey's Est. & Finance Co., Ld. ..	H$	26			150,000	H $10	(b H $250,000 (c H $357,363	Dec.	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.70, 1922	10-2-23
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld.	T	6			3,674	T20	(a T2,808 (c T7,000	De..	T1.20, 1922††	24-2-23
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld. ..	T	120	120		‡3) 18,000	T100	(a T7,848 (b T20,000 (c T350,000	Feb.	Int. Divid. T3½, 1923-24	21-9-23
The Shanghai Hotels, Ld. (in liq)	$	40	50		‡41) 150,123	$7.50	(a $475,121 (c $2,465,534	Dec.	$3 on 50,000 shs ; Scrip Div. 199 new Ord. shs for ea. 123 Founders shs., 1920	11-6-21
Carlton, Ld.	T	53			14) 10,000	T50		Mar.	Interim, $3.50 on 74,600 shs., 1921, Final, Nil..	....
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	G$	100			‡18) 10,000	G $100		Dec.	Floated April 1, 1922	....
Raven Trust Co., Inc. .. .. ..(ord.	G$	10	12½		**100,000	G $10			Incorporated under the laws of Delaware Ord 1922, 7%	4-1-23
(pref.	G$	10	10			G $10			Pref. 1st gr. 1923, 12%	4-1-23
PLANTATIONS.										
Alma Estates, Ld.	T	6½	6½		70,000	£1 at T9	a T28,940	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23	19-12-23
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	0.50			‡62) 500,000	T1		Oct.	....	....
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld. ..	T	2.99			12) 400,000	10s.	a T32,505	Dec.	T0.30, 1919	7-4-20
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T	6½	6.40	6½	4) 500,000	10s.	(a T129,151 (c T378,570	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c. 1923	14-9-23
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T	25			27) 30,000	T10	(a T16,227 (b T22,000 (c T60,960	Sept.	T2.00, 1922-23	28-12-23
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Ests., Ld. ..	T	1	0.90		400,000	T1	a T30,789	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	10-4-20
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T	1.12½			500,000	T1	a T20,402	Mar.	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1916-17)	25-7-17
Bute Plantation (1913), Ld.	T	0.75			300,000	T1	(Loss)T13,070	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkg. T0.10, 1915)	29-5-17
Chemor United Rubber Co., Ld.	T	1.07½	1.05		400,000	T0.90	a T37,697	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	6-11-23
Chempedak Rub. & G'bier Est., Ld. ..	T	6		39)	35,000	£1	a(Loss)T13,435	Oct.	2nd Interim, T0.50, (mkg. T1, 1916-17) ..	1-10-17
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	1.40	1½		135,000	T5	a T4,120	June	T0.20, 1916-17	1-11-17
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld.	T	2½	2½	25)	500,000	2s.—T0.75	(a T23,102	Dec.	T0.10, 1922	20-4-23
Dominion Rubber Co., Ld.	T	2		19)	350,000	T1	(c T30,000	Dec.	Interim T0.06, 1923	14-10-23
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T	9½	9	†48)	750,000	£1;450,000 £5;200,000	a T13,813 (a (c	Dec.	T0.40, 1919	18-5-20
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee, Est. Ld.	T	14		8)	85,000	£1 at 2/3½	(a T54,465		2s. less I/T at 5s. in £1922, "B" Coupon 20)†† ..	28-3-23
Kali Gildik Coffee Estates, Ld.	T	5	4.90		70,000	T5	(c T650,113	Dec.	Interim, T0.50, 1923	3-9-23
Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ld. ..	T	12		35)	15,000	T10			Incorporated 1923	....
Karan Rubber Estate Co., Ld.	T	6			25,000	T10	(a T6,977 (c T4,023	Dec.	(T0.50, 1922	19-4-23
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1921), Ld. ..	T	1.05	1		300,000	T1	(a T3,003 (b T30,000	Mar	(Interim 1923, T0.50	17-7-23
Kruewok Java Plantations, Ld.	T	14		20)	70,000	£1 at T1.80	a (Loss)T[illegible] (a [illegible]	June	T0.60, 1922-23	1-10-23
Padang Rubber Co., Ld.	T	6½			50,000	T10	(a [illegible] (a [illegible]	Dec.	(T0.60, 1922	17-4-23
[illegible]									(Int. T0.30 a/c., 1923	7-9-23
[illegible]									T0.25, 1919-20	3-5-20

CORRESPONDENCE

DOCTORS AND THE SOCIAL EVIL.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR, The letter to the Municipal Council, signed by the Secretary of the Shanghai Medical Society on the subject of venereal disease is one of much importance, deserving consideration from all points of view, and I would like to discuss it from the view-point of a member of the Moral Welfare League. Of the 11 points, I cordially assent to most and am glad that our doctors have stated them so plainly and convincingly, and I feel sure they will have due weight with the Council and most readers.

I join issue on Nos. 1 and 3, and I will state my reasons. It is said that "nothing is to be gained by the suppression of brothels." The doctors are presumably referring to the venereal disease side of the subject: as regards humane considerations, morality, and even common decency, it must be granted that something is gained. I cannot think it right to leave out entirely the religious and moral elements, any more than it is right to see nothing but these. The correct method of approach is to let all elements have their due bearing, and in so doing it will surely be conceded that much good does result, to the girls themselves physically and morally, and to the public, and to decency and order in general.

Before going further it is in order to query if the doctors had in mind only the few foreign brothels, or the much larger number of Chinese ones; the Vice Commission gave the proportion as forty to one, and it is at once apparent that methods and recommendations which might appear to be feasible with the smaller group, would be entirely impracticable in the larger group. The Vice Commission said that *in its* deliberations it "made no difference between the foreign brothel and the native brothel; the same conditions should apply to all." It may well be that we are justified in presuming that the doctors took the same stand, and we can consider the matter as a whole, at the same time remembering that from figures given some time ago we may reckon that in this Settlement there are 90 or 100 Chinese prostitutes to one foreign.

It is said to be "a well-known fact that brothel owners move to a new location and start business afresh" after their licences have been withdrawn. If the new location is at Timbuctoo, or the North Pole, or even nearer, it seems to me no argument against our keeping our own Settlement as clean and hygienic as possible. The doctors do not dream of allowing other contagious diseases to remain at large in our midst if they can prevent it, and if venereal disease foci can be removed right out of the Settlement, it is a gain to us; and if our neighbours co-operate, the whole territory will benefit. But if the statement means that the brothel keepers start busisess afresh *in this Settlement*, it is a serious matter for the police; it is implied that they *cannot* prevent the starting afresh in defiance of the By-law, or that they *will not*, or that they are simply unaware of what the doctors say is a "well-known fact" to others?

THE QUESTION OF DISEASE.

The letter uses the argument that "as a direct resultt of the closing of houses, the foci of venereal disease are scattered." That means that if left alone, the foci remain in our midst, a terrible danger; but it is thought better to have them easily accessible, thus inviting temptation and inviting new victims, rather than try to drive them away entirely, or at least to scatter to where they would be hard to find.

Now as regards point three, which states that "It is believed that in the interests of the prevention of venereal disease, well conducted houses of prostitution should be allowed to exist so long as they do not harbour foci of venereal disease." It is further said that houses in which the disease "is known to exist, should be proceeded against by the police." One wonders—and then what? Will they be left *in situ*, and all the diseased inmates treated, or will the place be closed and the inmates scattered? If the latter, will the inmates be compelled to go to hospitals or dispensaries, or be deported from the Settlement? if deported, how will the results differ from what is objected to now? The Medical Settlement? If deported, how will any given number of prostitutes, always about one third may be assumed to be diseased." That would imply that one-third of the women should be at once proceeded against by the police, according to part 3 of the letter.

Then, who is to certify that v.d. exists in a house? It might not be difficult to find out among a few foreign women, but when attempted among thousands of Chinese, it would be found impracticable, at any rate without compulsory notification. The recent Trevethin Committee's Report says "We think that in the prtsent sttate of public opinion, any system of general compulsory notification of venereal diseases would tend to concealment, and would prove a backward step." This Report, from people highly qualified to speak on the subject, makes no suggestion whatever that houses of prostitution should be allowed to exist in the interest of prevention of disease; it says that "the community should be make to appreciate:—

a. That promiscuous intercourse is the main cause of the prevalence of venereal disease.
b. That there is no absolute preventive except continence, and a single exposure may result in infection.
c. In addition to spread of knowledge, it is necessary that measures should be pursued which will diminish those conditions of life which tend to foster promiscuous intercourse and the spread of disease.

Houses of prostitution will long continue to exist, whether "allowed" or not; but they are not to be excused as existing in the interest of prevention of disease. The "Red light" house is a snare, no matter how well it is conducted, and its patrons go there at their peril, not only of physical disease, but of moral contamination also. Why is this generation, which prides itself on its straightforwardness and calling "a spade a spade" yet so anxious to avoid calling a sin a sin, and ever seeking excuses instead of frankly refusing to countenance it? When Jesus, in His compassion, said to an erring women "neither do I condemn thee" He added "go, and sin no more." The voice of today seem disposed to say "go, and be more hygienic next time, and patronize a well-conducted place," and on no account must the word "sin" be heard! But it is not to the true interest of the individual or the community to be so disingenuous.

AN UGLZ PICTURE.

I wish the doctors who sent the letter would use their imagination and try to visualize what the houses for which they plead really mean, for Chinese at any rate. Possibly hardly one per cent. of the girls have any real choice in the matter: it is not a case of too confiding love such as often leads foreign girls to the life, nor pleasure in sexual excitement, which might make things more bearable. It is sordid commerce of the lowest kind, leading to kidnapping, sale by parents or husbands, and a brutal compulsion to the life, which is often accompanied by beatings and starvings. These are the victims, many of them very young, who are to be sacrificed, and one in three of them doomed to disease—all in the interests of the prevention of venereal disease, we are told. I marvel at any doctor suyscribing to such a doctrine, and I cannot make it square with humane feeling, or morality, and certainly not with Christ's "Golden Rule."

Just a word about street soliciting, which the letter asserts has "increased considerably in Shanghai during the last two years." This may apply to a few foreign women, as it mentions the parks; but it simply is not true about the Chinese—the vastly larger proportion of our local under world. The police statistics show a decrease of charges for this offence, and if the doctors' statement is correct, it implies great laxity on the part of the police. We have no reason to believe there is such laxity. An average of about 30 cases per month is not to be considered indicative of great prevalence of solicitation in a large population like ours. Perhaps the soliciting referred to means men as well as women! A critic at the Moral Welfare League's recent meeting said that young and respectable girls were in greater danger now than they used to be—not from their own sex presumably,—so there are evidently many men the police should give attention to; and this suggests the question of men who are known to "harbour foci of venereal disease"; do the doctors suggest that they too should be proceeded against by the police, or is it only to be a one-sided affair, thus making the whole thing absolutely ineffective as a preventive measure?

Now having shown wherein I differ from the letter sent to the Council, I should like to add that as regards quack remedies and advts., etc., we are in full agreement with the doctors; we are also ready to help all we can to extend all sane methods of treatment of v.d. Our anxiety to put a fence round the top of the cliff in no way lessens our willingness to give aid to those who have fallen over. We especially welcome the encouragement to continue educating the public in these matters by the wise dissemination of information. No one section of us can cope with this whole problem, and doctors, Council, press, and M. W. League can all make some contribution; and as this is done in a frank and mutually tolerant spirit, we may expect to make at least some progress in the effort to benefit the whole community.

I am, etc.
I. MASON.

Shanghai, Jan. 28, 19924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—When Mr. I. Mason last year addressed the Secretary of the Municipal Council with a lot of correspondence after the style of the one published in your today's issue, he was finally told that no good can come from prolonging the correspondence on the subject, or words to that effect.

Most of us, I think, are inclined to side with the Council in their decision in this matter for the reason that Mr. Mason invariably bases his argument on a lot of statistics, etc., that can have no bearing in a place like Shanghai, but when he goes so far as to quote various passages from Scripture to support his contentions, I think it is about time that we do not take him seriously in future when he again appears in connexion with the M. W. League's activities.

I am, etc.,
CITIZEN.

Shanghai, Jan. 30, 1924.

CHINA'S BANDITS, THE PEOPLE'S DEFIANCE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The man in the street and other ordinary men, should they be classed with Robin Hood and his merry men, would perhaps not very strenuously object, but I, for one, would hate to be dubbed a Chinese bandit, chief or otherwise. Who does not know that he is a lousy creature, merciless, villainous,—a skunk of the most odious.

Sir, when your friends, even, laugh at you, it is time to canvass your mind, and clear away the cob-webs.

Certainly, there is little to choose between any of them:—President, Tuchun or Bandit chief. I am perfectly willing to believe they are all honorific titles in China. But, when we come to the theory that the Chinese people—(which I take to mean: "Pah hsing": literally, "the 100 families," meaning "fellow nationals," respectable and law-abiding)—become bandits as a protest against injustice, the argument is so unconvincing it needs no further refutation.

The idea that banditry is a gesture of the people against the government is quite an attractive one, and may have its adherents, but it has nothing to recommend it except its poetry. It is a pipe-dream, nothing less, nothing more.

Some well-known writers have said that China has always been the same with regard to banditry and piracy. My own experience bears out this assertion. But, and that is a big But, foreigners were not much molested within the memory of the present generation, owing to action taken previously by the Governments concerned. The hydra-headed monster of outlawry in China is hidden and covered up except when an effete government allows it to show its numerous heads, and then, indeed, it is a job for the gods. I refuse to believe that the "pah-hsing" would change to the bandit rabble. They are not that way. Let us not mistake the cause for the effect. Bandits *are* the tools of the higher-ups, unscrupulous, astute or otherwise. They are not *in danger* of being so. The riff-raff coolie soldiers do the best they can and are not guilty of anything but ignorance. It is not they, who, after all, get all the kicks and no kudos, who are to be condemned. The undisciplined military is a curse, pure and simple, but the recruits for the armies everywhere in China are taken for the most part from the worst classes, criminals, ne'er-do-weels, exiles and outlaws, who welcome their uniform as a cloak of authority covering their further and greater depredations. For this reason the "Pah-hsing" do not choose the army as a career. It is only the "bad-eggs" who do. The people are not driven to the highway. Those in the highway are there of their own accord, and always have been there. The only difference is that they were hidden and covered up, and now they are not. Those left in the highway clamour to join the army. Their terms invariably are to be enrolled in the forces of corruption and disorder, to get a uniform, so as to be able to plunder and rob "legally."

By all accounts there is very little wrong with the Chinese Code of laws. The fault lies not in the Code, but in the administration thereof.

Burke says "the people have no interest in disorder," but Burke was never in China, or he would have said there are some. Who these people are it is the duty of those in high places to find out, and, finding out, to act without delay and without stint. Are we waiting for another Boxer outbreak?

I am, etc.,
FRERE

Shaghai, Jan. 26, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Your Chinese correspondent "K.C.K." invites discussion on the question of China's misfortune.

I venture to suggest that "K.C.K." should endeavour to persuade his fellow-countrymen to petition the League of Nations to appoint a Committee (including, if possible, a representative from U.S.A.) to take over, for a term of years, the task of protecting China from all outer and inner foes. Details might be varied *ad infinitum*: what is outlined below is merely one possible method of tackling the job. China's "Sovereign Rights" must be satisfactorily safeguarded, and a guarantee given that the Committee will "hand over" and dissolve when it is obvious that "law and order" has been established, and there is a Central Government, accepted by all the provinces, with a reasonable prospect of carrying on properly. Possibly the better plan would be for the return to take place piecemeal, provinces being handed back when "law and order" is genuinely restored: other turbulent provinces still remaining under the control of the League of Nations Committee for the time being.

Chinese self-governing bodies—provincial assemblies, town councils, etc.—should resume their activities immediately, and as soon as practicable take over all local police work (*i.e.*, such work as does not require rifles).

The League of Nations Committee should be in order in making representations or recommendations when they deem it desirable or useful; but, unless specially invited, for this to be the limit to which they can interfere in all such matters as sanitation, riverine improvements (improving rapids, reconstructing dykes, etc.), peculation in finance or corruption in politics.

The League of Nations Committee should adopt Chinese methods as far as possible, so that the Chinese Central Government would more easily "take over" when the time arrives. No doubt at first foreign troops would be required, but as quickly as possible these would be superseded by Chinese under foreign officers: these officers being also replaced by Chinese as it appeared practicable.

It would also be wise of China to allow this League of Nations Committee to take over control of China's finances, handing back as soon as stability is restored (which would be quite soon, if law and order is guaranteed).

The expenses of the work done by the Committee could be met by a special loan to China, negociated by the Committee.

The point of this scheme which should appeal to "K.C.K." and his fellow-countrymen is that it will be on the lines of helpfulness and sympathy: very different from punitive intervention.

I am, etc.,
S

Shanghai, Jan. 25, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Your to-day's correspondent "S" propounds a scheme almost identical with mine, embodied in an essay I wrote more than a month ago for a local paper. We agree in the principle, and only differ in the details, which are not important. I am sorry I am not at liberty to publish my article, until I can get permission from its present custodian. But I am glad to have this voluntary endorsement, and should like to know how many more share in the same views.

I am, etc.,
K. C. K

Shanghai, Jan. 29, 1924.

CHINA'S SEARCH FOR PEACE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—If foreigners who shouted themselves hoarse over the Lincheng affair and who believe that we can compel the degradation and punishment of Chinese officials; who are of the opinion that we can force foreign railway guards on China and interfere generally in her internal affairs; who advocate the employment of the mailed fist, gunboats and foreign military intervention for the purpose of restoring order in the country, would have the patience to read Mr. Rodney Gilbert's articles on "China's Search for Peace," they would learn the reasons why none of these things can be done.

But as the majority are too engrossed in their own personal concerns to devote time and thought to a subject which ought to compel their attention, it will be sufficient if they will read and re-read the final paragraph headed "A New Cast Needed," which appeared in the "North-China Daily News" of the 28th instant. The paragraph referred too contains only forty lines but summarizes succinctly all-sufficient reasons why we are obliged to let China solve her own problems.

I am, etc.,
GORDIUS NIELSEN.

Shanghai, Jan. 28, 1924.

I. S. S. DRAWINGS.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—May I ask you, through the columns of your widely-read journal, to give your many readers some insight into the method of drawing as now practisd by the International Savings Society at their monthly meetings.

I am, etc.,
A BOND-HOLDER.

Dalny: 25th, Jan. 1924.

THE rate for the collection of fees at the United States Consulate-General has been re-established for the current quarter as follows:—

Mex. $1.9965 equals U.S. $1. U S $1.00=$2.00; U.S. $2.00=$4.00); U S $2.50=$5.00; U.S. $5.00=$9.99; U S $7.00=$13.98; U.S. $9.00=$17.97; U.S $10.00=$19.97.

COMPANY MEETING

KALI GLIDIK COFFEE ESTATES

Statutory and Annual Meetings

The statutory meeting of the Kali Glidik Coffee Estates Ltd. was held at the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, Shanghai, on January 25th, representing the Secretaries and General Managers (Messrs. J. A. [illegible]) were present representing 29,299 shares. Mr. A. J. Welch, the Chairman said:—

This meeting is called to comply with the Companies Ordinances which, as you are doubtless aware, require every public company to hold a statutory meeting within three months from the date on which the company is entitled to commence business.

The statutory report has been in your hands for several days and from it you will have seen that the whole present issue of 70,000 shares has been taken up and paid for and remittances have been sent to Java to pay for the purchase of the estates and to supply them with a certain amount of working capital for running expenses.

Preliminary expenses may appear high to you, but they include the 2½ per cent. commission paid to the underwriters as well as all legal and other expenses incidental to the flotation of the company.

The Dutch company "Cultuur Maatschappy Kali Glidik Estates, Limited," was duly formed on December 12, 1923, but up to the present time we have not received [illegible] statutes. The share certificates will be deposited in the name of this company with the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation in Soerabaya as soon as they are ready.

A list of shareholders is lying on the table and is open for your [illegible]

As an ordinary meeting is to be held immediately after this meeting, I will reserve any remarks that I have to make on general and estate matters until then, but if any of you have any questions to ask in connexion with the report, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability.

There were no questions and the following resolution was carried:—

That the statutory report as presented be passed.—Proposed by Mr. A. J. Welch, seconded by Captain R. E. Sassoon.

ANNUAL MEETING

Following the statutory meeting of the [illegible] annual general meeting was held when Mr. A. J. Welch presided. In addressing the meeting he said:—

As it is [illegible] that the Companies Ordinances require that every public company shall hold a statutory meeting within three months from the date on which it is entitled to commence business, and annual meetings in every succeeding year and as our first financial period will not terminate until December 31, 1924—[illegible] ready until the spring of 1925. [illegible] advisable to take advantage of this gathering to do so, and to give you what information they can regarding the progress of the company.

This company, which obtained its [illegible] on November [illegible], 1923, was formed to acquire two estates in Java. [illegible] to improve the condition of the existing plantations and in the other to develop the property with coffee and products that cultivation. The estates [illegible] from the west coast, Kali Glidik, 1872 acres of which is situated in East Java, on the western slopes of the Smeroe Mountains, and about [illegible] fully planted with two varieties of coffee, approximately 500 acres being under Liberian coffee about 300 acres under Robusta mixed with Java coffee and 70 acres under Java coffee alone.

The soil is extremely rich and the estate is in the heart of the famous Smeroe district where the best coffee in Java is grown.

WORK ON THE ESTATE.

The Java coffee bushes that are interplanted amongst the Robusta have deteriorated, however, and as this variety requires a long [illegible] cannot be depended upon nowadays, [illegible] with Robusta or some other hardy [illegible] changed climatic conditions and not so liable to disease. The 70 acres under Java coffee alone are [illegible] coffee, and being situated at the highest point on the estate, will be retained as a permanent Java coffee area. Parts of the Robusta gardens have also been somewhat starved in the past through lack of adequate expenditure on upkeep, but this is a matter that is easily remedied and the improve- [illegible] is now being taken actively [illegible] I may tell you that, although we did not obtain possession of the estate until January 1, 1924, we were able to arrange with the late owners that work should be undertaken in some areas, under the advice of our visiting agent, which will enable the areas treated to reach full productivity a year earlier than would otherwise have been the case, since work of the nature of pruning and stumping must be done at the latest by the end of November if an extra year's crop is not to be lost. What I mean is that trees stumped not later than November, 1923, will yield nothing in 1924, a small crop in 1925 and be in full bearing again in 1926; if stumped later than November, a full crop would not be obtainable till 1927 and both 1924 and 1925 would yield nothing.

Writing early in January, the visiting agent described the then condition of the gardens as approximately 1,120 acres very good, 350 acres medium and 380 acres indifferent. The latter is the area under Java and Robusta Coffee to which I have already referred.

CURRENT YEAR PROSPECTS.

As regards prospects for the current year the estimated crops are as follows:—

Robusta	7,000 piculs
Java	75 "
Coca	75 "

In this connexion I must point out that coffee crops are estimated by the manager by the amount of blossom that appears to him to have set and with a large crop [illegible] to [illegible] a few hundred piculs [illegible] red berries and market coffee is not [illegible] until the crop has [illegible] prepared [illegible] have been unfortunate because 1923 was an [illegible] early dry year in Java. [illegible] had [illegible] drought or [illegible] than it did, [illegible] pass [illegible] for a still larger [illegible] have been extremely [illegible] the other hand, in [illegible] the [illegible] such a good year as in many [illegible] late [illegible] a [illegible] of their [illegible] failed to set.

You [illegible] have made a forward sale of the first 2,000 piculs of Robusta that are harvested at Guilders 41⅞ per picul Telquel, this price is equivalent to about Guilders 46⅝ per picul for first quality.

We have deemed it advisable to sell, with all faults, instead of sorting on the estate, as it will enable us to get the coffee away from the estate immediately the preparation is completed and furthermore, as a large portion of the crop next year will probably ripen at the same time, it will obviate the risk of our being short of women for plucking through our having diverted them to the work of sorting.

When we know how the supply of labour is and how the crop is coming in, we can sort the balance of our crop if necessary.

The estate is equipped with the necessary buildings for the [illegible] staff, factory and drying [illegible]

The Factory was practically rebuilt during 1923, at a cost of over F.80,000, and is now admirably arranged for economical working, the machinery being of the latest and most efficient type and most of the transport of the coffee, during the different stages of manufacture, being mechanical.

VIRGIN SOIL.

The other estate, Kawali, or rather I should say, Panawangan, which is its correct name, covers 1,246 acres and is situated in Mid Java on the new main road from Tjiamis to Cheribon; it is virgin soil never having been planted with any culture. The soil is reported to be extremely rich and the elevation and climate are eminently suited for the successful growth of Robusta coffee.

The whole area is cleared ready for planting and our intention is gradually to develop it on the most scientific and up-to-date lines.

It is anticipated that when the estate reaches maturity, the yields will equal, if not exceed, the already high yields on Kali Glidik estate.

We expect to have about 175 acres planted with Robusta coffee by the end of this month and propose to open up a similar area before the end of 1924. Our policy is to cut our coat according to the cloth available and to open only a small area annually for the first three years. The present plantings should yield a small crop in 1926 and a full crop in 1927 by which time the second planting should also have begun to bear, and the profit derived from the output should then enable us to embark on a large annual programme and complete the planting of the estate.

There are no buildings on the estate at present, but it will be necessary in a few months time to erect a small bungalow at a cost not exceeding F.3.000 for the manager, who is at present living in a native hut.

It will never be necessary to build a large number of coolie quarters owing to the fact that there is a village with 7,000 inhabitants right on the borders of the estate, but later on it may be found advisable to build a few houses to accommodate a limited number of labourers from a different district so that we shall not be entirely dependent on one class of labour.

COMPANY'S PROSPECTS.

On the whole, genelemen, the prospects for this company are extremely bright, the existing plantations, the condition of which is being steadily improved, should earn a dividend this year and from 1926 onwards the output from Kali Glidik will be augmented by the gradually increasing crops from Panawangan. You must understand, however, that coffee is a culture extremely susceptible to the weather conditions ruling at the time of blossoming so that large variations in the crop from year to year are unavoidable, but when Panawangan comes into full bearing, the combined outputs from the two properties should be sufficient always to earn a dividend no matter what the weather conditions may have been.

That is all I have to say, Gentlemen, but, if any of you have any questions you would like to ask, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability.

There were no questions and the meeting then concluded.

CLUB AND SOCIETIES

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY

Successful Year's Work: Increase in Membership

The annual meeting of St. Patrick's Society was held at the Palace Hotel on Tuesday. Mr. J. J. Dunne, acting President, in the absence of Mr. R. E. Moorhead, presided. There was a good attendance.

The Chairman said he had to regret that their worthy President, Mr. R. B. Moorhead had resigned some two months ago on leaving Shanghai. He had been intimately connected with the society for many years and took a great interest in it, and served successively as a member of the Committee, as hon. treasurer, Vice-President, and as President. They hoped to have the pleasure of seeing him back in Shanghai.

The accounts showed that the ordinary receipts were some $806, from which had been expended some $748, including $301 on school fees for Irish children and $250 on advances and assistance to their fellow-countrymen in distress. The chairman was glad to say that all known cases of Irish men or women in need, or who had made application to the society for assistance had been investigated, and help given.

A new account, called "Charity Account" had been opened, the foundation of which was the proceeds of the raffle of a doll presented by Mr. R. B. Moorhead. Members of the society were invited to send subscriptions to this account when they felt so disposed and particularly in place of flowers in memory of their deceased friends. They had expended from this fund in the past year $300 in assisting towards cost of passage money to America.

Other activities during the past year were the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, which was held at the New Carlton, and passed off most successfully, and co-operation with the other patriotic societies of the Empire in the St. Dunstan's Committee. It was proposed to institute an [illegible] day of remembrance of St. Dunstan's and the speaker was sure this noble work of caring for the blind would receive generous support.

There had been a gratifying increase in membership since the last annual meeting, and he had great pleasure in welcoming new members, and also in welcoming re-joining members.

He had to thank their friend Mr. Ridgway for his successful efforts in increasing the membership, also the hon. secretary, Mr. Givens, and the hon. treasurer Mr. Stafford, both of whom had worked whole-heartedly for the good of the society.

Mr. L. M. Beytagh was elected President and Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Vice-President.

There was a lively discussion on the coming annual St. Patrick's Ball to be given on March 17 and it was the concensus of opinion of the majority present that the dance this year would eclipse those of the past. They would make it the biggest and the best. Committees were appointed

---

LETTERS have been received by the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce from various local organizations urging it to give its support to the movement for the education of the common people. This is a movement which is endeavouring to teach the man in the street 1,000 of the most commonly used Chinese characters

ULCERATED LEGS & Obstinate Sores

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IN chronic sores, varicose ulcers and old wounds, where destruction of the tissues has occurred through disease or neglect of an injury, Zam-Buk is simply wonderful.

Zam-Buk is a pure, highly-refined balm, composed of rich herbal essences which soothe, purify and cool the skin, banish pain and inflammation, and stimulate the growth of healthy new tissue. At the same time, Zam-Buk is a most powerful natural antiseptic that *kills* disease germs.

Zam-Buk ensures *permanent healing* for it heals from the inside in Nature's own way. Common salves and ointments containing rancid animal fats and mineral drugs invariably produce *false healing*. They cover up surface trouble and leave the poisons in the skin. Thus the sores, abscesses or ulcers soon break out again, often in a different part of the body.

Also for eczema, Delhi sores, heat rash and swellings, ringworm, boils, poisoned sores, bad feet, bites, stings, and all cuts, wounds and sores, Zam-Buk is the soothing, speedy remedy. *Of all medicine vendors.*

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LAW REPORTS

WHAT NATIONALITY?

Born in Hongkong, Registered as British, but American: Curious Plea in Court

In H. M. Supreme Court on ...esday, his Honour Judge Sir ...kinner Turner heard a judgment ...ns, in which R. P. Reme... ...ns sought to recover from P. R. ...rray the sum of $676, arrears ...f rent and costs due under a ...evious judgment given in an ...tion brought by R. P. Remedios ...gainst A. C. Ismail and P. R. ...urray in connexion with the ...rystal Ice and Cold Storage Co. ...Mr. Goldring, for plaintiff, ...tated that the latter had been ...written to in regard to the matter ...nd had replied that it had no... ...ing to do with him, which on ...he face of it was absurd. Judg... ...ent on behalf of the plaintiff ...as been given on December 18.

Defendant, in the box, stated ...hat he was in no way responsible ...or the Company. It belonged to ...is father who was a citizen of ...he United States. He also ...laimed American citizenship and ...as therefore in any case not ...ubject to the jurisdiction.

Mr. Goldring—But you were ...orn in Hongkong.

Defendant—That does not make ...e a British citizen.

Defendant admitted, however, ...hat he was registered in the ...British Consulate.

His Lordship pointed out that ...o suggestion had been raised by ...efendant in the previous case ...hat he was not liable for the debt.

Questioned regarding his means ...f paying the debt defendant ...tated that he only received an ...llowance from his father which ...ave him a bare living. This ...mounted to about $300 a month. ...e denied that he had had an ...ccount with the Hongkong & ...hanghai Bank within the ...ast month.

Mr. Goldring asked for an ad... ...ournment to enable him to prove ...hat the defendant had means, ...ut this his Lordship refused.

Questioned as to whether he ...ould make some offer, defendant ...tated that he could pay $10 but ...ot more.

Mr. Goldring objected on the ...round that defendant could pay ...nd asked for an order to com... ...it him to gaol. This was refus... ...d his Lordship remarking that ...he onus lay on the plaintiff to ...rove that defendant had the ...eans and yet refused to pay. ...his had not been done and the ...riginal judgment would there... ...re stand.

DECREE ABSOLUTE GRANTED

Domicile Proved in Powell Divorce: The Nevada Decree

At H. M. Supreme Court on ...ursday a decree nisi was made ...bsolute in the case in which ...idney J. Powell, civil engineer ...f Shanghai, petitioned for a ...ivorce from his wife Catherine ...gnes Powell, the co-respondent ...eing Edward Anthony Sykes.

The parties were married at ...H.M. Consulate, Cairo, in 1901, ...nd there were two children of ...he marriage. The case, it will ...e remembered came before the ...hief Judge at H.M. Supreme ...ourt in February last year and ...volved some interesting points ...f law with reference to domicile ...nd the effect on British subjects ...f China of a divorce granted at ...eno, (Nev.) U.S.A.,—in this case ...btained by Mrs. Powell on May ...1921.

The judge pointed out that the ...ecree recognized in British ...ourts to have full validity ...nywhere must be pronounced ...y the Court of domicile, and ...found that the husband had ...cired domicile in China. The ...w of England was the law of ...he Court. The wife's domicile ...as that of her husband. The ...ourt alone could dissolve the ...arriage. The petitioner had ...ailed evidence to show the re... ...ationship between respondent ...nd co-respondent in 1920 and the ...eginning of 1922 and on these ...rounds a decree nisi was grant...

AN OBSTRUCTIVE RICSHA COOLIE

Police Court Sequel: Mr. H. Quelch Charged with Assault

At H. M. Police Court on Saturday, before Mr. G. W. King, Mr. H. Quelch was charged with an assult on a ricsha coolie at 73 Szechuen Road on the 19th instant.

The coolie gave evidence that he was employed by Miss Barchet, of the American Bible Society, and on Saturday last was waiting with his ricsha in a passageway alongside the defendant's offices. Mr. Quelch came out of his office and told witness to go away, whereupon he went to tell his mistress. When he returned defendant came out and struck him hitting him on the nose and kicking him.

Miss B. Barchet told the court that when the coolie came up to her the second time his face was covered with blood. She went to speak to defendant about it and he said he had told the coolie repeatedly that he could not remain there with his ricsha, but witness was under the impression that he could do so during office hours. The result of the conversation was that both witness and Mr. Quelch became angry. She went and informed her employer, the Rev. G. Carleton Lacey, and they returned to Mr. Quelch's office together, defendant then threatening to call the police if they did not clear out. The coolie obtained a doctor's certificate, and this was sent to defendant with a note to the effect that if he would pay $15 for it the matter would be dropped. No answer was given.

His Worship—Isn't $15 rather a high price for the certificate?

Witness—That is the price at Shantung Road Hospital.

Defendant stated that there were a number of ricshas in the passage way and he told the coolies to go away, all of them leaving except this particular one. When witness again told him to leave, he simply leered up in witness's face and stood perfectly still. Witness then turned the ricsha over on its side as an indication that the coolie would have to go, and in leisurely fashion he righted it and went out on the road. The matter was explained to Miss Barchet, and when she left she spoke to the coolie and he returned to the passage way and sat down with his ricsha. This was too much for witness to stand, and he forcibly ejected the coolie from the passage with the side of his foot and the flat of his hand.

His Worship said defendant ought not to have taken the law into his own hands. He should have called a policeman. Fined $5.

NEGLIGENT DRIVING

A Collision at Nanking and Tibet Roads

W. J. Moss was summoned before Mr. G. W. King at H. M. Police Court last Friday for negligently driving a motor car at the Nanking-Thibet Road crossing at 9.50 p.m. on the 15th instant; also for failing to have two lighted lamps at the front and one at the rear of the car whilst driving along Honan Road at 10.15 the same night. Mr. E. T. Maitland appeared for the police.

Mr. H. J. Brett, Commercial Secretary of the British Legation, stated that he was driving along Nanking Road and had reached Thibet Road crossing when defendant, coming from the west, turned south into Thibet Road directly in front of his car, without any warning. Witness jammed on his brakes and swerved slightly to the left so as not to get the car full on but, although both cars pulled up, there was a collision.

Defendant—Why did you send your driver to tell the Chinese policeman to put the blame on me? I know that was so, because a Chinese lady who was with me heard what was said.

Witness replied that he did nothing of the sort. Mr. Brett also denied that he "ran away" before the Chinese policeman could get his name and address.

Police evidence was given supporting Mr. Brett's statement, the Sikh policeman on traffic duty stating that defendant was talking to a lady in the car and drove carelessly.

Defendant said that he was driving slowly at the time, and there was no traffic about. Had Mr. Brett steered his car to the right instead of to the left there would have been no collision. He admitted that his lights went wrong for a few seconds.

His Worship fined defendant $5 for negligent driving and $3 for being without lights on the car.

AN OLD PROPERTY DISPUTE

Another Argument in U. S. Court

Mrs. Alice Rude Hansen, second intervenor in the cause of Emil S. Fischer *v.* Charles Stone, represented by Mr. A. S. Allan on Monday applied to the American Court to confirm the sale of the property in question, U. S. Lot 2725.

It was stated by Mr. C. S. Franklin, attorney for plaintiff, that the Marshal, according to the Court's judgment and the agreement by parties concerned, had sold the lot at a private sale and realized amounts to cover the judgment, Tls. 10,000 plus interest from February 23, 1920, for Mr. Fischer and Tls. 10,000 for the first intervenor, Mr. Woo.

Mr. J. B. Davies for Mr. Woo, said that his client would be willing to pay a higher price for the property than had been secured; as a matter of fact he would offer then and there in Court Tls. 40,000 for it and perhaps a little more.

Mr. Allan contended that in the agreement there had been no stipulation as to the price agreed upon, there had been a general consent on the part of all concerned to sell at a private sale.

Mr. Franklin argued that the sale had been in accordance with the stipulations of all concerned and that as the right to appeal had not been taken within 60 days nothing further could be done in the matter, further that he wanted interest on his client's share from the time of sale until the amount due was actually paid to him.

The disposition of the money from the sale and the interest claim was agreed to by the attorneys appearing.

"ALCOHOLIC POISONING"

Inquest Verdict in Hotel Death

A verdict of "death from alcoholic poisoning" was returned at the inquest held by Mr. N. E. Lurton at the U. S. Court on Thursday on E. V. Brey, who was found dead in his room by the Chinese servants at the Savoy Hotel, with an empty whiskey bottle beside him.

Brey was about 45 years of age and an engineer who came to the Far East some time ago, but had been in Shanghai for a few months only, having been employed here, as a salesman for an engineering concern.

The jury was composed of Messrs. James Dolan, C. A. Stewart, Fred Vincent, James Jones, John S. Potter and L. P. Schrag.

INFORMATION has reached the U. S. Consulate-General that the Japanese authorities at Yokohama are strictly insisting upon the possession of a valid passport visaed by a Japanese Consul before tourists may land at that port.

A coolie, Tsah Dzang-kung, was killed and another injured, at the Riverside Power Station on Tuesday morning at about 10.30 o'clock. It appears that as the employees on the premises were hoisting a load of materials by crane, the pulley broke and Tsah, who was directly below, received injuries from which he subsequently died. The other man received minor injuries.

AMERICANS IN LEASED TERRITORIES

Still Subject to American Consular Jurisdiction: The Alleged Offender in Dairen Assault Charge Must Submit to the U. S. Court

An important decision relating to American extraterritorial rights in the Leased Territory of the Liaotung Peninsula was handed down by Mr. N. E. Lurton at the U. S. Commissioner's Court on Saturday. The case was one in which an American shipmaster, Arthur W. Smith, was recently charged with assaulting three seamen at Dairen. Major C. P. Holcomb, on behalf of the accused man, moved that the Court had no jurisdiction, the alleged offence having been committed within the peace of the Emperor of Japan.

In overruling the motion, the Commissioner held that the United States Government had never relinquished its extraterritorial rights in the territory named, and that a *primâ facie* case had been made out against the prisoner, who must submit to the Court's jurisdiction.

In the course of his interesting decision, the Commissioner, after refering to various treaties with regard to the peninsula, said:

In analysing the intentions of the parties to these treaties, it appears that China in the original lease made with Russia reserved to herself her Sovereign Powers over this territory as it was explicity so stated in the body of the lease. It further appears that in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Japan, these same rights were transferred to the latter subject, however, to the acquiescence of China which appears to have been given a few months later. The period of this lease as acquired by Japan extended only until March 27, 1923. In the beginning of the year 1915, Japan sought to renew the Liaotung lease with China, and exchanged notes respecting same under the title of The Treaty Respecting South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia. This treaty among other things extended the term of the lease of Port Arthur and Dairen for a period of 29 years. It also contained an article which can be said bears strongly on the question that is being considered here.

This article known as article No. 5 of said treaty in the second paragraph thereof, reads as follows: "Civil and criminal cases in which the defendants are Japanese, shall be tried and adjudicated by the Japanese consul; those in which the defendants are Chinese, shall be tried and adjudicated by Chinese authorities. In either case, an officer may be deputed to the Court to attend the proceedings; but amongst civil cases between Chinese and Japanese relating to land, shall be tried and adjudicated by delegates of both nations conjointly in accordance with Chinese laws and local usage."

In construing this particular part of the treaty, it shows conclusively that Japan recognized the sovereignty of China, and reiterated in specific terms her extraterritorial rights for her subjects and does not claim supreme powers to herself to the exclusion of Chinese sovereignty in this particular territory.

During the negotiations between Japan and China respecting this treaty, the famous 21 Demands presented to China by Japan came into existence, one of which, bore directly on the extension of the lease of Port Arthur and Dairen. On May 8, 1915, an ultimatum was handed to China by Japan requiring her to agree to these demands which the former claims was accepted under duress. However, before China's formal acceptance was given, the United States Government communicated the reservation of rights of the American Government under date of May 13, 1915, as follows: "In view of the circumstances of the negotiations which have taken place, and which are now pending between the Government of Japan, and of the agreements which have been read as a result thereof, the Government of the United States has the honour to notify the Government of the Chinese Republic that it cannot recognize any agreement or undertaking which has been entered into or may be entered into between the Governments of China and Japan or the treaty rights of the United States and its citizens in China; the political or territorial integrity of the Republic of China or the international policy relative to China, and commonly known as the Open Door policy."

It is here very apparent that the United States has not been a party to or has in any way waived her extraterritorial rights given to her by the various treaties with China, and took the occasion to so notify both China and Japan before this treaty was actually signed.

The same question subsequently occupied a very important part in the Sixth Plenary Session of the Conference on the Limitation of Armament held in Washington on February 4, 1922.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Government of the United States read in part as follows:

"With respect to this grant, the Government of the United States will, of course, regard it as not intended to be exclusive, and, as in the past, will claim from the Chinese Government for American citizens, the benefits accruing to them by virtue of the most favoured nation clause in the Treaties between the United States and China."

In these utterances which have been made a permanent record, and adopted by the United States Government, it shows conclusively that it never has relinquished its extraterritorial rights in this particular territory in question.

It further appears that Mr. Hay, Secretary of State in 1900, instructed the Consuls in China that they had no authority to exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction or to perform non-judicial Consular acts within the leased territory under their present Chinese exequaturs.

In the memorandum of Mr. Van Dyne, Assistant Solicitor for the United States, he seems to take a different view of this situation than did Mr. Hay, and says: "As it is expressly stipulated in the lease that China retains sovereignty over the territory leased, it could doubtless be asserted that such territory is still Chinese territory and that the provisions of our treaties with China granting consular jurisdiction are still applicable therein. But in view of the express relinquishment of jurisdiction by China, I infer that the reservation of sovereignty is merely intended to cut off possible future claims of the lessees that the Sovereignty of the territory is permanently vested in them. The intention and effects of these leases appear to me to have been the relinquishment by China, during the term of the leases, and the conferring upon the foreign power in each case of all jurisdiction over the territory. Such relinquishment would seem, also, to involve the loss by the United States of its right to exercise consular jurisdiction in the territories leased. And, as Mr. Conger suggests, as these territories have practically passed from the control of an uncivilized people to civilized, there would seem to be no substantial reason for continuing to exercise such jurisdiction."

Judge Moore in his International Law Digest says: "It is the duty of the courts not to construe an act of Congress as modifying and annulling a treaty made with another nation, unless its words clearly and strongly point to such a construction."

This principle of Judge Moore's seems to cover the situation herein involved. The defendant in this case is the one that is attacking the jurisdiction of the United States in exercising its authority over him in an action brought in its Fedoral Court. There is no positive assertion on the part of the United States that it has abrogated its treaties with China in respect to the issue involved in this case. It might be said that this situation would become more complex, should this same objection be made by a friendly Power, as the disposition of the matter would then be adjudicated by a totally different tribunal. But such is not the case.

Having taken into considera-

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

S. V. C. MOUNTED UNITS

Sunday's Cross-Country Rides

Sunday was a busy day with the S.V.C. mounted units, both the Light Horse and the Field Artillery Battery having cross-country engagements. The Artillery were the first to get going with their annual sub-section point-to-point race, starting at [illegible] of Warren and Hungjao Roads at 10.45 a.m. and finishing along the Warren Line, which this season is counted a trifle too awkward even for the paper hunters. The Gunners had five sections out, all finishing the course and No. 3 coming home in the fast time of 20 minutes. No. 4 section were second and the plucky signallers were third. The winners were:—Sergt. Brown, Gnrs. Brown, Henry, Ferguson and Williams. No. 1 Section were doing easily the best time, but they had the misfortune to lose a man at the last jump and with the country in the state it is just now it is no disgrace to meet with disaster anywhere.

LIGHT HORSE RIDE

The annual section ride of the Light Horse was fixed for about the same time as the Artillerymen's ride and after giving the latter time to get off the course the Light Horse sent nine teams away on a stiff journey from the Warren Line out over Suez, one jump to Westward Ho platform, any route to Marah, Hungjao Road at the Octopus Tree, Dallas's Grave, round Clear Water, Family Tree platform, Westward Ho platform, left handed to two [illegible] jump, then righthanded to Suez and a finish at the Warren Line.

[illegible] sec., done by No. 1 Troop "A" [illegible] L/Cpl. W. Fiddes Wilson, 180 lb., Pinmore; Tpr. H. Herlofsen, 167 lb., griffin; Tpr. J. G. Lyon, 168 lb., Black Friar.

The winners were hunted in by L/Cpl. Mellor's "D" Team No. 2 [illegible] the Recruits "A" team (Capt. Spence), 2 min.

[illegible] enjoyable ride and all the nine teams finished. By common consent the honours were voted to Tpr. Thorn, who, [illegible] through the ice on one side whilst [illegible] subsequently met with other adventures, still managed to finish in good order. However, he had a good troop leader in Tpr. Matthews, who knows how to make the best out of awkward circumstances.

The prizes, which were presented by ex-commanding officers, were distributed by Mrs. McMichael at a gathering subsequent to the ride at Capt. H.M. Spence's house.

THE PAPERHUNT HANDICAP

Won by Mr. N. L. Sparke: Series of Accidents

Eighty members of the Paperhunt Club competed in the annual handicap on Saturday afternoon. [illegible] and bitter wind from the north west, but once on the move, this was not so trying. There were few spectators on the course, as the course being [illegible] most of the horses and [illegible] had [illegible] of [illegible] since they [illegible] the [illegible].

Prompt to the time appointed, riders were despatched at their [illegible] by Mr. A. W. Green, Steward of the Club, with Mr. W. C. Pell-[illegible] Mr. G. Grayburn, Master, at the [illegible] which was [illegible] over [illegible] and a quarter miles in length, starting at the corner of Warren and Bubbling Roads and finishing at Suez.

[illegible] pair, [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] were sent off promptly at 3.30 p.m., followed [illegible] minute later by one [illegible] outcast on the thoroughly [illegible] [illegible] Then came the rest of the competitors in batches until all were despatched.

The going was rather dusty in spite of the recent rains and casualties were somewhat numerous. Mr. J. H. Liddell, who became qualified to ride in the "pink" at the last hunt, speedily came to grief, followed by Mr. David Brand, whose pony got into the Beeline Creek. Mr. Hickling lost his pony, Wiltshire, and General Macnaghten came down at the Clearwater Jump, Mr. Vaughan Craddock fell into the new nine-foot waterjump near Benbow's Finish and Mr. J. C. Greig fell at Clearwater, and his pony Mistylight unhappily broke its fetlock and had to be destroyed.

At the approaches to the finish Mr. J. H. Teesdale appeared to be holding the lead, but just before the finishing jump Mr. N. L. Sparke on Wild Chance overtook him and thus won the Handicap. The classes on the whole were well represented on the card which reads as follows:—

1. Mr. N. L. Sparke, 157 lbs., on Wild Chance (1¼ mins.)
2. Mr. J. H. Teesdale, 161 lbs., on Cape Horn (2 mins);
3. Mr. W. D. Fiddes-Wilson, 176 lbs., on Right Royal (2¼ mins.)
4. Mr. J. G. Lyon, 166 lbs., on Torrid (2½ mins.).
5. Mr. H. G. Robinson, 174 lbs., on Salamander (3 mins).
6. Dr. C. Noel Davis, 126 lbs., on Sherwood (½ min.) min.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Result in Brief

INTERNATIONAL CUP.

England, 14; Portugal, 1.

SECOND LEAGUE.

Jewish R. C., 2; Customs, 0.
Football Club, 3; Recs, 0.
Maritime Co., 3; Navy, 0.
S.P.S. scratched to Police.

The game between England and Portugal in the first round of the Prentice-Skottowe International Cup competition produce a remarkable match—remarkable for the number of goals scored, for the [illegible] interest from beginning to end, for the complete mastery of the ball displayed by the English forwards, and last, but by no means least, for the plucky and tenacious manner in which the members of the Portuguese team, outnumbered and outweighed, outgeneralled and outclassed, stuck to their task, well knowing they had not the remotest chance of winning.

Goldman got nine of England's 14 goals, Coulcher four and Price one. Goldman also got another, but was adjudged off-side; and Coulcher, towards the end of the second half, was descending on poor Remedios like a wolf on the fold, and was right through with the goal at his mercy, when his elbows or his arms apparently did something that clashed with Mr. Marshall's conception of what is right and proper conduct for an advancing forward. The decision was not popular.

AUSTRALIAN CRICKET

Inter-State Competition Won by Victoria

Sydney, Jan. 30.

Victoria beat New South Wales in a cricket match, which concluded to-day, by eight wickets, thus winning the Inter-State competition and the Sheffield Shield.

New South Wales compiled 217 runs in their first innings, Andrews contributing 96. Hartkopf took four wickets for 49 runs.

Victoria made 209, Ponsford scoring 110 and Mayne 54 not out.

New South Wales then scored 321, Hendry making 73 and Kippax 65, while Wallace took five wickets for 59.

Victoria knocked up 195 for two wickets, Ponsford scoring 110 not out.—Reuter.

WORLD'S NEW SWIMMING RECORD

Sydney, Jan. 30.

The Swedish swimmer, Arne [illegible], to-day swam the mile in 25 [illegible] 4 seconds, a new world's record. The previous record was 25 mins. 38 secs. made by the Canadian swimmer, C. R. Hodgson, at the Stockholm Olympic Games in 1912.—Reuter.

GOLF

Wayfoong v. Taikoo

The annual golf match between Wayfoong and Taikoo was played at Kiangwan on Sunday in bitterly cold weather. The result was a win for Wayfoong by the narrow margin of a quarter of a point over the whole day's play. Wayfoong were consequently Taikoo's guests at tiffin. Details:—

Singles.

TAIKOO		WAYFOONG	
Capt. J. Dewar	0	A. B. Lowson	0
T. R. Chassels	1	R. P. Melhuish	0
W. Ironside	0	W. Hay	1
T. J. Fisher	0	H. E. Muriel	1½
E. F. Mackay	0	E. E. Towns	0
J. H. Little	0½	F. E. Beatty	1
W. Wallace	1	W. C. Cowan	0
D. M. Whamond	0	W. E. Har[illegible]	1
	2½		4½

Four Balls.

Dewar and Chassels	1	Lowson and Melhuish	0
Ironside and Fisher	0	Hay and Muriel	1½
Mackay and Little	1½	Towns and Beatty	0
Wallace and Whamond	1	Cowan and Hargreaves	0½
	3½		1½
Total	5¾	Total	5¾

One of the features of the match was the consistent play of H.E. Muriel who was in very good form both morning and afternoon.

INTERNATIONAL GOLF

Sarazen Successful in First Match with Havers Played in Heavy Rain

San Francisco, Jan. 25.

Sarazen was two up on Havers in the morning round of 18 holes of a 72-hole golf match to be played here and at Los Angeles. Sarazen was often in trouble but was saved by his putting.

Jan. 26.

Sarazen beat Havers over the first 36 holes of their 72-hole golf match by 5 and 3. The medal score made by Sarazen was 151 and by Havers 153.

It was raining heavily throughout and most of the greens were like duck ponds, compelling the players several times to discard their putters and use their mashies.

Havers's downfall was due to the greens. He was either short or over, while Sarazen was usually well up.

The British player halved the 34th hole and won the 35th and 36th, making Sarazen 3 up.—Reuter's American Service.

Sarazen Still Leading from Havers at 54th Hole

Los Angeles, Jan. 27.

Sarazen was two up on Havers at the end of the 45th hole. Havers won four of the first nine played to-day and Sarazen three, two holes being halved. The putting of both men was unsteady.

At the end of the 54th hole Sarazen was still three up, he and Havers having won five each and having halved eight.

Havers throughout the match, which was 72 holes for the unofficial world's championship, showed brilliant approach and ability as far as direction was concerned, but in most cases he was short by twenty or thirty feet on mashie shots of from fifty to a hundred yards. Sarazen placed his ball on the green better than Havers and in the off lies showed noteworthy ability to recover. The honours were even in driving.

Sarazen's card for to-day's 32 holes was 129 and Havers 133.—Reuter's American Service.

AUSTRALIAN LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. Anderson's Successes

Melbourne, Jan. 29.

In the final of the singles in the Australian Lawn Tennis Championships played here to-day, Mr. Anderson beat Mr. Schlesinger, 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 5-7, 6-3. Messrs. Anderson and Brookes beat Messrs. Patterson and O'Hara Wood in the doubles, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.—Reuter.

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

Volunteer Corps.

Customs Company.—A. J. Hope, Esq., late Lieutenant, Royal Marine Artillery, to be 2nd Lieutenant.

Traffic.

With reference to the incident of January 19 wherein Dr. Tartois, a French citizen, held up the traffic on Nanking Road by causing an obstruction with his motor car for a period of seven minutes, the following letter has been received, and is authorized for publication:—

Shanghai, January 23, 1924.

DEAR SIR,—I feel it my duty to bring to you and your colleagues' notice, an explanation of my action on Saturday last, in deliberately holding up the traffic on Nanking Road.

I did it in the interests of the Public generally of both the French Concession and the International Settlement.

In such a cosmopolitan community as Shanghai, we are, at the Municipal Council, faced every day with great difficulty in interpreting the Municipal bye-laws no matter how carefully they may be framed.

Believe me, I have the utmost espect for British justice and I have no doubt Mr. King's judgement was right from a purely legal point of view, but at the same time if our, if your bye-laws, were interpreted in such a way, the administration of both Settlements would become simply impossible, and I took this extreme step to demonstrate what might happen if the law was followed literally.

I felt perfectly sure of being summoned before my own Court and that I should be duly sentenced.

On the other side, I am aware that an appeal is being lodged against the judgement in the Willder case, and H.B.M. Supreme Court may not confirm this judgement.

Anyhow, being logical with myself, I realize that I am culpable and I consider myself liable to a fine. In consequence of which, I beg to hand you enclosed a cheque for one hundred dollars, which I shall thank you to donate to any charity which you may consider deserving.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
E. TARTOIS.

S. FESSENDEN, Esq.,
Chairman,
Shanghai Municipal Council.

Kawamura Memorial Clock Tower

As indicated in the following interchange of letters, the Council has accepted the offer of The Naigai Wata Kaisha, Ld., to present to the community a Clock Tower in memory of the late Mr. Rihei Kawamura, former President of the Company.

In compliance with the Company's request, the Council has undertaken to design the Tower, which will be constructed at the junction of Ferry and Robison Roads. The diameter of the clock face, viz., 7 feet indicates that the centre of the clock should be from 65 feet to 75 feet above the road; and the total height of the tower will probably not exceed 100 feet, with a base of about 20 feet. To provide the Tower with a satisfactory setting without interference to traffic, additional land has been scheduled for acquisition, to form a circus with a radius of 88 feet. The cost of the additional land required together with the buildings situated thereon is estimated at Tls. 6,000, which sum will be made a charge against the public funds:—

Shanghai, September 17, 1923.

DEAR SIR,—We take pleasure in confirming our offer to build a Memorial Clock Tower in memory of the late President of our Company, Mr. Rihei Kawamura, at the junction of Ferry and Robison Roads.

Mr. Kawamura, as head of our Company, has done very much towards development of the Gordon Road industrial area and we think the proposed Clock Tower will be a befitting memorial to his work.

We wish the Council to design the Tower which we shall undertake to construct and we shall install a 7 feet diameter [illegible] clock manufactured by Messrs. Gent & Co. of Leicester. The clock will have 4 faces and will be fitted with hour striking gear and Westminster Chimes. After the completion of the Clock Tower we shall make it over to the Council on the understanding that the Council will take charge of it and maintain it. We think a clock tower in an industrial centre as that proposed will not only add to the appearance of the district but be of very great value in giving correct time to an extensive area whose inhabitants are mostly factory workers with whom any device to give correct time is of very great value.

Thanking you in advance for your favourable reply,

Your obedient servants,
FOR NAIGAI WATA KAISHA, LD.,
(*Shanghai Branch*),
H. KAWAMURA,
Manager.

The COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS,
Shanghai Municipal Council.

Council Chamber,
Shanghai, November 22, 1923.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of, and to thank you for your letter of September 17, addressed to the Commissioner of Public Works, offering to erect, at your Company's expense, a Memorial Clock Tower in memory of your late President, Mr. Rihei Kawamura, at the junction of Ferry and Robison Roads.

In conveying to you an [illegible] sion of the members' cordial acceptance of your commendable offer, I am directed to state that, upon completion of the Tower, the Council will be pleased to take charge of and maintain it at the public cost.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. S. B. HOWE,
Acting Secret.

H. KAWAMURA, Esq.,
Manager,
Naigai Wata Kaisha.

Wharfage Dues.

The return of Wharfage Dues for the last Quarter, ending December 31, 1923, has been received from the Chinese Maritime Customs, showing a total sum accruing to the Council of Tls. 123,675.51.

CUTICURA HEALS CHILD'S ECZEMA

Over Arms, Hands, Face, Neck. Irritation Intense.

"When my little daughter was five years of age eczema broke out all over her arms, hands, face and neck. The irritation was intense and she kept us awake at night by her constant scratching. We had to take her out of school on account of the eruptions.

"We read an advertisement for Cuticura Soap and Ointment and sent for a free sample which helped her. We purchased more and in four weeks she was completely healed." (Signed) Mrs. L. Billingham, 108, Price St., Birkenhead, Cheshire, Eng.

Rely on Cuticura Soap and Ointment to care for your skin.

Soap 1s., Ointment 1s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. Sold throughout the Empire. For sample each free address: F. Newbery & Sons, Ltd., 27 Charterhouse Sq., London, E.C.1. Also for mail orders with price. Cuticura Soap shaves without mug.

HIMROD'S
asthma Cure
GIVES INSTANT RELIEF
No matter what your respiratory organs may be suffering from, whether *Asthma, Influenza, Nasal Catarrh* or *Ordinary Cough* you will find in this famous remedy a restorative power that is simply unequalled.
FAMED FOR 50 YEARS
Sold in tins by all Chemists and Stores throughout the Country
BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

CAPSTAN

Why do you always smoke "CAPSTAN"?

Because,—like you they never fail to please!~~~~~~~~

Sold Everywhere

tion the various phases of this novel case, I fail to find that the United States Court for China has lost its jurisdiction over this defendant who is charged with committing a crime within the Territory of China, and more particularly described as being in the city of Dairen.

"JUNK" RECEIPT GENUINE

Verdict for Plaintiff in Jewell Dispute in U. S. Court

At the U. S. Court on Wednesday Judge Lobingier found for plaintiff in the jewellery dispute between Euly Greenfield and Lucille Slegman. The plaintiff, Euly Greenfield, claimed the defendant owed her $5,500 (American currency) for jewellery which she [illegible] to dispose of as her agent and for which transaction no accounting had been rendered. A feature of the case was a curious receipt alleged to have been given by defendant which stated: "Hongkong 29/9 1920. Received a lot of junk valued about $5,500 Gold. LUCILLE SLEGMAN. Gold rings with precious stones, jades, bangles, pins, pearls, etc. etc." Expert evidence was given by local bank officials on the signatures on a number of cheques produced.

The Judge held that the principal controversy turned on the genuineness of the receipt in question and on this point he said the pleadings themselves appeared to be conclusive. For, under the law of the jurisdiction, when such an instrument was attached "its genuineness and due execution should be deemed admitted unless denied specifically by the [illegible] pleading." In another jurisdiction [illegible] varied the doctrine had been carried even further.

The genuineness and due execution of the instrument sued upon were not specifically denied generally.

SIGNATURE GENUINE.

Independently of this rule it was more than doubtful whether the genuineness of defendant's signature to the instrument had been successfully impugned. The handwriting expert who gave the only detailed and intensive inspection of the two signatures, had furnished the Court with a clear and helpful opinion.

In any view of the case his Honour felt obliged to find defendant liable on the instrument.

Plaintiff would therefore recover from defendant the sum of $5,500, U. S. currency, less the value of any portion of the property which she might be able to return. If the parties could not agree upon such value further evidence thereon would be received. Costs would also be taxed against defendant.

PILFERAGE EVIL ON THE WHARVES

Story of Wholesale Theft from Holt's Wharf Told in Court

Six Chinese—Dzung Kung-sung, Yue Ah-yeu, Yih Lung-sung, Dung Lih-pung (alias Kompo Ah-sun, Li Tsang-kwei and Woo Tsung-kwei) were charged at the Mixed Court on Monday, before Mr. C. E. Whitmore (British Assessor) and Mr. Lee Sieu-mei (Chinese Magistrate) with sacrilege breaking and larceny at Holts Wharf.

Mr. C. Mansel Reese appeared to prosecute and Deputy Superintendent Woodfield was present for the River Police. Accused were not represented by Counsel.

WATCHMAN IMPLICATED.

In opening the case, Mr. Mansel Reese stated that the worst aspects of the case were that two of the men implicated were native police watchmen, and that it was not possible to discover the theft until some time after the arrival of the ship as the cargo lay in the godown awaiting inspection by the consignees. The River Police heard of the matter and, as a result of their smart work, the six men were now in dock. A seventh man, a shop assistant, together with his employer, in a shop in the French Concession, were alleged to have received the stolen property. The former was arrested and was ordered to put up security to appear in the Mixed Court when required. The proprietor of the shop had absconded.

Five of the six prisoners implicated two police watchmen, but the City authorities had taken jurisdiction over them and had them on trial. The man who had appeared at the French Mixed Court admitted that he rode to the wharf in a motor car to receive the goods, and also that he took them to the shop in seven or eight bundles. The fourth man, a godown coolie, denied any knowledge of the affair.

THE HELPING HAND.

The first accused stated that he was asked by another man to assist him to remove six cases of foreign goods which he had purchased by auction. He wanted them moved immediately (although it was 9 o'clock at night), saying that he was afraid that they might be taken away by mistake. Witness went and gave him assistance. Two policemen and three others were standing by and saw them remove the goods into a sampan from the wharf. Two days later he was given $4 by the man who asked him to lend a hand.

A similar statement was made by the second man, who stated that the fourth prisoner had asked him to assist. There were two policemen and five others standing by at the time. This prisoner said that he assisted in moving six cases to the lower part of the wharf.

The third prisoner's statement was similar. He stated that Li, the fourth prisoner had asked him to help him to bring something from the wharf at 8 o'clock at night. Witness asked what he was going to bring, but the fourth prisoner made no reply, and witness followed him to the wharf where there were six cases. The fourth prisoner told him to help in removing the cases to a sampan. He saw something improper about the matter and he refused, whereupon the fourth prisoner said "You see the policemen at the wharf do not interfere with us. Why be so cowardly? Be brave and move them to the sampan." He then helped and later went home. Three days later the fourth prisoner handed him $4 for his trouble.

MOTOR CARS USED.

The fourth prisoner denied any knowledge of the matter, and the fifth said that at about 10 p.m. on January 8, the first prisoner met him in a tea-shop and asked him to go out "on pleasure." They boarded an empty boat and went to the wharf, where they landed. The first, second, third and fifth defendants were present apart from himself. The first man entered the godown with his men and took out six cases which were moved to the edge of the wharf and placed on the empty boat where they were opened and found to contain serge, etc. This was then conveyed to another wharf. Two motor cars were hired, and the goods were taken to the receiver who paid them $1,842. They went to a hotel where the money was divided, witness receiving $40. On the following day, he again went to the hotel and saw one of the policemen talking with the first defendant. The policeman said that his colleague was unable to come to get his share of the money, whereupon the first accused then handed the policeman $1,200, after which he left.

The sixth accused gave a story similar to that of the second and third prisoners.

SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT.

The Court found all of the accused, with the exception of the fourth (the godown coolie), guilty and sent the first and fifth men to prison for three years each, while the other three received 18 months each.

HIS ANCESTORS' BONES

Remarkable Case of Indignant Landowner and the Unwanted Grave

A case such as is rarely brought to the notice of the Mixed Court was on Thursday the subject of proceedings before Mr. J. E. Jacobs (American Assessor) and Magistrate Li Sieu-mei, when Mr. N. E. Lurton (prosecuting on behalf of Ma Ah-foo) charged Lee Ah-yoong-sung, an ex-chauffeur with being concerned with others unknown in uncovering several graves of the complainant's ancestors and damaging, abandoning and stealing the bones and articles belonging to the corpses deposited in the graves.

Mr. Lurton stated that accused had purchased from his client, the complainant, the land surrounding the grave mounds which complainant refused to sell or part with. Accused tried to secure possession, but complainant refused to sell, with the result that accused and his friends uncovered the grave mound and stole the contents.

The case was remanded, bail allowed in the sum of $200.

RUSSIAN'S CLAIM FOR $49,000

The Action Against the China Merchants

Proceedings were continued before Messrs. Ivanow and Tsang at the Mixed Court on Monday in the claim brought by A. M. Vinagradoff, former second officer of the China Merchants' S. M. Co.'s str. Hsinming, against his former employers for the sum of $49,000, allegations being made to the effect that he fell from a faulty ladder into a ballast tank and sustained permanent serious injuries and ill health as the result.

Mr. P. F. Faison and Dr. A. Fishman appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. H. Lipson Ward represented the defence.

Captain P. Reilly, of Messrs. Parker, Reilley, & Simmons, consulting engineers, said that he inspected the ladder and found no irregularity.

Captain H. MacKinnon was called and stated that he told plaintiff to go to one of the company's doctors who had full power to take anyone off ship when necessary. It was suggested that plaintiff should take short trips which would be beneficial to his recovery. On June 1 the captain of the ship handed witness a letter from plaintiff complaining that he was unwell and not fit for duty. Witness told him to see the doctor. At that time he said nothing outside the letter and made no complaint about anything. He said that he wanted to see another doctor, a private physician of his own choice, and witness told him he could do so at his own expense. Upon production of a certificate from Dr. Marsh, plaintiff was sent to hospital. Some time later, plaintiff was told that he would not be fit for duty for three weeks. On July 4, another certificate was received from Dr. Marsh stating that plaintiff was progressing satisfactorily and would be fit for duty in a fortnight's time. When plaintiff had brought him this certificate he complained that some other doctors said that he would never again be fit for duty and asked witness to give him a position in the office. At the end of August he came for his wages and was paid, and a week later he brought a certificate from Dr. Bolton stating that he was fit for light duty, such as might be available on a river boat. Witness told him that he would post him on the Kiangteen and explained to him his duties, which were to keep watch with the pilot and sit in the wheel-house and witness anything that might happen during the day. He would also have to keep a watch for regulation lights at night, and was to work with the chief officer, four hours on and four hours off as usual. Most of the time he would be sitting in the wheel house. This arrangement apparently satisfied plaintiff, but he did not join the ship. The next thing that happened was a letter from his lawyers, stating that other doctors considered that another operation was necessary in his case. The letter was handed to Mr. Ward's firm, who replied regarding three months pay if plaintiff did not wish to carry on his work and desired to leave the company. On the last day of September, plaintiff came for his money and witness told him that he could not give it to him as the matter was in the hands of the lawyers.

Questioned by Mr. Ward regarding plaintiff's ankle, witness said that plaintiff had started to limp when the case started.

Cross-examined, witness stated that on September 8 plaintiff had produced letters from a German and a French doctor, and that plaintiff had objected to going on duty. He disobeyed an order to go on board the ship.

The hearing was again adjourned after Dr. Bolton had given evidence.

THE PAUL REGENDANZ AFFAIR

Startling Development: Chinese Authorities Claim Jurisdiction

Has the Mixed Court jurisdiction over alleged wrongdoers on board a foreign ship flying the flag of a country not enjoying extraterritorial rights in China, that ship being moored in the Huangpu on the Pootung (Chinese) shore? This important question was raised at the Mixed Court on Thursday when the trial was resumed of the 17 Chinese seamen charged with assault in connexion with the shooting affray on the str. Paul Regendanz (which flies the flag of Panama). The Court announced that a letter had been received from the Shanghai City authorities, requesting that the prisoners be sent for trial to the Chinese Court.

The Assessor (Mr. J. E. Jacobs) remarked that the letter put a different aspect on the whole case. The fight took place on the Pootung side of the river, which was, he pointed out, Chinese territory, while the vessel in question belonged to a nationality without extraterritorial rights in China. Had the Mixed Court or the City Court jurisdiction?

Mr. A. S. Allan (prosecuting) submitted that the Mixed Court had jurisdiction over the case.

The prisoners defended by Mr. L. K. Kentwell, through their counsel, intimated their willingness to be tried by the Chinese Court.

Mr. Allan said he had not seen the letter, but the matter seemed to him to be an interesting question of jurisdiction, which was a very important matter in this case. Even if the fight did take place, he said, on board the ship on the other side of the river, the Court could hear the case. If the Court decided to send the case to the Chinese Court it would be relinquishing foreign rights in this country.

The Assessor—What are your grounds? What is the basis of your claim. Have you any proof to support your argument?

Mr. Allan—The Court has accepted jurisdiction in this matter in the first place. At the outset of the case it was admitted that this Court has jurisdiction. The Police have given evidence and now to say that the jurisdiction is in the Chinese Court is preposterous. This Court has fully considered and matter and has taken jurisdiction. It is no disparagement on the Chinese Court but the matter is a very serious one and I feel sure that the true facts of the case will not come out. I would rather the Court consider this matter and not decide right away. We want justice and justice only. I submit therefore that the question of jurisdiction has already been settled and that we should have the case heard in this Court. If the question had not been settled, we could not have proceeded so far in the matter. The fact that the fight occurred on board a foreign ship, even though it was in Chinese territory, and that the foreign officers were assaulted and severely beaten, does not alter the circumstances or show that the case should be tried by the Chinese Court.

The Assessor (to Superintendent Woodfield)—Have you had any previous cases of this nature?

Superintendent Woodfield—Not in the four months that I have been in the River Police.

Is there any record of arrests made on board ships of foreign nationality?—That I could not say off hand.

What do you do in case you wish to make an arrest on a foreign ship—We can't go aboard any foreign ship without being called by the police flag or by invitation. In such cases we go and ask which jurisdiction the ship is under. When the name of a consulate is given we go there and get authority from the consular authorities to act on board the ship. A vice-consul generally accompanies us. If a theft occurred on board a foreign ship with extraterritorial rights the complainants would have the right to have the case tried in this Court.

Mr. Allan submitted that the ship was flying the Panama flag and had received clearance papers from the American Consulate.

The Assessor stated that the Court would adjourn the case to consider the request of the Chinese authorities. The bail would be reduced from $300 to $100 shop security each.

Mr. R. G. McDonald (for the defence)—The accused cannot afford the money at this time of the year. They have none. Can a guild stand as security? Accused have been in custody for a fortnight already.

Deputy Superintendent Woodfield stated that he was afraid that the men might find jobs and go away. The guild was prepared to offer a small bail.

The Assessor observed that accused were not Shanghai men, and the decision would have to stand.

We are asked to state in connexion with the case that the captain of the steamer is not a Norwegian subject (as stated previously), but a German citizen, and that the Norwegian Vice-Consul did not accompany the Deputy Superintendent of River Police on board the steamer on the day of the fracas.

THE CANTON STRIKE LEADER

Mixed Court Case Against Seamen's Union Official Pardoned by Dr. Sun

The case of Dzung Bing-sung (Chen Ping-sung), ex-President of the Chinese Seamen's Union, was mentioned again in the Mixed Court on Wednesday. Accused was charged with obtaining goods by means of false pretences, passing worthless cheques whilst well-knowing that he had no money in the bank. Det.-Sgt. Tinkler, informed the Bench that accused had absconded, but that an accountant in his office had been arrested.

Mr. Maitland (prosecuting), stated that, in asking the Court to make an expulsion order against the accused man Dzung, he would outline the man's career. Dzung was the instigator of a number of seamen's strikes and, after leaving Hongkong, went to Canton where he murdered his wife and a policeman and wounded a number of other people. For this he was sentenced, in 1922, to 20 years' imprisonment, but was pardoned by Dr. Sun Yat-sen when he got back into power. Dzung then went to Hongkong, where an order of deportation was made against him for a period of 10 years because the Colonial authorities found that he was a desperate character and a menace to the peace and good order of the Colony. Counsel would therefore ask that an expulsion order be made against him by the Mixed Court so that he would not be permitted to reside here any longer.

The Court, in granting Mr. Maitland's application, said that the warrant against accused would stand, but, if he were found in the Settlement again, he would be tried on the charges of false pretences and, if found guilty, have to serve his sentence, after which he would be expelled from the Settlement.

In the case against the accountant, who was charged with aiding and abetting, Det.-Sgt. Tinkler stated that the Police or counsel for the prosecution did not object to bail, which was accordingly fixed at $600.

The cash bail of $600, put up by Dzung, who has since absconded, was ordered to be forfeited.

...d keenly debated the points at ... until close on to five in the ... The terms of the set... ...ent have not yet been avail... ...ble but Mr. Bromley, the secre... ...tary of the union, says that these ... very satisfactory to the men. ...steps were immediately taken in ...hand for resumption of work. ...Union officials anticipate an al... ...normal service to-night.—...

Railway Companies' Statement of Their Attitude: The Mileage Basis

London, Jan. 29.

In the terms of settlement of the railway strike the railway companies declare that they never contended that the decisions of the Wages Board were obligatory, but they were justified in giving effect to them. The companies are prepared to alleviate the hardship, which, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen represented, would have been involved by the decision, to drivers and firemen on a ... basis so that 130 miles ... equal on day's pay, but the ... will be increased to 140 ...July and 150 in January, 1925, ...s in the interval it shall be agreed otherwise.

The companies undertake that there will be no dismissals arising out of the application of the decision. All the strikers presenting themselves for work within a reasonable time will be reinstated as soon as practicable without reference to seniority.

The signatories agree to use every endeavour to secure that all the railwaymen shall work together amicably. Any proved breach of this condition will be a case for disciplinary action by the companies.

Threatened Strike of Dockers.

Following the settlement of the railway dispute, a dockers' strike is now threatened.

A national delegate conference of the Transport-Workers' Union took place in London to-day. One hundred and twenty thousand dockers were represented by delegates from all over the country. It was decided to instruct members *to strike* on February 16 in all *ports in* Great Britain unless in the meantime a satisfactory settlement of the wages dispute is reached.

The dockers demand an increase of two shillings a day and that they shall be guaranteed a week's work or pay in order to meet the problem of casual labour. The employers say that they cannot afford to pay the increase demanded, which would cost £2,000,000 a year, in view of the depression in the shipping industry.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 28.

A new transport crisis is threatened by the dockers who are not disposed to accept the decision of the employers that they are unable in the present condition of trade to concede any increase in wages. The Bristol branch of the Transport-Workers' Union has instructed its representatives at the delegate conference of transport-workers to-morrow to urge further negotiation with the employers and if the latter refuse, to request the Union to call a national stoppage of work.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 30.

The Council of Port Labour Employers have accepted the proposals of the Transport and General Workers' Union for a conference to discuss the dockers' threat to go on strike.—Reuter.

BRITISH RECOGNITION OF RUSSIA

Mission Immediately to Be Sent to Moscow to Arrange Resumption of Relations

London, Jan. 25.

It is stated that the Government are immediately sending a mission to Moscow headed by Captain James O'Grady, M.P., to arrange for the resumption of full diplomatic relations.

Captain O'Grady is the prospective Ambassador at Moscow.—Reuter.

Washington, Jan. 26.

Britain's recognition of Russia will, in the opinion of President Coolidge, have less bearing on the attitude of the United States towards Russia than the investigation of the question of Soviet recognition which the Senate Foreign Committee is conducting.—Reuter's American Service.

Stock Exchange Strong

London, Jan. 25.

The Stock Exchange was strong to-day under the lead of gilt-edged securities and the growing confidence in the political outlook, together with the speeches of the chairmen at the meetings of the leading banks, buying emanating from London and the provinces. Consols are quoted at 56¼ and War Loan at 100.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 30.

It is understood that conversations are still in progress with regard to relations between Britain and Russia, but there is at present no question of sending a mission to Russia.—Reuter.

BRITISH LABOUR AND SWARAJ

Indian Nationalists Clearly Resolved to Challenge Trial of Strength

London, Jan. 25.

The full text of the message from Mr. Ramsay Macdonald published in the "Hindu" (Madras) on January 24, in which the Prime Minister pleads for reason and goodwill between India and Great Britain, has been received by Reuter's Agency.

It is dated January 6. The message emphasizes Mr. Macdonald's conviction that progress, if it is to be well-rooted, can only be carried on constitutionally. He can see no hope in India if it becomes the arena of a struggle between constitutionalism and revolution.—Reuter.

Delhi, Jan. 25.

Mr. Patel, a Swarajist, has given notice of a series of resolutions in the Legislative Assembly urging on the Government a boycott of British Empire goods and the imposition of an extra 15 per cent. tariff on Empire goods as a protest against the treatment of Indians overseas.—Reuter.

Russian Plots in India.

Calcutta, Jan. 25.

In spite of Government opposition, the Bengal Legislature today carried by 76 votes to 45 a Swarajist resolution urging the release of 17 men detained without trial.

Sir. H. L. Stephenson said that the existence of a revolution conspiracy proved that ordinary law was unavailing. The Government were aware that revolutionaries had established centres in various parts of the Province in the guise of philanthropic organizations and some of the leaders of the movement were in touch with the agents of the Third Moscow Internationale, who supplied money and arms. The revolutionaries possessed weapons and ammunition which could not be procured in India. The existence of a definite plot to assassinate police officers was discovered last year and the Government considered action imperative.

A crowded meeting of Indians this evening passed a resolution condemning the murder of Mr. Day, who was shot dead in the street by a Bengalee on January 12 in mistake for the Commissioner of policy.—Reuter.

Delhi, Jan. 30.

The ceremony of taking the oath of allegiance by the new Legislative Assembly passed off smoothly. Swarajists all wore Indian-made clothes and made the prescribed affirmation in low voices. There were remarkably few absentees. The Viceroy will open the session on January 31.—Reuter.

PORT SAID, Jan. 24. The Dutch steamer Vondel, from Batavia to Amsterdam, collided in port today with the British steamer Padua, from the Tees to Yokohama, which was *en route* to her moorings. The damage to the former was slight and she is proceeding on her voyage. The damage to the latter was all above the top deck. She expects to sail on Sunday.—Reuter.

ITALY'S PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED

Fascists Wooing Favour in Southern Italy: Treaty with Serbia Signed

Rome, Jan. 23.

The Council of Ministers at its meeting this morning approved the decree for the King's signature authorizing the dissolution of Parliament, with memorandum attached prepared by Premier Mussolini stating that the internal and foreign policy of the Government had met with unanimous approval.

The ten weeks' intensive election campaign which Italy is entering will be devoted by Signor Mussolini to wooing favour in southern Italy where Fascism has not been so popular as in other parts of the country.

To mark the occasion of the signature of the treaty between Italy and Serbia the King will give a dinner next Saturday at the Quirinal to which the Serbian delegates MM. Pasitch and Nintchitch, Premier Mussolini, Minister of War Diaz and Admiral Thaon de Reval will be invited.

The Latin Entente.

To-day's meeting of the Cabinet Council decided to despatch Signor Guirati, a Venetian M.P., to South America as Extraordinary Ambassador for the Latin Crusade. He will embark in the steamer Italia, which is preparing to sail for South American ports with exhibits of Italian manufactures, arts, crafts, produce, literature, and Latin propaganda, the King having already consented to Signor Guirati's appointment.

Originally the Italia had been fixed to sail at the end of December, but her departure was postponed in order that the organization for the crussade be rendered more complete. The crusade is timed to coincide with the visit of the Crown Prince to South America in March and April. His Royal Highness will travel on a warship. The crusade has aroused enthusiasm throughout Italy which has a deep sentimental interest in South America.—Italian Wireless through Reuter.

The Premier Demanding Proof of Nation's Confidence

Rome, Jan. 25.

A decree has been published dissolving Parliament and fixing the elections for April 6.

On December 10 the Cabinet unexpectedly decided to prorogue Parliament, when it was explained that Signor Mussolini considered it beneath his dignity to accept an offer of full authority from an Assembly which did not enjoy the confidence of the nation, preferring to prorogue.—Reuter.

RUSSIAN POLITICAL COMPLEXITIES

The Difficulty of Finding a Suitable Successor to M. Lenin

Warsaw, Jan. 27.

Despatches from Moscow report that a complex political situation has arisen from the death of M. Lenin. The Bolshevik chiefs are said to be squabbling behind the scenes, while M. Trotsky is said to be in disgrace.

M. Dzerzinski, who is in charge of M. Lenin's funeral arrangements, has come to the forefront. He is said to be strong-willed and fanatical and to be feared by the moderates, who are urging the factions to drop their quarrels and coalesce in order to solve domestic and foreign questions, especially in view of the early recognition of the Soviet by foreign Powers. This tendency favours M. Trotsky, without whom no reconciliation of the factions would be real or lasting. The military are also likely to side with M. Trotsky in the event of a reconciliation.

M. Kalinin, President of the Executive Committee, will probably become President of the Council of Commissaries in succession to M. Lenin as he is not regarded as belonging to any faction, but at present M. Kameneff or M. Stalin are regarded as likely successors to M. Lenin if it should be decided to replace him by one man instead of a triumvirate.—Reuter.

Warsaw, Jan. 28.

It is reported from Moscow that there is great unrest in the Army, partly in consequence of the death of M. Lenin. Barracks have become a scene of political disputation and lack of discipline is manifest. It is added that the central authorities are alarmed and are sending suspected battalions to the furthermost provinces of Siberia. The garrison at Moscow has been reinforced by troops from the Western frontiers.—Reuter.

ITALY'S TREATY WITH JUGOSTAVIA

Fiume Question Settled with Mutual Satisfaction: All Antagonism Ended

Rome, Jan. 26.

Premier Pasitch and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mintchitch of Jugo-Slavia arrived in Rome today to sign the treaty of friendship with Italy. Throughout their journey though Italy they received demonstrations of sympathy. On arrival at the station in Rome they were received by Premier Mussolini and almost the entire Cabinet with great cordiality and friendliness. They will remain in Rome until Monday as the guests of the Italian Government. The treaty will not be signed until Sunday, several minor points still having to be settled by a committee of experts.

Signor Mussolini's settlement of the Fiume question, which has been dragging on for the past five years, and the treaty of friendship with Jugo-Slavia continue to be most favourably commented upon, being considered Premier Mussolini's most brilliant diplomatic success.

Public opinion has undergone a radical charge, for up to a few days ago Jugo-Slavia was looked upon as Italy's arch-enemy. There is now, however, a marked disposition to collaborate in peace and harmony. Nor should this change cause surprise, for, with the exception of Fiume, no reason for antagonism existed between the two nations. Now that the Fiume question has been settled to mutual satisfaction no outstanding problem separates Italy and Jugo-Slavia.

The Annexation of Fiume.

By the present agreement Italy annexes Fiume, which has been one of her fondest aspirations, for which her politicians have striven unsuccessfully for five years. By the treaty of friendship she gains security on her Eastern border, leaving her free to turn her attention to other problems. She also counterbalances the predominant position which France obtained with the Little Entente Powers by her treaty of alliance with Czecho-Slovakia, and which created more than a little apprehension in Italy.

All Italy's reasons for satisfaction at this settlement apply also to Jugo-Slavia. The latter gains security and peace and by the disappearance of a cause of unsettlement and unrest can now rest secure within her borders.

The Benefit to Fiume.

The chief gainer is probably the city of Fiume itself, which had imperative need for settlement of the question one way or another. Fiume is a seaport and depends upon traffic for its life. Unsettled conditions had discouraged ships from putting into that "Martyred city," as D'Annunzio called it. This reduced the city to the last stages of poverty. It is now hoped that with the definite settlement of its status commerce may again flow into Fiume, restoring its former prosperity.

Feather in Premier's Cap.

Premier Mussolini's diplomatic success is destined to have great influence on the success of his party in the general elections, which are now only about two months distant. Much of the criticism of Signor Mussolini's actions as Premier of Italy was directed against his foreign policy, the Opposition claiming that in his year of power he had not obtained more than any other Government would have done. His understanding with Jugo-Slavia has, therefore, greatly strengthened his position with the electors, while his understanding with Russia which, unless the negotiations should suffer condeath of Lenin, should be announced shortly, will strengthen it still more.—Italian Wireless through Reuter.

Reciprocal Neutrality in Case of War and Co-operation in Military Defence

Rome, Jan. 28.

According to the newspapers, the Italo-Jugo-Slav Treaty of Friendship stipulates reciprocal neutrality in case of war and also, at Jugo-Slavia's request, provides for co-operation in economic and military defence, thereby giving a special character to relations between Italy and Jugo-Slavia in all political problems in Central Europe and the Balkans.

Later.

The Jugo-Slav mission was entertained to a banquet last night at the Venezia Palace. Signor Mussolini, toasting M. Pasitch, the Jugo-Slav Premier, said that the Treaty just concluded closed a tempestuous period in post-war history. Henceforward the economic, political and spiritual collaboration of Italy and Jugo-Slavia would constitute an essential element of European peace.

There were remarkable scenes of enthusiasm at Fiume. Church bells were rung, the sirens of ships sounded and the inhabitants held torchlight processions. The Governor-General and other dignitaries addressed the crowd, congratulating them on Italy's retention of Fiume and exhorting them to let bygones be bygones.—Reuter.

Prospects of a Commercial Agreement

Rome, Jan. 27.

Premier Mussolini achieved today what is probably his greatest diplomatic triumph so far with the signature of the Treaty with Jugo-Slavia, definitely annexing Fiume to Italy and establishing relations of friendship between the two countries. Signor Mussolini signed for Italy and Premier Pasitch and Foreign Minister Nintchitch for Jugo-Slavia. After the simple but impressive ceremony of signature the three statesmen congratulated each other on the solution of the problem, which had appeared insoluble and which constituted one of the gravest dangers to the peace of Europe.

Italian newspapers, commenting on the signature of the Treaty, point out that it confutes those who seized the slightest pretext to accuse Signor Mussolini and Italy of imperialistic designs and of attempting to settle the Fiume question by other than peaceful means. At the time these accusations were being made, Signor Mussolini was amicably discussing the question with Jugo-Slavia, and leading to the present friendly understanding with the country.

An Interchange of Exports.

Great as are the results of this treaty with Jugo-Slavia, Italy hopes for still more from the commercial treaty. Commercial relations are sure forerunners of political understandings and it is hoped that Italy's commercial relations with Jugo-Slavia will be close and mutually profitable. Italy exports chiefly manufactured articles, while Jugo-Slavia exports chiefly agricultural produce, and each country needs the exports of the other. The two countries do not clash as competitors in European markets. Their products complete each other.

Great demonstrations are being organized in Rome and other Italian cities on Tuesday to celebrate the union of Fiume with Italy. In Rome the demonstration will take the form of a grand parade of Fascisti and a ceremony at the tomb of the unknown soldier.

LONDON, Jan. 29. Sir Frederick Seton James, Colonial Secretary in the Government of the Straits Settlements, has been appointed Governor of the Windward Islands in succession to Sir George B. Haddon Smith.—Reuter.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

BRITAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY

Interview with the Premier: Anglo-French Entente and German Reparations

Paris, Jan. 27.

Interviewed by the "*Quotidien*," the organ of the left *bloc*, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, the British Premier, declared that British public opinion was uneasy with regard to French policy. The two peoples at heart were very friendly. The dangerous clouds to-day were due to mutual misunderstanding which frank and sympathetic explanations would clear up. The reparations expert committees would not be able to find a satisfactory solution within the narrow limits laid down. If the committees desired greater latitude and France refused, Britain would probably negotiate with them.

The question of the French debt to Britain could not be broached without discussing the whole European situation simultaneously.

As regards the Anglo-French Guarantee Pact the Socialists did not believe that the safety of a nation should depend on armaments and alliances. The British Government would work for the admission of Germany and Russia to the League of Nations. Germany's entry into the League would be the best guarantee for the safety of France.

New International Policy.

An entirely new international policy ought to be inaugurated and the prejudices and tricks of old diplomacy abandoned. Mr. Macdonald refused to believe that they would fail to establish a friendly entente with France. He was relying on the good sense and peaceful intentions of the French people to support the policy of Labour in delivering Europe from hatreds and fears. Labour would follow a policy favouring accession to power of the German democrats, who were certainly sincerely pacifist and disposed to pay reparations.

The Separatist Movement, if spontaneous, did not concern Britain, but Labour, the British Premier declared, would not recognize any Separatist government engineered by a foreign Power.—Reuter.

Early Problems at the Foreign Office.

London, Jan. 28.

Reviewing the results of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's activities at the Foreign Office last week, the diplomatic correspondent of the "Westminster Gazette" says that the Prime Minister found the question of recognition of Russia not quite so simple as it appeared.

Moscow, without repudiating her financial obligations, argues that she must first be placed in a position of political equality. This will probably be conceded but cessation of anti-British propaganda will certainly be the preliminary condition for recognition.

The correspondent says that the Government is likely to put some very plain questions to M. Poincaré arising out of the report of Mr. R. H. Clive, the British Consul-General at Munich, on the situation in the Palatinate, which is a scathing indictment of the French policy of fomenting the separatist movement. The Government is prepared to appeal to the International Court of Justice for restitution in accordance with the Versailles Treaty. France will be asked to abandon the Rhineland policy against the British zone.—Reuter.

[illegible]

Sydney, Jan. 27. Referring to the suggestion of Admiral Sueter [illegible] the Japanese train[illegible] at present visiting Sydney, the Minister of Defence, Mr. [illegible], said to-day that [illegible] for Australian [illegible] pay, were [illegible] Labour Government, but [illegible] Wales and the King [illegible] the home authorities [illegible] Admiral Sueter's criticism [illegible]

BRITISH PREMIER AND REPARATIONS

Government's Policy of Restoring Europe and Re-establishing Co-operation

London, Jan. 28.

Reuter's Agency learns that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald was interviewed by the "*Quotidien*" prior to his assuming office as Prime Minister and he has given no interviews to the press since he assumed office. This does not imply that the general lines of his policy differ from those foreshadowed in the interview, but obviously their development must be a question of time. The questions of Russia, Anglo-French relations, reparations, etc., must be developed very carefully and in a very liberal spirit, always with a view to the Government's policy of restoring Europe and re-establishing universal co-operation.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 28.

Commenting on Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's interview in the "*Quotidien*," the "*Echo*" says that the British Premier asks everything without promising France anything.

The "*Echo de Paris*" declares that Mr Macdonald is at present very cautious, but he must sooner or later vote in favour of methods in regard to reparations very difficult to reconcile with the policy of the French and Belgian Governments and violent rupture is thus possible.—Reuter.

COLONIAL SECRETARY AND DOMINIONS

Australia Day Celebrated at Anzac Luncheon: Pride in the Empire

London, Jan. 28.

The Anzac luncheon was held to-day, Australia Day, at the Hotel Cecil. The Prince of Wales was the guest. Sir Joseph Cook, the Commonwealth High Commissioner, presided and Mr. J. H. Thomas and the Duke of Devonshire, the new and old Secretaries of State for the Colonies, were present.

A cablegram was read from Dr. Earle Page, the Acting Prime Minister of Australia, saying that Australia desired to continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with her sister Dominions and the Motherland to preserve intact the Empire whose existence offered the best hope for the future of the world.

Sir Joseph Cook declared that Australia re-affirmed her loyalty to the Crown and was determined to continue to be a buttress of the Empire and never a burden on it.

The Prince of Wales paid tributes to the services to the Empire of Mr. W. F. Massey, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, and to the straight statesmanship of Mr S. M. Bruce, the Australian Prime Minister. He said that he could not see too much of the Empire. He hoped that this year would see the fulfilment of his task of seeing all the Dominions when he sailed for South Africa on May 1. He was looking forward to his visit to South Africa as much as to any.

Pride in the Empire.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, the new Colonial Secretary, related that when he first visited the Colonial Office last Tuesday with all the humility and modesty characterizing his party, the porter asked him whom he wanted to see. Mr. Thomas said that he [illegible] the Colonial Secretary. The [illegible] turned to another porter and said "Another shell shock patient." (Loud laughter.)

Mr. Thomas said he was proude of the Empire than ever. A spirit of loyalty prevailed [illegible] Many were appalled [illegible] Labour Government, but [illegible] Wales and the King [illegible] the home authorities [illegible] and love of Empire were a service and a duty, and not the monopoly of a class or creed, because they recognized that there were men of humble birth and denied a Varsity education whose sense of duty and patriotism were equal to that of any other type of man; because they were not unmindful that during the war the Empire was preserved by the man from the slum as well as the man from the palace recognizing their common duty. If in the hour of trial all sections could unite to defend the right, all sections could be trusted to do the right thing at any given moment. Therefore the great change in the Government merely meant that the old country and the old Empire would continue.

A Characteristic Spirit.

When he succeeded to office, Mr. Thomas continued, the Duke of Devonshire had unhesitatingly placed all his experience at his disposal. That was characteristic of the spirit which made them proud of their country and feel that it would survive all changes and difficulties. He hoped that their successors would be able to say that they, as pioneers, did nothing to weaken the great Empire of which all were proud. The British Constitution, so broad and democratic, which enabled an engine-cleaner of yesterday to be a Minister to-day, must be preserved and the Empire maintained (loud cheers).

The Duke of Devonshire said that if he and his colleagues criticized it would only be because they were all anxious to arrive at the best possible solution. They were prepared to use every possible effort to further the development and prosperity of the Empire.—Reuter.

GOVERNMENT'S EMPIRE POLICY

Inspiring Statement by Colonial Secretary: Labour's Desire to Dominions' Welfare

London, Jan. 29.

Mr. J. H. Thomas received Empire journalists at the Colonial Office to-day and outlined the Government's Empire policy. He deprecated the idea that there would be rash and violent changes making for a new Jerusalem. The Government had the idea of a new Jerusalem, but they only desired to advance by reasonable and prudent steps.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies emphasized that the Labour Party was as patriotic as any other and desired to promote the welfare of the Empire and to draw the ties closer by fair dealing. Labour regarded it as a sacred trust, which the Party would exercise and develop impartially and freely.

Mr. Thomas expressed good will towards all parts of the Empire. He was genuinely anxious that when he relinquished office, nobody would be able to say that the Empire was less great as a result of the work of the Labour Government.

Many Matters Pending.

Replying to questions, the Colonial Secretary said that he had not yet had time to study many questions, but it was madness to assume that he would accept all his predecessor did or be able to tear up all he had done. All questions must be considered.

As regards Singapore, a statement would be made by the Cabinet.

As regards Empire development, it had already been decided that it could be developed, and unemployment at home would be helped by the expenditure of money, though it might not show an immediate return.

The Cabinet must consider the resolutions of the Imperial Conference. He was unable to add to the Prime Minister's statement, which would be rigidly adhered to.

As regards Kenya, the Government would discharge their trust to the African natives and would very probably follow the policy outlined in the White Paper.

[illegible] Mr. Thomas's statement [illegible] by Mr. Thomas was to the [illegible] the Imperial Conference would be submitted [illegible] vote of the House of Commons. Pledges so far as they had been made, would be carried out and the House given a full opportunity of deciding the important issues raised.—Ed.

Singapore Scheme Modified.

Jan. 30.

The "Daily News" learns that the Admiralty is prepared to make important modifications in the Singapore scheme. One alternative is to enlarge the existing dry-dock so as to take any British warship. The other, which the paper advances as cheaper and more practicable, is to send to Singapore one of the monster floating docks surrendered by Germany. The larger one has recently been repaired and strengthened. The dock could traverse the Suez Canal. Dredging operations would be necessary at Singapore. The Admiralty at the same time intend to press for the erection of new workshops, naval magazines and oil tanks.—Reuter.

MR. MACDONALD TO M. POINCARE

Frank Statement of Britain's Misgivings and Desire for Friendly Relations

London, Jan. 30.

The "Daily Telegraph's" political observer gives the gist of a letter, stated to be remarkably straightforward, which was despatched by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald to M. Poincaré on his assumption of office. The communication points out that relations between Britain and France have ceased to be as friendly as formerly. British public opinion views French policy with a certain degree of suspicion and is nervous about the European situation. Mr. Macdonald invites M. Poincaré to meet him half-way in the attempt to achieve a final settlement.

The French Premier sent a reply couched in sympathetic terms.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 30.

The Government have proposed to Britain that questions relating to the maintenance of public order and the security of the occupation troops in the Palatinate shall be submitted to the Conference of Ambassadors. The Government also favour reinstatement of the German officials whom the Separatists expelled. Belgium has acquiesced in these proposals.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 30.

It has been officially confirmed that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald sent a private letter to M. Poincaré, couched in a very friendly tone, expressing the hope that the serious differences between Britain and France would soon be satisfactorily settled. No reply has up to the present been received from M. Poincaré, but this is not surprising as the letter was only despatched a day or two ago.—Reuter.

THE RAILWAY STRIKE IN BRITAIN

Threat to Extend Movement to London Tubes: Coal Mines Suffering Greatly

London, Jan. 25.

While the negotiations to end the railway strike are apparently at a deadlock, a number of men belonging to the National Union of Railwaymen, who had joined the strikers, are returning to work at various places, notably at Hull, where 300 decided to resume their duties after a five-hour meeting, the voting in favour of resumption being 122 to 37. Some of the members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen are also said to be resuming work.

A further hopeful sign is that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald has instructed the Ministry of Labour to inquire into the strike and report to the Cabinet.

Meanwhile practically all the collieries in South Wales are now idle and all the tinplate and steel works are closing down.

Jan. 26.

The only change in the railway situation is in the nature of a hint expressed by Mr. B[illegible] the Secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, that develop[illegible] are possible during the week-end. This is generally taken to mean that the executive of the Society is considering an attempt to extend the strike to the tubes and underground railways of London. Such a step will seriously aggravate the situation and bring matters to a head.

In the meantime considerable improvement is reported in travelling facilities. Trains are running faster and more frequent. Milk and other food supplies are well maintained. Industrial centres, nevertheless, continue to feel the effects badly. Peace efforts will informally continue in responsible circles but the time is not yet considered ripe for Government intervention.

Looking for a Formula.

Jan. 27.

There are no fresh developments with regard to the railway strike but it is understood that the Mediatory Council of the Trades Union Congress is pursuing efforts to devise a formula acceptable to both sides which will enable a new conference to be held without actually setting aside the findings of the National Wages Board.

The executive of the National Union of Railwaymen apparently attach little importance to the hint of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen that the London underground drivers, of whom an overwhelming majority are members of the N.U.R., will come out.—Reuter's Correspondent of Police.—Reuter.

Negotiations Now Proceeding Satisfactorily

London, Jan. 27.

Fresh hopes of a settlement of the railway dispute have been raised by an interview of the Trades Union Mediation Committee with the railway managers, to whom the Committee submitted a formula which, it is understood, the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen had previously approved.

Later.

Mr. John Bromley, the secretary of the Associated Society, arriving late at a meeting of locomotive men at Willesden this evening after a conference with the railway managers, announced that he brought good news. Negotiations were proceeding which, he was confident, would result in many of the points objected to very shortly being non-existent. He emphasized the importance of the men holding on for the next few hours.

Hopes of a Settlement.

London, Jan. 28.

The prospects of an early settlement of the railway strike are regarded as having brightened considerably as a result of yesterday's peace efforts. After the mediation committee of the Trades Union Congress had visited the managers, a joint conference was held at a London hotel between the mediation committee, the managers and the executives of the National Union of Railwaymen, the Railway Clerks' Association and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Fireman, which lasted five and a half hours, when it was adjourned until this morning.—Reuter.

Settlement Reached

London, Jan. 29.

The negotiations with the railway managers not having up to the present produced tangible results, the secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen this evening declared that his executive were considering intensifying the fight.

Jan. 29.

The railway strike is settled.

Later.

The settlement of the railway strike was first published in the form of a brief official statement at the close of an all night conference of the railway managers and the locomotivemen's [illegible] with the mediation committee in attendance. The conference [illegible] assembled shortly before midnight

[illegible] been given to [illegible] industries. This is addressed both to Rumania and [illegible] to the former on [illegible] deprecated ex[illegible] to the latter because [illegible] her an opportunity to [illegible] another economy at a time when she is endeavouring to find a means of balancing her budget.

It is emphasized that relations between France and Rumania are in no way affected.—Reuter.

THE NAVAL BASE AT SINGAPORE

Proposal to Use Surrendered German Floating Dock: Premature Reports

London, Jan. 25.

Reuter has been officially informed that the report that the Government has decided to abandon the Singapore scheme is quite untrue. The question has not even been discussed.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 30.

The report published in the "Daily News" that a German floating dock surrendered to Britain under the Peace Treaty would be towed to Singapore in order to obviate the necessity of constructing a new dock is described in official circles as being at least premature.

Well-informed quarters are of opinion that it is possible that an attempt will be made to tow the dock to Singapore, although it is realized that it would be a very difficult task and that, anyhow, the necessary preparations for the reception of the dock at Singapore would take a considerable time to complete. Inquiries at the Admiralty have elicited the information that the matter is still under consideration.

Later.

Reuter's Agency has been informed that the statements published with regard to Singapore or any Government decision in connexion with the proposed naval base are pure imagination. Up to the present the Cabinet has not even discussed the matter.—Reuter.

DYNASTIC QUESTION IN GREECE

Warm Welcome to M. Venizelos in National Assembly: The Suggestion of a Republic

Athens, Jan. 24.

The National Assembly met yesterday evening. The galleries were crowded and the Royal Box was thrown open to the people unable to find seats in the galleries.

M. Venizelos was received with tremendous applause. He stated that the Government was of opinion that the only means of solving the dynastic question was a plebiscite.

This declaration aroused protests from the Republicans. M. Papanastassiou proposed Bills to overthrow the dynasty and establish a republic.

M. Venizelos, interrupting, said that, if the people were allowed to choose their own *régime* and favoured a republic, he would tell the people that there was no occasion to fear external dangers in connexion with the dynastic question.—Reuter.

THE LATE M. LENIN

Cause of Death: Monumental Funeral Projected

Riga, Jan. 25.

A post-mortem examination has established the cause of M. Lenin's death as arterio-sclerosis of the brain, apparently inherited from his father who died at the same age of the same disease.

M. Lenin's body has been embalmed. An uninterrupted procession of people is passing before the bier. The grave is being prepared in the Red Square beside the monument commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

The Diplomatic Corps have been invited to attend the funeral on Saturday and to present a joint wreath.—Reuter.

THE GERMAN SEAMEN'S STRIKE

1,200 Men Now Out: German Shipowners Forbidden to Negotiate

London, Jan. 30.

Mr. Havelock Wilson, on behalf of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union, has telegraphed to the Prime Minister pointing out that 1,200 German seamen from German vessels have gone on strike at United Kingdom ports against the low wage of £3 a month as compared with £9 paid by shipowners in Britain and by other nations.

The German Government have forbidden German shipowners to negotiate with representatives of the German seamen and German ships are leaving British ports seriously under-manned, endangering other vessels trading in British waters. German captains have been making false declarations to the British Customs authorities with regard to their crews and cases have been reported to the Board of Trade, but the Government have taken no action to prevent infringement of the law, which the Union urges should be impartially applied.—Reuter.

BRITAIN AND AMERICA

Sir A. Geddes's Clean Slate: Debateable Point in Liquor Treaty

New York, Jan. 26.

Sir Auckland Geddes, the retiring British Ambassador, before his departure for England to-day expressed satisfaction at leaving "a clean slate" at the Embassy.

Replying to a request to interpret the clause of the liquor treaty "an hour's steaming distance from American shores" he said that one should be enabled to tell by the speed of the boat engine. If doubt existed tests could be made and averages struck.

Sir Auckland Geddes was the recipient of unusual honours. As the Aquitania steamed down the Bay, soldiers on Governor's Island fired a salute of twenty-one guns, Sir Auckland meanwhile standing at attention.—Reuter's American Service.

S. AFRICAN WEALTH

Farmers Prosperous Despite Locusts and Drought: Big New Railway Scheme

Capetown, Jan. 25.

There were brilliant scenes to-day at the opening of Parliament. The new Governor-General, the Earl of Athlone, in the course of his speech said that, while conditions were generally improving, the farmers in considerable areas were suffering severely from long-continued drought and invasions of locusts on a scale unknown in recent times.

Unemployment was happily diminishing.

Railway construction proposals included electrification of certain lines in Natal and the Cape Province and the building of a line in North Zululand in order to open up a large tract where cotton-growing was successfully proceeding.—Reuter.

GERMANY'S FINANCES

Arrival of Experts in Berlin

Berlin, Jan. 30.

The first committee of experts inquiring into the means of stabilizing German finances have arrived from Paris. They held a meeting to-day, presided over by General Dawes, and decided to request the Chancellor to enable the committee to establish points of contact with persons capable of imparting information. Reuter.

London, Jan. 25. Following her Ministerial appointment, Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., has resigned the Presidency of the Trade Union Congress.—Reuter.

PANAMA CANAL GUARD

Lessons of Naval Manœuvres: Defence Needed Against Naval and Air Raids

Colon, Jan. 25.

The report of the umpires in the recent American Naval manœuvres asserts that the Panama Canal is at present open to attack by aircraft bombardment and naval raids and recommends increased elevation of long-range guns on the older battleships, an increase in the coast defences and shore garrisons, strengthening of the aircraft and anti-aircraft forces, and construction of longitudinal and latitudinal roads for the garrison.—Reuter's American Service.

AMERICAN MINE DISASTERS

Many Killed and Entrapped

West Frankfort, Ill., Jan. 26.

Thirty-seven persons were killed in a coalmine explosion here to-day.

Thirty others are entrapped in the burning mine.—Reuter's American Service.

Shanktown, Pa., Jan. 26.

A terrific explosion to-day wrecked both entrances to the Lancashire coal mine. It is estimated that 40 men are entombed.—Reuter's American Service.

Shanktown, Penn., Jan. 27.

Three bodies have been recovered from the Lancashire coal mine. There is little hope of saving the men entombed alive as the water is rising rapidly underground.—Reuter's American Service.

IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA

More than Double Those of 1922: Large Increase from Britain

Ottawa, Jan. 26.

The official figures of immigration into Canada for the nine months ending in December totalled 124,680, an increase of 107 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period last year.

Immigrants from Britain numbered 64,127 an increase of 125 per cent. as compared with last year, and immigrants from the United States 17,282 as compared with 18,982 last year.—Reuter's American Service.

GOVERNMENT AND ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL SHARES

London, Jan. 29.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Philip Snowden, announced to-day that the Government have decided that they are not prepared to dispose of the Government shareholding in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

Jan. 30.

There is a divergence of opinion in the city with regard to the wisdom of the Government's decision not to dispose of its shareholding in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. The "Times," after weighing the pros and cons, approves the step. It is not expected that the market price of the shares will be affected.—Reuter.

PROHIBITIONIST FOUND GUILTY OF FORGERY

New York, Jan. 30.

A jury to-day convicted William H. Anderson, the New York State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, on both counts of an indictment charging him with forgery in the third degree. This scandal divided public interest with the oil scandal.

Anderson, who was the moving spirit of the Anti-Saloon League possessing almost autocratic powers, testifying on his own behalf, told an amazing story of how a mysterious stranger whose name he thought was King, some years ago gave him $25,000. He used the money for purposes of the League and subsequently recompensed himself out of the funds of the League and incidentally made the entries in the books which formed the subject of the charge.—Reuter.

BOMBAY COTTON MILL STRIKE

Bombay, Jan. 28.

A strike at the Standard Mills, due to the nonpayment of a workers' bonus, is extending and 32 out of 85 mills in Bombay have closed down, throwing out of work 60,000 operatives. It is expected that all the mills will cease work to-morrow.—Reuter.

Bombay, Jan. 29.

Ninety thousand mill-hands are now striking. Sixty-three mills have closed, until February 4, after which, if work is not resumed unconditionally, they will be closed for a further fortnight.—Reuter.

Bombay, Jan. 30.

Only two mills are working and these are expected to close down to-morrow. One hundred and forty thousand operatives have been thrown out of work. No negotiations are proceeding and there is no sign of a settlement.—Reuter.

HIGHWAY HOLD-UP IN PALESTINE

Jerusalem, Jan. 29.

Highwaymen to-day attacked and looted a motor-car containing stores from Ludd. The occupants, Sergeant-Major Walker and Quarter-Master-Sergeant Dunn, of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, were killed and the driver was slightly wounded.—Reuter.

Death of Labour Member

London, Jan. 26.

The death is announced of Mr. Dan Irving, Labour Member of Parliament for Burnley, at the age of 69.—Reuter.

Canada Leading World in Paper Production

Montreal, Jan. 26.

The Minister of Commerce, addressing the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, declared that this year would see Canada the world's greatest news-print producer, exceeding the news-print production of the United States. The capital investment in the industry in Canada was nearly $400,000,000, the net annual production was over $150,000,000 and the total number of employees was 26,000.—Reuter's American Service.

Japanese Cadets in Sydney

Sydney, Jan. 24.

The Japanese training squadron arrived at Sydney to-day. They received a hearty welcome and the State Government gave a dinner in honour of the Admiral and other officers. An extensive programme of entertainments has been arranged.—Reuter.

Mr. Bruce Returning to Australia

London, Jan. 26.

Mr. S. M. Bruce, the Australian Prime Minister, left London to-day. On his way back to Australia he will visit Gallipoli, joining the steamer Orsova at Port Said.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, bade Mr. Bruce farewell on behalf of the Government.—Reuter.

National Baby Week in India

Delhi, Jan. 29.

The first step in the campaign to combat suffering in India in the shape of a National Baby Week has proved very successful. Over 300 exhibitions have been held up to the present, including 60 in Native States. Lady Reading opened the Delhi show at an imposing ceremony. The Viceroy in his speech said that he trusted that the Week would become an annual affair.—Reuter.

N. Y. Newspaper Purchase

New York, Jan. 26.

Mr. Frank Munsey has bought the "New York Evening Mail," it is reported, for something over $2,000,000.

The "Evening Mail" will be merged with the "Evening Telegram."—Reuter.

British Ministerial Appointments

London, Jan. 24

Mr. Frank Hodges has been appointed Civil Lord of the Admiralty and Mr. Harry Gosling Minister of Transport.—Reuter.

Death of Founder of Russian Revolution

London, Jan. 23.

The death is announced of M Rodzianko, ex-President of the Duma, who was one of the chief organizers of the Russian revolution.—Reuter.

Lord Parmoor Delegate to League of Nations

London, Jan. 26.

It has now been decided that Baron Parmoor will be the British delegate to the League of Nations *vice* Lord Robert Cecil and will have a room at the Foreign Office.—Reuter.

U. S. Trade Returns

Washington, Jan. 29.

United States imports for 1923 totalled $3,791,000,000 as against $3,112,000,000 in 1922, of which imports from Europe amounted to $1,157,000,000 as against $991,000,000 in 1922. Exports totalled $4,167,000,000 as against $3,831,000,000, of which exports to Europe amounted to $2,093,000,000 as against $2,083,000,000 in 1922.—Reuter's American Service.

Greece and the Soviet

Athens, Jan. 29.

There is reason to believe that the Government have decided in principle to establish commercial relations with the Soviet Government.—Reuter.

Beyrut-Tripoli Railway

London, Jan. 29.

The preparatory work for the large gauge railway line from Beyrut to Tripoli is being actively carried out. The line will form an important section of the railway system connecting Constantinople, Mosul, Syria, Palestine and Egypt.—Reuter.

British Cruiser Fleet at Trincomalee

Trincomalee, Jan. 28.

A feature of the visit of the British cruiser squadron, which arrived during the week-end, has been the daily crowds of all races who have come to see the ships, hundreds of people flocking in from districts over a hundred miles distant.—Reuter.

Big American Oil Deal

New York, Jan. 28.

A syndicate, headed by Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Company, has purchased 300,000 shares at $30 each of authorized but unissued stock of the Marland Oil Company and has paid an option on an additional 335,000 shares. It is expected that the deal will ultimately involve over $23,000,000.—Reuter's American Service.

Foot and Mouth Disease

London, Jan. 29.

There are signs that the foot and mouth outbreak has been subdued. There were only 46 cases last week, the fewest since August 27. Reuter.

RUSSO-ITALIAN TRADE RELATIONS

Soviet Government's Desire for Early Recognition: Italy's Attitude Favourable

Rome, Uan. 27.

A Note was received yesterday from Moscow in which the Soviet Goverment call upon Italy quickly to decide whether or not she will officially recognize the Soviet Goverment. The point at issue between the two countries is Italy demands an assurance from Russia that for 13 years Russian Imports and exports shall be transported via Triesto irrespective of the destination of the exports, but the Soviet Government wish to limit the assurance to three years, evidently hoping that in time other countries will recognize Russia. Italy, of course, is anxious to restore Trieste to its former prosperity. The "World" learns from Russian official circles here that unless Italy decides shortly all commercial negotiations will break down, including the question with regard to Triesto.

The attitude of Italy is uncertain, especially in view of possible changes at Moscow following the death of Lenin. It is important, however, to refer to a pronouncement made by Premier Mussolini in the Chamber recently on Italo-Russian relations as follows:—

Statement by Signor Mussolini.

"When a year ago I made a statement, the first on Italian foreign policy, I said that our relations with Russia were in a condition of uncertainty and ambiguity. But I am an enemy of ambiguity, and I said at that time that there must be no party prejudice, for the question was one of national interest and importance. When the Fascisti Government assumed power certain circles in Russia displayed a feeling of suspicion and animosity towards us, and there were certain reprisals in the Black Sea. Then followed an exchange of conversations, and the situation improved. When Krassin came to Rome I had a long conference with him. Discussions were initiated with Worowsky and were promising well when Worowsky was murdered at Lausanne.

This murder deferred the discussions for four months, and they have now been resumed with Jordansky. The negotiations have not undergone any political change on the one side or the other, but they are necessarily slow. You must not think that the Russians are in a hurry. They are minute and pedantic, but I admire the minute pedantry of these zealous defenders of Russian interests. Consequently, if we wish to conclude a commercial treaty which will really benefit our country, we must follow their example and not display too great haste.

"The negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily. There has, however, been an interruption, owing to some elements of a purely objective character. It is useless to discuss what the Cheka is, and what transformation, social or economic, it has brought to Russia. That is a Russian internal matter, but, as a matter of fact, it seems that, although the monopoly of internal trade has been abolished, that of foreign trade is still affected. This creates some difficulties.

"Another question to be considered is the damages suffered by Italians in Russia. The spiritual relations between the countries are excellent, and I will perhaps astonish the Chamber by saying that, during the Corfu affair, of the European press only that in Moscow was kind to us.

A Concrete Equivalent Needed.

"The question of the recognition of the Soviet Government is a screen behind which the Soviets are endeavouring to hide realities. From my viewpoint it is more advantageous to have a fully accredited Ambassador with all the usages which regulate international relations than a representation of an uncertain nature. Referring to the recognition *de jure* of the Soviet Government, I declare that there is no difficulty in that from the Fascisti Government. The question must be put in terms of frank and free national utility. Is it useful or not for our expansion, for the welfare of the Italian people? I reply, Yes, naturally when one negotiates problems of foreign policy on the basis of national utility the indispensable condition is the *"do ut des."* I, Italy, I, the Italian Government, giving a proof of unprejudiced policy, recognize your Government. I bring you again into the political and diplomatic circles, but you, Russia, must give me a concrete equivalent, give an advantageous commercial treaty, give concessions of war materials which Italy greatly needs. If Russia agrees to this, if Russia gives us what we ask, the current negotiations will no doubt have a successful issue. I do not say, I cannot say, when the agreement will be concluded, for as I say again there are still some difficulties of an objective nature dealing with the general situation and the difference of our two economies. But the Italian Government has the good will to complete it and, if this good will exists among the members of the Russian Government also, as some Socialist deputies have declared, the Italo-Russian commercial treaty will no doubt be signed soon.—Italian Wireless through Reuter.

GERMAN SEPARATIST MOVEMENT

Schlich the Leader Shot Dead: Threat to Murder British Consul-General

Cologne, Jan. 26.

The separatist leader. Herr Schlich, was shot dead to-day while returning from a propagandist meeting at Adenau. He was hit by eight bullets.

Herr Schlich constituted himself Governor of Eifel during the recent separatist *régime* and issued seven trillion marks of worthless currency called Schlichgeld which he forced the peasants to accept.—Reuter.

Berlin, Jan. 27.

A telegram from Ludwigshafen to the *"Berliner Lokalanzeiger"* states that one of the Separatist leaders has threatened that if Mr. R. H. Clive, the British Consul-General at Munich who was recently sent to inquire into the situation in the Palatinate, returns to Munich, he will be murdered because what he has done to the Separatists in the Palatinate cannot be left unrevenged.—Reuter.

An Abandoned Fiasco.

Paris, Jen. 28.

It is understood that the Government has proposed to Britain that the question of the maintenance of order in the Palatinate and the security of the French troops there should be submitted to the Conference of Ambassadors.

The *"Temps"* admits that the Separatist movements have all been a fiasco and adds that the movement in the Palatinate is apparently to be abandoned.—Reuter.

Separatists Unsupported.

Berlin, Jan. 29.

Not a single Separatist has been returned in the elections to the Palatinate Landtag.—Reuter.

AMERICAN OIL LEASE SCANDAL

Sensation in Washington: Fall to Be Asked to Explain Doheny's Statement

Washington, Jan. 25.

The testimony of Mr. Doheny, the oil operator, in the Senate has electrified the capital. There was an echo in the House of Representatives to-day when the Naval Committee asked Rear-Admiral Gregory to produce the leases of the oil reserve in order to discover how the Government is using the localties.

The ex-Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Fall, arrived from New Orleans yesterday evening and he will appear before the Committee on Monday when he will be asked to explain the differences between his former testimony and Mr. Doheny's statement. Reuter's American Service.

A Thorough Investigation to Be Held: The President's Determination

Washington, Jan. 27.

President Coolidge has issued a statement that he intends to employ special counsel to prosecute in the naval oil leases case in the courts. "If there is any guilt, it will be punished; if there is any civil liability, it will be enforced; if there is fraud, it will be revealed, and if any contracts are illegal; they will be cancelled. As I understand it men are involved who belong to both political parties, and, having been advised by the Department of Justice that it is in accord with former precedent, I propose to employ special counsel, drawn from both political parties, to bring such actions for the enforcement of the law."

Teapot Dome Revelations.

President Coolidge's statement followed the publication of a manifesto by Mr. Cordell Hull, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, declaring that the Teapot Dome revelations comprised the greatest scandal of this or any other generation and created a new issue for the Presidential election campaign in November.

Senator Johnson, who is regarded as President Coolidge's chief competitor for the Republican nomination, declared emphatically that the oil leases ought to be cancelled without delay.

Ex-Secretary Fall's medical advisers declare that he is ill, that his heart is weak and that he will be unable to testify before the investigating Committee tomorrow.—Reuter's American Service.

Funds for Further Investigation

Washington, Jan. 28.

The House of Representatives Appropriations Committee have reported on a bill providing President Coolidge with a fund of $100,000 to cover the legal costs of any prosecutions necessary in the Teapot Dome case.

The Senate to-day discussed a resolution presented by the Democrat, Senator Walsh, favouring annulment of the naval oil leases. Senator Walsh declared that unless the resignation of Secretary Denby were in the hands of the President by sundown, he would seek the Senate's action to remove the present head of the Navy Department.

Senator Robinson, the Democratic leader, moved a resolution expressing the Senate's view that the President should request the resignation of Secretary Denby and also proposed that President Coolidge should demand the resignations of "other Navy Department officials and officers whose relations with the oil reserve leases indicate malfeasance in office." The motion went over under the rules of the House.—Reuter's American Service.

Secretary Denby's Defence of Action Taken by Navy Department

Washington, Jan. 29.

The Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Denby, to-day announced that he had no intention of resigning. He was convinced that his action in connexion with the oil leases was right and he would do the same again regardless of consequences.

Referring to Senator Robinson's resolution in the Senate yesterday, expressing the view that the President should request Mr. Denby's resignation and also the resignations of "other Navy Department officials and officers whose relations with the oil reserve leases indicate malfeasance in office," the Navy Secretary said that he "would like to see the Senator who would vote in favour of a resolution besmirching the character of any man witout according him an opportunity to be heard.

Senator Wheeler proposes to move a resolution in favour of the resignation of the Attorney-General, Mr. Daugherty.—Reuter's American Service.

Mr. Fall Under Surveillance.

Washington, Jan. 29

The Republican, Senator Willis, declared in the Senate to-day that the ex-Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Fall, had been placed under surveillance of Justice Department agents at New Orleans on January 20 with orders "not to permit him to leave the country under the conditions."—Reuter's American Service.

Illness of Ex-Secretary Fall: Leases to be Repudiated

Washington, Jan. 30.

President Coolidge has appointed Mr. Thomas W. Gregory (Democrat), who was Attorney-General under President Wilson, and Mr. Silas H. Strawn (Republican), a prominent Chicago lawyer, as counsel to prosecute the persons concerned in the Teapot Dome Oil case on behalf of the Government.

Ex-Secretary Fall's physicians having testified as to the inadvisability of bringing him to the Capitol to give evidence before the Senate Investigation Committee, it has been decided to appoint four physicians to make an independent examination.

Later.

The Senate to-day carried by 46 votes to 38 the resolution by the Democrat, Senator Walsh, repudiating the naval oil leases.—Reuter's American Service.

THE REBELLION IN MEXICO

U. S. Men-of-war to be Recalled from Tampico

Washington, Jan. 24.

Upon the receipt of advices by the State Department that the rebel leaders have definitely and absolutely abandoned the blockade of Tampico, the cruiser Richmond has been ordered to withdraw from Tampico. It is understood that when the salvage work on the wrecked cruiser Tacoma is completed, the cruiser Omaha and the six American destroyers at Vera Cruz will also be recalled.—Reuter's American Service.

Mexico City, Jan. 29.

The War Department reports that the Federal troops have taken Esperanza.—Reuter's American Service.

Government Remedies Debated: Left Wing's Hopes of Downing Cabinet

Paris, Jan. 24.

The report of M. Bokanowski, the Reporter of the Finance Committee, which was distributed in the Chamber of Deputies to-day, affirms the urgency of the vote of the Government fiscal measures to secure the balancing of the general and special budget of Frs. 6,063,000,000 by a revenue of Frs. 6,234,000,000.

The *"Temps"* emphasizes that on the ordinary budget of Frs. 23,596,000, balanced without recourse to a loan with Frs. 23,599,000,000 in revenue, figures an annual charge of Frs. 3,500,000,000, representing the interest on part of the loans contracted to supply the place of Germany's defaults.

Paris, Jan. 26.

The Chamber of Deputies has begun the debate on the Government's proposals to strengthen the franc. The debate is expected to last 10 days. The proposals will be hotly fought by the Left bloc in the hope of overthrowing the Government, but the latter's defeat is unlikely.

A Government representative declared that the proposals at the outside mean an increase of the cost of living by four per cent. It is expected that M. Poincaré will endeavour to close the general discussion to-day in order to make room for detailed discussion.

Jan. 27.

The Chamber of Deputies yesday resumed the debate on the Government's financial proposals. Socialists attributed the fall of the franc to the Government's foreign policy. M. Poincaré asserted that an organized campaign existed against the franc with a view to discrediting the French policy which he proceeded firmly to defend.

M. Mermot, the Radical Socialist leader, declared that the recent heavy fall was due to British Conservatives selling sterling and francs to buy dollars. He declared that a Dutch bank had bought 1,000,000 dollars with francs.

A closure was adopted without opposition. Further debate will take place on Monday.—Reuter.

Further Federal Successes: U. S. Men-of-war Remaining at Vera Cruz

Galveston, Tex., Jan. 30.

The Mexican Federal troops have captured Orizaba, and are now advancing on Cordoba. It is reported that several rebel trains have fallen into their hands.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Jan. 30.

It is officially reported from Mexico City that 1,500 prisoners were taken when Esperanza fell.

Later

Instructions have been countermanded for the withdrawal of the cruiser Omaha and the six destroyers from Vera Cruz, where they have been ordered to remain until further instructions. It is believed that the change of plans is due to the possibility of conflict between the rebels and the Federals in the vicinity of Vera Cruz and the United States desires to have warcraft in the region to look after American interests.—Reuter's American Service.

El Paso, Jan. 30.

Direct rail communication with Mexico City from the border is again severed. The rebels have dynamited the track and forced a train containing Federal troops to return to the south.—Reuter's American Service.

FRENCH AND CZECHS

Treaty Signed: Declaration of Joint Maintenance of All Peace Terms

Paris, Jan. 25.

The Franco-Czecho-Slovakian Treaty was signed to-day.

The two countries proclaim respect for international engagements, firm desire for the maintenance of peace in Europe and fidelity to obligations as defined in the Peace Treaties.

They declare that they are ready to take concerted action on external questions likely to endanger their security and agree regarding the measures to be taken in the event of peril.

They affirm their adhesion to the political principles contained in Article 88 of the Treaty of St. Germain and their desire to adopt a common policy against any attempt to restore the Hohenzollerns or the Hapsburgs.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 26.

The Franco-Czecho-Slovak treaty of alliance and friendship, which will be published to-morrow, comprises eight articles. The first two provide that the contracting parties shall take action in concert on questions interesting their security and the order established by the treaties and if threatened they will take joint measures. Articles 3 and 4 deal specially with the Treaty of St. Germain and the Hapsburg question. Article 5 deals with the common attitude to be adopted in case of an attempt to restore the Hohenzollerns. Articles 6 and 7 deal with obligatory arbitration in case of litigation, the connexion between the present treaty and those already concluded between the two parties and communication of the treaty to the League of Nations.—French Wireless through Reuter.

THE FRENCH LOAN TO RUMANIA

Other Means Now Being Sought to Tide Over Financial Difficulties

Paris, Jan. 30.

A long and authoritative statement now makes it clear that Rumania has finally renounced her intention of asking the French Government for a loan of Frs. 100,000,000.

It is explained that the inevitable delay involved in the French Parliament voting on the loan compels Rumania to seek other means of tiding over her difficulties, and most orders for war

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN BRITAIN

Appalling Outbreak of Most Infectious Cattle Plague Known: Huge Slaughter of Herds

From Our Trade Union Correspondent

Manchester, Dec. 12.

Great Britain is in the grip of one of the most serious outbreaks of foot and mouth disease she has yet experienced. The epidemic started last August and since then 40,000 cattle, 20,000 sheep, and over 20,000 pigs have been slaughtered in infected areas to prevent the spread of the disease. Nearly a million pounds have already been paid by the Government to the farmers in compensation for this wholesale slaughter, and it is reported to be their intention to pursue this drastic method of coping with the evil until 1½ million pounds have been expended.

In November it was thought that the outbreak was under control but a disastrous accident gave it a new lease of life. A consignment of affected animals was sent by rail from Aberdeen to Newcastle and spread the dread disease to all the cattle pens and sidings along the route. Over 150 new outbreaks were definitely traced to this source. Cheshire is now the most affected county and drastic steps are being taken there to stamp out the epidemic. Many famous herds of prize dairy cattle have been slaughtered. All social functions have been cancelled. Roads and foot-paths have been closed. Hunting has been discontinued, and foxes are robbing hen roots in broad daylight. Hundreds of acres of the finest pasture land are denuded of cattle. Here and there tall columns of dense black smoke can be seen disfiguring the landscape and indicating the affected farms. They come from the huge pyres where the diseased cattle are being burnt with coal and wood. Six hundred men are at work in the county, slaughtering and burning, and rifles and revolvers are being used to supplement the usual butchering methods in a desperate effort to stamp the infection out and prevent its further spread.

THE MOST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Foot and mouth disease is famous as being the most infectious of all diseases. Farmers say that it can be spread by a hare running from field to field. Some veterinary surgeons believe it can be air-borne by birds. The finest porcelain filters known to science are impotent to prevent the passage of this microscopic virus in fluids. Farmers whose herds are not affected will not enter a room where there is another farmer who has the disease among his cattle. By drinking infected milk a very mild form of the disease can be transmitted to human beings. The policy of wholesale slaughter has not, however, been adopted on grounds of public health. It is purely economic. America stamped the disease out by the same method at the cost of £4,000,000. In France, Spain, and Holland, the disease is endemic and it has cost the first of those countries over £5,000,000 in a single year.

It is not a difficult disease to cure and 90 per cent. of the affected animals could be saved by careful treatment. But the process is slow and the farm a continual danger spot. By slaughtering all the contacts and clearing the farm it is freed from infection and fit for re-stocking in less than three months. The adoption of this policy has reduced our losses from this source to less than £30,000 per annum during the last 30 years.

The disease first manifests itself by superficial ulcers on the hoofs. The animal licks them and the infection is transmitted to the tongue and mouth. Unable to eat, its milk now dries up, and it gets very thin, and unless specially treated dies. If killed in the early stages of the disease the carcase, with the exception of the head, is fit for human consumption. Until a week ago all infected animals were burnt and the contacts were salvaged. As a result of this English meat was greatly reduced in price, although the price of cheese, butter, and milk has been increased. The Ministry of Agriculture has now ordered that only fat stock shall be salvaged, all lean beasts whether contacts, or infected, are to be burnt.

OPINIONS DIVIDED.

There is a great division of opinion among farmers on the wisdom of the Ministry of Agriculture's killing policy. The cleavage, however, is fairly well defined. Farmers possessing fine herds of dairy cattle among whom the disease has appeared are bitterly opposed to their slaughter, and are filling local newspapers with indignant denunciations of the Ministry's action. Farmers whose stock is not yet affected are criticizing the Ministry for their slowness, and demand that herds shall be slaughtered within a few hours of the notification of the disease.

It is evident from this that the Ministry is pursuing the wisest and most far-sighted policy. There are six million cattle, twenty million sheep, and about two and a half million pigs in the United Kingdom. To adopt half-hearted methods of preventing the spread of such a scourge among this vast number would be courting disaster and fatal to our pedigree export trade.

Rumours have been circulated that the disease is being deliberately spread by our enemies with the intention of injuring us commercially, and reducing our supplies of home-grown food. Farmers have alleged that a few days before outbreaks among their stock mysterious strangers have been seen lurking around their farms. It is improbable that there is any truth in these alarmist rumours. Casual wayfarers can often be seen lurking around farms at dusk in the hope of finding shelter for the night.

SPITING THE "SURGEON"

Skull Cemented with Coffee: Brains Put Back with Spoon

An extraordinary story of an Arab whose brains were dashed out by a fall of 40 feet, but who returned to work after three months in hospital, is told in a letter published in the "British Medical Journal."

The man was painting the frame-work of the Ashrafi Lighthouse, in the Red Sea, when he fell on the cement base, striking, in his descent, a dinghy swung out from davits. He landed flat on his back, insensible and apparently dead, with the base of the skull broken.

A piece of the skull bone was found on the cement, and brains with it. The light-keeper gathered up the brains with a spoon," says the writer, "put them back in the skull, and fitted the piece of bone into its place, making a sort of cement of coffee grounds."

The man was then put in a box made of old packing cases, and taken to hospital of Suez. It was found that he had several ribs broken as well, but he was back again at work after three months.

The writer of the letter states that he knew all the persons concerned in his remarkable case.

A London surgeon said that he did not believe the Arab was as seriously injured as the report suggests. "No man with such injuries could survive such primitive treatment," he said.

"The skull of an Arab, like that of the negro races, is thick, but the effect of a smashed skull is the same on all men, black or white. There can be no recovery."

OUR PARIS LETTER

The Suicide of M. Daudet's Son: Alleged Anarchist Plot: Mystery Still Unsolved

From Our Own Correspondent.

Paris, Dec. 6

It is quite a long time since Paris provided an expectant world with one of those sensational affairs in which political passion plays a leading rôle and quite ordinary people find themselves suddenly with leading parts in a drama of absorbing interest. I am bound to admit that some of the best elements are lacking in the present case, inasmuch as the central figure is only a boy, and, so far as we know at present, none of the important strings are pulled by a woman, but of course we can always have a certain amount of expectation that the missing features will be added as the story develops.

The hero of the tragedy is Philippe Daudet, aged 14 years and 10 months, son of M. Léon Daudet, editor of the Royalist organ *"L'Alliance Française,"* who was largely instrumental in exposing the Malvy scandals, and, in addition to being one of the severest critics of the present *régime*, is a bitter enemy of Socialism in all its degrees. Philippe was not a normal boy by any means. He had a peculiar brain twist, of a kind well known to mental specialists, which impels the subject to get away from his ordinary surroundings and live an entirely different life until the fit passes off. He had twice run away from home without any motive. On one of these occasions he woke up to find himself in a place about 15 miles from Paris, without knowing why or how he had made the journey. On Tuesday, November 20, he left home as usual in the morning to go to school. His parents never saw him again until he was brought home in a coffin on the following Monday.

The first intimation they had was a newspaper paragraph stating that a young man had been found shot in a cab and had died in hospital.

HIS MOTHER'S STRANGE PRESENTIMENT.

Mme. Daudet, seized by a presentiment, asked a friend to go to the hospital, and he identified the young man as Philippe. According to the cabdriver's story, Philippe hailed the cab in the Place de la Bastille and asked to be driven to the Cirque Medrano in the Boulevard Magenta. The driver heard a noise which seemed to him like the breaking of glass. He looked round and saw that his fare was huddled up in a corner of the cab, with blood on his face. He hailed a policeman, who drove with him to the hospital, where the boy soon expired, the bullet having gone right through his head.

Knowing his son's mental trouble, M. Daudet concluded that he had committed suicide in a fit of temporary insanity. A few days after the funeral, Mme. Daudet received a brief farewell letter from her son, in which no allusion was made to his father. This letter was forwarded by Georges Vidal, one of a small group of young fanatics who bring out an Anarchist sheet called the *"Libertaire."* The Daudets next learned, to their inexpressible surprise and horror, that their son, whom they had always looked upon as being as Royalist as themselves, had spent the last two days of his life in the company of Anarchists—men whom the boy had always been taught to regard with horror and loathing. They at once came to the conclusion that the affair was a dark plot against them.

A CONVERT TO ANARCHY?

The trial of Germaine Berton, the Anarchist girl who shot M. Marius Plateau, of the *"Action Française,"* is to take place shortly, and M. Daudet became convinced that the Anarchists, knowing Philippe's impressionable nature, had deliberately planned to use him against his own party by instilling into his mind the idea of a crime against one of its leaders. It is even suggested that he was told to assassinate his own father, and that, revolting against this idea and finding no way out of his position, he killed himself.

As for the farewell letter they say it must have been dictated to the boy by someone who had acquired influence over his mind. Otherwise he would surely, they argue, have sent some message to his father, of whom he was very fond.

The Anarchists deny that they went out of their way to influence Philippe. He came to their office, they say, as an enthusiastic neophyte professing Anarchist ideas and asking if there was anyone whom the party would like to see removed. He spent two afternoons and evenings with them, and was accepted as one of them, without their knowing his name. He volunteered a subscription of Frs. 200 to the party funds. Next day, his money being at an end, he was trying to sell his overcoat.

YOUNG DAUDET'S FLIGHT MANIA.

Inquiries in other quarters show that immediately after leaving home Philippe went to Havre, where, no doubt under the influence of his flight mania, he made inquiries about going to Canada. He tried to get employment on a steamer, but failed, and not having enough money to pay for a passage he gave up the idea, wandered about Havre for a time, and finally returned to Paris and made his plunge into anarchism. Whether this was the unaccountable impulse of a disordered brain, or whether he had already come under influences unknown to his family and friends, it is impossible to say at present; but the mystery is by no means cleared up. There is, to begin with, the puzzle about Philippe Daudet's overcoat. The Anarchists say he sold it, and the driver of the taxicab declares emphatically that the boy had no overcoat, but the garment has been found at the hospital to which he was taken. This opens up the possibility that the driver is unobservant, and that some unknown villain opened the door of the cab, shot the boy and decamped. This is dramatic but highly improbable. Such doings can hardly take place unobserved in a busy thoroughfare such as the Boulevard Magenta, in daylight. Moreover, the post-mortem examination indicates that the muzzle of the pistol was touching the skin when the fatal shot was fired. This of course points to suicide.

THE MYSTERY DEEPENS.

Another mysterious occurrence has taken place at the garage in which the taxicab is kept. A man wearing clothes that were too big for him, and what looked like a false beard and whiskers went to the garage and, without offering any explanation to the astonished youth temporarily in charge of the place, carefully examined the cab, getting into it, jumping up from behind on to the hood, lifting up the cushions and prying into every corner. The youth, being unable to obtain any reply to his questions, at last went to fetch the driver, who lived close by, but when he came the strange visitor had left. Before this happened, the driver had cleaned out the cab as usual. He found nothing connected with the tragedy, but, when the police went through the cab, they found an empty cartridge case. If this case belonged to the fatal bullet, how did it come out of Philippe Daudet's revolver, which was lying on the floor of the cab when the driver opened the door?

Yet another dramatic touch has been supplied by the Camelots du Roi, or Royalist partisans. To the office of M. Barnaud, the magistrate who is investigating the case, they escorted a common-looking man with long black hair and wearing a cap of the kind affected by sandwichmen. He was closeted with the magistrate for two hours, and when he came out the camelots surrounded him, held overcoats in front of his face so that he could not be photographed, and took him away, saying that his life would not be safe if his identity became known. Everyone of course is agog to know who he is and what he said.—"To be continued in our next."

PRODUCTION GOES FORWARD

Decrease in Ranks of British Unemployed: The Prices Barometer

It is early as yet to estimate the effects of the General Election and its results upon British trade. When the dissolution came trade had been on the mend for a couple of months. The election itself had little effect upon production, though it is asserted that it was harmful to retail trade, and in any case must have concentrated Christmas shopping into a shorter season than usual. But production went steadily on, and in many branches—including the Lancashire cotton trade and the tin plate and sheet trades of South Wales—there was a definite increase of business.

The result of the election and the prospects of a Labour Government for a moment or two frightened the Stock Exchange into marking down the prices of securities; but a little reflexion showed that there was no likelihood at present of any extreme legislation from a Labour Government, kept in power by Liberal votes, and, as the public showed no signs of wishing to sell, prices were marked up again.

This, we think, will prove to have been the story in most industries. There is every indication that business will resume its slightly upward course and that the steady development which the muddle in Europe checked for a time, but did not destroy, will withstand the instinctive fears engendered by the expectations of a Labour Government.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Some further improvement in trade is reflected in the recent falls in the numbers of the unemployed. The totals recorded on the live registers of the unemployment exchanges in Great Britain have varied as follows during the last few weeks:

	Number unemployed.	Decrease durirg week.
Nov. 19	1,234,700	
Nov. 26	1,218,200	16,500
Dec. 3	1,194,700	23,500

Over the last fortnight of November, therefore, about 40,000 workers found jobs of one sort or another. The improvement, of course, is totally unconnected with political matters. In part it, no doubt, represents an absorption of workers for the Christmas trade, and a slight falling-off in the first week or two of the New Year should cause no misgiving.

Another feature is the conclusion of the protracted dispute among the boilermakers, which caused an accumulation of work in some of the yards, which will now have been taken in hand. The recent blowing-in of a certain number of blastfurnaces will also have had its share in the increased demand for labour.

ANOTHER MARTYR TO X-RAYS

French Physician Loses Right Hand

Paris, Dec. 9.—Dr. Soret, who has been for thirty years Director of the Radiography department attached to the hospital at Havre, is the latest French martyr to his work. In March last he underwent amputation of the forefinger of the right hand, which had been attacked by radiodermatitis. This proved insufficient to stop the advance of the disease, however, and he has now lost the whole of the right hand. It was amputated on Saturday by Professor Cuneo of the Lariboisière Hospital here.

Dr. Soret began his professional life as a professor at a Havre Lycée, but became such an enthusiastic believer in the future of radiography for curative purposes that he decided to adopt a medical career. He accordingly entered as a medical student, and subsequently qualified.

MANILA, Jan. 25. Lieutenant Osborne Wood, son and A.D.C. to the Governor-General, will leave for Hongkong on the President McKinley to-day.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Fatal Motor Accident in Ceylon

Colombo, Jan. 29.

Petty Officer Woods was killed and six others injured to-day by the capsizing of a motor-lorry, carrying a party belonging to the Empire cruiser squadron, on the precipitous road between Trincomalee and Kandy.—Reuter.

The Egyptian Cabinet

Paris, Jan. 29.

The new Egyptian Cabinet, formed by Zaghlul Pasha, who becomes Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, comprises ten Ministers, five of whom have already held office. The Egyptian Minister in Paris, Fakhry Pasha, emphasized in a statement to Havas that the confidence of the Crown and the entire nation give to Zaghlul Pasha fulle authority and exceptional prestige.—French Wireless through Reuter.

The Bank of Austria

Paris, Jan. 26.

The weekly statement of the Bank of Austria shows a decrease in currency in circulation which is estimated at 451,000,000 gold crowns and is covered up to 63.8 per cent. by gold reserves. Adding in the total of current accounts and engagements, the Bank is covered up to 56 per cent. —French Wireless.

Income Tax in America

Washington, Jan. 28.

The committee of the House of [illegible] 25 per cent. reduction in the tax on unearned income up to $20,000. Incomes under $5,000 will be classified for purposes of reduction as earned income.—Reuter's American Service.

Germany's Unemployed

Berlin, Jan. 30.

Unemployed receiving relief in the unoccupied territories have increased in numbers to 1,500,000. It is semi-officially estimated that there are 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 unemployed or men working short-time in all Germany.—Reuter.

Canada's Minister to Washington

Ottawa, Jan. 30.

It is understood that General Sir Arthur William Currie has been offered a position as the first Canadian Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington. General Currie commanded the Canadian Corps in France from 1917 to 1919.—Reuter.

M. Venizelos in Ill Health

Athens, Jan. 30.

The resignation of M. Venizelos from the Premiership almost immediately owing to ill-health is considered certain. There is great uncertainty as to what political development will ensue. —Reuter.

ITEMS

Athens, Jan. 27.—Zaglul Pasha has accepted the Premiership.—Reuter.

Sydney, Jan. 30.—The Japanese naval Squadron has sailed for New Zealand.—Reuter.

Berlin, Jan. 25.—Subject to the approval of the Reparations Commission, an agreement between Italy and Germany has been reached regarding deliveries under which Italy waives certain claims.—Reuter.

London, Jan. 29.—The Diplomatic correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" states that the commissioner-general [illegible] of Hungary's finances under the reconstruction scheme is to be W. P. G. Harding of the Federal Reserve Board, Washington. The appointment is expected to be announced in financial circles.—Reuter.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

FREE FIGHT IN THE JAPANESE DIET

Wild Charges of Instigating Assassination of Opponents Against Cabinet

Tokio, Jan. 31.

The session of the Diet in the Lower House this afternoon ended in a riot. The trouble started with the refusal of the Premier to reply to the accusations of the Opposition that the Cabinet had instigated the attempt to assassinate leading members of the Opposition last night by derailing their train.

Mr. Komatsu, the Minister of Railways, attempted to reply, but was attacked by an agitator disguised as a member of Parliament. Pandemonium ensued, members of the Opposition throwing bottles, books and other missiles and fighting with fists with the Ministerialists and their adherents.

No serious casualites occurred and the Diet guards quelled the riot, the House afterwards adjourning.

The dissolution of the Diet was announced while the Lower House was in recess following the riot. While the Opposition were holding a conference as to their future actions, Viscount Kiyoura, the Premier, applied to the Throne for permission to dissolve Parliament, which was granted. The announcement was issued immediately.

Great surprise was caused inasmuch as the action was not expected at the time. The Premier thus forestalled the imminent vote of non-confidence.

Political circles are in a turmoil and are unable to forecast the future.

Popular Excitement.

Later.

The dissolution announcement was strongly condemned by the Opposition members who immediately held meetings denouncing the "overbearing attitude" of the Government. Giving three lohd cheers for themselves they dispersed, but are meeting again to-night.

Thousands of people hung around the Diet building and on the streets. Police reserves were called out to patrol the streets this afternoon and to-night to prevent the expected disturbances.

An Official Statement.

Later.

The Government have issued the following statement:—

"The three Opposition parties (the Seiyukai, the Kenseikai and the Kakushin Club) having declared themselves allies for the purpose of overthrowing the Ministry, have created such a serious condition in and out of the Diet as to prevent a proper state of administration and progress. The Government have been compelled to resort to dissolution of the Diet in order to appeal to the public."

It is believed that the elections will be held in May. Announcement will be made within 30 days, when the Government will ask the country to support their platform, included in which are the restoration programme and manhood suffrage, the principal bones of contention.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

OPENING OF INDIA'S ASSEMBLY

Viceroy's Powerful Speech: Indians in South Africa: The Bengal Outrages

Delhi, Jan. 31.

At the opening of the Legislative Assembly to-day, the Viceroy, the Earl of Reading, in a personal speech, said that the Government would continue to try to persuade the Government of the Union of South Africa to [illegible] to the view of the Indian Delegation, strongly denied the allegations that the British Government and the Afghan Government were at loggerheads and warmly acknowledged the action of His Majesty's Government in giving India full opportunity to express further views on the Kenya situation.

The Viceroy declared that the Government was determined to suppress outrages and conspiracies in Bengal. He was finally examining the case of each individual now in gaol.

Alluding to the reforms, the Earl of Reading declined to discuss certain matters until he had discussed them with the Secretary of State and the British Government, but he said that after profound study and reflexion he was anxious about the future of the reforms. He solemnly warned the Assembly that there was a possibility of a check to their progress. No constitutional change could be effected without the consent of the British Parliament and people.

The Viceroy concluded by praying that calm judgment and goodwill would characterize the session. —Reuter.

LEPROSY IN BRITISH EMPIRE

Campaign to Raise Funds for Relief: Recent Medical Discoverics

London, Jan. 31.

A campaign to raise £250,000 for the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association was inaugurated at a meeting to-day at the Mansion House presided over by the Lord Mayor.

Messages from the Prince of Wales and the Earl of Reading were read. These paid a tribute to the work of the Association.

Viscount Chelmsford said that the fact that Sir Humphry Davy Rolleston, the President of the Royal College of Physicians, and Sir Leonard Rogers were identified with the Association constituted an assurance that the claims made on its behalf could be substantiated.

300,000 Lepers in the Empire.

Sir Humphry Rolleston pointed out that there were at least 300,000 lepers in the British Emiire. There was good reason to believe that Sir Leonard Rogers had found a cure in the fatty acids of certain oils and the preparation was called morrhuate of sodium.

Sir Leonard Rogers stated that a trial of chaumoogra preparations in 4,067 cases in the Philippines had indicated that numerous cures were possible.

Mr. Frank Oldrieve anticipated that the Empire would be practically free from leprosy within 30 years.

Viscount Chelmsford announced the receipt of £100 from the King and also of £100 from the Prince of Wales.

A Great Social Problem.

The Duke of Devonshire declared that the movement had been viewed with the greatest satisfaction by the Colonial Office as dealing with a great social problem, which was pressing very severely on the administrations of various colonies and protectorates.

Sir Sydney Oliver, the Secretary of State for India, said that no medical discovery had so encouraged or overjoyed him as those of Sir Leonard Rogers which were comparable with the cures of malaria and yellow fever.—Reuter.

CANADIAN MINISTER TO WASHINGTON

Appointment Construed to Portend Direct Diplomatic Relations

Washington, Jan. 31.

The report that General Sir Arthur Currie has been offered appointment as Canadian Plenipotentiary in Washington is construed to mean that the oft reported project of Canada for direct diplomatic contact is in process of being carried out. The appointment will not mean establishment of an independent Canadian mission, but merely transfer by the British Embassy of jurisdiction over diplomatic matters affecting Canada and the United States to a Canadian official. For the purpose of negotiation with the State Department he would speak for the British sovereign.

The change will be important for Canadians as communications would pass directly between the Embassy and the Government at Ottawa instead of viâ the Foreign Office in London.—Reuter's American Service.

Toronto, Feb. 1.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, referring to the alleged appointment of General Sir Arthur Currie, says that the question of any such appointment whatsoever will not be considered during the current year and that the reports evidently refer to old rumours.—Reuter.

ITALY'S TREATY WITH JUGO-SLAVIA

Further Details Regarding the Cession of Fiume: A Restricted Corridor

London, Jan. 31.

According to the text of the Italo-Jugo-Slav Treaty, Fiume town is annexed to Italy, while the port of Bargos and the delta and Fiumara go to Jugo-Slavia. The corridor uniting Fiume town with Italy is restricted owing to the inclusion of three villages in Jugo-Slav territory.

Altogether about 200 houses with 3,000 Jugo-Slavs pass to Jugo-Slav territory, while Fiume harbour and three piers and docks are leased to Jugo-Slavia for 50 years for an annual rental of one gold lira as a reaffirmation of Italian ownership. Jugo-Slavia administers the harbour.

Negotiations between Italy and Hungary will secure a Hungarian traffic outlet through Fiume harbour.—Reuter.

FLIGHT OF THE MARK

Experts Endeavouring to Trap the Elusive Gold

Berlin, Feb. 1.

The second committee of experts whose task is to investigate the flight of German capital abroad arrived here to-day. The committee was received by the Chancellor and other members of the Cabinet. The latter assured the committee of the Government's determination to facilitate its arduous task. Mr. McKenna replied.—Reuter.

OBITUARY

The Duc de Montpensier

Clermont Ferrand, Jan. 31.

The death is announced of Prince Ferdinand Francois, Duc de Montpensier, at the age of 39.—Reuter.

M. H. Texeira De Mattos

Amsterdam, Jan. 31.

The death is announced of the well-known banker, M. Henry Texeira De Mattos.—Reuter.

GERMANY'S FINANCES

Examination of Reich Budget

Berlin, Jan. 31.

Among the official data to be examined by the first committee of experts under the presidency of Gen. Dawes is the Reich budget for 1924, showing a revenue of 5,254,000,000 gold marks and an expenditure of 5,712,000,000 gold marks.—Reuter.

Paris, Jan. 31.

At a meeting of the Central Committee of the German Industrial Association, Herr Fischer declared that the creation of a gold-issue bank was necessary, but could only be established when Germany was again capable of competing with foreign nations and possessed a balance for payment from her assets. He declared that only a frank financial policy could save Germany. French Wireless through Reuter.

AMERICAN OIL SCANDAL

Resolution Repudiating Leases Unanimously Adopted

Washington, Jan. 31.

The Senate has adopted the Walsh resolution directing the President to sue for annulment of the Doheny and Sinclair oil leases. It appears that yesterday's voting related to one of the various amendments moved.

Vain efforts were made to soften the language of the resolution which, as finally unanimously adopted, alleges that the leases were entered into "without authority and in violation of the law."

The Republicans vainly tried to secure the elimination from the resolution of the name of the Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Denby, in association with that of ex-Secretary Fall as signing the leases.

Washington, Jan. 31.

The Senate adjourned to-day without taking any action on the resolution of Senator Robinson expressing the view that the President should request Mr. Denby's resignation and also the resignations of "other Navy Department officials and officers whose relations with the oil reserve leases indicate malfeasance in office."—Reuter's American Service.

GT. BRITAIN AND RUSSIA

Soviet's Offers in Return for Recognition

London, Feb. 1.

The diplomatic correspondent of the "Daily News" says that the Russian Government has informed the British Government of its willingness immediately upon recognition to constitute a mixed commission for the examination of all outstanding questions as Russian debts, Anglo-Russian relations in the East, especially in India and Afghanistan, and also trade schemes and treaties between Britain and Russia.—Reuter.

U. S. AND CANADA SIGNING LIQUOR CONVENTION

Ottawa, Jan. 31.

A convention between the United States and Canada based on the American and Canadian liquor smuggling conference will shortly be signed.

The main provision is that Canadian Customs officers will notify responsible United States officials of clearance of all liquor-laden vessels from Canada, where there is reason to believe that such cargoes are destined to be smuggled into the United States.

Notification will also be sent of all loads of liquor from a warehouse in Canada suspected of an American destination. Canada will be accorded the right to transport liquor to Yukon territory across Alaska.—Reuter's American Service.

M. VENIZELOS RETAINING GREEK PREMIERSHIP

London, Jan. 31.

According to a Greek source in London, M. Venizelos is suffering from nerves due to overstrain and will only temporarily relinquish the Premiership while taking a rest.—Reuter.

Athens, Jan. 31.

At the Cabinet's request, M. Venizelos has decided to retain the Premiership for the time being although he will not attend the Assembly.—Reuter.

FORCES IN THE RUHR

Paris, Jan. 31.

Official figures show that the French force in the Ruhr has been reduced from 40,000 to under 30,000 men and the Belgian troops have been reduced from 7,000 to 4,000 men.—Reuter.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

TAKING TROUBLE

Notes of a Sermon Preached by the Rev. C. E. Darwent in Union Church, Tientsin, December 2, 1923

Philippians II 6 & 7; "Who, being in the form of God, thought not a prize to be on an equality with God, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

This seems rather a "tough and sluggish text," for men of the present who, we are told, though they do not believe it, want their theology boiled soft. But even if people do want their theology made sweet and tender instead of hard and tough, as it sometimes is in its phraseology, it can be done, for this is the beauty of the Gospel, that its root principles can be expressed in quite plain and every-day language, and thoughts and imagery. That is the secret of the undying charm of the parables of Jesus. So we will start our consideration of these great words of Paul by spending a good deal of time over two phrases current among us, on both sides of the Atlantic. There is the phrase "getting it over." That means doing a thing with as little trouble as possible, getting done with it, and being glad when it is off our hands. A boy, who is sent to wash his face, is reputed to wash it on this principle. Very often people have to write a letter; they talk of it as a bore; they scribble it as fast as they can, and get it over; they put the bare name town on the envelope, leaving it to the post-office to find the street and number. This is so common, that I see that the American Post Office has had to stamp a notice on each envelope as it passes through the post, asking people to write "street and number." That shows how slack and hurried folk are. Anything to get the letter done with! No wonder people mostly burn their letters. It is much the same with many people in business. They hurry over their work, putting as little time and thought into it as possible, just to get it over. Edward Cook noticed this when he first went into an office., how some men's coats were hung with a look of their chair ready to start at the minute the clock struck five. That is getting work over, getting done with work with the first stroke of the clock.

TAKING TROUBLE.

In contrast to that, there is another phrase of an entirely different signification, and one which throws a far more rosy light on human nature. It is the phrase "taking trouble" over a thing of any kind whatever that we have to do. Taking trouble! When we say of a person, he has taken a lot of trouble we mean he or she has done more or more than was strictly necessary; we mean that the person has laid himself out to be as agreeable as possible or as helpful as possible. It means, that someone has gone out of his way to give us pleasure, that we were not entitled to expect. You can tell at once when people have taken trouble to please or help you. And there is nothing that touches us more than that. We feel not only complimented, but have a feeling that we have had more kindness shown us than we deserved. There is often a look of surprise in such an action. People who take a lot of trouble are the very salt of the earth. It comes in letter writing. Sometimes you get a letter, that you feel it a crime to throw it into the waste-paper basket. It would be. I suppose we all have little packets of well-written carefully sent letters from friends that we could not destroy, so full that the writer has to tell of the news that will interest them. If there are a few sketches in a travel letter, we cherish them. You feel that a friend has gone to some trouble to interest and please you. It is a treasure; you are sure he thinks a lot of you. Most things we do in a skimped way. We live on in a rich and generous way. And we appreciate it when our friends do things in a rich and full way, take a lot of trouble over us. Some take a lot of trouble in entertaining their friends; others get it over.

Take the matter of business. There was a poor lad named Andrew Carnegie. He got an office-boy's job in an American city. His employer was surprised to find, that when he was given, what we in the East call, a chit, to take to some other office, the lad always know where their office was; he knew the addresses of the firm's correspondents the first day or two. The head of the firm was taken by surprise at the lad's intimate knowledge of the district, and asked how it was. The boy said that he knew he would have to take notes out, so he had learnt all the names of firms from their door-plates. No wonder that lad got on.

THIS FOR REMEMBRANCE.

But, the best example of the way in which one is affected when people take trouble to please you is this. At least it is the best, that I know personally. I have a little manuscript book, which I value more highly than any of my most costly printed books. The story of it is this. I went home for my first furlough from Union Church, Shanghai, in 1904, in the old "Preussen." We had a "Christian Endeavour Society" then. And before I left there was handed to me a manuscript "Diary for the Voyage." A little book, bound in blue paper, with some forty pages, a page a day for the voyage. But that was not all. At the head of each page was a verse of a poem on the sea; there were pretty little water-colour pictures here and there and pen-and-ink pictures, and scroll-work; and pages at the end for the names of the passengers. Now why do I tell you this? Because I felt it a very great kindness. They might have bought an expensive book, bound in morocco leather, but it would not have affected me with a sense of undeserved kindness as this did. And the trouble they took over it! First, there was the time spent over the selection of over 40 verses about the sea, from the poets. What trouble that must have been for someone! Then for the writing! The lettering is beautiful, each letter separate from another. That cannot be done quickly. Then there are the paintings, delicately done! They could not be done in a few minutes. And I rightly felt touched by it. There was no getting away from the conclusion that these young people thought a good deal of me, by the trouble they had taken to give me a pleasant surprise. It was "real kind," and one would have been a wooden-hearted churl not to have felt it deeply. Without cant, I felt I did not deserve that such a world of personal trouble should have been taken over me.

THE TROUBLE GOD TOOK.

Now, all this seems to have been a long way from the text. But that is not so. I have been right on the text all the time. I never have been more on a text, from the first word I have said. We are always being asked, what Christianity is? If we like to be foolish, we can bamboozle and mystify the plain man, for whom the Gospel is intended, with stiff discussions, hard and Latinized and Graecicized words, as if we were lecturing in a class-room. Christianity can be described in such terms; sometimes it has to be. But there is no need for it. The Lord Himself always used plain terms. So can we. And so, all I have tried to say leads to an easy and touching definition of Christianity. It is that God took so much trouble to save us. That is it. God did all that even *He* could, to save us, a sinful people. That is saying a odd thing of Almighty God, but it is the case. Our Lord puts it that way. He told a parable of a householder sending his servants to receive the harvest of a vineyard. The husbandmen killed some of them. Then the man said, I will send my son; they will have some respect for *my son*. That means that God did all He could do to bring a rebellious world to Himself. He took all the trouble He could, He made the greatest sacrifice possible, even to Him, when He gave his "only-begotten Son" to save the world. That is Christianty, this "tremendous stoop" of the God of heaven to rescue man, and save and eternally bless him.

That is all the text means. There is no difficulty about it. All it carried in it is just this, God took an infinity of pain and thought and sacrifice in the giving of His Son to save such as we. Consider the text for a moment and you see that it is so. St. Paul says that "Christ counted it not a prize to be on an equality with God." A truly astonishing statement for it means, that He was in the Godhead. The great division of all existing things is not, as we sometimes put it, between material and spiritual things. No. It is between the uncreated and the created. The uncreated is the eternal life in God, who has "life in himself" as Christ says. That is the deepest saying in the whole Bible. And what St. Paul says is that in this Jesus there was that uncreated life. Somehow, as St. Paul says, "God was in Christ."

THE GOSPEL KERNEL.

There is no time to go into all that. But this is the kernel of the Gospel. The Son of God took the trouble, shouldered the burden, endured the pain, of a descent from heaven to earth. That is the thing that the Church has always held. One who was equal with God, took all the pain and loss and trouble to come and be one with us and save us. He "emptied himself." There is a statement. It cannot be said of us, when we are born that we have "emptied" ourselves of any glory we had before we were born. Indeed No. We are empty enough anyhow. He wasn't. This is what He was, as we believe, "By Him were all things created." He could speak of the "glory He had with the Father before the world was." And He came, and was poor and humble, a wanderer, "despised and rejected of men." He was a servant, not covered with decorations as philanthropists often rightly are. He was a "servant." He was "in the likeness of man." Had you met Him on a country road you would have have passed Him, possibly thinking Him a fine-looking man, yet in half an hour He might heal a leper. Being what He was He said He could have twelve legions of angels to defend Him; but He did not. He was obedient "even unto death, the death of the cross." You see, it all comes to this, St. Paul is trying to make the people feel what love there was in God for us to make Him do all this for us. His down-coming to our level; His life of toil and healing; His suffering and patience; what trouble and pain and self-sacrifice they imply! That is Christianity. It is not, according to the ridiculous idea of its enemies, a hash-up of Babylonian myths, Buddhist and rabbinic sayings. No. It is the coming of the Son of God to save us. It is not just the giving of a philosophy more than usually good and wise. God could send any number of them.

This is Christianity as the world has always known it, an paralleled divine favour done to men, nothing like it before, nothing like it will happen again. There are, of course, people who dislike it. You are bound either to dislike it, or be unspeakably glad over it. It has all the marks of the nice things we sometimes have done for us by good friends, such as I have described, the trouble taken over writing an interesting letter, or like the diary those good friends of mine made for me. It is sheer kindnes, sheer grace, absolute unmerited favour from God to sinful man.

THE GREAT OBLIGATION.

And finally this makes the appeal of the Gospel. What is it? Professor Seeley hits it off exactly in "Ecce Homo." The appeal of the Gospel to man is that God has put us under an "immense obligation." It is just as it is whenever friends do unexpected, gratuitously kind things for us. First we say," I didn't deserve that." And we didn't. A great deal of fuss is made of the Christian doctrine of sin. Why? It is natural enough. We say of gifts, that have caused the giver a lot of trouble, "I didn't deserve this." We are not decent people, if we do not feel that. Well, this is what any decent soul that is not eaten up with pride must feel over the grace of God in giving His Son to save us. Again, we take things that friends take trouble over as evidence of their unexpected regard and love for us. And this always has been the Christian appeal, what a love God must have for man, to have done all that to bring us to Himself. And it is, again, a revelation of the value our friends set on us. "God commended His own love to us, that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Just so. It surely argues a good deal of callousness in men if they can know and believe that and yet be indifferent to it. We, hard as we are, should not receive the gift of a pincushion someone had worked for us without feeling touched by the kindness. How much more should we feel the love of God in Jesus Christ, who "emptied Himself" and became obedient to the death of the cross for us? Christianity has its roots, not in the laws that govern impersonal nature, but in the laws of human nature, at its best, and these are personal. And in the text, Paul tries to show the overwhelming appeal of the Gospel to decent-minded people; that what even we, sinners as we are, have sometimes grace enough to do for our friends, to take a lot of trouble for their sake, that the God of heaven has done for our lost race in giving His Son to save us.

CHINA'S SEARCH FOR PEACE

V.—The Talk of Intervention

By Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 19.

Among the thousands of foreigners in China who clamour for the restoration of order and the establishment of a respectable Government so that they may live, trade and travel in peace throughout the land and so that the Chinese people may buy and sell and ship their produce and their purchases, there are now very many who are convinced that the Chinese have passed the point where they might have reestablished peace on their own initiative and that international intervention is inevitable and therefore immediately desirable.

A very large proportion of these persons live in the Treaty Ports, know very little outside their limited field, have made no broadminded appraisement of conditions either in China or the Occident and are therefore voicing an opinion based neither upon intelligent study nor common sense. There are, however, not a few highly intelligent and well informed foreigners in China who are paid well for an authoritative insight into one phase of Chinese life or another and who, at the same time, keep in reasonably close touch with conditions at home, who urge prompt military intervention by the Powers as the only possible means of establishing permanent peace in China within a reasonable time. The writer does not agree with these authorities and cannot understand how they arrive at their conclusions, but this is by no means sufficient warrant even in the writer's mind for dismissing the idea of intervention without a thorough discussion of it. Conditions are so bad in China now that even the least practical schemes for restoring peace emanating from the most humble sources demand careful consideration. The people who advocate intervention are neither humble nor obscure and are for the most part the most practical and hard-headed kind of men in their various vocations.

IT COULD BE DONE.

Neither the writer nor any other opponent of intervention with whom he has come in contact doubts that under the right conditions an international force could restore order in China, make disorder so unprofitable that the present trouble makers would earnestly crave peace and set up an administration which would very soon reestablish respect for authority, build thousands of miles of railways, train, discipline and equip a small but efficient army and a useful navy, pay the country's debts with ease and develop commerce and industry beyond the fondest dreams of any Chinese of this generation. The great difficulty is that the conditions upon which the success of international intervention, depends are not met either in the Occident or the Orient and are not likely to be met in the near future. A few of the difficulties in the way of intervention must occur to anyone who reads the daily papers and at the same time follows the course of diplomatic manœuvring in Peking.

In the first place the Ministers in Peking cannot order intervention, either individually or collectively, on their own authority, though there is never a week in the year when one or another of them would not derive intense satisfaction from marching an army into one quarter of China or another and shelling somebody's yamên after giving somebody's army a little real military instruction. Ministers are human and often feel like the motorist in China who entertains the barbarous wish for a killing license which would entitle him to run down so many pigs, impudent brats, truculent soldiers, somnambulistic coolies and demented cyclists per annum. Intervention can only be undertaken upon the initiative of the home Governments and before any home Government in this generation can be induced to consider intervention in China it must be persuaded that it is both essential and inevitable, that it would serve to restore order, that it would be financially worth while and, more than all else, that such a drastic measure would meet with approval of the Occidental peoples. No Minister in Peking believes that his fellow countrymen in his homeland would endorse military intervention in China on a scale big enough to do any real good or would sanction intervention over a long enough period to lay the foundations of a permanent peace. Apart from the domestic problems, both political and physical, which Japan has to face at home, apart from the fact that she wants to devote all of her time, energy and money to the rehabitation of the cities and districts recently devastated by the earthquake, no one can doubt that both the Government's foreign policy and public sentiment would at this juncture be radically opposed to military intervention; and even the most obdurate militarists must hesitate to undertake a big and expensive campaign against the will of a people as heavily taxed and as spiritually restive as the Japanese are at this moment. Russia is an entity apart whose whole policy in the East is that of playing the Oriental against the "capitalist" nations. As an ally in China she is out of the question. All Europe is a financial and political maelstrom, seething with old and new hatreds, wherein the frenzied mariners are so engrossed in saving their own craft or in sinking others that China might blow to atoms and elicit no more than a spasmodic snort from Europe. No European people would dream of shipping an army to the Orient at this juncture any more than in the most crucial period of the war and no European Government would think it commercially worth while to finance an expedition and an administration in China, except possibly with the idea of taking and holding a slice of China by way of recompense.

CAUTION AND FALSE SENTIMENT.

This reduces the possible factors in a scheme of intervention to Great Britain and the United States, which would be the last

PRINCE AND POETESS

Message to Farmer's Daughter Aged Seventeen

[illegible] which she had written in memory of his visit to Canada.

[illegible] poem and sent it to a friend. This [illegible] to the Prince. The poem is entitled "To the Prince who wins all hearts," and ends as follows:

[illegible]
To comfort and keep and cheer thy way.
[illegible]
therein,
And make it a mansion free from sin.

THE NOVELS OF IBANEZ

A Notable Spanish Writer

Mr. David W. Caddick addressed the "To-day" Literary [illegible] on "The Novels of Vicente Blasco [illegible] Mr. [illegible] presided.

[illegible] lecturer, while enjoying a world-wide reputation, particularly in [illegible] United States, was little read in this country until very recently. He was essentially a man's novelist, and a feature of his books was [illegible] in who were born too late, while most of his female depictions were more or less vampires. He clung to the old Spanish traditional love for exploration and [illegible] of Patagonia. Ibanez approached many subjects in a manner that greatly resembled the styles of Arnold Bennett and John Galsworthy, and on social problems took a much wider view than H. G. Wells. Noticeable throughout his literary work was his accuracy of detail.

"Woman Triumphant" was much underrated by the critics, being largely misunderstood, but "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," "The Enemies of Women," "Blood and Sand," and "The Dead Command" had met with an infinitely better reception here. Mr. Caddick gave several extracts from the author's works, including many of the quaint customs of Spanish courtship, taken from "The Dead Command."

A discussion followed.

NEW BLUE BLOOD CLUB

Plantagenets the Password

If you are descended from a Scottish, Irish, or Welsh king or prince, or from the Royal House of Plantagenet at Home, Mr. E. A. Bowers-Taylor would like to hear about you.

He is the organizing secretary of the Plantagenet Club, which has for its object "to provide an inexpensive yet exclusive centre for poor old women of good ancestry." The membership will be limited, and applications considered strictly in order of date of receipt.

Mr. Bowers-Taylor lives in Holland Park. In an interview yesterday he said: "There are about 10,000 descendants, and some of them may be unaware of their ancestry, and even working as labourers."

But Royal blood is obviously not enough, for the organizing secretary went on to say that "such people are not desired as members of our club, the centre of which is to provide an inexpensive yet exclusive centre."

One hundred Plantagenets have already enrolled their interest of forming members, and when 850 have followed suit the club will begin.

Mr. Bowers-Taylor hopes to secure suitable West End premises where the dining hall can be furnished in the style of the Plantagenet period, while the servants will wear period costume.

The Plantagenets rival England from 1154 to 1399. The first king of the dynasty, Richard II, died in prison. Everybody knows what happened to John, who has been called the worst of the line. Edward II, was murdered.

There was [illegible] the family, which Richard Coeur de Lion accepted by saying: "Let us fight; son with father, brother with brother; it is instinct in our family. From the devil we all came; to the devil we shall all go."

It is to be hoped that the curse has died out by now. Otherwise the Plantagenet Club is going to be an interesting [illegible] London.

WHISKERS COME BACK TO TOWN

New Beaver Fashion at Kensington

One of the directors of the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, decided that the face decoration of his staff was too varied. So he suggested a standardized ornament, the whisker and forthwith it has been the aim and object of the staff from the page boy to Antony, [illegible] to grow day by day in every way hairier and hairier.

Antony spoke with great glee to a "Daily News" reporter—"Yes, we're all doing it," he said. "Mine are splendid, thank you."

"Is it spreading to the female staff, too? Well, they do their best with side curls. But the pages have some difficulty in cultivating the right type of whisker owing to their youth. Some of them are going to wear false ones."

Antony says there is going to be a competition with prizes up to £25. It seems a remunerative sport, whisker growing, and appeals to the primitive instinct in every man. The guests at the hotel are also trying to compete.

"Does it affect home life, Antony?" asked the "Daily News" representative, thinking of possible domestic troubles over this latest fashion.

"Not at all," said Antony gaily, "the waiters' wives are all cheering on the men to victory."

It is to be hoped, however, that the wearing of false sets by waiters will not be encouraged. Enough things fall in one's soup already. Presumably the diner of the future will call not "waiter!" but "Beaver!"

It is the fashion for the young, smart officers in the new armies of Czecho-Slovakia to wear whiskers, so the Royal Palace Hotel are not alone in their noble endeavour to be fashionable and yet manly.

And, perhaps, as a protest against shingling, the more women bob and cut their hair, the more men will grow theirs.

The self-sacrificing wife who sells her hair to save the mortgage may later find it on her husband's dressing-table in the shape of false whiskers.

THERE IS NO RUSSIA

Moscow Disowns the Name

There is no Russia. A strange statement but true. Russia has officially ceased to exist as a name in the mouths of those who now control the destinies of that country.

About three months ago they took a decision which has remained strangely secret. They notified the various nations with whom they have trade relations that the title of their Government was changed from that of the Russian Soviet Republic to the "Union of Socialist Soviet Republics," constructed after Russian fashion to U. S. S. R. The word "Russia" was dropped completely.

At the same time the emblems [illegible] their official notepaper, the sickle, hammer and sheaf, were now surrounded by a [illegible] of [illegible] bearing the names of the various units of the country and the [illegible] territories, [illegible] "independent" local soviet governments, have been formed, such as "Ukraine," Azerbaijan, and so on. But for any these, for the name "Russia" [illegible] astonishingly added, the name of an entirely independent State!

MASTERS OF EVERYWHERE.

[illegible] that [illegible] Pagan Majesties in Moscow regard [illegible] as potentially the masters of everywhere, and not at all limited by the boundaries of Russia. Needless to say the British Government in its dealings with the Soviet Government has never accepted or used this predatory title.

The matter is of some import- [illegible] the verge of renewing relations with Russia officially. The Liberal Party has made it a plank, or at the least a small board, in its election platform. The Conservative Government has had the matter under consideration for some time past, and was disposed to recognize the Soviet Government, but with this major difference, that it would only do so after the Russians had recognized the principle of pre-Soviet Russian indebtedness, and had agreed to reinstate or compensate British subjects in their Russian property. —"Daily Mail."

WOMEN SAILORS

By L. G. Green

Women are serving to-day in nearly every branch of the merchant service.

The most unlikely profession in the world now seems to be open to them. The time when only positions as stewardesses were available has certainly gone.

Quite recently a woman skipper took her own motor cargo-boat down the Thames to the Isle of Wight. Several large foreign ocean-going freighters are commanded by women.

Possibly the most remarkable instance of a woman at sea is that of the woman engineer, Miss V. A. Drummond, who stood her watch in dungarees in the engine-room of a Liverpool liner.

Several Norwegian girls are serving as wireless operators in [illegible] —and, indeed, this is among the most suitable jobs afloat for them.

On deck, able-bodied "sea-women" would find the task no more exacting than work in a factory ashore. A novelist recently sailed halfway round the world in a tiny yacht with his sister as mate—and wrote en- [illegible] proficiency.

Little ships seem to have provided most jobs for women up to now. Scores of Thames barges carry the skipper's wife, a person who is up to any emergency, and as good as most men in the matter of steering, cooking, and washing.

BREAKING A SUPERSTITION.

The "signing on" of a woman breaks one of the oldest superstitions of the sea. To the real old shell-back, a woman afloat is only slightly less dangerous than sailing on a Friday. But old shellbacks are passing with the prejudices of their days.

Generally speaking, life at sea nowadays is not the grim profession of hardship that it was when ill-found wind-jammers beat their weary way round the Horn.

There are plenty of women air pilots, and if the female brain is quick enough to carry out that task successfully, it can navigate a ship with ease, even in time of danger. Night watches will trouble the female sailor no more than they do the hospital nurse.

In one branch of work in liner and tramp alike the woman will be welcomed, and that is the galley. Her arrival will synchronise with the departure of the notorious "grubspoilers" of the sea. Board of Trade rations will take on a new flavour [illegible] tender feminine care.

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...ders of the movement which ...uld break down foreign juris... ...tion, introduce characteristic ...inese rule with its inevitable ...s and visit all the humilia... ... possible upon the erstwhile ...ign overlords. No one knows ...tter than the big Chinese mer... ...ent what a bear garden a city ...o Shanghai would be if it were ... revert to Chinese jurisdiction ...morrow and how heavily the ...mmercial classes would lose ...ugh such reversion; yet these ... big merchants would herald ... an event with howls of ...ation.

The Chinese railways which ... operated under some degree ... foreign control are invariably ...redit to China, a great con... ...ce to the Chinese people ...d a source of considerable re... ...ue to the Government, while ...se under purely Chinese super... ...ion are allowed to rust and ...t into an appalling state and ...e looted by every official, civil ... military, within reach of them ...till they become a national ...sgrace. Yet there is no class ... Chinese who would not rather ... all the railways in the coun... ... reduced to the state of the ...king-Hankow, the Peking-Sui... ...n or the Chinese section of ... Canton-Kowloon railway ...er the management and in the ...erest of a few privileged sons ... Han than have a single mile ... railway honestly run by com... ...ent Occidentals.

A CHINESE NOTION OF SANCTITY.

Such illustrations of the Chinese ...titude towards foreign control ...uld be cited *ad infinitum*. It ... scarcely an exaggeration to ... that if all China were slip... ...g into the eternal abyss and ...e one foreigner were holding ... back with feet braced and ...ndons cracking and a sturdy ...inese patriot came along and ...ked him in the face, that ...rdy patriot would be hailed ... China's saint of saints by the ...ole Celestial race as it dropped ... the pit. Granting that this ... an exaggeration, such figures ... required to suggest to those ... believe that Chinese would ...come intervention how they ...uld be likely to receive it.

...e actual conditions which we ... to face when we consider ...ervention are that the Powers ... not intervene and that even ... they would, the Chinese as a ...ion would not have it if they ...uld help it through the exercise ...alery, evasion or force. We ...e also to conclude, if we have ... understanding of Chinese ...verament at all, that after ...ervention all classes of Chin... ... would unite to make foreign ...trol as heavy a burden upon ... foreigner as they possibly ...ld, would contrive to make ...tremendously expensive and ...roughly unprofitable to the ...ld at large, not omitting ...na herself, and would emerge ...e day from control with a ...tempt for the Occidental be... ... which the present attitude ...ender and trusting.

INTERNATIONAL FRICTION.

...part from China's attitude ... diplomats never lose sight ... the fact that under interna... ...l intervention and subse... ...t control there would be ...ous danger of friction among ... guardian powers, of group... ... and conspiracies among ... as time went on, of which ...Chinese would know how to ... the fullest advantage. ...ng our Occidental brethren ...re are groups which cannot ... of any Power undertak... ... so far afield and carry the ... ...ans burden for no bet... ...ter than ordinary commercial ...ons. Nothing could tempt ... to assume a burden in the ...t but the hope of pilfering ...ts of the burden itself or ...nopoly upon the exploitation ... portion of it. The inevit... ...d outcropping of such a spirit ...ld mean division, friction ...entually war, with China ...ing all factions on the back ...uraging them on.

...overnment interested in ... has failed to measure this ...pect and, if all other condi... ...were favourable to interven... ...including a complacent ...a and a solvent, peaceful ...pan, it would still loom big ...gh and ominous enough to ... our several Governments ...ate before assuming a share ... responsibility of setting ... to rights by force and of ...ing her in the straight and narrow path until her own people had learned to relieve the Powers of the burden.

When we discuss ways and means of restoring peace and good Government in China, we are not talking of a hypothetical millennium far, far away, but of something that we want to achieve within the reasonably near future. One can conceive of conditions in both China and the Occident under which intervention and foreign control in China might be desirable, successful and profitable to all parties. The foregoing paragraphs are designed to show that these conditions do not exist now in either East or West and that foreign intervention is not therefore a negotiable highway to peace in the reasonably near future.

A NEW CAST NEEDED.

After discussing the proposal of foreign control with many foreigners in and out of the Legation quarter the writer would say that something like the following is a fair digest of intelligent opinion upon the subject in Peking. With China in her present temper intervention on a small scale would serve only as a violent irritant which would stimulate an anti-foreign movement, which might easily end in an enormous sacrifice of foreign life and property. If there is to be intervention at all, it must be undertaken on such a big scale that the hopelessness of resistance will be obvious to even the most fanatical young nationalist. Intervention on such a scale no Power on earth would consider at this moment, nor would the Powers begin to consider it seriously and discuss it with one another until conditions were much better in Europe than they are now, until conditions in China were ten times worse than they are now, until the European and American people were ten times as much concerned about what happened in the remote Orient as they are now. As an immediate solution of China's difficulties intervention is out of the question so, if we are in a hurry for peace in China, we had better forget it and start on some now scent.

CHINA'S SKIES FOR FEBRUARY

By Sirius.

1 Moon in perigee, 5.2 a.m.
Jupiter in conjunction with moon, 2 a.m. Jupiter 4°.5 S.
3 Mercury in conjunction with moon, 11 a.m. Mercury 2°.6 S.
5 New moon ●, 9.24 a.m.
Chinese New Year's Day. First Year of Cycle of 60 commences. Opening of Spring, Lih-ch'ien 立春
6 Mercury at greatest elongation West (25°.30'), 1 a.m.
8 Venus in conjunction with moon, 7 a.m. Venus 1°.0 N.
9 Neptune in opposition to Sun, 9 a.m. Distance from our earth 2,703,000,000 miles.
10 Mercury attains its descending node, noon.
12 Saturn stationary in the heavens, 7 a.m.
13 First quarter (moon) ☽, 3.55 a.m.
Moon in apogee, 9.5 a.m.
14 Mars and Jupiter in conjunction, 1 a.m. Mars 0°.4 S.
Venus crosses the equator, moving North.
20 Sun enters Pisces, 5.51 a.m.
Full moon ○, 11.53 p.m. Total eclipse of moon, visible in China. May be observed at Shanghai for about 6 hours. The following are the hours of the different phases, standard time of the China Coast.
Enters penumbra ... 9.14 p.m.
,, shade ...10.18 ,,
Totality commences 11.19 ,,
Middle of eclipse ... 0. 8 a.m.
End of eclipse ... 0.57 ,,
Leaves shade ... ... 1.58 ,,
,, penumbra ... 3. 1 ,,
Grandeur of eclipse 1. 605, or more than half the diameter of the moon.
23 Occultation of Gamma Virginis, 6.11 p.m.
25 Moon in perigee, 11.7 p.m.
Saturn in conjunction with moon, 8 a.m. Saturn 2°.0 S.
26 Venus attains its ascending node, 1 p.m.
27 Last quarter (moon) ☾, 9.1 p.m.
28 Jupiter in conjunction, with moon, 2 p.m. Jupiter 4°.4 S.
29 Mars in conjunction with moon, 3 a.m. Mars 4°.8 S.

PHASES OF THE MOON.

	Day.	Hour.	
New moon	● 5	9.24 a.m.	Peking time
First quarter	☽13	3.55 a.m.	
Full moon	○20	11.53 p.m.	
Last quarter	☾27	9.1 p.m.	
Moon in perigee	1	5.2 a.m.	
,, apogee	13	9.5 a.m.	
,, perigee	25	11.7 p.m.	

RISING AND SETTING OF THE SUN AT INTERVALS OF 5 DAYS.

	Rises	Sets
1	6.54 a.m.	5.34 p.m.
5	6.52 a.m.	5.37 p.m.
10	6.48 a.m.	5.41 p.m.
15	6.43 a.m.	5.46 p.m.
20	6.38 a.m.	5.50 p.m.
25	6.33 a.m.	5.54 p.m.
29	6.29 a.m.	5.57 p.m.

In this month the mornings increase 25 minutes, and the afternoons 23 minutes, making a total of 48 minutes for the whole month.

ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPAL PLANETS.

MERCURY.—A morning star, visible about an hour before sunrise in first half of month. In conjunction with moon on 3rd; at greatest elongation West (25° 30') on 6th; attains its descending node on 10th.
Rises on 1st at 5.21 a.m.
,, 11th at 5.24 a.m.
,, 21st at 5.36 a.m.

VENUS.—An early evening star, moving from Aquarius into Pisces, and becoming more and more brilliant in the southwestern skies. Visible over 2½ hours after sunset. In conjunction with moon on 8th; crosses equator on the 14th; attains its ascending node on 26th.
Sets on 1st at 8.14 p.m.;
,, 15th at 8.38 p.m.;
,, 29th at 9.1 p.m.

MARS.—An early morning star, moving into Sagittarius and approaching Jupiter, with which it is in conjunction on the morning of the 14th, and with the moon on 29th.
Rises on 1st at 2.36 a.m.;
,, 15th at 2.23 a.m.;
,, 29th at 2.4 a.m.

JUPITER.—An early morning star in Scorpio hastening its rising towards the close of the month. In conjunction with moon on 1st, and on 28th. In conjunction with Mars on 14th.
Rises on 1st at 3.5 a.m.;
,, 15th at 2.20 a.m.;
,, 29th at 1.33 a.m.

SATURN.—A late evening star in Virgo, visible this month throughout the whole latter part of the night; stationary on the 12th; in conjunction with moon on 25th.
Rises on 1st at 11.43 p.m.;
,, 15th at 10.48 p.m.;
,, 29th at 9.52 p.m.

MARS AND JUPITER IN CONJUNCTION.

The two large outer planets, Mars and Jupiter, will be in close proximity on the morning of the 14th. On this date both will rise about 2.20 a.m., thus allowing the observer on the earth to follow the phenomenon till sunrise, that is during 4 hours. Mars may be seen about 1° South of Jupiter.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF MOON.

A total eclipse of the moon will take place on the evening of the 20th, extending to 3 a.m. in the morning of the 21st. The phenomenon may be observed at Shanghai for about 6 hours. On the above date the moon is full, hence at greatest brilliancy, a fact which strongly contrasts with the darkness which will ensue during the eclipse. The moon rises in the East at 5.32 p.m., and enters the penumbra at 9.14 p.m., being totally eclipsed at 11.19. The phase of totality can be then followed till about 2 a.m., the next morning, when the Queen of the Night emerges from the shade, and beams out again in full brilliancy until she sets in the morning gloom at 6.50 a.m.

CHINA'S NEW YEAR (FEBRUARY 5).

China's New Year is again upon us, awakening thrilling memories of firecrackers, gaudy lanterns, hand-shaking in the air, bowing, well-wishing, drumming of kettles and cooking-pans, and all the "Sons of Han" enjoying a holiday and good *chow*, seasoned with a merry cup of *samshu*. The Gods are also visited, and fortune sought at the hands of the wizard. The Mixed Court is closed, the burglar and purse-snatcher enjoy a rest, and litigation and strife are no more.

The present year is the first of the cycle of 60, and is presided over by the *rat* and the element *wood*, both of which are expected in some *canny* way to bring happiness to China's millions.

THE PROPOSED COTTON SURTAX

Views of the National Southeastern University on the Proposal: Reply to Recent "N. C. D. News" Article: Many Misunderstandings Alleged on our Part

Following an article published in the "North-China Daily News" on January 11 dealing with the proposal of Chinese cotton interests to institute an export surtax on cotton, we are requested to publish the following article which has been written by Mr. Tung Teh-fu, of the College of Agriculture, National Southeastern University, Nanking. Reference to the matter will be found in our leading article.

With the hope of improving the cotton industry in China, the Chinese Cotton Mill Owners' Association, the Cotton Association of China and the National Southeastern University have asked the Chinese Government for the imposition of an export surtax on cotton, the proceeds to be devoted to the work of cotton improvement and extension; and they have already gained the sanction of the Cabinet concerning this matter. The "North-China Daily News" of January 11 contained, however, an article bearing a good deal of misunderstandings regarding this purely honest intention of the two associations and one national educational institution, which should be clarified in order to convey a correct impression to the public.

THE PROPOSED $30,000,000 LOAN.

It is emphasized in that article that the intention of the cotton traders to make this request is to devote the proceeds derived from the surtax to serve as the basis of a loan to help the cotton interests at Shanghai. Last year the Chinese Cotton Mill Owners' Association planned to issue a bond of $30,000,000 to help the cotton spinning and weaving industry at Shanghai. Owing to political disturbance in the country, the plan was finally given up notwithstanding the fact that it had the sympathy, in this regard, of the foreign capitalists in China.

It is perhaps on this fact that the writer of that article had his assumption based. But think that the average export of Chinese cotton is but 500,000 piculs a year and if a surtax of one mace and half were levied on each picul of exported cotton, the revenue would be only Hk. Tls. 90,000. Can this small amount serve as the basis of a loan of $30,000,000? The Chinese would never be so ignorant to accept this.

That the proceeds would be used to help the cotton interests at Shanghai is again impossible. A 10,000-spindle mill requires $20,000 every month for buying raw material and paying labour and H.K. Tls. 90,000 is only sufficient to keep up a single such mill for five months. As there are altogether 600,000 spindles in all the cotton mills at Shanghai, how can this insignificant amount, as derived from the imposition of export surtax, be utilized to relieve this immense cotton industry?

THE EMBARGO SUGGESTION.

The article again realizes that about a year ago Chinese spinners here sought to have embargo on cotton exports imposed as they were suffering from a shortage of supplies and that the present surtax suggestion had been put forward with a similar end in view. This sounds as if the export surtax will cause the price of cotton exports to rise and subsequently lower down rate of exportation, and as exportation decreases, local cotton will become cheaper. It should be remembered, however, that foreigners buying cotton from China are actually paying less tax than the Chinese cotton buyers. The latter have to pay 1.75 mace more for each picul of cotton than the former. Even if a surtax of one mace and a half is levied on each picul of exported cotton, foreigners will still pay .25 mace less than the Chinese.

THE SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY.

The article also mentions that from inquiry in well-informed circles it was known that the intention of the surtax suggestion is to devote the proceeds to the work of cotton improvement under the auspices of the Southeastern University at Nanking. The petition is so made only because the Southeastern University has undertaken the cotton improvement and extension work under the auspices of the Chinese Cotton Mill Owners' Association and has done good work. The surtax is not made for developing the University but for the support of cotton improvement and extension work of all China.

THE DEMAND FROM ABROAD.

It is also emphasized in that article that China owed her modern cotton industry to foreign enterprise, and that the demand for Chinese cotton from abroad has been of material assistance in promoting the cultivation of the staple in the country and the present proposal is to penalize this source of consumption for an object which originally did not commend itself to those who now make the suggestion of a surtax.

It is true that China owed her modern industry to foreign enterprise because her spinning and weaving industry has only recently developed. It is not true, however, that the demand for Chinese cotton from abroad has assisted to promote cultivation of the staple in the country. That foreign countries buy much cotton from China is owing to two facts. First of all, the cotton production in the United States and India has been much decreased in recent years and in meeting the demand of the world much Chinese cotton has gone abroad. Second, since the close of the great war, all countries have endeavoured to recover their spinning and weaving industry and in doing so very much raw material has been consumed. These two facts are enough to prove, that foreigners buy Chinese cotton simply for their private ends and their continuous purchase threatens a cotton famine in this country and consequently injures the industry here instead of assisting it.

THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT.

Chinese people constitute one-fourth of the total population of the world, but the country produces only one-tenth of the total cotton. They have already seen this deficiency of the country and are convinced of the possibility of greatly developing her cotton industry because of her suitable soil and climatic conditions for cotton growing. Therefore the present cotton improvement and extension work has sprung up from the self-consciousness of the Chinese and evidently the demand from abroad has nothing to do with the promotion of cotton cultivation in China. In opposition to the fear that the surtax proposal is to penalize foreigners' consumption of Chinese cotton it should be pointed out that the proposal aims to benefit the whole world by supplying more and better cotton. China possesses favourable conditions for growing enough cotton for the world and will be depended on in the future by many countries for their raw cotton supply.

AN IDEA 30 YEARS OLD.

In this connexion I may also mention the fact that the idea of cotton improvement work germinated in the Chinese mind 30 years ago and the actual work began in the first year of the Republic. Unfortunately, owing to financial difficulties the work was not systematically carried out. The Chinese Cotton Mill Owners' Association, however, commenced this work five years ago and the yearly expense is about $30,000. Although this amount is small, it shows, anyhow, the anxiety of the Chinese for starting the cotton work from its beginning. For further progress along this line the Association has made the present proposal, and therefore it seems unreasonable to criticize the Chinese being late in this matter.

It is true that Japan, being the largest consumer of Chinese cotton outside of the republic, will have something to say on the subject of surtax. But improving cotton in China is a direct advantage to the future cotton industry of Japan and so, instead of prohibiting this attempt, Japan certainly will assist in making it a success.

THE WORLD SHORTAGE.

"The world's cotton industry will be short of two million bales of cotton this year and owing to the high prices prevailing for cotton, the extension of cotton cultivation in China will be a renumerative undertaking for many years to come. The International Cotton Federation, not having any national limitations, is anxious to assist China where cotton growing is an assured commercial enterprise." This is the idea of Mr. A. S. Pearse, general secretary of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners & Manufacturers'.

two big nations on earth to enter rashly upon such an enterprise even if all the world but China were prosperous and at peace.

Long before the recent phenomenal growth of the labour party's strength in Great Britain, diplomatic and consular agents in China got the distinct impression that the British Government did not consider that China trade would be worth the cost of intervention. It was the conviction in the best informed circles in Peking that if China were to burst into a great conflagration, such as Marshal Tuan and others predict, British subjects would be ordered into the ports and the merchants would have to be content to deal in such wares as the more courageous Chinese agents could smuggle in and out of the hinterland. With the rise of the labour party this conviction is confirmed in every mind. A liberal or conservative Government, even though converted to the belief that intervention might be worth while from a commercial point of view, would not think of challenging the labour element with a call to arms and a call for funds for a campaign in China. Little as could be expected from a labour administration, there would be more hope of getting drastic action from labour in the saddle than from a liberal or conservative Government on the defensive against labour. Americans in China who are in close touch with the United Statee Government are certain that there is no mere chance of inducing Washington to consider military intervention under present conditions, or even under much worse conditions, than there is of persuading Great Britain to intervene. The American people, more than any other people, dictate to their Government when and how war shall be made and on what terms peace shall be made, as the world has had an opportunity of observing during recent years. The American people have a sentimental concern for the rights and liberties of other peoples, irrespective of their worth, and will always go out of their way to champion the interests of anyone who advertises that he is struggling for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Once they have fastened their affections upon a nation or a race whom they consider abused and in need of sympathy, they refuse obstinately to be disillusioned. The Revolution in France was about over and the Napoleonic era beginning before a note of doubt crept into young America's vociferous whoops for liberty, equality and fraternity. Kosciusko, Kossuth, Cavour Mazziri and Garibaldi are still names to conjure with and their shades still demand a sentimental regard for the countries which they represented in seasons of stress. The Cubans and the Boers are still thought of tenderly. Whenever Mexico boils over Yankee sentiment is inevitably pro-rebel, though the rebels be bitterly anti-Yankee, bandits and cutthroats, because American still sentimentalizes records every Mexican chief-tain as a Diaz and every one as a Madero. The big navy was half over before America as a nation had forgotten the Maine and became pro-Belgian and now the sentimentalists are completely bewildered by their divided sympathies for poor persecuted Belgium of yesterday and poor downtrodden Germania of to-day.

THAT EVIL WORD DEMOCRACY.

Lavish as America has always been, with her sympathies, the Chinese and the Americans have always come in for the least share. The Americans are martyred men, consequently noted to be treated. Their heroism of their past and their shining virtues give humor some always a goodly, honest and courageous contempt. People facing aggressive Europe and ruthless Russia think rather than Japan to favour but with perfect resignation. Since the Revolution they are credited as a people who have seen the heavens open and have raised their toil-worn hands to Democracy throned on a silver cloud. They are now a people struggling in order to give birth to something as a republic as America is proud of. They are therefore entitled to unlimited forbearance and sometimes pro-

tection against imperialistic aggression, interference or bullying of any sort. This is the attitude which Washington has to take very seriously into account even when it contemplates insisting upon China's observance of existing treaties and pledges. It would take years to educate American opinion up to the point where it would endorse military intervention with a view to imposing good Government upon China. This is not the writer's opinion alone, but is obviously that of the American Government, which will be very pleased for the immediate future if it can elicit from the American people a popular mandate to use such drastic measures as are necessary from time to time for the protection of existing treaty rights, American persons and American property. Such a limited mandate even is not so easily obtained as the people of other nations may think. A great proportion of American opinion is much more tolerant towards picturesque bandits who are as remote in space as Robin Hood is in time, than towards Americans who go abroad and get into trouble. The traditional American attitude towards the citizen who leaves his country is that since he has been silly enough to emigrate when he could just as well have stayed at home in the most wonderful land on earth, he deserves whatever he gets and cannot expect sober, law-abiding, stay-at-home folk to spend any money or adopt a hostile attitude towards other peoples to get him out of trouble. The American who resides abroad is guilty of a mild form of treason in the sight of the Kansas farmer and his representatives in Congress reflect this attitude.

IT DOES NOT PAY.

Apart from all this question of sentiment, there is a widespread feeling throughout the Anglo-Saxon countries that intervention does not pay. They are inclined to cite Russia and Turkey as examples of the dismal failure of intervention. They lose no opportunity to observe that the arbitary remapping of Europe since the great war has not established peace nor yielded any promise of permanent peace. The results up to date of French and Belgian intervention in the Ruhr are by no means accepted in English-speaking countries as evidence of the beneficence of such enterprises. The sum and substance of all the foregoing is that these Powers which might be inclined to intervene cannot, while those which could do so will not. This is the verdict which one hears passed by most of the diplomats in Peking when the question is raised and they are, after all, in the best position to know.

This whole group of arguments, designed not so much to show that intervention is undesirable as that it is impossible, might easily be invalidated if the Chinese at large were inclined to call in the doctor. An unmistakeably sincere appeal from the Chinese people for intervention would break down all opposition in America and Great Britain and bring immediate action, where upon all the other nations would subscribe for participation, whether they had anything to contribute or not, so as not to be left out of the game. There are many persons who argue for intervention who believe that the majority of the Chinese people would welcome intervention and be grateful for good Government under foreign control. They say that Chinese traditions sanction it, that the Chinese are used to it, that they have submitted time after time to the rule of aliens after the failure of their own dynasties that they got used to such domination in a short time in each case and were loyal to their foreign rulers. They believe that the minority who would oppose intervention would accept it meekly, get used to it, and finally come to appreciate the blessing of a just and honest administration.

CHINESE PEOPLE'S ATTITUDE.

The writer does not believe any of this. There are a great many thousand Chinese who know perfectly well that they cannot any foreign Government, if given a free hand in China, could restore or even retrieve the national credit, make the country very prosperous and give it a great deal cheaper and better government than China has enjoyed in modern times. This does not mean, however, that these same thousands would prefer a good foreign administration to a bad Chinese administration. There is every evidence all about us to prove that the very opposite is true. There is every reason to believe that all classes of Chinese would be moved either by self-interest or prejudice to fight foreign control to the last ditch.

Like every other foreigner who has to do with Chinese officials, the writer has heard Chinese of high degree say confidentially that they think it would be a good thing for China if the country were taken over and run by the Powers. Some of the men who make this or similar remarks are disgruntled officials out of office, who have had such a bad run of luck in the political game that they have little hope of recovering their losses and would be glad to see anyone, even an alien, promote the discomfiture of those who unseated them. Such encouragement is worthless. Others are merely trying to flatter their foreign friends. Others want intervention on their own behalf to make them supreme over their rivals, a form of intervention which the reputable foreign Governments could not possibly contemplate.

A good many others are, however, sincere when they say that intervention and foreign control would be a good thing for China; but this does not mean that they want intervention, that they would welcome it or even submit to it. A great many of us who live rather too well and get insufficient exercise know that our general health would be immeasurably improved if we were gaoled and kept at hard manual labour, on a simple diet, under a merciless keeper for a year; or if we were carried off on a sailing ship for a year's whaling under the care of a heavy-fisted boatswain. But this does not mean that we should enter upon either of these wholesome ventures voluntarily, or even meekly, that we should not resist or evade hard work and discipline if an opportunity offered, or that we should not resent both from beginning to end and for a long time afterwards.

WHAT THE TUCHUN MEANT.

This is precisely the position of the majority of Chinese who believe that intervention would benefit their country. A powerful Tuchun who is doing very well for himself and is sparing no effort to maintain the deplorable *status quo* told the writer six months ago that China's position was absolutely hopeless. He said worse things of his colleagues and his own people than the writer would have the temerity to say if he believed them and closed by asserting that the Powers alone could restore order and that intervention was absolutely unavoidable.

In view of the fact that this same great man has since protested publicly against the suggested foreign intervention on the railways, the writer might have been considerably puzzled by these remarks if he had let the subject drop there; but a very little inquiry elicited the opinion that the Powers could confer a great blessing upon China by obliterating the Tuchun's enemies, putting the party to which he was an adherent in power and keeping it there. To understand a Chinese remark as a Chinese understands it, one must not only know the English equivalents of the Chinese phrases, but also learn to guess at what is left unsaid. Chinese remarks about the merits of foreign rule are particularly subject to this rule.

NO PRECEDENT IN HISTORY.

The historical argument looks strong, but really is not pertinent. China has been repeatedly conquered and governed over long periods by aliens. After the collapse of the Tang dynasty North China, the home of the original Chinese and the cradle of Chinese culture, was governed by alien conquerors for about 750 out of 1,000 years. During this same period South China accepted alien rule for a total of about 200 years. Ch'in Shih Huang, the builder of the Great Wall, who did China the service of wiping out feudalism and giving her unity, was the chief of a Kansu tribe as alien racially to the ancient Chinese as the modern Mongols are to the modern Chinese, but already converted to some respect for Chinese culture. Many more examples of this sort could be cited if they constituted a precedent for foreign control in China from the Chinese historical point of view.

As it happens they constitute no precedent. The barbarians who so often conquered and ruled portions or the whole of China were not only China's cultural inferiors but were conscious of it and admitted it. The only superiority they claimed was greater vitality and a greater inclination to fight. This the Chinese were ready enough to grant them because they thought them barbarous assets at best. China's invaders in all past ages were not only led to conform to all Chinese traditions and standards, but hastened to conform in most instances and in many cases put every inducement before their followers to become Chinese and be assimilated as quickly as possible. The Manchus conformed to a great degree, becoming Chinese in speech, religion and in many fundamental customs, but they tried to keep alive a few of their own characteristic traits and manners and to this degree, and no more the Chinese disliked them. Chinese tolerance is now extended to the Manchus in direct proportion to the degree of conformity, and the time is rapidly coming when a Chihli man of Manchu descent will be no more an alien and therefore just as eligible as a ruler as a Honanese descended from the original Chinese stock. Chinese prejudice against the foreigner as an alien does not exist, but the Chinese dislike for anyone, of whatever race, who refuses to conform to Chinese ways and cannot be assimilated, is intense and will always remain so.

THE UNMIXING FOREIGNER.

The more nearly an Occidental approaches Chinese standards in manners, speech, ethical code and outlook upon the problems of life, particularly the outlook upon social relations, the less is he disliked and the more easily is his participation in Chinese affairs whether domestic or public tolerated. The Chinese have, however, had enough to do with Occidentals during the past few centuries to know for certain that almost no foreigners of the pale breed can or will go further towards conformity than a grudging attempt to be polite and amiable in the Chinese way, which attempt is usually more or less a failure.

The missionary who takes infinite pains to meet the Chinese half way is, because of the uncompromising rigidity of his codes, generally less Chinese in native appraisement than the members of any other class of foreigners. The Chinese observe that the children of foreigners born among them and raised to speak their language and understand their ways of thinking are often even less inclined to work sympathetically and tolerantly with them than their elders who were born abroad. They have observed that the children of mixed marriages who have Chinese blood in their veins and can think like a Chinese when they want to, take more pains than anyone else to be aggressively foreign. From all this they know that a government imposed upon China by Occidentals and controlled by them would be an alien Government if it lasted a thousand years and that it would therefore be a government to resist whenever possible, to foil whenever possible, to hate always and to overthrow at last. And this must be from start to finish the attitude of the whole Chinese nation toward intervention.

THE FOREIGNER BLAMED.

It is not only for this very fundamental reason that the Chinese are unlikely to invite intervention, but for many others as well. A great number of the Chinese who are equipped to study and think about existing conditions hold the foreigners in part responsible for China's present hopelessness and therefore feel intensely that foreign influence is something that China must have less of instead of more, if she is to get on her feet again. This we may think ill-founded and unfair, but there can no doubt that the idea exists in many minds. A prominent political leader, who has done more than his share to trundle the country towards oblivion, remarked to the writer a few days ago that China was now in a worse state than she was during the Wu Tai, her darkest era, a thousand years ago and that the outlook was utterly devoid of hope. The writer objected that China had pulled herself out of the Wu Tai period somehow and out of many other difficulties and might still be counted upon to straighten out the present mess in time.

"Ah! But there were no foreigners in China a thousand years ago to complicate matters," said he quickly. "And there were no foreign relations in the modern sense to hamper the settlement of our own affairs in our own way. No, it's hopeless now."

Modifications of this idea are in the back of almost every Chinese mind. The conservatives hold us responsible for introducing the new ideas which have thrown the whole well balanced and smooth-running Chinese machine out of gear. The young radicals believe that we are the allies of the conservative and reactionary forces in China who prevent the application of new ideas and essential reforms and that we are deliberately barring China from becoming a modern Power among the Powers.

THE OFFICIALS ANTI-FOREIGN.

The big official caste in China which does not want peace leading to an efficient Chinese Government which would put a check upon officialdom and its irregular but congenial and profitable career, certainly do not want a strong foreign *régime* which would impose still more stringent checks and it is absurd therefore to expect them to ask for intervention of the sort which foreigners contemplate when they discuss the subject. Not only are all officialdom prepared to resist further foreign control, but they are now fully entered upon a campaign for breaking down such alien control over their affairs in this campaign they have the full support of all the Chinese people as we are forced to observe every day. Foreign administered concessions maintain China's domestic credit, the last shred of her foreign credit, and keep her Government out or bankruptcy, but China is so far from being grateful for such services that even those who profit from them directly never fail to interfere with them whenever possible and the Chinese people never fail to cheer efforts at interference. Dr. Sun's latest manoeuvre against the Customs at Canton threatened to deprive Peking of a good slice of revenue and to wreck China's domestic credit upon which the Government is often wholly dependent, but there was not an official in Peking who did not admire Dr. Sun's courage in challenging the foreigner and did not resent the despatch of foreign gunboats to interfere with his schemes. Even the Wai Chiao pu, which now has to rely upon the Customs collectorate to keep its Ministers abroad out of beggary, felt called upon to inquire officially why Dr. Sun had been checked. The Peking schools are now begging for support from the same foreign-administered revenue service so that when teachers and students have eaten heartily and are sure of more meals to come they can more heartily curse the foreigner and advocate his elimination from Chinese affairs.

A HOPELESS INCONSISTENCY.

The last refuges of Chinese commerce from Chinese chaos, banditry, Chinese military positions and Chinese official rapacity are the ports and concessions under foreign jurisdiction. They are the richest and happiest communities in China, not so much because connected with the foreigner brings prosperity as because they are the only spots in China where native industry, thrift and business acumen are given a fair chance to be decently rewarded. Yet the treaty port Chinese and their offspring, who have made their home in the ports and who would never dream of investing their money where unless in partnership with officials who could protect them, side ventures, are inevitably

THE WOMAN'S PAGE

THE END OF THE SEASON

Apologies to W. S.

That time of year thou may'st in me behold
When worn out clothes and few at that do hang
Upon these limbs which shake against the cold,
And ruined hats where once the gay birds sang.

On me thou seest the twilight of such style
As once was modish, sent me from the West,
But by and by I'll discard with a smile,
The garbage man will take away the rest.

On me thou seest last October's pride
That now indeed doth look a perfect guy
And speedily it must be cast aside
Alas that e'en the best of styles must die!

—This thou perceivest, may thy heart be strong
For clothes which I must buy erelong.

E. P.

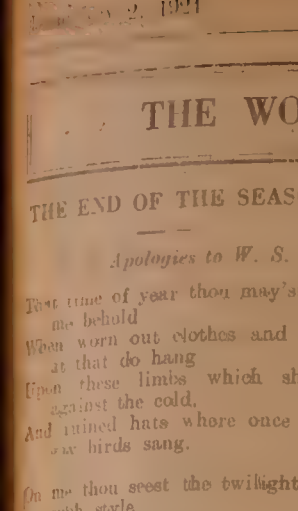
"THE INGENUE"

A Talk With a Charming Young Actress

By Elizabeth Pepys.

"Tell us about yourself," we said to Miss Tina Gerald, the petite actress who with T. J. Fenwick is appearing at the Lyceum in a repertoire of one-act plays written and produced by Mr. Fenwick himself.

"But I'm afraid there's not much to tell—yet," answered Miss Gerald modestly. "My achievements are mostly ahead of me—at least I hope so," and the



TINA GERALD.

interviewer realized that a more appropriate question would have been "Are you through school yet, and how does a young person like you happen to be embarked on so ambitious an undertaking as this?"

"I've always been interested in the stage, or at least in the power of the spoken word to sway and influence an audience," went on this appealing, brown-eyed young person. "When I was a child in my convent school I used to love to recite and when I was 11 I got the first prize in elocution when 300 girls were competing. That decided me to try for the stage, and I never gave up the idea. Of course my parents didn't like to have their child go on the stage, but they saw that my whole heart was in it and consented."

In England I worked desperately hard to get any rôle in any play where I could secure an engagement for I wanted experience on the stage. I played the ingénue fortunate enough to get some good parts as Stella in "Brown Sugar," as Gypsy in "Peg o' My Ned" and Sydney in "The Bill of Divorcement." Yes, I'm usually the ingenue though in "The Intruders" I appear as a woman who has been married for 17 years. My stage experience covers only about three years.

"How did I get here? With the Bandman Company and when my contract with them was up I joined the Warwick Comedy Company with whom Mr. Fenwick was playing. I enjoy acting in these short plays more than anything else I've done, but it is far more difficult. You see when there are only two actors to carry the whole evening any defect is magnified. You cannot depend upon a supporting cast, you don't have the encouragement of the company carrying on, and you can't hide behind any one else. There you are, just the two of you. You can't deceive the audience. Either you're good or you're bad. And another thing—in a play which is repeated night after night you are the one person of your stage personality for a stretch of time, but in these plays one has to be four or more people in rapid succession, and when you feel each part deeply it's considerable of a wrench to go on to the next rôle."

"Yes, we arrange our own stage settings, hunting up the appropriate sets in each place we play in. You have no idea how difficult it is sometimes to find furniture which will express the psychology of the play, and we try to have the smallest detail significant. Take it seriously? Rather. No amount of time or trouble is wasted if one gets the right effect thereby, for the stage is a marvellous agency for education.

"The cinema? I've never done anything for the screen, but I am meaning to do something in that line soon. I am a very athletic person and keen on riding, tennis and sports and the managers tell me those are useful sidelines for film work. My arrangements are uncertain. We shall return to Hongkong for an engagement but our precise itinerary home is not fixed."

SPORTS SUITS

Comfortable Togs for Country Excursions

The season of China New Year and House-parties is upon us as we write. The open season for houseboats and week-end trips is imminent. Wherefore if one's sports clothes have lapsed, as it were, or been lost or stolen, now, now is the precise moment to assemble others. True the Chinese tailor may have to be driven to his task, but with the hint of no clothes, no cumshas, much may be accomplished. Another incentive to new sports clothes is the trip southward, to Hongkong or Manila, or why not to Java while one is about it?

WIDE CHOICE OF FABRICS.

Never was there so much latitude allowed the sport costume. This may be another instance of the deplorable letting down of the conventions which bring tears to the eyes of our grandmothers and unhallowed twinkles to the smiling eyes of the Younger Set but it is to say the least convenient to bend the conventions to your mood and depart from a rigid mode if it does not fit your particular style. Of course tweed is the first thing which suggests itself to the outdoor soul, and kasha, jersey and knitted suits come next. But, be it said beneath the breath, duvetine is also made up into some extremely smart suits which look as appropriate as those in harsher fabrics.

Bark brown, leaf and sand—what more fitting colours could be chosen? The only opposition is grey, and indeed a compromise is often reached and the two colours are worn together. A hat trimmed with both brown and grey announces at once that there is to be no distinction made twixt these two most popular shades. In this way its wearer is able to wear brown or grey shoes and stockings as she wishes—no, we do not mean that one brown and one grey shoe are to be worn simultaneously. If these shades seem too dull to you, remember there is always the gay scarf to brighten the corner where you are.

CAPES FOR THE COUNTRY.

The plaidie is with us this season and many a detachable plaid cape accompanies a suit—either plain or plaided. Since town is withdrawing its favour from the cape we may expect to see more and more in the country. And there are some new Rodier fabrics, as yet unknown to Shanghai, which are said to be very popular abroad—*lame chinee*, for instance, which is reported as a soft material combining two-toned wools and sometimes made with a brilliant border. Leather is always good, both as a material and as a trimming and furs may be used for adornment, if only the less formal are chosen, badger for choice.

There is as much choice in the style of the sports costume as there is in materials. One of Chanel's models is a high-necked Russian blouse worn with a straight skirt which parts to show pantalettes, which have are quite the masculine trouser effect, reaching almost to the hem of the skirt. There will always be the typical Norfolk and short, plain skirt; but pleated skirts, coatees, sweaters and loose outside wraps are also in the picture. A suede jacket with helmet to match looks well with a plaided or pleated skirt. And of course there are always the comfortable knickerbocker suits. A plain cloche as small as possible, wool, cashmere or lisle stockings, smartly figured and heavy doc-skin gloves complete the outfit.

—E. P.

THE SINE QUA NON

What Would Winter be Without It?

There is one thing on which we all agree out here in China. Foreigners and Chinese we unite upon this one object. There is no bar of nationality set upon it, no clash of race or colour. Its value is, like the motion to adjourn, undebatcable. Men and women, old and young sing its praises in unison. While its usefulness is seasonal, still it is never out of fashion and absolutely no family should be without it.

The chill of many an occasion has disappeared beneath its genial influence. No. The bright little boy in the corner has guessed wrong, it is not a cocktail. Its domain is even broader. Many a painful experience has been eased by its soothing warmth. No again. It is not tooth ache drops, chloroform or the waters of Lethe But, yes, it is the Sing-Song Girl's warmest friend, it is the comforter of our nights and the inestimable friend of the nursery. It is, in short, Our Hot Water Bottle.

E. P.

WOMEN AND MEN

And when Ghama had made Man he desired that Man should have a companion. So he took the coldness of ice and the heat of fire and the softness of the dove's breast and the ferocity of the tiger and the fidelity of the [illegible] and the purpose

THE FUR OF THE MOMENT.

her that you have taken. For my ears crave incessantly for the soft laughter of her voice so that by day I have no rest. And at night I am consumed as if by fire with the desire of her warm caresses. By day the light of the sun is a burden if I have not her companionship in the shade of the desert and at night the light of the moon is blighted if she is not with me when I walk by the broad and misty expanses of the river."

Then Ghama gave Woman back to Man. And within three days Man came back again to Ghama and said:

"Oh Great God Ghama take away now again this creature with which thou hast cursed me. For she is possessed of all those evils which before I reported to you and in a ten times worse degree. So that in truth I cannot support my life with her."

"Neither canst thou live without her," said Ghama.

Then said Man:

"Oh Ghama, what sort of a creature is this thou hast created since I cannot live either with her or without her."

"That I cannot tell you," Ghama answered.

THE IDEALIST HUSBAND

He has above all things imagination, the essential of discernment and sympathy. Men are tender-minded or tough-minded. The idealist husband belongs to the first order. His chief defect from the practically minded woman's standpoint is his deficient interest in the dull but important affairs of everyday life.

He will forget to post his wife's letters and to leave messages with the grocer. Idealists are apt to be elated one day and depressed the next. For that reason the idealist partner may be regarded by his wife as "Undependable."

IMAGINATIVE SYMPATHY.

But in one very important sense he is dependable. His partner knows that he tries to understand the woman's point of view. Seeking instinctively the highest, the finest, and the most admirable virtues in men and women, the idealist husband is often disappointed with reality, though he may have the capacity for discovering noble qualities in despised or misunderstood persons. This power of imaginative sympathy causes the idealist to magnify the merits of a quite commonplace or selfish wife.

The idealist husband provides his mate with emotional experiences that the more stable-minded man cannot yield. It is the law of nature that women are more emotional than men. I am not forgetting the satisfaction of a becoming and well-fitting gown and the solace of a charming room. But these things alone do not appease our heart needs.

THE DREAMER.

The idealist spouse is in many instances somewhat indifferent to material matters. He is a dreamer, and sometimes a creator, and such men are frequently incapable of competing with practical brains in the winning of money.

But he has another talisman of happiness. He can invest the humblest home with the glamour of romance. He can find in his wife the physical charms the superlative character traits and the graces that she fails to discern in herself.

Emotional starvation is the bane of many wives. It is not only the fate of the spinster. Life, married or single, tends too frequently for women to become humdrum and commonplace. Fervour, admiration, sympathy, and understanding are more than jewels. They are priceless and comparatively rare, and they are only attained through idealism.

THE NOVEL TOUCH

How to Transform Familiar Gowns by Different Trimmings

Just about this time of year, when one hopes that one's wardrobe is arranged for the time being, before the premonitions of spring send one's cooling interest in clothes up to fever pitch again, just now we say, comes along a flock of new ideas which demand trying out no matter what the season may be. There is, for example Chanel's use of ostrich feathers to trim an otherwise unadorned frock and it is possible by substituting this little caprice to make one's frock look different enough to deceive one's dearest friend. One gown which affects this style has a wide band which starts from the left hip and

THE POPULAR COAT DRESS.

slants across the front of the skirt, outlining the outside layer of this three-tiered chiffon evening gown. The cape which falls over one shoulder is edged with ostrich.

Other devices for freshening a frock use ribbon largely. A moire or metal ribbon may start in at the shoulder strap of a square-cut evening gown and fall in graceful lines below the skirt, its draperies being securely caught at the low waistline by a jewelled pin or buckle. The effect is much that of a side train. Again, a series of ruffles of satin ribbon edged with narrow gold or silver braid will give an entirely different air to a straight, narrow-skirted frock. The idea may be repeated in the girdle. A long strip of ribbon may cross the low cut neck of a dancing frock, and crossing at the shoulder fall in uneven lengths at front and back. If the girdle is made of the same ribbon bracded an additional point is scored. The camellia is being used everywhere and perched on the shoulder of a dark gown it looks particularly striking.

E. P.

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

[illegible] This has happened to the reprint which John Murray recently issued of Captain Scott's "Last Expedition." Now he is making it the first volume of a library to be called "The Modern English Series." The distinctive thing about the works to be included in it, is that they will be abridged, alike in the interest of their cost and in the interest of the general reader. "Scott's Last Expedition" will be followed by Bullen's "Cruise of the Cachalot" and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," a work of imagination which has gone through many editions since it was written.

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Sir Charles Oman has prepared a new edition of the "History of the Art of War in the Middle Ages," which gives a picture of Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire to the time when gunpowder was in general use. Messrs. Methuen will issue the volume shortly.

∴

Dr. Clifford was often asked to write his memoirs, but he refrained from doing so, and perhaps that act of modesty was characteristic of his whole life. His idea was that a man's work was his best record, but he recognized that if it was to be gathered into any sort of picture, there must be a biography. Dr. Clifford's is to be written by Sir James Marchant, whom we already know as the biographer of several eminent divines. None of them offered better material for a human and winsome book than the old pastor of Westbourne Chapel. Nonconformists, especially, will have a hearty welcome for it from Cassell, in the course of the year.

∴

The Queen has been pleased to accept an autographed copy of Miss Mollie Panter Downes' novel, "The Shoreless Sea." (reviewed in this issue). Miss Panter-Downes, who is a niece of Sir Francis Fuller, is only 16 years of age. Her first novel is meeting with appreciation, and she is busily engaged on the next.

∴

Music, having vital significance as an art, must meet some want in human nature. That is the idea behind a book, "Music and Mind," by Dr. Yorke Trotter, which Methuen is publishing. It explains the meaning and effect of music, from the standpoint of psychology. It is in three parts, and the first of these is concerned with the relation of music to the mind. Next, the material of music is discussed, and, finally, Dr. Yorke Trotter shows how education in music should be conducted. He is already known as the author of a book on "The Making of Musicians."

∴

Every now and then the modest war diary of some brave English soldier crawls into print, and one is due from the house of Murray. It is the diary of Colonel Hamilton, the Master of Belhaven, as the Scottish courtesy title goes. He served in France from the time war broke out until he was killed during the defence of Avre, near Amiens, in 1918, while commanding a brigade of artillery. The Master of Belhaven was first, foremost and always a soldier, and his diary is characterized by a soldier's brevity and point. He kept it under great difficulties and he also made maps for it.

∴

Years ago, when an election happened, London publishers hastened to get out books or pamphlets bearing upon the political questions under discussion. It is a curious fact that, at the recent election, there was scarcely any literature of the sort from the book houses, though lots of it appeared from elsewhere. Noting this change, a leading London publisher said, "The pamphlet is dead, and Gladstone was the last great writer of it."

DUTCH COURAGE

"DUTCH COURAGE." By Jack London Messrs. Mills and Boon, publishers, London.

Jack London books are, as a rule, largely bought up, there being a very decided cadre of enthusiasts who swear by this writer quite as much as a wide circle of Americans swear at the Eighteenth Amendment. "Dutch Courage," however, to the non-enthusiast is not likely to be classed with such novels as "Burning Daylight" and others which saw the author at his best. This book now under review is a series of short stories which serve to illustrate yet once more the truism that the highly successful writer of the 60,000 word novel is not always equally the master of the 5,000. But the book will surely find a resting place in the Libraries of the thousands of the reading public who abide by one writer.

J.W.F.

A NEW PHILOSOPHY FOR CHINA

Some Problems of Present Day Education

"CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND THE NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN CHINA." By James B. Webster. Ph. D. pp. XI and 323. $2.50 gold. Pub. by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York.

Between the yellow covers of this useful book Dr. Webster thinks yellow in the matter of Christian Education in China, and his discussion will prove very stimulating to missionaries and their friends. What part should education play in the missionary enterprise? That is a question that is searching the missionary field and is reacting upon the missionary base, raising important issues in connexion with the Christian faith.

It is the success of the Schools and Colleges in one sense, it is their failure in another sense, that combine to make this one of the most urgent questions of the day. If the heart of China is to be won and held for a new faith, must not the Chinese mind be possessed with a new philosophy of life, or can its old and traditional outlook be adapted for a setting of the Gospel? Shall the teaching be so directed as to make the Church more efficient in the land, or in order to prepare the young manhood of China for the advent of Western Industrialism?

As might be gathered from the title, this book accepts the second alternative to both these questions, and makes out a very good case, although it proceeds in parts in a rather languid style. "A study of various reports, papers and conferences on educational work, shows that both view points have been within the range of vision of many missionaries, but the same study leaves one with the feeling that the verbal, symbolic interpretation of Christianity has been emphasized more than the vital, experimental" (p. 42). As Dr. Webster truly adds, "It is easier to select and teach by rote certain classics that we have inherited from our past, than it is to interpret the present and future needs of China." (p. 51).

In chapter 4 the classical ideal of education is examined and shown to be based on the egoistic instinct. It depends too much on authority and tradition and does not fit the requirements of an industrial and democratic age. Why should we force it upon China?

Chapter 5 describes the alternative "social ideal" in education which originated in the teaching of Jesus rather than in the philosophy of Greece. It runs to activities rather than to niceties; it is [illegible] than symbolic;" it works by *may* rather than by *must* (if I can put the distinction in a word); its aim is [illegible] and [illegible] its spirit [illegible] and therefore primarily religious" (p. 60), discarding also as [illegible] for its [illegible]

Dr. Webster was on the staff of Shanghai College [illegible] his preface from far away in New Jersey, which may account for his immense optimism in the new China. And certainly his pages are a refreshing change from the columns of the press with their reflexion of national impotence. An educationist, however, must be a believer, and like Susan Nipper, "not a giver up," because he is in touch with the untried possibilities of the young, and although he is aware that missionary colleges and schools cannot go very far with the 100,000,000 people of China, he keenly desires a model type of education to be set up which shall be disinterested and imaginative, based on the traditional culture of China and bent to the practical requirements of the new era. "How can we render our best service to China? Shall we encourage her to borrow her new civilization wholesale, by the short-cut of the classical system? Or shall we help her to construct it more slowly out of her own rapidly changing social, economic, moral and religious conditions" (p. 127).

The second half of the book gathers together in eight chapters the present factors in the mental life of China, biological, psychological economic, cultural and so on—an interesting survey, based largely on the studies of Kirkpatrick, Monroe, Bashford and others. It is clearly a book of real importance on which the attention of many thinkers is sure to be focussed for the advantage of China. There is a useful biography at the end.

A.N.R.

WOMAN NEW OR WOMAN OLD?

"WOMAN—A VINDICATION." By Anthony M. Ludovici. Alfred A. Knopf. New York. And Chinese-American Publishing Co.

It is hardly surprising to be told that this book has "caused a sensation" at Home. It would anywhere. In an age which pays loud lip-service (if nothing more) to the theory of woman's "higher mission" in life, to the nobility, if not desirability, of her remaining independent of man, of proclaiming her right to self-expression and self-determination and of entering into competition with man in every possible pursuit, the author defiantly proclaims that there is no higher mission in life for woman than wifehood and motherhood and that any assertion of the contrary is an outrage on the whole course of nature and, in the case of a normally healthy woman, an utter self-delusion. The whole purpose of life, he says, is to produce more life. There are unfortunately an increasing number of people who say "nay" to this axiom. They are the "negative" men and women and in Mulvaney's phrase, are "a curse to themselves and a nuisance to their betters." The others, those who say "yea" to the life commandment are the "positives," and, however much a positive girl may declare that she does not want a husband and children, her whole being gives her (unconsciously) the lie, and if denied its craving will wreak dire vengeance on her. For Nature has constructed her in every respect, mentally and physically, to carry on the life stream and if she is false to that design, she will suffer for it. The bitter and shrewish spinster is, though disliked, in reality an object of pity: she was the true, the positive woman, baulked of her proper function and now turned sour accordingly. The sweet and popular spinster is one of the "negative" women, a renegade from Nature's camp and in no way worthy of respect.

From this principle, the author, obviously, is able to launch out in a good many directions. It involves, of course, a contrast between the nature of man and the nature of woman and much about the marriage state. The basis of his teaching here is that, while woman's interest in man begins to decline as soon as he has assisted her successfully in the great purpose of her life, he, for his part, is naturally a polygamous animal who must be permitted to act accordingly. Astute readers will perceive at once that this teaching necessitates the rewriting of the marriage service, if not the reconstruction of society. Mr. Ludovici's views of divorce, if we understand them aright, are equally startling. Putting them as delicately as possible, they would appear to come to this: if the male co-respondent imagines that his own fatal gift of beauty has conquered the erring wife, he is a conceited prig and a traitor to the husband; but if he recognizes that the said erring wife merely turns to him—her husband, say, having been in Kamchatka or Timoucteo for the past three years with little immediate prospect of return—under the irresistible urge of life commanding her to produce more life, and that he himself is merely a means of enabling her to fulfil the purposes of Nature, then he is a virtuous hero who deserves a putty medal. We are not absolutely sure that this is the author's real meaning, but it appears to follow as the necessary corollary of the rest of his dogmas.

There is much in the book with which one may wholeheartedly agree. But there is also much which strikes one as fantastic and unreal. To ignore the physical side of life is unquestionably a mistake. But one cannot help thinking that the author's hatred of the mischievous twaddle about female rights, the prating of "the barren women who talk," "the screams of the moral-minded colonels," has led him farther in the opposite direction than he should, or perhaps really intended to go. The book is written with great earnestness, a complete lack of anything like reticence and some irritatingly slipshod grammar—notably the now universal fault of letting the number of the verb be attracted to that of the substantive nearest to it, instead of agreeing, as it should do, with the subject of the sentence.

O.M.G.

SEAPORTS OF THE FAR EAST

A Notable Book for Business Men

We have received a copy of "Seaports of the Far East: historical, descriptive, commercial and industrial," a volume compiled by Mr. Allister Macmillan, F.R.G.S., and published by Messrs. W.H. and L. Collingridge, of Aldersgate Street, London. The production is one of over 500 pages, handsomely bound and printed, copiously illustrated, and is in every respect a model of its kind. The mass of descriptive and general information which the book contains represents quite a formidable amount of labour on the part of the editor, and so far as we have put the work to a test, the work has been adequately and efficiently done, to such an extent that with this volume at command, a business man of the Far East will find himself with a complete view, in perspective and detail, of commercial activities from Burma to Shanghai. There are separate sections for Burma, Siam, the Malay Peninsula, Penang, Singapore, Hongkong and Shanghai, each being prefaced by historical and descriptive matter of considerable interest and followed by detailed accounts of the commerce of the country and accounts of the leading firms and their special business activities.

These are all excellently done, and we have to congratulate Mr. Macmillan upon the admirable way in which the work has been planned and carried through. Subscribers to the volume should be very well satisfied. It presents a view of the Far Eastern commercial world which should be of great value to the alert business man.

The Shanghai section of the volume opens with a well written summary of local history and the development of the port, and has some exceedingly interesting notes on business progress and conditions. Discussing the question of German progress here since the war, the writer expresses the opinion that it is doubtful whether business men of any other nationality are so well informed as to Chinese requirements, methods of transit, and business in general as are the Germans. Dealing with American trade, the author notes that despite the great strides made it has not so far come up to expectations.

CHINESE BANK DEVELOPMENT.

One of the most striking features of the recent development of Shanghai is the extraordinary increase in the number of Chinese banks, and to this the writer has some interesting remarks to make. Of the reasons for the progress made by Chinese banks, he says is that successful efforts have been made to attract deposits from agriculturists and others in the interior. The Chinese are being educated by means of pamphlets, canvassers and "haranguers" as to the security and advantages of depositing their money with the Chinese banks instead of burying it in the ground and leaving it there until needed, or leaving it in the care of pawnshops and big honge.

Other features of commerce and finance are capably dealt with, and accounts are given of most of the leading firms in Shanghai, this section providing a large fund of interesting information. As a business enterprise, for business men the book can be well recommended.

THE TOWN OF GOLF AND LEARNING

"OLD ST. ANDREWS." By Eric S. Robertson. Dent. 7s. 6d.

This is that "St. Andrews by the Northern Sea" that Andrew Lang hymned so prettily. It has had a long and curious history, being one of those coast towns that were more populous in the Middle Ages than they are to-day. At the present time, St. Andrews is chiefly famed for its excellent university and its golf. Its history goes back to the Picts, who probably had a stronghold there, and it was also the site of a Culdee monastery. It was a bishopric before the Norman Conquest of England, and was an Archbishopric before the end of the 15th century. The university was founded early in that century.

Dr. Robertson deals with the early history of the town, and only touches lightly on its later phases. He gives a chapter on Johnson's visit, and then summarises all that has happened since in one short concluding chapter. As much of the very early history is speculative, Dr. Robertson has to fill in the picture with what might be called "perhaps and probably" strokes, but he contrives to make a very pleasant and instructive narrative out of it. The volume is illustrated with some unpretentious pencil drawings by the author.

PUNCH

"THE TRAGEDY OF MR. PUNCH." By Russell Thorndike and R. Arkell (Duckworth. 15s.)

This is a feast of a book. The play itself is worthy of the great name it bears; but in this edition there are also nine coloured illustrations by Mr. Arthur Watts, and an introductory essay by Mr. Max Beerbohm. The essay is all that we might expect from Max writing on Punch, with the exception of the opening sentences. Max asks where "Punch" is:—

> He was born in the land of my adoption, Italy; but I never came across him there. He is known to have travelled in France during the days of the Grand Monarque; but there is never a trace of him in France now. And even in England, which was so very much the land of his adoption, he is seen no more, and survives only as a name, the name of a weekly conducted periodical.

We fear Max is right about England; and about Italy we must take his word, though we might have mentioned Punch's multitudinous family of marionettes—but France! Unless something disastrous has happened since last Christmas, Max could still find the little Guignol set in the Champs Elysées, near the swings and the little piles of sand. Or can it be that it is the ghost of Punch we have heard squeaking and seen mopping and swaggering in that familiar spot?

For the rest Max's essay is delightful and characteristic tribute to the truculent hero our boyhood, a hero whose behaviou was doubtless a very disastrous example, but who was, one of his player-servants told Mr. Beerbohm in 1915, always good fun."

The North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE

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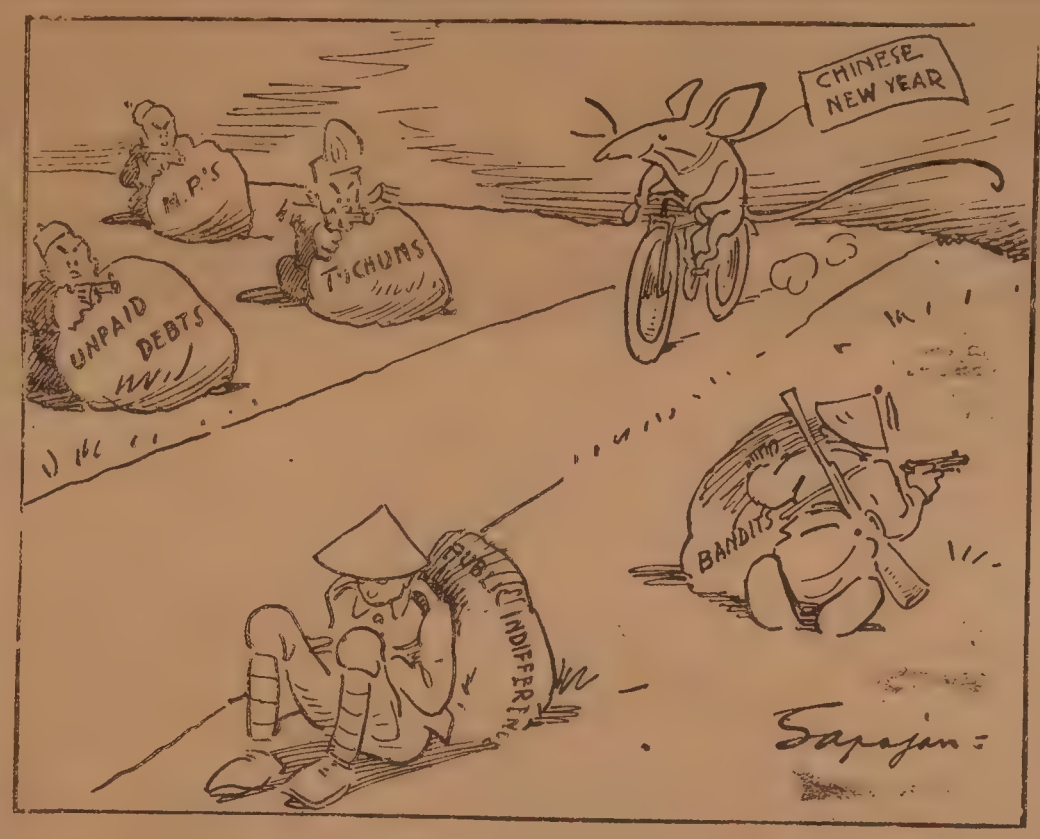

The Rat, tutelary deity of the new cycle

THE CHINESE TRADE MARKS LAW

Conditions Under Which Diplomatic Body are Prepared to Recognize It: Mackay Treaty a Dead Letter

Peking, Feb. 1.

The Diplomatic Body sent a note to the Chinese Government on Wednesday afternoon containing three "considerations and one essential condition" on which the Powers are prepared to recognize the Chinese Trademarks law:—

Firstly, objecting to Article Ten of the Chinese Law giving the Trademarks Bureau the right to apply for change of the firm's representative applying for registration, which the notes characterizes as arbitrary and useless and should be abolished;

Secondly, suggests foreign expert assistance in the Bureau so as to facilitate dealing with complicated questions; and,

Thirdly, asking for assurance that the Trademarks Gazette will publish fully and expeditiously all registrations and details connected with them, adding that the value of this will be greatly enhanced if accompanied by an English translation.

The fourth article of the Note contains three essential conditions:—

Firstly, requests extension to six months for registration from the date on which the law is formally recognized by the Powers;

Secondly, asks a guarantee of priority in accordance with the Treaties of trademarks provisionally registered with the Customs; and,

Thirdly, that facilities for registration should be afforded to Shanghai and Tientsin in accordance with the Treaties as well as Peking where the Trademarks Bureau will be established.

This Note is receiving the attention of the Government and if the latter accepts it, the Diplomatic Body is empowered to recognize the Chinese law.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING DAY BY DAY

Vice-Ministry of Education: Allocation of Money for Unpaid Salaries

Peking, Jan. 29.

Premier Sun Pao-chi presided over the meeting of the Cabinet this morning which lasted from 10 to 12 o'clock. All the Cabinet Ministers were present. It is understood that the resignation of Mr. Hu Ou-kung, Vice-Minister of Education, was accepted, and that Mr. Lo Hung-nien will be appointed to the post

The payment of wages and salaries was also discussed, and it is understood that arrangements were made for certain allocations in respect of the military, police and educational expenses.

Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan, Inspecting General of Kiangsu, Chêkiang and Kiangsi, has telegraphed to the Cabinet requesting that the official seal of his office be prepared by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and despatched as quickly as possible for his official use.

A telephone message reached Peking last night to the effect that Marshal Tuan Chi-jui was on the point of leaving Tientsin for Mukden. This intelligence proved very disconcerting, and the authorities are making efforts to dissuade Marshal Tuan from attempting the journey. A meeting between Gen. Chang Tso-lin and Marshal Tuan at this time is regarded as fraught with grave possibilities.

Peking, Jan. 29.

Gen. Chang Tso-lin has sent General Chang Chiu-ching to Peking to express to President Tsao Kun and Marshal Feng Yu-hsiang thanks for the presents sent by them on the occasion of the wedding of General Chang Tso-lin's second son.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Demand on Peking from Tuchun, Navy and Members of Parliament

Peking, Jan. 30.

Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan, Inspector-General of Hunan and Hupeh, has asked for the Government's permission to draw $150,000 of the revenues of the southern section of the Peking-Hankow Railway to cover expenses connected with the establishment of his office as Inspector-General.

Admiral Tu Hsi-kuai, Commander of the naval squadron at Nanking, has sent word to the Government that he must resign unless he receives funds to pay the men under his command. This action is looked upon as the outcome of the recent attempted mutiny, which Admiral Tu quelled by paying the men with his own money. Admiral Tu has been instructed to carry on and informed that funds will be sent to him.

Admiral Wen Shou-teh, Commander of the squadron at Tsingtao, has gone to Loyang to interview Marshal Wu Pei-fu, with the object of arranging for regular payments of the expenses of ships and men under his command.

Members of the House of Representatives yesterday received 55 per cent. of their salaries. Senators will be paid a similar proportion to-morrow, while the salaries of members of the Educational, Police and Military Departments are to be paid on Monday next.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Marshal Wu's Need of Funds: Diplomatic Appointments: The Currency Bureau

Peking, Feb. 1.

Mr. Tchou Tse-chun will leave Peking this evening for Szechuan to assist in securing the release of the two officers of the Yiyang Maru.

General Pei Chien-wu, chief of staff to Marshal Wu Pei-fu, arrived here yesterday in order to interview the President and Premier with reference to financial affairs. Marshal Wu needs funds very badly before the lunar new year.

Admiral Wen Shih-teh, the commander-in-chief of the Tsingtao Squadron, is expected here to-morrow from Loyang, whither he had proceeded in the hope of raising funds for the payment of the naval force now at Tsingtao. His mission was not productive of results.

The following appointments are announced by the Waichiaopu: Mr. Lo Huai to be third secretary of Legation at Brussels in succession to Mr. Chen Chiu, brother of Mr. Chen Lu: Mr. Yung Sen-pao, to be attaché to the Legation in Brussels; and Mr. Hsu Tung-hsi to be third secretary of Legation at Rome in succession to Mr. Chu Pao-lun.

Mr. Lin Pu-suai, Vice-Director of the Currency Bureau, has submitted a statement to the President reporting that the affairs of the Currency Bureau have been wound up and all documents handed over to the Ministry of Finance.

Marshal Chang Shou-tseng, former Premier, called upon the President at ten o'clock this morning and expressed thanks for his elevation to the rank of Shou-wei Shang Chiang-chun. Official circles doubt that any suitable post can be found for Marshal Chang at this time, but it is thought that he may render personal service to Premier Sun Pao-chi in working out plans for unification.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Feb. 2.

The authorities concerned, who have been striving to raise funds required for the Chinese New Year, have succeeded in obtaining $4,000,000. At to-day's Cabinet meeting it was decided to pay the military, police and the Department of Education 70 per cent. of the money due to them, respectively, to Parliament 55 per cent. and to each of the other Government offices 40 per cent.—Eastern News Agency.

A SINO-GERMAN AGREEMENT

Main Terms of an Arrangement Between German Minister and Peking Cabinet

INDEMNITY BY GERMANY LESS CHINA DUES

The "North-China Daily News" receives the following information from a source, which we have usually found authentic, concerning the terms of an agreement said to have been arrived at between the Chinese Government and Germany, the latter's representatives being its Minister in Peking and one Herr Feicke (?), and relating to the indemnity payable by Germany to China for the losses sustained by China and her expenses in connexion with the Great War. The four most important terms are:—

(1) Germany will pay to China $100,402,000, Chinese currency, in payment of sums expended by and losses sustained by China in connexion with the Great War.

(2) All amounts owing by the Chinese Government, prior to the Great War (totalling $31,000,000) to the four German firms, Messrs. Carlowitz, H. Diederichsen & Co., Arnhold, Karberg & Co., and the Deutsch-Asiatiche Bank, shall be deducted.

(3) The sum of $15,000,000, due by China to the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, shall also be the first-named sum.

(4) The sum of $8,000,000, the value of lands and properties seized from German subjects by the Chinese Government during the time Gen. Chin Yun-peng was Premier, shall also be deducted from the first-named sum.

Deducting the sums mentioned in articles 2, 3 and 4, the amount remaining will be approximately $45,000,000, of which the German Government will pay $13,000,000 in cash now deposited in London, and the remainder in Tientsin-Pukow Railway (northern section), Hu-Kuang (Hunan-Kuangtung) Railway and Reorganization bonds of the Chinese Government.

MAIL NOTICES

INWARD

Per T.K.K.S. Siberia Maru Feb. 2
Per O.S.K.S. Altai Maru ... ,, 3
Per P.M.S. President Taft ... ,, 3
Per M.M.S. Angers ... ... ,, 3
Per R.M.S. Emp. of Australia ,, 4

OUTWARD

FOR MARSEILLES, LONDON, ETC.—
Per B.F.S. Mentor ... ...Feb. 2
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Per N.D.L.S. Saarbuecken ... ,, 4
Per N.Y.K.S. Fushimi Maru ,, 9
FOR JAPAN, CANADA, U.S.A. & EUROPE :
Per P.M.S. President Lincoln Feb. 3
Per N.Y.K.S. Iyo Maru ... ,, 4
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FOR MANILA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND VIA HONGKONG :—
Per T.K.K.S. Siberia Maru ...Feb. 2
Per B.F.S. Mentor ... ... ,, 2
Per P.M.S. President Taft ... ,, 3

PASSENGERS

INWARD.

Per N.Y.K.S. Suwa Maru, January 24. From Japan. Mrs. I. I. Mann, Mr. W. T. Mann, Miss J. J. Dillon, Mr. J. H. Claff, Mr. L. S. Anderson, Mrs. M. G. Anderson, Miss E. A. Punnett, Mr. G. A. Byers, Mr. O. V. Lanning, Mr. A. Goto, Mr. H. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wakabayashi.

Per N.Y.K.S. Hakozaki Maru, January 24. From London, etc. Mr. A. Bataille, Mrs. A. B. Elton and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hutchison, Mr. T. M. Lamb, Master T. J. Lamb, Mr. H. R. Harding, Mr. A. L. M. McKinnon, Mr. T. Menju, Mr. L. E. Read, Mrs. M. Van Stegen and two children, Mr. A. H. Vernon Hunt, Miss L. Efloung, Master Le Winbourne, Mr. A. W. Emmerson, Mr. H. Jolly, Mrs. C. M. Harrison, Miss Harrison, Mr. R. Hudson, Mr. A. K. Kerridge, Mrs. M. Ozaki, Mr. H. Perry, Mr. C. M. Pronk, Mr. H. A. Harrison, Mrs. A. Tollefsen.

Per str. Tingsang, January 25. From Hongkong. Mr. McGowan.

Per str. Hsinchi, January 25. From Foochow. Mr. and Mrs. Carson, Masters B. and L. Carson, Mr. J. H. Free, Misses Siemsen, E. Melbe, Messrs. Y. Cedera, Allson, Fr. Utne and Witt.

Per str. Feiching, January 25. From Wenchow. Mr. Gooding, Mrs. Kenden.

Per str. Suiwo, January 26. From River Ports. Miss F. A. James, Miss M. Hodge, Captain R. Hughes.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 27. From Ningpo. Mrs. Palmer, Miss Palmer, Master Palmer.

Per str. Tuckwo, January 27. From River Ports. Mr. S. E. Hill, Mr. Konig, Mr. P. Breeur, Bishop Birney.

Per str. Szechuen, January 27. From Hongkong. Mrs. C. Sim, Master G. C. Burnett, Mr. G. G. Wannop, Mr. G. Lamb, Mr. Maynard.

Per str. Woosung, January 28. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. Sommerines and two children, Sister Edith Constance, Mrs. P. D. Koerting, Miss L. Babrenburg, Captain Jenkins, Mr. Judd, Mr. W. E. Harris, Mr. B. N. Lanphear.

Per str. Kiangan, January 29. From River Ports. Mr. H. E. Robian, Rev. L. Moses, Rev. L. Fassigbet.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, January 29. From Ningpo. Miss L. Harlow, Miss V. Hill, Miss A. Petitt, Mr. C. L. Bramley, Mr. A. F. Tifford, Mr. R. M. Smith, Mr. F. C. Wilcox.

Per str. Kwanglee, January 30. From Hongkong. Mr. Merry.

Per str. Hsin Ningshao, January 30. From Ningpo. Mr. D. Gustaron.

Per str. Kutwo, January 30. From River Ports. Mr. K. Mauerer, Mr. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Ney, Mr. E. Turner.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 30. From Ningpo. Mr. F. William, Miss D. Zimmermann, Mr. Squires, Mr. Hopkyns, Mr. Bates.

Per str Shuntien, January 30. From Tientsin. Mrs. J. A. McMillan, Mr. C. Martin, Miss Breemer, Mrs. C. Clark and child, Miss Steward, Sgt. Langston.

Per P. & O. S. Karmala, January 30. From London. Mrs. Foster, Mr. J. Rennie, Mr. J. K. Turnbull, Mr. S. Wood. **From Marseilles.** Mr. H. B. Ash, Mr. J. F. Wilmont, Mr. V. Pozyanne. **From Port Said.** Rev. E. P. Moseley. **From Colombo** Mr. N. F. Xavier. **From Singapore.** Mr. F. R. Jones. **From Hongkong.** Mr. and Mrs. P. Tedeman, Mr. S. T. Szto, Mr. S. P. Brooker, Messrs. A. and D. Ross, H. S. Frank, Mr. and Miss J. L. Broughton, Mr. A. G. Birch, Mr. F. L. Robbins, Mr. E. Haven, Mr. Dangoor, Mr. H. Landau, Rev. and Mrs. Kunkle, Mr. F. C. Benham.

Per str. Kanchow, January 30. From Hongkong. Master Y. Kerr.

Per str. Tatung, January 31. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, January 31. From Ningpo. Mrs. L. H. Mangon, Dr. Pantelon.

Per str. Loongwo, January 31. From River Ports. Miss A. M. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Gollasse, Mrs. A. Ross, Miss E. G. Steelman, Mr. C. Cowzzo, Mr. F. Mueller.

OUTWARD

Per str. Sunkiang, January 26. For Hongkong. Mrs. P. B. Purdon.

Per str. Luchow, January 26.—For Tsingtao—Miss R. Murray Kidd.

Per str. Luenyi, January 26.—For River Ports—Mr. G. Rust, Mr. E. C. Leech, Mr. J. P. Mudes, Mr. Grice, Mr. R. R. Hutchison, Mr. and Mrs. Torr.

Per str. Sunning, January 28.—For Hongkong—Mrs. H. J. P. Andersen, Mr. Perdue.

Per str. Fengtien, January 28.—For Chefoo—Miss Lilian Nelson, Six Teachers and 50 C.I.M. pupils school party.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 28.—For Ningpo—Mr. Blanford, Bishop Molony.

Per str. Fengtien, January 28.—For Chefoo Miss L. Nelson, Rev. H. Davies, Master Davies, Miss Kirill, Master Reynolds, Master McRae, Miss A. Broadfoot, Miss B. Broadfoot, Mrs. Briscoe, Six Teachers and 50 school children.

Per str. Wuhu, January 29.—For Hongkong—Mr. Putchley.

Per str. Kwangping, January 30. For Tientsin—Mr. T. P. Graham.

Per str. Hsin Peking, January 30.—For Ningpo—Mrs. Macleod, Rev. Bishop Fatiguet, Rev. Father Morel, Mr. Ufford.

Per str. Woosung, January 30.—For River Ports—Mr. C. L. Borioni, Mrs. J. Rasmussen, Mr. A. M. Wilkie, Mr. Reed, Mr. Leyer.

Per str. Szechuen, January 30.—For Canton—Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Dowie. **For Swatow**—Misses Bueldeath (3), Mr. Bueldeath. **For Hongkong**—Mrs. A. J. Nathan.

Per str. Chungking, February 1.—For Chefoo—Miss Barker. **For Tientsin**—Mr. F. T. Smith.

BIRTHS

KLUBIEN.—On December 24, 1923, at Copenhagen, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Klubien, a daughter.

McGILLIVRAY.—On January 24, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. John McGillivray, a son.

MUNRO-FAURE.—On January 25, 1924, at the C.M.S. Hospital, Hangchow, to the wife of P. H. Munro-Faure, a son.

PAYNE.—On January 30, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. A. Payne, a daughter.

PEREIRA.—On January 30, 1924, at 53 Range Road, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. V. F. Pereira, a son. Hongkong papers please copy.

TAYLOR.—On January 22, 1924, at Anking, to Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Taylor, a daughter, Mary Booth.

WILLIS.—On January 28, 1924, at 13 Kungping Road, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Willis, a son, still-born.

ANNOUNCEMENT

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between Mr. H. Shelley Brand, of Foochow, and Mrs. Niven Brown, widow of the late Mr. John Niven Brown, and daughter of the late Rev. John Russell (for 30 years minister of Grange, Banffshire) and of Emilie (*née*) Duff-Gordon, of Park. Home papers please copy.

DEATHS

BICKEL.—On January 25, 1924, at St. Mary's Hospital, Shanghai, Captain Philip L. Bickel, aged 28 years. Interment in Japan.

CHANDLER.—On January 26, 1924, at Shanghai, Ernest Knight Chandler, British-American Tobacco Co. (China), Ld., aged 55 years.

COURTNEY.—On Saturday, January 26, 1924, at the Isolation Hospital, Shanghai, Mrs. Elvinia Elizabeth Montgomery Courtney. Born February 12, 1898, at Ashland, Kentucky, U.S.A.

DANIELS.—On January 25, 1924, at Moji, Japan, G. G. Daniels, of Shanghai, beloved husband of Mrs. O. Daniels, Shanghai.

McMICHAEL.—On Monday, January 28, 1924, at his residence, Midfield, Sinza Road, Shanghai, John Herrick McMichael.

RICHARDSON. — On Tuesday, January 29, 1924, at London, Thomas William Richardson, late of Swatow and of the firm Messrs. Bradley & Co., in his 88th year.

SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Date of Month	Barometer 9 A.M.	Wind Att'ed Therm	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Jan. 25	30.56	48.4	W N W	1	38.7	35.8	44.8	32.0	B. C.
,, 26	30.71	45.7	N W	3	26.6	23.2	34.9	23.5	B. C.
,, 27	30.61	43.5	N N W	2	27.8	25.1	31.1	25.5	O.
,, 28	30.55	44.6	N W	1	28.9	26.5	39.1	21.6	B.
,, 29	30.43	45.6	N N E	1	33.6	31.7	44.1	22.3	O.
,, 30	30.36	46.2	N E	2	40.1	39.1	46.2	34.9	O. D. M.
,, 31	30.26	46.9	N E	2	43.0	41.6	45.0	41.4	O. M.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date	Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Rainfall Inches 1923
Jan. 25	34.0	24.0	42.4	35.0	Nil.	0.03
,, 26	25.0	24.8	40.0	37.8	Nil.	Nil.
,, 27	27.0	25.0	31.4	39 0	Nil.	Nil.
,, 28	23.8	28 0	33.2	39.0.	Nil.	Nil.
,, 29	28.0	28.2	41.0	37.8	0.04	Nil.
,, 30	37.2	25 0	45.4	41 0	0.20	Nil.
,, 31	42.0	29.8	44 4	40.0	0.02	Nil.

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THE RECOGNITION OF RUSSIA

Feb. 4.

That the great majority of the British people will endorse Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's action in recognizing the Soviet Government of Russia is, we believe, undoubted. Among manufacturers the desire for a *rapprochement* with Russia has long been visible and in spite of much discouragement, some of them have been doing their utmost to pave the way thereto. Among others, in the great mass of public opinion, there is an inevitable feeling that the crimes of a nation, or of any section of it, cannot be remembered for ever. The individual offender against society can be caught and punished. The internationally offending Government cannot. The world's displeasure is properly evinced for a period by ostracism, as it was, for example, at the beginning of the present century in the case of Serbia, after the murder of King Alexander and Queen Draga. But that period is distinctly limited. The human family cannot indefinitely keep one of its members beyond the pale. There comes a time when it has to admit that the misdeeds of that member must be left to the adjudication of a higher court. Bolshevism certainly remains as repugnant to British social and political instincts as ever. But on this point, two things are to be remembered. First, that recognition of the Soviet as the *de jure* Government of Russia implies no approbation of its creed. Secondly, that that creed has become so much modified and watered down that it is hardly to be regarded as the Bolshevism which evoked universal execration three years ago. Great Britain's position would be awkward if a successful counter-revolution restored Tsarism. But of that there appears little chance. All the indications are that the present Government in Russia will continue to change and evolve, but that any violent [illegible] its position is so unlikely to be worth [illegible]

The British Note is straightforward, clear and to the point. The essential part of the restoration of real friendliness and of the credit for Russia, without which recognition is for her an empty shell, is that Soviet agents should stop trying to stir up revolution in the British Empire. In its emphasis on this point the Note leaves nothing to be desired. M. Zinovieff's speech to the Soviet Congress at Moscow, reported in another telegram today, does not make a very good impression at this moment. But the Soviet Government is obviously divided since Lenin's death—a fact which, at once discounts the utterances of any of its older members and makes a new cast the easier where there is something to be gained by it. Furthermore, at the time when M. Zinovieff was speaking, British recognition, which there is no question but that the Soviet most ardently desire, had not actually been accorded. There is a great difference between a trade agreement which stipulates that there shall be no propaganda, and the same stipulation after the plenary honour of recognition has been conferred. As regards treaties, debts and claims, the three are so closely connected that the discussion can hardly settle one point without settling all three. Britain holds that Russia ought to acknowledge her war among other debts and there is abundant precedent for this attitude. It is obviously absurd to expect Russia to pay now; it would be enough that she should admit the liability against the day when she can pay. There is also the question of the property of British subjects in Russia confiscated by the Bolshevists: this calls for and admits of more prompt reparation. During the negotiations for the Krassin trade agreement and at the Genoa Conference, the Soviet put forward large claims on account of all the damage done by White invasions of Russia, alleged to have been financed by the Allies. Some such claims will probably reappear now, though it would be absurd and unreasonable to attempt to make Britain responsible for all these claims, nor could such a manœuvre be tolerated for a moment. But here again, as in the matter of propaganda, the best guarantee of reasonableness on the Soviet's part is that recognition has been accorded. Nothing can alter the moral value of that, and it only depends on Moscow herself to make it of practical usefulness.

Taking it all in all, we believe that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's first move in foreign affairs will be approved by opponents and friends alike, as being wise and statesmanlike. We do not forget that two years ago it was laid down, at a conference of Soviets in Moscow, that at all costs trade agreements and recognition must be obtained, in order to revitalize Russia with a view to resuming the attack on capitalism in all countries. And certainly suspicion of Bolshevism dies hard. But two years ago is two years ago. While Bolshevism itself has changed, many Russians of the old *régime* support the *de facto* government, not out of love for it, but for their country's sake. There also appears no doubt that Russians of all classes ardently desired recognition by Great Britain, and the prestige which the latter acquires in being the very first of the Great Powers to take this step is heightened by the circumstances in which it is taken. For if the Labour Government, on coming into power, had been greeted with wringing of hands and falling of values, its action would have been judged abroad as those of a single faction, not representative of the nation. But it has been received with approbation, sterling improves, the Stock Exchange smiles. The Labour Government becomes as much national as that of any other party and the recognition of Russia an expression of national goodwill. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Soviet will so regard and appreciate it.

THE NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF CHINA

Feb. 5.

In a few days the National Medical Association of China will hold in Nanking its fifth biennial conference for the reading and discussion of scientific papers and for social meetings. The Association is exclusively Chinese, consisting of about five hundred members who have received a scientific medical education and follow, more or less closely, the same ethical standards as the profession in the West. Judging by the medical requirements of the Chinese people the Association is very small. If scientifically trained practitioners of medicine here were in the same proportion to the general population as in England, there would be a membership of two hundred thousand. Still, a very fair beginning has been made. The growth of the Association within ten years has been satisfactory, and the spirit of unity has been strengthened by its conferences. We may now rest assured that a nucleus has been formed of a native medical profession that will eventually be equal in standing to the profession in Western countries and be fully adequate to meet all the medical needs of the vast Chinese population.

The growth and standing of the Chinese medical profession should be a matter of deep concern to all who are interested in China, even if the interest is confined almost wholly to business affairs. With the opening and development of mines, factories, mills and other industries and enterprises the number of foreigners will steadily increase and many will be scattered all over the country. In time of sickness possibly few will be out of the range of medical missionaries or other Western physicians; but prevention is better than cure, and whether health can be preserved in ordinary circumstances by foreigners will depend to a very great extent on the prevalence of infectious diseases among the Chinese by whom they are surrounded, and this in turn will depend on the efficiency or otherwise of the medical and public health service of the native practitioners. Even in Shanghai, with its very efficient Health Department and with Isolation Hospitals to which patients with infectious diseases can be promptly removed, the amount of serious sickness amongst the families of foreigners would be very much less if the Chinese doctors in the Settlement were more numerous and well trained. Deadly disease creeps into homes by means of servants and others who carry infection from cases of infectious disease which perhaps have not been reported to the Health Department owing to the ignorance or gross carelessness of the native doctors. This notification is all the more necessary as there are some diseases, such as scarlet fever and diphtheria, which are comparatively new to the Chinese and therefore very virulent. Furthermore, there are epidemic diseases which can only be checked in their spread by quarantine measures based on scientific knowledge. For instance, pneumonic plague is always smouldering to some extent in eastern Russia, Mongolia and Manchuria, ready to cause a vast conflagation when circumstances are more than usually unfavourable. If it were once to break through the barrier of the Manchurian Plague Prevention Service, which has rendered such splendid service under the able leadership of Dr. Wu Lien-teh who received his medical training in England, it might sweep over a large part of China and cause the loss of millions of lives, including perhaps the lives of not a few foreigners. The Peking Government is crippling or closing various departments of the government service, perhaps without great loss; but if the Plague Prevention Service is crippled it may result in awful disaster. Lastly, quarantine itself, though it may be necessary and beneficial, works injury to trade and commerce. As Dr. Noel Davis observed in his report to the Municipal Council, "Commerce is maintained between nations by a network of communications on land and sea which depends for its integrity on freedom from war, pestilence and famine." From almost every point of view a strong, well-trained Chinese medical profession is most necessary for the physical well-being of all who live in China, whether natives or foreigners.

But these properly qualified Chinese physicians, owing to the ignorance and superstition of their people, have "a very hard row to hoe." When it is believed that all forms of sickness, epidemics particularly, are caused by ghosts and demons who can be placated only by gifts to the priests and by charms and incantations, of what avail is scientific medicine? According to common Chinese notions, anyone who has the luck is able to perform cures. An authentic story is told of an old man who came to a foreign hospital with a leg so badly injured that amputation above the knee was necessary. After the wound had healed, out of sheer charity he was provided with a plain, unbendable wooden leg. Being of an inquiring turn of mind he asked if his artificial leg could not be made to bend at the knee. His wish was gratified; with an old door hinge the joint was made. The patient returned home greatly delighted. The report of his wonderful leg spread far and wide. He had to tell the story so often that finally he announced himself as a foreign-trained doctor and soon acquired a large practice. Professionally, he had not a leg to stand on, but the wooden one was very useful and he demonstrated by shrewd "leg-pulling" that his head was not of the same material as his new leg. In Shanghai there are Chinese doctors whose only qualification is the brief period spent as nurse, coolie or patient in a foreign hospital: there are others who have one or two prescriptions which, like all proprietary medicines, occasionally do good or are imagined to do good; others who style themselves doctors are quacks and charlatans of the worst kind, ever ready to take from the most unfortunate patient his last penny. In simple justice to the Chinese physicians who are well trained and anxious to conform to high ethical standards, it is hoped that at the next Annual Meeting of Ratepayers measures will be passed regulating the practice of medicine in the International Settlement, in accordance with the recent report of the committee appointed by the Municipal Council to investigate and report as to what action should be taken to regulate or restrict the sale of poisons.

THE CYCLE OF THE RAT

Feb. 8.

It is natural that foreigners resident in China should be influenced by Chinese superstitions and especially, as the past year has been very bad, by that which bids us believe that with the new cycle there is to be altogether a new turn in events. In matters of superstition, very few of us can afford to throw stones at other people. But on lines of practical common sense, where millions of people agree in a single idea, as in this matter of the better fortune to be expected from the Cycle of the Rat, in some inexplicable but none the less perfectly familiar way, their convictions do have an effect on events. It is the doctrine of Coueism applied to politics. Furthermore, certain notable occasions can be recalled in the recent past, when public opinion has proved itself too strong for the tyrants. Barely fourteen months ago the Chinese business classes absolutely rebelled against the announced increase of postal and telegraphic charges and Peking was forced to cancel them. Last summer the gentry and merchants of Kingsu and Chêkiang coerced their respective Tuchuns into signing a peace agreement—not merely an assertion that neither would fight if not attacked, but a definite assurance of cooperation in defence of peace. And this, quite recently, has been reiterated, again under pressure of public opinion. Finally we have the tobacco shops rebelling against the cigarette tax, with apparently good prospects of success. These assertions of public opinion are of the utmost importance. For every success emboldens the demonstrators to a new trial of strength and increases their chances of winning.

But the process is necessarily slow and many minds are casting about for some speedier solution of China's trouble. The question is then, whence is help to come? The notion of forcible intervention and a debt commission to be established by the Powers, which was once considered inevitable, has gone out of favour, although it might by no means impossibly be revived if, while the circumstances of Europe mended, those of China did not. Alternatively one of our Chinese readers, whose letters on China and her treaties with the Powers reveal careful thinking, even though one may not always agree with them, presses for what might be called a compromise form of intervention. He suggests today that an appeal should be made to the leading Powers interested in China to come and assist in putting her affairs straight, not in defiance of the Chinese but in cooperation with them. The difficulty is to

FAILING TO WIND UP FOR NEW YEAR SETTLEMENT IN PEKING

Finance Minister Wang Hopes Nothing for Tuchuns and Little for Anyone Else

How Domestic Credit Has Gradually Been Frittered Away

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Jan. 31.

Before any of the traditional Chinese settlement days—the Dragon Boat Festival, the Autumn Festival and the Chinese New Year—dawn, much speculation as to whether the Government will "get through" or not. The inquiries upon this subject [illegible] can be no categorical reply to pay, because it all depends upon what one means by "getting through," or "passing over" as the Chinese usually translate their own expression. There was a time within the memory of all adult Chinese when the New Year settlement was a complete settlement of all outstanding debts which have fallen due in Government circles as well as in business circles. In this sense Peking cer- [illegible] holidays for five years or more. All settlements have been partial. [illegible] and other bills locally due on [illegible] provincial potentates with part payment of their exorbitant military claims. Then the time came when a settlement meant part payment of accumulated back pay in Peking and a lesser dole to the provincial chiefs. More recently still it has meant for local employees, police, metropolitan troops and the like, a month's back pay or a fraction of a month's back pay, with anything from two or three to 40 months' pay carried forward on the books as a debit.

To the Chinese mind a New Year settlement now means the tactful distribution of enough ready money to all Government employees to enable them to get an extended credit from shopkeepers, domestic employees and the like.

NO OUTSIDER NEED APPLY.

The New Year settlement which Mr. Wang K'o-ming is approaching with what would once have seemed like a pitiably small sum, would have been considered a [illegible] failure a few years ago. It will probably be a success in the sense that enough ready money will be distributed to revive everyone's credit for a little while longer and therefore to keep everyone quiet. Estimates of what Mr. Wang has to spend vary so widely that it is futile to quote them, but at a conservative guess, echoed by the Chinese press, he will have something like $[illegible] from the Salt and other revenues and perhaps $1,000,000 from the native banks in small short-term loans. If the [illegible] employees, the police and the soldiers are to have six months' pay, covering [illegible] there will be absolutely nothing left [illegible] outside of Peking, and there is not the good reason to believe that no [illegible] debts will be paid.

This is very disappointing to many, especially to [illegible]. It is hinted in some quarters that Mr. Wang's failure to [illegible] more funds so that the President's military dependents could be subsidized to some extent was deliberate and that both he and the President wanted to "fail" so that the provincial chiefs, who have already taken unto themselves the land tax, the likin revenues, the so-called native customs outside the Treaty Ports, the wine and tobacco taxes, the bulk of the railway revenues (in some cases gross receipts) and a generous share of the salt revenues, all the traditional sources of Peking's revenue and the proceeds of hundreds of new petty taxes and impositions, ushered in under the Manchus, will get out of the habit of looking to Peking for further endowment. It is supposed in some quarters that a loan is planned to make the settlement relatively a festive one so that the provincial authorities will understand that if they want a Government they will have to support it.

DOMESTIC CREDIT GONE.

Although the time is coming soon enough when the provinces will have to realize this, there is no good reason for believing that either the President or the Minister of Finance would not have collected more money had it been available and would not have been prepared to subsidize the Tuchuns, the Super-Tuchuns and the Navy with whatever was left after a fractional settlement had been made in Peking. The real truth of the situation is that domestic credit is nearly as dead as foreign credit and that the Chinese bankers have adopted the position, in dealing with a Government which deals consistently with its creditors in bad faith, that nothing constitutes a security if they cannot foreclose upon it when the Government defaults. From this point of view Peking has nothing left but its physical assets—its palaces, walls, towers, libraries and museums—and these would not be security if a defaulting administration refused to let them be taken away and still had a police force that would take orders.

The hypothecation of the salt surplus has come to be a farce. Salt surplus on the books ceased to exist long ago because every cent of revenue from this source which the Government accepts ought now to be going to the service of the countless loans nominally "secured" upon surplus. The monthly releases only go into the treasury now because the administration coolly defaults on each and every loan issued on this security with the exception of the Japanese portion of the 96-million issue upon which the Yokohama Specie Bank happens, as a "Salt Bank," to be able to foreclose monthly. To any Chinese banker a note or bond issued on Salt surplus is nothing but a promissory note from a Government which has broken every similar promise in the past. The wine and tobacco revenues are subject to the same [illegible]. The railways are worthless now as security for [illegible] loans. The Government gets no credit for the service of the consolidated domestic loans because it is too generally known that the investors owe nothing to the good faith to the Government and everything to the control of the surplus by Sir Francis Aglen.

THE OCTROI AND THE I.-G.

The very last revenue service remaining to Peking and available to Mr. Wang K'o-ming as security in the old sense, was the city octroi, a gate tax upon merchandise, and recent negotiations between the Ministry of Finance and the bankers have established the fact that this is not a security in the new sense—it is not a pledged article which the bankers can confiscate as a pawnbroker does a watch. In refusing to lend on this nominal security, the bankers have simply made a public appraisement of the worth of Peking's promise to pay.

As it has been very generally reported, the original proposal was to issue treasury notes to the total face value of $12,000,000. It was hoped for a brief space that both the banks and the investing public might be coaxed into taking up these notes at a fair price if it were advertised that Sir Francis Aglen would administer the loan service. Chinese officials always open manœuvres of this sort by hoping that the person they wish to deceive is stupider than the average. It was obviously hoped that Sir Francis Aglen would not know that the Peking primary schools, the police, the President's office, several internal loans and Marshal Feng Yü-hsiang all have recognized claims upon the octroi receipts which the latter do not meet in full. It was hoped that he would not realize that after the use of his name had sold the $12,000,000 worth of notes, he would have absolutely nothing from the octroi for loan service unless he put in his own staff and were given as complete authority over it as he has over the Customs, in which event he would have to refuse all the older dependents upon this revenue the majority of their customary subsidies and thereby make himself exceedingly unpopular with a number of very high functionaries.

Before going very deeply into the octroi proposal the bankers took pains to find out what Sir Francis Aglen thought about it and learned immediately that the Inspector-General of Customs was fully aware of the worth of the security. The matter was not [illegible] by the banks [illegible] ments and if there had been any chance of underwriting the loan, putting it on the market at a fair price and keeping it at a reasonable quotation, they would have obliged the Government. They therefore sounded out the market through their branches and learned that an 8 per cent. loan with the octroi as security could not possibly be sold at a higher quotation than 70 and that foreign investors would not be likely to accept the notes at 50. One or two foreign bankers when consulted said that they might personally do a little private gambling in the notes when they had dropped to 20. At this juncture inquiries ceased and the Ministry of Finance was flatly refused a loan.

A POLITICAL OMEN.

This refusal, since it reflects a new and thoroughly businesslike attitude towards Peking's credit and the worth of Peking's remaining securities, is politically very significant. It means that with any appreciable loss of Salt revenue the surplus which has ceased to exist on the books will actually disappear and that if the provinces do not curtail their military enterprises and support Peking, the Central Government will simply sputter out like a dry lamp.

ACCORDING to the new Constitution of the Republic, the President has no right to bestow meritorious ranks on officials, therefore on New Year's day no mandate for such purpose was issued.

CHIAHO and Wenhu decorations will no longer "come up with the rations," or rather there will not be such a plentitude of them in future. Under the new constitution, the President is deprived of awarding them. He is, however, according to a Hankow paper, contemplating the bestowal of Lion swords on civil officials instead.

DR. Sun Yat-sen, president of the Kuomintang (Nationalist) party, at the All-China Kuomintang Convention at Canton last week expressed his condolence over the death of Mr. Lenin, saying that Canton had lost one of its best friends. Dr. Sun considered Mr. Lenin the ablest revolutionist, whose able work in Russia could be wisely copied by the Kuomintang members.

NAVAL OFFICERS [illegible] AT NANKING

Peking, Feb.

It is learned that, as the result of a naval court-martial at Nanking to investigate the attempt to seize the gunboats, Chutai and Kiangli, on January 26, three officers were summarily executed on January 27. Seventeen [illegible] are still detained.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SHORT LIVED SCARE AT AMOY

Peking, Feb. 7.

Telegrams from Amoy report that a tense situation has developed there resulting from the kidnaping of seven Formosans by General Chwang Chih-ping's troops while searching for arms. Fearing an attack from the mainland, the American Consul-General on Sunday wired to Hongkong for a destroyer, which arrived on Tuesday. The destroyer returned to Hongkong on the following day as the situation had become calm. It is understood that a Japanese naval force is shortly proceeding to Amoy.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TUCHUN Hsiao Yao-nan presided at a meeting of the Hankow Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday last, to discuss the possibility of building a Memorial Hospital for the late F. [illegible] Malotto. Leading merchants were asked to subscribe towards the contruction.

MARSHAL Chang Tso-lin has requested the Foreign Office to lodge protests with the Soviet Mission in Peking over the presence of three [illegible] Russian troops in the Suiyuan near Wohp[illegible] Tahsiangtun. The reports say that these regiments include machine gun corps, cavalry and infantry as well as several armoured wagons.

THE Waichiaopu has asked the German Minister to remind the German Consul at Canton that a trade agreement between Germany and Canton will not be recognized by the Central Government as valid, writes the Peking correspondent of the "Peking & Tientsin Times." A Peking intelligence officer in Canton called the attention to reported negotiations between Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Germany's Consular representative in Canton.

CHINESE INTERNAL LOANS

Amounts Outstanding on January 1, 1924

The following table of Chinese Internal Loans outstanding on January 1, 1924, has been compiled by the Chinese American Bank of Commerce:—

	Issued in	Total Amount Authorized	Total Amount Issued	Outstanding at present	Rate %	Interest Payable	Secured by the	Bonds Issued	Repayment
		$	$	$					
Military Loan Nanking	1912	100,000,000	7,371,150	1,721,150	8%	2nd Feb. 2nd Aug.	Consolidated National Loans Sinking Fund	$1000, $100 $10, $5	1918; but extended to 1925 by yearly drawings
3rd Year National Loan ...	1914	24,000,000	24,926,110	7,548,768	6%	30th June 31st Dec.	German Boxer Indemnity	$10,000 $1,000, $100 $50, $10, $5	Between 1918 and 1926 by annual drawings of 1/9th
4th Year National Loan (Additional Issue)	1923	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,800,000	6%	12th Apr. 12th Oct.	Rev. of Native Customs & Lkn. in Shansi	$10,000 $1,000, $100 $50, $10, $5	From 1924 by annual drawings
5th Year National Loan ...	1916	20,000,000	20,000,000	18,757,590	6%	31st Mar. 30th Sept.	Consolidated National Loans Sinking Fund	$10,000 $1,000, $100 $10, $5	Within 3 years from 1926 by half-yearly drawings
7th Year National Loan ...	1919	45,000,000	45,000,000	45,000,000	6%	30th June 31st Dec.	Consolidated National Loans Sinking Fund	$10,000 $1,000, $100, $10	Between 1929 and 1939 by half-yearly drawings
Chinese Government Short Term Loan for Improvement of the Monetary Market	1920	60,000,000	60,000,000	36,000,000	6%	31st Mar. 30th Sept.	Consolidated National Loans Sinking Fund	$10,000 $1,000, $100 $10, $5, $1	Between 1921 and 1926 by semi-annual drawings
10th Year National Loan ...	1921	96,000,000	96,000,000	96,000,000	8%	31st Jan. 31st July	Salt Surplus	$1,000 $100, $10	Between 1923 and 1929 by half-yearly drawings
Chinese Government Consolidated 6% National Loan ...	1921	80,000,000	54,392,000	48,953,000	6%	1st June 1st Dec.	Consolidated National Loans Sinking Fund	$10,000 $1,000, $100 $50, $10, $1	Within 10 years from 1921 by yearly drawings
Chinese Government Consolidated 7% National Loan ...	1921	13,600,000	13,600,000	12,240,000	7%	28th Feb. 31st Aug.	Consolidated National Loans Sinking Fund	$10,000 $1,000, $100 $10, $5, $1	Between 1921 and 1930 by yearly drawings
Mint Loan	1921	2,500,000	2,500,000	420,000	9%	Annually	Salt Surplus	$1,000	By monthly instalments of $70,000 beginning April 1921 and lasting [illegible]
Railway Gold Loan	1921	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	8%	30th June 31st Dec.	Railway Income	$10,000 $1,000, $100	Within 3 years from 1923
[illegible] Loan ...	1921	4,000,000	2,168,475	1,610,220	7%	31st May 30th Nov.	10% increase on goods taxes	$10,000 $1,000, $100 $10, $5	Within 2 years by half yearly drawings (as [illegible])
[illegible] Loan ...	1921	10,000,000	10,000,000	5,000,000	8%	31st May 30th Nov.	Deferred Russian Boxer Indemnity	$10,000 $1,000, $100	Within [illegible] from 1923 by [illegible] of $1,000,000 [illegible]

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

ANOTHER RACE COURSE AT CHUNGKING

Sporting Venture in the Far West: A Great Success: How It Brings Chinese and Foreigners Together in Pursuit of Sport

From a Chungking Correspondent

The very interesting article in your issue of January 12 describing the genesis and growth of the Honan Race Club prompts me to draw attention to a similar enterprise which the foreign residents of far off Chungking have recently initiated with corres-

Szechuan is famous for its ponies, a fact which seems to be generally unknown to the outside world. Most residents in Chungking keep a pony or two each to ... them up and down the hills ... over the everlasting steps ... are such a feature of the ... geography of the place. That our local ponies are capable of climbing up and down the most intricate and impossible flights of steps is a commonplace of our daily life. It always remained to be demonstrated that our ponies could be trained to fast racing as easily as from first three meetings held last year The difficulty was to find some ... plane on whilh to race them. In Chungking there is hardly 50 yards of flat going to be found anywhere. The only level stretches to be found near the city are the shingle banks which lie exposed in the bed of the Yangtze during autumn, winter and spring. But shingle and small boulders are impossible to race on even to the cat-like ponies of Szechuan. We have gazed upon the shingle banks for years and often idly speculated on the project of removing the pebbles and boulders and laying down a track of sand, ashes and lime, but where was the money to come from? However, in November last the rising tide of local energy, fed by a controversy over the respective speeds of well known ponies, burst its old banks. We actually raised a guarantee fund and constructed a half mile ...

To the unbounded delight of all, the track proved a great success and the ponies took to the rails like ducks to water. The first three meeting held last year yielded funds sufficient to wipe off the total cost of the course and to provide a credit balance of close upon four figures.

GEN. YANG SEN AS JOCKEY.

Needless to say this handsome result has been made possible by the interest taken in our venture by our Chinese friends. We have found, as was found by the Honan Race Club, that there is no finer common meeting ground for Chinese and foreigners than a race course.

For instance, soon after the Chungking Race Club came into active existence, the city was captured for the second time last year by our old friend Yang Sen, a busy man whom we did not see a great deal of in the ordinary way. No sooner had he returned and been informed of our Race Club than he signified his wish to attend our next meeting and to enter his own ponies and, what is more, his intention to ride them himself. Our next meeting was held on Boxing Day and the General's bodyguard duly arrived early on the course, but at the last moment Gen. Yang himself, to the great disappointment of all, was prevented from attending by the inopportune arrival of another General. His bodyguard, however, made themselves very useful by patrolling the roads and lending an official air to our meeting which duly impressed the large crowd of Chinese in attendance.

One Chinese gentleman jockey rode, however, he is the commander of a well known foreign firm. He had the misfortune to have a very spectacular cropper in the second race to the intense joy of the native populace and the chance of his repeating the performance will be sufficient ... to ensure an enormous crowd at our next meeting on February 9.

The pleasantest feature of the Chungking Race Club has been the remarkably good racing witnessed at every meeting and the large fields which turn out. Nearly every foreign resident has become an enthusiastic jockey. The British and American sailors have clubbed together and formed stables of their own. H. M. S. Teal has discovered a star jockey in Stoker P. O. Northcote; in fact the Teal's stable heads the list of winners and is said to have paid for itself already. Northcote scored a very popular victory in the Champions race on December 26. This all makes for the health and happiness of foreign residents ashore and afloat. In time we shall no doubt have more Chinese jockeys riding; meanwhile we are seeing more of our Chinese friends socially and they are equally benefiting with us in an added interest in life. An economic factor has already made itself very apparent as a result of the Race Club's success, ponies which one used to be able to buy for some 60 dollars are now worth two hundred.

Our genial Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Andrew, has discharged his onerous duties as judge to the entire satisfaction of the sporting community. His imperturbable impartiality was well illustrated on Boxing Day when he unhesitatingly disqualified the Chairman of Stewards who was first past the post on "Wednesday Night" in the fourth race, but against whom a protest was lodged by the rider of "Tommy Lad." In the following race, the Champions, our Chairman was again the victim of circumstances. His own ponies not having qualified, he was riding our German shopkeeper's pony "Hans," a dark horse, little known on the course. In the home straight Hans was leading the field by a length or two when in some unaccountable fashion a lump of earth went into his rider's mouth and he involuntarily swerved aside into the tiger country and was not even placed.

THE BABBLE OF BABYLON.

A record of the Chungking Race Club has been duly preserved in our local journal the "Babble of Babylon" and the following extract may be of interest to those of your readers who know something of our remote port:—

"And in Babylon which is by the Great River dwelt a remnant of the Israelities in exile and all that they did do and all that they did say and even many things they did neither do nor say, are they not written in the Babble of Babylon?

"Now there was a young man of Lung Men, who awoke one day and said are not the dromedaries of Midian faster than all the camels of Babylon and the Babylonians gat upon their hind legs and being well acquainted with the speech of Israelitish sailors said that be damned for a yarn and the controversy waxing fast and furious they went unto Greybeard the Father of Four, who when he had listened unto them, remembering the days of Goliath, said, what is a dromedary or two between friends? Nevertheless this matter shall be settled upon a course, but ye must wager the one against the other in accordance with the ancient tradition of the Israelites and for every hundred shekels that ye wager I will take 20 for the common stock. And a certain man murmured saying "are not ten enough" but they told him 10 were not worth while, so 20 were agreed upon and the man who had at first murmured nevertheless brought a wager of 450 shekels in silver to the course for he was an good sport.

"Now when the course was ready, Greybeard renewed his youth and bought him a camel which he called Wednesday Night and when they asked him wherefore callest thou thine camel Wednesday Night he answered them saying, I see little to choose betwixt the camels of Babylon and the dromedaries of Midian and are not all nights much the same in Central Asia? However if so be he prove a little faster than the rest maybe I will call him Saturday Night. And Greybeard mounted his camel and sped swiftly upon the course, overtaking his adversaries, and came first to the post where Andrew stood to judge the matter. But an Israelitish sailor protested saying hath not Greybeard belayed the binnacle and trimmed the ship's periwig? and when Andrew asked of him dost thou deny it? Greybeard, being little acquainted with navigation either ashore or afloat, said Maybe it is so and he was disqualified. Then Greybeard waxed bitter and cried have ye no camels which belay not the binnacle nor trim the periwig and they answered him saying yea verily, here is a camel of the Philistines called Hans whose periwig hath never been trimmed and is like unto Samson before he was shorn. So Greybeard mounted again and sped upon the course and overtook his adversaries and was winning hands down when a lump of mud struck him in the gullet so that he swerved aside into the wilderness and the dromedaries of Midian and the riders thereof passed by him and he was left with nothing but the hump. For sweet it is to shake the dust of Babylon from off the feet, but take heed that ye swallow it not!"

FOREIGNER ASSAULTED ON MUKDEN RLWY.

Mr. Bessel Mauled by Soldiers While Performing His Duties

Tientsin, Feb. 1.

On Thursday afternoon Mr. K. E. Bessell, a traffic inspector of the Peking-Mukden Line, was assaulted at Fengtai Station by a party of Chinese soldiers.

It appears that there was some delay in Train No. 5 leaving the station for Tientsin and Mr. Bessell, who happened to be on board, went to investigate the cause. Finding a party of Chinese soldiers under an officer endeavouring to attach a box-car to the train, he pointed out that this was not permitted without the written permission of the Chiaotungpu. Mr. Bessell instructed the guard to despatch the train, but the soldiers snatched the latter's flag and Mr. Bessell found himself looking down the barrel of the officer's revolver.

As the Chinese police were unwilling to interfere there was nothing to do but allow the box-car to be attached and the train moved up a short distance to allow room for the box-car and the coupling engine. The soldiers, thinking that the train was leaving, rounded on Mr. Bessell, knocked him down, kicked and otherwise assaulted him though he was not seriously injured.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Strong Measures by Peking to Bring Guilty to Justice

Peking, Feb. 2.

The Chinese General Manager of the Peking-Mukden Railway, who came to Peking yesterday, immediately called on Dr. Wu Yu-lin, the Minister of Communications, reporting the details of the assault on Mr. Bessel by Chinese soldiers at Fengtai Station. The Minister subsequently visited President Tsao Kun, who agreed that the offenders must be punished.

This morning a high military official, a representative of the Ministry of Communications and the General Manager of the Railway left for Tientsin with instructions to arrest the officer and men who assaulted Mr. Bessel and to bring them to trial as soon as possible. Meanwhile the British Legation has made a formal protest.

Fifty men of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment were sent to Fengtai yesterday evening where they will remain as a guard.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SHANTUNG RAILWAYS

Anniversary Celebration of Restoration to China

From a Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Jan. 30.

Yesterday being the first anniversary of the return of the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway to China by Japan, the occasion was marked by a celebration at the Railway Administration's headquarters here which commenced at 11 in the morning. There were present many officials, business men and journalists who had previously been invited to attend.

Congratulatory addresses were delivered by various officials, those connected with the railway promising to use their utmost efforts to make it a complete success, while those not connected with it urged the officials of the railway to use greater efforts in the future, so as to ensure prompt refund of the capital due to Japan at the time of maturity.

Two members of the Shantung Provincial Assembly who had come from Tsinan and who were not expected to speak, paid no attention to the schedule of speeches as read by the master of ceremonies, and proceeded to deliver their views for the edification of the gathering, but their remarks were not out of place and received the applause of their hearers. There was some nervousness at first that these speakers would make indiscreet remarks but they did nothing of the kind, urging that the funds of the railway be kept for the railway's expansion, that greater courtesies should be shown towards the patrons of the line and that fares and freight rates should be maintained at a reasonable level.

Among the foreign officials present were Mr. A. G. Major, the British Consul, Mr. Y. Mori, the Japanese Consul-General, and Mr. H. Newbill, the United States Vice-Consul.

In the evening, a dinner was given at the Grand Hotel to which the Director and the Associate Director of the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway invited a large number of officials, business men and journalists.

The delegate sent down by the Communications Department to attend the celebration made a brief address, thanking the guests for their attendance. Mr. Mori, the Japanese Consul-General, replying in Japanese, hoped that by the untiring efforts of the Railway Administration, the Kiao-Tsi line will continue to prosper and be the means of increasing the trade of the province.

Among the foreigners present at the dinner were Mr. Y. Mori, Mr. A. G. Major, Mr. H. Newbill, the American Vice-Consul, Mr. Richardson, the Commissioner of Customs, Messrs. Coleman, Stansfield, Koch, Yapp, Middlebrook, Henzler, Scars, Siedel, and Weischer.

Private Subscribers Shy of the Projected Company

Peking, Feb. 1.

Dr. C. T. Wang, the chief of the board of directors of the Tsingtao-Tsinanfu Railway, has petitioned the President praying for extension of the period in which the shareholders will subscribe the capital to a private company to be formed to take over the management of the Railway.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NANKING MINT

The Process of Coining

When bullion comes to the Nanking Mint from banks, says the Chinese Economic Bulletin, it goes into a strongly guarded storing house. Here there are to be found bullion in both ingots and bars, as well as copper, which is used in making an alloy. The bullion is standardized in the assaying room as possessing 98.5 per cent. pure silver. It is there mixed with copper beads in the proportion of 980 taels of pure silver in 1,000 tales of the alloy.

Each unit is put in one crucible, and smelted in a furnace. The smelting room is equipped with 32 furnaces holding the same number of crucibles. One crucible of smelted silver, weighing slightly above 1,300 taels, is poured out into 20 bars. The bars are analyzed in the laboratory, and ...ose that do not come to the standard are re-melted. The bars of standard fineness are then sent to the rolling room to be rolled into sheets.

After being rolled a fifth time, they are cut, then heated until they are soft before they are rolled again. Rolling 12 or 13 times reduces them to the thinness necessary. These sheets are beaten into pieces like cakes and then run through a polishing machine. After this process they are heated in a furnace, and cleaned in a solution of sulphuric acid. The next step is to the weighing room, where they go on to very fine and accurate balances, of which there are five. The average difference of weights taken on three balances must not exceed 3/1,000, or the pieces are rejected and must be re-smelted. The silver pieces, when passed as to weight, are stamped, thus completing the minting. The coins are sent to the storing house in wrapped parcels of $50 each, two of which are packed together, and $5,000 is put in a wooden box, ready for transportation.

SOUTHEASTERN UNIV. AFTER THE FIRE

Phoenix-like Revival: Liberal Subscriptions by Faculty and Chief Officials

From Our Own Correspondent

Nanking, Jan. 31.

There is a prospect of a Greater Southeastern University arising out of the recent fire. The spirit of faculty, students and friends has risen to the occasion. The members of the faculty have subscribed $35,000: the 1,500 students in the collegiate departments have each subscribed $20, making $30,000. And 500 alumni have each subscribed $40 making $20,000 more, the amount raised by faculty, students and alumni amounting to $85,000. With this sum to which is added the insurance which is paid by the China Mutual, it is hoped to replace the apparatus and equipment destroyed by the fire. The teachers of the school who lost personal effects generously refuse any remuneration. Furthermore, a campaign for raising $500,000 in addition to the above has been begun. Governor-General Chi and Governor Han last year declined to receive birthday giffs for their own use according to immemorial custom, but handed over all that was given to an industrial school established in the Tartar City. They have promised this year to receive birthday gifts not for themselves but for the rebuilding of the Southeastern. This makes a fine beginning for the raising of the half million dollars, the campaign for which has now begun.

COMING CONFERENCES.

Nanking is to be a city of conventions during the China New Year holidays.

On February 4 the heads of theological institutions will meet for the discussion of common problems.

On the 5th, 6th and 7th heads and representatives of colleges and universities will meet for the discussion of general educational problems. One hundred were expected and we understand that 250 are registered.

From February 7 to 12 there will be the meeting of the China Medical Association. All the delegates, except a few foreigners who are invited, will be Chinese modern medical men. About 100 are expected.

Ginling College is, for meetings and noonday meals, to be host to the Educational Association and the Southeastern will be host to the Medical Association.

Two fires have occurred in Nanking within the past few days, one in the settlement of straw houses near the West Water Gate, which destroyed 89 homes and rendered 385 homeless, and the other in Hsiakwan which started in the Hsiakwan branch of the Commercial Press and burnt 12 buildings, including a hotel.

know what class of Chinese he means. Is it to be the officials and politicians? Or the Chinese who forced Peking to drop its postal squeeze and the Tuchuns to desist from their ruffling? And in either case, there [illegible] two classes are mutually antagonistic. For the Powers to [illegible] without reference to the other—apart from the manifest difficulty of cooperating with the people independently of their officials—would be courting suspicion and failure. The only solution would be that an invitation to the Powers to lend their help should come jointly from both classes. But to that to become possible Chinese public opinion would have had [illegible] and it might well be strong enough to do all that was needed without outside assistance.

Nevertheless the conviction is not to be resisted that through foreign assistance lies the shortest way to the restoration of organized government in China. If, however, the Powers wait to be asked for their help they [illegible] force it upon China. The only other course is to offer it, in such terms that there can be no mistaking the friendliness of the intention and in such a way that can cause no offence among provincial chieftains: in other words, the fact that China is now for all practical purposes eighteen petty kingdoms must be accepted and any offer of assistance tendered to Peking must be addressed simultaneously to every Tuchun.

THE SPRING WAR

Feb. 9.

While his position in the [illegible] work was slack and unprofitable, the Nulghai in "The Light That Failed" (generally conceded to be the late noted war correspondent Bennett Burleigh) was in the habit of predicting trouble in the Balkans next spring. To-day the journalist in China finds himself in very much the same position, and a war in the north, inevitably in the spring, becomes a powerful obsession. So that confidence may not be upset and that business may pursue its even course, [illegible] say as little about it as possible [illegible] for compromise may have full [illegible] news filtering through to Shanghai [illegible] in the north attains a special significance that it calls for mention [illegible] the position in which we find ourselves to-day, supported entirely [illegible] by a very strong Chinese element of cunning [illegible] and there is no doubt that now more than ever before, the situation of the rival armies is the province [illegible] consideration. In this case we have Tuchun out of the question for operations there are so remote physically from the seats of danger in the north that they do not enter into [illegible] military considerations. It is with Chang Tso-lin and Tsao Kun, or rather with Wu Pei-fu, the President's cabinet chooses, that we again deal.

Two years ago Chang Tso-lin was defeated by Wu Pei-fu in an engagement fought to the south of Peking and found himself compelled to retire to Shanhaikuan. It was not a fair battle, for it is generally conceded that a couple of generals commanding divisions or smaller [illegible] left the field at a critical moment in the encounter and hence his front was easily broken. It was enough, however, to settle the [illegible] for that occasion, the other events in the campaign being purely subsidiary and the subsequent course of affairs depending as much upon diplomacy as the surprise attack which later eventuated. It was, however, a lesson to the overlord of Manchuria, and he proceeded to make it plain to all, especially to those in his own [illegible] Nine of the defaulting officers were caught, court-martialled and shot at Shanhaikuan, and no need to mourn them. From time to time since then there have been rumours from Mukden that Chang Tso-lin has been about to take the field, so much so that it would have been excusable for the Chinese to coin a rhyme in the same manner as did the French of Marlborough,

Malbrouck s'en va t-en guerre,
Ne sait quand reviendra.

[illegible] but he did not have the possibilities of improving his *matériel* and personnel which Chang had, and so the latter has waited. News [illegible] north to Shanghai suggests that to-day he is ready, though not so completely equipped as he would like, and that he means to move this spring and with an objective before him which dwarfs all his previous aims though by no means his ambitions.

It is stated on good authority that no fewer than forty foreigners, all of technical or military qualifications, are now employed at Mukden for the training and equipment of his army. While his infantry are believed to be under training in modern tactics, his artillery has been re-organized and his field guns are numerous and efficient. According to all accounts his air service should be the best in China, his pilots being instructed all the time by a foreign adviser. The manufacture of explosives is under the control of a foreigner, and his gun power is being increased by the addition of numerous light trench mortars, which the British infantry found as useful in open as in trench warfare. In one respect, however, he is believed to have been severely disappointed. [illegible] knows their great value in an offensive. He has, however, tanks of a different make, but which hardly come up to the fighting value of those previously mentioned. It is obvious [illegible] and there is no doubt that now more than ever before, the situation of the rival armies in the provinces demands consideration. In this case we have Tuchun out of the question for operations there are so remote physically from the seats of danger in the north that they do not enter into [illegible] military considerations. It is with Chang Tso-lin and Tsao Kun, or rather with Wu Pei-fu, the President's cabinet chooses, that we again deal.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

Chartered Civil Engineers

The Institution of Civil Engi[illegible] back to 1818, has succeeded in obtaining official sanction to a measure which should have beneficial consequences. The term "civil engineer" is attractive and imposing in its way, but is pregnant with misunderstandings and misdescriptions, obviously a title under which people with very slender qualifications might masquerade in safety. Realizing this, the Institution set about finding ways and means to give its members the *cachet* they deserved through their qualifications, and in essaying this an interesting initial difficulty was encountered. It consisted in this, that Parliament was hardly likely to assent to a Registration Act limiting the use of the term "civil engineer" to those whose qualifications come within the Institution's charter. Accordingly another way to meet the case had to be devised, and it has been done by the use of the term "Chartered Civil Engineer." The Privy Council has approved the rules governing the use of this title, so that corporate members of the Institution and none others may now describe themselves as such. The advantages accruing from this step are best understood by the analogy of accountant and chartered accountant, the word "chartered" denoting special qualifications which are not usually within the scope of the other's experience. In this way the Institution hopes that the term "Chartered Civil Accountant" will come to have an equal comparative significance in the minds of the public, but it points out that to bring this about those entitled to it must use it. If they do not, the name will be without tangible value, for unless constantly before it, as the letters C. A. are, the public will not heed the distinction which it is hoped to draw, and the loss will be equally borne by the same public and members of the Institution.

Anglo-Persian Oil

Following Mr. Snowden's declaration that the British Government will not dispose of its holding in the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., there may arise an interesting question of how American interests may have to alter their policy in respect of similar holdings by the United States. The conclusion that some people in that country may to-day find that they have been caught napping is suggested by a short article in the "Financial Review," a publication issued by a New York firm of brokers. It says:—

> During the somewhat hysterical period of the World War, Winston Churchill suddenly and sensationally, and certainly against potential probabilities of future international complications, injected the British Empire into the oil business, positively and unreservedly, by making the British Government the majority shareholder in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.
>
> The excuse for this revolutionary departure was that it was vitally imperative to assure large oil supplies for the British Navy during [illegible]
>
> When Parliament adjourned in November it had before it an offer [illegible] which will undoubtedly be accepted.

As the London "Economist" remarks: "The adoption of a definite and aggressive oil policy by the British Government has poisoned, and will continued poison again [illegible] between the two great Anglo-Saxon nations. We have on [illegible] Washington taking the [illegible] oil view and on the other Downing Street following an Anglo Persian policy."

The most important question to [illegible] America is, 'What are [illegible] if Great Britain retires [illegible]?' Will Standard [illegible] be the dominant [illegible] Washington decide [illegible] oil and [illegible] a change [illegible] in which [illegible] Oil Rhos [illegible] too cons[illegible]

From this we gather that Mr Snowden is going to save various departments of the Washington administration a very great deal of trouble, and that those who have been banking on a new orientation of oil policy in the United States may find themselves financial losers.

A Job for a Ludendorff

Those who have read Ludendorff's memoirs of the war ought to be struck with the similarity of his position on becoming Quartermaster-General under Hindenberg to that of Dr. Sun Yat-sen in Canton to-day. Not only had Ludendorff to manœuvre armies, but equally he had to arrange with the German civil authorities for rationing of the nation and to contend against sedition within the army and among the civil population. On a lesser scale Dr. Sun Yat-sen must find himself to-day very much as Ludendorff. He is faced by a resourceful and ever active enemy in General Chen Chiung-ming and has to supply troops to hold the Sheklung front where fresh fighting appears to be imminent. Then one of his former adherents, General Shen Hung-ying, has turned upon him and is starting a movement from the Kuangsi-Hunan frontier, and to make matters worse he never quite knows how long such troops as the Yunnanese are going to side with him. Finally on his shoulders rests the never-ending task of raising money for his campaigns, and he has to deal with a civil populace restive under the strain of taxation and the alarums of war. Ludendorff always makes out that it was Germany's civil population which broke him, but a consideration of the military position when he threw in his hand negatives this view. It is unnecessary, however, to go into these details; the fact is that eventually he was broken, and from this fact we may gain an idea of the enormous pressure which must to-day be bearing upon the Chinese who is in much the same position, Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

The Extraordinary Meeting

In a centre such as Shanghai which teems with limited liability companies everybody knows what extraordinary, confirmatory or any of the other meetings laid down by Order-in-Council generally come to. Harassed secretaries are at times sorely put to it to get together a quorum for these affairs, and as a rule everybody conspires to make the business as formal as possible. A correspondent suggests that we should liven up our columns by changing our style of reporting these events and offers us the following sample:—

Hoots, Toots & Co., Ld.

REDUCTION OF CAPITAL: CONFIRMATORY MEETING.

It was like the great fight between Carpentier and Beckett—all over almost before it started. It was also unlike the great fight—there was practically no audience. The Chairman was there, two colleagues, one member of the famous Advisory Committee, and a reporter, all gathered round the electric radiator. At noon the secretary was on his legs mournfully reading the notice convening the meeting: 30 seconds later the Chairman proposed the resolution: another 15 seconds and a brother director had seconded it: still another 15 seconds and it had been carried unanimously. A second reporter who had arrived at three minutes past 12 was too late. Some meeting worth making a special journey to attend! Not worth paying the Entertainment Tax to see! But how impressed will be the Judge in the Court of Justice when he hears of the enthusiasm and unanimity with which our wonderful shareholders voted away their capital.

So sick at heart were they,
They stayed away.
Their blighted hopes had all gone west,
That nineteen bob stuck on their chest,
From precious schemes they wanted rest,
So stayed away.

Russian Recognition

When Mr. Ramsay Macdonald took up the question of the recognition of Russia in a diplomatic sense, there were reports current that he found the matter not by any means so simple as he had anticipated. At any rate he has found the way to take a very big step, but its success or otherwise will not be proved until the representatives of the two countries have come down to details. Then will have to be dealt with such difficult problems as the British oil and other properties situated within Russia and claim since the Soviet took them have been withheld from their owners. This was the burden of the Chairman's speech at a recent meeting of the Baku Consolidated Oilfields, Ld., when it was recalled that in the view of Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Baldwin an essential condition of recognition was "restitution of property or effective compensation." The Chairman went on to say:—

> I am told—I do not know with what truth—that at the present time the Soviet itself is divided into two parties: there is one party which favours what is called "N.E.P." (the new economic policy)—a modification of the doctrine of Karl Marx, which [illegible] allow foreign capital to come [illegible] country and develop its resources [illegible] allow it proper remuneration [illegible] is "N.E.P." as I understand it. The other policy is a policy of propaganda. It is the policy of allowing Russia to become what she is fast becoming, namely, an agricultural country, and nothing else, but a country that will devote all her energies to propaganda in foreign lands until the glorious principles of the Soviet are established all over the earth. That is the alternative policy. If that is adopted it will be a long time before anyone goes back to work oil properties in Russia. I hope and believe that more sensible views will prevail. We think they will. We have been in touch at different times with representatives of the Soviet Government, who, I think, can see as well as we can that without a restoration of confidence the capital, which is the very lifeblood of Russia, will not be forthcoming.
>
> The difficulty will be to persuade those in effective control of the Soviet Government to adopt this view, but unless they do so the recognition of Russia will not prove to be of the value which the Soviet hopes for.

A New Tichbourne

Only last week we published details of the return to the living world of a man named Batchelor who was understood to have gone down with H. M. S. Cressy when she was torpedoed in the North Sea. He was looking worn out and almost in a state of collapse when he arrived in Croydon where his mother lived, and he was wearing three war medals, and naturally was the object of much sympathy. He claimed Mrs. Batchelor as his mother, and insisted that Mrs. Batchelor's daughter was his sister, and apparently so impressed them that they advanced £20 to him. His story was that he had tied himself to a lifebuoy when the Cressy went down and after several hours was rescued by an enemy ship which he took to be Turkish. Finally he seemed to have found himself in Turkey; his mind was a blank; and only after years did he recover his bearings. Now for the Tichbourne touch. Some days after this dramatic appearance in the land of the living Batchelor was arrested, appeared before the Magistrate under the name of George Pugh, and pleaded guilty to obtaining the £20 by false pretences. He had been several times previously convicted, once having gone to prison for five years, and the Magistrates regretted exceedingly that the maximum they could award him was six months' hard labour. It seems tolerably safe to conclude that Pugh had made a study of various aspects of criminology, and the barefaced effrontery of the Tichbourne claimant had a special fascination for him. He could not play for such big stakes as the claimant, but his particular genius enabled him to rob a widow who still mourned her sailor son

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The Chinese steamer Tung-chen, sailing between Hankow and Yochow, came into collision with a steel lighter and was immediately sunk near Paichen on January 26. How many passengers lost their lives is still not known.

GENERAL BEI BAO-SAN

Great Road-builder of North Kiangsu and His War on Brigandage

By T. B. Grafton.

Haichow, Ku, Jan. 9.

Some weeks ago there might have been seen coming out of the low foot-hills of that part of Shantung that projects, pen-like, far southward into [illegible], a battered but faithful [illegible]. A thousand dents and [illegible] bore mute evidence to the [illegible] of Shantung roads over [illegible] the whole of her life had [illegible] spent. Strings, wire and [illegible] cowhide were sprinkled [illegible] over her anatomy.

Her driver, whose complexion after excavating beneath the successive layers of dust, sand and engine grime was undoubtedly Caucasian, clung wearily to the wheel as she corkscrewed over the deep ruts and stones in the serpentine trail. A stolid, lanky, sad-faced Shantung "boy," with arms evidently elongated from the constant strain of lifting and boosting, the cook-machinist of the outfit, dozed peacefully over jerks that made the observer wonder what kept his head from snapping entirely off.

As they reached the crest of a long rise, the driver gave an exclamation of wonder. Lao Yun came to his senses with a start and began automatically to climb out, when his master stopped him with a "What's that?." Lao Yun's wondering eyes gazed on a new creation. Stretching away from them into the far distance was a broad band which could be nothing else than a ROAD. Our travellers had reached the Kiangsu border and were in the domain of Gen. Bei Bao-san, lord and master of the four northeastern counties of this great maritime province.

Forty miles away, dimly seen through the haze, loomed the 4,400-foot head of the great Haichow Mountain and towards it *the flivver's* nose was turned. Her groans and grindings ceased and with a joyful purr, sweet music to the driver's tortured ears, she began to slip over the road toward Haichow. Numerous [illegible] tracks made inquiries unnecessary and straight on he drove, forgetful of everything in the joy of having a real road. The oil ran low but such was the fascination of the speed that the faint click made no impression on the driver's ears, accustomed as they were to horrid gratings and rattlings. And while he wonders how on earth he ever managed to let a connecting rod burn out on him, his praise of the road dominates every other emotion.

BRIGANDS DEMAND ATTENTION.

As noticed in these columns before, the neighbouring districts of Suchien and Tsingkiangpu reported the most peaceful autumn in many years, for the simple reason that their roving bandits moved up a hundred miles into Haichow territory, thereby giving Gen. Bei Bao-san the most uncomfortable year in his long stay at Haichow. He had dealt with many situations before and with good measure of success, partly by open warfare and partly by negotiation, but here was one that for the time defied his hardest efforts. Realizing that his presence was an essential to any success in any part of his large domain, with all of his old-time vigour he started out to make that presence a possibility on short notice.

The result has been the largest campaign of road-building that the writer has ever seen in China, and over these roads the good General is travelling at the most unexpected hours of day and night.

The first road to receive his attention was the main road leading west from Haichow, which at the end of summer was hard going even to a pedestrian. Good weather has favoured his efforts and this road is now in excellent condition for motor traffic for a distance of 50 miles. This means little enough to a man fresh from foreign roads but to us it is almost unbelievable. In addition numerous roads, all of the same type, branch off from the main line or cross it at right angles. The writer's duties carry him over these counties three or four times a year and it has been his task to hunt out possible ways of getting from place to place and every route had been tried that offered any hopes of improved travel. But now so many and long are the new roads that no one man can possibly keep up with them all unless he were to do nothing else. For in every direction from Haichow there are broad, new roads that are a delight to the weary traveller.

HOW IT IS DONE.

While the roads have been built at the initiative of Gen. Bei, the chief agent in their construction has been Mr. Yang Yu-gwoa, familiarly known as Yang Number Five, who has been an interesting and entertaining friend to the foreign community here. I have just had a long conversation with him and the ease and simplicity of the system he has employed ought by all means to be passed along to every district. It shows most forcibly what can be accomplished in the China of to-day, in spite of the general feeling that her golden age has passed into one of hopeless rust and decay.

Mr. Yang has simply sent out letters in every direction to the "Dung-sihs" in the name of the mighty general. He assigns to each of these district headmen a certain portion of road and that is all there is to it. The headmen pass the word down to the village elders and every family has to send out a man with spade or pick. So large is the population on which they have to draw that only a day or two's work is required of any individual. There are, of course, some delays and hasty work done, but the whole is surprisingly well done. The word has gone out that the General may be over any road on any day and the people responsible for the work do not care to be caught lagging.

The cost of the roads may be said thus to be strictly nothing. The only drawback is the temporary nature of much of the work. There have been no funds available for bridges and ferries and such have been considerably limited in construction. Every season except summer is normally dry and for nine months the roads will be easily passable. As most of the streams dry up in the simply been filled up with dirt. This will last until next summer's floods and leave only a small amount of repair work in the following autumn.

There is I understand a general plan for the connecting up of each *hsien* city with each of its nearest neighbours in this province, but in most of the districts the work has lagged. If the Civil Governor or Tuchun wants a good superintendent for this work they could find no better man than the capable and genial Mr. Yang.

A GIANT IN ALL WAYS.

Of all the officials, large and small, with whom I have been thrown in the course of 19 years, the most interesting by far is Gen. Bei Bao-san. Physically he is almost among the giants. A full six feet in height, with enormous head and shoulders, he seems to be bigger than the 242 pounds that register when he steps upon the scales. Every pound radiates energy and strength. Every observer has noted with sadness the tendency of officialdom to become fat and lazy, but 10 years in a high position has taken not a bit from Gen. Bei's restless activity. Sitting on the rear seat of a sedan he is the picture of ease, but a moment later he may appear as an excellent horseman, mounted for a long ride in the cold or rain. It is said that a few years ago in a fight against a robber stronghold he snatched a rifle from one of his men and led the attack in person.

Surprisingly quick as are his physical movements, his brain is quicker still. Terse as his callers may be in getting down to business, they will find that the General knows their minds before they have spoken, and his quickness of perception and equal rapidity of decision have kept him where he is to-day.

STATE AND SOCIABILITY.

With all his activities and responsibilities Gen. Bei is especially fond of his foreign friends. On a state occasion he can "put on dog" the equal of the most elaborate entertainers, but he prefers to drop in on us unannounced, sit and chat with our families and be for the time one of us. We have been told by masters of etiquette that such things as an official coming into a meal with children and single ladies "are not done" but on such occasions we believe the General has enjoyed himself as much as we have enjoyed the experience.

Now and then we hear of promotions that have been offered the General, but he seems to be quite content and bids fair to be our commanding official for a long time to come.

TELEPHONES ALSO.

In addition to his roads Gen. Bei has constructed a splendid telephone system extending 100 *li* to the west and nearly 300 *li* to the south and east. It is supposed to be exclusively for military uses but your correspondent has free access to it at any of its stations. When at an out-station, two days distant by special messenger and four or five by ordinary postal service this telephone service is an immense comfort in these troublous times and every time I use it I feel like saying "Long live Gen. Bei Bao-san."

THE HAICHOW DEFENCE COMMISSIONER WHOSE ENERGETIC ADMINISTRATION IN NORTHERN KIANGSU HAS BROUGHT PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO A FORMER STRONGHOLD OF BANDITRY. OUR PICTURES SHOW HIM (TOP) IN THE FULL UNIFORM OF A GENERAL OF THE REPUBLICAN ARMY, (LEFT) IN THE UNEXPECTED GARB OF A BUDDHIST PRIEST IN PIOUS MEDITATION AND (RIGHT) AS AN OLD-TIME HUNTER—WIOH A MODERN SHOT-GUN.

Mr. F. P. Dormady U. S. Vice-Consul at Tientsin, has been transferred to the Consulate at Amoy.

FACTORIES OF WUSIH

Full List of Industries in China's Manchester: Go-ahead Manufacturers

From Our Own Correspondent.

Wusih, Ku., Feb. 1.

All large mills are closing for one month at China New Year, the silk filatures probably longer.

I have at last discovered the exact number of factories of various sorts in and about Wusih, and as the figures seem surprising, I append a list. These figures seem to prove the assertion that Wusih is entering on a great industrial future.

One of the most interesting of these factories is the Lee Hsing Mill, which is the second modernly equipped bleaching, dyeing and finishing work to be constructed in the whole of China and the only one of its kind in the interior.

This mill, situated close to the road to Wei San, is equipped with the most up-to-date English machinery and is capable of a monthly turnover of something like 600,000 yards of cloth, including white and coloured finished shirtings, drills, sateens, brocades, jeans, poplins, etc. It has now been in operation a little over a year.

Since the initial opening of this mill further additions of expensive machinery have been made in order successfully to compete with every demand of the Chinese cotton trade. As the directors have their own power looms, running in conjunction with the dyeworks, they are able to supply the market with many original and beautiful designs in cotton cloths. In spite of the trade depression of the past year the directors of this mill are very well satisfied with their success up to date, and it is hoped that this young industry will continue to grow and to hold its own with its foreign competitors.

In addition to her large number of mills Wusih also has a fine, modern power plant, just outside of the West Water Gate of the city. This plant was established about two years ago and many mills are now dependent on it for power.

LIST OF WUSIH MILLS.

Spinning mills, cotton, with modern machinery	6
Silk filatures	18
Power loom cotton mills	5
Hand loom cotton mills	12
Flour mills	5
Small bean oil mills	9
Soap factory, modern foreign machinery	1
Small soap factories	3
Stocking mills	12
Aerated water & tooth paste factory	1
Brick and tile factory	1
Cement, best modern machine	1
Bleaching, dyeing & finishing mill with best modern machinery	1
Total	75
Power Plant	1
	76

CAPTURE OF CHENGTU BY NORTHERN TROOPS

Peking, Feb. 3

Gen. Tung-ho has telegraphed to the Government confirming the reported capture of Chengtu, Gen. Tung, who commanded the Northern troops which captured the city on January 27, says that a considerable amount of fighting occurred in which the Northern troops shelled and destroyed the Chengtu Arsenal, after which the resistance soon ended. Gen. Hsiung Khe-wu and Gen. Tan Mou-hsin surrendered, but Gen. Liu Tung-hsin is missing.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ADMIRAL Sir Alexander Ludovic Duff, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., was to be married shortly after Christmas to Miss Alice Marjorie Hill-Whitson, daughter of Mr. Hill-Whitson, of Sloane Court, Chelsea. Admiral Duff, who is 61 years of age, was a widower. He was Commander-in-Chief of the China Station from 1919 to 1922. During the war he was Rear-Admiral of the Fourth Battle Squadron, and was present at the Battle of Jutland. The wedding was to be at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street.

HARBIN'S GAMBLING AND OPIUM

Sensational Revelations After Successful Police Raid on Hotel Asia

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Jan. 23.

Thanks to the recent raid of the Hotel Asia, the hostel close to the railway station owned by Koreans, the police managed to get hold of all the books belonging to the most notorious gambling-dens run by the same proprietors and are now making a proper clean-up. The Asia has been immune from raid by the Chinese police, being owned by a Japanese subject, but recently thanks to the energy shown by General Wen, the chief of police, and the co-operation given by the Japanese Consul, a properly organized descent by Japanese gendarmes and Chinese police was carried out successfully in the middle of the day, the measures taken being kept so secret that the numerous agents of the Korean owner were unable to give any warning. The place was surrounded, very few of the inmates were able to escape and several pounds of opium were seized. The proprietor and his assistants being Koreans were handed over to the Japanese Consulate as well as the opium which they claimed, but the books were retained by General Wen, for the purpose of investigation, notwithstanding the protests of the Koreans. The hotel owner has since been sentenced by his Consul to a term of imprisonment for being in possesion of opium, but it is likely that before long a more serious charge against him will be made.

In the meantime General Wen has been busy having the business books translated. They show the daily takings and expenses attached to the running of the Sportsmen Club and the Golden Horn, termed restaurants, but actually gambling saloons, patronized by Russians, Koreans and Chinese of all classes. Everybody in Harbin including General Wen has been aware of their existence for the past six months, but all attempts to make a successful raid have been abortive, for the gamblers have invariably been warned beforehand. The books show that something like $140,000 have been paid out in bribes in just over six months or in other words about $700 a day, and give details as to who received the bribes, though in some instances only initials appear. So far only some six arrests have been made and they are Russian interpreters, Chinese attached to the police and to the court. These men only received small sums daily, but the books show that certain parties received as much as $200 daily.

The investigation is still proceeding and no doubt there will be some sensational arrests among the higher chief officials, it being stated that some of these officers were often to be seen in the gaming rooms trying their luck. Though the two restaurants in question are still open, hardly anyone goes to them, for gambling has entirely stopped and a policeman is stationed inside the hallway.

This does not mean that gambling is finished in Harbin, far from it. Other haunts are being opened, though for the present on a smaller scale, while even respectable though impoverished Russian householders are prevailed upon to allow the use of one of their rooms on certain days of the week. Meanwhile, thanks to the stopping of cards and lotto, the latter so popular among the fair sex, the recreation grounds and sporting meetings of the Railway, Commercial, Sportsmen and Polo clubs have practically been forced to be given up owing to the lack of funds to run them.

General Chu Ching-lan, Administrator of the Special Area, is very much against gambling, and will not listen to those who wish to show that horse gambling and gambling and that the card playing and lotto, which the average Russian is used to and cannot do without, is not necessarily playing for high stakes and that anyway he cannot be forced to give it up although he is quite willing it should be done under proper control.

BRITISH MINISTER IN HONAN

Peking, Jan. 31.

Sir Ronald Macleay and Mr. Vereker, First Secretary, will leave here this evening for Chiaotso to spend a brief holiday as the guests of Mr. Kenrick at the Pekin Syndicate mines, afterwards going on to Hankow.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT AT ANKING

Many People Drowned in an Overturned Junk

From Our Own Correspondent.

Anking, Jan. 27, 1924.

A terrible accident occurred here the night before last when at about 8.30 o'clock a *min ch'uan*, a big river junk, loaded with passengers, arrived from up river. The boat had nearly reached the landing-place and the men were extending their long poles to secure it to the shore, when suddenly, a big gust of wind arose, striking the unsupecting boat broadside and turning it completely over.

It is not known just how it happened, but it is thought that the people were all crowded on to the shore side of the boat thus making it possible for the sudden wind coming from the opposite side to heave the boat over.

Loaded down with the usual heavy bundles, baskets and bedding rolls, crowding each other in their eagerness to be first on shore the passengers were taken entirely unawares and were all hurled together into the deep icy water. Men, women and children went down in one writhing, struggling mass. Escape was practically impossible and the dark waters of the Yangtze closed over most of them.

The majority of the men were labourers who had been at work in Kiangsi and were just returning home for the New Year festivities. Another few minutes and all would have been safely on shore.

More than 20 bodies have been recovered but no one seems to know just how many people were on the boat. These passenger boats are always so criminally overcrowded that no one in authority would care tell how many if he knew.

CHEKIANG'S WAR SCARE

Slowly Subsiding but People Still Very Nervous

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kashing, Chc., Feb. 1.

Slowly, perhaps, the war scare is subsiding. Bankers and merchants are watchful but going on steadily. Preparations for Lunar New Year are about as usual. Hearing that troops were moving to the border, a trip to several points between Kiangsu and Chekiang showed that both sides are watching each other. Opposing forces on Grand Canal about 10 miles apart can see each other and talk without great effort. However, the real fear is of soldiers, either side; winning or losing—the people suffer. It was amusing to hear a man in close connexion with local officials ask for a room at the missionary hospital. He was told that sick people could get in for nominal rates. His answer was, "If war starts I will be sick enough to get in." Many have asked to be allowed to stay in, or near the mission compound in the event of trouble breaking out suddenly.

Dealers in lumber, brick and other materials have had a good year.

Farmers [illegible] crops with higher prices for all they can sell. War talk does not worry them. No [illegible] reported in our section, but rumours from west and south are not reassuring.

The dollar is down, small coin up on the market for New Year trade.

TOKIO'S TRAM PROBLEM

System Wrecked in the Great Earthquake Cannot Be Restored Until 1925

Complete restoration of the Tokio tram car service to its pre-earthquake condition will require at least two years, Mr. Saito, one of the directors of the Tokio Electric Bureau stated to a representative of the "Japan Advertiser" last week.

"When the system was so completely destroyed as it was by the earthquake and fire of September 1, it is impossible to restore it to its former status within a short time," Mr. Saito said. "The authorities of the Tokio Electric Bureau are doing everything in their power to alleviate the present deplorable congestion in tram car service."

Before the earthquake, according to Mr. Saito, the Bureau owned 1,907 tram cars, of which from 1,200 to 1,300 were in constant service. Eight hundred cars together with many repair shops were destroyed by the earthquake and fires.

1,134 CARS LEFT.

Of the 1,134 cars left, 781 are in operation. The authorities predict that the Bureau will have 1,600 cars by the last of March, enabling them to put 1,100 in service at the beginning of April.

Before the earthquake there were 190 miles of car lines in Tokio which have been reduced to 163 miles. On these lines, cars are making trips aggregating 83,051 miles, and carrying 1,405,127 passengers daily. Mileage of the car lines on which cars are operated at present has been increasing rapidly, and practically all important lines in the business sections already have been restored. The remaining lines are not expected to be restored before the end of this year.

"The delay in the restoration of the car service is due to the lack of electrical power and also financial difficulty," declared Mr. Saito, "Many power houses were destroyed by the fire and if the people take into consideration the enormous task of constructing them and the financial difficulty confronting the Bureau, they will be convinced that it will take all of two years.

SYSTEM TO BE EXTENDED.

"It must be remembered that the power houses must be constructed on a larger scale than before because it is foolish to restore them on the former basis when the car service in Tokio is in need of vast extension. The damage suffered by the bureau is estimated at Y.30,000,000 and the proposed reconstruction of the car system will cost at least Y.40,000,000. In raising this sum, the policy of the Tokio Municipality must guard against interfering with the policy of the Central Government in raising its reconstruction fund. The restoration of the car service involves many such delicate problems.

"As an immediate measure to relieve congestion in the cars, the Bureau has introduced an autobus service, purchasing 1,000 Ford cars from America. The Bureau at first desired to purchase larger automobiles, but the Ford Company was the only firm that was able to handle such a large order for immediate delivery.

45 FORD CARS OPERATING.

About 45 Ford cars now are running between the Tokio Station and Sugamo and Tokio Station and Aoyama, but this number will be increased daily and will be about 60 by the end of this month. By the end of February, 1,000 cars will be assembled and ready for service. The entire cargo of automobile parts arrived in Yokohama from America some time ago and they will be brought to Tokio before the end of this month. On the first day of the bus service, 44 Fords were put into operation and took in Yen 1,110 from 7,449 passengers.

Word has been received in Tientsin that Major W. S. Nathan, R.E., C.M.G., who, recently went Home, has been elected to a seat on the board of directors of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ld., London.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL KILLED BY COOK

Peking, Feb. 1.

A telegram from Mentsz reports that Mr. Abel, the Acting Commissioner of Customs stationed at Szemao, was stabbed in the heart and killed by his cook after an altercation.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MANCHURIAN BEANS

Problem of Drying Out the Excessive Water

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Jan. 23.

Thanks to the amount of rain during the past season, the present bean crop whose quantity is up to average contains more than the usual amount of moisture, which means that it is a very risky thing to ship to Europe owing to the necessity of these exports traversing the tropics.

As there is a demand for beans abroad exporters are now endeavouring to find a proper method for drying them before they are sent out of the country. Specially constructed drying sheds have been erected at Harbin and soaked beans collected along the railway line will be brought here for treatment. Exporters have successfully approached the railway administration for special freight tariff for these beans, which will have to be twice handled before they can be sent to Vladivostok.

It is stated that though home contracts require that beans shall have no more than 14 per cent. of water, these soaked beans have as much as 24 per cent. which not only means they are likely to sweat when warm climate is reached, but also that they will produce less oil.

Thanks to the inquiries for both beans and bean-oil from Europe where prices are high, the market in northern Manchuria for both these commodities is buoyant.

BUSY WUSIH

Chinese Interest in Band of Hope: Canal Widening: New Electric Plant

From Our Own Correspondent.

Wusih, Ku., Feb. 1.

A number of the most prominent of the gentry, men and women, have decided to open a local branch of the Door of Hope. They have asked two of the resident missionaries to co-operate with them, and two very good meetings have been held, and half of the necessary money subscribed. It is confidently hoped that the institution will open in the very near future.

Five large cargo boats have been wrecked on the Grand Canal, south of the city, within the last month. The Chinese say that the present very low water has resulted in the boats running against some obstacle in the bed of the canal, which obstacle has proved to be an old incense burner, imbedded there for untold years. The canal is to be dredged, deepened and widened at this place for a distance of a few hundred yards at a cost of $35,000.

A new electric light plant has leased the present plant on a five-year contract at $65,000 a year, and will give a 24-hour service beginning about March 1. This will be an immense improvement on the present system of lights from dusk until 1 a.m.

FUNDS FOR HUPEH TPOOPS

Hankow, Jan. 31.

Gen. Hsiao Yao-nan, Tu-Fun of Hupeh, to-day invited representatives of Chinese banking and commercial circles here and asked them for the accommodation of $250,000 as military expenses required for the Chinese New Year. It is reported that the above request has been complied with.—Eastern News Agency.

TWO POPULAR CHINESE OF NANKING

Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Wen: Their Tribute to Christianity

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nanking, Jan. 31, 1924.

The celebration of the silver anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Wen has been a unique event in the annals of Chinese social life in Nanking. Mr. Wen is known locally as the popular and efficient Commissioner of Foreign Affairs and Superintendent of Customs, and widely known in China and abroad because of his work in the release of the captives in the Lincheng affair, his connexion with the Washington Conference and other public services. The celebrations began with a religious service in the Hubugiai Presbyterian Church, of which Mr Wen is an elder, on Sunday afternoon. After the preliminary services and an address on "The Christian Home," Mr. Wen with Mrs. Wen beside him stood before the audience, his older children occupying a front seat, and gave an interesting and remarkable testimony to what Christianity had done for his home. He described how that, according to old Chinese custom, he was married by his father without his will or consent, and to an unlettered country lass. As he began to study and travel and his vision enlarged he found her increasingly uncongenial, and time and again thought of resorting to the expedient of giving her the second place and taking another wife. But after his conversion, which he described, he saw things in a new light. He realized the possibilities of a home sweetened by Christianity and of the wife of his youth. She responded nobly and he brought his address to a climax by saying with pride, "Here now is my bride." And one who looked upon the stately, aristocratic, gentle lady, Madame Wen, would never take her to be the erstwhile country lass, whom he described.

Mr. Wen went on to say that the disparity between man and wife in education and outlook of marriages made under the old *régime* is one of the problems of changing China, especially when the husband is educated in college or university, or goes abroad, and the wife fails to follow his pace. Mr. Wen showed by his own experience where the solution lies. This human touch in that Sabbath afternoon service was of far deeper interest than the more flowery and formal celebrations which followed on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

On Tuesday afternoon a reception was given to foreign friends at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wen at the Bureau of Foreign affairs, and on Wednesday afternoon to representative Chinese. These occasions were made festive by decorations, music, and the remarkable display of silver which manifested the high esteem in which Mr. and Mrs. Wen are held. During the Tuesday afternoon celebration there was a commotion which proved to be the arrival of the gifts of the President of China, which were two silver vases and two loving cups. Governor-General Chi Shieh-Yuan, Governor Han, the Premier of China, and other officials, the British, American, and Japanese Consuls, and Chinese and foreign friends too numerous to mention, sent gifts. Mr. L. Friedman and others from among the Lincheng captives, also sent remembrances. There were two tall silver tea-sets, vases, loving cups, scrolls and other silver tokens without number. And best of all the celebration was not the glorification of an individual but of an exemplary and happy home. It is such homes that are the hope of this or any other country.

Lord Morley's death creates a vacancy in the membership of the Order of Merit. The "Illustrated Review" suggests that the honour should be given [illegible] Lord Milner, Mr. Kipling, Lord Grey, Sir Sidney Colvin, Cardinal Gasquet, Lord Bryce, Sir James Frazer, Mr. A. F. Hewman, or Lord Rosebery.

NEW MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AT WUCHOW

Dedication of New Chapel: Short History of a Great Institution: Opening up Remote China to Blessings of Western Medicine

From Our Own Correspondent.

Lungchow, Si.

Two days were devoted to the dedication of the new Chapel of the Stout Memorial Hospital, viz., Saturday and Sunday, December 22 and 23 respectively. The Saturday service was given in Chinese, the Sunday service in English. Dr. Leavell, who is in charge of the hospital, presided on both occasions. Others present, who also officiated at the services, were the Revs. C. A. Gaff, R. A. Jaffray, H. E. Lang, W. H. Tipton and Rex Ray.

The work of the Stout Memorial Hospital was begun in Wuchow by the opening of a dispensary in the chapel of the Southern Baptist Mission. In 1899 Mr. Frank Chambers of New York gave the Foreign Mission Board $2,500 with which to open the Hospital.

The first hospital was built on land purchased on the river bank outside the city and was dedicated to the memory of Rev. John Stout.

The founding of this Hospital has been thoroughly justified by the success and the growth of the work. Wuchow is the gateway into the province of Kuangsi with its population of over eight million people. All commerce from Hongkong and Canton going to inland Kuangsi, and to certain parts of Yunnan and Kueichow must pass through Wuchow. Numerous steamers ply between Wuchow and down river ports as well as Hongkong and Canton. Over a score of river launches carry cargo and passengers to the inland cities situated on the West and Fu Rivers.

The Hospital was opened by Dr. T. McCloy, formerly of the Baptist Mission, and after his departure was ably carried on by Dr. J. C. Meadows and Dr. Wong, a Chinese physician of wonderful Christian character. Both Dr. Meadows and Dr. Wong after giving a number of years of faithful and loving service to their fellow men passed away to their final rest. Dr. Meadows died in Chicago while in furlough, in 1911, and Dr. Wong while visiting America in 1914.

Dr. and Mrs. Hayes were transferred to Wuchow Hospital in 1907 and although compelled to work under trying circumstances were able to carry the work forward. In 1915 Dr. and Mrs. Leavell arrived in Wuchow to take up the work in the Hospital, and in 1917 when Dr. Hayes and his wife returned to the United States on furlough the charge of the hospital fell into the hands of Dr. Leavell. The work of the Hospital confined to increase and this with the trouble caused every summer by the flooding of the West and the Fu Rivers made it imperative that new and larger quarters should be secured if the work was to continue to grow.

VISION OF NEW HOSPITAL.

Dr. Wong and Rev. W. H. Tipton had succeeded in securing the title deed to a larger tract of land for the erection of a hospital. Although the land was secured, the vision of a new hospital was far from materializing. The war in Europe caused funds to become less and retrenchment was necessary and so the hospital project, as well as many others, was held up.

A Chinese merchant in Wuchow by giving the first thousand dollars needed for the start of the work revived hope and from then on the needed funds began to flow in.

Wuchow has been the storm centre of war and strife for over three years. It has been taken and retaken a number of times by the invading and retreating armies of the two warring Kuangs and their hired armies. In spite of this fact and the other hindrance the work of hospital construction has been carried on to completion and to-day a beautiful and strong structure of steel, brick and concrete stands as a monument to the faith of those engaged in the work and planning of the hospital.

Work on the Hospital was begun on January 17, 1917, and finished in December 1, 1923. Although far from completion, advantage was taken of the presence of Dr. Love, corresponding secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and the Hospital was dedicated to the service of God and the administration of the sick.

Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Beddoe were transferred to the Wuchow work upon their return from furlough in 1916 and were left alone with it when Dr. Leavell and wife returned to American on furlough.

The success of the hospital may be judged by the amount of the work carried on. In 1902 the total number of treatments given was 842 as compared with 59,000 in 1922. During this time the Hospital became self-supporting and in 1922 nearly $36,000. was received by the hospital treasury.

Along with its medical staff the hospital supports several male and female evangelists for evangelical work in the Hospital. In connexion with the Hospital work a large motor boat, given by the First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Virginia, is used for medical and evangelistic work in inland Kuangsi.

FOREIGN DOCTORS NEEDED

Owing to the shortage of workers the foreign staff of the Hospital has never been large. Dr. Beddoe returned to America in 1922 and this again left Dr. Leavell as the only resident foreign doctor. Had it not been for the efficient cooperation and the assistance given by the five Chinese physicians the work would have been seriously handicapped; as it is there is a present need of four foreign doctors to supervise the various departments. Another great need is for a foreign nurse act as superintendent of the nursing department.

The Stout Memorial Hospital has meant much in the evangelization of Kuangsi and has been a blessing not only to the Chinese but also to the foreign residents of Kuangsi.

Much praise should be given to those instrumental in the opening of this work of love and to those who have given unstintingly both of their means and life in carrying it forward.

To Dr. Leavell, at present in charge of the Hospital, belongs much of the credit for the efficiency attained and the high standard maintained.

It is the hearty wish of all those who know the Hospital and its work that it may continue to administer to the needy in body and soul of all those coming to it, and that through it may flow health and happiness not only to those coming in direct contact with it but also to many thousands scattered throughout China.

THE FINE MODERN BUILDINGS OF THE STOUT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

COMBING OUT BEGGARS

Military's Clean Sweep: Attack on Public Gambling: A Hard Winter

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ichang, Sze., Jan. 25.

Ichang has for long had more than its share of beggars, and the authorities have at last made a move to deal with them. They are mostly Szechuan trackers, and famine people from Honan, Yesterday the military made a sweep of the city, and the unusual sight was seen of a drove of beggars being driven along like a flock of sheep. Those who could not walk were being carried on the backs of others. The Chamber of Commerce, with the aid of the military, are undertaking the job, and, it is said, intend to house, cleanse, and clothe them, and then teach them to work. The beggars were obviously most unwilling to go, and one would imagine the undertaking will not be an easy one to handle.

The officials are actively engaged in an attack on public gambling, which at this time of the year is greatly indulged in. Those caught are marched through the streets with a board strapped on their shoulders advertising their offence.

The river has fallen nearly to the zero mark, and there are still three ships on the run to Chungking. This is the first winter that ships have really had a chance to carry on for the whole winter, and it looks at least as if one is going to show that it can be done. But the navigation of the Rapids is difficult and one of the three touched rock last trip down, and has ventured on another trip with a hold temporarily patched with cement.

"FOOT-AND-MOUTH disease in England has now spread to golfers." "To golfers?" "Yes. They foot it all day and mouth about it all night."

FUKIEN'S MILITARY DESPOTS

Fattening on Opium Taxes: Orgies of Squeeze and Corruption

From a Correspondent.

Amoy Jan. 27.

We are in a *mêlée*, of military leaders as irregular as the "ranges" of the unarranged mountains of this naturally lovely and humanly vile south Fukien. Some of the minor generals are regularly receiving support from at least two sides. Their support of the major generals seems to consist largely in letting these greater ones have the right of way among the people's pockets. Of course, just now the harvest of opium and the scent of the poppy are so closely connected with the clink of revenue coin that we are not likely to hear firing or see smoke until the harvest is past and the tax collected.

In one case they worked out a beautiful scheme of tax rates. The planter of "one peck" paid $10, of "two pecks" $16, of "three pecks" $20. The folk who planted last year and not this year had added to their last year's account a fine of $5. Those who planted neither year paid less.

EVERYTHING "TAXED"

Taxes are developing wondrous growths. Any leader now can make one tax station appear where never was one before. At one they achieved heights seldom observed. A friend of mine passing through laid out his goods, paid his charges and passed on. In the lot was a pair of little baby shoes, home made, on which the collector said he need not pay. He went about 20 steps and was stopped again for "inspection." His receipts were scanned, and his goods examined again. "Ah! This pair of shoes is not on your list of duties paid. You are a smuggler." "But your chief gave me this slip saying I had paid all that was due." "What he says is nothing to me. You're a smuggler. You're fined $60." And he had to pay it. Another friend was caught and fined for not having paid duty on the umbrella he was using!

One of the preachers here has been caught three times and held to bring pressure upon members who were being "squeezed." Our first case of a real capture-and-hold-for-ransom is now on.

The price of rice has gone up 50 per cent. since summer. Everyone who can is leaving the region. Our launch connexion with Amoy—and the world—runs between shores held by opposing generals, who all collect charges on the way. This week one side felt it was not getting enough, so opened fire on the launches as they passed, killing one passenger and wounding another.

NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES AT HANGCHOW

Old Customs Much Alive in the Heavenly City

From Our Own Correspondent

Hangchow, Feb. 6.

The China New Year has come and gone with its thrilling memories of fire crackers, clanging cymbals, beating gongs, lighted candles, music without dancing, fantastic fanterns, kite flying, bird-airing, spirit feasting, ancestor remembrance, and lots of noise to drive away the evil ones.

The many gods have been visited, and soothsayers consulted and fortunes foretold. The pendulum which swung so far to one side at the Revolution is gradually coming back to the old ways of bowing, wishing well, and shaking your own hands in the air,—quite sanitary.

An abundant supply of good things were laid in for the festive season because the Sons of Han in spite of the Gregorian calendar believe at this time in a long holiday and good chow according to the gastronomic requirements of the family, seasoned with a little Shaoshing wine, which being spirituous helps to dissolve some of the fat that is always overabundant in the food at this season.

At the C.M.S. Hospital Chapel on Sunday, the Rev. Dr. Blain preached a fine sermon on the Cross of Christ, and at the end there was a United Communion Service, administered according to Presbyterian rites, when members of the various missions partook of the Lord's Supper. It is some years now since we have had such a communion, and is another proof of the wonderful spirit of unity there is amongst the Hangchow missionaries.

During the China New Year holidays there were quite a number of distinguished visitors in the city. The Belgian Consul was one of the guests in a house by the West Lake.

We are sorry to have to report the death of Mrs. Arthur, the beloved wife of Rev. J. H. Arthur, of the Presbyterian Mission North. She had had heart trouble for some years, but was wonderfully well. Serious symptoms, however, appeared a few months ago, and gave warning that the end might come suddenly. She was true and gentle, most unselfish, humble, blameless, and stainless, and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our sympathy goes out to Mr. Arthur and all who mourn her loss.

GUARDING A MISSION COMPOUND

Humble Shantung Soldiers Who Do Their Duty: Night in the Bandits' Country

From a Correspondent.

Tenghsien, Sung., Jan. 31

The bandits put Lincheng on the map. Tenghsien is one hour's ride on the train from Lincheng. This section for years has been badly infested with bandits.

At Tenghsien there are two schools—one a Theological Seminary and the other a Normal and Bible Training School. These schools are in one compound—not surrounded by a wall—but by a barbed wire fence.

On this compound live four foreign families, a number of native professors and teachers, also more than 200 students. Formerly there was no guard, but recently the local official has placed about 20 soldiers inside this fence, for the school's protection.

Whatever we may say about the Chinese soldiers in general, the guard on this compound has done its duty. The men have been quiet, courteous and faithful. As one hears their tramp, these bleak, cold, windy nights, one wonders, what do they get out of it?

While the soldier is reported to do little for his country, his country does little enough for him. They get the simplest food and small wages, and no appreciation.

Last evening I was sitting alone, calmly knitting, when the night watchman came in like a "bolt from the blue," with the startling intelligence that he west city gate was now in the hands of the bandits. The captain had sent word for all lights to be extinguished and no one to leave the house. These two things are always demanded. To go abroad, one becomes a target both for soldiers and bandits. At the house there was a lady just out from America and a child, neither of whom could speak Chinese. So I had to venture forth to reach them.

The night watchman was most solicitous. If I would go, he must accompany me, holding me by the arm all the way. I found the soldiers at their posts. We were challenged by two before reaching our destination.

Three belonging to our families collected at one house, where we sat in the dark and made our plans for hiding if necessary. Of course, the possibility of the house being set on fire had to be reckoned with, and a hiding place must always have an exit. The children were quite frightened. I calmed them by the utterance that the bandits did not want them, all the children at Lincheng having been set free. This made them quite happy, and they asked me, "Didn't I wish I was a child?" But it proved to be a false alarm. A house was robbed by a few men. There was an organized band and this latter affair was soon over.

JAPAN'S IMPERIAL WEDDING

A Picturesque Display of Old Japanese Ceremonial: Vast Crowds and Great Rejoicing in Tokio

By Alfred E. Pières.

Tokio, Jan. 26.

I fitted myself in my Court clothes and went to see the wedding of his Imperial Highness the Prince Regent with the Princess Nagako Kuni, elder daughter of Field-Marshal Prince Kuni-[illegible]. Thanks to an influential friend in the Foreign Office I was able to see a great deal of the proceedings at fairly close [illegible]. It was indeed a sight worth witnessing.

The nuptial rites had been fixed for 10 a.m. and from the first intimation of dawn, people began to [illegible] through which the Prince Regent and his bride were due to pass later. The police, military and gendarmes were in considerable evidence, and elaborate precautions were taken to ensure that nothing untoward would mar the importance of the occasion and the solemnity of the event. The attempt made on the Prince Regent's life on December 27 galvanized the police and military into careful preparations aimed at preventing politically discontented individuals or groups from venting their thoughts or dissatisfaction in any manner. The first step towards this end was taken a week before the royal nuptials were to be solemnized, when the police dragnet scoured all Tokio and its environs and gathered in a large number of Socialists, anarchists and persons supposed to be of advanced radical tendencies, both men and women, clapped them into cells and kept them under lock and key till the event was over.

The wedding was originally fixed for January 27, but was changed to January 26, because it was on December 27 that an attempt was made on the Prince Regent's life, and the date was decreed as unlucky and unpropitious.

MARRIAGE SANCTIFICATION.

Just as the enthronement of a [illegible] is similar in its religious significance to the coronation of a European King or Emperor, so was a Shinto High Priest conspicuous by his absence in the marriage rites of the Crown Prince. Following the example said to have been set by the first [illegible] the virtual succession to the Throne [illegible] of the Three Sacred Treasures of the Imperial House, the emblem [illegible] passes into the hands of the successor. The formal accession, for which a later and more auspicious occasion is selected, therefore, consists of two main parts, namely, the newly-installed Emperor's reverential announcement of the fact of his coming to the Throne before the national deities and [illegible] asking their blessing and guidance; and the announcement of the same to his subjects and the world at large during a State banquet.

In the case of the Prince Regent's wedding, after the betrothal was duly reported many months ago to the national deities and ancestral spirits and all preliminary ceremonies were gone through between the Prince and the Imperial parents, the next most important rite was the reading of a collect by the Prince Regent. Seated side by side on [illegible] placed on the floor with his royal bride, dressed in ancient Japanese robes, His Imperial Highness read a [illegible] to the Holy of Holies [illegible] one of the magnificent halls of the Imperial Palace, where the Yata Mirror, one of the three Sacred Treasures is enshrined. This served as the marriage. The royal couple then proceeded to the ancestral shrines in the Imperial Palace where they reported the marriage to the ancestral spirits. To-morrow they will leave for Numazu where the solemnization of the wedding will be announced to the Emperor and Empress, after which they will proceed to the Imperial Mausolea at Momoyama, near Kyoto, the ancient capital, and here again announce their having entered the married state to the Imperial ancestors deified in this shrine.

POEMS EXCHANGED.

The first direct exchange of sentiments between the royal couple took place to-day when his Imperial Highness presented to the Princess Nagako a *tanka* (Japanese poem) written on pink coloured paper. The Princess immediately wrote a reply, in fitting language, also in the form of a *tanka*. Formerly it was a strict rule of decorum in exalted quarters that the betrothed parties should not hold any correspondence until the day of their wedding. The earthquake, however, smashed this precedent, and both the Prince and the Princess hastening to write to find out whether anything had gone amiss. Correspondence relating to personal safety soon ripened into other correspondence. Thus the Prince Regent, aided by the earthquake, has been able to get rid of an irritating precedent, and revert to more natural rules.

PRINCESS GOES TO PALACE.

With heavily-armed troops, many feet deep, encircling the crimson-and-gold limousine that had been sent to the residence of Prince Kuni for his daughter to proceed to the Imperial Palace, the Princess Nagako, escorted by her father and a special chamberlain of the Palace, was driven through dense crowds of people. In the meantime, the Princes and Princesses of the Blood with their families; peers of the realm; high Court dignitaries and exalted officials had assembled in the Kashikodokoro Hall in which the wedding rites were to be solemnized. With the exception of those who represented one or other of the nation's fighting arms, and who were dressed in Occidental uniforms, the rest were clad in the ancient classical robes of Old Japan. Some of the most wonderful designs in ladies' kimono were to be seen, clothes that were specially made for the occasion and which will be worn but once. At the Palace, the Prince Regent and Princess Nagako changed into time-honoured court dress and when the royal couple entered the marriage solemnization hall, the Prince was clad in a deep-yellow silk kimono and a white *hakama* (skirt-like contrivance worn over the kimono) a garb that has been used on exceptionally festive occasions for over 1,200 years. Princess Nagako also wore an ancient court costume, the kimono being a twelve-coloured garment and her *hakama* of rich purple silk, the finest that the looms of Kyoto would make.

THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONY.

As their Imperial Highnesses entered the Kashikodokoro hall, they were offered the cleansing water in a gold and lacquer bowl, the highest Court dignitaries making profound obeisance while so doing. The Prince Regent then took up his sceptre and Princess Nagako the *Hiogi* fan and followed the Grand Master of Ceremonies to the Sanctuary at the end of the room. The Princes and Princesses of the Blood then followed and grouped themselves around the sanctuary, kneeling all the time in a manner similar to communicants in a Christian [illegible] of worship. Weird, yet solemn, Shinto music suddenly floated on the air, the signal for the opening of the doors of the Main Shrine by the officiating ritualists. The Chief Ritualist then read a collect. Followed by a chamberlain holding his train and another carrying the Tsubokiri sword, a gift from the Emperor, and followed by a group of civil and military [illegible] the Prince proceeded towards the Sanctuary. Princess Nagako, escorted similarly, followed His Imperial Highness, a number of ladies-in-waiting in addition going with her.

The Sanctuary of the Main Shrine which the Japanese regard as their Holy of Holies—is not very spacious. Several of the attendants of the Prince Regent and the Crown Princess, accordingly, had to remain outside. Their Imperial Highnesses entered the Shrine and were seated on two specially prepared thrones. Everyone in the immediate entourage then made profound obeisances, throwing themselves flat on the ground and affirming their loyalty to the future Emperor and Empress of these domains.

His Imperial Highness then read a scroll announcing his marriage with the Princess Nagako, after which their Imperial Highnesses stepped backwards out of the Sanctuary. The thrones were then removed to the edge of the Main Shrine, while a Ritualist brought a golden cup into which consecrated *saké* (rice wine) was poured. The cup was then placed in the Prince's hands who sipped it and then passed on the cup to his bride who did the same, this being symbolical of plighting their troth "for better or worse until death us do part." Another Ritualist then removed the cup and Their Highnesses turned towards the Sanctuary again and together made deep obeisances to the spirits enshrined therein, and then retraced their steps to the Kashikodokoro Hall, escorted as before. The door of the Sanctuary was then closed, intimating that the religious portion of the ceremony had been concluded. In the Kashikodokoro Hall are two other Shrines—the Kworeiden and the Shinden—and hand-in-hand the royal couple worshipped here again.

THE CIVIL CEREMONY.

The religious ceremony took place at 10.15 in the morning and while the rites "in the Holy Presence" were being celebrated at the Imperial Palace, all Shinto shrines throughout the country held special services in honour of the occasion.

At 3 in the afternoon, the ceremony of "dining together" was held at the Akasaka Detached Palace, the future home of the newly-married pair. This is the main feature of the civil side of the ceremony. Their Imperial Highnesses were seated on a four-legged stool, without a back, and in front of them were placed two red-lacquered tables. A Chamberlain then offered his Imperial Highness a cup with *saké*, and through a Lady-in-Waiting, the Prince offered the cup to the Princess, who drank of it and then, through another Lady-in-Waiting, returned the cup to His Imperial Highness. Princess Nagako then arose and approaching the Prince Regent served him in person with a cup of *saké*, after which her Imperial Highness received another cup of *saké*, this time direct from the Prince Regent.

This over, the royal couple took hold of their chopsticks, made of beautiful beaten gold, and ate of the special repast that had been prepared. After the meal was over, the assembled Princes and Princesses of the Blood and privileged courtiers gathered and shouted "Banzai" (Japanese method of cheering). The ceremonial tables were then removed. The civil ceremony was at an end, and the Prince and his bride retired into an inner chamber.

Congratulations of British Army Council

Tokio, Jan. 31.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. G. Piggott, D.S.O., the British Military Attaché, was received in special audience by the Prince Regent and the Crown Princess this afternoon, when their Imperial Highnesses expressed their appreciation of the greetings and congratulations of the British Army Council.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINESE WEDDING IN LONDON

London, Feb. 2

Miss Sung yem Chu, daughter of the Chinese ex-Premier, was married in London to-day to Mr. Ching men Chun of the staff of the Ministry of Communications.—Reuter.

MUKDEN EN FETE

Second Son of Uncrowned King of Manchuria Weds: The Bride's Trousseau

From Our Own Correspondent.

Mukden, Jan. 26.

The marriage of Marshal Chang Tso-lin's second son, Chang Hsueh-cheng who is 17 years of age, to the second daughter of the Marshal's Military Adviser, Gen. Yao, has naturally brought to Mukden all the leading Chinese officials of the Three Eastern Provinces, besides a number of other visitors. According to good old Chinese custom the wedding ceremony was celebrated at midnight, on the 18th instant and preceded by a sumptuous banquet which was attended by a galaxy of Chinese, Japanese and foreign dignitaries accompanied by their wives. Special theatrical performances were given for three days afterwards. Among those specially invited were Dr. C. C. Wang, President of the Chinese Eastern Railway, from Peking, and Messrs. Yu and Danilevsky, the Chinese and Russian Vice-Presidents of the C.E.R, from Harbin, Gen. Chu, Administrator of the Special Railway Area, and Gen. Wen, Police Commissioner of the Special C.E.R. area.

The bride-elect's wardrobe was most eleborate and was transported beforehand to the bridegroom's house in ten motor-cars. It consisted of some 120 pieces of costly embroidered dresses and several hundred pieces of jewellery, including rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings and other *bijouteries* the total value being estimated at several hundred thousands of dollars.

Notwithstanding the fact that Marshal Chang had announced that valuable wedding presents would not be accepted, through the new Chinese order that officials are not allowed to accept expensive gifts, the Directorate of the C.E.R. sent a solid silver tea-set inset with diamonds and other precious stones, and Gen. Chu made an equally valuable present. Gifts were also sent by President Tsao Kun and the Directorate of the South Manchuria Railway, that of the latter being a costly Japanese embroidered screen. Gen. Yao, Military Adviser, has since been appointed Managing Director of the Three Eastern Provinces Bank (Bank of Manchuria.)

FENGTIEN FINANCES.

The finances of the Fentien Provisional Government are now in a most thriving state, thanks to the energy shown by Civil Governor Wong who also is in charge of the Board of Finance. The surplus in hand at the end of 1923 amounted to $21 million inclusive of the sum of $5,000,000, last year's surplus.

A young Russian aviator, Moservitch by name, in the employ of the Mukden Aerial Corps, met with a tragic death on the Yao-Chang wedding day. He was carrying out some wonderful feats of looping and drilling, when suddenly after-having dived to within 20 metres of the ground something went wrong with the machine, which dashed to earth nose-first. The young aviator was all but crushed to death, his companion on the rear seat, a young Chinese, escaping with his life by a miracle. He was only bruised and somewhat shaken.

The expansion of the Mukden Aerial Force continues. Over 20 aeroplanes form France have already arrived and more are expected in a month or so. The Air Office have selected a dozen or so young Chinese officers who are being sent to France specially to study aeronautics.

The Mukden Military Reorganization Headquarters is now selecting some 25 young officers to send to England for special military training.

The recently opened section from Chengchiatun to Toanan on the Ssepingkai-Toanan Railway is stated to be doing quite good business, the daily returns being some $1,300 in passenger fares and $8,000 in freight, whilst the total returns of the whole line exceed $25,000 daily. This must be considered as eminently satisfactory, seeing that the territory traversed by the railway is but scantily populated so far. It is only a matter of time before this line will become exceedingly prosperous, and if continued to Tsitsihar will become a serious competitor with the Chinese Eastern Railway. The scheme for building a railway from Kaiyuen to [illegible] which town lies to the east of the S.M.R. main line, will [illegible] eventuate this spring, as the undertaking has the support of Marshal Chang. It is likely that the sum required for its construction will be raised by subscription among the gentry and business people of Fengtien province.

MUKDEN CELEBRATES IMPERIAL WEDDING.

To-day is the Wedding of the Prince Regent. Japanese residents are celebrating the event notwithstanding that there has been a sudden fall in the thermometer and it is exceedingly cold, 18 degrees of frost being registered.

The whole of the Japanese settlement is gaily decorated with flags and coloured lanterns. All business has been suspended. The streets are thronged with holiday makers. At noon there was a huge gathering at the Shrine where Shinto priests held a religious ceremony. Massed bands of the different railway departments, the schools and other organizations were in attendance. A procession over a mile long, including numerous school children, masqueraders, gaily decorated motor-cars and lorries and a pageant on horseback then proceeded to the Japanese Consulate-General, where the Consul-general made a speech and where leading citizens were invited to drink the health of the Happy Imperial Couple. In the evening there was an official banquet at the Consulate, whilst all the Japanese theatres gave free performances.

Some days ago the special representative of Marshal Chang, Chief-of-Staff Gen. Yang, left for Tokio to attend the ceremony, taking with him a number of valuable presents from the Marshal.

HEROIC HONGKONG POLICE

The Central Station Memorial: Notable Events Recalled

Four brass tablets in memory of Hongkong police officers who fell in the Great War will be unveiled shortly at Police Headquarters, Hongkong, states the "South China Morning Post."

Eleven names appear on the list of Europeans who died in Hongkong. Those who come within the range of recent memory include Det.-Insp. M. O'Sullivan and H. G. Clarke who were killed in the Gresson Street affray in 1918, Sgt. Goucher who was mauled to death by a tiger (subsequently bagged) in the New Territories and Insp. Terrett, who was drowned in mysterious circumstances when crossing the East River at night in a hunt for a fugitive who had murdered the manager of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home.

The list for Indian officers dates back to 1894, when a Sikh constable received five bullet wounds in the chest, but was still able to overpower and escort from Wing Lok Street, two men alleged to have fired at him. This man died in hospital.

A brutal murder for a paltry sum in 1909 is recalled by two Indian names. These men were murdered in cold blood at Au Tau Gap while escorting a few hundred dollars, proceeds of opium sales, into Hongkong.

Three Sikhs who met their deaths when the Cheung-chau police station was raided by armed robbers in 1912 also appear on the Indian officers' list.

Twelve names are included [illegible] Chinese role of honour. The first one met his death in [illegible] when his assailant was executed [illegible] Chinese mandarin in Kowloon City. Amongst the more recent ones are those who were killed at Gresson Street, Sergeant Sin Chuen the hero of Wing Woo Street and Cheung Cheung [illegible] outside Messrs. Ullmann's last year

SHANGHAI NEWS

PAUL REGENDANZ GONE

Clearance Papers and Injunction against Her Departure Issued on Same Day

The str. Paul Regendanz left Shanghai on Saturday, when she received clearance papers, although the Mixed Court, from which 17 of the crew are under remand in connexion with the shooting affray on board at the Kaiyosha Wharf, on the same morning issued an injunction against the vessel's departure. We understand that the ship left her berth at 1 p.m. for Kobe, Yokohama and Dairen.

On Thursday of last week, when the accused men made their third appearance in Court, it was announced that the Chinese authorities claimed jurisdiction, but the bench declined to accede to the request on that day, adjourning the case.

On Saturday morning Dr. O. Fischer applied to Messrs. Jacobs (American Assessor). Thorgeir Siqveland (Norwegian Assessor) and Magistrate Li, for the case to be heard in the Chinese Court, Dr. Fischer's request for privilege of argument, as instructed by the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, was granted and February 14 was fixed as the time.

Mr. A. S. Allan, who had assisted in the prosecution, appeared in the Mixed Court on behalf of Captain Tezdorf, an American citizen and the former master of the ship under whose command the vessel proceeded from Hamburg to Colombo. He alleged that his salary totalling Tls. 2,700 had not been paid and because of the claim Mr. Allan asked that the steamer should be enjoined against leaving the port, which request was granted and the injunction issued.

Mr. J. K. Davis, Executive Consul at the U. S. Consulate-General stated yesterday that the Shipping Office had issued the Consular clearance papers on Saturday upon the presentation of the Custom's clearances. The American authorities here take a friendly interest in the affairs of Panama, but are not officially Consul for that republic.

THE B.-A. T. STAFF

Entertained at Dinner by Sir H. Cunliffe-Owen

It sometimes unfortunately happens that the good old phrase "an enjoyable evening was spent," is just a polite fiction used by the reporter to spare the feelings of those concerned, but the phrase can be applied at its full value to the entertainment which took place at the Carlton Café on Monday night. Having been publicly entertained by the staff of the British-American Tobacco Co., Sir Hugo Cunliffe-Owen, chairman of the company, and Lady Owen last night returned the compliment and were hosts to the entire staff, guests numbering about 360. The whole of the Carlton was engaged for the evening, and there was a full programme, with many interesting novelties which made the occasion entirely enjoyable.

The dining room was effectively arranged, with painsettias a feature of the floral decoration, and the tables were set out in the form of a star, lines radiating from a pretty centre piece. A novel method of seating guests was adopted. Each was given a number, and these went into two huge dummy cigarettes—an 9-ft. pair of "Capstan" and "Three Castles"—places then being drawn for, and seats taken without any reference to seniority, an informality which added much to the pleasure of the occasion. There were no speeches.

The great feature of the after dinner programme was a series of old fashioned dances, for which members of the staff had practised assidiously. The figures of the courtly Cotillon were prettily done and were a delightful change from the democratic fox trot. The rest of the staff had devised various novelties to enliven the proceedings, and altogether the party was a very happy one.

THE PUBLIC SHOOL FOR GIRLS

Exhibition of Handicraft by Pupils in Yuyuen Rd.: A Clever Display

The exhibition of the work done during 1923 by the pupils of the Public School for Girls as displayed in their fine new building in Yu Yuen Road last Friday afternoon was a very interesting demonstration, the more especially as it was a genuine cross section of the work of the school and not a spectacular show arranged merely for public entertainment. The drawings, art work and handicraft of the different forms and even some special models made by the different classes for this occasion were selected and arranged within a week's time.

The work of the pupils in the class-rooms was a representation of the normal work of the School, and by posting the names of the girls at the door and the name of the individual pupil on her desk parents could easily see the exact conditions under which the children work. The different forms had made models of various scenes as pictured by them—a snowy Esquimo landscape with igloos, a Chinese country scene with every detail represented, even to the amah washing rice in the canal where sampans floated and fishermen threw their nets. Two oasis scenes, one the work of the Upper Fifth, the other of Form IV showed palms, tents, serpents, camels, the pyramids and even the sphinx, while a Borneo village showed the native huts on stilts, snakes and snake-charmers and natives.

EFFECTIVE EQUIVALENT.

Wandering all over the splendid, airy building one admired its adaptation to its purpose, from kindergarten to chemistry laboratory—the latter not yet fitted up. Opportunity is given to every child to develop manual dexterity and artistic ability and the specimens of work exhibited showed excellent progress and a fine spirit of workmanship. The building presents a plain exterior and has been kept purposely simple, no verandah being added to shut off the light. Accommodation is furnished for 250 children at present and extensions can be added as required.

The lower school and kindergarten, gay with pictures and decorated by the children's own work, are situated in the eastern portion of the ground floor with cloak rooms, amahs' room, and lavatories. The dining room, kitchen, janitor's office, matron's room, tuckshop and piano room are provided for in the north wing.

On the first floor are five class-rooms, each exhibiting the pupils' work, the art room, preparation room, the mistress's common room, the Headmistress's office, book store and Assembly Hall in the central point of the school. The large science room, lecture theatre, the balance room where the weights and measures are kept, the store room for apparatus, two class rooms and living quarters for two mistresses are found on the second floor, which also gives access to the gallery over part of the Assembly Hall.

GOOD FOUNDATIONS.

Speech Day, held on Thursday afternoon, was of particular interest as being the first to take place in the new building. The Trial Scene from "Alice in Wonderland" was effectively presented by eight girls, songs, recitations, a series of tableaux representing "A Royal Princess" by Christina Rossetti were splendidly given and Mrs. Murray, head mistress, presented to the prize-winners volumes beautifully bound with the Council's seal stamped upon each.

Mr. Stirling Fessenden, Chairman of the Council, addressed the school, speaking in high appreciation of the new building, which he said was an ornament to the community. He urged the children to realize that they were, day by day, building the structure of their lives just as this building had been built up, brick by brick, and to see to it that they laid good foundations for future years.

WEDDINGS

Porter—White

A very picturesque wedding was solemnized on Saturday afternoon in St. Joseph's Church when Miss Clara Muriel White, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Augustus White, was married to Mr. Ernest John Andrew Porter, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Porter of Epsom, Surrey. Mr. Porter served in the Transport service during the War, once being torpedoed and obliged to pass seven days in a life boat. Since coming to Shanghai in 1910 he has been associated with the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company. The Rev. Father Macdonald officiated and the church was decorated with palms, bamboos and white blossoms.

The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in white brocade girdled with small rows of orange blossoms which hung in knots of silver ribbon streamers at the side. The long veil which served also as train was fastened with a coronet of pearls and orange blossoms. The bridesmaids, Miss Frances White, sister of the bride, and Miss Eva White, her cousin, wore bouffant gowns of pale yellow and soft green taffeta, respectively with overskirts of georgette, and banded with fur. They wore Dolly Varden bonnets to correspond and carried muffs georgette trimmed with white fur and a spray of flowers.

The bridgroom was attended by Mr. A. Cameron as best man and Messrs. H. A. White, G. and F. Johnson and T. A. Cooper acted as ushers. A large reception at the home of the bride's parents, "Whitehaven," Avenue du Roi Albert, followed the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Porter received the congratulations of their many friends beneath a canopy of green, with floral bell. The beautiful and costly gifts, tastefully displayed, included a handsome dinner service and many choice bits of cut glass and silverware. Many showers were given to the bride and the gifts presented on these occasions were also shown with the more elaborate presents. The bridal couple have gone on a motor houseboat trip for the honeymoon. The bride wore on leaving the house a three piece costume of grey twill embroidered in rust red with a small hat to match.

Rosenbloom—Soulevich

A pretty wedding was solemnized on Sunday in Ohel Moishe Synagogue when Miss Olga Beatrice Soulevich, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Soulevich became the bride of Mr. Mark Rosenbloom, of Messrs. H. S. Honigsberg & Co., Inc. The ceremony was performed by Cantor P. Rosoff. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore silver brocade, girdled with orange blossoms, with a long train decorated with white fur and orange blossoms. Her veil of embroidered net was held in place by a wreath of orange blossoms and the bridal bouquet was white carnations. The bridesmaids, Miss Tony Whitgob and Miss Tony Gookoff, wore pale pink taffeta and carried baskets of cut flowers. Mrs. Soulevich wore a dress of silvered satin, with matching hat.

Mr. Rosenbloom was attended by Mr. H. Whitgob as best man. After the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents, 39 Haskell Road.

As an outcome of the capture of the American missionary, Dr. Schmalzreid by bandits in December, it is reported that the local authorities at Tungjen have been endeavouring to save themselves by shifting the blame on to the former, alleging that he disregarded the instructions that he should wait for his escort of troops, which had been detained by merchant junks down the river. One specific report handed to the Government is characterized as being absolutely false.

AMERICAN SHIP ON ROCKY ISLAND

The Edmore Badly Holed on Voyage from Kobe to Shanghai

The U. S. Shipping Board str. Edmore, bound from Kobe to Shanghai, ran on to the rocky ledges of Quelpart Islands late on Tuesday night in a driving rainstorm. She lies suspended bow across the rocks and stern swinging free in the water. The Admiral Line str. President Jefferson, Captain Nichols master, received the wireless S.O.S. calls, and rushed off her course to Shanghai to stand by until other aid arrives.

The unfortunate ship was ploughing through huge seas halfway between Moji and Shanghai when the master, it is thought, lost his course in the violent weather. Suddenly the rocks loomed up before him, so close that the helm could not even be thrown over and the Edmore drove directly on to the ledge and over. According to messages received in Shanghai the vessel went nose into the air and then settled down with a broken stem and shell plates smashed and twisted. There were no casualties so far as is known.

The speed must have been high for the fore part of the ship is 60 feet over the edge of the ledge, most of which is submerged. It is considered likely from the meagre reports at hand that eight or 10 feet of rock are projecting upward within the hull of the Edmore. The fore-peak and No. 1 hold are full of water.

There appears to be no great danger imminent, except in the event of bad weather.

The Shanghai offices of the Admiral Line have been informed that the President Jefferson will stand by to rescue the crew, should there be bad weather, until the West Henshaw, which has left Kobe, comes to the scene. This should have happened during last night. The mails and passengers which should have arrived in Shanghai yesterday will be 48 hours late.

SALVAGE TUGS DESPATCHED.

Determined efforts are being made to salvage the stricken ship. A tug has been despatched and a corps of divers from Korea, while more divers and assistance are being sent from Japan.

The Edmore is one of the vessels built under the direction of the American Government during the war. She is of 9,000 tons displacement and just under 500 feet in length. Her cargo consisted mainly of wheat and flour, with some general merchandise for Shanghai and Oriental ports.

PERSIA TWICE AGROUND.

The Lloyd Triestino str. Persia also experienced difficulty but nearer Shanghai, just north of the mouth of the Yangtze, when she went on to the Amherst Rocks early on Wednesday morning.

The pilot boat which was at the mouth of the river went to her assistance and managed to get her off, but as the fog came up, the smaller craft could not keep her under control, so she ran aground again in the false channel of the Yangtze about six miles from Tungsha Light.

At noon on Wednesday the St. Dominic and Samson left port but ran into a dense fog and could not approach her position until nearly 11 o'clock on Thursday morning. Lines were run to the Persia and she was finally dragged from her berth, but headway into Shanghai was slow. It was stated late yesterday that the vessel would arrive here during the night. Passengers and crew are safe.

Although the extent of damage is not known we have been informed that the Persia will be delayed in sailing and will be put into drydock immediately.

While the pilot boat went to assist, no fewer than 23 vessels had to wait a day at Fairway.

Later.

Wireless messages received in Shanghai late on Thursday evening state that the str. Edmore has been got off the rocks and will be towed to Shanghai stern first by two Shipping Board boats.

THE MUNICIPAL ORCHESTRA

The Shanghai Municipal Orchestra at their concert on Sunday afternoon rendered pieces suited to the most varied tastes in classical music, ranging from Bach and Mendelssohn to Debussy and Chabrier. This was the third time the last mentioned composer's name has appeared on the Sunday programme during the season, the other pieces comprising the overture to "Gwendoline" and a lively piece "Espania Rhapsodie" which created quite an impression on the occasion of its performance. Mr. N. Vierkowsky who performed the flute parts in the Bach Suite and Saint-Saens "Romance" was the soloist for the afternoon.

Gluck's "Overture to 'Alceste'," finely executed by the orchestra, has a haunting sense of sadness and impending fate which at the outset strikes the tragic note of the opera to follow. Few composers are so entirely satisfying as Bach. In the Suite in B. Minor for flute and strings, despite the close texture in design of the overture the sublime grandeur is never lost whilst in the dance movements which it precedes the bucolic notes of the flute add the effect of simplicity and thus is achieved the unity of perfection.

Mendelssohn's incidental music to "The Midsummer's Night's Dream" with its elf-like quality was in pleasing contrast to the Bach selection. In their interpretation of the three pieces from Debussy's "Children's Corner Suite" the orchestra succeeded in bringing out the Rodinesque quality of his work—that evanescent spirit which emerges from the raw material of sound and quickens it much in the same way as the great sculptor's creations endowed even the rough stone with feeling.

Another flute solo was given in Saint-Saens Romance for Flute with Orchestral Accompaniment and here it should be said that both in this piece and in Bach's Suite Mr. Vierkowsky's control of his instrument was superb. There was nothing to suggest effort on his part and he preserved a fine harmony of interpretation throughout.

SCHOOLBOY STOWAWAYS

Captured at Woosung: American Youths' Amazing Adventure

Dressed in their Sunday best and posing as first-class passengers, Allen Kees, "Sandy" Collins and Clisby Du Bose, three American schoolboys, on Monday morning stowed away in the str. President Lincoln in the hope of reaching America.

The young adventurers were caught at Woosung, a wireless message from Mr. C. L. Boynton, principal of the American School, having reached the ship while waiting for the tide in the anchorage. Without ceremony they were landed by tug at Woosung, whence a motor-car brought them to Shanghai and retribution.

The vessel did not leave at 9.30 a.m. as expected, but at one o'clock. This delay played havoc with their carefully laid plans, enabling the school to institute inquiries during the morning. Of course, the plot was known to their schoolmates, but how could they disclose it? Finally, however, one boy gave the game away. Scarcely able to believe the youth's statement, the astounded head acted promptly. He wirelessed the ship and as she had been delayed it was thus possible for the boys to be landed.

WIRELESS AND TIDES.

The deathblow to their hopes came swiftly though not unexpectedly to one bright youth. This boy, Kees, is known among his schoolboy set as the wireless "shark." He was in the wireless room on the President Lincoln and heard his fate spelled out in Morse. Listening to the familiar dot-dashes he mentally decoded the message, which he conveyed to the other two boys. The tides at Woosung had proved their complete undoing, delaying the vessel until the message came through.

It is reported that the youths had become discontented on losing certain privileges through misdemeanours so decided to leave for the liberty loving land.

WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC AT HARBIN

Russian Girls' Need the Slave-Traders Opportunity: Will the Chinese Act?

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Jan. 23.

The White-slave traffic from Harbin, still appears to be in a flourishing state and dealers in human flesh both European and Japanese are continually coming to the town to acquire fresh goods. As there are so many young Russian girls in the place, whose lot is a very hard one, it is not surprising that these monsters are able to pick and choose and take away with them innocent maidens of both education and beauty. The local newspapers expose these people from time to time, with warnings to the foolish, but this is of little avail and the Chinese authorities do not appear to be able to put a stop to this loathsome trading. A victim who has recently returned to Harbin warns girls in the public press about a certain former Russian officer, who is now an agent for some Japanese brothel-keeper at Changchun. This man knows the ropes very well and in order to avoid any trouble when passports are examined in the train, takes his victims by motor-car to the first station out of Harbin, subsequently getting off the train at Kuanchengtze, the station before Changchun, where passports are again examined. To drive from there to Changchun is only a matter of 20 minutes and there is no cordon of police posts to go through so [illegible]

As a rule girls are kept in Changchun in order to have their initial training before they are shipped on further to make room for new goods. The most infamous resort there is a restaurant much advertised in the Japanese papers appearing in Manchuria, the girls being described as Russian geishas as beautiful as flowers, even the charges for accommodation for the yellow patrons of the place are printed.

Not long ago one of the girls, aged but 19, committed suicide by taking an overdose of cocaine. It appears that though she had been in the place not over a month, she had contracted disease and her master wished her to return to Harbin. The girl refused and insisted that she be sent to hospital at Changchun at the owner's expense. For two days words passed between the two, the Japanese refusing to pay for medical attendance and the girl refusing to go back to Harbin. On the third day the girl locked herself in her room and took the fatal overdose, being already dead when she was called for by guests who had arrived at the place.

Though there was an inquiry afterwards the place has not been shut up but thing became so warm for the former Russian officer, who, doubtless having accumulated a small stock of dollars, has now left for pastures new either in South Manchuria or North China. It [illegible] cocaine habit, thanks to their [illegible] are forced to live.

DR. THOMPSON ESCAPES

Peking, Feb. 1.

Dr. Thompson, who was captured by bandits on January 24, telegraphs that he escaped yesterday evening and has safely reached Paotowchen.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

GOVERNOR OF HONGKONG IN MANILA

Manila, Feb. 3.

The American and Filipino programme for the entertainment of Sir Reginald Stubbs, the Governor of Hongkong, and Lady Stubbs will [illegible] in honour of President Wilson's friend, Governor-General Wood [illegible] luncheon in honour of Sir Reginald Stubbs, other guests being representative Filipino leaders.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BURIED CITY OF THE SEA

A Mongolian Pompeii Being Explored

In the deserts of Mongolia, far away from cities and civilization, a rumour originated some years ago of a dead city, abandoned by its inhabitants for centuries, and buried ever more deeply beneath shifting sands, says a writer in the "New York Times." In 1907 a Russian scientific expedition, led by Professor Kozlov, set our with the purpose of searching for the city. The task was difficult, because the nomadic tribes in the region were suspicious of strangers and slow to give information. When the Russian exploring party approached Kara-Khoto with their Mongolian guide they were compelled to plough through sand drifts 15 feet deep. It was this sand, together with the arid climate of Mongolia, that had preserved the city's walls and monuments over a period of many centuries. The neighbouring tribesmen, who had settled near the city ten generations before, declared that it always had been there as far as their records reached.

AN ANCIENT LIBRARY.

The streets and houses of Kara Khoto have been largely obliterated by waves of sand. But Kozlov's party found many interesting memorials in this Mongolian Pompeii. There were remains of Buddhist temples and Mohomedan mosques. There were packages of Chinese paper money, bearing grim inscriptions threatening counterfeiters with the loss of their heads. There were silver ornaments and money, carefully [illegible]

The most important discovery of all was a cone-shaped monument outside the city walls. In this monument was a library of 2,000 books, written in seven Eastern languages. In the thirteenth or fourteenth century the Chinese had sent out an army to capture Kara Khoto. For several years they besieged the city in vain. Then a Chinese engineer conceived the idea of cutting off the water supply. He blocked up with sand bags the river which formerly flowed through the city, and turned its course in a different direction. The people, desperate with thirst, dug a deep well inside the walls, but failed to get enough water to sustain life. Then the population buried all its treasures. The chief of the tribe killed his wife and daughter with his own hand, and ordered a mass sortie through a breach in the wall. The doomed tribe dashed out, only to be slaughtered in the open by the superior forces of the Chinese.

SIGNS OF HIGH CUTTURE.

The Russians found in the monument many signs of high culture on the part of the former inhabitants. There were books in Persian, Arabic and Hindu script, as well as volumes in Mongolian and Chinese. There was a collection of more than 300 sacred Buddhist pictures, painted [illegible]

The expedition extended its [illegible] it was said no white man had ever been seen. The nomads who lived about the lake made every effort to prevent the [illegible] on it. On the other side of the [illegible] the Russians found three Buddhist monks, wild men, with shaggy, matted hair, and beards that had never been shaved. Penetrating into the mountains of northern Tibet, the party encountered a band of mounted robbers, who attacked them with swarms of arrows. These were no match for the firearms of the Russians, and the robbers were beaten off.

A new exploring party has been organized for a three years' [illegible] Professor Kozlov, who again accompanies the expedition, says its purpose is purely [illegible] The first year will be spent in Mongolia, the second in Tibet, and the third will be devoted to the homeward journey, which may be through India or Chinese Turkestan. Two women will be included in the party.

ARMED ROBBERS IN TSINGAO

A Growing Menace: Threatened New Year Strike of Unpaid, Inefficient Police

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Feb. 1.

It is becoming more and more evident that so long as the wages of the police are left unpaid, the community cannot expect any degree of efficiency in the control of crime. With the fast approach of the Chinese New Year, a series of thefts and armed robberies have occurred in Tsingtao, the police always arriving at the scene after the miscreants had made good their escape.

Added to this disgraceful state of affairs, there is the threat of a police walk-out on Chinese New Year's eve unless part of their unpaid wages is forthcoming before then.

On the 28th instant a gang of Chinese robbers broke into a native residence on Kwang-Hsi Road and, threatening the inmates with a toy pistol, they removed from the premises a quantity of personal effects together with a sum of money. On the 29th, the home of a Japanese was broken into, under similar circumstances. A score of such occurrences are taking place all over this district at this time.

BANDITS ON THE QUI VIVE.

To make matters worse, reports are current to the effect that bandits, with the connivance of certain sections of the military guards in Kiaochow Territory, are once more making their way for this district. Should the police walk-out, as threatened, the safety of the community would be gravely endangered.

The Chief of Police and the Administration, however, are exerting their utmost efforts towards arriving at a satisfactory solution of the difficulties ahead. The former has prohibited the burning of fire-crackers during the festive season. The reason for this prohibition is to prevent armed robbers firing their pistols simultaneously with the bursting of crackers in an endeavour to take advantage of the noise of the latter in achieving their nefarious ends. With this prohibition, however, a large number of local Chinese are dissatisfied, contending that the discharge of fire-crackers is a time-honoured custom that should not be interfered with, and that it is up to the police to keep the peace by improving their efficiency, especially at this time of the year.

A JAPANESE PROTEST.

It is now learned that in view of the constant menace to the safety of Japanese residents in this district, the Japanese Minister, Mr. Yoshizawa, has lodged a protest with the Chinese Government. The latter, according to reports, have instructed the Deputy Governor to devise measures for the better protection of foreigners here.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE AT NANKING

Christian Colleges and Universities

From a Correspondent.

Nanking, Feb. 5.

Ginling College is acting as hostess for a three days' conference of Christian institutions of higher learning, which opened on February 3. Over 200 delegates were registered in advance who come from over 20 different colleges and universities and represent about 3,000 students. The conference programme includes general meetings, but emphasis is being laid upon the departmental sections for the discussions of technical matters and common problems in the teaching of each subject, of which there are more than 20. Administrative officers meet separately from the academic delegates.

The President of the Association is Dr. Hawks Pott of St. John's, the Vice-President Miss Fenn of the Women's College of Peking University, the secretary Dr. E. V. Jones of Nanking University, and Dr. C. H. Westbrook is the treasurer.

Dr. Harold Balme of Shantung Christian University, Mrs. Lawrence Thurston, President of Ginling College, Prof. Sarvis of Nanking University, and Mr. E. H. Cressy, the Executive Secretary, constitute the Committee on Arrangements.

The conference is housed in the beautiful new buildings which Ginling College opened in the autumn and where there are 96 young women studying for their degrees. It is hoped that the conference will afford opportunity for stimulating discussions of college problems and will add strength to the whole Christian movement in China.

LISTENING TO THE CHINESE

The "Chinese Recorder" for February

Beginning with the editorial section, which is headed "Some present problems of Christian living in China," we find the "Recorder" readers are given the benefit of the editor's listenings to frank and thoughtful discussions in which Chinese interested in the Christian movement discussed its meaning and significance for their own lives. Chinese proverbs appropriately accompany and illuminate each paragraph. These listenings form an interesting excursion into Chinese thought regarding some vital questions. Among the more significant remarks are: "The way to inculcate vocational ethical standards in Chinese Christians, is, among other things, to lay more emphasis on old Chinese principles;" (honesty and confidence are referred to, and, by the way, the bank manager mentioned was not resigning, but on the eve of taking up a more responsible position in London in connexion with the same bank): "The Chinese standards and motives of conduct are more ethical than religious;" "Chinese Christians tend much to ignore their responsibility for community and national life;" "Chinese Christians should not give up their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Neither should they expect to be treated differently because they are Christians." Although such disjointed quotations are apt to be misleading we quote this reference to the increase in divorce which is said to be due, in some cases, "to the fact that while in the past secondary marriage with a desirable woman was a comparatively easy matter it is now more difficult. In other words divorce is often the attempt to get free from an unsuitable wife married in youth and secure a suitable one. In such cases divorce indicates a move away from polygamy to monogamy."

In his quest for a religion that will meet the needs of the China of to-day Mr. J. D. Macrae, among other distinctive features, claims that Christianity is a religion of experience, not a system; that it is creative in the sphere of character, progressive not static, ethical and redemptive, and is a world-wide fellowship in which China claims to make her contribution to the spiritual enrichment of the race.

DR. ARTHUR SMITH'S RECOLLECTIONS.

Dr. A. H. Smith continues his reminiscences as to how Mission work looked when he came to China. He speaks of discouraging beginnings and toilsome years, old controversies and notable gatherings, the pioneer stage of Chinese study and the men who prepared the first text-books. The veteran writer has not lost in the narration the faculty so well-known in his speaking of seeing and indicating the humorous points.

In his further instalment of the Confucian theory of moral and religious education and its bearing on the future civilization of China, Mr. Zia shows how Confucius met opposition and handicaps but never got discouraged, how open-minded he was, and although poor all his life had a passion for truth. The common sense and personality of the sage come up in connexion with pedagogical methods. Among the other contributions in this issue perhaps the most significant is Mr. K. T. Chung's account of a city-wide evangelistic effort which comprised all Christian bodies and calls for the heading of Indigenous Evangelism in Shanghai." In the contributions by Mr. Reichelt (A Taoist story of Christ) and Mr. Millican (Chen Ju) we have research work which ought to stimulate others to like studies.

CHINA Journal of Science & Arts, edited by Mr. A. de C. Sowerby and Dr. J. C. Ferguson, is a bi-monthly, profusely illustrated magazine. It contains authentic articles written by experts on the Arts, Literature and Science of China. The annual subscription is $10.00 Shanghai currency, or $6.00 gold for U.S.A. and Canada. Office:—Room 102, the Ben Building, Shanghai. Central 3247.

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Sailings from COPENHAGEN, [illegible] BURG, CHRISTIANIA, [illegible] ANTWERP to ST. THOMAS [illegible] shipment to the GREAT [illegible] ANTILLES), CRISTOBAL [illegible] shipment (to CENTRAL [illegible] PORTS), LOS ANGELES HARBOUR, SAN FRANCISCO, PORTLAND [illegible] SEATTLE TACOMA [illegible] (with transhipment to [illegible] PACIFIC PORTS).
TO SOUTH PACIFIC
Sailings from COPENHAGEN [illegible] BURG, CHRISTIANIA, [illegible] ANTWERP to ST. THOMAS [illegible] shipment to the GREAT [illegible] LESSER ANTILLES), CRISTOBAL [illegible] (with transhipment to CENTRAL AMERICAN PORTS), GUAYAQUIL, CALLAO, MOLLENDO, IQUIQUE, ANTOFAGASTA, VALPARAISO, CHUANO and TALCAHUANO (with transhipment to other SOUTH PACIFIC PORTS).
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ence of 40 per cent. in the purchase price: I am also aware that the plaintiffs have had, on their own admission, this money from the landlord; and taking it all into consideration I hold that the plaintiffs have failed to satisfy me that the bargain is not correctly represented in the agreement. The defendant is entitled to set off $920 on this head, and as the plaintiffs never kept their bargain about the advertisement I must take the defendant's figures as to that, and he is entitled to set off $195 here. This means the plaintiffs are entitled to judgment for $1,180, with interest at 8 per cent. per annum from March 15, 1923 (when they made the definite offer to hand over the lease) to date, with costs.

Mr. Master asked for an order that only a portion of the taxed costs be paid by defendant, he having won on the issues as to the water rate and advertisement, the first of which formed an important part of the case.

His Lordship—I shall make no special order. The less said about it the better. Your client has had the business all these months, and only paid a sum of money into court nine months after purchasing the business, and then with a denial of liability.

A CASE FOR EXPERTS

Building Contractor's Disputed Claim

At H.M. Supreme Court on Monday, before his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner, Kung Chang-tai sued C. P. Rakusen for Tls. 425, balance of account for repairs done and alterations made at No. 49A Nanking Road.

Mr. R. C. Faithfull, who appeared for plaintiff, said the matter was a building dispute which ought not to be difficult to adjust. Defendant said plaintiff had not done certain work, and plaintiff said he had, and counsel agreed with the suggestion that a practical man should be called in to decide the question.

Mr. R. F. C. Master, for plaintiff, said his client had very fairly suggested that the dispute be decided by any firm of British architects whom plaintiff liked to choose: but no reply had been received to this offer. Therefore, if plaintiff now agreed and asked for and adjournment, he ought to pay the costs.

The case was adjourned for a fortnight, and the question of costs reserved.

THE AVENUE JOFFRE SHOOTING

W. H. Shaw Brought up in Police Court on Charge of Assault on Police

The shooting affray at 280 Aveiue Joffre was recalled last Friday when W. H. Shaw apptared before Mr. G. W. King in H.M. Police Court to answer a charge of assaulting Detective Emilianoff, of the French Police. Shaw, who is convalescent and looked very pale after his stay in hospital, was allowed to be seated.

Mr. C. Mansel Reece, who appeared on behalf of the French Police, stated that he wished to ask for a remand until Shaw and Lowry, also under arrest, could be tried together.

Det. Sgt. O. B. Henry, of the Shanghai Municipal Police, gave evidence of arrest. When cautioned Shaw made no reply. After the arrest he took the accused to the General Hospital, where he left him under arrest.

Examined by Mr. Reece as to why prisoner was taken to the hospital in an ambulance, Det.-Sgt. Henry stated that Lowry had told him that Shaw was in a very weak condition. This was also confirmed by the doctor.

Mr. Reece asked for a remand until the 7th instant.

Mr. Goldring opposed this and asked that the case should be dealt with forthwith unless the prosecution agreed to bail.

This was objected to by Mr. Reece. He had given the French Police to understand that he would ask for a remand and was not therefore prepared to go on with the case.

Mr. Goldring asked why it was the French Police were not in court that afternoon. He had waited in Court in the morning for an hour for them to turn up but they did not do so. The case consequently had to be postponed. Inasmuch as they had not turned up yet, despite the postponement, he was entitled to ask that the case be dismissed.

His Worship.—You are entitled to apply but your application will not be granted.

Mr. Reece stated that the remand was necessary as the case was very intricate and necessitated the collection of further evidence.

Asked by the Magistrate, with reference to the question of bail, what would become of Shaw when he left the Court—whether he would go home, to prison or the hospital—Mr. Goldring stated that but for the action of the French Police in arresting defendant's wife for the French Consul to examine her, Shaw would not be in hospital.

Mr. Reece objected to bail on the ground that there was a danger of defendant escaping from the jurisdiction of the Court.

Bail was refused and the case was adjourned until the 7th instant.

Mr. Goldring said he should appeal against the Magistrate's decision. This appeal was accordingly made in the afternoon before the Judge in chambers.

French Detective's Story of Trap Set to Catch Alleged Opium Dealers

The hearing was continued on Thursday.

There were two new charges brought against the accused, by the police of the International Settlement, *viz*: (1) That they entered into negotiation, with one Wu Yük-sih, to deal in opium, contrary to the King's Regulations, at Boone Road in December last; and (2) the larceny of $885 belonging to the same Chinese.

In the assault case, Mr. P. W. Goldring and Mr. Tycho Wing appeared to defend Lowry, and Mr. Goldring and Dr. G. Sellet defended Shaw, Mr. C. Mansel Reece appearing to prosecute on behalf of the French authorities.

Mr. E. T. Maitland prosecuted in the second case.

Det. Sub-Inspector Conduit, in giving evidence of arrest, said he executed the warrant at 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening at No. 280 Avenue Joffre. They were cautioned, and made no statement of any kind.

Mr. Maitland asked for a remand on these charges until Monday, saying that he would not object to bail. Owing to the holidays, the prosecution were unable to get their Chinese witnesses.

Mr. Wing—It is very unreasonable to ask that these proceedings be protracted in order that some Chinese may go holiday-making.

A remand was ordered until this morning, bail being allowed.

The court then proceeded with the original charge, *viz.*, that of having assaulted a French police officer, Emilianoff.

SETTING THE TRAP.

In opening the case for the prosecution, Mr. Mansel Reece said that the actual assault took place on January 23, but antecedent to that the French police received information—.

Mr. Wing objected to the Court being told what information the French police received.

Mr. Mansel Reece—I must explain how the case arose. The police received information that certain—

Mr. Wing—I do object. This is absolutely hearsay evidence.

Mr. Goldring—All we are charged with is an assault.

The Magistrate said that he could not stop counsel at that stage, and continuing, Mr. Mansel Reece said that the French police received information that a man named Shaw was dealing in opium. Acting on this information Detective Emilianoff was instructed to make inquiries with regard to this opium traffic and, in doing so, on two or three occasions he visited Shaw's house in Avenue Joffre to ascertain something of the position and ultimately bring the matter to light. The detective's inquiries culminated on the evening of January 23, when Emilanoff called again at the house, the door being opened by Shaw. A quasi-business transaction with Shaw ensued, accused producing opium and discussing the question, and then complainant was assaulted by Shaw and his two friends—Lowry and Ledoux, the latter of whom had since been charged in the American Court. At the time of the assault Shaw had received information that Emilianoff was a French police officer and of course knew what his business was, and Shaw and his confederates had a motive for smashing complainant up if possible.

Dr. T. M. Burton, who attended Shaw in the General Hospital, gave evidence that he had received a punctured wound in the left side, two inches below the nipple. The bullet had struck a fountain pen in Shaw's pocket, causing it to travel round a rib and lodge in his back some two inches from the spine.

THE KNOCK-OUT BLOW.

Dr. Fresson gave evidence as to his examination of Emilianoff on the day following the shooting. There were several contusions on complainant's face, but the most serious mark was on the left angle of the jaw, raising a lump and a violent contusion so that complainant could hardly open his mouth. There were also two or three contusions on the forehead and several others on the back of the head. The blow on the jaw was characteristic of what was known in boxing circles as a knock-out blow, and was quite enough to knock the detective out.

His Worship—Were the other blows characteristic of anything in the fighting line?

Dr. Fresson—No, except that from the nature of the injuries it appeared they were all caused by the fist, not by any sharp instrument.

Mr. Wing—The injury to the jaw might have been caused by a blow with the open hand?

Witness—I do not think so.

Mr. Wing—You don't say positively it could not!

Witness—It certainly could not.

Mr. Wing—If the detective thought he was in danger of his life he would be proceeding on a wrong hypotheses!

Witness—Not at all, because a knock-out blow on the jaw makes a man senseless and unable to analyse whether he is fainting or dying.

Mr. Wing—I have had many blows on the jaw, and I am afraid I cannot agree with you.

THE DETECTIVE'S STORY.

The complainant, Det. G. A. Emilianoff, then told his story of the affair, saying that on January 22 he was informed by his Inspector that the owner of car No. 2730 was dealing in opium, and instructed to make inquiries. At the Traffic Department, he found the car was owned by Shaw, and he was then instructed to visit Shaw's house and present himself as an opium broker, in order to obtain evidence, and to say that a certain well-known Frenchman had recommended him to call at the house. Witness first called at 280 Avenue Joffre at 6 o'clock on the evening of the 22nd., Shaw being at home with a lady, who soon left saying "Well, I'll leave you alone." Witness began to open a deal, saying he had been told Shaw had some cargo, and asking for prices and a sample. Shaw said he had no sample in the house at the moment, but offered to sell at $43 per pound. Witness replied that his employer would not give more than $36, and would buy four cases at that price. Shaw answered that this could easily be done, because he had 43 cases in stock. He added that delivery could take place at that house, but witness suggested this should not be done as the removal of the cases might arouse suspicion, to which Shaw replied that he was not afraid, because he was paying the French police. Shaw invited witness to call on the following day at tiffin time, and witness did so. Shaw then displaying a sample of opium which he described as the "knife" brand. Witness smelled it and, in the manner of an opium broker, started to break it when Shaw asked him not to do so, saying there were other buyers calling that afternoon and that was the only sample he had. He asked witness to call again at 6 o'clock that evening, but witness was an hour late in keeping the appointment. Lowry and Ledoux were then in the house, and the former informed witness that Shaw would be back at 8 o'clock.

SHADOWS.

Returning at that hour, witness observed shadows on the window indicating that there were several people moving about the front room, but when witness knocked at the door nearly two minutes elapsed before the door was opened, and then Shaw was alone. They sat down together at a table and began to discuss the opium deal, witness saying that the buyers would not give more than $37 per lb., Shaw replying that he could dispose of the stuff at $38. Finally witness said he would pay $38 at his own risk, and then asked to see a sample. Shaw then rose and said: What is your name." Upon being told that it was "George Lang," and that witness was a Russian, Shaw asked: "Do you really come on behalf of this Frenchman?" Witness was about to explain that he was not exactly acting on behalf of the Frenchman when he received a blow on the jaw which sent him to the floor, dazed. Upon attempting to rise, he received a number of blows, and, as he was crouching against the wall on one knee and with his left arm shielding his head, he saw three pairs of feet around him. The blows were struck by more than one person. Thinking that he might become unconscious if more blows were struck, witness cried "I am a French detective, I'll shoot," but the blows did not cease. Witness had by this time drawn his revolver and, raising it under his left forearm—which was still shielding his head—fired, without seeing where he was shooting. The blows ceased and witness got up, then seeing Shaw standing with his right hand pressed to his side, and Lowry and Ledoux standing against the wall. In leaving the room witness avoided going by the front door, as that would have meant turning his back towards the three men. He therefore made his way out cautiously by the back door.

Dr. Sellet—Did you really think you were in danger? You were armed, but these men were not armed.

Witness—Are you sure they were not armed?

Dr. O'Hara, called by Dr. Sellett, stated he examined Shaw upon his arrival at the General Hospital, and found that the bullet had penetrated the left lung, and witness removed it from his back at a point a shade lower than the point of entry.

Mr. E. Sidaine, assistant of the French Police Criminial Investigation Department, who visited the house shortly after the shooting took place, described the scene. A gramophone had been overturned on to the sofa, records were lying about broken, and chairs were overturned. On the floor was a bag belonging to Shaw, containing a cigarette case and 109 rounds of revolver ammunition, of the same calibre as a revolver found in the house.

When the proceedings were resumed in the afternoon, complainant was re-called and, questioned by his Worship, said that the blows came from all directions, and at such speed that witness was sure several men struck him. He sometimes got two blows together.

MAH JONGG AND CHINESE CURIOS.

This concluded the case for the prosecution, and Mr. Wing at once asked that Lowry be discharged, there being no evidence against him at all, but counsel's application was not granted.

Lowry then gave evidence, stating that he was a traveller and did business at the river ports, and was now making arrangements with Shaw to open a branch at Peking. On the evening in question, he had dinner with Shaw, leaving the room when complainant whom witness did not know to be a police officer—called. Upon hearing the shot fired, witness ran into the room and saw Shaw holding his side and the detective, making for the back door, cry "French police officer! French police officer!" Witness had not the slightest reason for supposing that he was, and was not armed. He had no knowledge of any opium at the place, and had never had any dealings in opium. He was a dealer in Chinese curios, mah jongg sets, etc.

The defendant Shaw was then called. He said that the complainant called at noon on the day in question and said he had a business proposition. Some reference was made to mah jongg—(witness was a dealer in mah jongg sets and curios), and witness asked him to call again that evening. When he did come and they sat down to talk, complainant confessed that the business he had come upon was not mah jongg but opium. "You have made a mistake. You have come to the wrong house," said witness, but complainant "kind of winked" as much as to say that witness need not be afraid and that he could fix the business up all right. Witness invited him to "please go," but he offered some money, and persisted in offering some money, finally so annoying witness that he gave the man a slap in the face with his open hand, whereupon he immediately drew his revolver and fired. Lowry then came in, and witness exclaimed "This son of a gun has shot me in the heart." The complainant, who was behaving like a maniac, cried out that he was a French policeman, and ran out of the house. Neither Lowry or Ledoux touched complainant, and witness only gave him a single light blow with the flat of the hand.

Mr. Mansel Reece—You are a professional boxer?—I was, but am not now.

What sudden whim induced you to abandon prize fighting and go in for selling mah jongg sets?—No sudden fancy at all.

When did you first know the man was a policeman?—Not until after I had been shot and he told us. I thought he was a lunatic with a gun.

Asked by the Court how he accounted for the injuries certified by Dr. Fresson, witness thought the doctor had been mistaken. He accounted for plaintiff's story by the fact that Emilianoff lost his head and fired, and had to make up some excuse.

J. R. Ledoux, a motor engineer, corroborated Shaw's story in most details, and denied that either Lowry or himself struck complainant, while Shaw only gave him an open handed slap.

His Worship found the case against Lowry had not been proved and discharged him. He believed the story of the prosecution against Shaw, and found him guilty, sentencing him to two months' imprisonment with hard labour. In view of the wound Shaw had received the sentence would be under medical supervision, and if the doctor found he could not do hard labour, it would be cancelled.

TARDY WITNESSES

In the U. S. Court for China on Monday afternoon, before his Honour Judge Lobingier, Mr. H. R. Snyder, acting as special assistant U. S. District Attorney, moved that A. P. Pattison, who has been in the custody of the U. S. Court in Shanghai, charged with alleged embezzlement, be released on his own recognizance, pending trial. Mr. Snyder stated that the defendant had been in custody for a considerable time awaiting the arrival of witnesses for the prosecution, who had refused to come to Shanghai for a considerable time, although their expenses had been offered them. Under the circumstances, since the defendant had unsuccessfully endeavoured to secure bail his further detention seemed unjustified. In consideration of these facts the Judge ordered that the defendant be released on his own recognizance until further order.

PSYCHOLOGY AND DISEASE

The Nature of the Soul and its Connexion with the Human Body: Origin of Diseases Traced to Childhood's Repressed Complexes

Before the Quest Society last week Dr. Bary gave an interesting lecture entitled, "Psychology and Disease—in which he dealt with earliest theories relating to psychic forces, the relation of psychic activity to the diseases of the body and the latest developments in experimental science.

The lecturer pointed out that from the very beginning of the conscious life of man and before the dawn of the light of scientific investigation or of any definite knowledge of the structure of the human body, philosophers and theologians have endeavoured to ascertain and explain the nature of the soul which was thought to be spiritual and on an entirely different basis to the material body. Since that time and all down through the ages speculative philosophers, clever logicians and men of science have continued their investigations and formulated theories with no definite or universally accepted result.

LAST CENTURY'S DISCOVERIES.

Towards the end of the last century psychology began to concern biologists and physicians rather than the philosophers and theologians, and with the great strides made in natural science and medicine coupled with a wave of materialism it was not unnatural for a pronounced change to occur in the prevailing mental attitude towards all psychic phenomena which came to be considered as merely the action of the nerve cells in the human brain.

One of the German biologists, Charles Vogt, held that all ideas were the result of secretions in the brain in the same manner as that the bile is the secretion of the liver. When biologists entered the realm of psychology the methods of speculative philosophers were abandoned and the more accurate experimentation applied to physiology and other branches of science were adopted and hence was evolved the term "experimental psychology." It is now possible by means of the most accurate devices and instruments specially invented for the purpose to define, express, measure or compare nearly all psychic actions such as thought, feeling, memory, attention, imagination, etc

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL RELATIONS.

After dealing with the methods of experimental psychology Dr. Bary said that it has not only established definite relations between the mental and physical states and enabled us to measure the speed at which they act and react, but it revealed the fact that the nature of ideas is frequently determined by the physical state. Thus in employing the word test after physical fatigue it has been noticed that the mental association of one word with another is more frequently that of sound than of logic.

Modern developments have assisted in many different branches of work, amongst others education and criminology. An illustration of the pactical adaptation of experimental psychology to education is in the selection of a course of study or profession most suitable to the individual mental capacity and natural predilection. In Germany and the United States special psychotechical institutes have already been established where the best career for an individual can be established with almost mathematical accuracy.

THE ORIGIN OF DISEASE.

With regard to disease the materialists claim that it has a purely physical origin: the psychologists contend that it is in a large measure due to mental or psychic imperfections. Many diseases are unaccompanied by any perceptible change of tissue as is often the case with palsy, fits, loss of consciousness or power of speech. Such diseases are known as 'functional' and, in spite of the materialistic trend of modern scientific research, the belief is spreading that they owe their origin to purely psychic influences. Thus, for example, the idea occurs that the arm cannot be moved without causing severe pain. This may produce a palsy of the arm hardly discernible from palsy resulting from anatomical changes in the brain. In this connexion very interesting results have been obtained from a study of the consequences of Compulsory Workman's Compensation Laws. Eliminating the many cases of conscious attempt at fraud, it is shown that recovery and return to work is generally much quicker where no compensation at all is paid or where it is paid in advance in one sum than when payable periodically for the duration of the illness. In the former instance there is a strong mental incentive to quick recovery which is absent in the latter.

It appears that most functional nervous diseases have their origin in repressed complexes formed in earliest childhood, as for example the youngest child may develop neurosis as the result of two complexes formed on the one hand by the parents exalted idea of their youngest, and on the other by the older and jealous children treating him as a nonentity thus giving rise to the complex of inferiority.

FUNCTIONS OF THE GLAND.

Having found that serious and prolonged diseases may be due to no physiological but purely psychic conditions it remains to trace the means by which the cause produces the effect as revealed by the latest researches in experimental psychology. The existence of certain glands producing different secretions such as the saliva, bile, the urine, etc. had long been known to medical science but the functions of other glands which produce no secretions such as the thyroid, suprarenal, etc., were quite unknown until quite comparatively recently. We are also now aware that the so called endocrine glands are of vast importance in the life of the individual. Their secretions are known technically as hormons which enter the blood in very small quantities, and a study of their effect necessitates their being considered as actual poisons.

GRAVES' RESEARCHES.

The English physician, Graves, proved that excessive production of the hormons of the thyroid gland produced certain physical symptoms such as abnormal perspiration, irregular heart, protruding eyes, etc., which are the characteristics of the disease which bears his name; on the other hand diminished thyroid Secretions he found gave rise to totally different physical symptms, and also mental disorders. More recent investigations have shown that the hormons of other endocrine glands have also their peculiar and important functions, and when greater or less in quantity than normal produce physical and mental abnormalities. The suprarenal gland secretes the socalled adrenalin which causes in excess a prompt and considerable contraction of the blood vessels. Derangement of the hypohysis (a small gland under the brain) produces enlargement of the feet and hands and lower part of the face and sometimes the gigantic growth of the whole body. Giants have, for example, suffered from the over-activity of that gland in childhood. We have also known that the poisonous effects of one gland are normally neutralized by those of another.

Abnormal conditions of the secretary glands are the cause of many well known and serious diseases: thus excessive secretions of the thyroid gland give rise to Graves disease to which reference has already been made; deficiency in the secretions myxoedema and imbecility; whilst the destruction of the thyroid produces cretinism. It is now generally admitted that the actual cause of insanity is abnormal conditions of the secretary glands, and through this discovery we are [illegible] which until quite recently were considered incurable. I could give you many interesting examples that have occurred in my own experience, but the time at my disposal does not permit to do so.

WORK ON THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

It may now be stated, as established beyond question, that not only the glands, physiological and nervous, frequently caused by abnormalalities in the secretary glands, but that the activities of the nervous system have an important effect on the secretary glands. It is now many years ago that I demonstrated at a medical congress that it was possible to produce salivation by stimulating certain areas of the cortex of the brain, Subsequently it was shown by the celebrated Russian physiologist, Pavlov, that by purely mental or psychic processes the secretary juices of the stomach could be stimulated. Such phenomena are common in the every day life of humanity.

Experimental psycology has established the conclusion that temperament and character determine to a much greater extent than was before thought possible the physiological characteristics of the individual. It is seen in his features, in his gait, in his manners as well as in his susceptibility to disease. It has been truly said that "as a man thinketh so is he."

WHERE CURE LIES.

Having shown what a very important part the psychic forces play in the cause of disease, is it not natural to suppose that those same forces might also be employed in its cure! As a matter of fact modern experimental psychology has effected a great change in ideas, not only as regards the origin but the treatment of disease. It is now generally admitted that a cure is by no means the result of prescribed medicines but also due to a combination of psychological conditions which, until recently, were not understood, or generally ignored. While those psychological conditions always existed, their therapeutic value has been vastly increased by the konwledge which has enabled their conscious application by physicians on a scientific basis.

HUMANITY'S MISFORTUNE.

After dealing in detail with hypnotic treatment and "the talking cure." Dr. Bary, referring to the psycho-analytical methods of Freud, said: It is unfortunate for humanity that the full psycho-analytical treatment can never be widely practised, for the following reasons: Not many physicians possess in themselves those psychic qualities that are essential to the successful practitioner. Moreover, very few physicians can afford the time or possess the infinite patience required to effect a cure and none but well-to-do people can afford to pay the fees that must be charged for such services.

THE PSYCHIC FORCE.

In conclusion the lecturer said:—Suggestion plays an important part in the life of every individual, in his religion, his politics, his business and in all the relations of man to man. It is at the basis of all appreciation of or genius for music, art, poetry, etc. It is entirely disassociated with brute force or more cleverness and can often accomplish as much or more than those qualities are specially expected to achieve. The people of a while continent trembled at the word of Napoleon, but paid no attention to Louis XVIII and yet each spoke as the chief executive of the same great nation with similar armies and competent generals to support them. An ignorant damagogue may have a greater influence over a mob than the wisest statesman, and a fraudulent quack a wider popularity than a talented and learned physician. In sickness or in health and in the whole range of human life and activities, it is the psychic force, that expression of the soul of man, entirely disassociated from the material body that plays the leading part and enables us to discover and appreciate, to control and to use for the benefit of mankind the natural wonders of God's world.

Another smart capture has been made by Bah Tsong-gee, who holds a wonderful record among the Chinese detectives in the Municipal Police for arresting armed robbers. On Friday his suspicions were aroused by actions of a loafer, whom he subsequently arrested. The man is thought to be one of the principals in a big armed robbery in Pootung recently. The remainder of the gang are still at large

LAW REPORTS

THE EMPIRE OPTICAL COMPANY

Judgment in a Tangled Lawsuit Between Chinese Vendors and Mr. C. P. Rakusen

Judgment was given in H.M. Supreme Court on Monday afternoon, by his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner, in the case in which a group of Chinese sued C. P. Rakusen for $2,300, the agreed purchase price of an optician's business in Nanking Road. Defendant, who paid $5 alleged to be bargain money, deposited $1,000 in court, and claimed various sums paid by himself but for which he held plaintiffs were liable, and the principal one of these—amounting to 40 per cent. of the contract price—was allowed by his Lordship. Judgment was given for plaintiffs for $1,180, with costs.

Mr. Tycho Wing appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. R. F. C. Master for defendants.

His Lordship said:—The plaintiffs sue here for damages for breach of contract dated February 10, 1923, in which the defendant with one R. A. Thompson aggeed to buy a business at that time running in the Nanking Road for a sum of $2,300. The defendant, while admitting the contract, pleads in effect that the plaintiffs have not fulfilled their part of the contract: he seeks to set off certain sums as against the purchase money and he brings a sum of money into Court with a denial of liability.

The plaintiffs owned this optical business and shortly before China New Year, 1923, wanted to dispose of it for cash. Having already been into business relations with Thompson, they are brought into connexion with the defendant Rakusen who was possessed of capital and was also interested in the optical business. After negotiation the terms of purchase were agreed and were signed on February 10, 1923, on a document prepared by the defendant and seen by the plaintiff's agent, one Tsar, for the first time on that occasion. On February 11 (Sunday) the defendant entered into possession and an inventory was taken: he has remained in possession ever since. He has only paid $5 (as we now know) on account of the purchase money: and it was not until he filed an amended defence on November 1, in the action which had been begun in May, that he suggested liability at all in the matter by bringing money into Court.

THE TROUBLE IN THE CASE.

The real trouble in this case is primarily due to the fact that no provision was made in the contract for payment, with the result that the defendant has refused to part with his money until the plaintiffs fulfil all their covenants and the plaintiffs refuse to do anything until they get their money. It is to say the least of it an unfortunate dispute. It is also due to the fact that the transfer of the existing lease of the premises which had some 23 months to run was never made by the plaintiffs nor was it offered till March 13, when the defendant had made his own arrangements for a new lease. Not that the defendant has suffered much harm here: for he was able to obtain a fresh lease on the same terms from the landlord for the unexpired term on March 15. Certainly from that date onwards, the defendant had the business, the goods, etc., on the premises and a lease for the agreed time: the only matters left over then were (1) a question as to water, (2) a question as to advertisements, and (3) a question as to alleged missing goods. Yet the defendant paid nothing more and has not up to date.

CONTEMPTUOUS BARGAIN MONEY.

Now as to the date of payment, it is true there is no express term as to when this should be. But it seems to me that clause 6 shows at all events the latest date when payment should have been made: 60 days after occupation. The only right the defendant had to detain purchase money was given him by that clause: and that was only to be for an agreed sum. I think the contract meant to provide for bargain money on signature (I cannot believe that the letter of February 15, referred to bargain money for nothing), for part payment on getting occupation and for payment of the balance 60 days after that, *i.e.*, under the circumstances as they were by April 12. None of this has been really carried out, for the $5 is really almost contemptuous as "bargain money," though I must hold it to be such. Now the defendants were not bound to furnish a list of outstandings: but they were bound to insert advertisement relating to their own liability on such outstandings, and this they did not do: they say, as they had no money available as no payment had been made on account: at all events the defendant did it, as he has sworn, at a cost of Tls 140 ($195).

Now the defendant seeks to set off three items against the purchase price, and I think he is clearly entitled to a deduction for the advertivements. As for the value of goods taken away, I am not satisfied about this at all: the defendant made his inventory and took possession of the premises and is practically charging the plaintiffs or one of them with breaking in and taking away certain goods. This seems to be based upon some statement made by Tsar and an offer of come to terms on it: but it is clear that he was anxious to get payment and was ready to make some concessions. No deduction can be made for this.

A DELIBERATE SWINDLE.

The water bill is more difficult and has led to a very unpleasant controversy. It is enough to say that the relations between defendant and Thompson now are very badly strained whatever they may have been at first; and Thompson on his own showing was a party to what he calls a deliberate swindle. This must lead me to disregard his evidence throughout, and I am left to the evidence of the plaintiffs and the defendant and the written document.

It seems that the plaintiffs had already recived from the landlord the account of the water rate for the balance of the lease. They say that this was taken into consideration in fixing the price at $2,300, and that the defendant was not to get the advantage of it; the defendant says exactly the reverse and supports his word with the form of clause 3 of the agreement. That clause had originally no reference to this matter at all: but as it now appears it contains a liability on the part of the plaintiff to settle this water-bill. This is added in ink to the type-written clause and the addition is initialled by the defendant only. There were three parties to the agreement: defendant, Thompson and Tsar (for tht plaintiff); and the meaning and effect of this addition is to reduce the purchase price from $2,300 to $1,400: a very large change. It is a curious thing that the defendant, accustomed to make agreements and evidently knowing the value and importance of initialling alterations should not have obtained the initials of Thompson or of Tsar to this change.

A CHARGE OF GROSS FRAUD.

Now the oral evidence is entirely contradictory, and I have then to deal with the matter strictly. It is first of all to be noted that the document has been in the possession of the plaintiff Tsar from the commencement and he has never till now put this matter forward. Next, the document is essential to his case: he has to produce it and it would appear the burden of proof is on him to satisfy me that these words were not there when he signed. Again I have to remember that the charge is one of gross fraud and was not raised in the pleadings or in any correspondence between the parties. I am aware that it means a differ-

WATCH YOUR CAPSTAN

NOTICE THE ABSENCE OF SPLUTTER,

~~~~THE SLOW BURNING,

~~~~WHAT A DELIGHTFULLY

COOL SMOKE IT IS....

MANUFACTURED
IN
ENGLAND
&
SOLD
EVERYWHERE

This advertisement is issued by the British-American Tobacco Co. (China) Ltd.

P-35

DISPUTE OVER A SHIP'S CHARTER

Yu Fong S. Co. v. Wm Katz & Co.: Judgment for Plaintiff in $22,000 Claim

Judgment was given in favour of plaintiff yesterday in the United States Court in the case in which the Yu Fong Steamship Co. sued Wm. Katz & Co. for charter here of the str. Hwah Jah and other items. Messrs. Rodger & Haskell appeared for plaintiff and Messrs. Fessenden & Holcomb and Davies & Bryan for defendants. In giving his decision Judge Lobingier said:—

This is an action to recover Hongkong $19,654 for charter hire of the steamer Hwah Jah, chartered to defendant in December, 1921, and retained until August of the following year. The amended complaint claims for the fifth and sixth months of the term and also for certain items alleged to have been incorrectly charged by defendant against plaintiff. The answer denies these latter items and while admitting its failure to pay, alleges as its reason for non-payment:

"that the plaintiff had violated the terms of said charter party [illegible] stopping [illegible] with [illegible] from the [illegible]

Such a provision is valid and enforcible.

Plaintiff's contention is that defendant failed to pay for the third month, commencing May 10, 1922, and that stoppage of the steamer was thereby justified though not actually effected. Defendant testifies that the charter hire for the third month was actually paid before the steamer was ordered stopped, but he produces no vouchers and plaintiff's accountant testifies that none were furnished, while both the accountant and the shipping manager, declare that the charter hire for the third month was not paid when due. Moreover defendant's testimony on this point is not of payment by himself but by a sub-charterer, and as the latter was not available, the next best evidence would have been the signed voucher, which, as we have seen, was not produced.

But we need not finally resolve this conflict. For even if it were true that plaintiff was unjustified in ordering the steamer withdrawn, we are cited to no authorities for the proposition that such withdrawal would cancel defendant's liability for subsequent charter hire. Defendant's remedy for wrongful withdrawal would have been a counterclaim for any damage it might have suffered thereby. But no such counter claim is pleaded. Moreover it appears from the ship's log and the captain's testimony that the steamer had already been stopped before plaintiff's order, owing to the charterer's failure to supply it with necessary funds. The log book shows only three days during which the steamer was "awaiting owner's orders" and on the day following it proceeded [illegible] stances any defence to plaintiff's claim and, since no counterclaim is pleaded, [illegible] deduction.

Besides the hire [illegible] tiff claims the sum of $2,763.37 alleged [illegible] charged [illegible] The latter [illegible] time lost at Chefoo and Guildford during that time. The captain testifies that the ship was about [illegible] hours during which time the passengers were discharging, and that it is not the rule to deduct for a shorter period than 24 hours. There is no contrary evidence and we feel obliged to allow these items, amounting to $2,450.38, which added to the undisputed balance of $19,654.00, makes a total of $22,104.38. We do not find, however, that the other items for difference in exchange and one day's charter hire are proven.

It is accordingly considered and adjudged that plaintiff have and recover from defendant $22,104.38 together with costs.

A PORCELAIN SHOP OWNER

Responsibility of Proprietors for Agent's Acts: A Fine but No Moral Slur

A 71-year-old Chinese was fined $20 by Mr. A. J. Martin (British Assessor) and Mr. Kuan Chun (senior Chinese Magistrate) at the Mixed Court last Friday morning for allowing obnoxious porcelain figures to be sold at his shop in Nanking Road.

Mr. E. T. Maitland (Prosecuting Solicitor) represented the Police, and Mr. W. S. Fleming defended.

Mr. Fleming stated that his client admitted the sale of the figures in his shop, but said that he was an old gentleman, who only owned the shop and knew nothing about the sale. Certainly he had never participated as he lived in the Native City and had left the management in the hands of an assistant. The shop assistant admitted having sold the articles and did not object to having his name substituted in place of the old man's on the charge sheet.

Mr. Maitland stated that accused was charged with selling obnoxious figures in his shop at 158-159 Nanking Road. A detective had purchased two of them, and, when the place was raided, 18 more were found in the premises.

Mr. Fleming submitted that his client was an old man and infirm, who had been a very good character. He had been 40 years in the porcelain business and was quite innocent of the charge. The goods did not belong to him.

Det.-Sub. Insp. Yorke gave evidence of the execution of the search warrant, and produced the figures in question. The Assessor, with the concurrence of the Magistrate, remarked that the Bench did not wish to inspect them.

Det.-Sub-Insp. Yorke, continuing, said that he spoke to the assistant, who stated that the figures came from Kiangsi. There was never a suggestion that they belonged to any person other than accused.

Cross-examined by Mr. Fleming, witness said that to the best of his knowledge the shop was an old established one. Personally he knew that it had been opened for 10 years. He did not know whether accused had ever been charged before, and in this instance he had not made any sale. The figures were in the shop, above the accountant's desk. Some were wrapped in paper, but some could be seen if one went into the shop by the back door. From the front of the shop, they were not exposed.

THE PROPRIETOR'S PROTEST.

The accused said that he was 71 years old, and had been in the porcelain business for about 40 years. He was formerly chairman of the Hupeh Guild and the Porcelain Dealers' Guild. Never in his whole career had he been charged with such an offence as this. He had never bought any of the figures, and if he had known about them he would not have permitted them [illegible] his shop because he knew that it was wrong. During the 16 years that he had lived in the Settlement he had never allowed any of the figures in his shop. His assistant had taken them in from a friend, who left them for disposal. The assistant had never told him about them, and he did not hear of them until he was summoned. If he had known, he would never have permitted his assistant to take them into his shop.

Cross-examined, he said that the assistant was still in his employ and was in court. Witness looked after the Nantao side of the business and the assistant was in charge in the Settlement. He knew nothing about a bill of his shop being used in connexion with the sale of the figures. Witness never sanctioned the sale.

The assistant was called and admitted that the figures had been left in his charge by a relative who brought them from Kiangsi. He had been asked to dispose of them. Witness never told his master anything about the matter, which was a private transaction and had nothing to do with the business.

NO MORAL SLUR.

Mr. Fleming: I don't mind if my client's name is taken off the charge sheet and this man's substituted. The Police proceed sometimes in matters like these without looking into the rights of the parties concerned. In this case, they have not summoned the real man. I ask that this man's name be substituted.

The Assessor: That may be done.

Mr. Fleming: That is up to the police, but a person cannot commit a crime without criminal intent. My client had no criminal intent. It is not right that he should be charged simply because he is owner of the shop. If that were so, perfectly innocent persons could be charged and for offences committed by their employees. Why did not the police arrest the real offender, when they knew who it was? I ask that the charge be dismissed.

The Assessor (after consulting the Magistrate): We do not think that there is any moral slur on accused, but we do think that while he did not know of the sale he was responsible, and we fine him $20.

Mr. Fleming: Will the Court add a rider on the charge sheet clearing accused, because he is a man of good character?

The Assessor: We have said that there is no slur on him morally.

DUMMY PISTOLS

Robbers Armed with Tin Revolvers and Paper Ammunition

An interesting statement was made by Inspector J. MacKenzie in the Mixed Court last Friday, when, before Mr. Whitamore and Magistrate Li, he charged two Chinese with being concerned in two larcenies and with being in possession of dangerous weapons. He said that it was his belief that there are in Shanghai a number of robbers who, use water pistols and toy "dummies," in intimidating people and robbing them.

Acting on information received, to the effect that a band of armed desperadoes were in a certain Chinese lodging house in Canton Road, witness and a squad of police went to the place, prepared for all eventualities. On going upstairs and entering a room, they found two men (the accused) who were immediately searched for arms. None were found, but the accused were recognized by detectives as being men who had been deported from the Settlement and were immediately placed under arrest. The room was completely searched and under the mattress of a bed on which accused were sleeping a dummy pistol and a couple of water pistols were found. The men and the pistols were brought to the station and the accused admitted that they had taken part in two larcenies. Upon information given, the stolen property was recovered and was identified by the owners, who were in court. Accused were charged with the larcenies and with being in possession of dangerous weapons which, he believed, were being used by a number of armed robbers who have been committing depredations in the Settlement for some time past.

The dummy pistol was produced in court and a demonstration of how it was used was given by Inspector MacKenzie.

The Court found both men guilty of the charges preferred against them and sent them to prison for two years each.

SENTENCE ON CARGO PILFERER

Echo of Holt's Wharf Case: Three Years for Opening Godown Door

Three years' imprisonment was passed by Mr. Whitamore and Magistrate Li at the Mixed Court last Friday on a carpenter for being concerned with half a dozen other men, already convicted, in breaking into a warehouse at Holt's wharf and stealing a quantity of serge.

Mr C. Mansel Reece (prosecuting) stated that accused was charged with being in association with prisoners whom the Court had already dealt with. A statement was made by Li Tsang-nyeu, already convicted, against the accused, this showing that accused had provided the key by use of which the men managed to get into the godown.

One of the men already convicted stated for the prosecution that he was invited by accused, whom he knew, to go out to play. He complied and accused led him to the godown where the theft took place.

Accused, in a very rambling statement, said that he knew the last witness who had given evidence against him, but they had not met for a long time and the statement was not true. This witness was an enemy of his and had a grudge against him.

The Magistrate—Are you telling the truth? If you are not, and do not admit the statement, other witnesses will be brought forward and if they testify against you as this witness has done, you will be heavily punished.

Accused—I tell you the men are my enemies.

Three more witnesses were called and they corroborated the previous witness's statements, saying that accused led them to the place and opened the godown doors; he had taken part of the serge himself.

Accused—Yes, Sir, I admit that I was concerned in the affair, but please do not be harsh with me.

The Magistrate—Oh, no, certainly not. Only three years.

In connexion with the case arising from thefts on board the P. & O. S. Kashgar, another remand was ordered until after the Chinese New Year holidays.

LOTTERY SCHEME OR KINDNESS?

A Bookseller's Explanation of his Distribution of Coupons

A Chinese bookseller was charged at the Mixed Court last Friday before Messrs. Martin and Kuan with running a lottery without a licence at 110 Foochow Road during the month of January.

Mr. E. T. Maitland prosecuted and Dr. A. Fishman defended.

In opening, Mr. Maitland stated that accused could have had a licence if he had applied. In June last a notification appeared in the Municipal Gazette stating that a licence must be obtained before lottery tickets could be distributed. The Council was not opposed to lotteries which were intended to assist trade, provided that licences were first obtained. In this case, advertisements appeared in the Chinese press announcing that prizes might be won with lottery tickets sent out to purchasers of books from accused's shop. Tickets were of various colours and were worth different sums of money. It was a case of pure chance, because the tickets were not in every package.

NOT PRIZES BUT PRESENTS.

Dr. Fishman admitted that defendant distributed the tickets, but said that the police translation of the advertisement was wrong. Instead of "prizes" the word which appeared in the advertisement was "presents." Every package of books contained a ticket for a present. This was not a lottery, but it was a case where accused was selling books. It was intended as a matter of courtesy and kindness for accused to give each one of his customers a ticket which would entitle him to a present.

The Assessor—If it was an act of courtesy, then everybody would have equal privileges because the advertisement contains an inducement open to everybody.

Counsel then proceeded to cite a case in which Mr. Blackburn (a former Assessor) and Magistrate Kuan held that a *bona fide* bond scheme was not a lottery either by Chinese law or by construction of the municipal by-laws in the Settlement or in the Mixed Court. Whether such a scheme was *bona fide*, the Court held, was a question of fact to be considered in each individual case, but the mere fact that such a scheme was called a premium savings scheme did not necessarily make it a lottery.

Mr. Maitland, who prosecuted in the case referred to, stated that that was entirely different from the present case.

CHINESE AND THE GAZETTE

Dr. Fishman, continuing, held that it was a complimentary scheme. Accused was a member of a big firm which was not in need of money as a lottery scheme would call for. It was a company of $150,000 capital and did $14,000 business annually. In any case, the average Chinese did not read the Municipal Gazette, and the accused did not know that he had to obtain a licence, as called for.

Mr. Maitland stated that the advertisement appeared in two Chinese papers.

The Assessor asked Dr. Fishman if accused was prepared to discontinue distribution of the tickets, to which a reply was given in the affirmative.

Mr. Maitland—The Police do not object if he takes out a licence. He applied for one after the case came up.

The hearing was then adjourned and the Court reserved its decision.

It was reported to Yangtzepoo Police Station in Monday that a Chinese dwelling in Kwe Tang Road was entered at 2.30 in the morning by eight men armed with choppers and knives. The robbers made good their escape with money and jewels to the value of $80.

The Hongkong Harbour Police last week made what is described as one of the largest seizures of arms ever made on a ship in the waters of the Colony. This was from the str. Bendoran. After a careful search the arms were found concealed in sacks, and comprised no fewer than 62 revolvers, three Mauser pistols, 10,000 rounds of Mauser ammunition and 5,400 rounds of revolver ammunition. No arrests have been made.

A good "Prince" story is going the rounds just now. It appears that on a former visit to Canada our popular Ambassador was entertained by the prominent men of a certain town, and, after luncheon, he was chatting with the company in his informal manner in the smoke-room. One young man, a nephew of a certain English dignitary, who had had just a little too much to drink, was continually breaking into the conversation with, "I wonder, gen'l'emen, if you are aware that I am a nephew of Lord——?" The Prince stood it as long as he could, and then turned to him. "It's quite all right, old man," he said "I shan't tell him!"

One small insurance company, the Taisei, has already paid the "sympathy" allowance of 10 per cent. to those of its clients who lost their property in the great earthquake catastrophe, and one of the large companies—the Tokio Marine and Fire, Mr. Kagami's company—has announced its intention of doing so regardless of the decision of others. So the "*Asahi*" reports, mentioning also that a meeting of the Insurance Association was held on the 24 to discuss the problem of sympathy payments. The paper confirms the report already published that the new Cabinet is not inclined to help, but that the companies may make a compromise with their clients, in order to avoid the lawsuits with which they are threatened. So this is what the Association's sympathy and generosity comes to.

Shanghai goal—particularly in the second half, when they had reasonably good opportunities of scoring a goal or two, and one "certainty,"—they showed pronounced weakness in front of goal. On one occasion, at the finish of a nice combined movement, Falconer found himself standing uncovered in front of an absolutely empty goal. Had he allowed the ball to roll on untouched, it must have found a resting place in the net, but he took a shot and lifted it clean over the bar. The crowd roared its amusement and disappointment, for the visitors during this period had their longest and strongest period of attacking—a bout of some five minutes in the neighbourhood of the Shanghai goal—and a goal to them would have been deserved and welcomed. Several less obvious but quite presentable chances were missed, and for the rest, Quayle and Turner very effectively checked all forward rushes without serious difficulty, and Remedios had only two really dangerous shots to deal with during the match.

HANKOW'S FINE GOAL KEEPING

Shanghai played a vastly different game from that which they put up against Hongkong and, making ample allowance for the difference in the strength of their opponents, the conclusion must be that they were an improved team. Madar and Collaco on the right wing worked admirably together and with the rest of the line, and Collaco got a pretty goal. Coulcher and Goldman were much too clever for the opposing halves, and deadly in front of goal while Wilson had Lasham and Malone beaten most of the time. The most interesting feature of the game was the fine display of goalkeeping given by Crossland. The first indication of his skill and judgment came early on when he saved a terrific drive from Wilson, and thereafter he repeatedly got his side out of difficulties, reaching a number of shots stamped with the scoring trade mark. He was in the unhappy position of having to pick the ball out of the net on 10 occasions, but this was no reflexion at all on his game, for half a dozen of the shots which scored were sent in at great pace and short range and the rest were all fast, well placed shots which would have beaten the best of goalkeepers. Malone and Mackey put up a very creditable defence, but the real weakness—next to the forwards' inability to shoot—was in the middle line. The halves were outplayed, and very rarely held the Shanghai quintette once they got fairly going.

The first goal came after five minutes' play, Madar neatly crossing to the centre where Coulcher was ready for a characteristic drive. Such chances as came the way of the Hankow front line were not taken, Linford and Falconer both sending wide. Shanghai were repeatedly by dangerous and only good work by Crossland kept the score down. On one occasion he made three remarkable clearances in almost as many seconds. Things looked hopeful for Hankow when the forwards got away again and Nash was given a chance, but this also went west. Linford almost did the trick, however, dropping a shot from the wing right into the goal mouth, but Remedios managed to tip the ball over the heads of Aspden and Falconer who were in attendance. Shanghai's second goal came after 35 minutes' play, Wilson sending in a great drive which Crossland stopped but could not get away—the mud was against a quick movement—and Goldman had only to touch the ball into the net. Collaco got the third point, with a low, cross drive from 15 yards out. Crossland just failed to reach it, but might have done so had he not been unsighted by one of the backs. Shanghai led at half time by three goals to nil.

VISITOR'S PLUCKY EFFORTS

Despite the fact that the visitors made several plucky attempts to score, and at one time did quite a long spell of attacking, they were outplayed in the second half and were seven more goals down. The first came in less than a minute from the kick off, Wilson and Coulcher going down on the left, Malone was the only Hankow player to touch the ball—and Coulcher driving the ball into the net a few yards out. Pretty forward work resulted in two more goals within five minutes, Coulcher and Goldman scoring, again close range shots. Wilson was responsible for the seventh, although Goldman actually touched the ball into the net, and the latter also got the eighth, after Crossland had made a great save. Coulcher scored the ninth, and then came the visitors' turn of attacking in which the sad incident of the missed open goal occurred. Crossland had a lot more work to do and did it well, but had no chance with a shot from Goldman who went right through the defence and almost walked the ball into the net. Hankow have Crossland to thank for keeping the score down. He came out of the game covered with mud and glory.

INTERPORT RUGBY

Shanghai Wins from Tientsin

The interport Rugby football match between Shanghai and Tientsin was played on Thursday afternoon on the Cricket Club ground and resulted in a win for Shanghai. Tientsin showed distinctly better form at the start, when Shanghai played an unattractive game. Later Shanghai got together better and after a spell of continuous pressure won. The sides were:—

Shanghai.—G. D. Nicholl; G. F. H. Bichard, H. W. P. McMeekin (captain), C. S. Holdsworth and C. R. W. Thomson; G. E. Goolden and R. L. S. Webb; W. E. D. Smith, S. A. Grew, C. E. Fleury, C. T. Davis, J. G. B. Dewar, J. C. Stewart, J. R. Harder and J. H. Raikes.

Tientsin.—R. B. Gotch; H. C. Eustace, Capt. Fabre, Sold. Magnoud and Cpl. Roberts; I. S. Annand and I. H. Howell; F. W. G. North (captain), E. M. P. Williams, Lt. Steiger, Lt. Waymel, Capt. O. Cushman, O. Lattimore, Capt. Adams and G. Craigie Ross.

Referee.—F. R. Ormston.

Linesmen.—E. I. M. Barrett and F. J. W. Evans.

Tientsin played from the pavilion end of the field in the first half and early demonstrated superiority in individual work and combination. After some rather scrappy and open play the Shanghai three's got the ball, but wild passing, which continued to be a feature of the game, spoiled their chances. The game had not been in progress very long before Capt. Cushman received a nasty kick on the head, and he was *hors de combat* for the rest of the half.

TIENTSIN OPENS THE SCORING.

Capt. Fabre, who is understood to have just missed his international cap for France, now made an opening in midfield for Tientsin, and then the visitors drew blood. He passed across to the inside right, who at the psychological moment parted to his winger, Reberts, and the latter scored a try far out. Gotch took the kick, but failed to convert. Tientsin 3; Shanghai nil.

At this stage of the game the Tientsin forwards, although weakened by the absence of Cushman, were playing a fine bustling game and the Shanghai three's being too slow, never had a chance to show their capabilities. Shanghai would seem to start a likely run, but then it fizzled out. Goolden and Bichard occasionally did good individual work but the others could not coordinate. At length Bichard made progress by finding touch well down the field, and from the resulting line-out Goolden secured an opening. It was a case requiring instant judgment, for the play was very close, and here Thomson came in and scored close to the post. Holdsworth took the kick and converted. Shanghai 5: Tientsin 3.

VISITORS AGAIN LEADING.

It was a momentary triumph for Shanghai for Tientsin, although still a man short, were working hard and their outside play was surer than Shanghai's. They were assisted by the fact that the Shanghai men were tackling in poor fashion, and thus, soon after the score by Shanghai, they succeeded in improving their position. The left three-quarter wing got the ball, both men were unsuccessfully tackled, and Eustace, with a fine turn of speed, crossed the line and running, scored between the posts. It was an easy matter for Gotch to convert, and Tientsin again took the lead. Tientsin 8 points: Shanghai 5.

Loose and uninteresting play followed, and Shanghai was penalized for holding. Gotch took the free kick, and with a perfect effort added a penalty goal for Tientsin. Tientsin 11: Shanghai 5.

Shanghai now put on a spurt, and the three's broke away. The forwards backed them up, and it was rather unlucky that no score resulted. Half time was now signalled and the score stood:—

Tientsin 11 points (1 goal, 1 penalty goal, 1 try).

Shanghai—5 points (1 goal).

THE SECOND HALF.

Capt. Cushman was fortunately able to come on again in the second half, and played a good game. This half was very different from the first, for the Shanghai pack was now getting together and putting in much better work. Tackling, however, was still weak, and all the time there was a tendency to take the man too high. Shanghai inaugurated this period by initiating a three-quarter movement, but as in so many cases in the first half it was ruined by bad passing. The three's continued active, and aided by better work on the part of the pack brought the ball practically down to Tientsin's 25. Here when the ball came out of the scrum the Shanghai men showed themselves very slow, until Bichard, who had got the ball from the inside three, made a short swerving run, and though well tackled, scored. Holdsworth took the kick but failed to convert. Tientsin 11: Shanghai 8.

Shanghai continued their pressure, and as the pack was playing a more bustling game the opening for the outside men were greater. The three's however, were still passing wildly, and not until a free kick was given against Tientsin for offside was there any further scoring. It was in a favourable position, and the Shanghai captain elected to take it himself. He succeeded and equalized the score.

SHANGHAI WINS.

The concluding phase of the game was sensational. With Shanghai's forwards pressing play was carried down to the Tientsin 25, and after a series of scrums the ball came out to the Shanghai three-quarters. Bichard got it, but on the point of scoring was pushed into touch. On the throw in Harder caught the ball, and barging a couple of feet forward scored the final and decisive try. McMeekin failed to convert, and the game concluded:—

Shanghai:—14 points (1 goal, 1 penalty goal, 2 tries).

Tientsin:—11 points (1 goal, 1 penalty goal, 1 try).

Gotch, well-known in Shanghai as a back, was perhaps the best man on the field. Fabre and Magnoud were also good for Tientsin. The Shanghai pack was the better of the two, with Fleury outstanding, while Bichard must be given every credit for his work.

INTERPORT HOCKEY

Shanghai's Victory in Triangular Tournament

Hankow, Feb. 6.

In the Interport hockey match played here to-day, Shanghai defeated Hankow by four goals to nil.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Hankow, Feb. 7.

In the Interport hockey match between Shanghai and Tientsin, played here to-day, Shanghai defeated Tientsin by three goals to nil.

In the match between Hankow and Tientsin, Hankow defeated Tientsin by three goals to one.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

INTERNATIONAL GOLF

British Pair Again Defeated

Los Angeles, Feb. 3.

Willie Hunter and George von Elm defeated Havers and Ockenden in a 36 hole golf match yesterday by 4 and 3.—Reuter's American Service.

THE PAPER HUNT CLUB

Another Win for Mr. Benbow Rowe: A Protest Lodged

Saturday's hunt was laid by Mr. N. L. Sparke, the winner of the Hunt Handicap and one of the dead-heated winners of the previous hunt. The weather condition were excellent, as the rain of the previous week had effectively laid the dust which has proved such a nuisance this winter, whilst the ground was not rendered too heavy. The meet was at 3.30 p.m. at the Misery Flats, on the Minghong Road, halfway to London Town.

The field was unusually large, approximately 130 riders, and they sang to themselves low though sweet songs as they waited for the order of the Master to go. This was forthcoming without delay, and the riders galloped off towards the west, presently to swing away to the left, on the familiar run to London Town.

The finish of the hunt was expected to be at Benbow's Dry Cut, but it carried on and over a platform to the right, so that others thought it would be at London Town, and accordingly ran off paper in that direction. The finish really was on the Springfield Line, where so many hunts have finished in the past, although, strangely enough, very few have finished there in the last two seasons. Mr. E. S. Benbow Rowe, on The Chimley, came in first, thus winning both light and heavy weight prizes, the card reading as follows (though the placings are subject to the decision on a protest):—

1. Mr. E. S. Benbow Rowe on The Chimley.
2. Mr. H. Arthur on Hairpin.
3. Mr. R. Moon on Happy New Year.
4. Mr. A. David on Tommy.
5. Mr. J. G. Lyon on Wee Jimmy.
6. Mr. A. S. Withers on Night Raider.

A Ladies' Hunt

The ladies had a most successful run on Sunday for the first hunt since the formation of the Ladies' Paper Hunt Club, the one improvement one could have wished for being in the size of the field, for there were only 13 starters, as a consequence of which Mrs. Hickling, the Master, announced before the start that there would be only four placings. The men found it really fine going on Saturday in spite of the rain and so the ladies, with a day and a half of drying weather to their advantage, had even better ground. The start was at the second bridge on the Minghong Road, from where Mr. Graysigge, Master of the Paperhunt Club, led the ladies on a fairly long trail past Burnham Wood, then circling round to a finish near the Temple of Joy. There were one or two spills, but all the riders came home and made a glorious finish to the run, there not being more than four lengths over the first five.

The result was really remarkable, for Mr. N. L. Sparke won a hunt in a dead heat a fortnight ago, this being the first time there has been such a decision for very many years, and yesterday Mrs. Sparke dead-heated with Miss Harris, so that they will have the joint honour of wearing the first pink rosetttes which will distinguish hunt winners. The card read:—

*1. Mrs. Sparke, on Dry Goods.
*1. Miss Harris, on Martinus.
3. Miss Ritchie, on Para.
4. Miss Trindle, on Paper Money.
*Dead heat.

Tuesday's Hunt Won by Mr. R. Moon on Wee Mac

The clerk of the weather has not been too kind to the hunting confraternity, for in place of the three hunts arranged for the New Year holidays, only one has taken place so far, that on Tuesday afternoon.

The hunt was laid by Mr. E. S. Benbow Rowe, winner of the previous event on Saturday last, and the meet was set for the World's End jump, at London Town, which was also to be the finishing jump. Some 40 riders put in an appearance at the hour appointed, 3.30 p.m. — not a large field now-a-days, but they made up in enthusiasm for what they lacked in numbers. In the absence of the Master, the hunt was dispatched by Mr. H. W. Lester, senior Steward present, and passing over the Camel Creek, and a dry cut, at which several riders came to grief, the hunt skirted Graygrigge's Delight, and crossed the railway line to Baffle Creek.

There was a nice line of jumps on this line, including a fair sized water jump where there were several refusals. Then came a run round by the Pyramid Grave to the Boat Jump, then the Concrete Bridge, and rounding a lagoon, hunters encountered several water jumps in quick succession, till after reaching the village of Changjao, the trail turned towards the west and, passing the Moat Farm, reached Wukacha. From Wukacha there was a rapid run home, viâ Burnham Wood and the Minghong Road, to Pheasant Creek, and then round the Blue Lagoon, and over the Zigzag Jump to the World's End jump, where the flags were erected.

Mr. R. Moon on Wee Mac came in first, followed by Dr. C. N. Davis on Sherwood, and Mr. H. W. Lester on Kilmarock, the last named winning the heavyweight prize. The card reads as follows:—

1. Mr. R. Moon on Wee Mac.
2. Dr. C. N. Davis on Sherwood.
3. Mr. H. W. Lester on Kilmarnock. (heavyweight winner).
4. Mr. W. N. Wells Henderson, on Keric.
5. Mr. H. G. Elliot, on Tussore.
6. Mr. P. Stang-Lund, on Forest Fire.

GOLF

The China New Year Cup

Golf was just possible on the Race Course on Thursday, when the China New Year Cup was played for. The rain of the previous days had resulted in the links being extremely sloppy, and there was a great deal of casual water about. The greens were also as wet as the other parts, and becoming hacked up by many footprints, competitors early displayed a fondness for the mashie when it came to putting. To make matters more difficult a strong drying wind was blowing and in the afternoon the greens became extraordinarily keen. Altogether golf was difficult.

The competition resulted in an easy win for J. B. Ferrier, whose judgment of the conditions was generally above reproach. He was 159 for the 36 holes, and was 15 strokes better than anybody else. His score was made up as follows:—

3 5 4 4 4 5 5 5 6—41	1st Round
4 4 4 4 5 5 6 4 5—40	2nd Round
3 4 4 4 5 4 4 4 6—38	3rd Round
4 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5—40	4th Round

In view of the conditions and the great difficulty experienced in approaching and putting this must be considered a very fine performance. The card is as follows:—

J. B. Ferrier	159
H. B. Lane	175
C. Richards	177
W. Huggett	180
H. E. Page	183
T. W. Mitchell	184
A. C. Godby	191
L. R. Wheen	196
H. E. Brewer	197
J. Tippin	206

SWIMMING

Australian Mile Championship

Hobart, Feb. 6.

The Swedish swimmer Arne Borg to-day won the Australian Mile Championship in 22 min. 45-3/5 sec. Beaurepaire was second and Christy third.—Reuter.

AMATEUR QUALIFICATION IN LAWN TENNIS

Player-writers Ineligible in U. S.

New York, Feb. 3.

The United States Lawn Tennis Association has voted in favour of a declaration that lawn tennis playerwriters will be ineligible for amateur competition after January 1 next. Mr. Tilden, who was expected to oppose the motion, did not attend the meeting.—Reuter's American Service.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

INTERPORT ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Hongkong v. Shanghai, 3 all: A Fine Game: Shanghai Lucky to Draw: Last Minute Goal

This match, the first of the Interport series, was played on the Police ground on Tuesday afternoon. The rain that had fallen during the whole of the previous night and on Tuesday morning had considerably softened the turf which, although in no place under water, was everywhere slippery and treacherous.

The teams were as follows:—

HONGKONG. Weness; Wynne and Bishop; McKelvie, Stewart and Lelliott; Charlesworth, Eaton, Johnston, Nash and Begg.

SHANGHAI. Remedios; Turner and Quayle; Phillips, Crawford and Falconer; Witschi, J. Johannson, Goldman, Coulcher and Wilson.

Quayle won the toss and elected to defend the south goal, at the same time taking advantage of a moderate southeasterly wind that was blowing. The opening exchanges were on the ragged side, with Hongkong doing most of the pressing. Shanghai's left wing got going but Wilson was given off-side from Coulcher's pass, and from the free-kick Eaton took possession. After beating Crawford he passed over to Begg, who nullified a nice run by kicking behind from about eight yards' range. The ground was troubling both sides, but Hongkong were keeping their feet far better than were Shanghai. Five minutes from the start, after some midfield play, Stewart passed to Charlesworth, who scored with a great shot that Remedios managed to reach but could not stop. From the centre-kick the Shanghai forwards got going, and forced two corners in quick succession, neither coming to anything. After Shanghai had conceded and Turner had cleared a corner, McKelvie shot from at least 45 yards' range. The shot probably was the best of the whole match; the ball travelled at terrific speed and skimmed the bar, Remedios just touching it as it whizzed over his head. The corner-kick proved abortive. Witschi received from Phillips and after a run along the wing, put across a low centre which Coulcher met with a first-timer. Weness dived and made [illegible] that a goal was certain.

HONGKONG TWO UP.

After 13 minutes, there was a [illegible] Wynne, who had to leave the field for a short time. From another centre from Witschi, Coulcher appeared to be right through when Weness rushed out and took the ball from [illegible] It was a fine clearance. By this time, Hongkong had the measure of their opponents, and were adapting themselves much better to the slippery ground, the Shanghai players obviously being disconcerted by the (for them) unusual conditions. The Hongkong forwards had the Shanghai defence continually guessing, and failed only when in the immediate vicinity of goal. Coulcher, from Crawford's pass, nearly got through again, but once more Weness took the ball right off his toe. After Falconer had conceded a corner out of pure necessity, as a result of the joint attentions of Nash and Begg, the Shanghai forwards had a short spell of attacking. Witschi shot behind when well-placed, and Coulcher, after a fine individual run following a pass from Crawford, struck the bottom of the post with a rasping shot. Following some scrappy midfield play, McKelvie passed to [illegible] who beat two of the opposition and shot from short range. Remedios partially [illegible] of goal, Phillips, in attempting to [illegible] the clearance, fell. Eaton, true opportunist that he is, promptly shot the ball into an open goal, putting Hongkong two up after 25 minutes.

Hongkong continued to harry the Shanghai defence, one particularly promising movement being spoiled through hands. Stewart who, like his *vis-à-vis*, Crawford, was playing a great game passed to Begg, who appeared certain to increase the lead when Turner rushed up and cleared. Quayle conceded a corner off Eaton and a few moments later had of necessity to head over from a dangerous short-range shot from the same opponent. Remedios, who from the commencement had appeared nervous and inclined to fumble, did well to turn a shot from Lelliott for a corner, and Quayle, a moment later, could only safely deal with the attentions of Nash by conceding another corner. Begg got the ball full in the stomach in the encounter with Quayle, and had to leave the field for a time.

At this period of the game the Hongkong forwards and halves were irrepressible and kept Quayle and Turner continually on the defensive. Remedios, in stopping a low shot from Johnston, mishandled, and was fortunate that the result was no more serious than an unproductive corner. Coulcher, in making one of his bustling efforts, was brought down just outside the penalty area. Turner took the kick, which was nicely cleared by Bishop. From a pass from Johnston, who secured from Falconer, Coulcher put over when about five yards from goal and when inability to score appeared impossible. Again, Coulcher was nearly through when Wynne cleared with a hefty tackle and a heftier kick. Crawford, apparently disappointed at the non-success of his forwards, tried one of his well-known long shots, which sailed harmlessly over.

Shanghai's spell of attacking was short-lived and the Hongkong forwards again came along. A high shot from Charlesworth was dealt with by Remedios only with difficulty, Turner having to complete the clearance. A nice individual effort by Coulcher was negatived by Wilson being off-side, and a moment later Coulcher hit the post following a free kick for a foul against himself. There was little else of interest before the interval, which arrived with Hongkong holding a well-deserved lead of two goals to none.

SHANGHAI EQUALIZES.

On the resumption, Shanghai seemed to be a little more at home on the mud, and for the first time in the match Goldman gave us a sample of his true form. After an incursion by the Hongkong forwards, Coulcher was tripped when making for goal. The free-kick came to nothing. Crawford, who somehow found himself on the right, centred accurately to Goldman, who headed over from a rod's length. Begg made a good run and Turner cleared, but a moment later Johnston, obtaining possession right in front of goal, shot hard. Remedios made a splendid clearance. Hongkong came on again, and Phillips cleared right on the line when an addition to the score seemed certain. At this period of the game Hongkong were having most of the play. Then the much-expected revival of the Shanghai attack took place, and from then till the close the former inequity was reversed, Shanghai generally doing most of the pressing. Coulcher and Goldman now [illegible] Johannson came much more into the picture. He put in one great left-foot drive that only a high [illegible] could have cleared. Weness cleared well. Then came one of the best shots of the match, from the foot of Goldman, who hardly hesitated on receiving a nice pass from Wilson, and sent the leather at terrific speed just outside the bottom of the post. [illegible] went right across the goal-mouth and behind for a goal-kick. Shortly after this, Shanghai's [illegible] Quayle, in [illegible] the attentions of Johnston, passed the ball to Falconer. That player, after a short manœuvre, sent on to Wilson who transferred to Coulcher. Coulcher beat Wynne and put in a hard, low oblique shot from about 15 yards that had Weness hopelessly beaten. This was 21 minutes from the resumption.

Hongkong then took another turn at attack, Eaton being particularly prominent. On one occasion he had passed Quayle and 10 yards from goal had Remedios guessing when Turner rushed up and made a fine clearance. Then came Shanghai's second goal. Johannson received from Crawford and finding Bishop in too close attendance, passed to Goldman. Goldman could have shot himself, but seeing that Coulcher was better placed and unmarked, he passed, Coulcher scoring with a hard shot from 15 yards. Shanghai continued to press, but Wynne and Bishop were playing a great game and breaking up the most promising efforts. Hongkong had a turn at attack, and Quayle made a couple of grand clearances. A run by the Shanghai right wing terminated in a low shot from Witschi which Weness cleared well. At this period of the game there were offside decisions against both teams.

AN EXCITING FINISH.

Hongkong's third goal came from a scrimmage following a corner, the ball going to Nash, who was lying unmarked. He shot hard and low and Remedios had no chance. Johannson was limping and Witschi came to the inside berth, while Quayle, no doubt in search of goals, joined the forwards, Falconer going to left back. A free-kick against the Hongkong goalie for over-carrying was unproductive, and the game appeared to be over, with Hongkong justly the winners, when the unexpected happened. Forty-five seconds from the end Quayle passed to Goldman, who sent the ball on its way in the direction of Witschi. That player, on the run, sent in a shot that Weness was able to touch but not divert, and the game ended.

Hongkong, 3. Shanghai, 3.

HONGKONG'S FINE PLAY.

On the general run of the play, Hongkong deserved to win. They were the better team—better balanced, quicker on the ball, showed infinitely better combination, passed more accurately, kicked more surely and cleanly, kept their positions better, and adapted themselves to the slippery surface as though they had never played on anything but mud. Their goalie, for what little he had to do, was *per excellence*, and so were their backs, who made not one real miskick throughout the game. Their halves were a rare trio of despoilers who never tired and who never were out of position. They plied their forwards judiciously and covered their backs faithfully, and in every respect constituted an excellent department of an excellent aggregation. All of the Hongkong forwards played a great game. They played the individual game only when nothing else was possible; they seemed to know just where the ball was coming and gave an exhibition of mastery over sticky leather that would be difficult to improve upon. The whole Hongkong team, without exception, worked with so much cohesion and understanding that it is almost unfair to single out any individuals as being specially worthy of mention. If any names should be mentioned, however, they are Weness, Wynne, Stewart, Eaton and Begg.

SHANGHAI NOT UP TO FORM.

Few members of the Shanghai team played football quite up to interport standard, and not many of them played up to the best class of First League football in Shanghai. It is no injustice to say that in the first half the Shanghai players were mostly where the ball was not. At least three-quarters of the play was in the Shanghai half, and during that doleful first half only two players of the 11 really stood out—Crawford and Coulcher. In this half, Quayle was not by any means the Quayle we know, and Turner, though he did an immense amount of hard and useful work, marred many good efforts by wild kicking. Both improved considerably in the latter half, and we had an appreciable period of Quayle at his best. Each of the Shanghai halves was in a class by himself excellent, good and poor. The first adjective describes Crawford. He worked like two men from beginning to end, and in the first half especially his energy, skill and doggedness were of incalculable value.

Phillips was good without ever being brilliant. Whether he was unable to accustom himself to the greasy surface or whether he was a little off colour is not clear, but what is certain is that he has played better on every previous occasion he has been out this season. Of course, in Nash and Begg he had a rare couple of opponents, who would have worried any half-back in Far Eastern football, however good. Falconer was disappointing. On his day, he is one of the very best local half-backs; but Tuesday was certainly not his day.

Taking the game from start to finish, the Shanghai forwards played an unbalanced, disjointed game, without cohesion or effective combination—that is, compared with the standard set by Hongkong. In the first half, Coulcher was the only one of the five who lived up to his reputation, and he continued throughout the game to be the best and most dangerous member of the Shanghai attack. Witschi was good in parts. He made occasional brilliant dashes, and equally frequently was ineffective. There were one or two occasions when his work with and understanding of Johannson were good to see, but on the whole he did not play like an Interport outside right. Johannson rarely got going as we know he can. He had many encounter with Bishop, and it must be confessed that the Hongkong back, oftener than not, came out to advantage. In the second half, when the Shanghai inside forwards had gone through some abstract form of re-vitalization, Johannson shone frequently; but on the whole he, too, was not up to form. On the 90 minutes' play, Goldman was distinctly below par. In the first half he was, mostly, sluggish and inert, and it was only from about 10 minutes after the resumption till the end of the game that he really reproduced his S.F.C. form. Wilson has played many better games, and he, too, seemed in the first half to be suffering from that inability to do the right thing that characterized the play of some of his team-mates. It must be stated, in justice to Wilson, that before the whistle went for the interval, he had sadly been neglected, and on about half of the few occasions he did get going his efforts were brought to a close by a whistle for offside. He was more in the picture after the interval, but still did not play up to his normal form.

Mr. W. C. G. Clifford, as referee, controlled a fast and difficult game most efficiently. He kept well up with the ball, was very keen on offside movements, and while never intruding on hard, fair tackling, allowed no breach of the rules to go unpenalized. Messrs. Bissett and Squibb officiated as linesmen.

SHANGHAI'S LUCK

By Onlooker.

Truly Shanghai's lucky star was in the ascendant on Tuesday last against Hongkong. If ever a team deserved to lose on the day's play, it was Shanghai. Not that Shanghai played such bad football, but, under the prevailing conditions, Hongkong played the better. They adapted themselves to the heavy ground far quicker than the Shanghai team and were undoubtedly on top during the greater part of the game. The Hongkong team, as a team, was uniformly good and it is extremely difficult to single out individuals for special mention. Both backs were sound, the halves were infinitely superior to the Shanghai trio, and the forwards were well balanced and showed excellent combination. In fact, as a team, they opened the eyes of the Shanghai supporters, who, from past results, were led to expect a comfortable victory for the home side.

There can be little doubt that the exhibition of football given was quite the best that has been seen in Shanghai. In spite of the heavy going the game was extremely fast, nor was there anything of the drawing-room variety about it.

This leads us to another point. It is doubtful if there has ever, locally, been seen a finer example of refereeing than that given by Mr. Clifford in this match. Not only did he appear to have the players well in hand, but he was quick, accurate and impartial, in fact everything that a referee should be. If he made a mistake, it was difficult to detect. Nine out of 10 spectators are (in their own opinion) better referees than the unfortunate gentleman officiating! They frequently voice the fact when lighting a perfectly good cigar and seated on a perfectly hard uncomfortable seat! Mr. Clifford's work was most excellent and, in our opinion, quite a feature of a very memorable match.

SHANGHAI UNEQUAL.

The Shanghai team was unequal. The halves were distinctly weak. Phillips alone did himself justice and he was up against a warm proposition in Begg, the visitors' outside left. The backs were, on the whole, sound. Quayle was very uncertain in the first half but more than made amends in the second. Turner was uniformly safe and reliable. Remedios, in goal, was apparently nervous and caused some anxious moments, but a greasy ball may account for a number of errors in all departments. The Shanghai forwards were disappointing. So much was expected of Goldman and Coulcher that they were obviously well marked. Wilson was, for the most part offside, and did not give himself (nor was he given) a chance. Witschi justified his existence by shooting a splendid goal at the finish and thus saving Shanghai's bacon. Johanssen was more or less of a failure both before and after he was crocked. Goldman played somewhat below his form; nevertheless, two of Shanghai's goals were the direct result of his efforts. Coulcher scored two goals and is undoubtedly Shanghai's most potential forward. Being so well marked Goldman would have been better advised to swing the ball more frequently to his wings. The same remark applies to Coulcher. The latter is somewhat inclined to overdo the individualist business but, in the manner of R. E. Foster, he has great control of the ball and is always making tracks for goal.

CLEVER CAPTAINCY.

With one forward crocked (Johanssen), and a goal down, it was a clever piece of captaincy which prompted Quayle to go up into the forward line when only some 10 minutes remained for play. If during his absence from the position of full back, Shanghai had lost 4 to 2, Quayle would probably have been blamed, but where is the difference between being beaten 3 to 2, and 4 to 2?

On the day's play, Hongkong deserved to win by a comfortable margin. They took the best advantage of all opportunities and what luck there was went their way. Shanghai's three goals were such excellent efforts that one is inclined to believe that the team was a trifle below form and therefore a draw may be considered a satisfactory result (at any rate from the Shanghai point of view!).

SHANGHAI *v.* HANKOW

The Visitors Meet with a 10-Goal Disaster

There was no change for the better in conditions under which the second of the Interport games was played on Wednesday afternoon, a heavy ground and drizzling rain making things uncomfortable for players and spectators—there was an excellent attendance, some 1,500. Shanghai made three changes from the team which met Hongkong, Knight going to left half in place of Falconer, and Collaco and Madar taking the right wing in place of Johannsson and Witschi. The teams lined up as follows:

Hankow: Crossland; Malone and Mackay; Lasham, Hunter and Sundays; Linford, Nash, Aspden, Falconer, and Tweedie.

Shanghai: Remedios; Turner and Quayle; Phillips, Crawford and Knight; Madar, Collaco, Goldman, Coulcher and Wilson.

The first few minutes of play made it obvious that the visitors were in for an unequal struggle. They had neither the finesse nor the speed of the Shanghai side, and though the forwards made some well conceived runs on the

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

CHINA NEW YEAR

A Satisfactory Settlement

Chinese merchants appear to be taking advantage of the incidence of the week-end to prolong their New Year holiday beyond the ordinary. Except those interested in exports, none have so far shown any signs of life, and no business will be attempted until next week.

In the circumstances it is too early yet to try to state what has been the general effect of the China New Year settlement, although from all accounts it ought to have passed off satisfactorily. Although dealers in piece goods, metals and hardware are regarded from the foreign point of view as having done fairly well, one of them is credited with the remark that the banks made most of the money. Chinese merchants, however, are at times prone to be modest on the score of profits.

The position at the moment differs in no way from the anticipations current prior to the settlement, and it is presumed that the situation is as reported previously.

THE CURRENCY BUREAU

History of an Institution Now Abolished

The Chinese Economic Bulletin contains the following:—

The Currency Bureau, abolished by a Presidential Mandate recently, was one of the bureaux directly under the control of the Cabinet Office, and not, as might be thought, under the Ministry of Finance. The Bureau was established in 1909, in the Manchu Dynasty, under the name of the Currency Investigation Bureau. Its special function at that time was to take up questions connected with establishing a monetary standard and a uniform currency system.

At that time the question of the standard was not one of gold or silver, but concerned the weight of the standard coin, whether it should be one Kungping tael or .72 of a tael, the latter being the weight of the silver dollar then in use. Eleven of the 22 provinces favoured one tael as the unit, nine provinces favoured the .72 tael, and the rest advocated using both. The Currency Investigation Bureau decided to coin both kinds, fixing the ratio between them at to 1, adjusting the weight to the ratio by the difference in fineness of the silver. The one-tael coins, however, were never minted.

The name of the Bureau was changed in 1910. Since then it has been known as the Currency Bureau. In 1918, under the Republic, a set of regulations was adopted, putting the Bureau in charge of all matters concerning money, note issue, and other currency questions. All the Government mints, the Government Bureau of Printing and Engraving, the Government Paper Mill at Shenkiaki, Hupeh, and all Government Supervisors of Banks were to be under the direction of the Bureau.

When private banks wished to issue notes, they had first to secure the consent of the Bureau. The period of its existence was limited to 10 years. To secure cooperation between the Bureau and the Ministry of Finance the Minister of Finance was made Director-General of the Bureau, while a director in active charge was appointed by the President. The present Minister of Finance considered the Bureau superfluous and it was abolished as part of the retrenchment programme which is now being carried out.

Sterling's Recovery

London, Feb. 1.

Sterling on New York to-day recovered to 4.31⅞.—Reuter.

Gasoline Costing More

London, Feb. 1.

The price of petrol has been increased by 4½d. to 1/11d. per gallon.—Reuter.

CHINA TEA

Increasing Popularity at Home

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Dec. 20.

China tea is clearly growing in popularity. Up to the end of October from the start of the season in June the exports of China tea have exceeded those of the previous year by 19 million lb. and of this excess 8½ million lb. have come to London. This excess is interesting in view of the decline in the export of Indian tea in the same period—Ceylon tea is on the other hand holding its own in point of exports. Yet both India and Ceylon planters are making very large profits as the following figures will show:—

Season 1921-22	Price per lb.	s1.2.91d.
Season 1922-3	Price per lb.	s1.5.81d.
Season 1923-4	Price per lb.	s1.7.43d.

It is true that during the war ten estates had a bad time but this has long passed away. China tea does not much fluctuate in price and its sale is of course hampered by the 2d. Preference against it. Hence there is a good deal of interest in the China market to see whether in these anti-Preference days the 2d. will be left on or swept away, when the tea duty is reduced.

CAUESS FOR DISSATISFACTION.

Probably some campaign will be set on foot without delay to stimulate the consumption of China tea in this country. In the meantime, it would be well for China tea exporters, and also China tea growers, to realize that there is a good deal of dissatisfaction in this country with the state in which tea reaches the British market. In the first place it is not too carefully picked, or cleaned, and there is a good deal of improvement possible in grading and standardization. These are not my personal sentiments but they are the sentiments of the British tea importers, and the sooner an improvement is introduced the better. The import of green China tea for this country is of course dead as a result of the recent arsenic scare, and it is never likely to be revived. Exports are still made of this commodity to Morocco, but the trade does not pay because the French buyers, knowing that there is no market here for this green tea, offer what prices they like.

Clearly the tea competition in this country is getting more and more acute; it is true that most of the Japan Formosan tea goes to America, but evidently they still anticipate some business in this country, since the Japanese Government has just issued some most perfectly turned out pamphlets showing how the tea is prepared and the finished way in which it is handled. One must admire the thoroughness with which they attend to these commercial matters, although frankly I do not think that Formosan tea will ever secure much of a public in this country.

HONGKONG STEAMBOATS

Preparing for Collapse of Present Abnormal Prices

Hongkong, Feb. 2.

At a meeting of the Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Company, Ld:, the Chairman, referring to the increase of $146,198 in the investment fluctuation account, sounded a note of warning. He stated:—

"This augmentation is due to an exceptional rise during the past year in the values of local stocks and your board, being of opinion that the present abnormal prices may not be maintained in the near future, deem it prudent to leave this book profit in fund for future contingencies."—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE PORT OF TSINGTAO

Trade Figures

The Statistical Department of the Harbour and Wharf Administration Bureau, Tsingtao, has issued its report for the second 10 days of December last. During this period 37 steamers (64,783 tons) entered the harbour while 35 steamers (58,999 tons) cleared. In comparison with the corresponding period a year ago this shows a decrease of four steamers entering and an increase of three in departures. According to nationality the ships entering are classified as follows:—Three Chinese (2,601 tons); 24 Japanese (32,854 tons); four British (10,876 tons); one American (3,552 tons); five of other nationalities (14,900 tons). In clearances the numbers were:—Three Chinese (2,601 tons); 22 Japanese (30,039 tons); five British (12,028 tons); one American (3,552 tons); four of other nationalities (10,779 tons). Of the steamers entering 13 were from Shanghai, eight from Dairen, and 11 from Japan ports, while of those clearing 10 were for Shanghai, 10 for Japan, and seven for Dairen.

Exports during the period under review amounted to 24,551 tons, a decrease compared with the 1922 period of 2,607 tons. On the other hand imports show a substantial increase, being 16,741 tons against 11,231 tons in 1922. In exports the most important decreases were in salt, coal and iron ore, while the increases registered in imports were principally in marine products and kerosene oil.

THE PANAMA CANAL

Steadily Increasing Traffic

The report of the Panama Canal for 1923 shows to what an increasing extent advantage is being taken of this new means of communication. The figures for tonnage are rapidly approaching those of the Suez Canal, which during the year 1922 passed shipping representing 21,360,000 tons, compared with 18,605,786 tons for the Panama Canal for the year 1922-23. The tonnage thus reported for the latter compares with 11,417,459 tons in the previous year, the growth having been largely accounted for by the expansion of the Californian oilfields. The number of vessels making the passage of the Canal in the 12 months was, 3,967, including 121 motor ships.

Vessels are worked through the Canal on a regular schedule. The greatest number of vessels passed through Gatun locks in a day was 24 commercial sea-going vessels put through in 23 lockages. This was accomplished on May 25, 1923. Actually 38 vessels have been passed through on one occasion, but these included submarines and destroyers in groups. The average number of lockages per diem has worked out at Gatun at 11·7. At these locks there were only nine delays of more than 10 minutes' duration, due to faulty operation or failure of equipment, the total time aggregating 5 hours and 4 minutes. At the other locks delays were of a trifling character.

With regard to water supply, this proved ample during the year for all lockages, and for operating the hydro-electric plant at Gatun continuously, the steam plant at Miraflores being held in reserve. Surveys continued in the Charges Valley with a view to locating a site for a dam above Alhajuela to provide the additional storage which will become necessary.

A number of small slides occurred during the year, and the total amount removed from the East and West Culebra Slides in the year was 1,290,250 cubic yards. At East Culebra, in December, 1922, about 595,000 cubic yards of material moved into the basin excavated at the side of the canal, and about 150,000 cubic yards moved into the canal itself. The slides caused no interruption to traffic except for one day to a vessel drawing 34 ft. of water.—"Engineering."

Men'oukou Mines

Messrs. George McBain have received a telegram from the manager of the Mentoukou Mine stating that the output of coal for the month of January was 15,614 tons.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI HOTELS

Proposed Dividend and Increase of Capital

Subject to audit, the profit of the Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels, Ld. for the year ended December 31, 1923, after allowing for directors' fees, bad and doubtful debts and contingencies (which latter cover the final liquidation of the doubtful assets with which the Shanghai Hotels, Ld. was encumbered), providing $300,000 in respect of interest, and setting aside $200,000 for depreciation, amounted to $1,080,000.

After paying the interim dividend for 1923, amounting to $264,802.50 the balance of $815,197.50 remains, which at the forthcoming yearly general meeting the Board propose to recommend be apportioned as follows:

To pay a final dividend for 1923 on 375,000 shares at 75 cents per share	$281,250	
To pay a bonus on 375,000 shares at 50 cents per share	187,500	$468,750.00
To transfer to reserves		300,000.00
To carry forward to next account		46,447.50
		$815,197.50

The directors are taking preliminary steps with a view to obtaining the shareholders' sanction to increasing the authorized capital of the company (which at present is $5,000,000, consisting of 500,000 shares of the nominal value of $10 each, of which 375,000 shares have been issued) to $10,000,000. Should this proposal be approved, the Board will further propose that 375,000 shares be issued at par at the ratio of share for share, bringing the issued capital up to $7,500,000, consisting of 750,000 shares of the nominal value of $10 each, and leaving a balance of 250,000 shares unissued.

The company does not intend to proceed with the proposal to issue debentures for public subscription.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co., Ld., held on Monday it was decided that, after providing for the interim dividend of Tls. 3 per share which absorbed Tls. 108,000 the shareholders should be recommended to apportion the balance at credit of profit and loss account on December 31, 1923, of Tls. 533,334.14 as follows:—

	Tls.
To pay a final dividend of Tls. 10 per share	360,000.00
,, place to credit of ordinary repairs and renewals	60,000.00
,, place to credit of special repairs and renewals	50,000.00
,, place to credit of depreciation fund	50,000.00
,, pay a bonus to staff at wharves	9,854.49
,, carry forward	3,479.65
Taels	533,334.14

Kailan Mines

The total output of the Administration's mines for the week ending January 26, 1924, amounted to 79,064 tons and the sales during the same period, to 78,352 tons.

Shanghai Tramways

The following is the traffic return of the Shanghai Tramways, (Foreign Settlement) for the week ended February 6, 1924, with figures for the corresponding week last year:—

	1924.	1923.
Gross receipts	$77,457.05	$71,078.12
Loss by currency depreciation	33,978.80	26,565.47
Effective receipts	$43,478.25	$44,512.65
Percentage of loss by currency depreciation	45.06	38.93
Car miles run	107,185	114,071
Passengers carried	2,196,014	2,490,548

Japanese Competition in East Africa

London, Jan. 25.

Reporting on the trade of East Africa, the British Trade Commissioner warns United Kingdom manufacturers that, in addition to competition from the Continent and from India, Japanese manufacturers have now obtained at least a temporary domination of the market for unbleached piece goods and are now extending their activities to Manchester lines.—Reuter.

Dutch Oil Tax

The Hague, Jan. 25.

The Lower House to-day adopted by 52 votes to 13 the bill retaining the tax on agricultural produce in the Dutch East Indies and introducing a tax on oil.

The Minister of the Colonies in the course of the debate said that the oil tax would not be extended beyond 1924, even if revision of the fiscal legislation of the Indies were not finished before January, 1925. The House carried without a division the bill repealing the export duty on oil.—Reuter.

New Dutch Finance Co.

The Hague, Jan. 26.

A new company has been registered with the title of the Netherlands Acceptance Company, having a capital of 5,000,000 florins, with the object of financing commercial transactions and granting trade credits, especially between Holland and foreign countries. The Netherlands Trading Company and the Rotterdam Bank are connected with the venture, which is regarded as the foundation of a big international corporation in which English, German and perhaps Swiss banking interests will also take part.—Reuter.

Decrease in Production of American Commodities

New York, Jan. 28.

According to the Federal Reserve Board's monthly statement, the production of basic commodities declined four per cent. in December to the lowest point for the year, reflecting, principally, reduced consumption in the cotton industry. There were also reductions in the woollen, petroleum and sugar industries. The production of pig-iron increased The volume of wholesale trade decreased.—Reuter's American Service.

Rubber Restriction

London, Jan. 31.

It is officially announced that the percentage of standard production of rubber which can be exported on the minimum duty from Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and Malaya in the quarter beginning February 1 remains 60 per cent.—Reuter.

Russia's New Currency

London, Feb. 6.

The diplomatic correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" says that in connexion with the announcement that the Russian Soviet Government have decided to substitute silver currency for the present paper currency, it is understood that the vast stocks of silver at present held by American and British and other banks and Russia's new currency move may result in and early appreciation of the price of the metal.—Reuter.

New Canadian Silver

Ottawa, Feb. 5.

The Geological Survey reports that silver-ore has been discovered in the Beaver River district of the Yukon bearing 1,100 ounces of silver to the ton and that there is an excellent chance of further discoveries.

A stampede is in progress into the district, which is 16 miles east of that of the discoveries in 1919.—Reuter's American Service.

CHINA NEW YEAR RACE MEETING

Wretched Conditions at Kiangwan Course: Run of Success for Mr. Morriss

The China New Year race meeting of the International Recreation Club opened on Wednesday under most unpleasant conditions. The course resembled a paddy-field, being inches deep in sticky mud, with great pools of water lying about in many places. In addition, the rain fell practically throughout the day, making things most uncomfortable for the big gathering of racing enthusiasts, despite the fact that the splendid public stand offers so much protection. Members attended in fairly large numbers and had a chance of seeing what a wonderful club-house and stand is being erected for their benefit. At the moment only the skeleton of the former is in position, but it was sufficient to show that a truly palatial club is being built. The front of the stand has been completed, save for the roof and side shields, and was in use. Even as it is there is no stand in China so well built and it will be a beautiful work when finished. Its great sweep of terraces should more than suffice to accommodate every member of the club and in front there is a wide paddock for promenading. The I.R.C. invariably makes some little improvement at every meeting and this time it introduced printed slip-on numbers for the riding weights on the name-boards, which is a distinct advantage, for often before, especially in wet weather, the figures were illegible.

It was a great pity that the conditions were so bad, for probably never before in China have there been so many ponies of such high class as were entered for the meeting. As expected, Mr. Morriss did extremely well and it is doubtful whether any pony can approach his selection for the Champions, but there were others also who ran in particularly good style. The wonderful Ataman simply left the field standing in the opening race, in which the Field stable had two runners, and, incidentally, Covellite, the one who was expected to stop him, finished nowhere. Mr. Morriss' run began with the Griffin Plate, which he won in the easiest fashion with Swallowfield, who had not been expected to start. Then Abbeyfield cantered in for the Empire Stakes, with Patsfield second; Plainfield was second for the Grand Juvenile Plate behind the speedy Moon Star; Lissenfield won the Craven Stakes in the easiest fashion; Hartfield was third for the New Nursery Plate; and Letchfield was beaten only a bare length by its old stable companion, Danesfield (now Florida), for the Yangtsze Stakes. City of Peking justified its favouritism by winning the Club Cup without being overworked. The ponies ran very true to training form and the only real upset was when Empire Down won the New Nursery Plate, but Wm. Hu invariably brings at least one outsider in during the New Year meeting.

The results in detail follow:—

1.—THE KOKAZA CUP.—Five furlongs.

lb.

Mr. M. M. Sokoloff's ches., Ataman (Mr. M. M. [illegible]) 152—1
[illegible] (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 161—2
[illegible] (Mr. J. K. Brand) 161—3

Won by a length and a half; a length. Time, 1 min. 17[illegible] sec.

2.—THE SUBSCRIPTION GRIFFIN PLATE. [illegible]

lb

Messrs. J. H. Tam and Co's. [illegible] Witty Fellow (Mr. L. P. Quincey) 155—1
Mr. [illegible] Hospitality (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 152—2
Mr. [illegible] Tipsy Cake (Mr. W. Hill) 155—3

Won by [illegible] quarters of a length; [illegible] length. Time, 1 min. 39[illegible] sec.

3.—THE GRIFFIN PLATE.—One mile.

lb.

Mr. Hy. Morriss' ches., Swallowfield (Mr. H. E. Morriss) 158—1
Leaf's grey, Three Fours (Mr. J. K. Brand) 155—2
K. D. Soo's ches., English Money (Mr. A. Knoll) 155—3

Won by a length; the same. Time, 2 min. 11[illegible] sec.

4.—THE EMPIRE STAKES.—One mile.

lb.

Mr. Hy. Morriss' grey, Abbeyfield (Mr. H. E. Morriss) 164—1
" Hy. Morriss' grey, Patsfield (Mr. R. F. Stewart) 158—2
" Morimoto's dun, Tone (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 158—3

Won by two lengths; one length. Time, 2 min. 12[illegible] sec.

5.—THE GRAND JUVENILE PLATE.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Mr. Tucksing's ches., Moon Star (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 152—1
" Hy. Morriss' grey, Plainfield (Mr. R. F. Stewart) 158—2
T. T. Chow's black, The Harrier (Mr. J. Liou) 155—3

Won by half a length; three lengths. Time, 2 min. 51[illegible] sec.

6.—THE CLUB CUP.—One and a half miles.

lb.

Messrs. Sheng Co's. dun, City of Peking (Mr. W. Hill) 158—1
Mr. M. M. Sokoloff's grey, Bonne Affaire (Mr. M. M. Sokoloff) 158—2
Messrs. J. H. Tam and Co's. grey, Wild Fellow (Mr. L. P. Quincey) 161—3

Won by a neck; two lengths. Time, 3 min. 26[illegible] sec.

7.—THE EASTERN PLATE.—One mile.

lb.

Mr Jolly's dun, Jolly Lad (Mr. A. Knoll) 155—1
Capt. Bahnson's grey, Lyksborg (Mr. W. Hill) 152—2
Mr. MacHung's grey, Haggis Mr. C. R. Burkill) 155—3

Won by three lengths; many. Time, 2 min 18[illegible] sec.

8.—THE CRAVEN STAKES.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Mr. Hy. Morriss' bay, Lissenfield (Mr. H. E. Morriss) 164—1
Messrs. Day and Toeg's bay, Columbia (Mr. A. N. Dallas) 161 2
Mr. T. T. Chow's grey, The Koulan (Mr. J. Liou) 155—3

Won by many lengths; the same. Time, 2 min. 49[illegible] sec.

9.—THE NEW NURSERY PLATE.—Three-quarters of a mile.

lb.

Mr. Sing Ding's brown, Empire Down (Mr. Wm. Hu) 155—1
" Li Mei-ling's brown, Silver Pagoda (Mr. C. R. Burkill) 155—2
Hy. Morriss' ches., Hartfield (Mr. A. J. P. Heard) 155—3

Won by two lengths; one and a half lengths. Time, 1 min. 40 sec.

10.—THE YANGTSZE STAKES.—One and a half miles.

lb.

Mr. Milan's dun, Florida, late Danesfield (Mr. A. Knoll) 158—1
" Hy. Morriss's ches., Letchfield (Mr. A. J. P. Heard) 154—2
Messrs. Haimovitch & Zimmerman's ches., Capella Eyes (Mr. V. M. Haimovitch) 161—3

Won by a length; two. Time, 3 min. [illegible] sec.

11.—THE SHANGHAI RACE CLUB CUP.—One and a half miles.

lb.

Mr. K. D. Soo's grey, Mexican Money (Mr. V. M. Haimovitch) 155—1
" Edward Sheng's grey, Censorship (Mr. Y. Wong) 152—2
Messrs. J. H. Tam & Co.'s ches., Witty Fellow (Mr. L. P. Quincey) 158—3

Won by two lengths; one. Time, 3 min. 36[illegible] sec.

SWALLOWFIELD'S DERBY

The weather conditions were somewhat better on Thursday. In the forenoon the course was badly flooded, but at least it did not rain any more and the sun even shone for brief intervals. The course was drying all through the day, but at that it still was very heavy. The run of Field successes did not continue, for Mr. Morriss sent out very few of his ponies. The outstanding event was the Derby, for which Swallowfield naturally started a raging favourite and won very comfortably from an outsider in Witty Fellow, with City of Peking filling third place. Rayfield was the only other Field pony to win, annexing the Red Rose Stakes [illegible] Champions included Robbery, Covellite, Capella Eyes, Columbia and Leadership.

Details of the races follow:—

1.—THE SUBSCRIPTION GRIFFINS STAKES.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Mr. [illegible] Tipsy Cake (Mr. W. Hill) 155 1
Mr. Jolly's dun, Jolly Lad (Mr. A. Knoll) 158—2
" K. H. Chun's ches., Lammas Day (Mr. P. C. Wu) 155—3

Won by a short head; three lengths. Time, 3 min. 01 sec.

2.—THE ZERO CUP.—One mile.

lb

Mr. Morimoto's dun, Tone (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 158—1
" L. T's. dun, The Zebra (Mr. J. K. Brand) 161—2
Messrs. J. H. Tam & Co.'s ches., Speedy Fellow (Mr. L. P. Quincey) 152 3

Won by many lengths; the same. Time, 2 min. 19[illegible] sec.

3.—THE GREENMOUNT NURSERY PLATE One mile.

lb.

Mr. Edward Sheng's ches., Leadership (Mr. Y. Wong) 158—1
" T. T. Chow's grey, The Bison (Mr. J. Liou) 152—2
Messrs. Winsome & Hasty's grey, The Goshawk (Mr. W. Hill) 158—3

Won by many lengths; three. Time, 2 min. 21 sec.

4.—THE VICTORIA STAKES.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Messrs. Day & Toeg's bay, Columbia (Mr. A. N. Dallas) 161—1
Mr. Leaf's grey, Silver Spur (Mr. J. K. Brand) 161—2
" Tucksing's bay, Century Star (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 151—3

Won by a head; two lengths. Time, 2 min. 55[illegible] sec.

5.—THE DERBY STAKES.—One and a half miles.

lb.

Mr. Hy. Morriss' ches., Swallowfield (Mr. H. E. Morriss) 158—1
Messrs. J. H. Tam & Co's. ches., Witty Fellow (Mr. L. P. Quincey) 158—2
" Sheng Co's. dun, City of Peking (Mr. W. Hill) 158—3

Won by three-quarters of a length; half a length. Time, 3 min. 31[illegible] sec.

6.—THE KIRTLING PLATE.—Nine furlongs.

lb.

Messrs. J. H. Tam & Co's. grey, Wild Fellow (Mr. L. P. Quincey) 161—1
Mr. Henry Sheng's skew., Cherry Blossom (Mr. A. Knoll) 152—2
" San Sing's bay, Saccharometer (Mr. V. M. Haimovitch) 155—3

Won by a length; one and a half lengths. Time, 2 min. 42[illegible] sec.

7.—THE CORINTHIAN PLATE.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Capt. Bahnson's gey, Lyksborg (Mr. W. Hill) 152—1
Mr. Property's bay, Hospitality (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 158—2
" Joint-Master's dun, Sentiment (Mr. A. N. Dallas) 152—3

Won by many lengths; the same. Time, 3 min. 00[illegible] sec.

8.—THE COVENTRY STAKES.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Messrs. V. M. & C. R. B's. bay, Robbery (Mr. C. R. Burkill) 156—1
Mr. Hung's bay, Imperial Dragon (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 151—2
Mr. K. D. Soo's grey, Mexican Money (Mr. V. M. Haimovitch) 160—3

Won by three lengths; a head. Time, 2 min. 54[illegible] sec.

9.—THE WOKINGHAM STAKES.—Seven furlongs.

lb.

Messrs. Chow Bros.' bay, Covellite (Mr. J. Liou) 147—1
Mr. Meguro's cream, Takeo (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 161—2
" San Sing's ches., Roman Oriole (Mr. V. M. Haimovitch) 147—3

Won by three lengths; two lengths. Time, 1 min. 59[illegible] sec.

10.—THE RED ROSE STAKES.—One mile.

lb.

Mr. Hy. Morriss' roan, Rayfield (Mr. R. F. Stewart) 152—1
" Property's black, Ability Mr. A. Knoll) 152—2
Edward Sheng's ches., Relationship, late Redfield (Mr. Y. Wong) 158—3

Won by many lengths: three lengths. Time, 2 min 20[illegible] sec.

11.—THE KIANGWAN STAKES.—One and a half miles.

lb.

Messrs. Haimovitch & Zimmerman's ches., Capella Eyes (Mr. V. M. Haimovitch) 156—1
Mr. Edward Sheng's grey, Ownership (Mr. Y. Wong) 147—2
Tucksing's ches., Pole Star (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 153 3

Won by many lengths: a short head. Time, 3 min. 33 sec.

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

Wales Defeated by Scotland by a Big Score

Edinburgh, Feb. 2.

Scotland beat Wales by 35 points to 10 in an international Rugby match played here to-day. The weather was dull and windy. There were 25,000 spectators.

In the first half the Welsh backs were slow and failed badly, especially when on the offensive. Scotland was mostly attacking and after six minutes Smith scored a try, which Drysdale, the full back, converted. Then Drysdale kicked a penalty goal. Before the interval Bryce, Bertram, Smith and Wallace added tries. Drysdale took all the kicks and converted one. The scores at half-time was Scotland 22, Wales 0.

Until 10 minutes from the finish Scotland outplayed and outpaced the Welshmen and tries for Scotland were scored by Waddell, Macpherson and Smith. S. Gillies failed to convert the first but Drysdale converted the last two. Wales then attacked desperately and Griffiths and Ivor Jones scored tries, Male, the Welsh full-back converting both, making the final score 35 points to 10 in favour of Scotland.—Reuter.

THE OLYMPIC WINTER SPORTS

Norway's Large Lead on Points: Official Positions of the Competing Teams

Chamonix, Feb. 5.

In the Olympic winter sports Norway secured the first three places in the long ski-jumping and in the combined ski-race and jumping.

The official position of the teams at the end of the Games is as follows:—

Norway, 134½ points	1
Finland, 76½ points	2
Britain, 30 points	3
United States, 29 points	4
Sweden, 26 points	5
Austria, 25 points	6
Switzerland, 24 points	7
France, 16½ points	8
Czecho-Slovakia, 8½ points	9
Belgium, 2 points	10
Canada, 1 point	11
Italy, 1 point	12

—Reuter.

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failing that, there would be so many vacancies in the service that they could be absorbed until the Soviet Government died a natural or some other death, and from "trend of events" in England today either appear quite a long way ahead.

I am, etc.,
SEATON DELAVAL.

Shanghai, Feb. 5. 1924.

RUSSIANS SENT NORTH.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In December of last year the Ural-Siberian Trading Society, of which I am managing director, after every imaginable effort to get work for its members had the luck to find employment for a few hundred men on the timber concession of the C. E. R. near Harbin.

The Society had no money for the forwarding of its members, and I applied to the Committee, whose purpose was to assist Russian Orphans of the Great War, for help in the transportation of the requisite members of the Society from Shanghai to the place of employment.

The president of the Committee of Assistance to the Russian Orphans of Great War, Mr. Grosbois, and all the Committee have exerted themselves most kindly and successfully in the matter. We began by transporting 126 men from Shanghai to the place of employment. The forwarding of the men was done by groups of 10, and the majority of them are already at work and earning money.

At the timber Concession, where are engaged the members of the Society hitherto sent up, there is still work available for about 100 men. The Society has about as many of their members in Shanghai left behind, as there is not enough money for their transportation, but enormous help has been given to the Society, and by that assistance 126 men have work. Therefore, Sir, will you allow me through your columns, in the name of all members of the Society to thank the president of the Committee of the Assistance of Russian Orphans of the Great War, Mr. Grosbois, the secretary of the Mommittee, Mr. Shendrikoff, and all members of the Committee.

I would also express my gratitude to the Race Club for the help they gave in forwarding our men from Shanghai.

I am very thankful to the Director of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway for his deduction of 25 per cent. on the tickets from Shanghai to Mukden; and to Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son, who organized free of charge the manner of transportation of the men.

I am, etc.,
D. LEBEDEFF.
Managing Director, U.S.T.S.

Shanghai, Feb. 1, 1924.

ITALY AND RUSSIA.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Referring to the Italian Wireless message through Reuter on the Russo-Italian negotiations published in your issue of to-day, having compared the original of Mussolini's speech before the Italian Parliament with the version given by the above message, I find that when he refers to the concessions to be obtained from Russia he mentions "raw materials" and not "war materials" as erroneously stated in the English translation.

I am, etc.,
G. A. BENA

Shanghai, Feb. 1, 1924.

DR TEOFILO BRAGA.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Yesterday saw the announcement of the death of Dr. Teofilo Braga, an eminent philosopher and man of letters, and the first President of the Portuguese Republic.

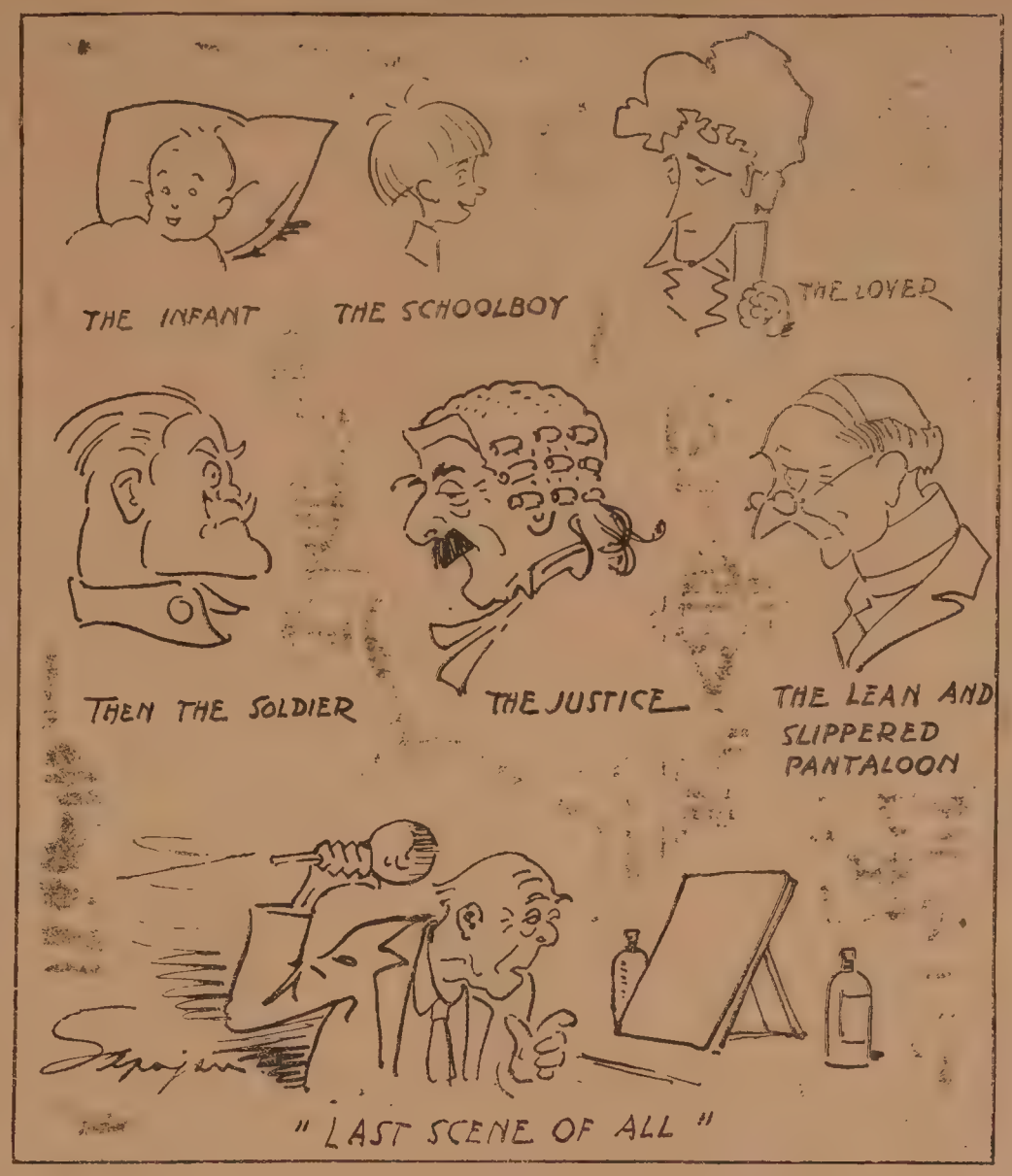
The demise of one who was highly respected throughout the country not only for the great teachings that emanated from his many philosophical writings, but also for his personality, so full of humility, must have been bitterly felt by the entire population of Portugal and her colonies.

Dr. Teofilo Braga leaves behind him a luminous track, which if followed by our politicians of to-day, will undoubtedly lead them to a better understanding and to a solution of many vital problems affecting the present and future welfare of Portugal.

Men like Dr. Teofilo can hardly be replaced, and in mourning his loss I feel confident that the Portuguese nation is not losing sight of the fact that a great man, a very great man indeed, has passed away.

I am, etc.,
C. J. MACHADO.

Shanghai, Feb. 1, 1924.



Shakespeare's "Seven Ages" told in terms of hair

CHINA, THE LEAGUE AND AMERICA.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In your issue of January 29 a correspondent "S" writing about the solution of China's difficulties, suggests that the League of Nations "appoint a committee (including if possible a representative from the U.S.A.) to take over the task of protecting China from all outer and inner foes."

May I state that it would not be fair to include a representative from the U.S.A. as long as America withholds herself from joining the League of Nations. She deliberately keeps herself aloof from the troubles of Europe where she might help, though at some financial risk to herself—so why should she have any say in the reorganization of China's affairs? She could earn herself a place in such a committee as the above only when she is recognized as a useful member of the League of Nations.

I am, etc.,
RECIPROCITY.

Tsinanfu, Jan. 31, 1924.

THE EMPTY FLAGPOLE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR, The Council of the International Settlement of Shanghai is the owner of a very excellent mast on the Bund. It is one of the finest masts I have ever seen. It has a pretty gilded ship on the top, but no flag.

The Council of the International Settlement is also the sole owner of quite a handsome flag. It is somewhat faulty as to heraldry I am told, but that is a minor matter. It is really a good-looking piece of bunting.

Cannot something be done to bring these two kindred spirits together? They belong together. They have a right and demand to be joined together, and besides, would it not show the proper civic spirit to display the emblem of the International Settlement in some other place than over the police stations?

Mr. Chairman of the Council; what about getting together to put *"Omnia juncta in uno"* up the pole?

I am, etc.,
B. BUNTING.

Shanghai, Feb. 1, 1924.

THE LIBERAL PARTY.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—If you will excuse me saying so, you always seem to me less luminous than usual when you write on English politics. What grounds, for instance, have you for your assertion on January 18 that the Liberals are a dying party? In the recent election they polled more votes and secured more seats than in 1922, which does not look as though they were exactly moribund. Of the votes cast for the three main parties (excluding those cast for the half-dozen independents) no party secured as many as 40 per cent. and the Liberals obtained over 30 per cent. On these figures alone there is no justification for your statement.

But you go on to remark that protection will eventually be brought into force by the Labour party. Accepting this forecast, may I ask from whose ranks you think that His Majesty's Opposition will then be drawn? Surely from those of the Liberal party whose watchword has been for decades, is now and will then still be "Free Trade."

I am, etc.,
X.O.X.

Up Country, Jan. 28.

*** There are men of other parties who oppose Protection. But in any case, the party which merely opposes has little to offer to the country and that was the prevailing characteristic of the Liberals' programme at the late election. They may of course strike out a new line and acquire a new lease of life. But the signs of the times are against it. —Ed.

FOR COIN COLLECTORS.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—I am an amateur coin collector and have in my possession a coin with Indian characters on one side and on the other two lions standing on three hind legs balancing a shield with their forefeet.

Above there is written in English "East India Company." The coin is dated 1804 and as I have no means of finding out if it is of any value I would appreciate it very much if some kind person would let me know if it is considered rare and would advise me of the approximate value of same.

I am, etc.,
AMATEUR.

Shanghai, Feb. 2, 1924.

AN EARLY ARMADILLO

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Perhaps you will consider the following incident worthy of record in your valuable columns. Shortly after noon yesterday I was enjoying my customary constitutional along Ningpo's picturesque Bund, and was passing the imposing portals of the Campo Club, when my eye was caught by a slight movement on one of the adjacent mud flats which are a peculiar feature of our river at low water. Imagine my amazement at beholding a fine adult armadillo (*Saurus vestibularius sinicus*), basking in the mellow rays of the midday sun. Surely it is most unusual for these nimble saurians to appear in the upper reaches of the Yung River so early in the season? In my small experience no single specimen of this species has ever been reported north of a lat. 26° 39′ earlier than the vernal equinox. Yet I do not think I can have been mistaken with regard to its identity, in so far as from a prolonged sojourn in the Rio delta I am sufficiently familiar with the appearance and habits of the closely-related South American variety of this interesting vertebrate.

I shall be interested to know if any of your readers can produce a parallel to this remarkable occurrence.

I am, etc.,
NATURE LOVER.

Ningpo, Feb. 1.

PURE MILK.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The report of the pure milk commission, your leading article thereto anent, and the letter of a correspondent in your to-day's issue form interesting reading and cause one to hope that our local health department will be no less active in insisting on pure milk than they were in compelling purveyors of such to supply pure icecream.

This subject calls to mind the following lines:—

Milk is a menace to man and to maiden,
To mothers, boys, babies alike, when germ-laden,
Who will protect us, if not the good fairies,
From poisons that lurk in tuberculous dairies?
Drawn from the cow through immaculate udders.
Freshest of milk is a matter for shudders
Where cans are unclean, for no act can be vainer
Than putting pure milk in an impure container;
'Tis brought in the morning, escaping inspection.
And proves to the household a source of infection.
Imparting diseases which oft become chronic.
Alas! for the milk that is new and pneumonic!
O germ-laden cans to which dairies allow use;
O vessels pernicious for holding the cow juice!
Let rhymers with verses and artists with pencils
Unite in denouncing damn dirty utensils.
And so say all of us.

I am, etc.,
P.O.Q.

Shanghai, Feb. 1, 1924.

GENIUS AND LONGEVITY.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In your issue of January 9 you have a note on the above subject, in which you quote a few instances in support from the records of poets and other men of letters. The following lines, author unknown to the writer, further support what you say. It is on "Old Age."

"It is too late! Ah! nothing is too late
Till the tired heart shall cease to palpitate.
Cato learned Greek at eighty: Sophocles
Wrote his grand Oedipus, and Simonides
Bore off the prize of verse from his compeers,
When each had numbered more than fourscore years.
And Theophrastus at fourscore and ten
Had but begun his "Characters of Men."
Chaucer, at Woodstock with the nightingales,
At sixty wrote "The Canterbury Tales."
Goethe at Weimar, toiling to the last
Completed "Faust" when eighty years were past.
What then? Shall we sit idly down and say:
"The night hath come; it is no longer day."
The night hath not yet come; we are not quite
Cut off from labour by the falling light;
Something remains for us to do or dare,
Even the oldest tree some fruit may bear,
For age is opportunity no less
Than youth itself, though in another dress;
And as the evening twilight fades away
The sky is filled with stars invisible by day."

I am, etc.,
WM. R. STOBIE.

Wenchow, Che., Jan. 12, 1924.

*** The above letter has taken some time on the way. Ed.

COMPANY MEETING

THE CHINA GENERAL OMNIBUS CO.

Plant Purchased and an Engineer Engaged: Operations to Commence Shortly

The first annual general meeting of shareholders in the China General Omnibus Co., Ld., was held last Friday at the office of the general managers, Messrs. Arnhold & Co., 6 Kiukiang Road. The Chairman (Mr. H. E. Arnhold) presided, supported by Capt. R. E. Sassoon, Mr. H. Hanbury (directors), Mr. J. A. Moller (secretary) and other shareholders, a total holding of 7,060 shares being represented. The secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman—Before moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, I would like to make one or two comments.

It will be remembered that preliminary expenses were estimated at Tls. 20,000. The balance sheet shows that we have paid Tls. 4,458.34. There are still to be paid the expenses of preparing our technical plans, which will amount to about Tls. 8,000, and also the expenses of sending our technical adviser to England *viâ* America. It will be noted that nothing has yet been paid to the general managers under their agreement. They have agreed to forgo their charges for the period under review, and to begin charging us as from January 1, 1924.

SELECTION OF CHASSIS.

Mr. Sellick, our technical adviser, has now visited the United States and Great Britain, where he has been able to make a close study of the best types of omnibuses, and of the latest methods of operation. As a result of his studies, we have, on his advice, placed orders for 30 Tilling Stevens petrol electric chassis, shipment of which will begin within the next few weeks. The special feature of these chassis which [illegible] London and elsewhere, is the replacement of the gearbox for speed-changing by an electrical connexion between the engine and the wheels. The advantages derived from this system include smoother running, easier control, less wear of tyres and roadway, and decreased maintenance charges. We have also decided to order in England 24 single-deck bodies with spring seats and double entrances. The doors will be arranged so that they cover the steps when closed, so that riding on the step or entering and riding a 'bus in motion are entirely prevented. Six double-deck bodies will also be ordered for use during rush hours and for other special duties. Messrs. Tilling Stevens, the chassis manufacturers, have checked our figures of revenue and cost. They are so well convinced of the prospects of the services proposed that they have indicated their willingness to accept a substantial [illegible] shares. On Mr. Sellick's advice, we have [illegible] England. The [illegible] and [illegible] are in course of construction to [illegible] These [illegible] specially designed for [illegible] and is arranged to permit of extension as required.

WORK TO BEGIN SOON.

We have been fortunate in securing the services of a highly qualified and experienced managing engineer, Mr. Petrie. This gentleman comes to us with the highest [illegible] He was [illegible] both by Mr. Sellick and by the London [illegible] of our general managers, both of whom warmly recommended his engagement. He is expected to arrive in Shanghai with Mr. Sellick about the end of March. Material for the garage and 'buses will begin to reach here about the same time, so that Mr. Petrie's services will be available during the time of erection and assembly.

Mr. Sellick's visit to England on our behalf has proved well worth while. It has resulted in the selection of reliable and up-to-date equipment and has been the means of a valuable curtailment of the inevitable interval between the formation of the company and the operations of its fleet of omnibuses. At our next annual meeting I hope to give the results of our first few months of actual operation.

I should be glad to answer any questions that may be put to me. If there are no questions, I will move:—

That the annual report and balance sheet, as presented, be adopted.

No questions were asked and the resolution was seconded by Capt. R. E. Sassoon and carried unanimously, as also were the following:—

That Mr. Ellis Hayim be elected a director of the company.—Proposed by Mr. F. Norton Bell, seconded by Mr. S. G. Adams.

That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham and Matthews be re-elected auditors to the company.—Proposed by Mr. J. S. S. Cooper, seconded by Mr. W. D. Wells.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt and [illegible] Mr. Kermit Roosevelt, who were accorded such a wonderful reception in Japan, were to leave Peking last Sunday on their [illegible] Russia.

That the phrase "irresistible accident" might be used in commercial documents instead of "an Act of God" was suggested by a speaker at a recent meeting of the Chartered Institute of Shipbrokers. The phrase "Act of God" commonly occurs in commerce, and if there were any real demand for its replacement by another phrase, "irresistible accident" would seem to express the meaning of the present term fairly well. The term "irresistible accident" is in keeping with the explanation of the term "Act of God," which was given some months ago in the course of the series of articles on Trade Term Definitions in the Trade and Engineering Supplement of the "Times." It was pointed out in the discussion that the true test to apply to all cases where an Act of God was alleged was whether or not the damage caused by an Act of God could have [illegible] Mr. Singer suggests that "irresistible" [illegible] word. Another which would closely express the meaning [illegible]

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SOUTHERN Rhodesia, which was inaugurated as the youngest self [illegible] of the British Empire on October 1, 1923, and which [illegible] for 27 years been administered by the British South Africa Company, possesses one of the finest climates in the world, with [illegible] of sunshine, healthy temperate days and cool nights. For those who wish to take up farming or ranching in order to make the most [illegible] of the opportunities, energy and technical knowledge are [illegible] to [illegible] business or professional [illegible] a home, Rhodesia offers many advantages [illegible] The [illegible] sport, climate and [illegible] features [illegible] with those of other countries. Native labour is plentiful and when properly [illegible] is willing and efficient. Taxation is light. Good land in healthy [illegible] and [illegible] is plentiful and not expensive.

Full information is obtainable on application to The Secretary, Southern Rhodesia Services Board (attached to the Government of Southern Rhodesia), P. O. Box 372, Salisbury S. Rhodesia.

The giving of advice to prospective settlers will be facilitated if applicants will advise the Board in detail of their circumstances and the amount of capital they would be prepared to invest in a suitable venture.

CORRESPONDENCE

BRITISH TRADE FOR BRITISH BOATS.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—A considerable number of Canadian missionaries in West China have been desirous of booking to Canada via Europe between March and June next. According to the P. & O. report just mentioned in the papers, British passenger lines were running very light, and we understood that there would be no difficulty in getting accommodation on British boats. But though a number of us have been in correspondence with shipping companies and agencies since last summer, practically not one of us has yet got a booking, and one of our number has just received a letter saying that nothing could be secured in March. This party was hoping to secure passage by the Naldera, slated to leave Shanghai on March 17 or the City of Cairo. We have been offered passage by the Japanese line, 2nd class, repeatedly, and one of our number has been offered a booking by Messageries Maritimes. None of us were anxious to travel by any foreign line, and all have asked for passage on British boats first. Now that it is getting doubtful if we can get a comfortable booking by a British line, we are starting to investigate the possibilities of the three German lines that are catering to passenger traffic. But why should we have to go to them?

So far removed as we are from the coast, we have to get our booking months in advance. If we were resident in Shanghai or near by, we could afford to let matters stand, and take such passage as might present itself at the last moment. Do the shipping companies disdain missionary trade, or why is it so hard for us to get consideration? We aggregate from 15 to 20 fares, and none of us are yet definitely booked. Moreover, we would like to know why British lines have given up calling at Italian ports. Time was when one could take P. & O. from Egypt to Brindisi, but now anyone wanting to traverse Italy has to back up from Marseilles, say, to Naples at considerable cost. Most of us wish to travel *viâ* Naples, Rome, Venice, Switzerland, Paris, to London. The German boats call at Genoa or Naples and that is somewhat of an attractiion, in addition to the difficulty of getting a British booking.

I am, etc.,
SOMEWHAT TIRED.

Up Country, Jan. 10, 1924.

THE REPATRIATION OF RUSSIANS.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—May I have space in your paper to give my views re the solving of the "repatriation" of Russian refugees? I read the appeal signed by several of our commercial magnates and [illegible] in the morning's issue with what I said soonest mended." No white man can work and live in Shanghai on $20 per month, and it would only hasten his demise. I am, of course as [illegible] that a man who works needs food accordingly.

But the remedy is not in work in Shanghai, it is in getting rid of them and seeing that no encouragement is given to others to come. I would therefore suggest that the Race Committee be approached and asked to place a surtax of $0.50 on each Champions ticket sold for the May meeting, charge $10.50 per ticket on the understanding that the 50 cents is to be handed over to the Repatriation Committee to be spent through, say, Thos. Cook & Son, for passages away from Shanghai. The Race Club sell on the A & B Sweeps probably [illegible] tickets, therefore $40,000 is obtained and it would not interfere with their present system of allocation of charities, and it would have no debit side.

Now, Sir, the Championship is a vital part of Shanghai life. We all hope to get the winning ticket and no one can say that those whose names appear on the Race Committee are not of A1 sporting natures, and I can vouch for the racing public raising no objection. So let the Repatriation Committee approach the Race Committee and I am sure your Russian refugee can be sent home. Do not ask him under present political conditions throughout the world to work as a white man for $20 per month in Shanghai. It's a poor return for "services rendered."

I am, etc.,
SEATON DELAVAL.

Shanghai, Jan. 31, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—The letter of your correspondent "Seaton Delaval" in this morning's issue of your paper, displays such ignorance of the subject on which he writes that I cannot let it pass unnoticed. The whole problem is receiving the careful consideration of an international committee of business men who are in possession of very full facts and information regarding the position. Whilst eventual repatriation must be the ultimate object to be attained, it is not at present possible, nor will it be so until both political and economic conditions in Russia generally and Siberia especially show some signs of improvement. The problem to be faced is that of providing some form of employment for a large number of refugees who are willing to work, and it has been ascertained that the sum of $20 per month will certainly maintain a man in good physical health even though he may be performing hard manual labour.

It has never been suggested that the conditions of labour should be made attractive, as the danger of encouraging a fresh influx of refugees from other congested centres is ever present. What is suggested is that work be found for those already here, until such time as the opportunity arrives when they can be repatriated. Broadly speaking the matter is not one for individual private effort, but it calls for public action. The Chinese authorities appear unwilling to help or to take any action to mitigate the distress, and it therefore behoves the foreign community to take such relief measures as will meet the situation.

I am, etc.,
M. H. LOGAN.

Shanghai, Feb. 2, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—May I reply to Mr. M. H. Logan's remarks in yours of February 5, re above? I based my contentions on the following facts:

Reading the report of the Shanghai Municipal Council for 1921 p.p. 267a to 276a I noted that the Salaries Commission which consisted of "nine ratepayers not members of the Council, selected as being sound solid business men in the community appointed specially to find a solution to this vexed question of pay"——

"Many of them are large employers of labour themselves and it is not supposed, that, of their own accord——"

Page 277a para. 3 reads—"But the cause of dissatisfaction remains in that certain rates of pay are admittedly inadequate, while it has been verified from irrefutable evidence that the pay of many grades is Too Low having regard to the local conditions to form a suitable living wage."

The above remarks are above the signature of the Municipal Councillors of Shanghai in their reply to the refusal of the ratepayers to sanction an increase in taxes from 14 per cent. to 16 to cover additional cost in carrying out the recommendations of the Salaries Commission re proposed increases in pay to Municipal employees to enable them (and which the Commission termed its most important recommendation) to meet the higher cost of a reasonable standard of living.

The Commission, which decided that and were prepared to see the taxpayer muloted in an addition of 2 per cent. on his taxes to meet the cost, contains names that appear under the appeal for work for Russians in Shanghai through the "North-China Daily News" and tell us that they can live on $20 per month and do any kind of manual labour, and possibly through "ignorance" of the subject I failed to see how they had been converted; hence, "Least said, soonest mended."

Mr. Logan goes further and tells us that a man can keep physically fit even if performing hard manual labour on $20 per month.

Will Mr. Logan please inform me if the necessities of life and rentals have decreased in cost since the Salaries Commission made their report in 1921?

Is the standard of living to-day for white men lower or higher than it was when some of the gentlemen alluded to were of the opinion that the least a man could live upon in Shanghai was Tls. 105 plus Tls. 35 house allowance for a single man (probationary fireman).

The Repatriation Committee—which is also composed of smart men—have been asking the public to subscribe through a gambling medium to enable them to get cash to repatriate—not upkeep—and have sent several away and I believe have received letters of thanks.

Mr. Lebedeff, as per yours of the 4th, has already sent nearly 200 and is asking for more money to send more away to SIBERIA.

Are both these Committees giving their labour in ignorance of conditions in Russia? Surely a man would not appeal to the public for money to repatriate his own nationals to where their necks would be wrung on arrival.

It is with his idea prevailing that I am forced to the conclusion (as many more will be) that there are now two distinct appeals. One for money to send the refugees back to Russia where they can and do obtain work and are doing well:—*vide* reports of the Committee and Mr. Lebedeff's letter.

Another, which says 'give us employment for them as they are willing to work for $20 per month and we are sure they can maintain themselves on this amount,' and to which Mr. Logan adds that it is not possible to send them back to Russia or even Siberia as political and economical conditions make it unsafe to do so.

I do not grasp in which particular Mr. Logan infers I am so ignorant; I trust that, if he means the Russian problem, he will be satisfied with what I quote from authoritative sources and if he means labour conditions, well I have had 26 years out East and have been supervising all the time, and have done it under many and varied conditions and am prepared to challenge Mr. Logan's statement as contained in his letter of even date, that is that with the subject under review—"Russian Refugees."

It is not possible for a man to maintain himself in such physical health and perform hard manual labour in Shanghai on $20 per month and I am prepared to give that amount to either party if Mr. Logan can prove his statement by giving the public a bill of quantities showing what he deems would be necessary to do so, also a bill of costs based on Hongkew market official prices and cost of housing. The only condition I lay down is that laid down by the Salaries Commission in Budget for 1922 page 278a 3 *viz*: That the standard of living to which a municipal employee should conform should be that to which other men of similar education, age and position in other concerns in Shanghai can reasonably adopt.

To cover what he would call "contingencies" he can also have the assistance of any other men in Shanghai to help him figure it out to preclude error.

If their contentions and his are in order then, Mr. Logan, being eligible for councillorship, should be on the Council, and have another Salaries Commission appointed to reduce the abnormal (?) amount paid in salaries by the ratepayers to the Municipal employees, taking into consideration that the time has now arrived when it is possible to live on $20 per month in Shanghai. The difference in taxes would be so much that the ratepayers would be able to find the necessary amount to repatriate every Russian in Shanghai if feasible; or

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

DEATH OF DR. WOODROW WILSON

Ex-President Succumbs to Severe Illness: A Man of Personal Magnetism and Great Breadth of Culture: Originator of the League of Nations

Washington, Feb. 1.

Ex-President Wilson, who has recently been suffering from digestive disorder, has become decidedly worse to-day.

His physician's bulletin says that Dr. Wilson spent a restless night and has lost his strength. During the night the ex-President took a sudden turn for the worse. "I regard his condition as very serious."

Later.

Ex-President Wilson is still conscious but very weak. He is able to converse in whispers and told the doctor: "You've done the best you could but I'm a broken machine," adding with a rally of failing strength: "But I'm ready."

The House of Representatives suspended debate to-day as a token of respect.

Later.

[illegible] no improvement in [illegible] Wilson's condition [illegible] clock this afternoon. [illegible] country is stunned [illegible], that he is at death's door, and the patient's hourly [illegible] the sole topic everywhere. He slept intermittently to-day while the doctors watched. Many rumours of his death have been in circulation and the flags on [illegible] Government buildings were one [illegible] mistake lowered to half-mast. His personal physician, Rear-Admiral Grayson, called other physicians into consultation, but there was little to be done except to make the patient comfortable. No opiates but some stimulants have been used.

The ex-President has been plucky throughout. He told his physician that it would be better that he should go than remain a hopeless invalid. Mrs. Wilson is constantly at his bedside and is bearing up bravely. Other relatives, including his daughters, have been summoned.

It is believed that the malady originated as a result of some indiscreet choice of food. It appears that Admiral Grayson was summoned from a hunting-trip and found Mr. Wilson up and looking after correspondence. He ordered him to bed immediately. Further stomach trouble continued, accompanied by violent bleeding at the nose, and the ex-President finally collapsed.

Gradually Losing Ground.

Washington, Feb. 2.

Early this morning ex-President Wilson's condition remained grave. His physicians assert that he has gradually lost ground. The ex-President is still conscious and is not suffering. His temperature is normal. Dr. Wilson's personal physician, Admiral Grayson, remained at his bedside all night long.—Reuter's American Service.

Life Slowly Ebbing.

London, Feb. 3.

A stream of messages from Reuter's correspondent at Washington show that Mr. Wilson's life is slowly ebbing away and that death may be expected at any moment. The ex-President was conscious nearly the whole time. The latest bulletins state that his heart action is weakening and he is in a state of almost complete prostration.

Many London Sunday editorial articles refer to Ex-President Wilson in most sympathetic terms. The "Observer" concludes its article by saying: "History will honour him as a man who gave the world a new conception of its changed self and a new conscience in international affairs." The "Sunday Express" describes him as the greatest American since Lincoln. He was a failure, like Moses, because he was not allowed to lead Europe into the promised land.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Feb. 3.

At 9.55 this morning ex-President Wilson became unconscious. His pulse was very weak.

Rear-Admiral Grayson, the ex-President's personal physician, remained at the Wilson home instead of going to his own home for breakfast as usual.

Later.

Ex-President Wilson died at 11.15 this morning without regaining consciousness. His death was peaceful and painless. Mrs. Wilson and Rear-Admiral Grayson were at his bedside.

In accordance with a prearranged agreement, about 100 men and women of all creeds gathered in front of the Wilson residence and prayed shortly before the former President's death.

A Long Period of Ill Health.

Later.

The bulletin announcing ex-President Wilson's death, signed by his physician, Rear-Admiral Grayson, says: "The heart's action became feebler and feebler. The heart muscles were so fatigued that they refused to act any longer. The end came peacefully. The remote causes of death lie in ill-health which began more than four years ago, namely, arteric sclerosis with hemipleoia. The immediate cause of death was exhaustion following digestive disturbance, which began in the early part of last week but did not reach an acute stage until the early morning hours of February 1."

Admiral Grayson was worn with the strain and held back his tears with difficulty as he announced Mr. Wilson's death to waiting journalists.

The patient during the last day slept fitfully, later passing occasionally into unconsciousness. He refused nourishment towards the end.

Messages of sympathy poured in as the news of Mr. Wilson's death spread. One of the first was from President Coolidge.—Reuter.

British Premier's Sympathy.

London, Feb. 3.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald has sent a message to the American nation and Mrs. Wilson saying that he is deeply grieved to hear of the death of the ex-President and knows that the whole British nation shares his feelings. He adds that Mr. Wilson had a fine vision of the reason and wisdom of leading Europe to peace and security. He had gone before its fulfilment, but he will be recognised as one of the world's greatest pioneers.—Reuter.

Shanghai's Condolence.

The American Consulate-General has been officially notified of the death of the ex-President and has been instructed by the State Department that the local Consular flag should be flown at half-mast for 30 days as a token of respect and mourning.

Mr. Cunningham yesterday sent the following telegram to the Secretary of State:

"The American Community at Shanghai, as represented by the American Association and the American Chamber of Commerce, desire to convey to Mrs. Woodrow Wilson their sincere condolence in the loss of her distinguished husband."

French Press Tributes.

Paris, Feb. 3.

The *"Temps"* says that the memory of ex-President Wilson will be imperishable if only as the founder of the League of Nations.

The *"Intransigeant"* says that France owes Mr. Wilson grateful homage, for he loved justice and was France's friend.—Reuter.

Sympathy in Japan.

Tokio, Feb. 4.

Japan deeply mourns the passing of ex-President Wilson, to whom prominent personages, including the Premier, the Foreign Minister and Count Chinda, pay a generous tribute as a sincere advocate of international understanding and friendship amongst the nations. The Premier states: "With the best of his policies no wise statesman can disagree. So effective was his appeal to the more generous instincts of the nations that even doubters of the efficacy of his policies were forced to regard him with the highest esteem. His position in history is established."—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Thirty Days' Mourning Ordered by President Coolidge

New York, Feb. 4.

Ex-President Wilson died in his sleep so peacefully that his wife, who was holding his hand, and his daughter, Margaret, at the foot of his bed, were not aware of his death until Rear-Admiral Grayson's eyes betokened it.

A faithful negro attendant outside the door sobbed audibly as the ex-President's personal physician passed out of the room with bowed head. Hundreds of people outside knelt on the sidewalk in silent prayer when the death was announced.

President Coolidge was in church when he heard of the death. The pastor was preaching a sermon extolling the world movement toward peace and mentioned the part Dr. Wilson had played in it when the voice of a newspaper boy shouting "Extra!" came through the window. The pastor paused and said solemnly: "Even now we hear that which marks the passing of the beloved Leader of the peace movement." President Coolidge immediately left church and went to the home of Dr. Wilson to offer his condolences to his widow.

The flags of public buildings throughout the country are at half-mast.

President Coolidge has issued a proclamation praising "the man who led the nation through the terrific struggle of the World War with a lofty idealism which never failed him and who uttered his aspiration with an eloquence which held the attention of the earth and made America a new and enlarged influence on the destiny of mankind."

President Coolidge has proclaimed a 30-day period of mourning, ordering flags to be flown at half-mast from the White House dome to the remotest warship.—Reuter.

Tributes from London, Canada and France

London, Feb. 4.

Ex-President Wilson's outstanding qualities and failings as a statesman are summed up in long critical studies of his career in the English papers. Particular attention is devoted to the part which he played in connexion with the Great War. He is recognized as having been a great idealist who more than anyone inspired the United States to enter the war, but who failed when it came to a question of political tactics and the hammering out of peace. It is considered a mistake on his part ever to have gone to Versailles. High tribute is paid to his complete sincerity and particular note was taken of the fact that he was instrumental in saving the Covenant of the League, which alone earned him a niche in history. It is agreed that posterity is likely to appraise his worth even more highly than the present generation.—Reuter.

Ottawa, Feb. 4.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, has sent a message of condolence to ex-President Wilson's widow, expressing Canada's sense of the loss that the United States has sustained in the death of "one whose name is inseparably associated with the world's freedom." The Premier also made a statement to the press declaring that history will assign to Dr. Wilson the crown of martyrdom.—Reuter's American Service.

Paris, Feb. 4.

All the newspapers pay tribute to the memory of ex-President Wilson and declare that France will be ever grateful to him for bringing victory to the Allies.—Reuter.

Bitter German Comment on the 14 Points

Berlin, Feb. 4.

The newspapers are bitter in their obituary notices of ex-President Wilson, who was always regarded as having lured Germany into a false armistice with his famous Fourteen Points.

The *"Kreuzzeitung"* charges the ex-President with perfidy, duplicity and weakness. The *"Deutsche Zeitung"* declares that the oppressed peoples will follow his coffin angrily raising their fists. The *"Deutsche Tageszeitung"* asserts that Dr. Wilson was mainly responsible for Europe's disastrous position. *"Vorwaerts"* terms the former President a tragic symbol of idealism who did not dare to fight to the end against the power of evil.

Feb. 6.

It is officially announced that the German Ambassador at Washington asked the German Government whether he should officially express the sympathy of his Government on the occasion of the death of ex-President Wilson. The Government replied that there was no occasion to express sympathy in the name of the Government and the Ambassador must himself decide on the form in which he personally wished to participate in the national mourning.—Reuter.

Washington Crowd Enraged.

Washington, Feb 6.

A crowd, resenting the delay in half-masting the German flag on the German Embassy on the occasion of the funeral of ex-President Wilson, decorated the front of the Embassy with an American flag to-day. The flag was removed after complaint had been made to the police.—Reuter's American Service.

The Funeral

Washington, Feb. 6.

Government Departments and all commerce and industry observed a great silence on the occasion of the funeral of ex-President Wilson, which was carried out without ceremonial, but with the highest honours, at Little Bethlehem Chapel. The actual interment was witnessed only by very near relatives, as President Coolidge, the Cabinet Ministers, the diplomatic representatives and the other guests left after the pronouncement of the benediction. The funeral service was broadcast by wireless throughout the country.—Reuter's American Service.

THE LATE DR. WILSON'S CAREER

The late Dr. Thomas Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States, was born in Staunton, Va., on December 28, 1856. His paternal grandfather came from County Down, Ulster. In 1875 he entered Princeton University, graduating after four years. Later he pursued his studies in government and history at Johns Hopkins University, where he received the degree of Ph. D. in 1886. In 1885 he married Ellen Louise Axson, of Savannah, Ga., who died in 1914, leaving three daughters. In 1885, also, he began his teaching career at Bryn Mawr College, where he was Associate Professor of History and Political Economy until 1888; and after two years as professor of the same at Wesleyan, he entered the Princeton Faculty in 1890 as Professor of Jurisprudence and Political Economy. With slight changes in title, he served in this capacity until 1902, when he became President of Princeton. His lectures were remarkable for clarity of presentation and brilliancy of phrasing. He was also responsible for many reforms of the educational and social habits of the undergraduates. He displayed great interest in political questions, and won a national reputation. In September, 1910, he was tendered the Democratic nomination for Governor of New Jersey, and in November he was elected by a plurality of 49,000 votes. As Governor, he successfully carried through a series of reform measures, which included a Direct Primaries Law, a Corrupt Practices Act, an Employers' Liability Act, and the creation of a Public Utilities Commission.

Elected President.

In July, 1912, the Democratic National Convention nominated him for the Presidency. In the campaign that followed he voiced popular discontent with the conservatism of the Republican administration, which he believed to have been too closely allied with the interests of "privileged big business." The opposing camp was divided and in the November election Wilson received 435 electoral votes as against 88 for Roosevelt and eight for Taft. The new President soon made it plain that he was determined to exercise his personal influence and his position as head of the party to initiate and carry through the legislation he had advocated in his campaign, and his ascendancy in Congress was soon established.

The first important piece of legislation was the Underwood Tariff Act, passed in September, 1913, providing for a notable downward revision, and this was followed by a broad measure of currency reform, the Federal Reserve Act, signed December 23, 1913. Mr. Wilson's policy of domestic social reform was developed with surprising legislative success during the first year of his administration, but his foreign policy was not so clear cut and aroused little enthusiasm. Definite steps were taken to prepare the Filipinos for self-government; pressure was brought to bear on the California State Government to mitigate the severity of its anti-Japanese legislation and American bankers were effectively discouraged from participating in the international Chinese loans. As a result of the President's personal demand, Congress repealed the law exempting American coastwise shipping from Panama Canal tolls.

The World War.

Foreign affairs after July, 1914, were naturally dominated by the World War. President Wilson insisted upon a policy of strict neutrality and in an address to the American people on August 18, 1914, adjured them, in view of the mixture of nationalities in the United States, to be impartial in thought as well as action. The proclamation of a "war zone" about the British Isles, in which German submarines threatened to destroy enemy merchant vessels with consequent danger to the lives and property of neutrals, was met by a Note of February 10, 1915, which warned Germany that she would be held to "strict accountability" for the lawless acts of submarine commanders. A series of submarine attacks including the sinking of the Lusitania (May 7, 1915) and the Sussex (March 24, 1916) elicited further protests from President Wilson but no further action.

During the electoral campaign of 1916, President Wilson's foreign policy was severely criticized by the Republicans, but his supporters declared that he had "kept us out of the war" and he was again elected. He now proceeded with plans for peace proposals to the European belligerents to whom he sent identical Notes; but they were not of an acceptable nature. The continued sinking of American ships compelled him to ask Congress on April 2, 1917, for a declaration that a state of war existed with Germany. He opposed a coalition war cabinet, as leading to divided responsibility, and military policy was handed over to the military experts. On the advice of the General Staff, he appointed Gen. Pershing commander of the expeditionary force to France and, as regards conduct of operations, gave him complete authority and permitted no interference by politicians. In the building of the new army, the President took no part, but used his authority consistently to favour centralization under the General Staff.

During the war President Wilson consistently developed his ideals of a new international system which should perpetuate peace and assure justice and security to every nation regardless of its material strength. The most notable of his speeches was that of January 8, 1918, in which he stated 14 points necessary to a just and lasting peace. It was on the basis of these points that the Armistice was granted to Germany.

Believing that his presence at the Peace Conference was neces-

THE MORAL WELFARE LEAGUE.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—In connexion with the question of prostitution in Shanghai, the above mentioned association has of late been very prominently brought to the fore in correspondence of the local press. Among the points the following seem to have occupied the mind of the various correspondents.

1.—The League has a very high sounding name, it means well, but lacks [illegible] organization for a vast undertaking as that of fighting commercial vice.

2.—It has apparently devoted its exclusive attention, so far, to the International Settlement, leaving the rest of Shanghai to the care of the devil.

3.—Its actions seem to be those of an amateur, thus negativing its aspirations.

Anything done by halves is never done well, and if the League tackles a job, it must first see to it that it possesses the necessary facilities that lead to results, otherwise such an undertaking is doomed to failure from the start.

MORALS.

The dividing line between morality and immorality is impossible to determine. For instance a man who commits bigamy, whatever his morals may otherwise be, we would, according to western notions condemn right away as an outcast, as below the zero mark. Here in China conditions are different: most foreigners quite willingly hobnob with officials and compradores who boast of quite a harem. Do the good people of our Model Settlement realize that there are in greater Shanghai, with a population of nearly two millions, from thirty to forty thousand prostitutes? I have this estimate from good authority, from a foreign-trained Chinese medical practitioner, and the figure refers to Chinese prostitutes only. The proportion of foreign women in the profession, not including Japanese, we are given to understand, is about 1 per cent. of the total, that is to say, there are three to four hundred white women [illegible] wholly or partly by prostitution [illegible] inconsiderable part of their re[illegible] Let us leave this small number out of consideration and proceed with some remarks regarding the other 99 per cent.

Of Chinese prostitutes there are [illegible] The Chinese Advisory Committee to the Municipal Council has already registered a protest that sing-song girls (otherwise Class I), should not be designated as prostitutes, [illegible] them without having to resort to prostitution. In fact, should these girls accept any bidder that comes along, they would likely lose cast and tumble down to catagory II. They carry on flirtations, and their amorous inclinations are not as a [illegible] purse. Singsong girls are specially trained and are selected [illegible] entertainers. They [illegible] often probably dream of buying their [illegible] time or other to become a concubine and thereby to attain [illegible] which [illegible] quite a lot of money on the calling, and are able to marry at their own choice.

Those of Class I may have similar aspirations and may in many cases be even equals of the higher class. They are entertainers at parties and often go from [illegible] to another, deriving quite an income in this or a final engagement.

Class III are street walkers, frequenters of places of public entertainment, in former days known by a handkerchief attached to a button of their coat as a badge of their profession. These have generally nothing to commend them other than perhaps their outward appearance, charms which are mostly artificial. These girls may be the property of a brothel or they may be mortgaged to one by their parents or relatives, but a good many are just a free-lance with apartments somewhere. This catagory is probably the largest and the least [illegible] They are called at Shanghai "wild fowls" or pheasants. Class IV consists simply of automons herded together in the lowest slums. Their fees amount to what a coolie is able to pay, I am told 20 cents and four coppers including a cup of tea. In spite of this their owners make a good living.

My authority gave me the following estimate of venereal disease prevailing of inmates.

Class I. 10=20 per cent.
" II. 30=40 "
" III. 50=65 "
" IV. 70=80 "

This does not include many who are themselves not infected, but who still carry disease germs [illegible] infect others.

WELFARE.

As is seen the danger of venereal infection at Shanghai is very great. Prevention is only feasible if we have the root of the evil under control. A great step towards general welfare would be accomplished if diseased women were isolated in hospitals and not allowed to roam about propagating disease, thereby perhaps wrecking a man's very prospects of future happiness. As is the case with vaccination in case of smallpox, we should make Chinese understand that prevention is better than cure also with regards to venereal diseases.

LEAGUE.

The unfortunate girls under treatment should supply a vast field for rescue work by the League. Further let it find out those who are prostitutes against their own free will and set them free. Also those who, owing to their tender age, are unable to discriminate for themselves, should be taken in hand and prevented from sliding down that awful avalanche from which salvation at a later stage becomes almost impossible. The League should wage war against such as live by corrupting the morals of [illegible] girls and the like. The League would render a service to the welfare of humanity by curbing venereal diseases. The Scriptures say: "There shall be joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over 90 and nine righteous persons, which need no repentance." If the League will carry out the above precept, then certainly it will be deserving the right of existence.

In our Model Settlement ideal ideas find a fruitful field. The suggestion is made to eliminate prostitution from our midst. Sure, sure, sure—hands up—the motion is passed. The police get instructions to carry out "the will of the people," but alas, they must admit, after trying for several years, that the task in impossible to carry out in spirit—and the withdrawal of [illegible] brothels has only meant increased secret prostitution, which being unrestricted, escapes proficient control, and is a greater danger than ever. The oldest profession in the world cannot be restricted or suppressed by any fast laid-down municipal rules of bye laws. At worst the brothel keepers wander to places beyond the Settlement confines, where they can carry on at their own sweet will.

The serio—comical situation in the International Settlement of Shanghai to-day is that prostitutes cannot be driven from the streets, because the police are afraid of making a mistake and insulting a decent woman, while decent women avoid being out after dark fearing to be taken for prostitutes.

Thanking you for the space,

I am, etc.,

H. K.

Shanghai, Feb. 6, 1924.

DOCKING AND WHARFING.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—You use the heading, "Empress of Russia to Dock within Sight of the Bund on Saturday," in your to-day's issue. The word "dock" in this instance is an entirely incorrect and misleading Americanism.

The Empress of Russia may "berth," "anchor," "moor," or "go alongside the wharf" within sight of the Bund, but she will not "dock."

I have never heard an American shipping man mis-use the word "dock," but American tourists (particularly those of the weaker sex) hardly ever use any other expression and are apparently unable to differentiate between a dock and a wharf.

It would be just as logical to describe a man entering his house as going to bed.

Enclosing my card,

I am, etc.,

Shipping.

Shanghai, Feb. 7, 1924.

Early on Sunday morning a foreigner, A. Befoff, was knocked over by motor-car and injured. He was taken to the General Hos[illegible] and several flesh wounds on his arms and legs, none of them being very serious. The car, which had been proceeding east along Broadway, overtook [illegible] pedes[illegible] [illegible] Bridge [illegible]

English and Mathematics Combined

Middle Schools to-day face a perplexing situation in adjusting the legitimate demands of students for more English with the actions of Educational Associations tending to lessen the amount of English taught. The mastery of English is the open door to world citizenship, and to the literature, the science and the news of the world. It is quite vital to business success in China. The question is to learn to handle it well in the time allotted.

Professor H. B. Graybill, widely known as the author of "Mastery of English," agrees with leading educators that, apart from elementary study, this situation can best be met by teaching other subjects in English, especially subjects that will be useful to students upon entering careers after graduation. With Professor Lo King Tuen, of Canton Christian College, Mr. Graybill has just finished a Middle School Arithmetic which combines study in English and applied Mathematics to meet this widely felt need.

On the side of English this "Practical Arithmetic" contains the vocabulary used in shopping, travel, all sorts of business, the Customs and Postal Services, newspapers and in ordinary conversation. It also gives an English preparation is Higher Mathematical and Scientific study. The first part of the book is as much a study and drill in English as it is an Arithmetic.

As a mathematics the Lo-Graybill "Practical Arithmetic" is unique, the first adequate, original arithmetic written for China. It meets the requirements of commercial schools, and of middle schools preparing both for college and for immediate entry into business. In addition to the usual arithmetical processes its arithmetical foundation in Algebra and Geometry gives an excellent basis for work in college. Short cuts in calculation of great practical value are incorporated as well as the most complete and convenient series yet published of tables of Chinese, metric and English measurements *with their cross values*. This arithmetic introduces the study to the understanding of Exchange and to many other actual problems met with in everyday life in China. It is unique in its inclusion of over 60 very original *China-born* individual and class *projects*, a distinct advantage on other texts.

"Practical Arithmetic" is direct and natural in method. The student is helped to build up processes in Mathematics for himself so as best to grasp the basic principles. Arithmetical terms when first used are given with their Chinese equivalent. To secure speed, accuracy and skill, ample drills and exercises are incorporated. The teacher is given a wealth of problems for his selection, all of which will prove of great interest to Chinese.

This book is now ready. Its price $1.60 Mexican. Principals and teachers who are interested may ensure a sample copy by dropping a card to Edward Evans & Sons, Limited, Shanghai. (Advertisement).

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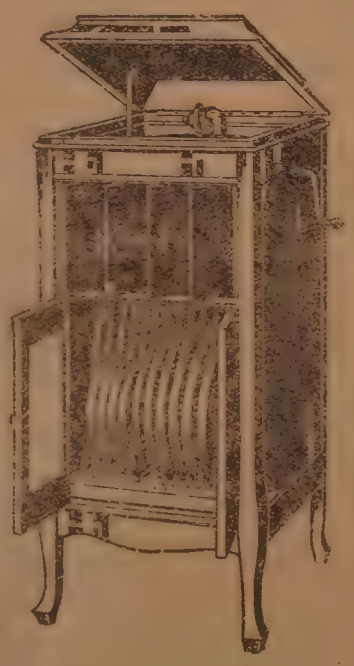

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Clemenceau and Dr. Wilson had signed a secret compact in that connexion. He had just received the documents from the Foreign Office. The French now wish to publish the secret agreement and desire his consent.

Later.

The allegations of Mr. Lloyd George with regard to a secret agreement between M. Clemenceau and President Wilson in 1919 have become a first-class sensation. The French Foreign Office has made a statement declaring that it prefers to await the text of the allegations before commenting and meantime denying the conclusion of any secret agreement.

The British Foreign Office issues a statement that the French Government recently gave notice of their intention to prepare a Yellow Book containing the documents relating to the drafting of Articles 428 to 431 of the Peace Treaty. The British Government decided before replying to acquaint Mr. Lloyd George with the proposal as an act of courtesy. Consequently proof-sheets of the documents were despatched to Mr. Lloyd George, asking whether he had any personal objection to their inclusion in the Yellow Book, and requesting him to return the proofs. No answer was received and the proof-sheets were not returned and the first indication that the letter had reached Mr. Lloyd George comes in this alleged interview.—Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 7.

With regard to the Lloyd George interview, M. Tardieu, who took an active part in the drafting of the Treaty of Versailles declared that to describe as a secret agreement a proposal which had been a fortnight in the hands of the British and American delegations and which, owing to the absence of Mr. Lloyd George, was approved by President Wilson 36 hours before Mr. Lloyd George, was preposterous. —Reuter.

The Text of the Articles.

Note.—Articles 428 to 431 of the German Peace Treaty refer to guarantees in Western Europe and are as follows:—

Article 428.—As a guarantee for the execution of the present Treaty by Germany the German territory situated to the west of the Rhine, together with the bridgeheads, will be occupied by Allied and Associated troops for a period of 15 years from the coming into force of the present Treaty.

Article 429.—If the conditions of the present Treaty are faithfully carried out by Germany, the occupation provided for in Article 428 will be successively restricted as follows: (1) At the expiration of five years there will be evacuated: the bridgehead of Cologne and the territories north of a line running along the Rhine from Remagen along the railway Juelich, Duren, Euskirchen, Rheinbach, then along the road Rheinbach to Sinzig, and reaching the Rhine at the confluence with the Ahr: the roads railways and places mentioned being excluded from the area evacuated: (2) At the expiration of ten years there will be evacuated the bridgehead of Coblenz and the territories north of a line to be drawn from the intersection between the frontiers of Belgium, Germany and Holland, running about four kilometres from the south of Aix-la-Chapelle, then to and following the crest of Forst Gemeund, then east of the railway of the Urft Valley, then along Blankenheim, Valdorf, Dreis, Ulmen to and following the Moselle from Bremm to Nehen, then passing by Kappel and Bachamach: all the places, valleys, roads and railways mentioned above being excluded from the area evacuated. (3) At the expiration of 15 years there will be evacuated: the bridgehead of Mainz, the bridgehead of Kehl and the remainder of the German territory under occupation. If at that date the guarantees against unprovoked aggression by Germany are not considered sufficient by the Allied and Associated Governments, the evacuation of the occupying troops may be delayed to the extent regarded as necessary for the purpose of obtaining the required guarantees.

Article 430.—In case either during the occupation or after the expiration of the 15 years referred to above the Reparations Commission finds that Germany refuses to observe the whole or part of her obligations under the present treaty with regard to reparation, the whole or part of the areas specified in Article 429 will be reoccupied immediately by the Allied and Associated forces.

Article 431. If before the expiration of the period of 15 years Germany complies with all the undertakings resulting from the present Treaty, the occupying forces will be withdrawn immediately.—Reuter.

BRITISH CABINET CONFERENCE

Discussions of Unemployment, Housing and Agriculture: Three Labour Peers

London, Feb. 4.

A Cabinet *communiqué* says that to-day's meeting received reports from the committees on unemployment, housing and agriculture, indicating considerable progress. The Cabinet discussed questions of foreign, Indian and Colonial interest and decided to hold two further meetings in the present week in view of the number of urgent problems requiring consideration.

The National Council of the Independent Labour Party, of which Mr. Ramsay Macdonald is a member, issues an agricultural programme, the main points of which are the nationalization of land and the organization of agriculture as a national service on a co-operative basis. The programme significantly advocates regulation by the State of the purchase, importation and storage of staple foodstuffs with the object of stabilizing prices for several years.

Labour Peers have been created in the persons of Sir Sydney Olivier, the Secretary of State for India: Brigadier-General C. B. Thomson, the Secretary of State for Air; and Mr. Sydney Arnold, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

By-Election at Burnley.

London, Feb. 4.

Mr. Arthur Henderson will contest the by-election at Burnley, which seat has been vacated by the death of the Labour Member, Mr. Dan Irving.—Reuter.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL

Burmah Co.'s Protest that Sale of Shares Would Not Have Checked British Control

London, Feb. 1.

The Burmah Oil Company has issued a statement denying the assumption that the sale of the Government's shares in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company would have resulted in throwing the control of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company into foreign hands and jeopardizing the Navy's supply of liquid fuel, and declaring that the consequences would have been and were intended to be exactly contrary.

The proposal to sell these shares to the Burmah Oil Company in such a way as to secure British control of the new group, consisting of the Burmah, Shell and Royal Dutch Companies, was mainly intended to remove the weaknesses and dangers of allowing the British Navy to rely so greatly upon a single oil-field in Central Asia. The result of the proposal would have been that the amount of British-controlled oil, on which the Navy supplies were based, would have been vastly extended and the great Royal Dutch organization would have been controlled by London instead of by Holland.

The scheme proposed to include the Burmah Oil Company, enlarged by the acquisition of the Government's Anglo-Persian shares, as the third shareholder in the division of interests between the Shell and the Royal Dutch Companies. The result would be to give the two British companies an assured and permanent majority in the group. Guarantees were to be given that this arrangement should not be impaired by subsequent arrangements, thus preventing the creation of a monopoly of the oil markets of the world by any future combination of oil companies.—Reuter.

WELLINGTON, N. Z., Feb. 1.—The New Zealand Football Association is inviting a Chinese team to tour the Dominion during the forthcoming season commencing at the end of May.—Reuter.

THE AMERICAN OIL SCANDAL

Fall Considered Fit to Give Evidence and Subpœnaed: A Note for $100,000

Washington, Feb. 1.

The House of Representatives has passed Senator Walsh's resolution directing the President to sue for the annulment of the Doheny and Sinclair oil leases. The resolution was adopted by the Senate yesterday.

It is announced that a subpœna will be issued for ex-Secretary Fall's appearance before the Investigation Committee, as the physicians appointed by the Committee are of opinion that he is in a condition for examination.

The Committee has received from Mr. Doheny a portion of a note for $100,000 which the witness stated was Mr. Fall's.

In the course of Mr. Doheny's examination to-day it transpired that the promissory note alleged to have been given by Mr. Fall did not bear a signature. The witness declared that the note was torn in two by Mrs. Doheny to prevent witness's executor from suing Mr. Fall for the amount if Mr. Doheny and his wife died.

It also transpired that Mr. Fall informed Mr. Doheny by long-distance telephone on November 29, 1921, that he would accept a loan for the improvement of his ranch. The torn note was dated November 30, 1921.

Admiral's Sensational Evidence.

Feb. 2.

Startling testimony was heard at to-day's session of the House of Representatives Naval Committee, which is inquiring into the matter of the oil leases. Rear-Admiral Robison, Engineer-in-Chief of the Navy, stated that it was the possibility of Japan, perhaps in conjunction with Britain, invading the Pacific Coast of the United States that prompted the Navy Department to arrange with the Doheny interests for the construction of fuel tanks at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. The Admiral pointed out that the contract with Mr. Doheny was negotiated prior to the abrogation of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance and therefore before the Washington Disarmament Conference, which removed many causes of friction in the Pacific. Rear-Admiral Robison, emphatically banging his fist on the table, added "If we hold a base near Honolulu, no enemy will conquer the West coast."

Mr. Fall Refusing Answers.

Mr. Fall was brought before the Senate investigating committee to-day in spite of the protests of his medico-legal advisers. He refused to reply to questions concerning the oil leases or his relations with Messrs. Sinclair and Doheny. He gave as his reasons, firstly, that the authority of the investigating committee had expired, and, secondly, that in view of Congress directing the instituting of a court action, any answers might tend to incriminate him. The Committee then adjourned.

Mr. McAdoo's Repudiation.

Los Angeles, Feb. 2.

Mr. McAdoo, who is proceeding to Washington to the bedside of his father-in-law, ex-President Wilson, has requested permission to testify before the investigating committee. He declares that he was never employed or consulted regarding oil leases in the United States. His advice to the Doheny companies solely related to their Mexican business.—Reuter's American Service.

A Correction

Washington, Feb. 2.

The statement issued by the White House withdrew not Rear-Admiral Gregory but Mr. Thomas W. Gregory, Attorney-General in President Wilson's Cabinet, as one of the prosecuting counsel named by President Coolidge in the oil cases in consequence of a statement by Mr. Doheny to the Senate Committee that Mr. Gregory had been employed with the oil companies. The White House statement said that in view of Mr. Doheny's evidence the employment of Mr. Thomas W. Gregory as a Government counsel in the oil cases "might be an embarrassment to Mr. Gregory and perhaps be otherwise improper."

Washington, Feb. 3.

President Coolidge has appointed ex-Senator Pomerene as one of the prosecuting counsel in the oil cases, vice Mr. T. W. Gregory. —Reuter's American Service.

THE REBELLION IN MEXICO

Vera Cruz Evacuated by Rebel Troops: Further Successes of Federal Forces

New York, Feb. 5.

It is stated that the rebels have evacuated Vera Cruz.

Feb. 6.

It is learned that General Huerta and his staff have left Vera Cruz by steamer for an unknown destination. Vera Cruz was General Huerta's headquarters and with the surrounding districts had been under the control of the revolutionaries since the inception of the movement.—Reuter's American Service.

Mexico City, Feb. 6

The Federal troops have occupied Fortin after a battle lasting seven hours, in which they struck the rebels on both flanks and cut off their communications.

Flight of Gen. Huerta.

President Obregon announces that the Federal troops have captured Cordoba and confirms that the rebels have evacuated Vera Cruz and that the revolutionary General Huerta has fled.

War Department officials declare that with the flight of General Huerta the backbone of the insurrection has been broken. General Huerta is believed to be fleeing to Yucatan.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Feb. 6.

The American cruiser Richmond has entered Vera Cruz. Admiral Magruder is cooperating with the Consul-General in restoring normal conditions.—Reuter's American Service.

NEW U. S. AMBASSADOR IN LONDON

Distinguished Company at Pilgrims' Dinner: Anglo-American Duties

London, Feb. 1.

The Prince of Wales, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, the Prime Minister, and Mr. J. H. Thomas, Secretary of State for the Colonies, were amongst the distinguished personages attending the Pilgrims' dinner, presided over by Lord Desborough, in honour of the new American Ambassador, Mr. F. B. Kellogg, and the newly-appointed British Ambassador in Washington, Sir Esme Howard.

His Majesty in a message acknowledging greetings trusted that the occasion might prove another happy link between the two great English-speaking nations.

Mr. Macdonald, proposing the health of Mr. Kellogg, declared that the whole nation was standing with held breath, awaiting further news of ex-President Wilson. He said that relations between the United States and Britain had never been better and he prayed that they would long continue so. America and Britain wanted no alliance, no documents. They were prepared to stand side by side not in political alliance but in human fellowship to help each other and to advance the cause of humanity (cheers). The Prime Minister declared that the category of Ambassadors was magnificently and worthily represented in the person of His Royal Highness (prolonged cheers).

Mr. Kellogg, responding, said that he believed that one of the greatest services the United States and the British Empire could perform for the world was to set an example of fair and broad-minded statesmanship in international dealings and to maintain the sacredness and inviolability of treaties. He said that he would do everything possible to maintain the closest and most friendly relations with His Majesty's Government and the English people.—Reuter.

IMMIGRANTS TO U. S

Further Drastic Restriction: Total Exclusion for Some, Including Japanese

Washington, Feb. 1.

The House of Representatives Immigration Committee has voted a report in favour of an immigration bill to restrict the annual number of immigrants from any country to two per cent. of the number of its nationals in the United States at the time of the 1890 census and also to provide for the examination of immigrants at ports of embarkation. These proposals would limit the total of annual immigrants to 169,000 instead of the present 357,000.

The Bill provides for the exclusion of persons ineligible for American citizenship. This would affect the people of the East, including the Japanese.—Reuter's American Service.

RIOTS IN BOMBAY

Lock-out Declared on Strikers: Disorderly Scenes: Police Patrolling in Strength

Bombay, Feb. 4.

The situation in Bombay in consequence of the mill strike is assuming a serious aspect. The millowners' ultimatum threatening a lock-out unless the strikers resumed work within a fortnight expired to-day. The men did not return but showed their resentment by stoning motor-cars and trains, many persons being slightly injured. An honorary magistrate was stoned and fired a revolver in the air. The strikers tried to surround the car but the driver made a spurt and escaped. Mounted police are patrolling the streets and the military are ready.—Reuter.

BOK PEACE PRIZE

Peace Society Secretary's Plan for Belling the Cat

New York, Feb. 5.

Mr. Charles Levermore, the secretary of the New York Peace Society, won the Bok Peace Prize.

His plan suggests that the United States should participate in the labours of the League of Nations on condition, *inter alia*, that the moral force of public opinion be substituted for the military and economic force at present provided by the Covenant of the League.—Reuter's American Service.

CANADA'S CLAIMS ON THE NORTH POLE

Getting Ahead of Shenandoah

Quebec, Feb. 2.

The Federal Government has sent the Canadian Arctic explorer, Captain Bernier, to Britain to take charge of the steamer Franklin, on its cruise to Arctic waters to establish a number of Canadian outposts on the northern islands, thereby anticipating the activities programmed for the Shenandoah.—Reuter's American Service.

NORTH IRELAND BOUNDARY

Free State and Ulster Meeting to Discuss Rectification

London, Feb. 1.

An important conference to discuss the North Ireland boundary question, attended by the President of South Ireland, Mr. William Cosgrave, and the Premier of North Ireland, Sir James Craig, and other representatives, was opened at the Colonial Office this afternoon by a speech by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, after which the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. H. Thomas, presided at a four-hour sitting. The whole situation was discussed and the conference was adjourned until to-morrow morning. The delegates appeared in high spirits as they left.—Reuter.

...ary. President Wilson decided himself to go to Paris. He won an early victory when he persuaded the Conference to accept the principles of the League of Nations as the basis of peace, and when, on February 14, 1919, he [illegible] of the preliminary draft of the covenant. On returning to America, however, he found Republican opposition to the League strongly manifested in the Senate. Going back to Paris in March, he was able to secure the insertion in the convenant of certain amendments required by American sentiment and the approval by the Conference of the final draft.

Republican opposition in the Senate, however, developed rapidly upon his presentation of the treaty. In the hope of winning popular support, the President set forth upon a tour of the country, but this effort overtaxed his strength and he was compelled to return to Washington, where he suffered a complete nervous collapse. His system had provided for no understudy and the administration was left without a leader. Mr. Wilson's illness led directly to the defeat of the treaty, which the Senate refused to ratify.

In the autumn Presidential election in 1920, he was decisively defeated by the late President Harding. Since that time he had led on the whole a retired life.

As Man and Politician.

In private intercourse Mr. Wilson displayed a personal magnetism, a breadth of culture, and a genial cordiality that are amply attested by his intimates. But in public life he proved unable to capitalize such advantages. In the formation of his policies he isolated himself and was unable to establish close relations with Congressional leaders. In matters of what he regarded as principle he was adamant, and he distrusted the judgment of those whose basic point of view was different from his own; but the evidence of those who worked with him is almost unanimous to the effect that he was anxious to secure advice, was tolerant of opinions, and glad to delegate responsibility.

THE RECOGNITION OF RUSSIA

Soviet Invited to Send Plenipotentiaries to Discuss All Outstanding Questions: Cessation of Propaganda Essential

London, Feb. 1.

Britain has recognized Soviet Russia.—Reuter.

Later.

The British Government to-day despatched a Note to the Russian Government inviting the Soviet to send to London as early as possible representatives armed with full powers to discuss matters like existing treaties, settlement of mutual claims, restoration of Russia's credit and the propaganda question and to draft the preliminary basis of a complete treaty to settle all outstanding questions.

Treaties Follow Recognition.

The text of the Note, which was communicated to the Russian Government by the British Trade Representative, Mr. R. M. Hodgson, declares:—

I have the honour by the direction of my Government to inform Your Excellency that they recognize the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics as the *de jure* rulers of those territories of the old Russian Empire which acknowledge their authority. In order, however, to create normal conditions of complete friendly recognize the Union of Socialist intercourse, it will be necessary to conclude definite practical agreements on a variety of matters, some of which have no direct connexion with the question of recognition and some of which, on the other hand, are intimately bound up in the fact of recognition.

In the latter category may be cited the question of existing treaties. His Majesty's Government are advised that recognition of the Soviet Government of Russia will, according to the accepted principles of international law, automatically bring into force all treaties concluded between the two countries previous to the Russian revolution, except where these have been denounced or have otherwise juridically lapsed. It is obviously to the advantage of both countries that the position with regard to these treaties should be regularized simultaneously with recognition.

The Question of Propaganda.

Not technically connected with recognition but clearly of the utmost importance are the problems of settlement of existing claims by the Government and nationals of one party against the other and the restoration of Russia's credit. It is also manifest that genuinely friendly relations cannot be said to be completely established so long as either party has reason to suspect the other of carrying on propaganda against its interests and directed to overthrow its institutions.

In these circumstances His Majesty's Government invite the Russian Government to send to London as early as possible representatives armed with full powers to discuss these matters and draw up preliminary bases for a complete treaty to settle all questions outstanding between the two countries. In the meantime I have been given the status of Chargé d'Affaires pending the appointment of an Ambassador and His Majesty's Government will be glad similarly to receive a Russian Chargé d'Affaires representing the Government of the Union at the Court of St. James.

Diplomatic Caution.

Feb. 2.

The Government's Note to Russia is regarded as bearing an impress of diplomatic cautiousness and at best is only meeting the Bolsheviks half-way. It is considered that recognition will amount to little or nothing of value to Russia unless subsequent negotiations can be concluded whereby money credit may be obtained. It is recognized that the Government is likely to insist on the carrying out of due obligations by the Bolsheviks.

Russo-British Trade.

Mr. E. F. Wise, a former Civil Servant and now Economic Adviser in respect of foreign trade to the Central Union of Soviet Russian Co-operative Societies, who largely negotiated the original Anglo-Russian trade agreement, in the course of an interview said that there was already a big trade between Russia and Britain. Some 80 to 100 ships were regularly carrying grain from Russia to Britain and West Europe. The establishment of a new atmosphere of friendliness would enable a big increase in Anglo-Russian trade, giving Britain big advantages over her rivals.—Reuter.

French Approval.

Paris, Feb. 3.

The "*Temps*," as an example of moderate political opinion, regards the British Note to Russia as proof of continuity of the British policy and the truly national character of Mr. Macdonald's Cabinet. The journal hopes that the subsequent negotiations will succeed because of the very favourable repercussive effects they will have for France. The papers do not lose sight of the unwritten conditions embraced in the Note.—Reuter.

Soviet's Satisfaction: Hand of Fraternal Greeting to the British People

London, Feb. 3.

The Russian Telegraph Agency in London has received a message from the Soviet Commissariat of Foreign Affairs giving the text of a resolution adopted by the Second Congress of the Soviets after M. Litvinoff's report of the *de jure* recognition of the Soviet by Britain.

The resolution expresses satisfaction at Britain's recognition and declares that co-operation between the peoples of Britain and Russia remains one of the first cares of the Soviet, which, in accordance with its policy of peace, will make every effort to settle all disputed questions and to understanding and develop and consolidate economic relations.

"The Congress," the resolution declares, "stretches out the hand of fraternal greeting to the British people."—Reuter.

London, Feb. 2.

A commercial treaty between Italy and Russia is on the point of signature accompanied by Italy's *de jure* recognition of the Soviet Government.—Reuter.

The Russo-Italian Agreements.

Rome, Feb. 3.

The newspapers say that the Italo-Russian agreements will be signed to-day. They comprise a treaty of commerce and navigation and a Customs agreement, with supplementary agreements embracing two protocols consisting of 80 articles.

The treaty contains explicit *de jure* recognition of the Soviet Government and provides for delivery to Italy by Russia of a large quantity of corn. A percentage of the price of the deliveries will be assigned for the purchase of goods in Italy. A considerable reduction in the Customs tariffs of Russia will be conceded to Italy.

It is stated that the Italian Government has also obtained petroleum and coal concessions and that Italy will appoint an Ambassador at Moscow and Russia an Ambassador at Rome.—Reuter.

American Press Criticism of Britain Action.

London, Feb. 4.

The political observer of the "Daily Telegraph" says that the British Note to Russia was only presented after the Soviet had accepted the principle of membership of the League of Nations, for which it will apply as early as possible, and had promised complete cessation of propaganda in India and China.—Reuter.

Moscow, Feb. 4.

Apart from a slight reshuffling of portfolios, the Cabinet is practically unchanged in consequence of M. Lenin's death, M. Chicherin remaining Commissary for Foreign Affairs, M. Trotsky Commissary for War and M. Krassin Commissary for Trade.

The new Government has not yet had time to reply to Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's Note, but the newspapers welcome recognition by Britain.

The "*Isvestia*" dwells upon the necessity of introducing international relationships going beyond the framework of pre-revolutionary diplomacy and states, for example, that Britain would not care to recognize the Soviet claims to the control of the Dardanelles and Gallipoli in accordance with pre-Revolution arrangements.—Reuter.

Tokio, Feb. 4.

Britain's recognition of Russia, which is intensely interesting to Japan, is freely commented on by the morning papers, which express the opinion that the British action will be quickly imitated by other European nations. The journals urge the wisdom of Japan reconsidering her attitude towards Russia.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Russia and League of Nations.

London, Feb. 6.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, in an interview, declared that Russia's entry into the League of Nations was attended with difficulty, but that Germany's inclusion must be insisted upon.

Referring to the misunderstandings between Britain and France, the Prime Minister declared that Britain was no longer content to sit and watch events. The new attitude was apparently succeeding beyond expectation. Reuter.

Geneva, Feb. 6.

M. Chicherin has notified the League of Nations Secretariat that the Soviet Government have agreed to the place and date of the meeting of the naval disarmament committee, namely at Rome on February 14. Admiral Behrens will represent Russia.—Reuter.

American Press Criticism.

New York, Feb. 4.

The "New York Tribune," dealing with the British recognition of Russia, says that the Soviets desire foreign loans and credit and regard Mr. Ramsay Macdonald as a kindly and trustful benefactor. "We can wait until Red Russia is ready to return to civilized standards before resuming diplomatic relations with her."

The "New York Herald" says: "There is a danger of Governments stampeding to recognize Russia, but there is no reason why the American Government should shake hands with murder."

The "New York Times" affirms that Britain's recognition of Russia will unquestionably help the Soviet, but, if the negotiations for which Mr. Macdonald has asked are unduly prolonged, the actual profits of the recognition will be found disappointing at Moscow.—Reuter's American Service.

The Italian Agreement.

Rome, Feb. 4.

Owing to the appointment of M. Rykoff as Chairman of the Soviet People's Commissars in succession to M. Lenin, it has been necessary to send to Moscow the text of the Italo-Russian Treaty, which has already been printed and approved by the Italian and Russian delegrates here. A courier conveying the document left for Moscow yesterday evening.—Reuter.

Holland's Hesitation.

Amsterdam, Feb. 6.

The "*Telegraaf*" learns that the Government is seriously considering resumption of diplomatic relations with Russia.—Reuter.

Franco-Russian Trade.

Paris, Feb. 6

M. Skobeleff, the Soviet Commercial Agent in France, is leaving for London with his staff this afternoon, having completed the liquidation of the Agency owing to the decision of the Seine Tribunal that trade between France and Russia, although legal, must be undertaken at the trader's own risk and cannot enjoy the protection of the French Courts as long as the French Government have not recognized the Soviet Government.—Reuter.

RUSSIAN ARMY IN REVOLT

Threatened Rising in South-West Provinces and Anti-Semitic Campaign

London, Feb. 6.

The Riga correspondent of the "Daily Mail" claims to have learned from an authentic source that the real Russian Divisions of the Red Army led by Tsarist officers are planning an offensive against the Government of Moscow from the South early in April. The Government is rapidly moving Tartar and Mongolian Divisions to Moscow. The rebellious garrisons refuse to obey orders transferring them to Siberia and the Caucasus.

A simultaneous revolt of the Ural garrisons and a rising at Kronstadt are to be expected.

The garrisons in revolt are co-operating with the Ukrainian troops, who are planning a reign of terror in South-West Russia by the slaughter of Jews. Correspondents of Baltic newspapers already report serious anti-Semitic risings in the Kharkoff districts and elsewhere, while Odessa newspapers report many arrests and assert that the situation is dangerous.—Reuter.

Riga, Feb. 6.

Serious disturbances are reported in the Kharkoff district. A Commissar with a considerable number of troops is said to be supporting the insurgents.

A fire, followed by explosions, has destroyed a considerable part of the big munitions factory at Tula.

Heavy Sentences at Chita.

Later.

Moscow messages report that the revolutionary military tribunal at Chita has sentenced General Pepelaieff and 20 of his adherents to death, 45 others to 10 years' imprisonment and 11 to five years' imprisonment.

General Pepelaieff, after the collapse of Koltchak's army, led various operations in Siberia. He was taken prisoner last summer. Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 2. Spain has agreed to sign the Tangier Agreement, thus ending the hitch in the negotiations.—Reuter.

MR. MACDONALD AND M. POINCARE

Amicable Sentiments Expressed in Exchange of Letters Between Premiers

London, Feb. 3.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's letter to M. Poincaré says:—

"Our two countries have come through such trying times side by side and have made such sacrifices together for the common cause that on coming into office I address you a personal note, not only to inform you of the change, but to send greetings and good wishes. I grieve to find so many unsettled points causing us trouble and concern, and assure you that it will be my daily endeavour to help to settle them to our mutual benefit. You have your public opinion and I mine. You have your national interests to conserve and protect and I mine. Sometimes, at first, they may conflict, but I am sure that by strenuous action and goodwill, conflicts can be settled and policies devised, in pursuit of which France and Britain can remain in hearty co-operation. We can be frank without being hostile and defend our countries' interests without enmity. Thus the Entente will be much more than nominal and France and Britain can advance together to establish the peace and security of Europe."

M. Poincaré's Reply.

M. Poincaré replied:—

"I am much touched by your kind letter and hope wholeheartedly that your efforts for the welfare of your country will be successful. You may be sure that the memory of the times of common trial and sacrifice, when the bonds uniting your country and mine were knit together, are ever present in my mind. I deeply regret that several questions, important to our two countries, are not yet settled and, like you, I will do my utmost to solve them by friendly agreement to our mutual advantage. If we have to take into account the public opinion of our respective countries and safeguard national interests, I am confident that in applying, each in his own sphere, vigorous action and goodwill to the settlement of the problems arising between us, we shall solve them in such a manner as to maintain between France and Britain the policy of co-operation essential to our two countries and the tranquillity of the world. My own frankness will be no less than yours and, if in defence of French interests I show the same fervour as you in defence of British interests, you may be sure that nothing will ever change the cordiality of my deep-rooted feelings. It is impossible that, animated as we both are by such sentiments, we should fail to make the Entente effective and fruitful of the results it can and ought to bear in order that the whole of Europe may find again peace and security, freedom and work.—Reuter.

MR. LL. GEORGE AND THE PEACE TREATY

Serious Allegations as to Connivance Between France and America

London, Feb. 6.

An allegation that a secret compact with regard to the occupation of German territory was made between ex-President Wilson and M. Clemenceau in March, 1919, during Mr. Lloyd George's absence from Paris, is made in an interview with Mr. Lloyd George published in the "New York World."

Mr. Lloyd George says that he was called to London at a critical moment in the negotiation by the famous attack in the House of Commons organized by Lord Northcliffe's telegram. When he returned to Paris he found that ex-President Wilson had surrendered to M. Clemenceau. Thus the French gained the right to occupy the Rhine country which was finally included in the Treaty. He had only recently discovered that during his absence in London M.

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

OUR SCOTTISH LETTERS

20,000 People Faced with Starvation in Western Highlands: Failure of Crops and Fishing: Only 20 Dry Days Since May

From Our Own Correspondent.

Edinburgh, Dec. 19.

A grave condition of affairs prevails in the Highlands and Western Islands. The experiences of the crofters and fishermen in the spring, summer, and autumn have been little short of calamitous. The potato crop, the hay, and the harvest have been ruined by persistent rains. Even the peat is reduced to a sodden mass which will not burn; and coal they cannot afford to buy. The profits of the fishing industry, gravely hampered by illegal trawling within the three-mile limit, grow steadily less. There is hardly any work to be had, only a little money comes from outside in the shape of old age and war pensions; very few of these Lewis men are eligible for unemployment benefit, and malnutrition has seriously affected the general standard of health of the children. One authoritative report states that many districts have known neither summer nor autumn. There have been only 20 dry days since May, lately broken by snow and frost. Potatoes are as small as marbles, or large, soapy, and diseased. It is computed that 20,000 people are face to face with starvation.

Steps are already being taken to cope with the emergency; there will be a central committee composed of men of the highest standing, with local committees in the distressed areas. It is proposed that measures should be taken to safeguard the morale of the people. Relief must not be gratuitous. Labour or money should be exacted from those supplied with food. No person receiving relief should be, so far as employment could be obtained, allowed to remain idle or unemployed. Care must be taken that, in the mere saving of life, irretrievable harm was not done to the moral character of the people.

RAMSAY MACDONALD.

Ramsay Macdonald is one of the Men of the Time. Is he not the strongest and best of the Leaders of the Labour Opposition, and is not still a higher position open to him in the immediate future? For the present, freed from the cares and responsibilities of political activity, this dominant Scot is holidaying in the North, breathing his "native gurms" in the quaint old town of Lossiemouth, on the Moray Firth. Indeed he is living in the very cottage in which he was born; he has enlarged it, and given it a name, "The Hillocks," from the sand-hills in front, "just as if it was the villa of some bourgeoise grocer," as one of his labour rivals recently muttered in disgust.

In addition to being fishing centre, Lossiemouth has some fame as a golfing resort. Ramsay Macdonald, however, does not now play golf upon that course, and thereby hangs a tale. He was a member of the local club for a number of years, but, in consequence of the strong views he expressed during the war, he was requested to resign upon a requisition by certain members. Circumstances have changed since then, and the club has made it known that it would now be very glad to rescind the resolution excluding Mr. Macdonald if he would let bygones be bygones. He has replied that he bears the members who took this action no ill-will, and that he regards the incident as closed, but himself as still excluded.

SCOTTISH TEMPERANCE POLLS.

The polls under the Scottish Temperance Act of 1913 give little hope of a solution of the great problem of intemperance. Districts are dry, and yet on a subject like this, where feeling runs high on both sides, they are the only things to which we can safely appeal. What do they show? They show that the "No-Licence" party have not carried a single district which did not go "dry" in 1920. They have maintained their ground in 18 "dry" areas, but they have lost 5.

In regard to "Limitation," which means the reduction of licences in a district by one-fourth, they have had both losses and gains; but on balance they are 4 down, although the loss here is partially off-set by the fact that two of the "Limitation" areas have gone one more step towards "No-Licence."

Looked at from the other side, the results show that there are now 216 "wet" areas—excluding 20 districts with "Limitation"—out of 254 areas polled; three years ago in the same districts there were 207 "wet" areas, so that the net gain to the "wets" and the net loss to the "drys" has been nine. Put in another way, about 40 per cent. of the total votes cast was given for "No-Licence," "Continuance of No-Licence," and "Limitation" while roughly 60 per cent. was cast for "No Change," "Repeal of No-Licence," and "Repeal of Limitation." This leaves out of account the large unpolled vote, which may fairly be set down as anti-extremist, or moderate.

What is the way out of this deadlock? The desire for reform in the provision of drinking facilities is practically universal, and various schemes are being ventilated, none of them, however, receiving any general support. As I have already written you, a way out may be found in a new "option," and the framing of it may be left to a Royal Commission. The wording of such an option will be a very difficult matter, and is certain to rouse a bitter controversy.

THE GOVERNMENT OF GOLF.

There is evidence that golfers throughout the country are keenly interested in the future control of the game. The desire is to make the government of golf more representative of the widespread character that the game has now assumed than is the case at the present time, but no attempt is being made to undermine or to usurp the place so long and honourably occupied by the Royal and Ancient Club of St. Andrews. We in Scotland—and the feeling will be shared by golfers generally throughout the kingdom—have no desire to see the headquarters of the game removed from St. Andrews to London, and any attempt would be vigorously opposed. But with the desire for a more representative control of the game there will be a large amount of sympathy. The Scottish Union movement, working in harmony with the R. and A., and loyally acknowledging its supreme position in the game, has been of great service in many ways, notably on the question of national handicapping. The ruling authority has readily admitted the services which the Union has been able to perform, and as an earnest of its desire to secure further co-operation with the Union has agreed to convene a conference on this question.

This marks an important stage in the government of the game, and the attitude of the Championship Committee goes to show that it is anxious to avail itself of the assistance of those who are closely in touch with golfing opinion throughout the country. The conference should be mutually helpful in the investigation of a question that is of particular importance to the golfing world to-day. The methods of St. Andrews in former days have not escaped criticism, a good deal of which was not without foundation. The step now taken by the R. and A. will not diminish its prestige, but will go to show that it is amenable to modern opinion when that is in the best interests of the game. It may be that as the result of the conference there will be created a permanent consultative council which would voice the views of Scottish golfers. This is an interesting proposal, and, should it be carried into effect, the R. and A. would stand to gain in many ways.

GOLFERS' SERMONS.

Which of our Scotch churches situated near golf courses where Sunday golf is played will be first to follow the example of St. Nicholas's, Wallasey, near Liverpool? A series of 20 minutes' services for players has been arranged, and is being well attended. Larger congregations are the rule weekly, but that might be only "a local rule" that would not hold good in Scotland. There should be no difficulty in finding texts for golfers. A very appropriate start might be made with the first ten words of Philippians 1 and 27.

STORIES ABOUT LOUIS GREIG.

The famous W. J. A. Davis, captain of the England XV. 1920-3, has published a book on "Rugby Football and How to Play it," and the lighter side of the game is by no means neglected. Some of the best stories centre about Wing-Commander Louis Greig, who was famous for his language on the field. Two ladies were standing outside the Services ground at Portsmouth. "What shall we do this afternoon?" said one. "Let's go and hear Louis Greig play Rugby," was the other's laconic reply. This Scottish International, when playing scrum-half, exclaimed to his partner, who kept dropping his passes: "Heavens! you'd drop it if I handed it to you on a plate."

EN PASSANT.

The Duke of Atholl complains that the Duchess having been elected the first woman M.P. for Scotland, his own politics nowadays were staying at home and minding the teapot.

Remarking upon the experiences of Parliamentary candidates, Sheriff Jameson, at a gathering in Edinburgh, said that sometimes they were welcomed to constituencies in terms that were a little embarrassing. He recalled an instance when a friend of his, after nomination for a constituency, was encouraged by a shepherd with the remark—"Oh, you are a far better candidate than the last man we had." And then added—"You see he was far too honest and far too much of a gentleman."

The engagement is announced of Neva Anthony, second daughter of Geo. G. Duncan, of 5 Ravelston Place, Edinburgh, and Harold Green, J.P., Hongkong. The marriage will take place shortly.

Ship Scuttled by Chief Engineer: A Huge Shipping Swindle: The New Premier

Dec. 26.

A judgment which is perhaps the most important of the year, in view of its consequential effects, has been pronounced by the Second Division of the Court of Session in the actions by Glasgow shipbrokers and commission agents against certain well-known insurance companies for recovery of moneys under sea policies over the hull, cargo, etc., of the str. Spathari, which foundered off the Portuguese coast in April, 1921, while on a voyage to Greece.

The Court found that the ship had been scuttled by the chief engineer for the benefit and by the directions of the shipbrokers and commission agents—two of them Greeks and one of them a Scotsman.

It seems that H. Demetriades purchased the vessel with the professional help of a friend, Mr. Borthwick, for £3,000; and the funds for the purchase were obtained by mortgages for £7,500. Then Demetriades set about getting cargo for Greece. To some extent the venture was intended to be philanthropic towards his friends in the Levant. It was projected, too, that these friends might purchase the vessel for £9,000 or more with a view to its occupation in Levantine trading. Indeed, Borthwick was under agreement to deliver the vessel in Greece to Demetriades for £9,000 against his re-selling it! With the aid of the practised eye of another friend and countryman, Cambitsis, of no capital but "with some maritime antecedents" and "fish and chip shop experience," or, as he called himself, a "restaurateur," Demetriades was very lucky in "spotting" in Leith some rejected dried Labrador codfish of "pre-war strength." It was said to be none the worse of having lain for some years in Iceland before its importation in December, 1920, to Scotland, by the str. Noah. Lord Sands tells us, however, it would be a mistake to connect this consignment in any way with the Flood. Cambitsis was successful in securing 60 tons of this cargo for certain other friends at the not over stiff price of 19s. per ton, and still more successful in turning it over to a Levantine purchaser at the moderate figure of £60 per ton, he, the buyer, paying in addition the freight! It should not be omitted from the story that some 30 tons of the same codfish were bought by other people for manure. Prudent ship owners and merchants, Greek or otherwise, insure their ventures. So, by the agency of Demetriades, Borthwick insured on time or voyage policies the hull of the Spathari for £9,000, and Cambitsis and others interested covered the codfish, and some other cargo, with freight, disbursements, and stores, to the extent of other £18,000. The vessel duly sailed, and, as has been said, sank off Portugal.

The Scottish Judges had no difficulty in pronouncing judgment against the swindlers and in favour of the underwriters. But many people are wondering how they accepted the risks, not very heavy, it is true, as marine risks go, without making the least inquiry into the mercantile reputation of the proposed insurers. If they had done so, more of the dried codfish at least might have been put to better use in this country as a fertilizing agency instead of slowly rotting in Portuguese waters.

FUTURE OF TEMPERATURE ACT.

During the General Election a considerable number of the Scottish members, irrespective of party, stated that, while they could not support the suggested repeal of the Scottish Temperance Act, they were willing to consider any scheme of amendment, and also any sound proposal for the reform of the licensed houses. This course will be resisted by extremists on both sides, by the Trade and by the Prohibitionists, but the Scottish members interested feel that the great bulk of public feeling will be against deadlock. It is significant that certain of the Scottish Socialist members, who generally hold temperance views, are of this opinion now, and that they have been strengthened in their attitude by the request of considerable numbers of working men, who, while against no-licence, urge that at present many of the houses are in a thoroughly unsatisfactory condition. With the prospect that the next Government, whatever it it is scarcely likely that there is, will not be long in power, will be immediate legislation, but that some amendment of the present Temperance Act will eventually be carried may be predicted with every confidence.

RAMSAY MACDONALD'S APPRENTICESHIP.

A Lossiemouth man has been giving some reminiscences of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's early association with the place. One of the most interesting related to a man called Jimmie Alexander, a well-known character at Lossiemouth. He kept a tinsmith's shop, and was familiarly known as "Tinnie." He was a man of superior education, and his shop was the resort of all the ardent politicians. Every important question of the day was thrashed out at this local parliament "Tinnie" himself was a crusted old Tory, but every shade of opinion was represented, and many distinguished visitors took part in the discussions. The late Mr. J. E. Sutherland, M.P. for Elgin Burghs, and Sir Archibald Williamson, M.P. for Elgin and Nairn (now Lord Forres), when they had other members visiting their constituencies used to bring them along to "Tinnie's" shop.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, who was a keen Radical in his 'teens, used to take an active share in these debates, and acquired there much of the skill of which he has made such good use at Westminster. "Tinnie," who, alas! has passed away, always took a great interest in the career of the Socialist leader, who had served his political apprenticeship in his shop, but he always declared that Ramsay Macdonald was a bigger man up in London than he was in Lossiemouth.

HIS MOUSTACHE.

Ramsay Macdonald's large moustache is prominent in the pictorial press now-a-days. The cartoonists see to that. And it has come to be peculiarly identified with the man. It is not quite so black as it used to be; it retains a curl and an elegance reminiscent of the 'nineties, carrying some consolation thereby to old-fashioned folk. In picture groups of the Labour Party it adds a distinction for the most part lacking in the assemblage of unassuming faces. He lets the adornment grow venerably white. Disraeli defied nature and bought a bottle of dye. But a Labourist has to scorn such aids in case the fierce limelight of the day brought that tell-tale purplish gleam to view and wrecked a career. Ramsay Macdonald has always worn it of the same florid size and shape—as if to typify a permanency of character and outlook. Lloyd George allowed his hirsute protection to flourish erratically like a tropical plant with the fluctuations of power. Mr. Asquith grew locks in rivalry. Then recall if you can the German Emperor's moustache. Common gossip knew that that monumental aspect of the Chief of Hohenzollerns was not Nature's fine unaided experiment. Even beyond the barbers it was known that Wilhelm slept with his moustache in elastic bandages or something of the sort. With royalty gone, the necessity for a martial assumption swept from his life, Wilhelm reverted not to barbarism but simply to a beard. His moustache was permitted to fall limp. For the first time in 40 years he lay no his pillow in comfort. Ramsay Macdonald's moustache, however, has never changed, and people say that this typifies a certain conservatism of temperament! It is curious, when one thinks of it, that to the Man in the Street Ramsay Macdonald is always identified with this florid moustache, as part and parcel of his principles. Truly; great is the power of the political cartoonist.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's late uncle was for many years a well-known guard on the Highland Railway. He was a small, pawky, and unassuming man, and a general favourite. When questioned about his nephew, all he would say was—"Imphm! Ramsay was aye a clever like chiel." Then he would smile and inquire if you had got all your luggage.

TO A BUNKER.

(While turning it up with a golf club.)

O, thou unhallowed pit o' sin
That wiles ma bran' new gutty in
Far frae the green, far less the tin
I'm aimin' at—
Ye'll gar me thiuk that I'm as blin'
As ony bat!
Ah thocht 'twas driv'n as straught's a die,
As unco ba' hit fair an' high,
Weel certifeed, at need, tae fly
Past time an' space,
Till Whang!—An' I behold it lie
In thy embrace!
See, if your ba' though fairly struck
Gets whamnied 'mang the glaur an' muck
O' bunkers, bents or sic' like truck.
Stan' tea't the mair;
Gin ye play up an' trust tae luck
Ye'll sune be there.

—By a Junior "Colonel Bogey" in the Hutcheson's Grammar School Magazine, Glasgow.

GERMAN SEAMEN'S STRIKE

Sympathetic Attitude of British Transport Workers

London, Feb. 2.

The transport workers' and stevedores' unions have decided to refuse to unload or touch German ships in British ports on the ground of the German shipowners failing to negotiate a settlement of the German seamen's strike and in consequence taking ships to sea undermanned and endeavouring to import blackleg labour.

The National Union of Railwaymen have promised the Transport and General Workers' Union their support in the event of a dockers' strike.—Reuter.

DEATH OF A FRENCH ROYALIST EDITOR

Paris, Feb. 2.

The death is announced of M. Arthur Meyer Director of the *"Gaulois,"* at the age of 78.—Reuter.

*** The late Arthur Meyer was well known as a leading exponent of monarchism in France, which his paper consistently preached, being regarded as the chief organ of the Royalist party. This, however, did not prevent divers misunderstandings between M. Meyer and the Duc d'Orléans, exiled heir to the French crown and it is permissible to think that M. Meyer's politics were rather a case of opposition to the existing, than sympathy with a potential Government. But it is not for foreigners to estimate the exact feelings of French politicians. In the Dreyfus affair, M. Meyer was of course violently Clericalist and anti-Dreyfusard. In the course of his long life he was on intimate terms with all the distinguished or eccentric personages of the day and among his publications the reminiscences contained in *"Ce que mes yeux ont vu"* are most entertaining. He married a grand-daughter of the Duke de Fitz-James, Mlle. Marguerite de Turenne.

SOVIET PROPAGANDA IN INDIA AND CHINA

Riga, Feb. 2.

Addressing the Soviet Congress at Moscow, M. Zinovieff exhorted the delegates to spread the light of communism among the hundreds of millions of Orientals, especially those of China and India whom M. Lenin's deputy previously called Soviet Russia's heavy reserves.—Reuter.

FATALITIES ON THE U. S. CRUISER TACOMA

Charlestown, S. Car., Feb. 3.

The repair-ship Prometheus has arrived with the bodies of Captain Sparrow and one of the radio operators of the cruiser Tacoma, who perished in a storm after the grounding of the Tacoma off the coast of Mexico. The bodies of the two other wireless operators have not been recovered.

It appears that, after the Tacoma was piled up on the reef, Captain Sparrow went with the operators to the wireless cabin and sent out the S.O.S. When the ship began to break up under the pounding of the waves, the men left the cabin to their work until they were standing waist high in water. Becoming exhausted, they made a last desperate effort to get below and join the remainder of the ship's company, but were suddenly caught by a giant combine and swept overboard.—Reuter's American Service.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND HOURS OF LABOUR

Paris, Feb. 2.

The Chilean Minister, who is a member of the League of Nations Council, in the course of an interview with a representative from Geneva, stressed that the decisions of the Washington Conference in regard to the Eight Hours Day had not been carried out by the majority of the countries concerned. Many of these countries had not even ratified the Convention. Meanwhile, the Council of the League of Nations was powerless to enforce the decisions of the Washington Conference. Mr. Edwards mentioned that the British Government had ratified the Convention.

M. LENIN'S SUCCESSOR

Riga, Feb. 3.

M. Rykov has been officially elected M. Lenin's successor as Chairman of the Soviet People's Commissars.

M. Rykov is a Russian peasant by origin, aged 43, and an engineer by profession. He was arrested in 1900 at Archangel, but escaped and was re-arrested and banished to Siberia in 1911. He became Commissary of Home Affairs in 1918 and has been head of the Council of National Economy since 1919. He became prominent by very able management of supplies during the civil war.—Reuter.

INDUSTRIAL UPHEAVAL IN NORWAY

Christiania, Feb. 6.

A dock strike against a reduction in wages which has been proceeding for the past fortnight has developed seriously, the employers deciding on a lock-out affecting 36,000 men. They threaten to look out a further 24,000 if an agreement is not reached within a week.

The National Association of Trade Unions has retaliated by proclaiming a strike in the paper pulp and celluloid industries.—Reuter.

M. VENIZLEOS RESIGNING GREEK PREMIERSHIP

Athens, Feb. 4.

The verdict of M. Venizelos's doctors is that he must resign the Premiership.

Later.

M. Gafandaris, the Minister of Justice, will form a Cabinet.—Reuter.

A New Treasure Island

Vancouver, Feb. 4.

A Canadian expedition, composed of Vancouver men and headed by Captain Polkinghorne, left today on board a small steamer for the Cocos Islands in order to search for treasure reported to have been buried by pirates in the early 19th century.—Reuter's American Service.

German Ambassadors to France and Belgium

Berlin, Feb. 3.

Herr von Hoesch, the present Chargé d'Affaires, will become German Ambassador at Paris and Herr von Keller, the Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade, will become Minister to Belgium. The French and Belgian Governments have given approval.—Reuter.

City of London By-Election

London, Feb. 1.

The by-election for the City of London due to Baron Banbury's peerage resulted as follows:—

Sir Vansittart Bowater (Con.)	12,962
Mr. Henry Bell (Lib.)	5,523

—Reuter.

Terrible Accident on American Railway

Fort Wayne, Ind., Feb. 2.

Harrowing scenes are said to have followed a collision between two electric trains here yesterday when 17 lives were lost. The wood immediately caught fire. Many persons are pinned beneath the wreckage and cannot approach the blaze. As the flames creep nearer the screams of the victims are heart-rending, helpless to aid the victims.—Reuter's American Service.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S ALLEGATIONS

French Press Indignant: M. Clemenceau's Flat Denial of Any Pact: Journalist's Acceptance of Responsibility for Publication of Statement

Paris, Feb. 7.

The press is indignant at Mr. Lloyd George's statement and dwells on the fact that the accusations were made just when ex-President Wilson died. The *"Matin"* says that it knew that Mr. Lloyd George is capable of treating historical veracity with the utmost fantasy, but it has never thought that he would go so far as to imagine a secret treaty which does not exist merely in order to flatter the Labour Party. The *"Petit Parisien"* asserts that Mr. Lloyd George's calumny by its very gravity excludes all probability. The *"Gaulois"* says that once again Mr. Lloyd George has been taken in the very act of uttering incorrect statements.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 7.

Mr. Harold Spender, the writer of the article in the "New York World" containing Mr. Lloyd George's allegations, states that the article was the outcome of a visit he paid to Mr. Lloyd George during the last week-end. Mr. Lloyd George was not aware that he intended to use his (Mr. Lloyd George's) observations in the article. "Mr. Lloyd George did not authorize the statements and if I have been indiscreet I take the whole of the blame."—Reuter.

M. Clemenceau's Denial.

Paris, Feb. 7.

Interviewed by the *"Intransigeant"* with regard to the Lloyd George incident, M. Clemenceau laconically remarked: "Show me a secret treaty signed by Dr. Wilson and me and I undertake to pay the total reparations."—Reuter.

London, Feb. 7.

It is understood that, besides instructing the Marquess of Crewe to call on Mr. Poincaré this morning, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald has communicated personally with the French Premier with regard to the Lloyd George incident.

It appears that there was only one set of proofs of the documents at the Foreign Office and, as these were sent to Mr. Lloyd George, the Prime Minister has not yet seen them.

Mr. Ll. George's Explanation

Later.

In an article in the "Daily Chronicle," Mr. Lloyd George states that he is unable to accept the views attributed to him in the "New York World" article as accurately setting out the facts of what happened at a critical moment of the Peace Conference. He declares that when he returned to Paris from London in April, 1919, he found that an agreement had been reached between President Wilson and M. Clemenceau on two very important issues, firstly, the military occupation of the Rhine and, secondly, the American guarantees of the French frontier against German aggression. "To describe the agreement as a secret compact between President Wilson and M. Clemenceau is ridiculous. President Wilson acted in perfect loyalty and blame cannot be imputed to either President Wilson or M. Clemenceau that I was called to England when grave matters were under discussion. The fact that President Wilson and M. Clemenceau had reached agreement was communicated to me upon my return and the agreement regarding the occupation of the Rhineland was after some modification ultimately incorporated in the Peace Treaty."

The Delay in Reply.

Mr. Lloyd George says that the documents when published will tell their own tale. He expresses regret for his delay in replying to the Foreign Office letter, which was due to the fact that the letter was not signed. He expresses the opinion that it would have been fairer if Mr. Ramsay Macdonald had waited to hear his explanation before making a statement to the press.

In conclusion, Mr. Lloyd George says that Mr. Macdonald will probably find that most, if not all, of these documents have been already published by M. Tardieu in France and Mr. Baker in America. "Both these gentlemen between them have published most of the secret documents of the Paris Conference."—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

Premiers on Friendly Terms: Report on Reparations to Preface Pending Meeting: British Policy of Sympathy Combined with Firmness: France's Debt to Britain

London, Feb. 7.

Reuter's Agency understands that the Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, learned of the alleged interview with Mr. Lloyd George in the "New York World" yesterday at noon, half an hour after he had received a report from Paris with which he was very pleased, because it showed how well things had gone since the Labour Government had come into office. On inquiry, Mr. Macdonald learned that the French Ambassador had called on the Foreign Office on January 2 and that the Foreign Office had had under careful consideration hitherto secret documents for several days. As Mr. Lloyd George had not yet returned the documents, which were the Foreign Office's only copy, it was impossible to say what they contained.

It is understood that the incident is a great blow to M. Poincaré, with whom the Labour Government have been getting on very well and with whom important arrangements had been made with regard to the Palatinate. Obviously M. Poincaré might suppose that action had been taken behind his back and the British Ambassador at Paris, the Marquess of Crewe, was instructed to call on the French Premier in the morning and explain the whole situation.

Relations between Britain and France have not been so cordial for some time as they are now. M. Poincaré and Mr. Macdonald are on very friendly terms, though no meeting has yet been arranged between them. It is understood that the Prime Minister is anxious that the meeting, when held, shall deal with definite propositions based on the reports of the two committees of experts on the subject of reparations, which can be expected shortly.

The view of the British Government is that, unless something new and unexpected occurs, the British policy now in process of formulation will be acceptable to Paris. It is a policy of sympathy, but also of great firmness in protecting Britain's legitimate interests. It will be impossible to deal with the question of the French debt to Great Britain until the Government receives the reparations reports. The Government does not intend to regard the French debt as a separate issue, but rather as a negotiable asset in conjunction with other outstanding questions.

Mr. Macdonald, it is understood, is very anxious for an agreement between the French and British Governments, upon a policy which will be a real and effective contribution to the peace of Europe. He is anxious to invite the co-operation of the United States and to secure the sympathy and interest of the smaller European nations.

Outstanding Problems.

The Government hopes that its formal recognition of Russia will be the first step towards the accomplishment of much practical work through the operation of several commissions, which will be established to deal with outstanding problems, including debts. It is the intention of the Government to establish machinery to deal with the important question of anti-British propaganda which must be settled.

Reuter also understands that the Cabinet is unanimous in the belief that the effectiveness of the League of Nations is conditional upon the accession of Germany and Russia.—Reuter.

PRINCE OF WALES INJURED

Collar-bone Broken While Jumping His Hunter

London, Feb. 8.

It is officially stated that the collar-bone of the Prince of Wales is broken and that he is slightly injured. His Royal Highness is returning to London at noon.

Later.

The Prince of Wales broke his collar-bone while exercising a hunter this morning at Billington Manor near Ascott. He spent the night at Mentmore Mansions with Lord Dalmeny prior to the meet of the Whaddon Chase hounds at Ascott. Early in the morning the Prince took his hunters to Billington Manor, the residence of Sir Richard Cooper, and was jumping a fence when his horse fell. The Prince was pitched on to his shoulder but immediately rose, and tried to remount. His equerry said: "I believe that you have broken your collar-bone." The Prince replied: "Yes, have me taken to Leighton Buzzard." The Prince of Wales was medically treated and was subsequently driven back to Mentmore Mansions. His shoulder was bandaged, but he was smiling.—Reuter.

GERMAN SEPARATIST MOVEMENT

A Note of Protest to France: Allegation of Support: The French Reply

Berlin, Feb. 5.

In a new Note to France, the German Government declares that French support of the Separatists has seriously infringed German sovereignty in the Palatinate and has resulted in the oppression of 760,000 defenceless people.

The German Government requests restoration of conditions in accordance with the Treaty of Versailles, disarmament of the separatists, unrestricted restoration of activities by the German authorities and non-interference in future in German domestic and political affairs.—Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 7.

M. Poincaré, replying to the German Note of February 5 with regard to the Separatist movement in the Palatinate, says that the fresh calumnies of the Reich are not supported by anything like proof, and in conclusion affirms that the French Government is scrupulously observant of treaties and remains determined not to intervene in German internal quarrels. It will therefore not enter into conversations with the German Government as regards domestic affairs.—Reuter.

AMERICAN OIL SCANDAL

Washington, Feb. 7.

The Senate has passed a resolution directing the Department of the Interior to move for the recovery of the Elk Hill naval oil reserves held by the California Standard Oil Company.

In consideration of the fact that ex-Secretary Fall has refused to answer questions on the ground that to do so might incriminate him, the Senate committee investigating the oil scandal has voted in favour of relieving him from further attendance.—Reuter's American Service.

EINSTEIN'S THIRD PREDICTION

Verification Established: Theory of Relativity Beyond Doubt

Einstein's theory demanded the existence of three phenomena which could not be explained by Newtonian gravitation: a slow evolution in the orbit of Mercury; an apparent displacement of the stars in the vicinity of the eclipsed sun and a shift in the spectral lines of the sun and stars. The existence of the first had been known, but not explained, since the middle of the 19th century; the second was looked for and demonstrated beyond all doubt in [illegible] 1922; but the third was long sought for in vain. The results of different observers were completely contradictory. At last, however, the discordances have been removed: and the consensus of opinion is that the so-called Einstein shift has a real existence.

The spectrum of an arc-lamp is a continuous band of "rainbow" colours stretching from red at one end to violet at the other. The introduction into the arc of a chemical element produces a line, or group lines crossing the band transversely and occupying positions which are always constant for the same element under the same conditions. Certain things produce slight changes in the positions of the lines. Thus a continuous motion to or away from the observer of the source emitting the lines produces a shift, which is towards the violet if the source is approaching, and towards the red if it is receding. This phenomenon, known as the Doppler effect, does not occur if the source is travelling at right angles to the line joining it to the observer; if, that is to say, it is neither approaching nor receding. The amount of the shift gives a measure of the velocity of approach or recession. A shift towards the red is also produced by high pressures.

SHIFT TO THE RED.

According to Einstein, the spectral lines of the sun and stars should show a displacement to the red, in addition to any that may be due to motion or pressure. His theory requires that the lines of an element should be shifted more and more to the red as the gravitational field surrounding the element increases. Thus in a massive body like the sun, where the gravitational field is instense, the lines should be shifted to the red as compared with the same lines produced in the laboratory. The amount of this shift can be calculated.

The problem of deciding whether this shift is, or is not, present in the solar spectrum is greatly complicated by the presence of other factors, which can give rise to shifts of doubtful amounts. The two astronomers who have done most towards the deciding of this question are Mr. Evershed, director of the Kodaikanal Observatory, and Dr. St. John, of Mount Wilson.

Several years ago Mr. Evershed found that the iron lines in the sun were shifted towards the red by an amount which increased as one passed from the centre of the sun's disc towards the edge. He found, moreover, at the centre of the disc that the lines emitted gases at a high level in the sun's atmosphere gave a larger displacement than those emitted at low levels. The difference in shift in the high and low level lines could be explained by vertical convection currents in the solar gases; for since these currents, at the centre of the disc, would be moving directly to or away from the earth they would necessarily give rise to Doppler effects. It would, however, be expected that, whereas the cooler, high level gases having a downward current would give a shift to the red, the hotter, low level gases having an upward current, would, on the contrary, give a shift to the violet.

THE UNKNOWN FACTOR.

To explain the observations, it was thus necessary to assume that there was superimposed upon these current shifts a larger, additional shift to the red, due to an unknown factor which affected high and low level lines equally. This assumed combination of shifts would give rise to a tively large shift to the red in the high level lines, and to a smaller shift to the red in the low level lines in complete accordance with observation. Mr. Evershed convinced himself that the unknown factor, whatever it was, was not a high pressure in the sun; for careful investigations had shown him that pressure in the solar atmosphere was quite negligible.

A possible explanation was that the earth itself excited a repelling force upon the solar gases, driving them in a direction away from it, thus giving a Doppler shift to the red. To decide this point he examined the spectrum of the side of the sun turned away from the earth by the ingenious method of photographing the spectrum of Venus (which shines by reflected sunlight), while it was on the far side of the sun. His results showed that the lines from the other side of the sun gave the same shift to the red. If the earth excited a repelling action on the gases, the spectrum obtained in this way would have shown a shift to the violet, for the gases which were moving away from the earth would have been moving towards Venus. The earth effect was thus disposed of, and the only explanation left was the Einstein shift, which must be the same on both sides of the sun. Furthermore, the amount of shift which had to be accounted for corresponded with the amount predicted by Einstein.

REAL EXPLANATION.

At the edge of the disc the excess of the observed shift over the Einstein shift could not be explained by convection currents; for since these currents are vertical they must, at the edge of the disc, be at right angles to the line joining the earth and sun, and so cannot give rise to Doppler effects. Mr. Evershed found that the real explanation was that the shift was an apparent one produced by the scattering of light in the sun's atmosphere; at the centre of the disc the scattering was negligible, but it became appreciable at the edge, where a ray of light coming towards the earth had to traverse a much greater thickness of the solar gases.

Mr. Evershed also studied the sodium lines and found them to be shifted equally all over the sun's disc by the exact amount predicted by Einstein. Probably because of their very high levels these lines are not affected by currents or scattering.

Now Dr. St. John had concluded some years ago, contrary to Mr. Evershed, that the pressure in the solar atmosphere was large, and produced considerable and indeterminable spectral shifts. He confined his conclusions therefore to his measurements of the cyanogen lines, which alone were uninfluenced by pressure. He is now, however convinced, by a recent investigation, that the pressure in the solar gases is, after all, negligible; and that the cyanogen lines were, for certain reasons, unfrustworthy. With the removal of the pressure complication his results fall into accordance with those of Mr. Evershed. Dr. St. John is now convinced of the existence of the Einstein shift.

We may thus conclude that the third prediction of Einstein has been verified with a very considerable degree of certainty; and that this, taken in conjunction with the absolute verification of the two other predictions, has placed the generalized theory of relativity beyond all reasonable doubt.

OPEN AIR CHESS

Clapham Common Play in all Weather

Men have been known to finish a game of chess in a burning building. Soldiers played it in the trenches.

Arctic explorers and shipwrecked mariners have cried "Check" to one another in the hours of privation and loneliness. But for sheer pertinacity and enthusiasm no chess players can compare with the member of the Clapham Common Open Air Chess Club.

In the twilight writes a "Daily News" man I came across two muffled men crouching over a chess board in the middle of Clapham Common. They sat on collapsible campstools in the lee of a tennis butt which they use as a lock-up for the chessmen and boards.

AUDIENCE OF THREE.

The sun had disappeared behind cloud banks. The nursemaids and the children had gone home. A solitary lamplighter was going on his rounds.

Hungry seagulls swooped over head, and the young ducks on the pond, catching the spirit of the game, cried "Check, check." The only spectators of this open-air game, played in a bitter east wind, were a park-keeper, a policeman, and myself.

"Your king's in danger," said one of the muffled men, moving a bishop with his gloved hand and stamping his cold feet on the gravel.

"Mate!" cried his opponent in the gathering gloor. Then darkness fell.

"CHESS FOR KEEPING FIT."

"Winter and summer we play in all weathers," said Mr. J. Coombs, one of the club founders, who happened to be one of the two players. "When it rains we play under umbrellas, and when it snows or hails or sleets we just go on as if the summer sun were shining. Last year I only missed one day, and this winter I have been absent only twice.

"Our membership is about 100, and we send out challenges to other clubs from time to time. The club has been established about two years. I used to suffer from bronchitis before I took to alfresco chess, but now I am almost free from it, and it is all due to open air chess."

Chess for keeping fit. Chess for bronchitis. Chess for Christmas. There's nothing like chess. In a few years the "Father" of the Clapham Common Open-Air Chess Club will be a centenarian.

IN MONTANA

Much of the January number of Harriet Monroe's "Poetry" (Chicago) is filled with vers libre. But there is some real poetry too, as under.

EXOTIC

Her frightened soul shrank
When she saw
The bitter crumbling hills of shale.
And the high cutbank,
Gashed and raw,
Struck her eyes like the wall of a jail.

The years ran by
Indifferent,
And she never grew used to unfenced land,
Nor dust blown high,
Nor scrub pines bent
In the midst of shuffling wastes of sand.

When her years were told
Her voice was sour
And her eyes were as hard as small black beads.
Her mouth was cold
And twisted and dour,
For her soul had withered like last year's weeds.

THE WIND

The cabin sits alone far up a hill
Where all the year the mournful wind blows shrill.

She used to tell him sometimes: "No one knows
How hard it is to listen while it blows."

He never touched a plow again, they say,
After he found her dead, but went away.

And tenants wouldn't live upon the place
Because, the neighbors said, they saw her face

Pressed close against the little window-pane
Watching the twisting storm-clouds in the rain;

And in the night-time they could hear her cry
And moan and whimper if the gale was high.

They said she had no cause to die but still
The wind was always blowing on the hill.

Gwendolen Haste

"PU-LAI-TUN"

Or Brighton: A Chinese Impression of London by the Sea in 1871

The following description of Brighton was written by Li Shu-ch'ang, secretary to the first Chinese ambassador in London. It is printed in the 11th section of the "Small Square Cup" geographical miscellany.

Pu-lai-tun is a place famous for its beauty. It is in Europe, on the coast of the land of Ying. It is about 160 leagues south of Lun-tun and can be reached by coach in two hours. The people of the Capital go there for sport or repose. Landwards, a ridge of low hills girds the town, while towards the sea is a steep and rocky cliff that men of taste have hollowed out into a vast chamber, where rare and marvellous fish from every quarter of the world are kept in tanks of glass through which perpetual waters flow. There is, indeed, no ocean-creature that cannot here be viewed.

Here too is a bridge, set upon wooden piers, that goes out several thousand feet into the sea, so built that wanderers, climbing to a height, may lean and gaze afar; and at the end of the bridge there is a music-room.

For the rest, there is short grass along the downs, flat sands along the shore, green windows and gay roofs in the town, and in company with these the sea, a mighty vision, now dark, now dazzling, stretches for ever and ever its vast expanse of grey.

The people of the Capital in their hundreds of thousands live close-packed as the teeth of a comb; their streets and markets intersect, covering each day a huge space, and where there should be a view of dancing waters, only the sails and masts of merchant-ships are seen. Even the lively clatter of hand-weavers and craftsmen is lacking, and all is merged in dusty squalor.

It is then for the quietness and cleanness of his place that each year, when the Hall of Meeting is closed, holiday-makers with one accord come hither to take their rest. Its winds are mild, its weather, clear. At its horizon sky and ocean meet. The fine ladies of the land go walking happy, sleeve to sleeve, in coats and skirts of diverse cut, trailing by like clouds. Sometimes a boat or two will pass, dipping its small oars into the empty darkness of the sea. The rich and powerful drive by in spotless coaches, their fiery horses racing neck to neck, to distant picnics and carousals.

Dusk thickens, the lamps are lit, a row of flames darts up along the shore. The music, played above waters, is caught up and cast back again by wind and tide, faltering in wafts of dim, mysterious sound, as though it floated from another world.

A month after I reached Lun-tun a well-to-do gentleman named A-shih-pe-li (Ashberry) brought me to the place and I was quick to admire its matchless beauty. Afterwards I returned many times, and each time with equal delight. Since then, years have passed and I have visited famous places in many lands; but never on any day has Pu-lai-tun been absent from my thoughts, such power does this place hold over the affections of all who have beheld it.

The Land of Ying is famous chiefly for her giant strength and vast prosperity, and men have judged her only by the toughness of her ships, the hugeness of her cannons, by her swift progress in the race for gain, and they know that by these she has got her will between the Four Seas. But such people do not know that for sport and recreation, for ease and comfort she has such places as this pleasant town.

In ancient days the philosopher Hsun Tzu spoke of the evils which come when lands think only of strength and security. But Luan Chen, when he appeared before the Baron of Ch'u, spoke first of the right ordering of the multitude and next in praise of leisure. It seems, however, it is strength and security which breed good order and leisure, and by the possession of a Pu-lai-tun a country's might may well be judged.—Translated by Arthur Waley.

NEW LAND LEVELS

Remarkable Effects of the Earthquake: Sea Bottom Drops 1,500 Ft.

If the undersea changes in the earth's surface produced by the great earthquake were visible on the surface they would be the marvel of our time. According to a report from naval survey ships, the sea bed at one point 5,000 metres north of Okinoshima subsided 253 fathoms—1,518 ft. Whether this is simply a deep crack or a subsidence of a considerable area is not stated, but in some parts as much as 50 acres has dropped to a great depth, while in other places the sea bottom has risen to the height that would make a considerable hill. An upheaval from 25 to 113 fathoms was discerned in the centre of Sagami Bay. The middle region between Oshima, Hatsushima, and Okinoshima dropped from nine to 50 fathoms.

Several minor changes in the land levels are also recorded in the reports sent to the Kure naval station from the Yamato, Koshu, Matsuye, and Musashi stations. The special service ships engaged in surveying the land levels and sea bed found that Yokosuka was elevated by two ft. Uraga 29 inches, Kensaki 12 inches, Misaki five ft. Kamakura from one to eight ft. Enoshima two ft. and Manazurasaki eight ft. Atami, Shin-inetori and Shimoda subsided one foot. The eastern coast of the Izu peninsula dropped by 15 inches on the average.

Nojima Point on Boso peninsula rose five ft., Sunosaki four ft., Tateyama from four to five ft., Ukishima four ft., and Minato two ft. The Miura peninsula was elevated about four ft., and the western coast of the Boso peninsula five ft.—"Japan Chronicle."

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMING OF AGE

Garter Honour Conferrd

Prince George, the fourth son of the King and Queen, on December 21 celebrated the twenty-first anniversary of his birth. Throughout the day messages of congratulation were received at Buckingham Palace and at the Naval School at Greenwich, where the Prince is at present serving. During the morning his Royal Highness came up to Buckingham Palace from Greenwich to see their Majesties, and was invested by the King with the insignia of a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

The Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, and Prince Henry are already Knights of the Order.

Prince George was the recipient of messages of congratulation from all the members of the Royal Family, from foreign Sovereigns, from personal friends and public bodies in all parts of the United Kingdom, as well as from the Dominions Overseas and the Colonies. In the West End of London flags were flying from all the public buildings and from numerous large business establishments.

At Buckingham Palace a small family luncheon party was held but no special festivities took place. The real celebration of the event among the Royal Family was to take place at Sandringham during the Christmas house-party at York Cottage.

MESSAGE TO CITIZENS OF LONDON.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the citizens of London, conveyed to Prince George their congratulations and good wishes, and expressed the hope that in the near future his Royal Highness would honour them by taking up the Freedom of the City, to which he was entitled by patrimony.

To this message Prince George repied:

I thank you, my Lord Mayor and citizens of London, for your message of congratulation on my coming of age, which I much appreciate. I am greatly touched by your kind intention to honour me in the near future.

OUR PARIS LETTERS

Daudet Mystery Deepens: No Evidence of Anarchist Plot: Unrest in the Capital

From Our Own Correspondent.

Paris, Dec. 14.

No one can accuse the police of not trying to throw light on the death of Philippe Daudet, or the Press of not seconding the efforts of the police.

The most interesting part of the information collected is that which relates to the anarchists among whom the unfortunate youth spent his last days. It may seem strange that the police should allow anarchists to preach their doctrines openly and even to publish such an organ as the "*Libertaire*," but when one comes to realize the nature of Anarchy, with a big A, as it is in the present year of grace, one begins to understand this official tolerance.

Anarchism is very different from what it was in the days of Vaillant and Emile Henri. It has ceased to throw bombs, and relies exclusively on propaganda. It is a form of dilletantism for disgruntled members of the bourgeoisie.

The "*Libertaire*," is run by a handful of long-haired youths who call themselves "companions" and bear a strong family resemblance to Mr. Simon Tappertit. They all emphatically disclaim having given Philippe Daudet any encouragement when he talked about "suppressing" anyone. So far, we have no evidence whatever that they plotted to turn Philippe against his father and friends. For the present, his departure from home, his wanderings and his sudden assumption of ideas in complete opposition to those with which he was brought up can only be considered as the freaks of a disordered brain. It is a painful incident in family life, but not in politics.

POLICE DEMONSTRATE.

The continued rise in the prices of necessaries has brought out an unusually serious symptom of discontent in Paris.

About 800 policemen in plain clothes assembled on Tuesday in front of the Hotel de Ville and sent a deputation to the Municipal Council asking for an increase of allowances. As the representatives of the Council naturally declined to have their hand forced in such a way, they refused, and the dissatisfied policemen became noisy. The heads of the force were hurriedly sent for. They harangued their subordinates, but in vain; there was a scuffle, and the head of the police, M. Guichard, was knocked down. His leg was hurt, and his clothes were spoilt.

The crowd then decided to "manifest" in front of the Chamber of Deputies. Uniformed police were sent in motor lorries to cut them off. They reached the Pont de la Concorde just in time to form a cordon, but it was too weak to resist the pressure, and was giving way when reinforcements arrived, and the malcontents were driven back and eventually dispersed after another scuffle, in which another police official was knocked down and an officer of the Republican Guard—the semi-military, semi-police force which assists in maintaining order in the capital—received a punch in the face from a malcontent, who was immediately arrested. Seven others were also taken into custody, but were released, and escaped with disciplinary punishments. The man who used his fists is to be prosecuted for assault. Fifteen other men, all young members of the force, have been suspended.

ALLOWANCES FOR DEAR LIVING.

There is no reason to suppose that this sudden and unexpected incident indicates a general weakening of discipline among the Paris police. It springs from the conviction, which is widespread in France, that patience and forbearance are useless when one has a grievance, and that the only way of obtaining satisfaction is to threaten and make a noise. The Paris policemen are only a section of the vast body of public officials who are agitating for a yearly allowance of Frs. 1,800 in addition to their salaries, which were fixed long before the cost of living reached its present figure. Allowances for dear living, residence and children already exist, but, in the vast majority of cases, they do not amount to anything like Frs. 1,800. Two days before the police incident, meetings of officials were held all over France, and resolutions demanding the Frs. 1,800 were voted.

In Paris, the meeting was followed by an attempt to march to the boulevards, and the police had to charge the crowd several times before it could be dispersed. Some years ago the Government of the day—very unwisely, in the opinion of many responsible people—allowed public officials to form associations, which are really trade unions, and this has encouraged them to bring pressure to bear on the authorities.

The Minister of Finance has now proposed increases, ranging from 33 to 50 per cent, in allowances, thus implicitly acknowledging the strength of the officials' associations, making further taxation almost inevitable, and adding to the cost of living which the Government is supposed to be trying to keep down. It remains to be seen whether the Government will have sufficient courage to cut down the great army of functionaries so that it can pay the survivors a living wage without overstraining the already embarrassed national finances.

ACTRESS'S SUIT AGAINST COMEDIE FRANCAISE.

Mme. Silvain, of the Comédie Francaise, is bringing a curious action against M. Emile Fabre, the official who acts as director of this celebrated theatre.

It was recently announced in the newspapers that the committee of members of the Comédie had decided to ask three members to retire at the end of 1924. These three were Mme. Silvain and her husband, and M. Duflos. Mme. Silvain considers that the announcement is calculated to damage her credit, and, not being able to tackle the entire Press she is trying to fasten the responsibility of the disclosure on M. Fabre, who had nothing to do with the decision and had no interest whatever in making it public. It is of course an unpleasant business for M. and Mme Silvain, who naturally decline to admit that their powers are on the wane, but, if the older members are to be allowed to go on until they lag superfluous on the stage, how is the troupe to be rejuvenated?

The Comédie Francaise is in reality an association of actors who own a theatre and a repertoire and work them under the control of the Ministry of Public Instruction and Fine Arts, which also provides them with a subsidy. As the members are not numerous enough to keep the theatre going, they engage outsiders, known as pensioners, who, after a year's trial, may become members. The latter receive a fixed salary, a small fee every time they play, and a share in the profits. The shares are divided into twelfths, and the members decide among themselves how many twelfths each is to receive.

At present only ten have twelve twelfths, that is to say, one full share. Newly elected members usually begin with three twelfths. An increase in any member's share of course means so much less for someone else, and those at the top must go if new recruits are to paid. The earnings of the leading members now amount to about Frs. 60,0000 a year—very little in comparison with the salaries of artistes of the same rank in England and the United States.

Trial of Girl Anarchist for Political Murder: Professional Witness No More

Dec. 21.

The trial of Germaine Berton, the anarchist girl who went to the office of the "*Action Francaise*," the Royalist organization, and shot the secretary, M. Marius Plateau, "to encourage the others," was not likely to take place in an atmosphere of judicial calm, and, so far, it has quite fulfilled expectations. Counsel for the defence and counsel for the dead man's relatives have waged war politely but unceasingly over every scrap of testimony, raising such clamour in court, where the fiery spirits of both camps sit cheek by jowl glaring ferociously at one another and only waiting for the opportunity to let off steam, that the presiding judge has several times been compelled to put on his toque and withdraw with his assessors. In a British court of justice, it is customary for the people who make the noise to be put out, but we manage things differently in France.

In the course of five days we have heard so much about politics and plots, and what magistrates think about prisoners they have examined, and what the royalists think about the police, that we have rather lost sight of the leading figure in the drama—the slip of a girl who, when placed in the dock, calmly took off her hat and coat and proceeded to "make up" her face. One wonders what expression that face wore when she was emptying her revolver into the man who had his back turned to her! She says that she felt qualms, but M. Plateau had laughed at the proletariat and made fun of their misery, and as she could not get at M. Léon Daudet, whom she regarded as the chief offender, she considered that his lieutenant must be made to pay for him. She maintains that she acted entirely on her own initiative, and the prosecution has certainly not brought forward any evidence of participation by Red extremists, or, in fact, any sign of the existence of a malevolent organization which, if we may believe the Royalists, is ever on the look-out to slay M. Léon Daudet, M. Charles Maurras and other apostles of the creed represented by that remarkably unobtrusive pretender the Duke of Orleans.

A VERY PLACID PLOTTER.

One of the witnesses was M. Maurice Pujo, of the "*Action Francaise*," who is supposed to be the organizer of Royalist "manifestations" in Paris. He turned out to be a remarkably placid personage, who stroked his beard thoughtfully and held forth at length on the philosophic vicissitudes of his youth, his dissatisfaction with the established order of things, his conviction that democracy is all rubbish, and his final evolution as a Royalist. The strangest witness of all was a detective named Chassigneux, who calmly asserted that he overheard a telephone conversation between two police chiefs, M. Guichard and Ducrocq, in which one of these officials recommended the other to make some alterations in a report on the Berton case, and to say nothing about it to the Prefect of Police. The two officials, who are furious, affirm that their conversation has been utterly misunderstood. Counsel for the prisoner inquired sarcastically how it came about that "*Action Francaise*" spies were to be found even in the telephone service of the Prefecture of Police itself. We shall probably never know whether Chassigneux testified in good faith or was merely put up by the Royalists to annoy the police chiefs and damage their credit. The Royalists are certainly quite alive to the possibilities presented by the Seine Assize Court.

THE PROFESSIONAL WITNESS.

If the Senate agrees with the Chamber, the days of the professional witness are numbered. As the law stands at present, the declaration of a birth or death cannot be registered unless two *témoins patentés* certify the identity of the declarer. The legislator's idea no doubt was that anyone who pays the *patente*, or trade tax, is *ipso facto* a responsible citizen and therefore eminently suitable to prove that M. Durand, who comes more or less gleefully to announce that a baby has been born to him, really is the person he pretends to be. In theory, M. Durand should ask his grocer or his baker to accompany him to the registry office, but he is quite aware that neither of these citizens would receive with favour the proposal that they should leave their business to attend to his. In practice, the witnesses are a few small tradesmen who live near the registry office, and make a business of solemnly certifying complete strangers.

These professional witnesses are never asked if they know the declarer: their signatures are supposed to be enough. Not long ago an altercation took place outside a Paris registry office between a happy father and his witnesses, to whom he had offered three francs apiece. They told him that five francs was the recognized fee, and when the clerk in charge scolded them and threatened to refuse their signatures in future, they complained bitterly that he was taking the bread out of their mouths! They had gone on so long giving these farcical attestations that they had come to look upon themselves as semi-official personages! A Bill to amend the Civil Code, so that witnesses will no longer be required for the registration of births and deaths, has been adopted without debate by the Chamber and is now before the Senate.

ROUND THE THEATRES.

The theatrical output of Paris is as luxuriant as ever. In spite of all we hear about the difficulty of running theatres and the heavy taxation imposed on them, somebody who has made money in some other form of enterprise always seems to come forward to finance the production of new plays. "J'ai une idée," an adaptation of "Tons of Money," has begun well, thanks to the inimitable Max Dearly, who almost makes French spectators forget that the typical English farcical comedy is scarcely entitled to be called a play at all but rather a collection of absurdities. A new piece of a very different type is "La Maison Natale," by M. Jacques Copeau, at the Théâtre du Vieux Colombier, a remarkable theatre which has given great encouragement to dramatic pioneers and is recognized as having a place of its own. Three strongly marked characters—a youth of eighteen, his father and his grandfather—are painted with great sobriety and skill by M. Copeau, who himself plays the grandfather. The Grand Guignol's latest hair-raiser, "Les Damnés," brings in a new stage effect. A man is thrown out of a window into a street through which a horde of wild Spanish bulls is being stampeded. The sounds of the maddened animals' hoofs, the shouts of the men who goad them on with lances and flaming torches, and the atmosphere of terror and anticipation prevailing in the town are very well reproduced.

BOLSHEVIKS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Moscow's Latest Move

Johannesburg. Dec. 12.—Information has reached the police that an attempt is being made in Communist circles at Johannesburg to inaugurate an "International Red Aid Fund," with the aim of amassing contributions to be devoted to securing the release of the Communists now imprisoned. The word for this amazing movement has been given to the Rand from Moscow, and is regarded as a further attempt to subvert the authority of existing Governments and prepare the way for general anarchy as a prelude to a world-revolution. Funds from Russia for the purpose have already been sent to Poland, Lithuania, Italy, Turkey, Esthonia, Roumania, Jugo-Slavia, China, and Bulgaria, to help in the "great work" of freeing burglars, robbers, and murderers, who have all sinned against the laws of decent conduct. The Rand Bolsheviks are asking for funds in the following terms: "Fellow workers of South Africa, what are you prepared to do? Follow the line of international solidarity, join the International Red Aid, and make your contributions, however small, in aid of the great work undertaken by the international proletariat."

THE detailed boredom of official red tape in certain circles came to light the other day, when a motor-car representative applied to a local consulate and invoiced a shipment of 10 Ford cars to Japan. The irony of it all lay in the fee of £4 for the certification of the fact that these cars had been made in America and not in China.

NEW POISON GAS

Remains Operative in One Place Seven Days

A poison gas which when released will remain operative in one place for several days has been discovered by Mr. F. N. Pickett, an engineer engaged on breaking up dumps of war material in France.

"In the war," he said to a "Daily News" representative, "there were two main gases—lethal gas, which affected the heart and the lungs, and which dispersed rather quickly, and irritant gas, which affected the eyes and remained operative for some time. Commercially I examined these gases, and many thousand canisters of poison gas have been put to commercial use. A scientific interest led me to experiment and I discovered a lethal gas which will persist for seven or eight days.

"No mask yet invented would be able to withstand it, and I am now trying to find an antidote."

A VIENNA POISON DRAMA

Woman Secretary's Amazing Crime

Vienna, Dec. 16.—Milica Vukobrankovics, formerly a schoolmistress here, whose ancestors sat on the Throne of Serbia in the Fifteenth Century, who was accused of an attempt at murder by poison, was sentenced yesterday to three and a half years imprisonment with hard labour for causing grievous bodily harm. The five days' trial of this beautiful and highly-intelligent woman of 29 caused considerable sensation, as this was the second time that she had been accused of having attempted to poison the wife of a man she loved in order to marry the widower. The first case occurred five years ago, when Vukobrankovics made a futile attempt to kill by arsenic the wife of the school inspector, Piffl. She was acquitted of attempted murder at that time, as an insufficient number of the members of the jury found her guilty of that crime, and she was only sentenced to two years for libel, as she had thrown false suspicion on Piffl's adopted son.

This time Vukobrankovics was accused of having attempted to murder the wife and two sons of a bookseller, Stülpnagel, by mixing a considerable quantity of white lead among flour and powdered sugar bought for them. Shortly after serving the first sentence she obtained a post in the office of Stülpnagel, to whom her past was unknown, and soon became his secretary, thanks to her zeal and intelligence. Subsequently there were also illicit relations between her employer and herself, and, expecting the birth of a child, she desired Stülpnagel to divorce his wife and marry her.

As Stülpnagel refused, she conceived the plan to make away with his wife and two sons by poison, and all the members of the family fell seriously sick. When the doctor recognized the cause of the disease, and when an analysis of the foodstuffs in the store-room was imminent, Vukobrankovics confessed her deed to her lover, asking him to remove the poisoned food; but no fewer than 15 packages containing poisoned flour and sugar were seized by the police.

The prisoner, jeering at the presiding Judge and the medical experts, defended herself extremely cleverly. She tried to convince the jury that she was temporarily insane at a critical time, while the Medical Faculty of the University declared her sane, though hysterical and degenerate. The jury, impressed by her and by the counsel for the defence, found her only guilty of causing bodily harm and not of attempted murder. "Morning Post."

MR. St. John Ervine, who is a matters in London, is on his well-known writer on theatrical to the Far East and may pay Hongkong a visit.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

A Sermon preached by the Rev. A. N. Rowland in Union Church, Shanghai, on January 27, 1924

"Doing the will of God." Eph. VI. 6.

According to my faint recollection of the book of Euclid, it consists of theorems and problems. Theorems to be demonstrated or explained and problems to be *done*. The Will of God has often been treated as a theorem to be explained by theologians, and there is an illustration of this in the Epistle to the Romans, whose famous chapters 9-11 were once taken as the pivot of the Christian faith. But in the rest of the New Testament the Will of God is something to be done, as when our Lord taught his disciples to pray "Thy Will be *done* on earth as it is in heaven," or when he was not ashamed to call them brethren "Whosoever *doeth* the Will of my Father the same is my brother and sister and mother," or again when he was addressing those who put their traditions above his truth "If any man will *do* His Will he shall know of the doctrine." Gospels and Epistles are full of this fundamental Christian thought

THE INSCRUTABLE POWER.

This standpoint, however, has been very reluctantly admitted by the Church of Christ. Many thinkers have identified the Will of God with the Power that works above our heads and aside from our hearts, without consideration for us or co-operation from us. Such was the view of the Calvinists who so long swayed the mind of Western Europe and the Puritan States of America. It was a tonic doctrine for the few, but it meant *laissez faire* for the average man. Besides those who have thought on the matter the man in the street, and many an old woman in her cottage, has hastily identified the Will of God with every misfortune and disaster, and the references to it in our popular hymns are invariably melancholy. There is of course much evidence in favour of these views, for events do happen that contradict our best desires and our wisest judgment—things that seem to our short-sightedness unfair and intolerable. But whether we believe with the Calvinist that this inscrutable Power works out to noble ends or accept the supposition of the unbeliever that it drifts on an undirected tide; it is more putalistic than Christian. For, according to the mind of Christ the Will of God is above all something to be done, a Power with which we are called to co-operate, if not with an enlightened understanding, at least with a educated will

HOW ST. FRANCIS SAW IT.

In the 12th century in Italy there was a Christian Exodus to the fastnesses of Calabria from the fear of Corsairs and the general unsettlement. There they lived as hermits in a solitude between two seas and the Will of God to them was a theorem. But before that generation passed Francis of Assisi organized his grey friars into a society for compassionate service where the need was greatest and took up the Will of God as something to be done in the spirit of Christ. And I put it to you that it is a more solemn and inspiring view of life to believe that God's will is to be thought of not as the pressure upon us but rather as the persuasion within us, that it does not ask for our mere resignation but rather for our response with all that is within us.

THE CHOLERA IN OXFORD.

It was just 70 years ago, in 1854, that cholera broke out in the city of Oxford, and according to the prevailing belief it was described as the Will of God which, most of the clergy said, caused the question. But Henry Acland, whose venerable figure I well remember, was then Professor of medicine, and he led a crusade against the evil on the ground that the Will of God might be read in the book of Leviticus with its laws of health and sanitation, and still more clearly in the word of our Lord. "It is the Will of your Father in heaven that not one of these little ones should perish." His life long friend John Ruskin said, "Physiology was to him an entrusted gospel of which he was the solitary preacher to the heathen." By the spirit of his endeavour be helped to make a revolution in theology. And was he not right? Was he not in accord with the revelation in the New Testament? There was a mystery of God's Will in the cross, but there was a manifestation of that Will in Christ who, as we believe, conquered the cross, by winning good from it for all the world. There will always remain an aspect of the divine Will which cannot be understood, but as Christians we are to focus that Will as something to be done. The thought is expressed in

THE PRAYER OF PARACELSUS.

"Dost thou intend
To work man's welfare through my weak endeavour,
To crown my mortal forehead with a beam
From Thine own blinding crown, to smile, and guide
This puny hand and let the work so wrought
Be styled my work?"

If that is true let us not identify the Will of God with any disquieting or destructive event until we have put the courage and patience of our faith against it. God's Will has not been finally expressed until our effort has been given to make the very best of things. In his admirable book on Robert Louis Stevenson, Dr. John Kelman said: "Destiny was always present to his imagination, yet its effect was always bracing and tonic. His motto was to waylay destiny and bid him stand and deliver." There are many who dwell on the element of destiny in the Will of God and sit down resignedly, as the three friends of Job counselled him to do, but with a grand faith he anticipated the day of Christ, believing there was a means of fellowship with the eternal behind the stroke of fate, and saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs have confirmed his instinct that the Will of God is not indifferent to our partnership, but is perfected in what we are given grace to do.

WAYLAYING DESTINY.

Take for instance such an event as the earthquake in Japan. The cause of so much sorrow is a mystery: "clouds and darkness are round about Him." But we are not to identify the Will of God with that mystery prematurely, for the divine Will has first to be operated through His children along lines of character in the footsteps of Christ. All that was called forth of fortitude and of compassion, that was the real manifestation of God's Will, and by that means it is still being done.

Take again the case of a riot in a city or a revolution in the state. Is that to be regarded as the Will of God? It would be fatal to the human commonwealth to do so. It must first be met in the name of justice and wisdom, in the spirit of loyalty and comradeship. The result may be that the event changes its complexion, is exposed as an evil. Only then when our human best has been done can we know the Will of God.

Once more in the case of bereavement, when some mother or wife is left to mourn, is the divine Will to be read only in the bitter loss? Surely that would be looking in the wrong direction, for it is rather shown when the mourner puts her faith firmly in Christ, leans her weight trustfully on God. Then indeed God's Will is done: it is shown not so much in her burden as in her bravery, not at all in her collapse but in her courage.

FREEDOM AND THE MOUNTAINS.

Mr. G. K. Chesterton was once showing that physical conditions do not fix a nation's fate, and pointed out that if people attributed the freedom of the Swiss to their mountains it would be hard to account for the equal freedom of the Dutch. The Will of God is not to be read in the mountains that confront a people or defend them but in the freedom they achieve.

When will this truth be frankly acknowledged and freely acted on in the church? There is surely a leaven of Paganism or Mohammedanism when we identify God's Will with what oppresses, hurts or saddens us, and read it only in life's misfortune and misadventures. The real Will of God as we know it in Christ is expressed in the measure of character that is called forth in response. It never merely happens; we cannot be sure of it until it is done.

How do you read the Will of God in your life? Only in the happenings and events? That may easily leave us discontented, cynical and hard. But since the Incarnation it is impossible for a Christian to think of God only acting from outside us or in any way at our expense. We prove our Christian faith by realizing that the Will of God is fulfilled in the believing and faithful response we make, in the good will we manifest with all our strength, "Work out therefore your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who worketh in you both to will and do of His good pleasure and ye have need of patience that after ye have done the Will of God ye might receive the promises."

A LORD IN THE LOCK-UP

Poet Versus Politician: The Case of Lord Alfred Douglas

From Our Manchester Correspondent.

Lord Alfred Douglas is a poet, an undischarged bankrupt, an ex-editor of the "Academy," and the eldest surviving son of the 8th Marquess of Queensberry. The casual reader might infer from this that there is something Byronic about his Lordship. There isn't, although like Byron he is also an ardent politician. His troublous career commenced with a close association with Oscar Wilde. After Wilde's downfall he became his most bitter enemy and attacked that gentleman's apologist in "The Rossiad." In 1907 he became the editor of the "Academy" until then an exclusively literary paper. For three years he made it the vehicle of scurrilous attacks on everyone he disagreed with, from Messrs. W. H. Smith, the railway bookstall owners, to Mr. Lloyd George. His editorship ceased in 1910, and was succeeded by a series of bitter quarrels with his father-in-law and wife, culminating in a famous law suit. He was declared bankrupt in 1913, and towards the end of the war he became active in the "Hidden Hand" controversies. It may be remembered that there were two wings to that alarmist agitation. One ascribed every disaster to the Germans, who were supposed to be still active in our midst. This had most popularity among the most ignorant of the working classes and had Bottomley and Pemberton Billing for its prophets. The other ascribed every British war catastrophe to the Jews; had its supporters in a higher strata of society; its press in the "Morning Post," and its prophets in people like Lord Alfred Douglas.

In 1921 Lord Alfred Douglas was editor of an obscure alarmist periodical "Plain English," financed by a wealthy Scotchman. It was anti-Semitic, anti-Bolshevik, anti-prohibitionist, and its two particular stunts were "facts" proving that Lord Kitchener was murdered, and that the accounts of the Battle of Jutland were manipulated to enable Jewish financiers to bring off a great financial coup. In regard to the latter it published an article on January 1, 1921, entitled "More Jutland Revelations." It was there alleged that the late Sir Ernest Cassel, a German born in Germany, had corspired with Mr. Winston Churchill to issue a false account of the Battle of Jutland, the effect of which would depress British stocks on neutral markets. As a result of this false report it was alleged that the syndicate with which Sir Ernest Cassel was connected made £53,000,000, Sir Ernest Cassel was alleged to have given Mr. Winston Churchill £40,000 worth of furniture for his assistance in the plot.

WILDER AND WILDER STILL.

Mr. Churchill drew the attention of the Attorney General to these allegations, but was advised not to prosecute, as it was sometimes not advisable to give that publicity to the baseless charges of an unscrupulous individual they would otherwise not receive. Mr. Churchill now believes that this course played into the hands of his political opponents during the 1922 General Election at Dundee, for the Communists in that town made great use of the fact that these assertions went uncontradicted. Immunity from prosecution certainly made Lord Alfred Douglas bolder, and in the present trial he informed the judge that he considered he "had a prescriptive right to repeat these assertions as they were uncontradicted," a point of view that throws an illuminating sidelight on his mentality. To some extent the "Morning Post" agreed with him, but they printed a letter from a correspondent protesting against the lies Lord Alfred was inventing about the Jews. For doing this he prosecuted them for libel. At the trial Lord Balfour and Mr. Winston Churchill denied on oath the stories Lord Alfred Douglas was circulating, and he was awarded a farthing damages and ordered to pay his own costs.

Shortly after this trial Lord Alfred made a speech in London in which he repeated all his previous charges against Mr. Churchill. It was reported in a Galashiels newspaper, and he bought 30,000 copies of the issue and gave them the widest circulation. Mr. Churchill communicated with the Attorney General again, and Lord Alfred Douglas was arrested and charged with publishing a malicious and defamatory libel on him. He was tried last week at the Old Bailey and pleaded justification. The trial excited enormous interest in Great Britain and gave newspaper readers a not unwelcome change from their recent surfeit of political and election news.

LEGAL ABUSE.

A notable feature of the case was the unmeasured abuse of Mr. Churchill by Mr. Cecil Hayes, the counsel for the defendant. This vituperative attack on a famous man is said to be unprecedented in the annals of the law courts, and it is expected that the Law Society will take the matter up.

Lord Balfour was called as a witness by the prosecution. He stated that he was responsible for drawing up and circulating the official report on the Battle of Jutland. Later he received a telegram from the Commander-in-Chief and he drew up a further report in his own handwriting embodying the information given in the Admiral's *communiqué* Mr. Churchill had nothing whatever to do with the document.

In his evidence Mr. Churchill described how he came to write the appreciation of the Battle of Jutland for the neutral press. Lord Balfour asked him to do so, and he had no choice, nor any other inclination but to do it. He denied that he stayed at Sir Ernest Cassel's house the weekend before the *communiqué* was published. He stayed there on June 17, (a fortnight later). His early books and Boer war correspondence brought him in from eight to 10,000 pounds. Of this he gave Sir Ernest Cassel £6,000 to invest for him. In 1905 he received £8,000 for his father's biography and gave another £6,000 to Sir Ernest Cassel to invest. In 1905 Sir Ernest Cassel furnished his library for him in South Molton Street, and three years later gave him £500 for a wedding present. Apart from this he had received nothing from him. His recent war book had brought him £15,000. Sir Ernest Cassel had never tried to influence him in political matters or in the discharge of his official duties.

A DOUBTFUL HELP.

The chief witness for the defendant was "Captain" Harold Spencer, a gentleman with a very dubious reputation. He had been twice convicted by the civil powers, and had been deprived of his title of "Captain" through being sent to prison. He had also been certified as suffering from delusional insanity and had been confined to hospital in Salonika for mental trouble. He was made editor of "Plain English" after Lord Alfred Douglas had relinquished that post. He stated at the trial that he saw Winston Churchill at a banquet at Dundee and said to him, "Your Jutland report was a bit thick wasn't it?" and Churchill replied, "What do you care? We did it to get money out of the Yanks." Spencer also said that he dined with Sir Edward Pack on June 2, 1916, and Sir Edward told him that the *communiqué* was "Winston's work."

This not very relevant evidence was all the defence put forward in support of their plea of justification. The rest of their case consisted of innuendo and abuse. Lord Alfred's counsel appealed to the jury not to be led away by the charm of Mr. Churchill's manner. "He is nothing stripped of the kudos of the right honourable and such things." "He is a professional politician, and a professional politician may be defined as a man with a hide like a rhinoceros, a skin like a chameleon, a short memory, and the cheek of the devil." "I do not suppose if we live for 100 years we should find a Minister with the ability of Mr. Churchill or a man of the financial genius of Sir Ernest Cassel. You could never prove a case against them unless you had an intellect equal to theirs." "You do not suppose they would leave tracks behind them like some of the unfortunate people who come to the Old Bailey." "Either a rising financier had need of a rising Cabinet Minister, or a rising Cabinet Minister had need of a rising financier. One had brains and the other had money." "Had the Gallipoli adventure succeeded Mr. Churchill would have taken the glory for it." "It was a most extraordinary thing that Lord Balfour, who was a master of the English language and one of our ablest writers, should have called in Mr. Churchill to compose this short and simple document." "Mr. Churchill's book admitted 100 times more than Lord Alfred Douglas accused him of." Thus Mr. Hayes.

JUDGE'S SEVERE COMMENT.

Lord Alfred Douglas's evidence was characterized by wild abuse of a similar type, interspersed with petulant outbreaks of temper when the judge attempted to bring him back to the point. In summing up Mr. Justice Avory described Mr. Cecil Hayes' speech in defence of Lord Douglas as "a diatribe on politicians and vituperative abuse of Mr. Churchill," and said that in his long experience of the Bar and on the Bench he did not believe that any counsel in any court of law had ever been allowed greater latitude than had been allowed to Mr. Cecil Hayes in this case. After recounting Lord Alfred Douglas's previous conviction for libel, and his subsequent re-arrest for contempt of court, he sentenced him to six months' imprisonment in the second division, and ordered that at the expiration of that time if Lord Alfred could not find surety of £100 to keep the peace, especially in reference to Mr. Churchill, he should go to prison again for an additional six months.

Now the trial is over it is easy to see how good was the advice that the Attorney General gave Mr. Winston Churchill when he said that it was sometimes better to ignore the libels of unscrupulous persons than give them the publicity of prosecution. To anyone capable of weighing the *pros* and *cons* of evidence it is clear that there was no shadow of truth in the libels of Lord Alfred Douglas. But it is also true that the average popular newspaper reader has been so industriously spoon-fed by the great syndicated press with stunts and scurrility that he has now lost most of his old power of coolly judging evidence on its merits. And so one finds that the average man who had never heard of the obscure periodical "Plain English," and who was

FACE FROM THE BALKANS

[illegible] Policy: "The Next War"

By Brig.-Gen. C. B. Thomson.

[illegible] war days, was not only a great moving international highway; it [illegible] waters brought prosperity to many [illegible] serene and splendid, though awe-[illegible] even where it formed a frontier [illegible] empty. During a two-day journey made last August from Giurgiu, in Roumania, up stream through the Iron Gate to Belgrade, only three ships were passed. In every river port vessels were lying idle, with hundreds of empty or half-empty lighters. On the railway sidings at the Iron Gate sheep were grazing between the rails; a dozen locomotives stood there like melancholy symbols of decay, ren-[illegible] cranks and pistons.

[illegible] deal with this great traffic problem; others declared there were [illegible] nationalism prevented free intercourse along the river, in spite of an international Convention signed by the Western Powers as well as the Riverain States. An old [illegible] experience of the Danube, expressed the opinion that the stagnation of trade in this part of Europe had become more marked since the French occupation of the Ruhr. [illegible] typically cosmopolitan; it consisted traders, journalists, and [illegible] adians and Americans, and they greeted this remark with muttered maledictions on the French and all their ways.

"THE TAINT OF ARMAMENTS."

The episode was curious and significant. Officially, Roumania, Jugo-Slavia, and even Bulgaria were and still are pro-French; the two former because France poses as the sole champion of the Treaties to which they owe so much. [illegible] Bulgaria; it takes full advantage of the inertia of the British, and so far has outdone in publicity and push the more subtle but less energetic methods of the Italians. [illegible] ruthlessly and affects every branch [illegible] in their place except vague pro-[illegible] it there runs the taint of [illegible] Jugo-Slavia are being equipped on credit with French war ma-[illegible] Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey have recovered from their wounds and are ready to take the field against France and her dependent Allies—then, a [illegible]

This calculation overlooks a [illegible] which need not necessarily involve [illegible] especially in England, people are tempted not to face it or to dis-[illegible] horror. While travelling from Eastern into Western Europe, the [illegible] French Government persists in its present course, a renewal of the conflict is inevitable. And with this conviction goes another—that so far as their Eastern Allies are concerned, the French will fight alone. The system of alliances in Eastern Europe, on which France relies, is a crazy structure, whose architects have taken their ambitions and desires for realities: in will dissolve at the first shock of war, and is already being disintegrated by cross currents of race, religion, and vocation.

In the Balkans, for example, radical changes must occur as the result of Russian influence. The informed Frenchman has written recently: "The Serbs will understand, or Russia will make them, that the future of Slavdom demands their descending in company with the Bulgars to one of the seas from which British policy has always shut out their race. They will march on Salonika while the subjects of Tsar Boris descend from the Rhodopes, where they are held by artificial Treaties, to install themselves at Kavalla. . . . A Jugo-Slavia thus engaged, and with one eye on Italy, would neither be inclined nor able to fight the battles of France.

[illegible] further north, the same French writer states: "The Little Entente will break up. . . . Poland will die, this time a tragic death, or else return to a Slav policy and federation with the Russian State. . . ." Soviet Russia has small reason to be France's friend; whereas, in certain eventualities, Germany might be able to count on her support. There remains Roumania as France's ally in Eastern Europe. In the circumstances of such a war, the position of this country would be one of utter helplessness; her army would be even more isolated and in the air than it was in the World War.

"THE GREAT GREEN UNION."

Again, there is in Central and Eastern Europe a new movement which cuts athwart both politics and nationalities, and which is at once vocational and religious. It [illegible] called the "Great Green [illegible] organize the peasants in these regions under the ægis of the Roman Catholic Church. The progress of this movement will be slow and tentative; but its tendencies will be pacific rather than warlike, and it may in time become a potent and restraining force. In the immediate future it should [illegible] strife: the peasant States of Europe may watch in a grim circle while Gaul and Teuton meet again [illegible]

[illegible] This [illegible] the [illegible] The last war was a war [illegible] and on this [illegible] that France [illegible] and speedy [illegible] Central Germany whose chief industrial centres are [illegible] Ruhr basin. They forget that the German people are inspired [illegible] hatred and despair, [illegible] courage and strong bonds of union that the Latin will be equal to German [illegible] and equal in human elan [illegible] population that combines in the end super-will, and that Germany [illegible] war on the continental [illegible] and an armed German [illegible] If and when the great disillusionments [illegible] the true friends of France one fear will be over-[illegible] the fear that, in the hour of victory, the victors may once more run amok and sow French towns with salt. "Observer."

AMERICA'S CAPITAL SHIPS

Increasing Their Gunnery Range: Official Propaganda

[illegible] Mr. Denby, Secretary of the discussion of the question of the elevation of the guns in some of the American battleships, was the [illegible] appropriation in that matter.

It will be remembered that last [illegible] the Navy [illegible] to Congress that the guns of some of the British battleships had been elevated, this increasing their range, and, therefore, disturbing the 5-5-3 ratio laid down by the Washington Naval Agreement. It was maintained that it was necessary for the Navy Department to take similar measures to preserve the ratio intact. On this representation Congress made an appropriation of $6,500,000.

When this was done, representations were made by the British Embassy to the State Department, showing that the information of the Navy Department was incorrect, that none of the guns in any British battleship had been touched, nor was there any intention of altering them and thus increasing their range. If the American Navy increased the range of guns, it was pointed out, it would be contrary to the spirit of the Agreement, as the British Navy would be compelled to follow suit, and, in spite of the purpose of the Agreement being to limit competitive naval strength, there would again be competition in naval armaments.

MR. HARDING'S DECISION.

On the strength of these representations, the late President refused to allow the money appropriated to be used, or permit anything to be done that could in any way be regarded as even technically infringing the Treaty. The Navy Department, however, has always protested against Mr. Harding's decision, and for many months has kept up active propaganda through the Press to impress upon the country and Congress the superiority of the British Fleet over the American, and the inferior range of the American capital ships as compared with the British. As a matter of fact, the American Navy possesses three battleships —the Colorado, West Virginia, and Maryland—now in commission, which carry heavier batteries, and whose guns have a greater range than any ship in the British Navy.

Mr. Denby has asked that the $6,500,000 appropriated last year be re-appropriated for the purpose originally intended, and presents an argument purporting to show that this would not contravene the spirit or letter of the Treaty. The Secretary's report having only been laid before Congress yesterday, it is, of course, too early to say what action Congress will take, or whether President Coolidge will sanction the expenditure, or, like his predecessor, take the view that it would be contrary to the intent of the Agreement.

QUAKE-PROOF HOME S

Great Need for Their Construction

Stating that it is imperative for permanent quake-and-fire-proof houses to be erected quickly as one way of aiding in the restoration of the capital, and that the section of the public [illegible] escaped the damages [illegible] by the calamity of [illegible] last does not duly appreciate the importance of [illegible] some such aid, the Japan [illegible] Engineers' Association urges the formation of such a building [illegible] with some official aid. [illegible] It is true that the Government has [illegible] the Hypothec Bank and the Industrial Bank of Japan to advance building funds on easy terms (states the Japan Advertiser") but then, the Engineers' Association insists, is not sufficient, and if a repetition of the recent disaster is to be forestalled, they say, Japan should learn to the formation of a corporation which would make it its [illegible] The statement of the Engineers' Association, which is a fairly lengthy one, goes on to say that, [illegible] fire, Tokio was full of small houses, and the presence of crowded small houses in the city defeated every effort to introduce sanitation and order. If house-[illegible] their houses separately and without any proper and expert direction, they maintain, it is certain that similar small houses in large numbers will spring up again. Only a strongly-financed and efficiently-managed building corporation, which is given authority to give guidance to householders, can prevent this and instead of numerous small houses improved and more sanitary habitations would be the result, they say.

If the corporation has control of all building enterprises in Tokio it can easily introduce standardization in building and obtain the fruits of quantity production. This is believed by the association to go a long way in lowering the cost of building and in lightening the burden of the afflicted people.

The association adds that this new recommendation to the general public and Government is made because the public does not attach proper importance to its recent recommendation and the matter is being almost forgotten.

AT THE KAISER'S COURT

Ex-Chamberlain's Revelations

By C. H. Clarke.

Count Zedlitz Trutzschler's book, "Twelve Years at the German Imperial Court," which has just appeared in Berlin, falls like a blight on the hopes of all German nationalists and Royalists, and destroys the dreams they may have entertained of a return of the "good old times." Its author has been repudiated by all societies of former officers, both of the Army and the Navy. The German Association of Noblemen have excluded him from their ranks, and the head of his own family, Eberhard Freiherr you Zedlitz Neukirch, formerly Colonel in the Royal Army of Prussia, turns with publicly expressed words of disgust and indignation from his relation. The reason for this excess of condemnation is that there can be no doubt as to the accuracy and veracity of the picture drawn by Count Zedlitz Trützschler of the Kaiser's Court during the 12 years 1898 to 1910, in which he occupied the office of Court Chamberlain to William II., a position which offered opportunities to observe both the private and public life of the Sovereign enjoyed by no other official, either military or political.

Count Zedlitz Trützschler's own plea of justification is that Germany's catastrophe is the logical consequence of submitting to a system of personal government, and that only the recognition of this fact can guarantee the nation from similar errors and their dire consequences in the future.

THE COURT FOOL.

The picture unrolled by the late Chamberlain is certainly of a nature to surprise even those who knew that there was "something rotten in the state of Denmark." The scenes of Court life recall German courts of the 17th Century, in which the Court fool occupied a prominent position, and it is difficult to realize that some of the events related and some of the utterances attributed to the Kaiser date back but a few years in our present century.

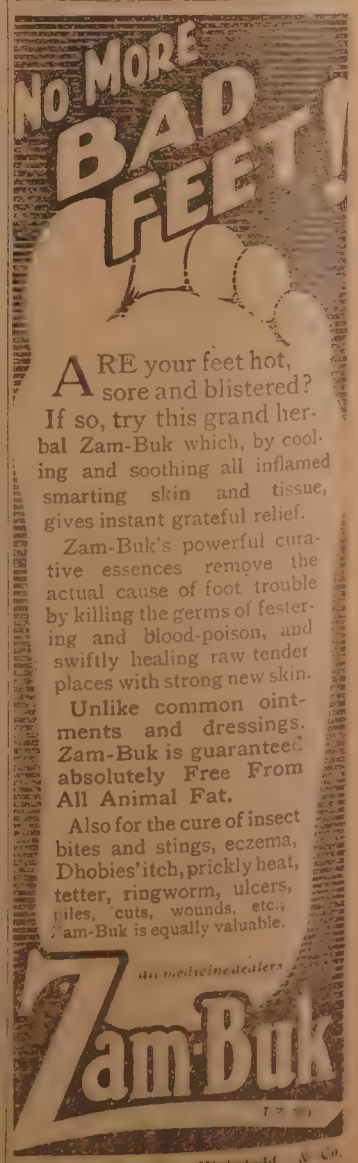
The weird story of the death of the Kaiser's Chief of the Military Cabinet, Count Hüslen, who collapsed suddenly at the Castle of Donaueschingen on February 8, 1909, after having delighted his Majesty and the Court by the execution of a solo dance, dressed as a balleteuse, shows that the [illegible] Court [illegible] had been [illegible] by high military [illegible] to the [illegible] of the Head of the State. We have the Kaiser's own word for it that he disliked dry, formal reports, and on his appointment as Chief of the Military Cabinet begged General Freiherr von Lyncker to [illegible] dotes, the ex-Chamberlain explains, smacked more of buffoonery than of true humour. [illegible] Kaiser until they palled even on the most hardened and complished courtier.

ABSOLUTE AUTOCRACY.

No man, Count Trützschler says, was ever more ignorant of his surroundings than William II., and he was purposely kept in this ignorance by those who wished to derive advantage from it. He considered himself "a chosen instrument of God," and argued that as such he could do no wrong, as otherwise the responsibility would recoil upon the Deity. In this, Count Trützschler adds, he found the support of the Court clergy.

He boasted that he had never read the Constitution and knew nothing about it. "My subjects should simply do as I tell them. But they always want to think for themselves and make a mess of everything," he says to a professor who most heartily agrees with him. If his intentions were at variance with the laws of the land, then the laws must be changed immediately. "Newspapers," he is reported to have said, "I never read. What these donkeys say is a matter of indifference to me; if they continue to say things I do not like, I shall send an adjutant and have one or two editors shot." The Reichstag, he maintained, was only there to pay, and it was his intention to make them pay till they were "blue in the face." The only Minister who ever gained his wholehearted approbation was Kultusminister Studt, of whom the ex-Kaiser used to say: "He, at least, carries out all my orders exactly and cares about nothing else." In military and naval matters he set up his own opinion against that of the most experienced experts and railed at the Minister of War and the Chief of his Military Cabinet: "You old donkeys think you know better than I, because you are older!"

The book is full of Imperial sayings of this nature, and may rightly be described as one of the greatest indictments of personal government that has ever been published. It explains how a great nation fell from the height of power and ambition to the abject position now held by the German State.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THE BRITISH LABOUR GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICY TO CHINA

A Great Chance to Be Grasped by the Chinese of National Recovery

By George E. Sokolsky.

Historically, the accession of the Labour Party to power will be noted as a bloodless revolution, as an event equalling in its significance to Bolshevik revolution in Russia. For with it, rises to power a new class, a new force, with ideals and experiences differing radically from those heretofore dominating British national and international politics. Whether the Labour cabinet remains in power for decades or months, British history will be different than it might have been had the control of power remained vested in the landed and capitalist classes.

The Labour party recognizes the condition and immediately proceeds to select in crucial positions men of international reputation in their particular fields of endeavour. In a word, it does not trust its own experience alone to carry it through, but rushes to experts originating largely in the aristocracy and the middle class, functioning previously under the system the Labourites plan to dethrone, expressing themselves rather in ideas than in actions but withal, undoubtedly competent to handle their work. In taking this step the Labour party has followed the Russian precedent, for when the Bolsheviks rose to power they utilized every group in the community capable of doing a job. But the Labourites differ from the Bolsheviks in what might perhaps be the essential difference between British and Russian character: The British found peaceful and constitutional methods of obtaining the assistance of men of other classes and other groups, while The Russians impressed those whom they needed into their service.

HINA HER OWN ENEMY.

Much will probably be written about this revolution of a speculative character as this year 1924 moves along. But to the person in China, British or otherwise, the accession of the Labour Party is a matter of the greatest moment, since it not only presages a new British, and therefore Anglo-American policy, toward China, but also sets an example to Young China for political conduct and the achievement of their ideals.

When one suggests that the Labour Party will adopt a new policy toward China, one overlooks that British policy is ever-developing and that whatever new policy is adopted can only be a still stronger expression of Lord Balfour's address on the return of Weihaiwei. At the Washington Conference, Great Britain placed herself on record definitely as opposing territorial aggrandizement in China and as favouring the Powers of the world giving China every opportunity to work out her national salvation unmolested by foreign interference. That China has not received the full measure of benefits as a result of the Washington Conference is due to the inability of the government in Peking to protect China's national interests. Had no bandit outrages taken place, had nine foreigners not been killed since the Lincheng incident, had the government in Peking shown a power and a disposition to control the intransigeant provinces which break treaties and the national law of China, another conference would have been held by now, in Peking, and at that conference it is more than probable that China would have made gains which would have equalled if not exceeded those made at Washington. Throwing the entire blame for the failure of the Tariff Conference to take place upon France's non-ratification of the agreement is evading fact. France might have been influenced to ratify had China not given her friends so hard a task by her own lack of seriousness.

A SORRY SPECTACLE.

For the government in Peking was hopelessly embroiled in a personal squabble with regard to the Presidency, an office which now brings with it only a little "face," no power, no control, no ability to serve the country. The younger men, those who are most virulent in their attacks upon friendly foreign critics of their country, were not checking the tide of military usurpation of authority, nor were they calling the attention of their own people to the fact that the world at large was regarding the spectacle, not of banditry in China, which is not so important, as of China frittering away her opportunities which is always tragic. In the South, Sun Yat-sen was attempting to establish another government, perhaps justifiably so, but ill-timed in view of the international position of his country. Wu Pei-fu did nothing to save the prestige of his government, the bandits in Honan being more active than others, the irresponsibility of government in his lands being more apparent than elsewhere. The Christian general appeared in the ugly light of a palace revolutionist, making and unmaking presidents, not for principle but at a price. It is true that this picture is frightful only to the ill-informed, that students of history may conjure up even uglier scenes in the stories of now-powerful nations, of the Cromwellian revolution and the aftermath of the Stuarts, in the beginning of Republican France, in America at several periods in her history, in Russia between Tsarism and Bolshevism, in South America for a century, in the Balkans since their independence. The tragedy is however that so logical a people as the Chinese will not learn, that they must gain knowledge by trial and error even as a baby learns to walk and that there is in the land a resistance to accepting the experience of history.

CHINA'S USUAL LUCK.

China's good luck, however, has not deserted her. The advent of the Labour Party to power encourages one to believe that at Downing Street China will now have a sympathetic ear, since the Labour Party will, for a time, surely renounce a "strong" attitude and will show toward weak and small nations an unusual leniency and friendship. Sun Yat-sen's message to the Labour Party was designed more to announce his knowledge of this possibility than to expect immediate support. It is however not to be overlooked that the actual management of the foreign office will probably be in the hands of Mr. Ponsonby, who was trained under Earl Grey of Falodon, then Mr. Grey, and that however liberal his views, he will protect British trade and commerce, upon which rests the strength of the Empire. Ramsay Macdonald, Arthur Henderson Viscount Haldane, and Phillip Snowden may be radicals, but they will probably experience the same awakening nationality in power as Lenin and Trotsky, who commenced their careers denouncing imperialism and publishing secret treaties and finally evolved a programme of world-wide imperialistic aspirations with a view toward the strengthening of their own country. Whatever a man's political views, in power he becomes the steward of national interests and it sobers him.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GRASP.

China then will have to meet the Labour Party half way to maintain its sympathy and friendship. If, the Year of the Pig being over, the Chinese people buck up and take the situation in hand, if banditry ceases to the extent that it becomes personal as in most countries and not political as it has been in China; if flouting treaties ceases and instead a constructive effort is made to handle China's international difficulties by conference and agreement; if a real effort is made to organize power whether nationally or federatively so that life and property is protected, Downing Street will vie with Washington and the Asiatic Bureau in Tokio in championing China's cause. If, however, British life is lost in China through the fault of the Chinese government, it is building castles in the air to presume that any British government, however radical, will be quiescent. This is a thought for Young China, for here is an another opportunity which ought not to be missed.

AS OTHERS SEE SHANGHAI

Tribute to Immensity of Wayfoong's Building and to Its Great Enterprise

In its issue of December 13 "Fairplay" says:—

In days such as these, when ill-feeling in Europe still runs high and British prestige is, perhaps, not all it might be, a good tonic for the national spirits is being dispensed in the Far East, where the British banks, by their splendid work, have done much, not only to maintain that prestige, but to enhance it. Nowhere can this better be illustrated than in Shanghai, by the progress that this international, but still dominantly British, settlement has made under their influence during the past three or four years. Anyone familiar with the place as it was in 1919, what time peace, and its attendant chaos was being introduced to a gory Europe, would return in this present year of grace to find his recollections of the city so much scrap. He would look in vain for the Customs clock tower, whose office it was formerly, by virtue of superior inches, to welcome the traveller up the River Whangpoo from the draughty port of Woosung. The tower is there all right, but it has lost all its pristine individually beside a massive, domed silhouette, that has reared itself up king of a new landscape, out of which other lesser silhouettes, courtiers of the new dynasty, hold candles of lesser magnitude to the present Lord of the Bund—the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank building.

The approaching completion of this magnificent edifice, and the consequent acquisition by Shanghai of a bunch of feathers in its architectual cap, worthy of a Redskin chief, marks the culminating point—at any rate, for the time being—in a record of progress probably without equal in the history of banking. Founded in 1868, 14 years after the pioneer Mercantile Bank of India, and some 10 years after the Chartered Bank of I., A. and C. (speaking of the Far East, of course) the position now held by "Way Foong," as the Chinese call it, meaning Prosperity and Credit, of being the foremost banking institution in the Orient, is due to two circumstances, which explain, without in any way discrediting, the more leisurely rate of progress of its seniors. The first of these is its essentially Far Eastern origin, and the control of its policy by Far Eastern business men, the second is the genius of those men, who, aided by the first have guided that policy with a sureness of touch only possible to the man on the spot. Neither the Chartered nor the Mercantile Bank enjoy that advantage, and their advance has been, therefore, more cautious, but apart from that, as regards the esteem and confidence they inspire, there is nothing to choose between them, and the increasing prosperity of Shanghai and the Far East is the result.

WAYFOONG'S FAITH IN CHINA'S FUTURE.

Nothing could better illustrate the fearless and farseeing policy of the directors of "Way Foong," and their faith in China's future, than a recollection of the financial and industrial chaos which has attended the three years' growth of the new building—colossally expensive growth at that. It cannot be urged that the war in the West left the East untouched. Financially and commercially, as a review of the state of trade generally during the past few years will show, the East has by no means escaped the blight; morally, perhaps, the effect has been vague, the semi-finished state of Shanghai's war memorial, the fund that is not yet half-raised, show that the pocket of the Far East has suffered infinitely more severely than its heart. But even without this, one would imagine that the unwholesome state of China's internal economy, the fighting, the corruption, the banditry, and all the other devils that have long possessed this masquerade of a republic, would have had a stunting effect on the growing plumage of our Oofbird. This has not been the case; on the contrary, at a time when the foundations of things seemed to be crumbling, the Hongkong Bank rose serenely skyward, a monument to the business acumen of its guiding spirits, and of the power of its own brawny back to carry the majority of the great business hongs here through a depression which they could never have weathered alone.

Nowadays the helping hand is not quite so badly needed, and the time is surely coming when the development of China's trading possibilities is going to justify to the hilt the broad-minded policy that has made the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, ably seconded by the Mercantile, the Chartered, and the P. and O., such a tower of strength in a dark hour. From the beginning, the brains of "Way Foong" have recognized that the welfare of China is, and always will be, closely bound up with their own interests, and China in the end will find herself willy-nilly, reaping the benefit of an influence that has been consistently exerted for her good. A process of improvement that is not of their own originating is not going to appeal to the Chinese straight away, and a great deal of patient work has yet to be done before the bogey of "infringement of China's Sovereign Rights" is properly laid. But there can be no doubt that the good name of "Way Foong" is carrying daily more weight with the Oriental mind, and, though the student class may denounce the bank's sterling work as that of a bloodsucking octopus that is gripping their land, yet it is better that the vast untapped resources of that land should be sucked, even by an octopus, than that they should never be sucked at all. The present prosperity of Shanghai is sufficient proof of the good that will accrue, not only to China, but to the rest of the world as well, when she finally allows the bandage to be taken off her eyes.

THE LAMENT OF FONG CHUN

Even as the snow-flakes fall
Heavy, cold, shivering,
So may my curses light
On your roof-tops detestable.

As I have come wandering
(Over rivers, over mountains,
Just a poor relative unhonoured)
So may your prayers reach the stars unheard.

As I stand here
And plead for a sight of my beloved,
So may your heart stand lonely,
Shunned by caresses.

Robbers are plentiful,
Robbers, they say, are full of covetousness,
But a thousand times more covetous
Are the rich and the proud of heart.

You, O Aunt,
In your strength, your power and your riches,
Should not stand thus—
Uncaring whether we poor ones live or die.

We poor have only our bodies,
The flesh and blood of our fathers,
Whilst you, the rich, in your satins,
Your silks and your flowers abound.

Far is my mother's dwelling,
A long way distant is the well-spring of my village—
Here at your gate
I ponder alone and unheeded.

Wait—ye that have made me wait!
Cold to the wanderer,
Cold in your words, in your welcome—
Cold in your benches, your porridge, cold in the very lintel of your doorstep,

Wait—and graceless may ye pray for grace!
Alone under Heaven stand the poor of this world,
But riches that honour the rich
Endanger the heart.

So, finished with pleading for the hand of my dear one,
I, the beloved of my cousin,
I, Fong Chun, beseech the impatience of Heaven—
Your triumph shall mock you!

ANONYMOUS.

PEPS

The colder weather soon finds the weak spots in our bronchial system. Bad colds, sore throat and bronchitis quickly follow a chill unless we take the precaution of sucking a few Peps tablets to strengthen and

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the chest. When a Peps tablet is taken from its preserving silver wrapper and allowed to dissolve in the mouth, it gives off powerful medicinal and germicidal fumes that circulate with the breath through all the air-passages. Peps destroy any infectious germs in your mouth,

THROAT

and nostrils. At the same time the sore, inflamed membrane is soothed and healed; phlegm is expelled from the bronchials; breathing is made easy; and that distressing cough and throat soreness ended. Peps keep trouble off the lungs

& CHEST

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never [illegible] to, or had to, whole seconds thereon at his command head

A DISASTROUS RESULT.

Its effect is [illegible] disastrous [illegible] the [illegible] Mr. Churchill [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] Churchill was a [illegible] at the [illegible] of a [illegible] [illegible] was, and why at St. Dunstan's [illegible] his [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] *guess*. Even Mr. Churchill's warm pet supporters appear to have the most hazy ideas of their significance and fail to see how the evidence has proven that he had no [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

THE WOMAN'S PAGE

THE CHINA NEW YEAR SPIRIT

Doubts as to the Bliss of Benevolence

We say so at Christmas. Yes, not only in pulpits and to our dependents who cannot help themselves, but even to each other. We have even caught sensible people proclaiming the preposterous belief that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We talk largely of the jovial, sentimental Yuletide of the deplorable barter and exchange of Christmas presents, of the sad tendency toward the "swop" idea, and on every lip is heard the platitude: "Of course the presents one really loves to give are to the poor and to little children."

Of course we have the best of authority for the blessedness of giving, and we have all but persuaded ourselves into believing it. Still I venture to say that if statistics were to be taken at China New Year's among the housekeepers with a large retinue of servants, the employers of tremendous native staffs, even the ordinary residents with at least a boy or two and perhaps a private rickshaw dependent upon them for meals, the result would show a leaded scepticism as to the superior blessedness of giving.

ROMANCE-ATTRACTERS

There Are More Things Seen by Tourists, Horatio

Dear, dear, what terrors are at our doorsteps, or at least just round the corner from us, and still we do not know it! Some people do seem to have all the luck: I suppose we might go on visiting the Lama Temple in Pekin indefinitely with no more exciting experiences than to be held up for tips; but when Mrs. Helen Fitzgerald, of New York, who has just returned from China to her home, so the San Francisco "Chronicle" informs us, went to the "evil shrine of the Devil Dancers," she barely escaped with her life from the "Torture Temple of the Lamas, where no other white woman had ever penetrated."

We quote in part Mrs. Fitzgerald's own dramatic version of her adventures:

When I reached the Forbidden City on my world pilgrimage the one admonition impressed on me was:

"Do not go to the Lama Temple! No white woman dares to trust herself there alone! It would mean death—or worse!"

My curiosity was piqued. What were the terrors that caused even the Oriental cheek to blanch at mention of a name? I wished above all things to see infamous Yung Ho Kung. No one would go with me so I slipped outside the house one morning and called my ricsha boy.

"The Lama Temple," I ordered.

"No can go!" he explained in a choked whisper. Then he drew a trembling yellow finger sharply across his throat as if it were a knife. "Devils!" he breathed.

I knew the superstitions of the coolies, so I smiled, and insisted. A few moments later I stepped from the ricsha an confidently knocked at the gate. In a moment a swarthy, slant-eyed individual with shaven head appeared and after I had explained by word and pantomime what I wanted he smiled blandly and opened the gate. I went in, my backward glance aware of the terror in my ricsha boy's eyes.

Straight along a splended avenue I walked with my guide, past two colossal bronze lions, through pavilions of heavily perfumed incense, the floors rich with rare carpets, woven in wild and remote Ninghasia beyond the Gobi. Then came dark and repellent buildings honeycombed with cells whence issued strange muffled sounds as of human beings moaning in agony.

This feeling of terror was abruptly emphasized by the sudden blare of unseen horns, the shuddering shrill treble of flutes, the throb of strange, savage drums. And hardly knowing what I was doing I followed my guide into the largest building of all, the temple of terrors.

Suddenly I realized that my guide had vanished! I was alone in that temple of death, whose mazes were cryptic, and there was no way of escape: Alone in a place whence legend said no woman, yellow or white, came out alive!

There was a rustling of the great draperies, ominous, sinister in its deadly softness. I looked around wildly and pressed my hands hard against my cold cheeks. Standing before me was a monstrous figure, robed in the yellow vestments of a priest, but with the face of a demon.

Desperate and hysterical I sprang forward and tore the Devil's Mask from his face. As it thudded to the floor I saw the dark, angry eyes of a high priest I had noticed outside.

I felt his hissing breath, saw the insane anger of those terrible eyes. With incredible swiftness he had stooped, picked up his mask and adjusted it, and now as the mask came toward me again he drew his sword from the folds of his robe.

It was the end, I thought, but desperately I seized his sword wrist, struck at the mask repeatedly and screamed in frenzy. My screams were drowned; outside was the growing clamor of unearthly sounds, the light patter of feet.

I do not know how it happened. The devil priest was stronger, but I was mad with fear. His foot had caught in his robe, he was falling. I had turned like a flash, darted through the draperies, raced down the corridors. I stumbled, fell, rose and fled on. Then——

I saw the sunlight, the stately avenue, deserted save for the distant figure of a priest moving along quietly as if nothing had happened. Behind me the blare of horns grew fainter.

Then the yellow gate appeared and I was outside—safe! My ricsha boy had fled, but the city of Peking stretched before me graceful, immutable. I looked down and saw that the knuckles of my hand were bleeding!

Alackday, all we can say is that Mrs. Fitzgerald, who lectured to Shanghai people last June about her experiences with the Blackfeet Indians, has had much better luck in her search for copy than was ever ours. We can hardly help wondering whether her initiation into the tribal mysteries of the Sun Dance of the Indians was an event on the same order. Romance certainly goes hunting for some people.

E. P.

MME. SZE ON AMERICAN HUSBANDS

Chinese Diplomat's Wife Expresses Her Opinions in First American Interview

Mme. Alfred Sze, the wife of the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States from China has been talking to the reporter of the San Francisco "Chronicle" about American husbands. She approves of them, we are happy to state. In fact, when seen by the indefatigable newsgatherer at Margate, just outside Atlantic City, she said:

"No, I do not believe the American husband spoils his wife with too much freedom, as it is said sometimes. I believe the American husband treats his wife better than any other in the world.

"In other countries there is the word obey—even in England. Men like to be the masters. But here the wife is treated as a companion, and as an equal. And that, I believe, is the way it ought to be.

"Oh, I am a great believer in this modern woman. I like the women to vote and to take part in the affairs of their country."

What would the Sunday Supplements of America do without China to supply them with excitement?

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN ACTRESSES

Or Paying the Penalty for Getting Art Entangled with the Best People

Sheer admiration for an American actress performing in London in an outrageously unladylike part stirred up British critics of the stage a little while back to reproachful observations about their native-grown stage women. These critics dared to say that when it came to plays in which untamed (or unbrided) nature was exposed to public view an inhibiting quality of ladylikeness entangled the British actress and straightlaced her art.

Is it true that the stage of Shakespeare and Nell Gwynne is

THE SUIT FOR THE SOUTH

suffering from an affected daintiness of walk and conversation fearfully assuming, in our late day, to express what Jane Austen called "the delicacy of the elegant female"? Is this a part of a general resurgence of Victorianism which some pretend to view with alarming complacency, or is it something else—or at all?

A STAGE PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE.

By some the hope springing perennial in the footlight favourite's breast—the hope of marrying a peer—was urged as explanation or excuse. Out of that hope (it was said) grew such sedulous aping of the elegant attitudes, clipped syllables and admired intonations of high society that expression of the cruder emotions was hampered—simulation of the common behaviour of low persons bereft of conviction and authority. The Gaiety Girl who might so possibly become Lady by marriage set betimes about creating the rôle for herself, so as to be ready to face the dowager and down the dowdies—who had been born ladies and thus (thanks to their mothers' marriages) did not have to act the part.

The Gaiety Girl might, also, like Mrs. Mabel Russell Phillipson, become a member of Parliament. Her task and privilege, then, to match in the Commons her self-made poise with that of Lady Astor, born in Virginia, and supported by the aristocratic prestige of two continents. Something surely not to be faced without preparation.

If the British actress were not a Gaiety Girl, but a more serious performer, her chances of marrying [illegible] Parliament, would be sensibly reduced. But in that case she might be a leading lady married to an actor-manager who was a knight—or who might, upon any King's birthday distribution of honours, have glittering equestrian rank thrust upon him.

Still further: acting has become hereditary in many British families. In that enlivening overseas publication called "Who's Who in the Theatre" these elect families are listed. And it is a long list. There are 78 names in it, including Barrymore, Drew, Lyceum and Sothern, which may now be counted American or partly so. Other names, certainly not American, are Bancroft, Boucicault, Buckstone, Compton, du Maurier, Farren, Forbes-Robertson, Grossmith, Huntley, Irving, Jerrold, Kemble, Kendall, Macready, Maude, Monckton, Neilson, Quartermaine, Saker, Terry, Titheradge, Tree and Wyndham.

Each hereditary theatrical family has a family tree spread out on a page showing descent and relationship. It thus appears that many younger British actresses are daughters of actor managers who by royal warrant write Sir in front of their Christian and other given names. These must be ladies in spite of being mere Miss or Mrs.

POLITE DRAMA.

Every King's birthday sees more actors made knights and more wives, daughters, nieces, sisters, cousins and aunts stamped vicariously with the royal stamp of gentility. Quaintly this happens when really polite comedy and full-dress society drama are not in nearly such high favour as in the '80s. and '90s. of the last century they used to be. Never mind. So much the worse for plays that persist in not being polite. Such plays—omitting a few from the pen of the American Eugene O'Neill—are mostly anyway imported from the Continent of Europe. And though, regrettably, Sir Arthur Wing Pinero is contributing very little to the stage nowadays, there is still the hope of doing a delicate bit in something by Sir James Matthew Barrie, Bart., O.M. However lowly born and humbly placed the character, Sir James always makes her such that a lady can play her. His Cinderella really is a fairy princess in spite of her assumption of a 'cockney accent.

Nor must it be forgotten that a surprising number of British actresses (like Violet and Irene Vanbrugh) are daughters of clergymen of the Established Church. Nor that many others have as fathers civil or military officers in the Colonial or Indian service of the empire. Such is Mrs. Patrick Campbell, for instance, who eventually married into a family accustomed to mating with Dukes. One British actress, at least, Miss Colette O'Neil, is the doughter of an untheatrical Earl, the fifth of his noble line, which means that she has four other Earls in coroneted processional behind her. Hrr brother is likewise an Earl. Nobody is allowed to forget that Lady Diana Manners, daughter of the Duke of Rutland, is in the movies—but perhaps that does not quite count. Lady Diana is not listed in "Who's Who in the Theatre."

TEMPTATIONS TO RESPECTABILITY.

In such company (with or without Lady Diana) airs of gentility are, if not obligatory, at least appropriate and becoming to even the least member of a calling any member of which the King may delight to honour. If play acting in England has not quite been raised to the peerage of professions the very exercise of which confers title to gentility—the army, the navy, the Church, the bar—indisputably it is an art to these privileged proessions near allied. So that English player folk are hedged about with temptations to respectability hardly inferior to those which beset barons, barristers and Bishops. Their conventions necessarily are less and less those of Bohemia and more and more those of Belgravia or Mayfair.

In such circumstances to play a low part furnished with vulgar language and rude gestures becomes more and more difficult, ascendingly distasteful. Presently it may be necessary for the British stage to import cultivated actresses—Italians, Russians, Americans—to play all ungenteel parts.

COURT RECOGNITION.

The truth is that, except in the musical comedy sphere, a stage career in either England or America does not create [illegible] exposure to a noble marriage. So that this factor is of much less importance in accounting for the ladylikeness of British actresses than are other factors less accidental. What is not accidental is that the British stage is now an accepted part of British society. As such it is recognized at Court. The American stage except for a few families of hereditary stage people, like the Barrymores, is still outside society. Partly, perhaps, because there is no recognized authority in a democracy to let it inside.

At all events, Miss Pauline Lord, sent over to London with Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie," was able with her whisky voice and her low language of a low bargeman's daughter, to make the London critics sit up and take notice of what they were missing in the ladies of their own theatres. In order to get an idea of what they missed, let's take a sample of the British actress as we see her.

Take Miss Violet Kemble Cooper, for instance, a distinguished younger member of one of the very best hereditary stage families listed in that British stage book. We may have seen this accomplished fine lady actress play the wanton most wantonly as we did, a couple of years back, see her do it with the assembled Barrymores in "Clair de Lune." But it was a fine lady wilfully and wickedly wanton. There was nothing low about it except the deep abyss of wantonness. Not conceivably could Miss Kemble Cooper with

THE HAT PICTURESQUE

her high air and cool voice descend to playing a bargeman's daughter who has peddled her love in the streets and repented. Or any sort of bargeman's daughter, good or bad.

What the British critics scolded their actresses for is, after all, the penalty the artist who is an aristocrat even in her art must pay for getting art entangled with our very best people.

—"N. Y. Times."

IMPRESSIONS

By Wilbert Snow.

These entered into me and shaped my dreams:
The full, triumphant buoyance of flood tide;
A wooded cove streaked with the low moon's beams,
A little island where white seagulls cried
My drowsiness astir, and perched to ride
With schooners that indulged the wind's desire;
Calm spots on choppy seas, an ocean-wide
Northcaster rousing moods that issued higher
Than pushing waves; the reminiscent fire
In eyes of sailors who had ploughed the main
On full-rigged ships where [illegible]
Atlantic gales from Montreal to Spain
Had filled them with adventure glowing bright
As brass rings through their ears in sunset light.

"Nation."

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

[illegible] reading characteristics which grew during the [illegible] the pages. The [illegible] of Wild West" stories, most of them done in America, some of them manufactured in England, has almost abated. Mr. Zane Grey a romancer worthy of acceptance as a quite certain "packet to the Islands of the Blest," is no longer at the head of our "best sellers." He and a group of "happy ending" writers consoled us thereby when we greatly needed an hour of forgetfulness. They did their job neatly, we were grateful to them, and now the "Wild West" has gone home again, though not, of course, altogether, for the romance of the plains will always capture maidens and young men.

∴

Once more we have "old familiar faces" in the ascendant, and when you find that it shows settling back to type. True, we have had a burst in desert fiction, but it has not hit us half so hard as it hit our historic cousins, the Americans. We have read the tales of "The Sheik" school, though often it has been hard going, and the Americans have devoured them. We were bidden to fold our tents and silently steal away with the Arabs, but our instinctive reading world has been more sober, less romantic. Also there has been no reversion to the "problem novel," for the simple reason that nowadays its excursions and alarms have been gathered into the general body of fiction, and it no more shows a red light.

∴

How fortunate is the lady whom we know as Miss Ethel M. Dell, but about whom, thanks to her modesty, we know little more. How fortunate is Sir Hall Caine, about whom we at least know something, thanks to his unvarying courtesy that way. They divide, between them, the glory of having written the two "best-sellers," stories of the sea. Miss Dell's is called "Tetherstones," and Sir Hall Caine's is called "The Woman of Knockaloe." After those works there would come, perhaps, Mr. W.J. Locke's "Mecrdius & Co." and Mrs. Maud Diver's "Lonely Furrow." To make one's choice six, one would add Mr. Arnold Bennett's "Riceyman Steps" and Miss Kaye-Smith's House of 'Alard," but they are another story.

∴

Mr. N. M. Penzer has brought together in his volume of "Selected Papers on Anthropology, Travel and Exploration," by Sir Richard Burton (Philpot. 15s.), some things which are hard to come by. "The Guide-Book to Mecca," for instance, is not represented in the British Museum, and only six copies are known to exist. Although it contains less information than the "Pilgrimage," its fine nervous phrasing gives it a value of its own. The same may be said of "A Trip to Harar," originally published in the Geographical Society's "Journal" [illegible] years ago, which sparkles with Burton's characteristic [illegible]. "Generally in the East a man expects to be defrauded by the civil power, but he is morally certain of being stopped by the minutest of rogues." A postscript to "Falconry in the Valley of the Indus" is of interest, as Mr. Penzer says, because it supplies the only information to possess of Burton's early days with the Indian Army, and also fragments gathered here are his "Notes on Scinde," "Notes on Rome," and "Spiritualism in Eastern Lands." None of them are negligible, and some of them illustrate well the writer's personality.

∴

We may trust that Mr. Cecil Torr is in error when he describes his latest instalment of "Small Talk at Wreyland" (Cambridge University Press, 7s. 6d.) as the "third (and final) volume." Like its predecessors, it offers a couple of hours' retreat from a busy world, a place "full of sweet dreams and health and quiet breathing." Its catholicity is like that of Praed's "Vicar," who, while familiar with "the laws that keep the planets in their radiant courses," could nevertheless evolve "some precept deep for dressing eels or skinning horses." Mr. Torr can be with equal facility personal and impersonal, and no question of history or manners comes amiss to him. Other writers have produced such Miscellanies, but Mr. Torr's has the lure of finished writing which never attempts to be "fine." The penetrating journalist will recognize that the paragraphs which embody his self-effacing art are perfect models.

THE TWELVE STONE LOOK

Scientific Advice for Corpulent Ladies and Gentlemen

"WHY BE FAT?." By Cecil Webb-Johnson, M.B., CH.B. 5/- net, Mills & Boon, London.

The dangers of obesity, how it may be prevented, and modern methods of reducing weight are taken up by Dr. Webb-Johnson in scientific fashion yet a style which makes the book readable as well as informing. The æsthetic as well as the hygienic drawbacks of corpulence are plainly set forth, and the author sternly states that the average man and woman in England eat about three times as much solid and liquid food as the body requires. His strictures upon the excesses of Shanghai would doubtless be even more severe. "It is a well-known fact that many more people die of over-eating than of over-drinking," he adds.

Dr. Webb-Johnson discusses various treatments for this "inconvenient, humiliating, and dangerous complaint," warns against quack "reducers," and gives not only practicable menus but recipes. Breakfast must go if obesity is to be overcome and the author says:—

[illegible]

It seems to be the general impression—to judge by people's actions—that taking a night's sleep is a most tiring and exhausting process. The labours of the day cannot be faced until the weary frame, after the strenuous toil of sleeping for seven or eight hours, is recruited with eggs and bacon, fish, sausages, and the usual concomitants of the British breakfast! To some people [illegible] is the most important meal of the day; and the average Briton is under the spell of such deceptive and misleading slogans as "Lay a good foundation" and "Nothing can hurt the man who starts the day with a jolly good breakfast." Those who have broken away from the breakfast habit and have abstained from food till midday have been as surprised as delighted with the marked and almost instant improvement in their health.

BEWARE OF MILK.

"Drink as little as possible" is another rule laid down, and this authority prohibits any drinking with meals at all—a dictum at which many will rebel. Milk is also absolutely forbidden, Dr. Webb-Johnson objecting to its [illegible]. He recognizes the opposition to this position but outlines the [illegible]

(1) Milk makes no demand upon the complicted mechanico-physio-[illegible] (2) within the alimentary canal it coagulates, causing lactic acid fermentation, leading to indigestion, etc.: (3) it is too bulky a diet for an adult and contains too much albumen and too little carbohydrate and organic salts; (4) vitamines [illegible] milk in [illegible]; (5) the quality of cow's milk is [illegible], (6) milk gives cause foul mouth, coated tongue and [illegible] (7) it is the [illegible] cause of dental caries and pyorrhœa; (8) [illegible] diseases [illegible] by milk; (9) only the digestive [illegible] of an infant is adapted for the proper digestion of milk; (10) it is the chief cause of cancer of the stomach.

Whether these conclusions are accepted or not, the main premises of the book are certainly indisputable and their vigorous presentation will do much to shame the corpulent into reforming their figures.

E.P.

REBUILDING CHINA

[illegible]

This study of the present developments in China and the Christian contribution to the new needs thus discovered was written primarily for mission study classes with the hope that its contents would be suggestive in helping readers unfamiliar with China better to appreciate the conditions here and the challenge they offer to Christian statesman. The appeal of the book will, however, be much larger, and many residents of China will be glad to have this little book which is written by one well acquainted with the facts of the case and who presents them in a broad-minded spirit and in interesting fashion.

The first part of the book, entitled "China's Need" gives a clear and concise account of the old-world outlook and the present social and political status. In the second part, which shows the Christian contribution, the work of the evangelist, teacher, healer and church is explained. The index and bibliography add to the value of the book, as do the six illustrations. In a forthcoming edition the frontispiece will doubtless be correctly entitled the "*temple* of Heaven" instead of the "altar" as it is now styled.

E.P.

CHINA IN PICTURES

PICTURESQUE CHINA—A Journey through Twelve Provinces. By Ernst Boerschmann. Fisher Unwin, London. Chinese American Publishing Co., Shanghai.

This very beautiful book should equally be in the hands of those who know something of China and those who do not. The writer's travels have taken him through large spaces of the north, through Szechuan and the little known Kuangsi as well as the coastal and chief central provinces. The book consists, in the main, of photographs of what he has seen, very excellently reproduced in soft sepia tones and with a short description under each (in five languages). All the pictures, of which there are nearly 300, are carefully indexed with brief notes on the originals; and there is also an introduction in which the author discourses pleasantly on forms of Chinese architecture, the importance in religious practice, of pagodas, and the immense veneration of Chinese for the earth. The whole volume constitutes a very delightful guide to the principal places of artistic and historic interest in the provinces visited, which must make every reader long to go and do likewise.

And furthermore it reinforces and confirms a feeling which has been growing very prevalent recently, that, as J. O. P. Bland and one or two others have never ceased to emphasize, the real China has remained quite unchanged by imported ideas of democracy. Even Young China itself, frightened by the excesses of the monster it has brought into existence, would seem to think that there is more in the old than was once supposed and that if the nation is to pull itself together the standards and ideas of the past must not be excluded. The unsurpassable dignity of the scenery and buildings depicted in Mr. Boerschmann's book is a true expression of the nature of the Chinese people themselves who, when untainted by foreign, that is unfamiliar and un-native, artificialities, are surely among the most dignified creatures on earth. In one respect the book is not quite true to life the vast majority of Chinese temples and buildings are not nearly so well kept up as those selected for reproduction. Grass grows among pavements, cornices fall off and are not replaced, and the most stately temples are thick in dust and matter in the wrong place. These things grieve us all wherever we go a-sight seeing, and it is a pleasure to find from Mr. Boerschmann's book that such carelessness is not universal. But from that neglect, where it is found, one might deduce two morals: first, that Chinese civilization does not trouble itself with many trifles which to the West appear insupportable: secondly, that that civilization is getting a little frayed at the edges. The question of repair is exercising us all nowadays. Meanwhile, Mr. Boerschmann's book is an illustration of China as she has been and still would be, over which we may all ponder with pleasure and profit.

O.M.G.

ALL ABOUT PEKING

GUIDE TO PEKING, by Fei Shi, published by the Tientsin Press.

The author, who has also written "A Trip into Anhui," "Through the Silk and Tea Districts of Kiang-nan and Chê-kiang" and "The Trans-Siberian Route," has assembled in compact form an interesting and useful assortment of facts about Peking and its environs, together with illustrative pictures and maps. The book, while containing much valuable information for the resident of China, is designed especially for the tourist and with this in mind a guide to 10 short excursions is given early in the book. The settlement itself is fully described and then the Chinese, Manchu, and the Forbidden Cities with the other quarters and sights in the neighbourhood of Peking, the trip to the Great Wall, Ming Tombs and historic temples.

The section on travel in the interior contains much practical advice and the descriptions of excursions along the Mongolian Border has material not easily found elsewhere. The index assists readers to find answers to queries constantly arising, while some 46 illustrations and seven maps and sketches will be often consulted.

VICTORIAN INNOCENCE

"THE SHORELESS SEA." By Mollie Panter-Downes. John Murray, London.

Recently a psychological investigator discovered and announced that the average mental age of Americans is just 14 years. If it is safe to hazard that the other branch of the English-speaking group of mankind is not far from the same standard, then this book ought to attain an immense popularity with the reading public on several continents and islands. It is the day dream of an adolescent, set down with complete naiveté by a girl of sixteen. The publisher's advertisement states the novelist's age as the remarkable fact about the novel. I have long cultivated the habit of taking well-seasoned with the salt of incredulity all statements in book advertisements. But in this case it is a fact that I was moved to remark in irritation, when half way down the fourth page of "The Shoreless Sea, "This sounds exactly like a sixteen-year-old's writing." Whereupon, I turned the volume over to peruse jacket advertisements for a moment's respite, and came upon the selfsame announcement by the publisher. When I say that the girl writer sets down with complete naiveté her day dreams, I should add that she is an English girl, brought up amid all the nice restraints of Anglo-Saxondom. Freud and Jung would find no material for their neurotic revelations here. It is not definitely stated, but the authoress and the heroine probably both still believe literally in fairies and Santa Claus, and that babies arrive in the world on storks' backs. It is refreshing to find such Victorian innocence even amidst cigarette smoking girls and picnics without chaperons.

Deirdre is in conflict with her mother, a selfish beast, who wears beautiful clothes, and is jealous of the beauty of her daughter, while Deirdre goes about like a veritable Cinderella. Secretly, Deirdre meets a prince—not a mere titled prince, but one of the real princely nature. Eventually, she marries a duke (or perhaps it is only a lord) through the sort of mistake that occurs in romantic fiction frequently, only to discover too late the prince's love for her. He has, in the meantime, disappeared, only to reappear, pathetically faithful to his love. Finally, [illegible] one one must not give away the ending. Any of us at sixteen has dreamed out just such a perfect tragedy of love and devotion.

Seriously, however, the child who wrote this book may have some day to be reckoned with. Having read widely of good, bad and indifferent poetry, romance and fiction, she sometimes puzzles one to know what is her own and what a composite of her reading. Yet there are passages of original beauty and genuine and sensitive reactions to observation. Her characters, while full of the unconscious comic quality of the child's description of grown-ups, are, most of them, alive and distinct. And sometimes the characterizations are deliciously touched with satire, as when she relates how the two dowagers became fond of each other through swapping their fat—reducing recipes. If Molly Panter-Downes lives vitally, she may write a powerful novel at 26 or 30. Let us hope that she is not merely one of that phenomenon—so disagreeable outside the family circle—the child prodigy.

OLIVIA PRICE.

VERY QUIET FUN

"THE RICHEST MAN." By Edward Shanks. (Collins. 7s. 6d.)

Mr. Shanks, one need not say, has abundant humour of an implicit kind—the kind that need never surge up into a positive joke, but simply keeps the reader aware that his formal matter is not to be taken seriously and that the author is only amusing himself with a human type or a popular conception. There are probably people who will go steadily through this book without being aware of any such reservations—who will take it as a real romance of the "Hidden Hand" in international politics—and they will, we fear, set it down as a little lacking in what they call grip. Williams, the super-millionaire who feels himself the real ruler of the world and conducts himself towards its interests in a truly paternal spirit, is, of course, without any of the cinema qualities. Mr. Shanks has tried to picture for himself what the effect of environment would be in such a case, and makes the figure a little dehumanised, with rather naive relapses into the primitive. The simple-minded passion of Williams for the Italian peasant-girl is obviously merely sketched in, with no attempt at verisimilitude. But the adventurer Hollis, with his ultra-modern lack of all moral tradition, is quite racy and well-savoured. And the exterior setting of Cambridge society gives the needful antithesis. Mr. Shanks will entertain the intelligent as much as he has evidently entertained himself.

MR. BARING

"THE TRIANGLE." By Maurice Baring. Heinemann. 6s.

Mr. Baring's methods, practised here with remarkable success, of telling his story through three persons, has, of course, been used before. But Wilkie Collins and others used it only in order to give the reader different views about facts. Mr. Baring uses it in this way, but his main purpose is to give different views of the truth. His narrators in this tragedy of marriage are Gilbert Bray, a solicitor, Dr. Langthorne and Father Rushby, S.J.

The best section of the book is the doctor's: Mr. Baring has caught admirably the mixture of professional complacency and personal kindness and interest. These three persons are all concerned in the problem of Dennis Peynet and his wife, Eileen, and the interaction of their tragic comedy with that of Patrick Haslam, the great portrait painter, and David Aston and his wife. The story is told with great economy, and the little vignettes of minor characters are extremely brilliant. Mr. Baring is more successful with his men than with his women neither Eileen Peynet nor Agatha Aston is quite right, though old Miss Aston and Eliza, the servant, are good. It is in his delineation of passion that Mr. Baring is weakest.

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AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE

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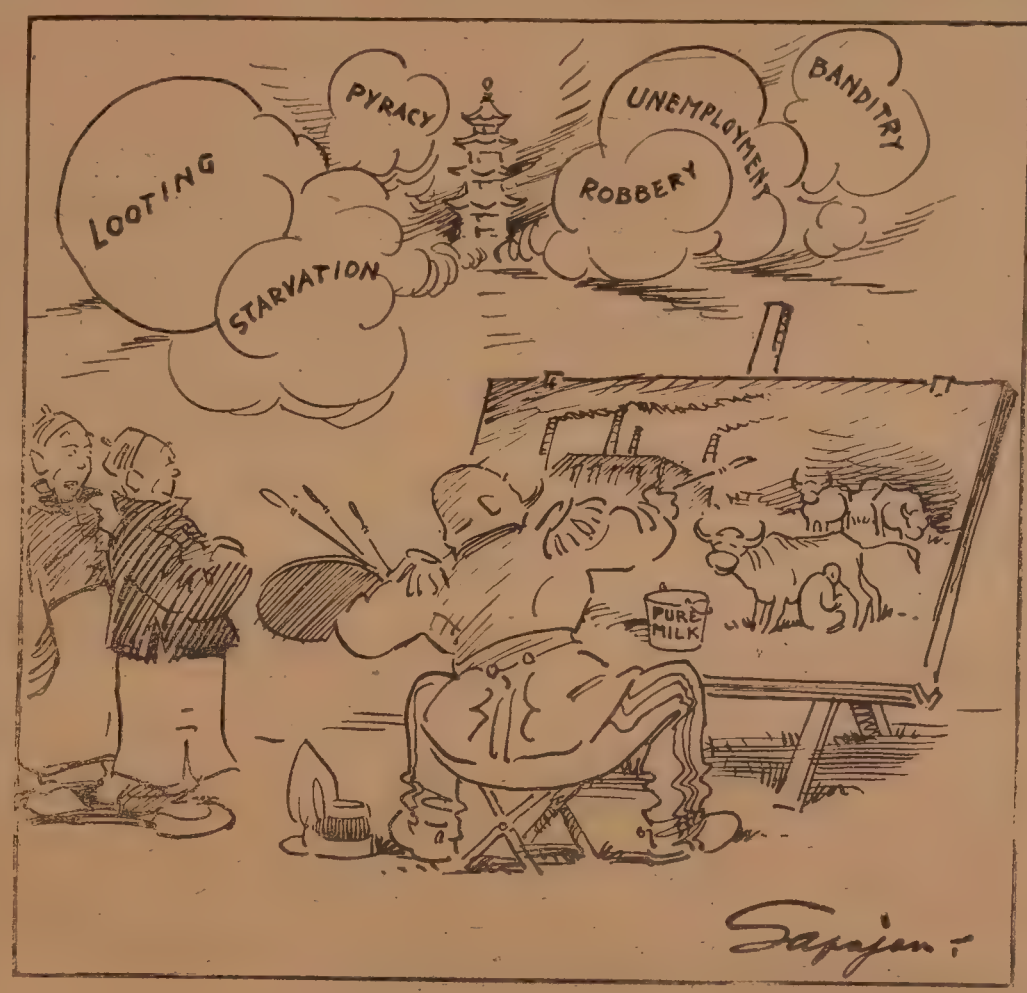

CAN IT BE DONE BY MANDATE?

President Tsao Kun has issued a mandate lamenting unemployment and banditry and forecasting industrial and agricultural reform

SINEWS OF A LOCAL WAR

A Loan of $200,000 from Lu Yung-hsiang to Tan Yen-kai and its Probable Meaning

THE IMMOBILIZATION OF NANKING

Native bankers of Shanghai are reported to be somewhat more than curious concerning a loan made just before the China New Year by General Lu Yung-hsiang of Hangchow to General Tan Yen-kai, and the account that is given of it is certainly worthy of attention.

In circles intimately associated with local politics this loan is said to be a preliminary step in displacing Tsao Kun from the Presidency and in securing the position for Marshal Tuan Chi-jui, and the method of carrying this through, details of which are given, are of considerable interest. As belonging to the old Anfu Party Marshal Tuan Chi-jui, now a resident of Tientsin, and General Lu Yung-hsiang of Hangchow are still affiliated and in opposition to Tsao Kun. The Nanking Tuchun, Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan, is one of Tsao Kun's men, and, so long as he is in power in Nanking, acts as a buffer for the President to any enterprise which may be conceived by General Lu of Hangchow. The object of the latest move is to place the Nanking Tuchun in such a position of danger that Tsao Kun's party will be compelled to move to his assistance and it is hoped that this will form a convenient opportunity for Marshal Tuan to assume the Presidency.

The present weakness of Chi Hsieh-yuan's position lies in the extended territory of which he is now in control. Formerly he could confine his attention to the province of Kiangsu, but to-day he is Governor-General not only of Kiangsu but of Anhui and Kiangsi as well. The scheme set on foot is to attack him through the Kiangsi or Anhui frontier first, thus compelling him to move his troops thither, and when in this position a second attack from Hangchow would eventuate and the Nanking general would of necessity find himself in a parlous state. The Presidents' divisions would consequently be called to his aid, and once troop-movements in the north had started other events would occur. It is hoped that Chang Tso-lin would intervene to assist in ousting Tsao Kun once the latter had dispersed his strength from the vicinity of the Capital and then that Marshal Tuan might ascend the Presidential throne. This scheme does not take into consideration Chang Tso-lin's personal ambitions, but the promoters of the idea seem to think that they will remain in abeyance for another year by which time they will be altered.

As explained, the first step is the attack on the Kiangsi or Anhui border, and this is to be General Tan Yen-kai's part of the operations. He has his Hunanese troops in Kuangtung where they have helped to immobilize both Dr. Sun Yat-sen and General Chen Chiung-ming, and the belief is that he will be now in a position to march them to the Kiangsi or Anhui border and there start an invasion. If he can do so, the rest would follow as sketched above.

The scheme is a far-reaching one, and is believed locally to be the reason for the China New Year loan mentioned.

Rumours of Important Discussions Between Hangchow, Mukden and Canton

Peking, Feb. 11.

Peking is full of rumours of impending trouble in the regions near Shanghai, and there seems to be every reason to believe that important discussions are taking place between Mukden, Hangchow and Canton.

Political circles in Peking do not believe that Marshal Tuan will allow himself to be drawn into these intrigues, although General Lu Yung-hsiang is known to be endeavouring to persuade Marshal Tuan to become the leader of a movement, aimed at weakening the power of the Chihli faction.

The armistice arranged between Kiangsu and Chêkiang a month ago is no longer considered a guarantee of peace, judging by foreign official telegrams reaching Peking, which express considerable anxiety regarding the future outlook.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING'S OVERTURES TO CHANG TSO-LIN

An Equivocal Reply

Peking, Feb. 8.

The Premier, Mr. Sun Pao-chi, recently sent Mr. Sun Hung-yao, a Cabinet Counsellor, to Mukden to interview Marshal Chang Tso-lin with regard to reunification.

Marshal Chang gave the delegate a good reception, saying that he would be happy to see unification but that the attitude of the Manchurian provinces in that connexion would be determined by the people.

PROVINCIAL WARS OF CHINA

Peking Said to Be Planning an Expedition Through Hunan Against Canton

NORTHERN SUCCESSES IN SZECHUAN

Peking, Feb. 7.

The Chinese New Year as usual was marked by an absence of political developments, but to-day attention is being given to movements in which many Chinese see reason for forecasting the despatch of a Northern expedition against Canton. It is stated that General Yuan Tsu-ming, the Kueichow leader who is with the Northern forces in Szechuan, will return to Kueichow, leaving the work of rehabilitation in the hands of General Liu Hsiang, while bandit suppression in eastern and southern Szechuan will be carried out by General Yang Sen. General Fang Peng-jen, leaders of the Northern forces co-operating with General Chao Heng-ti, is marching on Shokuan, where one of his detachments has already arrived. General Mo Chi and General Shen Hung-yin, are also reported to be marching on Shokuan, which is near the Kuangtung border of Hunan.

Although General Chao Heng-ti has not cancelled the autonomy of Hunan, it is said that he is co-operating loyally with the Northern troops in these movements. Meanwhile General Lu Yung-ting is said to be consolidating his position in Kuangsi, and has sent General Heng, his Chief-of-Staff, to Peking to consult with the Government authorities. With the end of hostilities in Shechuan in sight, it is expected that some of the Northern troops there will be available to strengthen the forces gathering together on the northern boundaries of Kuangtung.

CHENGTU NOT YET TAKEN.

According to foreign official telegrams the Chinese reports of the capture of Chêngtu by the Northern troops were premature. One foreign telegram, dated January 28, says that General Hsiong Keh-wu was then being surrounded by the Northern forces at Tungchuan, 80 miles northeast of Chengtu, while another telegram, dated February 2, says that General Liu Cheng-hsun was still in command at Chêngtu. According to the Chinese telegrams Chêngtu was captured on January 27. There seems to be no doubt that efforts were being made to capture Chêngtu before the Chinese New Year and establish good grounds for an immediate remittance from Peking to pay the Northern troops.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A NEW CAMPAIGN IN KUANGTUNG

Hunanese and Yunnanese Troops Concentrating to Attack Gen. Chen's Forces

Canton, Feb. 13.

Canton is full of troops, for the Hunanese are joining the Yunnanese in the projected attack against Gen. Chen Chiung-ming's forces in the East River district of Kuangtung, and all are concentrating in Canton.

Severe fighting in the east is expected, while the Cantonese are very worried over the shortage of food. The unloading of cargo is difficult because of the strike of the transportation and rice coolies.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

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Per N.Y.K.S. Fushimi Maru Feb. 9

PASSENGERS

INWARD.

Per str. Luchow, January 31. From Tsingtao. Mr. and Mrs. G. Giaque and two children.

Per str. Ngankin, January 31. From River Ports. Father Searyes, Father Ausome, Mr. Pannet.

Per str. Wenchow, February 1. From River Ports. Mr. Wiley.

Per str. Kiangteen, February 1. From River Ports. Captain W. R. Wallace, Mr and Mrs. Raschle.

Per str. Luenho, February 2. From River Ports. Bishop Banister, Mrs. Lockhart Smith.

Per str. Tungchow, February 2. From Hongkong. Dr. Montgomery, Mrs. E Brown and son, Mrs. H. J. A. Ander and Land Mr. Lee.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, February 2. From Ningpo. Mr. A. Mongan, Mr. and Mrs. Y. W. Decker, Miss E. C. Decker

Per str. Hsin Singshao, February 3. From Ningpo. Mr. C. H. Wilson

Per str. Hsinchi, February 3. From [illegible] and F. J. Rossiter.

Per str. Hsin Peking, February 3. From Ningpo. Mr. and Mrs. W Scott and Mr Pickering.

Per M.M.S. Angers, February 3. From Marseilles. Mrs. Waleh, Miss Klefisch, Mr and Mrs. Du Pac De [illegible] Mr and Mrs. Le Maitre, Mr. Dubois, [illegible] Bussieres, Mrs. Ferrer and six children, Mr. and Mrs. Bouvier, Messrs. Gayraud, Le Conet, Secouet, Pillot, Giovannangeli, Gilet, Nestoret, Mrs. Gayraud and child, Mrs. Lecomte, Mrs. Secouet, Mrs. Pillot. **From Colombo.** Messrs. Staahl, Murray. **From Saigon.** Mr. Fabre, Mr. Latourette, Mr. and Mrs. Mangard, Mr. Chollot, Mrs. Ivor, Mrs. Bussel, Mr Leduff, Messrs. Thomas, Laborde **From Port Said.** Mr. and Mrs. Novomesky, Messrs. Hadjopoulos, Joannou. **From Singapore.** Mr. Stoupine. **From Hongkong.** Messrs. Knight, Allix, Katarau, Prères Paul, Harcel, Jean, Messrs. Groff and Barrow.

Per R.M.S. Empress of Australia. February 3. From Vancouver, etc. Messrs. J. P. Davie, W. Farley, D. Ghermi, E. Hilton, Miss F. M. Honey, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Holborow, Messrs. W. W. Halton, J. B. Kennedy, L. Lasriegne, M. Kummer, G. Arnfeld, Mr. and Mrs. J. McCaig, Mr. S. Printz, Miss A. Spaulding, Mr. and Mrs. S. [illegible] E. S Taylor, O. Vari, A. S. Ahde, K. Backlund, Miss K. Siaalta, Mr. A. Buhre, Mrs. L. J. Davies, Mr. A. Fontaine, Mr. and Mrs. I. Goldenberg, Rev. and Mrs. J. Griffiths, Messrs. E. Howart, G. [illegible] Mrs M Lavrova, Master S Lavrova, Messrs K Matsushigo S Nomamoto, Misses H Bangy, M. M Stone, L. M Taylor, Rev. and Mrs A. J. Williams, Master Williams, Misses Williams (2), Mrs. S. Yokoyama, Mr B. Jordon.

Per str. Kungwo, February 3. From River Ports Mr and Mrs G Vergara, Mr E Vergara, Miss D Simpson, Mr and Mrs H B Emerson, Mr Schlatter, Miss J M Robertson, Mr. and Mrs Nicholls and child, Captain T A. Kyle.

Per str. Kiangwah, February 4. From River Ports. Mr and Mrs Mounsey and family.

Per str. Luenyi February 4. From River Ports. Messrs J A Wigmore, G A Falconer, R M Nash, J Linford D J Sandys H Hunter, H H Lockton J Mackay G Morgan, Mr and Mrs J A Greenland Mr and Mrs S Twydle.

Per str Fengtien, February 7. From Tientsin. Mr and Mrs J Stirling and child Messrs Master and Johnson.

Per T.K.K.S. Shinyo Maru, February 7. From Hongkong. Messrs E W Cobbenhagen H B Gibson Miss A Jackson Mr and Mrs M Mann, Count de Rousset.

Per str. Sunning, February 8. From Hongkong. Messrs C M Hemsworth W Hagen and G C Perdon.

Per str. Tungting, February 8. From River Ports. Mr Kreger Mrs E Schwartz Mr Carrick Miss Sopoukoff, Mr and Miss Schultz and two children.

OUTWARD.

Per str. Hsin Peking, February 1.—For Ningpo.—Mr. S. S. Osgdal, Miss E. Metcalfe, Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Shoemaker, Miss Stewart, Miss V. C. Hill.

Per M.M.S. Amboise, February 1.—For Marseilles.—Mr. Mathieu, Mr. d'Auxion de Ruffé, Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] M. Col. Andrews, M. L. Bouvet, Mr. and Mrs. B. Richard, Miss S. Richard, Mr. J. Richard, Mr. and Mrs. E. Zorn, Miss L. Zorn, Mr. J. Zorn, Mr. and Mrs. C. Albert, Mr. Ancel, Mrs. Gully and two children, Mr. R. Lannee, Mrs. Gabrick, Miss [illegible] Messrs. [illegible] H. Claute, R. Coulon, R. Horodski, Mrs. M. Maylin, Mrs. P. Schnore, Mrs. McLaughlin and two children, Messrs. F. Vuagnoux, L. Kieffer, E. Raudonnet, E. Faure, P. Naulet, A. Lefevre, Mrs. A. Lefevre and child, Messrs F. Batineau, A. Mitzman, A. Mautien, S. Geoffrey, A. Monmaut, L. Bonnet, M. Boursaud, P. Imbert, L. Malfroy, P. Leger, J. Le Corvec, E. Braney, R. Rul, P. Schnore, A. Schnore, J. Mender. **For Port Said**—Mrs. S. Kaunulides, Misses P. Cataferis, H. Ignatiadou, Mrs. H. Angelatos and child, Mr. A. Angelatos and three children, Mr. E. C. Pearson. **For Singapore**—Mr and Mrs. P. H. Tiedman. **For Saigon**—Mr. C. Nopper, Mrs. Uguyen Thi Day. **For Hongkong**—Mr. P. W. Massey, Mr. A. M. Cannan, Mr. D. O. Russell, Mr. C. M. Wilson, Miss B. E. Dew, Mr. F W. Poak, Soeurs St. Therere, St. Rose, St. Pacific, St. Germaine, Mr. G. Hirsh, Mr. T. A. Tarani, Mr. R. W. Campbell, Mrs. Loridan.

Per str. Kanchow, February 2.—For Tsingtao—Mr. and Mrs. D. S. M. Frazer.

Per str. Luchow, February 2.—For Swatow—Mr. H. Holgate. **For Canton** Mr. P. C. Inglis.

Per str. Wenchow, February 2.—For River Ports.—Mr. B. Chapman.

Per str. Liangchow, February 3.—For Amoy—Mrs. O'Brien Twigg, Mr. and Mrs. Markham. **For Hongkong**—Surg. E. R. Langsten.

Per str. Chengtu, February 3.—For Tientsin.—Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Barnes and child. **For Chefoo.**—Mr. Kitson.

Per str. Yingchow, February 3.—For Hongkong.—Miss L. de Lamartes. **For Amoy.**—Messrs. A. A. Carvalho, F. T. Leo and Reid.

Per str. Poyang, February 4.—For River Ports.—Messrs. T. R. Chassells, A. Faere, T. E. Trueman, Wallace, E. E. D. Sassoon, D. Whamond, Wm Ironside, Roger and J. V. White.

Per str. Changchow, February 5.—For Swatow.—Mr. W. J. Dabcot. **For Canton.**—Mr. H. Davies.

Per str. Tungchow, February 5.—For Chefoo.—Mr. Muir, Masters M. Wilson, Smith, A. J. Haveland, E. Oldfield, Nelson, P. Holt, Mrs. J. McMullan, Mrs. A. J. H. Carey, Mr. L. G. Phillips, Masters A. Phillips, G. Macdonald, R. Miller, Thomas, Pote Hunt, and Weatherhead. **For Weihaiwei.**—Masters D. F. Hughes, J. W. R. Young, W. Wyse, Cruttwell, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. E. Booker and five children. **For Tientsin.**—Mr. P. S. Errissen.

Per P. & O. S. Kashgar, February 5. For Hongkong.—Messrs. G. A. Diss, F. H. Hill, A. S. March, H. C. Rowson, B. S. Katen, G. Gassoun, P. Boutros, N. George, N. Balish, H. Bickerton, D. Mackenzie, H. V. Hewett, Staff Captain Billman, Adj. Preener, Commandant Newton, Messrs. J. R. Hudson and W. T. Dailey. **For Singapore.**—Mr. F. S. Odom, Mrs. Vinogradoff, Messrs. Kummer, O. Trimm. **For Colombo.**—Messrs. R. C. P. Phillips, H. E. Bency, E. W. Shroff, A. L. Meyer. **For Port Said**—Miss H. Anderson. **For Marseilles.**—Miss A. M. Clark, Mrs. P. M. Scott, Master Scott, Mrs. A. st. A. Stevenson, Miss K Willin, Mr. P. C. S. Way. **For London.**—Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Clay, Miss D. Clay, Mrs. M. Elvidge, Miss Elvidge, Messrs. D. Ellis, J. L. Leslie, W. H. O. Whigham, Misses E. M. Marshall, K. [illegible]

Per str. Chekiang, February 7.—For Hongkong.—Miss Sucpoff and Mr. F. T. Gardner.

BIRTHS

ALARCOUN.—On February 8, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Alarcoun, a daughter.

FLEMONS.—On January 27, 1924, at Shrewsbury, England, to Mr. and Mrs. S. Flemons, a son.

LESLIE.—On February 6, 1924, at No. 453 Avenue Foch, Shanghai, the wife of Norman Leslie, of a son.

MASTERS.—On February 2, 1924, at Tsingtao, to Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Masters, a son, John Crichton.

MARRIAGES

LARSEN — KLINGENBERG. — On January 30, 1924, at Union Church, Shanghai, by Rev. A. N. Rowland, Kristian Sparman Larsen to Anna Klingenberg.

PORTER—WHITE. — On February 2, 1924, at H.B.M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, before Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., Consul-General, and afterwards at St. Joseph's Church by the Rev. Father Macdonald, S.J., Ernest John Andrew Porter, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Porter, of Epsom, Surrey, to Muriel Clara, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Augustus White, of Shanghai.

ROSENBLOOM—SOULEVICH.—On February 3, 1924, at Ohel Moishe Synagogue, Shanghai, by Cantor P. Rosoff, Mark Rosenbloom to Olga Beatrice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Soulevich. New York and Harbin papers please copy.

DEATHS

ARTHUR—On February 5, 1924, at Hangchow, Elizabeth Walker Arthur, wife of J. Hillcoat Arthur, of the American Presbyterian Mission. Interment in Hangchow on February 7, 1924.

OLDHAM.—On February 4, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, William Oldham (late R.N.), electrician with Mr. John Gray, 11 Ezra Road, aged 42 years.

SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month		Barometer 9 A.M.	Barometer Att'ed Therm.	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer ψ a.m. Dry	Hygrometer ψ a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Feb.	1	30.29	46.8	N N W	2	36.5	36.0	38.9	35.8	[illegible]
,,	2	30.47	46.3	W N W	2	33.1	2[illegible].6	41.9	26.6	[illegible]
,,	3	30.51	46.6	Calm	0	34.4	31.8	48.2	23.9	[illegible]
,,	4	30.31	46.8	S E	1	39.1	37.6	57.2	30.4	[illegible]
,,	5	30.20	49.7	::	2	48.0	48.0	52.2	42.8	[illegible]
,,	6	30.03	50.5	N	1	49.1	49.1	57.6	46.8	[illegible]
,,	7	30.73	54.1	W	3	49.8	48.8	53.6	49.6	[illegible]

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date		Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Rainfall Inches 1923
Feb.	1	33.0	26.0	43.6	42.6	0.49	Nil
,,	2	29.0	26.2	42.8	46.8	Nil.	Nil.
,,	3	29.0	33.0	45 8	54.0	Nil.	Nil.
,,	4	34.8	32.0	55.0	44.0	Nil.	Nil.
,,	5	46.8	32.0	51.6	38.0	0.31	Snow
,,	6	47.0	31.0	60.0	39.0	0.13	Nil.
,,	7	44.0	25.2	60 0	40.2	0.90	Nil.

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SHANGHAI'S SOCIAL EVIL AND THE PHYSICIANS

Feb. 11.

WHEN careful investigation is made it will probably be found that the social evil in Shanghai is no worse than in any other large cosmopolitan sea-port and not as bad as in many large cities in China wholly under native administration. In any discussion of the subject there should be no exaggeration, and on the other hand no attempt to palliate or minimize the evil. Indeed, it is so grave and menacing as to justify the demand that all good people here should be united in the campaign against it. Unfortunately, even among ardent reformers, this unity does not exist On the one side are those who, deeply impressed by the strength of ineradicable instincts and the infirmity of human nature, can only hope to reduce the evil; therefore they doubt the wisdom and practicability of measures of reform proposed by those, on the other side, who insist that it must be at once totally suppressed. So there is endless discussion which occasionally tends to be acrimonious. The cause of reform is thereby weakened because most of the ratepayers and other members of the community are perplexed, or believe that the problem is insoluble, or grimly remark that those who take foolish risks should be prepared to suffer the consequenoes. The subject is gruesome and repellent, and we scarcely blame the mid-Victorians who either ignored it or mentioned it with bated breath. We refer to it now as there has just been issued an important report by a committtee of leading physicians appointed by the Shanghai Medical Society. Much time and thought has been given to its preparation, and it should be read carefully and impartially by all who are interested in the reclamation of the underworld.

Beginning with the year 1869, when the Settlement was very small and much more controllable than it is now, the report first gives an historical survevey of the various attempts made by successive Municipal Councils to deal with the evil. In common with the experience of every other community, ancient and modern, it is a history of conflicting opinions, fruitless experiments, cross-purposes, indecision and failure. It is all summed up in a quotation from the Encylopædia Britannica:

"In different countries and ages it (the social evil) has in turn been patronized and prohibited, ignored, recognized, tolerated and condemned, regulated and let alone, flaunted and concealed. Christianity, the greatest moral force in the history of mankind, has repeatedly and systematically attacked it with a scourge in one hand and balm in the other, but the effect has been trifling or transient."

In view of this pessimistic conclusion what does the Shanghai committee suggest? Its recommendations in full will be found on another page. Briefly, it advocates concentration of effort to protect the public health; for instance, it suggests that the Municipality should give every facility for the prevention of infection and for the efficient treatment of the actually diseased. At the same time there should be educational propaganda, rescue work, and attempts should be made to remove or improve the social conditions which foster the evil. It is opposed to any official system or supervision of prostitution. Brothels should not be officially sanctioned, but they are not to be interfered with by the police unless there is public disorder, nor by the medical department unless the inmates are diseased.

With much of the report nearly all will agree. The principal remaining contention will probably centre on the continued existence, the apparent toleration of brothels. Some reformers will argue passionately that all these establishments should be closed and if this means the driving of the inmates to neighbouring settlements—well, it is regrettable, but the reputation of the International Settlement will be clean. This raises an ethical question; the altruism of such a course is dubious. If a man finds something obnoxious in his garden should he get rid of it by throwing it over the wall into his neighbour's garden? If neighbouring settlements in the interests of morality were to drive their unfortunates into the International Settlement these reformers would be the first to complain. Again, and here we express our own opinion, boys and girls who are ignorant and foolish should somehow or other be prevented from entering bad houses. Still, it seems impossible to win complete victory by a single frontal attack. We earnestly advise the members of the Moral Welfare League and others to accept this report. In line with the Trevethin Report it outlines a working compromise, which has harmonized the efforts of reformers in England. As indicated in the Shanghai report, it is still open to moral reformers, among their other activities, to conduct a vigorous educational propaganda against the evil itself, and to win the whole-hearted sympathy of the community with further measures of reform when the time is ripe; to co-operate with the Chinese in the suppression of kidnapping, the sale of little girls, and of the white slave traffic; to obtain generous financial and other assistance for all agencies engaged in rescue work; to investigate thoroughly the conditions, foreign and Chinese, which directly or indirectly, foster prostitution; to gather and publish accurate and full information on the whole subject; and to engage in all forms of work which have for their object the spiritual as well as the physical redemption of the men, women and children who are the unfortunate victims of the evil. If the Moral Welfare League can win the sympathy and practical support of the bulk of the community, there is no reason why Shanghai in time should not become, in every sense of the term, a Model Settlement.

THE RUSSIAN BONDS OF 1913 LOAN

Feb. 12.

CONSIDERABLE and, it must be added, inexcusable hardship continues to be inflicted on holders of portions of the Russian issue of the Chinese Reorganization Loan of 1913, on which the Chinese Government continues to withhold interest, even where the bondholders can prove a perfectly clear title. To go back, once again, briefly into the cause of dispute, when the war broke out, not all the bonds of the 1913 Loan had been printed, among them the Russian issue; and purchasers of this portion were given certificates in lieu. By the time the printing was done, the war made it impossible to get into touch with all holders of the Russian issue, so as to exchange bonds for certificates; and the bonds were accordingly deposited in the Russo-Asiatic Bank at Petrograd. In November, 1917, the Bolsheviks overthrew the Kerensky Government and some five weeks later they stole these bonds, with other securities, sent them abroad and sold a number of them, principally in America, before the theft could be discovered. There was thus a double set of holders of some of the Russian issue of the C.R.L. and in May, 1922, the Chinese Government announced that unless holders of the Russian issue could prove that they had held their bonds since before December, 1917, it intended to withhold payment until the number of bonds and certificates should have been compared in Paris and sure information could be obtained as to the rightful owners. At no time has the Chinese Government suggested anything like repudiation: it only withheld payment until it could be sure it was paying to rightful owners. It is to be emphasized, however, that although the theft occurred in December, 1917, the Chinese Government did nothing until May, 1922, to warn intending purchasers against the Russian issue. Even then, the notification of the withholding of interest was made privately; it was not advertised publicly until the following December.

Here, now, is one case to our knowledge of the unjustifiable hardship mentioned. Where there is one, we may be sure there will be others. The gentleman in question purchased, through a Shanghai broker, a number of bonds of the Russian issue of the 1913 Reorganization Loan, in November, 1920. There was at this time, as pointed out above, absolutely nothing to warn him not to do so. According to Article xv of the Reorganization Agreement, owners of bonds which have been lost, stolen or destroyed are obliged to publish the fact and in due course duplicates will be issued. No such notification has ever been published in respect of the amount of the loan purchased by the bondholder whose case we are considering. In May, 1922, came the intimation to him that the Chinese Government was temporarily withholding payment of dividends in the manner described. The bondholder in question immediately set about investigating the history of his bonds and was able to prove that they had been bought by the merchant (a well known resident of Harbin) from whom he obtained them at the time of the original issue in 1913; while reference to the list drawn up by the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank in London proves that the coupons had been cashed prior to December, 1917. It is, therefore, perfectly clear that, whatever bonds the Bolsheviks stole, it was not these, the history of which is clear and consecutive. Nevertheless, the Chinese delegate in Paris refuses to exchange the bonds unless the holder of them gives a guarantee that he will refund their value in the remote event of the bonds having been stolen. Although there appears no possibility of this, the bondholder, quite rightly we think, refuses to accept any such responsibility, when the action of the Chinese Government, in depriving him of the enjoyment of the bonds and coupons, without there being any flaw in his title, is clearly illegal. With curious inconsistency the agent in Paris has paid one dividend (an obvious confession) but refuses to pay arrears or to exchange the bonds for the recognized ones.

It is open to question whether the Chinese Government was ever within its legal rights in refusing to pay over the dividends, even when the theft was discovered. What it might well have done—we may say ought to have done—was to publish an early notification in all countries requesting holders of the certificates issued before their bonds were printed to send the numbers of them to Paris or London, when it would have been easy to ascertain what bonds were missing. But if there may be two points of view on this question, there can be only one as to what is the position of a bondholder who can prove his title and the record of his bonds as clearly as the gentleman whose unfortunate experience has been described. That is, that the bonds are every whit as good as those of the British or French issue. The injustice done to this bondholder, who is certainly not the only one in a like plight, is reprehensible on all counts, and does gratuitous damage to China's good name and credit abroad.

BRITISH CHAMBERS' CONFERENCE

Feb. 13.

IF members of the British Chambers approach the conference they begin to-day in some dejection, who shall be surprised? For all the work they and especially their active and untiring secretary have done—and the British business community all over China would be thankless indeed if it did not think gratefully of their efforts at least—there is but little fruit to show. And on the eve of the conference comes the bitter news that the Diplomatic Body have practically given away the Chambers' whole case in respect of the Trademark Law. The current number of the British Chamber of Commerce Journal opens with an article headed "The Passing of the Mackay Treaty." It is no unjustified title. Article VII of that Treaty says quite plainly that offices for the registration of trademarks shall be established "under control of the Imperial Maritime Customs." The Chinese Trademark Law puts these offices wholly in Chinese control, with no appeal to it except in Chinese Courts; and the Diplomatic Body according to Reuter, whose information on the subject is not likely to be inaccurate, is prepared to accept this flat violation of the Mackay Treaty, on three essential conditions, which in no way alter the Chinese control of registration, and with the "suggestion" only that "foreign expert assistance" be engaged, which the Chinese are neither obliged to accept nor to listen to, if they do the Diplomatic Body the favour of accepting it. The latter's position has certainly been affected by the fact of some German and Japanese firms having already registered. But if the foreign Ministers are able to make "essential conditions" of any kind, why not make such as would prove of essential value to the protection of property worth incalculable millions of taels? The debate of the Chambers on this point will be watched with extreme interest and if they can find any way of snatching victory out of defeat at the last moment, they may well be reconciled to many other disappointments.

On another subject also one awaits the Chambers' views with lively anticipation—namely, the famous two-and-a-half per cent. surtax. For there appears every reason to think that since a year ago those views have undergone a marked change. In the preliminary notice of subjects of discussion which we published yesterday it was stated that "although last year the Associated Chambers took up a very definite line on the subject of the surtax, conditions now are not the same as they were then, and it is essential to form a definite policy. The conditions of China are only not the same as they were last year in the sense in which a grown man is not dimensionally what he was as a boy. There has been no moral change in those conditions, merely development. For further evidence that the Chambers are preparing to tear up last year's resolution on the surtax we read in the "Journal" that on January 14 Mr. H. E. Arnhold gave a dinner at the Shanghai Club to the Committees of the Chamber and the China Association, at which he made a speech in which, among other subjects,

He dealt with the proposed 2½ per cent. surtax, with breaches of the Treaties and with extraterritoriality, expressing the view that the surtax ought not to become operative until there is a central government capable of enforcing its will in the provinces.

Without wishing to reopen old controversies, we cannot refrain from pointing out that this is practically identical with the view taken by the "North-China Daily News" last year, for upholding which we got into so much hot water with the Chamber; furthermore that when we pointed out that the Washington resolution carefully included a time clause for the surtax coming into operation ("from such date as the conference may determine") we were told emphatically that this meant nothing and that Washington did not mean what it said. Other quotations might be given from the "Journal" showing a change in the wind, particularly as to how Canton and the provinces might regard a loan secured on a surtax, which they would be paying, for the benefit of Peking. These questions were fully discussed in the "North-China Daily News" and the only possible answer to them supplied a year ago; and there is not a whit more reason for taking them into careful consideration now than there was then.

But when loans are being can-

THE GOLD FRANC QUESTION

Ministers of the Eight Powers Signatory to the 1901 Protocol Reply to Peking French View Supported in Full

Peking, Feb. 12.

The Ministrs of the eight Powers signatory to the Protocol of 1901 yesterday sent a collective reply to the Chinese Note of December 26.

The Ministers conclude from the Chinese Note that China claims the right to pay the arrears of the indemnity at the rate of what it calls the current exchange of each one of the currencies inscribed upon the national bonds belonging to each of the signatory Powers. China bases its claim on the definition it gives the words "in gold" in the letters of July 2, 1905, cited by the signatories in the Notes of February 24 and November 5, 1923, "for each Haikuan tael due to each of the Powers China must pay 'in gold' the sum indicated in Article 6 of the final protocol as the equivalent of the tael." According to China's contention, the words "in gold" have been used in this sentence to distinguish the gold standard monetary systems of the signatories from the silver standard monetary system to which belongs the Haikuan tael, the currency in which the total indemnity has been expressed.

China bases her claim in an equal measure on the manner of payment of the indemnity, which, according to China, is definitely fixed by Section 3 of the letters aforesaid, this method of payment (telegraphic transfer) appearing to China as solely devoted to the exchange of national currencies customarily used in international exchanges.

A QUESTION OZ WEIGHT

The eight Ministers ought not to conceal from China that the study of the latter's Note has not altered the opinion expressed by the Ministers in the previous Notes. The sentence taken from the letters of July 2, 1905, seems perfectly clear. It means that for each Haikuan tael due to the Powers China must pay in gold the sum indicated in Article 6 of the Protocol or the equivalent of the tael in conformity with the respective weights and legal standards of each of the eight gold currencies mentioned in Article 6. In other words, in so far as the franc is concerned, for each tael owed to Belgium, Spain, France and Italy China must pay 3.75 francs in gold or 3.75 multiplied by 0.290,322 grains of fine gold.

In support of its definition of the words "in gold" the Chinese Note does not present any argument except the assertion that it is known that the reports of the discussions between the signatories, leading up to the final [illegible] China's contentions. The eight Ministers are in a position to state that the reports of these discussions show the unanimous desire of the signatories to give the words "in gold" the sense which is set forth in the preceding paragraph. This is confirmed, moreover, by the documents pertaining to this matter. It will suffice to call to mind the principal ones. China having accepted the principle of the indemnity on October 20, 1900, the Powers concerned themselves, on the one hand, with making separate estimations of the sums to which each was entitled under this count and, on the other hand, with fixing the total sum China could pay without hampering the progress, government and development of the country. The sum was fixed on May 7, 1901, at 450,000,000 taels by a letter from the Dean to China. This was less than the total individual indemnities which were finally reduced.

WHY THE GOLD BASIS.

The Ministers explain why the signatories adopted gold as the basis of their calculations in regard to payments and the Note goes on to say that they decided and China agreed that the indemnity though expressed in Haikuan taels was an indemnity to be paid in gold and that the rate in gold should be fixed on a definite day. This decision was transmitted to China on July 30, 1901, in the following terms: 'The sum of Haikuan Tls. 450,000,000 payable in gold at the rate of exchange on April 1, 1901, with four per cent. interest, represents the grand total of the indemnity.' The rate of exchange on the date specified was inserted in Article 6 of the final Protocol. The Note then reproduces the said article, after which it explains that in it the Powers were careful to define the meaning that they intended to give, and that China had agreed to give, to the words "in gold."

The Note mentions that the Belgian, French, Spanish and Italian currencies were then almost alike but even if they differ their gold coinage is legally the same in weight and denomination, and it was to represent this weight aforementioned of fine gold to the franc that these four Powers adopted the same rate of exchange, viz., 3.75 francs to the Haikuan Tael.

CURRENCIES NOT CONSIDERED.

The signatories as well as China in using the words "the rate of the tael to the gold currency of each currency" excluded from the measures aimed at by Article 6 every evaluation of the tael in relation to the currencies of each country other than their gold currency. They have the right to refuse payment of the tael in their silver currency, their fiduciary money and their exchange currencies etc.

The measures which the interested Powers took in the final Protocol were confirmed by China in the text of her letters of July 2, 1905, as well as in the wording of the bonds delivered to each Power and in the coupons attached to these payments because payment in gold was the procedure they had adopted in order to assure distribution of the total indemnity in the proportions agreed upon by them.

The Ministers then insist that China must pay for each tael she owes gold value in conformity with the weight and legal standard of each currency. In answering China's first contention the Ministers assert that they have refuted the second, which the Chinese Note admits refers solely to the manner of execution of China's obligations. The character and the total amount of the debt owed by virtue of China's obligation cannot depend upon the means adopted for the settlement of this debt.

The Note points out that the arrangement resulting from the exchange of letters in 1905 was confirmed and carried out in Article 6, which it completed. It answers perfectly their present needs and the signatories have never thought of altering it.

ATTEMPT TO PAY IN SILVER.

The Ministers say that the Chinese Note of December shows that China in 1905 endeavoured to secure payment of arrears in silver, but was obliged to recognize her obligation to pay in gold. This furnishes a new argument in favour of the ruling in gold. China, not having the gold she had, still has to buy with the silver she possesses the gold necessary for the service of the indemnity. The method of this transaction not being settled by the Protocol occasioned subsequent discussions, but the difficulties were ended by the exchange of letters in 1905. By the terms of section three of these letters China was entitled to pay the indemnity by one of three systems either in silver according to the London price or in gold bills or by telegraphic transfers. The machinery of the last two systems differs only in the more or less rapid means of transmission with the resulting difference in the corresponding rates of exchange.

Some explanation follows regarding the methods of payment, after which the Ministers say that the Chinese Note of December confused the quotations of international exchanges by telegraphic transfer with telegraphic transfer itself, adding that telegraphic transfer in effect is applied as well to gold currency as to silver, paper and exchange currency.

THE ATTEMPT IN 1922.

When in December, 1922, China attempted to resume the service of the indemnity her representative approached the Shanghai agents of the interested Governments to purchase telegraphic transfers for francs. The disagreement which ensued was solely about the rate of the gold franc quoted by the agents. If the Government had accepted the rate offered the agents would have effected the required transfers. China cannot be ignorant, the Note declares, of the possibility of carrying on transactions in gold francs since the expenses of the League of Nations are paid in gold francs and China has accepted the gold franc as the currency of the Universal Postal Union.

The explanations which the Ministers have given above authorize them to state that they require only complete and unmodified execution of the conventions drawn up in 1901. They insist on this complete execution in order to cause to be respected the right of each one of the interested Powers to receive the proportion that they have determined among themselves, the service of which and guarantees have been placed under their common control.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING'S CABINET IN SESSION

Discussion on Trade Marks: Official Appointments: A Weekly Meeting

Peking, Feb. 9.

The first meeting of the Cabinet after the Lunar New Year holidays was held this morning. Premier Sun presided and all the Ministers were present. According to the official report of the meeting, the resignation of Gen. Chang Ying-fang, Chief of the Army and Navy Audit Department, was accepted, and it was resolved to appoint to that post Mr. Wu Kuang-ti, Mr. Yun Paohuai, former Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, was appointed special commissioner to arrange means of assisting the poor in Peking.

While the official report does not contain this news, it is understood that the Cabinet discussed the recent note from the Diplomatic Body regarding the Chinese Trademarks Law, finally deciding to refer the matter to the Ministries of Commerce, Finance and Foreign Affairs for further consideration before replying to the Note.

When the meeting concluded, the Members of the Cabinet waited on the President with a view to arranging for a weekly meeting with the President at which all outstanding matters can be discussed.—Reuter's Pacific Sevice.

THE SINO-GERMAN AGREEMENT

Quite Legitimate by Treaty

Paris, Feb. 9.

While no official confirmation has reached here of the Shanghai report of a Sino-German indemnity agreement, it is declared that this would be perfectly legitimate from the point of view of the Reparations Commission.

It is presumed that the $100,000,000, mentioned in the Shanghai telegram, is merely an instalment of the total debt of over $1,000,400,000 provided for in the Sino-German Peace Treaty.—Reuter.

***A Peking telegram to the "*Shunpao*" states that the German Minister has issued a repudiation of the report of the Sino-German pact which appeared in the "North-China Daily News" last week. As expected!

CHINESE EASTERN RLWY.

Peking Feb. 10.

Dr. C. C. Wang, Tupan of the Chinese Eastern Railway, has arrived in Peking from Harbin. It is understood that Dr. Wang's visit was made in anticipation of the opening of Sino-Russian negotiations, during which questions connected with the railway will arise.—Reuter's Local Service.

CHINESE INDUSTRY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Presidential Mandate: Dear Living and Banditry: Stockraising Posibilities of Mongolia

Peking, Feb. 10.

A mandate was issued last night dealing with encouragement of Chinese industries.

The mandate begins by pointing out that the welfare of the people depends very largely on successful industry. It goes on to say that in recent years changes have taken place in this country which have been injurious to trade, while the administration has not been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

The results have been much unemployment, while those who have been employed have found the costs of living continually increasing. Aged and disabled people in many cases have been faced with starvation, young and strong men have been driven to robbery and theft. In various parts bands of robbers are active.

In the northwestern regions large areas of land are suitable for stock raising. If suitable settlers were placed on the land there, with proper development their prosperity would be assured Many men could be employed in railway and mining development in those regions, which would absorb thousands of unemployed

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The Civil Service has been in a constant state of confusion in recent years. Foreign trained men and other technical experts have been given employment in the Civil Service with no regard for their special training. Such men should be employed in big industrial developments, while other industrial undertakings such as spinning, dyeing, tanneries and various manufactures should be established and encouraged.

With regard to the aged and infirm, proper relief measures must be devised. The mandate concludes with an order to the Ministries concerned to make arrangements with the provincial authorities for the establishment of special agricultural and pastoral regions in the northwest.—Reuter's Local Service.

THE SOVIET MISSION TO CHINA

Proposal to Proclaim Mongolia an Independent Republic: A Trade Agreement

Riga, Feb. 12.

According to reports to the press, M. Karakhan, the Soviet representative in Peking is endeavouring to obtain China's consent to the proclamation of an independent Mongolian Republic. It is stated that he has protested against alleged Chinese assistance to Anti-Bolshevik elements in Soviet territory and has issued a warning that, if the latter cross the frontier, Red troops will follow them into China.

Negotiations are reported to be in progress at Moscow for a Mongolian trade agreement.

It is stated that the explorer, M. Koslow, who left Irkutsk in August on a scientific expedition, has experienced unexpected difficulties in Mongolia and will return to Petrograd this month with the object of preparing another expedition to Mongolia next year.—Reuter.

Peking, Feb. 13.

It is reported that M. Karakhan, Russian Envoy in the Far East, perceiving that the attitude of the Chinese Government has become inclined towards the opening of the Russo-Chinese Conference, has cancelled his plan of making a tour of South China.—Eastern News Agency.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT

Peking, Feb. 11.

The Waichiaopu has appointed Mr. Chiang Hung-chieh (Second Secretary at Tokio) First Secretary of Legation. Mr. Vang Kah-lun has been appointed Chancellor of the same Legation. Mr. Fan Chi-kuang, Consul-General at Vladivostok, has been recalled and will be replaced by Mr. Shou Heng-chen as Acting Consul-General.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHENGTU BOMBARDED

Peking, Feb. 14.

Chinese reports from Ichang state that the Northern forces are bombarding Chengtu day and night. General Yuan Tsu-ming, the Kueichow commander who is fighting with the Northerners, left Luchow for Chengtu on February 12.

A foreign report from Szechuan states that the First and Sixth Szechuan Divisions were heavily defeated by the 21st Northern Division near Tungchuan, which was occupied on January 27 by the forces of Generals Tien and Yang Sen advancing from the east and from the west respectively. The message adds that General Hsiong Keh-wu was in Tung Chuan but escaped.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING'S SEARCH FOR A VICE-PRESIDENT

Peking, Feb. 11.

Mr. Wu Ching-lien's supporters in the House of Representatives have introduced a bill providing for the early election of a Vice-President. It is understood that they have already selected their candidate, but the name has not transpired.

Considerable importance is attached by official circles to this development and several names have been mentioned as those of likely nominees, including Wu Pei-fu, Tuan Chi-jui and Lu Yung-hsiang.

The Ministry of the Interior has received numerous telegrams from provincial authorities making inquiry as to the term of office of members elected to the provincial assemblies. In reply, the Ministry has telegraphed that this point is not stated in the national constitution and until a ruling has been obtained thereon the elections should be postponed, adding that such ruling when obtained will be published.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

RATHER A MIXED FAMILY

A Problem for the Waichiaopu

Peking, Feb. 7.

An interesting and complicated case is now engaging the attention of the Waichiaopu. An American lady married a Chinese named Tung, who prior to the marriage had taken out naturalization papers as a British subject. Two children were born of this marriage. Subsequently Mr. Tung died and the children remained with the Tung family.

Later on again Mrs. Tung married an American citizen named Duff, who subsequently died. Mrs. Duff has since put in a claim for a lad eleven years of age, the other child having died, but the Tung family refuse to give up the lad. The lad in question was born in Peking. His father was a British subject, and his mother, an American citizen, claims custody over him, while the Tung family who claim guardianship are Chinese.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

RAILWAY PROTECTION

Peking, Feb. 9.

The Railway Protection Bureau has appointed General Chiang Hsi-lin as an Inspector. General Chiang served in the Metropolitan Police for several years and is an expert on the training and use of police dogs.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A WELL EARNED REST

Peking, Feb. 9.

Mr. Wang Ko-ming having financially tided over the New Year wants to be relieved of the post of Minister of Finance and it is uncertain whether efforts to induce him to remain will be successful. Reuter's Pacific Service.

ever, for these. The army mourned its thousands of slain, but each single one of these was mourned individually by some desolate mother or father with a grief unspeakable. The consolation that their boy had fallen doing his duty to King and Country could only come later, but with it must have come the realization that for all time their sacrifice would be an incentive to high deeds for those succeeding them. It is because of this grief and pride that war memorials have been erected everywhere, in city and hamlet, the men from which laid down their lives. It is thus that we also in Shanghai, far removed as so many of us are from home, will to-day proudly yet sorrowfully join in the unveiling of the memorial to those who went west. For not only will it keep fresh the memory of friends of ours who fell but speak eloquently to future generations of the spirit of daring and self-sacrifice which displayed itself so prominently in the community at the hour of crisis.

THE N.-C. D. N. OPENING

Feb. 16.

THE thanks of all connected with the "North-China Daily News & Herald" are most heartily due to the friends who came in their hundreds yesterday to wish "the Old Lady of the Bund" good luck in her new home. The weather could not have been kinder; we trust the entertainment was to our guests' satisfaction; and certainly there could be no finer inaugural speech than that of Sir Ronald Macleay, full of wit and humour, of kind thoughts and sympathy, and of much sage and statesmanlike good counsel. To his Excellency our thanks must specially be given for the honour he has paid to the paper in finding time amidst his many occupations to come from Peking for the inauguration of its new building. And, perhaps, no better way can be found of expressing our appreciation than by endeavouring to act up to his advice in respect of Chinese affairs. Among the honours of the day, special mention must be made of the telegrams of congratulation received from President Tsao Kun, from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, from Marshal Chang Tso-lin. These messages both in wording and, we believe, in spirit testify that the Chinese people look upon the "North-China Daily News" as their friend and recognize that, where it seems at variance with them, its attitude is due only to sympathy with their perplexities and anger at the malignant fate which retards their progress. That this, however, is but a phase which will pass, is a certainty. A people so hardworking and intellectual as the Chinese, of so many sterling qualities and set in a country of such infinite possibilities, cannot be baulked for ever of their proper place in the comity of nations. Every transitional period in history, which now looks short enough in retrospect, must have seemed to the people who lived in it at least as long as that through which we are passing in China seems to us. But of the outcome there is no doubt: and while the "North-China Daily News," now completing one cycle of sixty years in China, hopes that it may see many more cycles, it has no fear but that long ere the second is completed, the good wishes received from its Chinese friends will have been accomplished also for them.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Rebel Smasher

In the middle of December when the latest Mexican rebellion broke out there were serious fears that it would upset the silver markets of the world by curtailing the production of the precious metal in the country. Fortunately at the head of affairs was President Obregon, a man largely experienced in rebelling and countering rebellions, and the whole business seems now in a fair way to fizzling out. Accordingly the principal features likely to disturb the world's silver market are the reported fresh discoveries in Canada. Silver, however, is not meant to be the theme of this discourse; it is President Obregon as being a man who apparently knows his job. When the rebellion broke out we traced his career subsequent to the time when he gave up the unromantic job of freight contractor and took to politics. It is interesting to note that he has twice been on the side of those rebelling against the government in power, and this latest attempt was the third in which he or his superiors were rebelled against. It shows that there is no use putting a prentice hand to the business of governing any country, and Mexico seems to have been lucky in having at its head on this occasion a man whose constant participation in what might be called the active politics of his country had fitted him to meet its customary outbreaks.

Grain Elevators

The very important proposal which we mention to-day for the installation of grain elevators in the port of Shanghai brings in its train a secondary but very vital consideration. If elevators are installed it will be for the purpose of rapid and efficient handling of grain from ship to mill, but when the position of a great many of the flour mills in Shanghai is considered it is easy to see a feature likely to defeat the object in question. For the purpose of cheap and easy transport of material a number of important mills have been built fronting the Soochow Creek, and they get all their supplies of raw material by boat and send the bulk of the finished product away by the same medium. Nowadays owing to the deplorable state of this waterway boats and lighters which have been loaded from ships in the harbour are taking days to reach their destination, and some of the mills have found themselves at times very short of supplies. In the meantime the cost of the flour they produce is bound to show an increase because demurrage has to be paid on the lighters they employ for transportation work. A point to be noted is that for a great many months now various Chinese bodies have been talking about having the Creek dredged, but they seem to be no nearer its accomplishment than the day they set to discussing it. At this rate of progress we might easily see the elevators in full swing and the greater part of their efficiency wasted because no progress can be made with the secondary matter of the Creek. It is hardly likely that such a consideration will in the least hasten the rectification of the Socchow Creek but it may influence those interested in the elevator project.

Military Funerals

A distinctly interesting piece of criticism appeared in the Chinese Press this week especially so because it got away from the kind of topic which Chinese newspapers usually enjoy. It dealt with the subject of military funerals in Shanghai, the note (appearing in the "Shanghai Journal of Commerce") questioning the right or propriety of paying military honours to deceased members of the Volunteer Corps who had never been engaged in actual warfare. It urged that such honours should only be given to those who were ex-service men, and concluded with the somewhat pertinent query that if military funerals were given to all volunteers what sort of funeral should be given to a man who had actually been on the field of battle? While admitting all the *prima facie* considerations contained in our contemporary's article, we must point out that one very important point has been omitted. The Volunteer Corps is a military body, and its status is none the less so because it is a purely voluntary organization. The criterion is the fact of its being a military body, and when the position of military men in normal times is taken into account the case for a military funeral is reinforced. It must be remembered that prior to the Great War only a negligible percentage of the men engaged in it had seen active service, and a very great number of regular soldiers, some of long service, who participated had never heard a shot fired in anger prior to 1914. This was especially the case in the German army. Take the lifetime of the average soldier, and actual fighting will generally be found to occupy the least part of it. Naturally when the world is enjoying a prolonged spell of peace there must be many soldiers who have never seen a campaign, yet in the event of their death in the service full military honours would be accorded. And this is the justification in the case of the S.V.C.

Air Services in China

Marshal Wu Pei-fu's proposal for an air service between Hankow and Ichang will probably leave the majority of foreigners in the country cold. There have been so many schemes of the kind on foot and so little actual performance that people are justified in a strong scepticism when fresh talk occurs. The Peking-Tientsin service may still be running, but what of the proposals to link up Shanghai with the Capital, to inaugurate an aerial mail service to the cities of the Upper Yangtze and to bring Hongkong into communication by the same means? Like the grandiose beliefs in a swift aerial service Home across Siberia, they have all fizzled out. In recounting such failures the last thing we should wish to do is to discourage Marshal Wu or any other enlightened official from making the attempt, but when, in connexion with commercial aviation, China and other countries are compared it is impossible to see present ground for hope. After the war highly organized nations such as Great Britain and France indulged in much talk about what would in a brief space of time be accomplished in aerial services, and the tale was taken up overseas and there was a hope that at no distant date the Empire would be so linked up that from its farthest outposts to its Capital would be but a matter of a few days. By far the greater part of this has had to be abandoned, and only a few Continental services remain. China can by no means be described as a highly organized country, and in the circumstances there need be no surprise that only insignificant progress has hitherto been made. At the same time all these facts should teach that under present conditions no great hopes can be centred upon schemes such as the one just noted.

The Lewis Gun

No doubt local volunteers gave much attention to the report published this week with regard to the British Army's adoption of the Browning automatic rifle in place of the Lewis Gun, and so that no misconception with reference to the matter may occur a further note may be useful. It was known some months ago that British experts were testing the new Browning weapon, and after the trials decided to buy it. This, however, does not mean that it will be brought into general use immediately, but on the contrary the present stock of Lewis guns will have to be exhausted before the Browning rifles take their place. Britain has no money at the present time to spend on expensive new equipment for her army, and so under the policy laid down it will be a considerable period before the actual change-over of the weapons has been completed. To-day the Shanghai Volunteer Corps is armed with the Lewis Gun and it should be the last idea in the world to get about that this weapon is in any way going to become obsolescent in the near future owing to the advent of the Browning invention. This will be seen from the position described above, and in the circumstances of the case Lewis gun training will continue to be as valuable to the members from every point of view, and not merely the local one by any means, as it was on the introduction of the arm into the Corps.

The British Chambers

We should like to be allowed to congratulate the chairman of the British Chambers' of Commerce Conference on his very fine address at the opening ceremony. The review of the past year showed that something had been achieved even in the midst of many disappointments; while the general survey of political events was most timely and judicial. But the part of the speech which will attract most attention was that in which Mr. Humphrys sketched the policy which the Chambers advocate. He rightly recalled what is often forgotten, that the Washington Conference was not convened to discuss the affairs of China but limitation of armaments and that the Far East was only brought in because, if armaments are to be limited potential causes of discord, in which the Pacific has been unfortunately rife, must be removed. The internal condition of China being, already, notorious, the opportunity was taken to endeavour to awaken the Chinese officials to a sense of their responsibility and to encourage them, by specific concessions and further promises, to bring China to her proper place in the comity of nations. But as Mr. Humphrys rightly pointed out, those promises were conditional: if the nations did certain things for China she must do certain things for them—nothing more than any civilized nation does in maintenance of treaties and protection of foreign trade, but more than she had hitherto attempted to do. And in no sense were the Washington resolutions meant to undermine extraterritoriality or supplant treaties. On both these points, however, the Chinese officials have adopted a totally erroneous view. They appear to think that they are to take all and give nothing and that in particular treaties are of no account, and it becomes necessary to remind them that if they expect foreigners to act in the spirit of Washington, in that spirit they must act themselves. The ideal, Mr. Humphrys thinks, is that China should invite expert assistance in setting her affairs straight. If she prefers to work out her own salvation in her own way, which may take many years to accomplish, foreigners will wait with what patience they can: but while waiting, they must and shall insist on observance of their treaty rights, even if force be necessary to their fulfilment, although no one wishes to resort to extremes and all are anxious to deal with China in the fullest spirit of friendliness and reason. The only fault one might find in this enunciation of policy is that China's condition calls for something more definitely constructive and is likely to call for it with increasing urgency as the years pass. There are no signs of any tendency or ability in her to solve her own troubles, rather the reverse. And inasmuch as she appears most unlikely to call in outside assistance, the alternative is that it should be offered her spontaneously in such manner as to leave no doubt of the friendliness of the offer. We fully realize the difficulties in the way of such a course and hence, no doubt, the policy that Mr. Humphrys outlines. At least there is nothing harsh or unreasonable in asking that treaties shall be respected, especially as the outcome of such respect actually redounds far more to the benefit of Chinese than of foreigners.

The Singapore Base

The question of the Singapore naval base having again come before Parliament, all the arguments adopted in the original controversy will have to be gone through anew. Perhaps owing to the advent of Labour to office in Britain, Japanese writers have recently re-opened the discussion, and in one lengthy article practically the only aspect dealt with is Britain's hypothetical enemy in the Pacific whose presence makes the base necessary. This hypothetical enemy is declared to be Japan, and thereafter argument naturally proceeds along the lines that in view of Japan's changed condition to-day as compared with when the scheme was first proposed, the base has ceased to be a necessity. That, however, is only one aspect of the case, and it must be pointed out that the base need not necessarily be directed against a hypothetical enemy but designed principally to secure the neutrality of British and Dutch possessions in that part of the world. So valuable is oil to the navies of the world to-day that in the event of a conflict between any two Pacific naval Powers it is well within the bounds of probability that there would be a rush on the part of either fleet for the Dutch East Indies because of their valuable supply of oil. With a fleet based on Singapore Britain would be in a position to warn the rival parties off and hence do important work in localizing the conflict. This is as important a consideration in the case as any. The fresh argument which is brought forward to-day against the base is that as a result of the national loss caused through the earthquake, Japan will not have the means to become a naval menace to anybody for years to come. This is, of course, an important consideration and may invest the debates in the House of Commons with a new interest.

Sir Harry Lauder

Sir Harry Lauder, whose coming visit to Shanghai has just been announced, has been described as the best known Scotsman in the world. It is probably perfectly true, for when the politicians and soldiers of other countries are considered in comparison with their actors and film or comic artists from the point of view of the knowledge of the public, the case becomes clear. For instance it will probably be found that for every one who knows anything about Earl Haig, the Earl of Balfour or Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, half a dozen can talk with comprehension on the subject of Harry Lauder. In just the same way Douglas and Mary rank as the most worldwidely known Americans. Like all great men, Sir Harry Lauder is a bit of a mystery to those who know him only by repute or having heard him in the music halls. Englishmen have claimed him as of their nationality, alleging that he comes from Newcastle. The people of Arbroath (the Aberbrothock of Scott's "Monastery") suggest an entirely different story, and they used to say that his real name was something like Tam Spinkie or Tim Swankie, and that he was a fellow townsman. They were, however, also incorrect, although their claim to him was not so far fetched as Newcastle's. "Who's Who" tells us that Sir Harry was born in Portobello, but educated at the aforesaid Arbroath by one Stumpie Bell. Hence probably the aforesaid name and tradition. Having settled that point, it only remains to be mentioned that his only son was killed during the war and that he was knighted because of the immense sums of money he raised for war charities and his work among the troops. Undoubtedly a great achievement for one who started life as a flax-spinner.

ACCORDING to the "Eastern Times" the Diplomatic Corps has instructed the local Consular Body to warn the Kiangsu-Chêkiang authorities against warfare, lest foreign lives and interests be involved. Meanwhile Peking's official representative has met Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang, Director-General for the Reorganization of Military Affairs in Chêkiang, who has signified his desire for peace. Gen. Lu has stated that he certainly will not begin fighting with any of his neighbours "as the time has come for China to put aside her internal quarrels and work for peace and reunification."

vassed, whether by the British Chambers or elsewhere matters not, we would earnestly suggest that something more is needed than an embargo on any new loan until there is a Government which can govern. It is notorious that bargains have been concluded with Peking which, even if their terms are less open to criticism than is generally rumoured, were at least of a decidedly speculative character as the rates of interest etc. clearly show. Their negotiators plainly "took a chance" and it is consistent neither with the prestige of a great Power nor the interests of its nationals generally, that its diplomatic machinery should be put in motion in their defence. Public opinion in China may not be much of a weapon against its own officials, but in the matter of foreign loans it is quickwitted and obstreperous and it does not hesitate to differentiate between what it will tolerate and what it will not. We cannot help thinking that it would pay the British Chambers handsomely to draw a similar distinction.

GERMAN POLITICS TO-DAY

Feb. 14.

Apart from Reparations, but otherwise from the broad political aspect, three outstanding features to-day present themselves in German politics and are likely to provide a clue to the future of the country for those who are interested in it commercially or otherwise. Two of the aspects are political—one external (the Separatist movement), the other internal (the tendency of recent elections), while the third is perhaps the most far-reaching of all, financial. With the dubious point as to whether they are correlated there is no occasion for onlookers so far removed from the scene of actual events [illegible] themselves, and we may go to the essentials of the different aspects without further ado. The first consideration with which we shall deal is the Separatist movement, which a telegram this week indicated as being in its death-throes. Even those who sympathize most with the position of France *vis-à-vis* of her larger neighbour must have had grave doubts concerning the wisdom of support being given to the buffer state idea, such as the Separatist Rhineland movement connoted. It was made attractive to Germans through the idea that by becoming separate entities they would somehow escape the payment of Reparations, but had such been the intention of the politics of the case, it is readily perceived that the whole German Reich would speedily have split into its original component parts. The danger of such a conjuncture to the peace of Europe is readily comprehended from a remark made by the German ex-Chancellor, von Bethmann-Hollweg, who complained that the Treaty of Versailles had Balkanized Europe. If a great Separatist movement were further to Balkanize the German Reich it would surely be a more serious matter. This is not a view based on any sentimental sympathy for Germany but a knowledge of how small states through their squabbles with equally small neighbours have the knack of dragging big Powers into their quarrels and thus promoting worldwide conflagrations. From this point of view, if none other, the end of the Separatist movement is to be welcomed.

The Thuringian elections constitute the second feature in the German political situation which calls for attention. Socialists there have suffered a defeat, and [illegible] evidence of a general movement to the Right on the part of the electorate. Lübeck has followed suit, and [illegible] than in the Reichstag elections in June the whole country is expected to move in a similar conservative direction. The importance of this becomes apparent when we consider the political history of the country since the war. After the exit of the Kaiser and the disappearance of the leading men of the militarist group following the armistice, the Socialist element in Germany became powerful, and it hoped to increase its influence by bringing the Communist party to its aid. The latter were practically hand in glove with the Reds of Moscow, but it seemed to the Socialists that even so they might provide an accession of strength. This proved to be the case for a time, but the German Communists have shown themselves altogether too strong meat for the bulk of the inhabitants. For one thing the criminal element seems to have been somewhat exalted in their ranks, this, incidentally, being said to be equally a feature of the Separatists. The alliance is now proving fatal to the cause of the moderate Socialists, and first in the case of the state legislature of Thuringia and next of Lübeck the elections show that Socialism is growing in disfavour. The pendulum, however, does not seem to be swinging violently, and there is no suggestion that in the coming elections the country means to go farther than the putting of a bourgeois government into power. If it does so, and the rentenmark, to which we shall refer immediately, continues to be a success, there ought to be a considerable measure of stability in the country.

Mention of the rentenmark brings us to the third principal issue in the political life of Germany to-day, namely finance. The rentenmark has proved the first currency in Germany to face the financial *débâcle* successfully, and it has had, according to the latest reports from Europe, an extraordinary effect upon the general life of the populace. The intention in issuing it was to make it a note currency based on securities within the country, and beyond the limit of issue laid down no additional notes could be printed. It was received with confidence by the people, and it is believed that that confidence still remains. By the time that the paper mark had gone absolutely to perdition, when nothing could be bought for less than millions, people in Germany with goods to sell had to a great extent ceased doing business, for they realized that it was folly to sell an article for a million one day when next day a million would not pay the price of a penny postage stamp. So goods for sale in the shops disappeared, and the country seemed bare of supplies. The appearance of the rentenmark with its strict limitations and guarantees altered this immediately, and even Germans were surprised to find how great were the supplies of necessaries in the country. The result has been seen in a resumption of ordinary trading and a return, in some measure at least, to a normal life. A continuance of this state of affairs depends upon the scrupulous integrity with which the rentenmark is used by the Government, but up to the present no complaint has been heard on that score. It is further believed that the introduction of a gold standard again, through the medium of an international loan, depends largely upon the continued favour in which the rentenmark is held, and this must be a large inducement to Berlin not to tamper with it. In the circumstances of the case it seems not unlikely that we now see the beginnings of a stable currency which may bring Germany once more into the position of a country able to carry on international trade which economists regard as an essential for the recovery of Europe.

THE PILFERAGE OF CARGO

Feb. 15.

While the up-country merchant bewails the depredations of bandits, his *confrère* in Shanghai has really hardly less cause of complaint in the monstrous depredations of pilferers in harbour. The magnitude of this evil enforces the hope that the timely resolution moved by Mr. E. F. Mackay at the British Chambers of Commerce yesterday may be productive of reform. The word pilferage, suggesting as it does a little boy sneaking an apple off an old woman's stall, conveys no idea of the extent to which cargo is stolen in Shanghai. Not long ago a case was recorded in which laodahs, in conspiracy with brokers and loafers, disappeared with a cargo boat containing paper, yarn and cloth to a value of over Tls. 6,000, and nothing more was ever heard of either boat or cargo. Scarcely a week passes but a charge of theft in the harbour is heard in the Mixed Court and such cases probably do not represent a tithe of the losses that occur. As Mr. Mackay pointed out, Shanghai, now one of the chief ports of the world and through which many millions of tons of shipping annually pass, is acquiring an evil reputation for pilferage in the trade centres of every continent.

Every employer of oriental labour is aware of the difficulty of checking theft; but the root of all trouble in the case of Shanghai's harbour is the utter inadequacy of the river police force. They do their best, no merchant would withhold his tribute to them on this score. But what can some thirty-three men do, however zealous, in a harbour fifteen miles long on the two banks together, with innumerable jetties and landing places unprotected by any Customs barrier and with long stretches of open foreshore, while in addition there is the Soochow Creek with its thousands of boats and mazes of adjoining rookeries in which a thief may disappear like the rabbit in a conjuror's hat? Recently the Commissioner of Customs received word from Peking of an additional grant of Tls. 25,000 with provision for an extra hulk and two more steamlaunches; and it is proposed to bring the River Police up to a force of seventeen foreigners and twenty-eight Chinese. But this is far inferior to the figure at which the shipping companies put the minimum force requisite, in a letter addressed to the General Chamber of Commerce two years ago. They asked for forty-eight foreign and the same number of Chinese constables, twelve sergeants, three inspectors and one superintendent, with at least eight launches and four motor-boats. When one considers the extent of waters to be guarded, this does not seem at all excessive. Even when robbers can be caught, the question of jurisdiction affords many loopholes. For apart from the Mixed Courts of foreign and international settlements, there are numbers of courts under Chinese control and it is frequently a matter of the greatest difficulty to find out in which of them all a prisoner is to be prosecuted. Further, there is the difficulty of collecting the necessary evidence. There may be no moral doubt of a prisoner's guilt: in the circumstances of such cases, when a capture is made, we may be fairly sure that there is no mistake as to his being the right man. But the actual proof demanded by a court of law is unavailable.

The question of the Soochow Creek, of which Mr. A. W. Burkill spoke in seconding Mr. Mackay's resolution, presents additional problems, with which our readers are familiar. Until the creek is properly dredged, which the Chinese responsible for it will neither do themselves nor permit others to do, the congestion of traffic cannot be removed; but there is no doubt that a more adequate staff of police could do much to facilitate the movement of boats, as, on land, the management of our narrow and traffic-laden Nanking Road amply proves. Traffic difficulties are by no means confined, however, to the Soochow Creek. No captain navigating the Huangpu but will testify to the danger presented by the erratic small craft plying thereon, which ever increases in volume. To sum up, it is not suggested that the Customs should relieve merchants and wharfowners of what they should do for themselves in the matter of watchmen ashore and on shipboard. But this still leaves an enormous area unprotected, apart altogether from harbour waters, for which the Customs has sole responsibility; and it is obviously absurd to attempt this great charge with the same force that was used when harbour and tonnage alike were but a fraction of what they are now. Considering the amount of revenue annually collected in Shanghai, we cannot but think that the Customs authorities in Peking could afford to be more liberal. The resolution passed at yesterday's meeting deals with a matter in which redress is possible, in contrast with the many which nothing but disappointment awaits. Let us hope that that quite obtainable success will ensue.

Gen. Feng Yu-hsiang, the Christian soldier, has personally urged President Tsao Kun to appoint Gen. Chang Shao-tseng, premier in the last Li Yung-hung Cabinet, High Military Inspecting Commissioner of Kansu, Shensi and Sinkiang.

Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan, Governor-General of Kiangsu, Kiangsi and Anhui, has telegraphed to Peking requesting the Government to approach the Diplomatic Corps with a view to expelling from foreign settlements or arresting any or all persons opposed to the Central Government, but the Government has replied stating that they fear the Diplomatic Corps will refuse to take action unless they receive explicit details of the "offenders."

THOSE WHO WENT WEST

Feb. 16

Although nine years have elapsed since the event, the writer recalls with complete vividness the solemn hush which passed through his battalion when its first casualty occurred in France. The battalion had been only a day or two in the country and had been pushed up to the front to be broken in so that it might take part in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle. By platoons the men were being inaugurated into trench life under the tutelage of a hard-fighting regular battalion, and the leading contingent had hardly been more than a few hours in the trenches when the first casualty occurred, a young, handsome and particularly gay fellow being killed by a sniper. To those who had never been face to face with warfare before, the thing was preposterous, outrageous, in fact almost incredible—a man after months of training to die before there was time for him to strike a blow for his country. In a sector, too, which was at the moment quiet, although everybody knew that in a few days it would blaze forth into battle, and then, of course, everybody would expect casualties, but, in their ignorance of modern conditions, imagined it would be in a glorious mad charge against the enemy.

It was in its way a rude introduction to war as waged in this century, although by no means so drastic as many others went through. Perhaps the fact that it was one solitary tragedy created all the more profound an impression, hence the dread solemnity of the occasion. In comparison with the working of the war machine which had been set in motion through the events of 1914 the casualty was insignificant, and by the time that the lists of killed and wounded reached stupendous figures, when whole companies and even battalions disappeared in the carnage of the Somme and Ypres, those who were present at that first incident were hardened campaigners and took a different view of casualties. From the nature of the case these losses represented to the battalion or company commander a grievous decrease in his fighting power and spells of hard training to bring the drafts taking their place up to concert pitch. In this there was no suggestion that men were merely cannon fodder, but the case was that the war had to be won, that everything had to be sacrificed to winning it, otherwise the liberty of nations which prized freedom above all else was to disappear.

Though, as all know too well to-day, war is the hardest of taskmasters, making slaves to duty of those engulfed in it, yet it has a strange humanizing influence. Men made the most intimate and splendid friendships with people they never would have met in their ordinary civilian life, and when these disappeared in the maelstrom there was deep sorrow. The leaders of the armies knew that every operation they initiated would result in death and bloodshed, but they had their duty to do, though when the strain and stress of battle were over there must have been many scenes similar to when Wellington shed tears on being presented with the casualty list of Waterloo. They likewise had to mourn their friends who went West in these titanic encounters. The supreme tragedy was not how

DR. THOMPSON AND MONGOL BANDITS

Story of His Capture and Release: Captive's Ingenious Pretence of Hunger Strike

Peking, Feb. 6.

Dr. Thompson, who was recently captured by bandits in the Paotowchen district, arrived in Peking yesterday morning looking very well considering his recent experience.

After the death of General Pereira, Dr. Thompson continued the journey which the General had intended to make, and eventually reached Lanchowfu. From there he struck down the Yellow River in the direction of Paotowchen, where he intended to take the train to Peking. He was travelling in a cart drawn by two mules, and accompanied by a boy. The journey was uneventful until he came within 60 li of Paotow, when 200 mounted bandits suddenly appeared as he was approaching the top of rising ground. The bandits wanted Dr. Thompson to mount a pony and abandon the cart, but this he emphatically refused to do. After some argument the bandits gave way, but harnessed another mule to the cart, so that greater speed could be made. About this time Dr. Thompson managed to get a message sent to the Chinese authorities giving brief notice of his capture, saying that his cart could be seen from a considerable distance as it has a white top, and urging that the bandits should be pressed at once.

A WILD JOURNEY.

The arrest occurred on January 24 and for the next eight days the bandits careered over the country as fast as the cart could be driven up and down dale. They intercepted and looted several camel caravans, but committed no murders. From houses they took only what they required.

Occasionally they indulged in horse-play intended to create a suitable atmosphere. One of their favourite practices was to gather around Dr. Thompson in the night and fire their rifles. After each exhibition of this nature they came to see whether he had been frightened and seemed surprised that he had not been terrified.

They informed Dr. Thompson that they intended to hold him until they obtained a satisfactory assurance that they would be taken into the regular forces.

A HUNGER STRIKE.

Getting tired of the ceaseless travelling, Dr. Thompson decided to bring matters to a climax by going on a hunger strike by refusing to eat Chinese food. After a few days the bandits began to be alarmed, and he urged them to carry out their negotiations for his release quickly, as he thought he could not last another two days, pointing out that his dead body would be of no use to their purpose. Then they took him to a small village, where a Belgian priest was stationed. Discussions were ineffectually carried on between the priest and the bandits until the former had to go to another village to discuss terms for the release of Father van Praet. During the conversations at the village the bandits mentioned 1,000 rifles, four machine-guns and a large quantity of ammunition as well as a large ransom in money as essentials for the release of Dr. Thompson, but they did not seem unanimous regarding either the general terms, the amount of ransom or the conditions of their enrolment.

RELEASED.

After the departure of the priest, and it may have been through his action, it was announced by the bandits that Dr. Thompson's release had been arranged. He was then hastily marched off without overcoat or gloves, in bitter cold weather and taken to a farmhouse where ponies were waiting. From there a day's ride brought them to a point where 500 Chinese soldiers were waiting. One of the bandits gave Dr. Thompson a coat on the journey, but he still suffered very severely until they reached the soldiers. Here the hardships ended.

Dr. Thompson does not know the details of his release. All his belongings and much of General Pereira's effects were kept by the gang. Most of General Pereira's photographs and some of his papers were retained by Dr. Thompson. The bandits did not treat him badly on the whole.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING'S PLAN FOR OPIUM SUPPRESSION

Peking, Feb. 7.

As the result of a meeting of representatives of the Ministries of War, Foreign Affairs and the Interior, held at the Neiwupu on February 2, a circular telegram has been sent to the provinces giving details of a plan arrived at for the suppression of opium. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

MOTORING IN NORTH KIANGSU

Reckless Driving Between Yangchow and Chinkiang

From Our Own Correspondent.

Yangchow, Jan. 30.

Accidents continue to occur on the motor road between Yangchow and Chinkiang, due chiefly to reckless driving. The day before yesterday the driver zigzagged over a rough bit of road and the car rolled down the embankment, striking one of the occupants. No one was seriously hurt. Two weeks ago a private car with four passengers, turned over while going through sandy ground, one man receiving a cut on the forehead, and another a compound fracture of the collar bone, both requiring hospital care. The driver was kept in gaol a number of days by the magistrate, pending investigation of the matter. There was talk of filing suit against the motor company, and a heavy fine imposed upon those in charge would perhaps be one of the best means of inducing the chaffeurs to be more careful.

The motor service is well patronized and during good weather has many advantages over the launch service, the launches running but twice a day and requiring four to six hours for the trip during this season of low water in the Grand Canal. People with much baggage invariably ride on the launch as only one article can be taken with the ticket on the car. The trip by boat has this advantage, that no transfer is required between here and Chinkiang, whereas transfer to a small launch is necessary on the car service to cross the Yangtze to Chinkiang.

A hitch in this service made it very inconvenient a week ago for about 50 people took the road. The cars arrived at the north shore of the Yangtze at 2 p.m. A strong east wind was blowing, the river was rough and snow began to fall. Passengers waited but no launch appeared. It was learned by telephone that the single boat operated as a ferry by the auto company had suffered an accident to the rudder. Another launch was to be rented and sent across by 4.30. Many country people were gathered at the landing hoping to buy "short" tickets to Chinkiang but were sent away early as these tickets were not being sold. Passengers became impatient and the station agent was kept busy, between arguing with them and telephoning Yangchow to hurry up the launch at Chinkiang. A few sail boats were making good time up the Yangtze, but no launch appeared and at 5 o'clock the people were taken back to Yangchow through a blizzard and had their ticket money refunded at this end of the line.

Mr. C. D. Tyler, an engineer from Shanghai, has been called to Yangchow by the auto company. He is getting the seven passenger trucks and five private cars in a better state of repair, and buying new equipment. Two Republic trucks have been ordered which will greatly hasten the work of putting a hard surface on the motor road.

AN ARCHAEOLOGIST'S PARADISE

Wonderful Find of Ancient Pottery in Loess Cliffs

From Our Own Correspondent

Titao, Kan., Jan. 20

The entire district has been very much worked up over the discovery of pottery that the natives classify as belonging to the period of the Shang dynasty. A collector for Dr. Andersson, Advisor to the Chinese Government, has been here acting as advance agent for the Doctor and has unearthed quite a bit of pottery as well as stone and bone implements.

The spot where most of the stuff has been found is about 2½ miles southwest of the city among loess cliffs forming the rim of the Tao river valley. Along the edges of these cliffs are pockets marked by black ash and a few minutes' work with even a screw driver is enough to unearth an interesting assortment of stone knives, bone saws, and needles, and fragments of ancient pottery, most of it ribbed in a curious way as though formed on moulds of hempstrings.

There in no trace of metal in any of the pockets and whereas some of the findings seem to indicate burial spots where the dead were laid with a full assortment of the where-with-all to start life in the new world, other spots seem to be the sites of ancient dwellings.

DISTINCTIVE DECORATIVE ART.

We have not been able to unearth any pottery with any painting on it but inquiry in the villages of this area has brought to light a number of large pots that have been unearthed in the past with curious patterns in faded vermilion and rusty black. To those familiar with the favorite motifs of Chinese art these are at once distinctive in their strangeness. Mystics symbols of sun and wind and other esoteric patterns quite unintelligible to the amateur remind one of the ancient art of Babylon and the near east and prompts the eager question "Was there any ancient and close communication between this part of China and those dead and gone civilizations by some trade route through the Tsaidam—some trade route long since forgotten?

Surely China with its immense store from the past secreted in that incomparable preservative loess is the choice hunting ground for the archaeologist?

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN ASSOCN. OF PEKING

Peking, Feb. 6.

The Committee of the Anglo-American Association met at the residence of Sir Francis Aglen on January 22 and elected a Chairman and Secretary for the year 1924, Sir Francis Aglen being appointed Chairman and Major Hayes Kroner Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. The Committee and office bearers are, therefore, as follows:—

British:—Sir Francis Aglen, Chairman, Mr. H. H. Fox, Mr. G. W. Frodsham, Mr. D. A. Johnston, Mr. S. F. Mayers, Mr. G. C. Pearson.

American:—Major Hayes Kroner, Hon, Sec. & Treas. Dr. R. Coltman, Mr. Julean Arnold, Mr. R. E. McFalls, Dr. T. W. Sloan, Dr. N. S. Hopkins.

The Committee has selected Friday, February 29, as the first regular tiffin day and some prominent local guests will be entertained. Announcement will follow in due time, and early effort will be made to secure a large and enthusiastic attendance.

The Hon. Secretary has been instructed to start a canvass for new members, and offers the privilege of the Association to all British and American residents of Peking. The Secretary's address is: Major Hayes A. Kroner, 3 Kung Yuan Hai Chia Tso, Tsung Fu Hutung, Peking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE ELECTIONS IN JAPAN

Tokio, Feb. 8.

The general elections will take place on May 10.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

HONGKONG GOVERNMENT LAND PURCHASE

Hongkong, Feb. 4.

Sir John Oakley's award with regard to the military lands has been published. The Colonial Government has agreed to take over the lands within 10 years at Sir John's valuation which involves payment to the Army Council of $16,983,512.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TIENTSIN SENSATION

Prince, Count and American as Kidnappers: Plot to Ransom Wealthy Foreigners

The dramatic arrest in Tientsin last week of a Russian Prince, a Count, an American citizen and others alleged to be members of a gang of kidnappers, was the means of foiling a daring plot to capture wealthy foreigners in the port.

According to the "Peking and Tientsin Times" the men were arrested while lying in wait for a victim on February. Five of the men are Russians, and one, said to be leader, an American named Wagner.

"It was at 5 o'clock that one of the Russians was first seen hanging about Woodrow Wilson Street, and at intervals others came to join him. Shortly before 10 o'clock a large automobile drove up. The car was drawn up to the side of the road, and the occupants joined the Russians lounging on the footpath.

Leaving nothing to chance, the police closed in, and without any resistance being made, arrested all the men, including the Chinese chauffeur. One of the men, it is stated, had a revolver in his pocket, and in the car was a black-jack. The prisoners were immediately taken to the Special Area Police Station, and one of them volunteered the statement that they were waiting for a German who had promised to give them a supply of opium and morphia.

"We have little doubt that the men were concerned in a carefully laid plan to kidnap wealthy Russians," said Mr. Ting, secretary to the Chief of Police. "The information concerning the gang was first brought by some of our detectives, and it was through them that we learned of the meeting in Woodrow Wilson Street, and were thus able to arrest them."

Other inquiries in official sources led to further interesting details to Mr. Ting's statement. "It is believed that the gang has been engaged in minor criminal operations, if not in serious offences, for some months past, and that the scheme for kidnapping was perfected weeks ago" said one of our informants. "The two special victims marked down by the gang were Mr. Kakoostin and Mr. Agareff, two Russian gentlemen of means. The latter is the owner of a pharmacy close to the Kreier Hotel. Various attempts to kidnap Mr. Kakoostin were abandoned at the last moment, and the gang then turned its immediate attention to Mr. Agareff."

"It is thought that the men were waiting in Woodrow Wilson Street on the chance of Mr. Agareff walking past, and when he failed to appear they decided to go to his house and 'persuade' him to enter the car. It was at this juncture that the police made their dramatic appearance."

The car was hired from a Russian Garage in the French Concession, and the chauffeur is alleged to be implicated. He made a statement to the police in the course of which he is alleged to have admitted that Mr. Kakoostin was to be forced to pay a ransom of $100,000, and Mr. Agareff $60,000.

The discovery of a rope in the car has instituted fresh police inquiries into a murder committed in Taku Road some months ago. The rope, it is stated, is similar to one used to strangle a Chinese pawnbroker, and the theory is advanced that the gang just arrested may have had a hand in this crime also.

The Russian Police refused to divulge the names of the men under arrest, but inquiries in another quarter elicited the fact that one of the men is a Russian Prince, and another a Count.

The American, Wagner, is still at the Special Area Station, but he will be examined by the American Consul General in a day or two. It is expected that further sensational disclosures will be made as a result of the inquiries still being pursued.

ANXIOUS DAYS IN JAPAN

Panic Caused by Italian Scientist's Recent Predictions: Market Affected

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Jan. 31.

We are just breathing sincere sighs of relief now that January 29 and January 30 have passed without any further discords of Nature smiting us.

Raphael Bendanti, the Italian sculptor-scientist, who claims to have invented instruments whereby he is able to foretell earthquakes several days before they occur and who has declared that "before long it will be possible for me to register forthcoming earthquakes just as the sailing and arrival of vessels can be announced," predicted violent seismic upheavals some time these two days along the east coast of Asia. Of course, this is an immensely large area, and might apply to unknown regions of Siberia, to the Philippines or to China. We have, however, been in the grip of earthquakes since the cataclysm of September last, and a fearsome anxiety prevailed in everyone's breast that the blow would fall on Japan—and in the part of Japan that had already been smitten.

Something akin to a panic, which was clearly visible in the stock markets, prevailed. Calamity prophets were active, ancient superstitions were resurrected and horror howlers gained many adherents as a result of the nervous mental condition of the people.

To add to the worries of the people, Professor T. Nakamura, a professor in the Tokio Imperial University—an acknowledged expert on seismology—declared, through the Press, that "five or six earthquakes of about the same severity as experienced on the morning of January 15, will take place in Japan this year." The scientist based his predictions on observations made in the vicinity of Mount Tanazawa, in the Hakone hills some 40 miles from Tokio, where the quake of January 15 is believed to have originated. The seismologist says that the group of small lakes in the Hakone region—the Riviera or Japan—have been changing in size and that the water level is much lower than a few months ago, and accounts for this phenomenon by saying that the water in the lakes is seeping below the surface to underground volcanic regions. This water, he says, will be converted to steam and will eventually cause subterranean disturbances. Dr. Nakamura states that a marked shrinkage in the water level of Lake Sanshu, at the base of Mount Fuji, was observed shortly before the terrible calamity of last September and that there is clear connexion between these water phenomena and terrestrial upheavals.

WORKERS RUN FACTORIES.

An increasing number of workers, especially skilled artisans, are entering into the manufacturing industry on their own account. This is no new occurrence, but has become more noticeable since the earthquake disaster which, in a way, opened opportunities for working-class people to co-operate in maintaining, running and managing factories themselves. Many factories, the proprietors of which were too heavily saddled with losses as a result of last year's catastrophe to resuscitate them, have been taken over by former employees and are being run by them.

A certain amount of the working capital is subscribed by the enterprising workers themselves. This amount is supplemented by loans from trade guilds or by Government grants. The procedure is not confined to the earthquake-affected zone; printing establishments in Osaka have been run on these lines and have proved successful Due to insufficiency of capital, however, the enterprises run by the labourers are necessarily on a small scale.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

MUKDEN'S AIR FORCE

Recent Additions Include New Type of Plane Built Locally by Russian Inventor

From Our Own Correspondent.

Mukden, Jan. 29.

The Mukden Air Force has acquired four aeroplanes built by a Russian inventor named Dill, the special feature of which are movable wings enabling the machine to ascend immediately on being started.

The inventor has been in Mukden for some time constructing the planes. The first, however, was put together in Harbin, and not without many difficulties, owing to the impossibility of getting special parts properly made. It was some time before a buyer could be found when the machine was completed. Eventually it was seen by exports from Mukden, who reported favourably and purchased it. At the same time Dill got an order from Mukden for three more of his planes, which he built here.

Having completed his labours for the Mukden authorities, he is going to America, to which country he sent a representative there some time ago to obtain patent rights and if possible to interest some American concern.

In addition to the Dill planes the Mukden Air Service possesses two of the Handley-Page type, for each of which there is an English instructor here. Other aeroplanes in the force are of French make, in charge of Russian airmen.

Twenty artillery instructors here are Russian, but it is probable that their services will be dispensed with shortly, the Chinese being dissatisfied with them.

BANK OFFICIAL'S VISIT TO MUKDEN.

The newly appointed manager of the Russo-Asiatic Bank, with headquarters in Peking, was here the other day to visit Chang Tso-lin, with the object, it is said, of improving relations between the bank and the Mukden overlord. The bank is not looked upon very favourably by Chinese officials in these parts, owing to its stand regarding the Chinese Eastern Railway.

APPALLING TYRANNY IN FUKIEN

People Forced to Grow Opium: Tortured, Fleeced, Massacred if Resisting

From a Correspondent.

Hinghua, Fukien, Jan. 28.

Political conditions here are simply awful. The way these military dictators are fleecing the people is leading straight to moral and commercial ruin. First forcing the farmers to plant opium (men of 70 or 80) at the point of the bayonet. Stringing up the villages elders by the wrists to a beam, while the people paid an extra $2 per mow, everything to be paid within three days; $1 a family for a load of salt; $1 per man for road-building and your fields confiscated at the same time, a military levy on so-called well-to-do to tide the soldiers over the New Year varying from $100 to $2000. All this without any particular notice or sanction and nothing whatever for it, not even protection from bandits.

Now they have started an office to collect $0 cents per ounce on opium in transit within the radius of about two counties, to keep per ounce for a free government military pass through about six counties. Meanwhile the lessees of this tax have a few troops who make periodical swoops on quite innocent people (wherever there is the least chance of loot or a squeeze) to search for opium, arms or ammunition. Quite a number of people have committed suicide.

People are selling their children to pay these demands. Two or three different centres in Hueian —Putien and Sienyu counties have been [illegible] Hueian nearly a hundred regular troops were killed, only to be followed by the massacre of hundreds of men women and children among the villagers. In Sienyu the same thing on a smaller scale. Impossible demands, soldiers attacked and heads bashed in to be followed by far worse for the people.

In Putien, the most important country of them all, the people are at present too cowed or too wise to rebel but only the opportunity is lacking, for never in the memory of the oldest inhabitants have the feelings against officials been so hostile or so bitter. The latter frankly say—"We are ordered to get money nothing else matters not even life." Any foreigner here would corroborate every statement.

TUFEI ARMING FAST

North Kiangsu's Plight: 1,000 Bandits Ready to March on Suchien

From Our Own Correspondent.

Suchien, N. Ku., Feb. 5.

The *tufei* are still gathering in the north country, as many as a thousand strong it is said.

The camp soldiers are on the alert. Last week they captured a spy, who now lies in the Yamen. He was caught in his home just behind the big street, with a quick-firing revolver, but it is feared some of his companions have escaped. The neighbours' curiosity was aroused by his shopping every day and buying large quantities of pork!

In a former letter I mentioned a baby boy that was stolen from his bed when asleep. His father has since died. An official led out a party of 20 soldiers on the track of the kidnappers and came very near being surrounded by a band of robbers 200 strong. They were in a tiny hamlet, which was saved by the neighbours begging the bandits to leave and save their homes from fighting.

The night before last, at about 10 o'clock, the stillness was broken by the sound of fighting in the distance. One could distinctly hear the two sides firing.

To-day the soldiers brought in the corpse of a bandit woman who held out till the last of her ammunition was used up, and was finally captured with very little of her head left hiding in a ditch. She must either have been a leader or a helper of the bandits, for report has it, she had four guns with her, with which she had defended herself to the very last. Two other bandit leaders were brought in alive last week.

500 HUNGER-MARCHERS.

To-day a band of 500 beggars passed through with papers from the Shantung official to help them on their way. They say the drought has driven them from their homes. They were collecting at the different houses. As someone remarked, it was a small matter to help them with a little money in the towns, but not such a small thing for the villages that would have to provide a meal for them by the way.

The streets in spite of the high prices of everything, have been hardly passable for the last three days with buyers, getting ready for New Year. As someone remarked there is plenty of copper cash just now on the street to attract the *tufei*. The dollar has been changing for 1,980 cash, and all commodities rise in price accordingly.

To-day we are having a welcome rain, for which the farmers are very grateful. The ground is very dry and the wheat is suffering.

Dredging has begun on the Canal, the water having been diverted by a barrier into another channel.

TSINGTAO POLICE PAID

Solatium to Civil Servants Too: Sighs of Relief in all Quarters

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Feb. 7.

The advent of the Lunar New Year has been celebrated here very quietly, in keeping with the delicate period which Tsingtao is going through.

Permission to fire crackers was only given to reputable hongs. Though at these places the celebrations were on nothing like the scale to which Chinese in other treaty ports are accustomed.

The happiest feature in so far as the community is concerned was the ability of Mr. Cheng Wei-djeng, the local Chief of Police, to raise the funds necessary for the payment of a portion of the wages due to his men and thus tide over the most critical time of the year. The money was raised at Tsinan. And in this connexion, the community in general is expressing its surprise over the ability of Chinese officials to raise funds at this time, despite the low state of the country's finances.

It is common talk that a few days before the end of the old lunar year, there was a conference of all the department chiefs of the Administration, at which Mr. Tsou Wen-wei, the Director of General Affairs, presided, for the purpose of finding ways and means to raise the money necessary for the settlement of the unpaid wages of the Administration's officials and others. Mr. Tsou, a native of Kiangsu, who is the right hand man of Civil Governor Hsiung Ping-chi and has more say than Mr. Kun Chi-ping, the Vice-Governor, suggested to each department chief that he should find some means for raising funds independently of the other departments. Mr. Tsou's idea was to pool the grand total for the settlement of the unpaid wages. There was a vigorous dissentient to this proposal who caustically remarked that, inasmuch as he had had no part in the process of making millions disappear from the revenue of public utilities, he was likewise not going to take any part in the raising of funds through questionable means. There was quite a heated argument between Mr. Tsou and the dissentient, the former using the sarcasm of officials of the old school and the latter the vigorous language acquired through an American university training.

RAILWAY OFFICIAL'S RESIGNATION.

It is now reported that Mr. Liu, the Managing-Director of the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway, has tendered his resignation. It is not stated who will be his successor. Mr. Liu has encountered quite a crop of difficulties of late and is generally reputed to have lost the confidence of the people of Shantung, especially on account of his handling of the enforced negotiations with Wu Pei-fu over the question of the maintenance of the squadron which the latter took over from the South. The intention of Wu Pei-fu, according to reports, is to appoint Mr. Lee, a department chief in the Ministry of War, and one-time teacher of the Loyang War Lord. But inasmuch as Mr. Lee's knowledge of the railroad business is nil, it may be safely predicted that his appointment, if it does take place, will invite vigorous agitation for its cancellation.

The logical successor seems to be Mr. Tsao Teh-san, a Shantung man, and the first Managing-Director of the Kiao-Tsi Railway since its retrocession to China. It is however rather doubtful whether he will accept the position in view of his recent promotion to the post of General-Director of the Lung-Hai Railway.

MILL HANDS REPULSE BANDITS.

Major Wong Ken of the Railway Police Administration is on a visit here. He is discussing with the Railway Administration various matters in regard to the efficient policing of the Kiao-Tsi line. There are reports current that the bandits are again infesting the former leasel territory and it is probable that Major Wong is anxious to reorganize the so-called Emergency Corps created as a result of the Lincheng outrage.

The fact that the bandits in the former leased territory are getting bolder can be gauged from a very recent incident. The other night a band of some 30 or 40 of them attempted to take possession of a Japanese mill on the Kiao-Tsi line, for the purpose of looting it. Fortunately for the mill, its workers had organized amongst themselves a volunteer anti-bandit company. Upon arrival, the bandits were greeted with a warm fusilade and, finding that discretion was the better part of banditry, they forthwith made themselves scarce. In Tsingtao itself, however, it may be safely said that there are no bandits, although the number of petty-thieves and more or less daring robbers is on the increase.

IMPROVED OUTLOOK IN HUNAN

Trade Recovery Under Tan Yen-kai's Rule, but Recruiting Begins Anew

From Our Own Correspondent.

Siangtan, Hun., Jan. 31.

The China New Year closes on improved trade, which picked up wonderfully on Gen. Tan Yen-kai's assumption of control over the city and the country on this side of the river right through the province. Before then all communications with the outside world were broken and business was for weeks at a standstill.

Many firms, however, say that they will have great difficulty in closing the year without a deficit, largely on account of the heavy demands by the soldiery for money. The Chamber of Commerce, for instance, has had great difficulty in meeting Gen. Tan's exactions and now there have been fresh demands from Changsha.

Rumours of a change in governors in Hunan are rife, but no one really understands the situation. Gen. Ma Chi has been in and out of Changsha for several weeks, while Northern soldiers are entering the city. Feverish recruiting is going on in the neighbourhood, thousands of newly-enlisted men coming in from Paoching daily for whose training a large field has been given up. A friend in Chenchow says there is much recruiting also going on in that section of the province. That fighting will be resumed as soon as the warm weather sets in again seems pretty evident.

The new road built with famine relief money is still uncompleted, though metalling is being put down in many places. In a few months the highway should be opened for traffic to Hsianghsang. In connexion with the building of this road, which has several fine bridges, there are reports that more money has been received which will enable its continuation to Yuinfeng, 90 *li* from Hsianghsang towards Paoching.

After nearly going out of business as a result of commandeering during the fighting, the Motor Co. seems to be making money again, while the Siangtan-Changsha Road is kept in moderately good repair.

The alleged unfair methods of a Japanese firm have caused much ill-feeling here. By a scheme of petty cheating, the Japanese dealer, according to my informant, is adding to the weights of goods by sometimes 10 or more catties. When complaints are made he blames his Chinese writer for making profitable mistakes.

RICE PLENTIFUL, BUT PRICES UP.

The crops in this section were exceptionally good during the last harvest and much rice has been exported. At Isiho it is reported that 300,000 piculs of rice will be exported this season. The prices have also kept up unusually well for such a good year.

Siangtan county has been a great price mart for many years. Once Isiho, 15 *li* from the city, was the great centre of this trade and rice from all this district was exported from that one place. Since the founding of the Republic here have been new rice markets opened.

FOREIGN VISITORS.

Siangtan has had many foreign visitors recently, especially during the time of the school vacations for Chinese New Year. Some are on the way to Hengchow and the south. The Presbyterian Mission held its mid-year Executive Committee meeting here and representatives from Chenchow, Henchow, Changsha and Changteh were present.

BRAVE LONDON LADY DOCTORS

Through Brigands' Country with Lamp of Science

While at home London girls are rushing to qualify as doctors, two plucky women graduates of the London School of Medicine are labouring at the Medical Missionary station in the mountains between Thibet and China, the surgery being 7000ft. above sea level.

They are Dr. Lilian Watney, who has been there as a member of the China Inland Mission for some time, and Dr. Maud Chidson, who has just gone out to represent the Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society.

"The difficulties of missionary work in Western China are not sufficiently realized by the people at home," said the Rev. H. A. H. Lea, organizing secretary of the B.C.M.S., of which the late Dr Wace, the Dean of Canterbury, was the first vice-president.

"Dr. Chidson, who has reached Ichang, on the Yangtze River, on her way to Kuang-ngan-chow will find a terrible difference in the work which she will be called upon to do from that she experienced in the wards of London hospitals.

"There will be no waiting for cases. She will find thousands of patients around the hospital gates.

"She will find dirt and disease, squalor and smell, and she will have to give these people her full attention. Lepers and beggars with sores will swarm round her.

NATIVE "SCIENCE."

"Chinese medical science, particularly in this district, is very crude. Whenever disease or a sore occurs the Chinese 'doctor' plunges a needle into the affected part in order to drive out the evil spirits which have caused the trouble.

"When a patient does reach Miss Chidson she will find him so far gone as a result of native treatment that he has as much chance of dying as of recovering, and if he dies the blame may very well be laid at her door.

"Another thing she will have to watch is when dispensing medicine, because the average Chinese has as much idea of Western medical methods as the man in the moon. Give a Chinese a bottle of physic and tell him to take small doses at intervals and he will immediately drink the whole bottle in order to get well immediately.

"But for all that they are a most lovable race, full of gratitude—simple, playful and occasionally peevish.

THROUGH LAND OF BRIGANDS.

"In order to get there, Dr. Chidson has had to make a sea voyage of five weeks, a river trip of three weeks and a riesha journey over the rugged mountain tracks of Western China of a fortnight, and all the time through brigand-infested country.

"It is not the sort of journey that would appeal probably to the average young woman, but Miss Chidson is born of the stuff of which missionaries are made, and I can say with full assurance that Dr. Chidson will uphold the honour of the London School of Medicine for Women, from which she came."

MARSHAL Wu Pei-fu, High Military Inspecting Commissioner of Chihli, Shantung and Honan, is again showing his intention of improving conditions in and near Loyang, his headquarters. He has just purchased 120,000 mulberry trees and a large number of other trees, the former for the purpose of giving his people a chance to secure employment, the latter to beautify the city.

THE NATIONAL MEDICAL CONFERENCE

Opening Ceremonies at Nanking

From a Correspondent.

Nanking, Feb. 8.

The formal opening of the Fifth Biennial Conference of the National Medical Association, in the form of a reception given by the Nanking Medical Society in honour of the delegates coming from various sections of the country, took place yesterday evening in the National Southeastern University.

The reception began with an address by Dr. K. N. Wu, President of the Nanking Medical Society, which was responded to by an address by Dr. E. S. Tyau, President of the National Medical Association, who spoke briefly on the objects of the conference. Other speakers of the evening were Dr. H. Balme, President of the Shantung Christian University, representing the China Medical Missionary Association, and Dr. P. W. Kuo, President of the Southeastern University, and Mr. Z. T. Tsiang, representing the Governor of Kiangsu.

The items on the programme consisted of a piano duet by Mrs. Z. T. Woo and Mrs. V. C. Ting, the wives of two prominent doctors in Nanking, a piano solo by the Rev. W. P. Roberts, vocal solos by Mrs. Roland and Mr. Seager, and Chinese music by some of the members of the Y.M.C.A. Dr. S. F. Chao, chairman of the Entertainment Committee, was the presiding officer.

Considering the unfavourable condition of the weather, the reception on the whole was marked with unusual success, there being more than 100 people present.

Control of Narcotics

Feb. 9.

The National Medical Association of China, which is holding its Fifth Biennial Conference in the Gymnasium of the South Eastern University, opened its first session yesterday, at 9.30 a.m. with an address given by Dr. E. S. Tyau, the President of the Association. Dr. Tyau commenced his presidential address by an expression of gratitude and appreciation first to the authorities of the South Eastern University for the hospitality extended to the National Medical Association, and then to the members of the Association for the honour bestowed on him as President—an honour of the highest distinction that carries with it a deep sense of responsibility of which, he said, he was fully aware.

The President then gave a brief survey and analysis of the present activities of the Association. He pointed out in a most comprehensive manner, the wonderful progress made by the Terminology Committee in its work of standardizing Chinese medical terms. The fact that the publication of the National Medical Journal—the live-wire of the Association—has attained its largest circulation this year, is, in the President's opinion, an unquestionable proof that the Association is growing and progressing, while its participation in the work of the Joint Council on Health Education, indicates that its field of work and service must, of necessity be a comprehensive one.

The President then called the attention of the delegates to the regulation of the sale of narcotics in Shanghai, which, he said, had resulted from the unrelenting activities and efforts of the National Medical Association. In concluding, Dr. Tyau made a forcible appeal for unity, service, sacrifice, and self-devotion. The motto he gave to his fellow-members was, "In unity we stand, in co-operation we achieve."

Following the presidential address, the following papers were read:—

"Kala-azar in Manchuria" by Dr. C. C. Wong.

"Some interesting cases"—report by Dr. J. King.

"A discussion on Insulin" by Dr. W. C. Loh.

"Patent Medicine—a menace to the public" by Dr. W. W. Peter.

"An analysis of G. U. Cases in St. Luke's Hospital" by Dr. I. M. Hsu.

"Experiences in the treatment of gonorrhea" by Dr. K. D. Howe.

"Studies on tissue immunity" by Dr. S. Nukada.

In spite of the inclemency of the weather, the delegates made an excursion in the afternoon to the Museum for Chinese Relics, the Public Gardens, and the Nanking Scientific Society. After returning from the excursion, they attended an illustrated lecture on the interpretation of X-ray plates, given by Dr. L. S. Woo.

At 7.30 p.m. the delegates were entertained at a banquet given by the South Eastern University. At the close of the banquet, speeches were delivered by Dr. P. W. Kuo, Dr. E. S. Tyau, Dr. W. L. New Dr. C. V. Yui and Dr. W. W. Peter.

IMPORTANT PAPERS READ.

The third day of the fifth biennial conference of the National Medical Association, held on Saturday, February 9, in the gymnasium of the Southeastern University, Nanking, was attended with remarkable success. Papers of great value dwelling on various subjects connected with modern medical science, were read and discussed. The session commenced at 9 a.m. with the reading of congratulatory telegrams, one from the Hongkong branch, another from the Canton National Medical Association, and the third from Dr. John Kirk, President of the China Medical Missionary Association. Following the reading of the telegrams, a Nomination Committee, consisting of Drs. U. K. Koo, E. Y. Kau and K. C. Wong, and a Resolution Committee, consisting of Drs. J. King, S. M. Woo and P. C. Kiang, were formed. At the close of the business session, the following papers were read:

"Clinical treatment of Pulmonary tuberculosis," by Dr. K. N. Wu.

"X-ray as an aid in the diagnosis and prognosis of pulmonary tuberculosis," by Dr. C. V. Yui.

"Experience in the use of tuberculin," by Dr. J. King.

"Physical examination in life insurance" by Dr. P. C. Wong.

"The value of postmortem examination," by Dr. C. H. Tyau.

"Problems of school hygiene in China" by Dr. S. M. Woo.

The delegates spent the greater part of the afternoon inspecting the University Hospital, in response to an invitation to tea extended to them by the staff of the hospital, after which they journeyed to the Ming Tombs, a place of historical fame and world-wide interest. At seven o'clock, they were guests to a banquet given by the Nanking Medical Society, at the close of which short speeches were given by Dr. K. N. Wu, President of the Nanking Medical Society, Dr. E. S. Tyau, President of the National Medical Association, Dr. S. H. Chuan, Surgeon-General of Peking, Dr. C. V. Yui, and a few others representing the various provinces from which they came.

FOURTH DAY OF THE CONFERENCE.

The fourth day of the Fifth Biennial Conference of the National Medical Association, at Southeastern University, Nanking, was held on Sunday afternoon.

There were approximately 100 delegates present. The following are the papers that were read during the session:

"The eradication of the opium menace in China" (Dr. S. H. Chuan)

"Standard physical examination" (Dr. S. M. Woo)

"Health centres" (Dr. V. Appleton).

"The true spirit of scientific investigation from a medical point of view" (Dr. P. C. Kiang)

"Some experiences in public health work at Hangchow" (Dr. K. C. Wong).

These papers being read, Dr. C. W. Woodworth, Professor of Entomology of Southeastern University, delivered a short, interesting lecture on entomology. He dwelt chiefly on his experiences in the destruction of flies and mosquitoes in Nanking. His remarks were much appreciated by the delegates.

At 7 p.m. a reception was given in honour of the delegates by Mr. Z. O. Wong, the Commissioner of Police, and by the Y.M.C.A.

Speeches were made by Mr. S. T. Wen, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Z. O. Wong, acted as host, Dr. E. S. Tyau, President of the National Medical Association, and Dr. J. King, who spoke on public health matters. There was a practical demonstration of a newly-invented Chinese code in use by the police and a cinematograph exhibition.

Office Bearers for 1924

The Fifth Biennial Conference of the National Medical Association at Nanking is drawing to a rapid and successful close. The following are some of the papers that were read at Monday's session:—"The incidence of skin diseases in Shanghai" (Dr. E. S. Tyau); "Broncho-spirochetisis" (Dr. W. D. Chen); "Epidemic cephalitis in childhood (Dr. H. N. Zee); "Survey of worm infestation among the Chinese in Soochow locality" (Dr. K. H. Li); "Some notes on early diagnosis of trachoma" (Dr. T. M. Li); "A general discussion on trachoma" (Dr. W. Y. Chen); "Contamination in cow-vaccines" (Dr. T. M. Baung); "Observation on schistosomiasis" (Dr. C. L. Kau); "A plea for the conservation of vision in China" (Dr. W. P. Ling); "The path of tuberculous infection in man" (Dr. C. Y. Wong); "Notes on skin-grafting" (Dr. F. I. Chang).

The delegates attended a reception given by the Nanking Science Society in the afternoon, after which they visited Mo-zer Lake and Yu-hua-tai, returning for an illustrated lecture on X-rays by Mr. Carl Foss.

In the evening a dinner was given by Dr. K. N. Wu, President of the Nanking Medical Society.

At the subsequent business session, two resolutions were passed recognizing the Canton Medical Association and the Hongkong Medical Association as branches of the National Medical Association. The treasurer's report was submitted and accepted. The Terminology Committee, represented by Dr. C. V. Yui, and the Public Health Committee, represented by Dr. W. L. New, then gave a brief survey of their activities for the two years, this being followed by the submission of three reports—from the Business Manager, Dr. D. C. Chang, the General-Secretary, Dr. L. S. Woo, and the Resolution Committee, represented by Dr. J. King. The following are two resolutions presented by the Resolution Committee, which was voted upon and carried:—

That this conference recommends the Council on Health Education to lay greater emphasis in its work on school hygiene.

That this conference ask the Ministry of Education to consider the importance of physical examination of students in schools throughout China, paying special attention to the examination of the eyes for trachoma and defective vision.

A committee, consisting of Drs. P. C. Kiang, K. N. Wu, and C. H. Han, was appointed whose function will be to give advice regarding the work of translating foreign medical books into Chinese.

The meeting closed with the election of the officers for the next biennium. They were elected as follows:—

President, Dr. W. L. New; Vice-Presidents, Drs. L. S. Woo and T. M. Li; Chinese Secretary, Dr. C. L. Kau; English Secretary Dr. W. S. New; Treasurer, Dr. K. Chow; business manager, Dr. D. C. Chang; Chinese Editor-in-Chief, Dr. C. V. Yui; English Editor-in-Chief, Dr. E. S. Tyau.

THE NANKING WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

A detailed report of the silver wedding of the Hon. S. T. Wen, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs and Superintendent of Customs at Nanking, and Mrs. Wen which took place on January 29 has already appeared from our Nanking correspondent. Mr. Wen, who is a leading Chinese Christian, and who made a name for himself for his work in connexion with the release of the Chinese and foreign captives at Linchang, gave an excellent testimony for Christianity on the occasion, which was the first silver wedding ever celebrated by a Chinese. Chinese celebrate their birthdays and their 50th wedding anniversaries only, so Mr. and Mrs. Wen have the honour of being the first "pair of doves" as the Chinese say to observe the occasion. Mr. Wen characterized his wife as the country-girl bride. The accompanying picture shows Mr. and Mrs Wen in the rear, and their children (reading from the left—Chun-hung 10, Yu-ling 18, Yu-hsien 20, Yu-ai 16 and Tsu-ching 7). It was taken in front of the Nanking Bureau of Foreign Affairs and the four presents from President Tsao Kun—two silver cups and two silver vases—are to be seen on the table in the rear.

FIRST CHINESE SILVER WEDDING

OBITUARY

Mr. L. Sandercock

Peking, Feb. 6.

Many sincere friends throughout China will learn with deep regret of the sudden death of Mr. L. Sandercock of the Maritime Customs, which occurred in unusually sad circumstances.

Mr. Sandercock, who has recently been stationed at Mukden as Commissioner, went to Shanghai with his wife and children and saw them off for England on a holiday. Mr. Sandercock took the train from Shanghai with the intention of returning to his post at Mukden, but just before reaching Tsinanfu he suddenly died. It is believed that apoplexy was the cause of death. The body was taken off the train at Tsinanfu by the orders of Mr. Tours, British Consul-General there.

It is not known whether the telegram announcing Mr. Sandercock's death will reach Mrs. Sandercock at Hongkong. The death occurred on the 4th instant.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Mr. H. C. Emery

Peking, Feb. 7.

A telegram received in Peking to-day conveyed the sad news that Mr. Henry C. Emery, formerly manager of the Asia Banking Corporation at Peking, died of double pneumonia on board ship between Shanghai and Kobe and was buried at sea.

Mr. and Mrs. Emery were in Peking recently and left here to return to their home in New York. Last year Mr. and Mrs. Emery made a long tour through Mongolia. During several years' residence in Peking they made numerous friends in North China to whom this news will come as a severe shock.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE CONFERENCE AT GINLING COLLEGE

Christian Education in China

Two hundred and twenty-two delegates have arrived so far for the conference now being held at Ginling College of the Christian Colleges and Universities. Every phase of higher education from the training of social workers to college budgets and record keeping is discussed somewhere in the 20 sectional meetings.

Dr. Hawks Pott opened the general meetings of the conference with his presidential address which, after reviewing the history of mission education, insisted that the policies of the future should be directed to furthering a programme at once positively Christian and with the highest educational standards.

The chief interest in the general sessions that have followed centred in the papers, one by Dr. Wallace on "The Correlation of Higher and Secondary Education," one by Mrs. Thurston, president of Ginling College, on "The Next Steps in connexion with the Educational Commission Report"; and one by Dr. Balme of Shantung Christian University on "The Future of the Association of Christian Colleges and Universities." The key-note of the conference has been the co-ordination, of Christian education in China and especially a more permanent organization of Christian colleges, to avoid waste of energy through competition and to strengthen the work now being done.

Statistics have been collected in regard to 12 of the 17 colleges now affiliated with the Association showing that 45 per cent. of their graduates are now teaching, 14 per cent. are in business, 13 per cent. are ministers, 10 per cent. have studied medicine, and the rest are engaged in social service, banking and engineering.

Association for Christian Higher Education

The Conference of Christian Colleges and Universities just held at Ginling College, resulted in the formation of what is to be known as the China Association for Christian Higher Education. The membership of this permanent organization is to be open to all Christian men and woman engaged in higher education in China. A council was selected representing all sections of China and about equally divided between the Chinese and foreign faculty. The officers of this organization are: Dr. Harold Balme, president; Mr. Francis Wei, vice-president; Miss Jean Dickinson, secretary; and Dr. C. H. Westbrook, treasurer. In addition committees were constituted by groups interested along various lines of teaching and research to provide for the pooling of experience and to make research work more effective.

An interesting section was that on Home Economics, represented on the programme by a paper by Dr. Wm. H. Adolph of Shantung Christian University, on the Dietary of North China, and by the presentation of Miss Ava B. Milam's investigation of the home life of some 1200 Chinese families. The study was preliminary to the offering of courses in the Home Economics department of Yenching College.

The general meetings of the last day featured two addresses, by Mr. T. Z. Woo on the National Christian Movement and by Dr. T. T. Lew on the Contribution of Christian Colleges to the Church. It is felt that the conference marks a very important step forward in the history of education and of the Christian Church in China.

SIR RONALD MACLEAY

Hankow, Feb. 12.

Sir Ronald Macleay, the British Minister, departed for Shanghai from Hankow on board the Luenyi this morning.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

WEDDING HONOURS IN JAPAN

Tokio, Feb. 11.

The Imperial wedding honours list includes Mr. Li Kyou, the Household Secretary of Prince Yi of Korea, who becomes a Baron.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

REIGN OF TERROR IN KUANGTUNG

Exaction of Taxes and Fines by Militarists: Dr. Sun's Difficulties

Canton, Feb. 3.

A reign of terror still prevails in Sheklung, Tungkun, and other cities within the war area in eastern Kuangtung, according to reports reaching Canton. Bandits and pirates take much delight in disarming the mercenary Yunnanese and Kuangsi troops, when they can catch them in small companies, while these same "warriors" do not hesitate to plunder the peaceful non-combatants.

In Canton proper, the militarists are exacting money from the people in not quite so rude a manner. Instead of forcible seizure, the local authorities are imposing all kinds of taxes and fining persons heavily for the slightest error by executive order without judicial proceedings. The leading Customs brokers were again fined last week for having made false Customs entries, notwithstanding the brokers' protest that any declaration having been made and passed, with duty paid without exception being taken to it constitutes a complete transaction.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen appears to be very anxious to bring his war against Gen. Chen Chiung-ming to an end soon, but funds are not coming in as quickly as Dr. Sun wants them and the mercenaries following him do not appear to intend to move without cash in hand. Whatever money is received does not cover the arrears due and, when one item is paid, another is forthcoming, always leaving some bills unpaid and some excuse for delaying operations to end the war, which the mercenaries themselves never want to finish. It is now more than a year since the return of the Sun Yat-sen party to power in Canton, and hostilities are still dragging on.

Telegraph communication between Canton and Hongkong is still interrupted owing to rival troops controlling the line, the Sun troops occupying the western and the Chen forces the eastern section of the line.

RICE FAMINE IMMINENT.

The rice shop hands and mill employees are still on strike, making the discharge of rice cargoes from the outports impossible and forcing up the price of rice. The poor grade rice is selling at $8.50 to $9 a picul, while the better grades are selling at $12 a picul. The present stock may last only a few more days and it is predicted that soon after the Chinese New Year there will be a famine, unless the coolies are able to unload without interference from the shop hands. Everything is being arranged by a committee of citizens to avert a further shortage of this staple food. So far the rice workers are willing to compromise, but the proprietors of the shops still consider their modified demands too unreasonable even for negotiations. On the morning of January 29, the leader of the Rice Transportation Union, Yen Yu-sheng, and his wife were murdered, it is believed in connexion with the strike. Yen was also Chairman of the Shuntak District Kuomintang Party. So far the six persons suspected of the murder have not been arrested.

MILITARY CONTROL.

It appears that Dr. Sun Yat-sen still has considerable difficulty in getting a man for the post of Civil Governor of Kuangtung, or nominal head of the several districts actually under the command of his military lieutenants. As the military commanders usually control everything within their territory, unless the magistrate himself is also a commander, civil authorities nowadays count but little in the districts and the magistrates have very little power for really good work. In Canton, the Civil Governor's orders go but a little way out from his office, as the mayor of the city and the commissioner of police have more power. The magistrate of a district, appointed by the Civil Governor, is seldom able to take up his post without the protection of the military commander there. Dr. Sun is showing his appreciation of this situation. Instead of trying to get a Cantonese to accept the Civil Governorship, he is offering the post to Mr. Yang Shukan, his chief private secretary and formerly unsuccessful Civil Governor of Szechuan. The Cantonese are not interested in the question of the Governorship, but more in that of the garrison commissioner in Canton. The Canton merchants are no longer in sympathy with the present *régime*, and the Canton officials have practically decided to ignore the General Chamber of Commerce until it will lend them $500,000. The nine large charitable associations in Canton are still friendly to the *régime* and will grant it a loan of $500,000, mortgaging their property in order to relieve the Government and the troops. Mr. Chan Heung-lun, a former leader in charity circles, will spend the Chinese New Year in prison, having been arrested by the police for utterances unfavourable to the present military authorities.

SYMPATHY WITH SOVIET.

The Kuomintang Political Party, in national convention in Canton, honoured the death of M. Lenin, the Soviet leader, by suspending their session for three days from January 26, and Dr. Sun Yat-sen ordered the government offices in Canton to fly their flags at half-mast for the same period. At a memorial service for M. Lenin, an address was given by M. Borodin, the Soviet representative in Canton. Reuter's Pacific Service.

NURSES' CONVENTION AT CANTON

Outport Visitors Entertained: Local Hospitals Inspected

Canton, Feb. 2.

The Association of Nurses in China at its fifth annual national convention, which has been in session at Kungyee Medical College, Canton, since the afternoon of January 31, is giving the mornings to discussions and demonstrations and the afternoons to inspection of local hospitals and sightseeing.

At the opening reception on the afternoon of the January 31 representatives of the civil and military divisions of the Government and of the leading medical and allied organizations were present. The delegates, who are being entertained at the Kungyee Medical College, number about 80 foreign and 50 Chinese nurses from the principal ports of China, including Peking, Tientsin, Shanghai, Hankow, and Changsha. The sessions will last until February 6.

Canton has several centres for the training of nurses. The Turner's Training School, attached to the Hackett Medical College for Women, is perhaps the leading institution in Canton, while the Canton Hospital, the Kungyee, the Canton Hospital in Canton proper and the New Zealand Presbyterian Hospital at Kongchuen also provide excellent training for this profession.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NANKING TUCHUN'S NEW RANK

From a Correspondent.

Nanking, Feb 5.
(Delayed).

Field-Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan, Military Governor of Kiangsu, formally assumed his new post as High Military Inspecting Commissioner (Governor-General) of Kiangsu, Kiangsi and Anhui to-day.

The official celebrations took place at noon, when a large crowd of visitors, including numerous local officials and many from other places, were present to congratulate the marshal. Presents and hundreds of congratulatory messages were sent to Marshal Chi by the leading officials throughout the country, many sending personal representatives.

WEDDING

Hughes—Summers

A wedding of more than usual interest was solemnized on Friday, February 8, in ttht British Legation Chapel in Peking, when Miss Eileen Mary Summers, daughter of Mr. H. D. Summers, of the Directorate-General of Posts, of Peking, and Mrs. Summers, became the bride of Mr. W. V. B. Hughes, British Vice-Consul at Shanghai and son of the late Rev. W. B. Hughes and Mrs. M. J. Hughes of Llanishen. The civil ceremony was held in the morning at the British Consulate, with Mr. W. P. Turner as officiating Consul, and the church service at two o'clock in the afternoon in the Legation Chapel, with the Right Rev. Bishop Norris of North China officiating.

The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in ivory satin brocade, with a design of madonna lilies, cut in an effectively simple style, draped on one side, with the fulness caught with a buckle of brilliants, a train of flounced lace, and a tulle veil over a wreath of orange blossoms. The bridal bouquet was a sheaf of arum lilies. Miss Elspeth Fripp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Fripp, acted as bridesmaid, wearing daffodil yellow satin crepe trimmed with gold ribbon with which was worn a black tulle hat. She carried a shower bouquet of white chrysanthemums and daisies. The bride's mother wore dove colour and silver brocade with a black tulle and silver hat.

The bridegroom was accompanied by Mr. M. R. Montgomrey, of the British Legation, as best man and his ushers were Capt. C. R. Spear, of the Indian Army, and Capt. R. D. Milne, of the Royal Scots. A very enjoyable reception, attended by hosts of friends, was held after the ceremony at the house of the bride's parents in Hsia Kung Fu, after which Mr. and Mrs. Hughes left on their honeymoon. The bride's going away dress was of periwinkle blue duvetyn, with grey and blue hat to match.

TULI MA'S MISRULE

Pocketing Opium Revenue from Enforced Poppy-growing in Anhui

A severe indictment of Gen. Ma Lien-cha, Tuli of Anhui, is contained in a letter just addressed by Mr. Chang Kia-hsun, Commissioner for the Investigation of Poppy Growing in the same province, to the Minister of Interior. In the course of his letter Mr. Chang says:

In compliance with your order, I proceeded to Anhui for the purpose of investigating the opium problem, but upon arrival I was prevented by Tuli Ma from carrying out my work. He interfered with every movement of mine and I could not move about freely, hence I have come to Shanghai to report.

During the few days that I was in Anhu I learned that Tuli Ma has been forcing the people to grow poppy and to smoke opium. Apart from the opium smoking tax, he gains about $7 or $8 for each mow of poppy grown by the farmers. When I arrived in Anking Tuli Ma ordered me to return to Pengpu forthwith otherwise he threatened to arrest me.

Nominally Tuli Ma wants the money for military expenses, but really the money goes into his private pocket. He has managed to keep the Civil Governor (Lu), and the Opium Commissioner quiet, having given $100,000 to the former and $30,000 to the latter. His men have not been paid for months, so if there is mutiny among his troops it can be expected, but it will be a very bad sign.

The Tuli's post is a big and responsible one. He should care for the people and protect foreigners within his jurisdiction. He should be mindful of national prestige with foreigners, but now he is harming the people and breaking the laws, giving China "no face" in the eyes of foreigners.

Now that I have received your appointment it is my duty to keep you informed truthfully and frankly and without exaggeration. I am not telling an untruth.

I pray, therefore, that you will take steps in investigating this matter and that you will dismiss Tuli Ma and punish him according to law.

JAPANESE RAW SILK INDUSTRY

Demoralized by Earthquake: A New Source of Supply Sought in China

New York, Jan. 12.

Virtual demoralization of the Japanese raw silk industry as a result of the earthquake last August has emphasized the necessity of developing new sources of supply throughout the world, Mr. James A. Goldsmith, President of the Silk Association of America, said at the annual dinner of the organization to-night.

Silk manufacturers, he said, had already turned to China, which gave the greatest promise of replacing the Japanese field. Turkey, Persia, Syria and the Caucasus, also were mentioned as offering unlimited opportunities for development.

The Silk Association of America, Mr. Goldsmith said, had erected sericulture buildings at Canton Christian College, the University of Nanking and at Fukien University, where silk culture and handling would be taught scientifically. Present methods in use in China are largely antiquated and result in huge wastage, he said.

A research and development programme of the Association extending over a ten years' period was outlined.—Reuter's American Service.

RINDERPEST IN HONAN

Great Loss of Cattle

The "Agriculture & Forestry Notes" issued by the University of Nanking College of Agriculture mentions an epidemic of rinderpest in Honan. It describes the situation and the preventive work as follows:—

Upon receipt of word from the agricultural missionaries of the Southern Baptist Mission at Kaifeng that an epidemic of rinderpest was raging in parts of Honan, Dr. Gibbs went to Kaifeng on January 14 and is still there. The Kaifeng Baptist College herd, containing some very excellent cattle was inoculated, as were also the herds at Chengchow, Kueiteh and Pochow. In this latter district in northern Anhui he learned that in many villages every animal (cattle) had died and in other villages every animal had contracted the disease which meant that practically all would die. At Kaifeng several villages were visited. Instead of being suspicious, as we anticipated they might be, the farmers brought out their cattle and besought the men that they would do something for them. It was difficult to get away.

Thousands of cattle have died. The farmers have to bear the loss. It not only means that the farmer's work animals are gone, with which he ploughs his fields and draws his products to market but that he has lost the means to an annual increase in his herd and his productive capacity is greatly reduced. It is a frightful loss which the Chinese farmer has been suffering for a long time but for which there is no ready remedy available to the farmer during the present Chinese political and economic chaos. While scientists have already made considerable advance in methods of control and protection against rinderpest the larger problems have not yet been solved and in the meantime the farmer will continue to absorb the shock of losses by this dread disease.

THE Civil Governor of Kiangsu has telegraphed to the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce urging the chairman of that body to instruct the local cigar and cigarette merchants to collect the special tax on these two commodities forthwith, as one of the terms on which he granted a postponement of the tax was that it would be collected after the Chinese New Year holidays.

MORE HOLIDAY SHIPPING CASUALTIES

Motor-Ship Rheinland Aground Near Chefoo in Snowstorm

From Our Own Correspondent

Chefoo, Feb. 8

The Hamburg-Amerika Line motor-ship Rheinland ran ashore at noon yesterday 10 miles north northwest of Chefoo during a snow storm.

The beach is sandy, and as far as can be ascertained bad weather was responsible for the ship's stranding. She is in no immediate danger, nor is the hull leaking.

Commanded by Capt. Bahre, the Rheinland left Rotterdam on November 28, and at the time of the accident was bound for Tsingtao and Shanghai *en route* for Hamburg. She is of 3,915 tons register, 448 feet in length and equipped with Diesel engines.

YANGTZE STEAMER STRANDED.

News reached Shanghai last Friday that the Tehshing river steamer was ashore on Hukuang Flats in the Yangtze. This is the fourth vessel reported aground since the holidays.

Owing to heavy weather, the junk ashore at Christmas Island, New Channel, has broken up. The mast of another junk which has gone down is visible above Wuhu.

STR. HWAH WU DESERTED

Claimed as a Prize by Crew Sent to Rescue Her

Hongkong, Feb. 9.

The Chinese steamer, Hwah Wu, ran ashore at Nine Pins near Waglan during a fog this morning. A salvage steamer has proceeded to her assistance.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Hongkong, Feb. 11.

The Chinese str. Hwah Wu, which ran aground on Saturday at Nine Pins near Waglan, has been refloated and towed to Kowloon. When the Kowloon Dock Company's salvage tug reached the Hwah Wu on Saturday afternoon she found the vessel abandoned, whereupon the master of the tug hoisted the Dock Company's flag on the Hwah Wu which he now claims as a prize.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LD.

Resignation of Directors Following Shareholders' Vote to Double Capital

Hongkong, Feb. 7.

There was a sensational termination to an extraordinary meeting of the Green Island Cement Co. to-day, called at the request of a large number of share holders, who are demanding doubling of the capital in connexion with the proposed transfer of the factory from Kowloon Bay to Gin Drinker's Bay.

The shareholders carried the resolution by a show of hands, whereupon the directors, Mr. D. G. M. Bernard, Père Robert, who made a speech in disapproval of the resolution, Mr. A. O. Lang and Sir Paul Chater declared the result as a vote of want of confidence and tendered their resignations in spite of the shareholders. Mr. Robert Shewan, presiding, expressed the hope that the directors would reconsider their decision to resign.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

HANKOW-ICHANG AIR SERVICE

Peking, Feb. 8.

An interesting report to-day is to the effect that Marshal Wu Pei-fu proposes to inaugurate an aerial service between Hankow and Ichang, nominally for postal and commercial services. The Aeronautical Department of the Ministry of Communications will send representatives to make a survey of the proposed route.—Reuter's Pacific Service

JAPAN'S FRENZIED POLITICANS

Scene in Diet on Day of Dissolution: Viscount Kiyoura Nearly Lynched by Murderer-"Patriots:" The Real Issue Before The Country

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Jan. 31.

China's mock parliament does not possess a monopoly on clownish conduct and boisterous imbecility when the solons of the Celestial Republic gather for their occasional philippics. Able to do many a thing better than the Chinese, Japan goes even one better when it comes to making a bear-garden of the Diet. For the past five years or so, meetings of the House of Representatives have always been held in tense feeling that later degenerated into hopeless confusion, resulting in nothing constructive whatsoever being done by the would-be law-makers. The session of the Diet just closed was no exception. If anything, the boisterousness was unprecedented and the asininity displayed heightened the bathos that generally has wound up every recent meeting of Japan's glorified debating society which, more for politeness than for any other reason, is dignified by the name of parliment.

STORMY SESSION EXPECTED.

Ever since the formation of the Kiyoura Ministry which came into power as a result of the attempted assassination of His Imperial Highness, the Prince Regent, there have been indications that the Diet would meet in an atmosphere alive with personal, party and anti-government animosity. The entire press of the country embarked on a several day's campaign to belittle the Ministry, their editorials for the past three weeks dwelling at length on the "unconstitutional" Cabinet and on the sins and shortcomings of Viscount Kiyoura and his lieutenants; the Seiyukai (hitherto the most powerful party in the Lower House) dividing itself, one portion pledging allegiance to the new Ministry and the other loudly declaring that everything possible would be done to wreck the Cabinet, the Kenseikai and Kakushin Club, always "agin the government" and now even more so; and the large following of citizens that have accepted the version of the newspapers and that of the opposition politicians to the effect that the present Ministry is a menace to the development of constitutional government in Japan. These "rebels" are led by tried and doughty politicians. That section of the Seiyukai which has refused to endorse the Cabinet of Viscount Kiyoura is led by Mr. Takahashi (who was a peer till a few days ago but who resigned his honours in the belief that he could thus champion what the Opposition calls the cause of constitutional goverment betterment) a former Premier and an astute politician; the Kenseikai is led by Viscount Kato who continues to keep his title and who was Foreign Minister in the Okuma Cabinet which presented the now notorious Twenty-One Demands to China in 1915; Mr. Inukai, head of the Kakushin Club who, however, did accept and hold a portfolio in the Yamamoto Ministry, the one immediately preceding the present Cabinet, despite that fact that the Yamamoto Ministry was also largely composed of bureaucrats; and Mr. Tukio Otaki, for several years Minister of Justice and one of the foremost campaign orators in the land.

Against this imposing array of talent and forces, the Premier has the majority party in the House of Peers; the Elder Statesmen and the immense weight they carry in matters of importance; the seceding group from the Seiyukai; the support of virtually all the powerful clan leaders in the country; and a large proportion of the more moderately-minded people who are disgusted with the lengths to which the Opposition have recently gone.

This was the disposition of the Government and anti-Government forces when the Diet met to-day. It will continue to be so over the general elections which will be fought in May, the issue at stake being whether Japan shall have party rule, as in England, or bureaucratic, though paternal, control.

THE "CONSTITUTIONAL" BOGEY.

The wail heard in the Opposition camp that the present Government is "unconstitutional" is not correct. The Kiyoura Cabinet is in perfect accord with the constitution granted the Japanese people by the late Emperor Meiji. It is certainly not a party government, and when the Opposition talk about the development of "constitutional" government in Japan being retarded, what they really mean is that party government is not making the headway they desire. Before Japan can have even the vestige of party government as in England, a change in the constitution is necessary. This change cannot come through any legislation by either the House of Peers or the House of Representatives; it can only be received as a free gift from his Imperial Majesty the Emperor.

The issue to be fought out in the impending general elections will be the clear-cut one of bureaucracy *v.* party control. The forces seem to be about evenly matched, but in Japan a Government party has never yet lost an election (and paradoxical as it may seem) a Government newspaper, or a paper throwing its full weight on the side of the Government, has never prospered. Furthermore, the Government has control of the election machinery and the tremendors moral power that comes from being trusted by the Throne. The Government has, however, promised that the general elections will be conducted in all fairness.

RIOTOUS SCENES IN CITY.

Practically from the time the House of Representatives got to business to-day, strife and confusion was the rule, both outside and inside the legislative chamber. Large crowds of *intelligenisia*, whose numbers have been swelled since the earthquake threw them out of jobs, combined with professional government hecklers to blow off steam in the vicinity of the Diet building, eager to exercise their oratorical and histrionic powers. Police and troops, the former to the number of some 8,000 and the latter about 3,000 strong, gave the place the appearance of a citadel. Numerous clashes occurred in various portions of the Capital, but the forces of the law had the situation always under perfect control. While a demagogue was haranguing a crowd opposite the Kenseikai (Opposition political party) headquarters, the news arrived that Premier Viscount Kiyoura had dissolved the Diet. A batch of 20 men slowly disengaged themselves from the gathering and made for the Prime Minister's residence, with the avowed intention, as they afterwards confessed to the police, of lynching the aged statesman. Strong cordons of police and troops had already been drawn up around Viscount Kiyoura's mansion and, after a half-heated show of resistance, the would-be murderer-"patriots" were packed into a Black Maria and hauled off to the nearest prison.

WITHIN THE HOUSE.

The scenes enacted on the floor of the Lower House were on a par with the rowdyism outside, Opposition members going hammer and tongs at Government supporters and the latter doing likewise. Only the Premier, his Ministers and the immediate entourage managed to maintain anything like a semblance of dignity. The verbal, and subsequent fistic, battle started when Mr. Hamada, an Opposition politician, mounted the rostrum and called on all the gods to witness the crimes of the Kiyoura Ministry, declaring that the manner in which the privileged classes are flouting the will of the people is bound to lead to grave radical developments. He then saddled the Cabinet with attempted murder. Two days ago, when the Opposition leaders were returning from Osaka whither they went for the purpose of enlisting the people of the commercial metropolis against the authorities, an attempt had been made to wreck the train on which they were returning to Tokio. Huge boulders had been placed on the line and but for the fact that a snow-plough had been attached to the locomotive, a terrible tragedy would surely have resulted. As it was the train was only derailed and no one was even hurt.

A HOWLING BEDLAM.

Mr. Komatsu, Minister of Railways, rose to speak, but a babel of cat-calls jeers, hisses, shouts and rapping of tables drowned all his attempts at incoherent talk. Whilst the din was still at its height, five men, with white rosettes conspicuously attached to the lapels of their kimono—indicating that they belonged to the Opposition—advanced to the Minister and tore away from his hand the document containing the reply he was to read to the House in connexion with the attempt to wreck the train. This was the signal for bedlam to be let loose, the greater portion of the solons suddenly becoming transformed into a mob of hooting, shrieking, hand-clapping, shouting, fighting people. Walking up to the Speaker who tried to restore order, one member peeled off his coat and waistcoat, rolled up his sleeves and challenged him to a fight. In other parts of the hall the more pugnaciously-inclined were already picking out their favourite sparring partners. From somewhere a water caraffe hurtled past the aged Premier's head and broke in a thousand pieces against the wall just behind Viscount Kiyoura's chair. From the public gallery a stream of water was poured out of flasks on to the floor beneath, giving the excited law-makers a cold douching in winter.

PREMIER'S TRUMP CARD.

The police who had been thickly lining the public gallery and the corridors came into the thick of the row and when they showed that they were also able to play at the game of fighting and were determined to restore order in the only way the police know how to do, the martial ardour of law-makers and spectators alike soon cooled down. The five men who wrested the speech of the Railway Minister from his hands were among the first to be taken into custody. Black Marias crept around to the rear entrance of the Diet and sped back full of the wild men who desecrated the legislative chamber. The effect was electrical. Order soon resulted. The Speaker immediately seized the opportunity afforded by the lull to declare a recess.

When the House adjourned, Premier Kiyoura announced that he had received an Imperial Rescript. The unruly House stood in solemn silence, while the Prime Minister read an Order signed by the Prince Regent dissolving the Diet. That was the Premier's trump card, and when he sprang his trap, he took the entire Opposition and the country by surprise. Dissolution of the Diet was expected, but it was not thought that the Premier would resort to this extreme measure until the Opposition had brought in a vote of non-confidence.

A MONTH'S PAY LOST.

Dissolution on January 31, instead of some time early in February when the Opposition was to bring in a motion declaring that the Government did not enjoy the trust of the nation, means, to go down to more material things, that members of the House of Representatives lose a month's pay, that is to say each one's bank balance is Y.250 less. Perhaps Viscount Kiyoura grimly smiled when he thought of how he would also hit at such a vulnerable region as the solons' bank balances. Perhaps that is the reason why the Opposition proposed bringing in the non-confidence motion some time early in February, for even if the House had been sitting a few hours they would have been entitled to a full month's pay. The satiracally inclined have written to ask the parliamentarians which has hurt them the more—the defeat of their political principles or the loss of a month's wages!

This makes the eighth dissolution of the Lower House since the Japanese were granted a constitution. The general election to be held in May will be the 15th, including the extra general elections.

AMERICAN WOMEN IN PEKING

Outnumber Men by 489 to 407: Marine Guards' Census

Twelve hundred and thirty six Americans call Peking home. This fact was brought to light by the searching census just completed by the Mounted Detachment of the U. S. Marine Guard of the American Legion. The work of visiting the home of every known citizen of the United States in Peking and leaving a blank form to be filled in, took several months of strenuous work on the part of the Marines and they are given hearty credit for the undertaking.

American women here continue to be in excess of the men, there being 489 women registered to a corresponding 407 males. However, among the children the boys outrank the girls having 136 to the girls 127, making in all a total of 363 American children.

The total figure of Americans includes, of course, the numbers of the Legion Guard. Not counting the commissioned officers, there are 340 Marines in the barracks at the Legation. Therefore the civilian American population, with which is counted the officers of the guard and Legation attaches, totals 896.

The oft quoted myth that the Far East is a good hunting ground for the young girl desirous of getting married, continues to be shattered as far as Peking in concerned. Here are the figures. Registered unmarried men were but 65. Compare that with the 157 registered unmarried women and the outstanding fact appears that the American bachelors number exactly 43.046 per cent. of their unmarried sisters.

The missionary field accounts for the greater portion of the American population. Merely counting the heads of families or detached women, 163 persons are credited to the missions. The Peking Union Medical College takes another 71 wage earners, both men and women. Teachers in educationas institutions other than missions number 33, including the American community of Tsing Hua. The business world claims 57 men and women. The American Legation with its kindred attaches, language students and Guard officers adds an even 60 to the list.

ONE PHILOSOPHER.

Fiftoen Americans confess to being advisers or employees of the Chinese Government, scattered through the Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Finance, the President's Office and the Marine Customs. The fields of science are likewise touched in the census which divulges the fact that there are at least one explorer, two archæologists, one geologist and one philosopher here. Nine Americans take care of the interest of the journalistic world so far as Peking is concerned.

Another subject of the census is the American woman married to foreigners. Under the American law they remain citizens of the United States and several were registered as such on the list just compiled.

Smith wins first rank as the most frequently occurring name here with five different families. The Youngs come in second with four to their credit, ranking behind them come the Pattersons with three.

TROUBLE IN TIBET

Reported Cleavage Between Progressives and Reactionists

Calcutta, Feb. 5.

There are circumstantial rumours that the Tashi Lama has fled from Tashilumpo. One account says that he has gone to China intending to ally himself with the Mongolians against the Lhasa Government. Another states that he is trying to reach British territory.—Reuter.

HUGE DROP IN C. E. R. LAND REVENUE

From Million to Few Thousand Dollars Annually: Result of Prolonged Dispute

From Our Own Correspondent.

The Land dispute in the special railway area is still unsolved. The local press is never tired of referring to this question, which really must be straightened out, so that the incomes due to the Railway Land Department and the new Chinese Land Bureau can be efficiently collected.

In justice to the Chinese Land Bureau it may be stated that amounts that are being collected from renters of land along the railway line by Chinese collectors are now being handed by the Chinese Land Bureau for the safe-keeping of Gen. Wen, the Chief of Police, who in his turn has opened a special account in the Bank of China, so that the money collected can be touched by no one until the issue is amicably settled.

Notwithstanding the noise that is being created the sums collected by the Chinese authorities are as yet very small, amounting only to some thousands of dollars, though in the past the Railway Land department's collections annually exceeded a million. This goes to show that most renters of land are avoiding payment at present. Actual losers for the time being are the two disputing bureaux. Thus the interested parties should lose no more time coming to a tangible agreement acceptable to both.

PHILIPPINE TRADE

America Always the Best Customer in Spite of the Nationalists

Manila, Jan. 30.

More than 50 per cent. of the total foreign trade of the Philippine Islands for the year 1923 went to the United States, according to figures obtained from the Customs Bureau. Of the total foreign trade, amounting to $208,552,737, business amounting to $135,399,737 went to the United States. Of the total trade handled by the United States, $85,047,023 represented the value of exports from the Philippines and the balance imports from that country to the Islands.

The imports from the United States by way of the Atlantic coast in 1923 amounted to $27,571,452 while imports through the Pacific seaboard were valued at only $22,380,415. On the other hand Philippine products exported to the United States through the Pacific coast were valued at $43,812,820 against $41,233,072 sent by way of Atlantic ports.

Japan came next to the United States in the total volume of trade, her share being valued at $15,749,553. Great Britain was third with a total of $11,664,706. Spain's trade with the Philippines during 1923 amounted to $5,000,000.

MARKED ADVANCE OF 1923.

The total foreign and domestic trade of the Philippine Islands for the year 1923 amounted to $208,552,737, compared with $175,780,942 for the previous year, showing an increase of $32,771,794, according to figures made public by the Bureau of Customs.

The exports for 1923 amounted to $120,752,990 and the imports to $87,799,747, showing a balance of trade in favour of the Philippines of $32,953,243.

The Customs records show that during 1923 the price of sugar exported was much higher than that obtained in 1922. The total exports of sugar in 1923 were approximately 299,181 tons valued at $39,541,623 against 398,278 tons valued at $25,582,550 in 1922.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE OPIUM CONVENTION

Switzerland Ready to Approve

Berne, Feb. 8.

The Federal Council to-day approved a bill and a statement regarding approbation of the International Opium Convention. —Reuter.

NAVIGATION IN THE UPPER YANGTZE

Dangers of the Rocks: Several Accidents of Minor Importance

Ichang, Feb. 4.

Steam navigation on the Upper Yangtze has been entirely suspended on account of the very low water. The Pakiang arrived in port from Chungking on January 28, and the Chichuen two days later, and these are the last two steamers of the season. When the former arrived the water mark was -0.3, so it was impossible to think of going up again. The Chichuen had the misfortune to strike the rocks some 12 miles below Chungking on her trip before last, but was not so badly injured that she had to stop running. She was patched up with cement, and was able to put in another run, and has now gone to Shanghai for proper repairs. The water mark to-day is -0.5.

Without doubt a wonderful thing has been done in thus making it possible to navigate the wild waters of the Upper Yangtze for nearly eleven months of the year, and much credit is due to all who have had to do with the undertaking. The River Inspector is ever on the alert to do all he can to assist in the navigation of these difficult waters.

Of course, dangers have to be faced, as is demonstrated by the fact that no fewer than six ships have struck rocks this winter, but fortunately not one of the six came to an untimely end. All have been brought down and gone to Shanghai, except the Hsutung, and we understand that salvage operations on her are proceeding satisfactorily.

The military steamer Yangwei was the worst damaged of all, but even she was brought down safely. We understand the military are hard task-masters, and the pilot of the Yangwei was cast into prison and beaten because the ship struck the rocks. Now they have two other steamers which have recently gone up. One is the old Ankong, but she has been renamed the Kiahtsi, which presumably has been given her for good luck, at it is the name of the first year in the Cycle, which begins to-morrow.

THE BEGGAR NUISANCE.

The Chamber of Commerce have done a splendid piece of work recently in clearing the streets of beggars. It was represented to the shopkeepers that they were daily being pestered by beggars, and handed over small sums, which in the aggregate might come to as much as a dollar a month. So the Chamber said that if these sums were paid to them, they would clear the beggars off the streets, and house, feed and clothe them. Temporary shelters have been erected within the grounds of the Chamber of Commerce, and here beggars to the number of 250 have been congregated. Each one was required to wash (and it must have been a task!) and was then given clothes for his own. They are being taught to work as barbers, tailors and shoemakers. Truly it is a fine piece of work, and will be a credit to those who carry it through successfully. Meantime the shopkeepers are quite pleased to subscribe to the funds sums varying from 1,000 to 6,000 cash per month, according to the size of the shop.

Good order is certainly being kept in the place just now, as Brigadier Liu, who has command of the patrolling troops, does not allow any loafers to congregate, or gambling to be carried on.

ILLEGAL TAXATION.

In spite of the funds that are being collected from opium taxation, the military have not been able to get sufficient money for the troops for the New Year, and an appeal has again been made to the Chamber of Commerce, who have had to produce the sum of $50,000. The police are also hard up, and they have applied to the same source for a loan of $2,000. It is a question how long it will be before the merchants are so bare that they will not be able to meet these demands.

Dealers in cigarettes and cigars have been doing their best to oppose the 20 per cent. ad valorem tax recently imposed on them. They have protested, and three or four days ago a crowd of 200 of them gathered in front of the magistrate's yamên and made a bit of a row. But the tax has not yet been withdrawn, and may not be at all.

YIHYANG MARU CAPTIVES.

There is still no word of the release of the captives taken from the Yihyang Maru. The Peking Government has again appointed a deputy to proceed to Szechuan to negotiate for their release, and he was due to leave Peking some days ago. He will not be able to get up by steamer for about a month yet. We understand the party who holds these two men still demands a million dollars. It is now five months since the incident, so these two men have been held longer than any others who have been taken by bandits.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE SILVER QUESTION IN SIBERIA

Plenty of Roubles: Whence Do They Come? Leakage of Gold: Capital Needed but Conditions Impossible

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chita, Jan. 31.

In a conversation with Mr. Kolesnikov, manager of the State Bank here, on his return from Novo-Nikolaievsk, I touched on the question of silver currency in Siberia and asked him how the silver rouble was being accepted throughout the entire territory.

He explained that, at first, it was a difficult matter to cope with the influence of Chinese silver in the Extreme East, but recently, that is to say, since the closing down of the frontier, the Russian rouble is holding its own in the interior. Along the frontier, however, the Russian rouble is slightly depreciated. Large quantities of Russian silver have systematically disappeared, but recently this feature is not so prevalent. In the days of the Far Eastern Republic, Moscow collected all the available silver currency existing in Russia Proper where silver was not legal tender and despatched it to Chita and notwithstanding the repeated consignments, received here, there was a noticeable shortage of silver. At the present moment, Siberia has enough silver to take care of the situation.

Mr. Kolesnikov thereupon opened the drawer of his desk and displayed a handful of the new silver roubles and 50 copeck pieces bearing the replica of the Tsar and the double-headed eagle and remarked that consignments of this silver had just recently been received from Moscow.

I inquired where the silver came from, but Mr. Kolesnikov only repeated "from Moscow." I asked him whom he suspected of appropriating the Russian silver and he replied "Japan." I then asked him if the new silver rouble had been minted in Japan, to which Mr. Kolesnikov did not give a direct answer, but repeated that the new silver was being received from Moscow.

JAPAN THE OFFENDER?

When I explained to him that certain consignments of silver were also being missed from China, he replied that, in his opinion, Japan is the offender. I did not pursue the question any further, but asked him how the gold receipts were coming in and he explained that the economic council of the Far East had studied the question of combating the contraband of gold abroad to China and had asserted that undoubtedly 50 per cent. of the entire production of gold in Siberia finds its way abroad. In order to combat this special measures are being adopted to invest the various trading State undertakings and co-operative unions with better facilities to enable them to compete with the Chinese traders in supplying the miners with the necessary supplies, food, clothing, etc. It is expected by these means to be able to grapple with the evil of contraband in gold.

With regard to foreign capital participating in the gold mining industry of Siberia, Mr. Kolesnikov stated he was a great supporter of the scheme of inviting foreign capital for the simple reason that it would help Russia's credit and pave the way for the development of other industries here in Siberia.

I profited from this occasion and gave Mr. Kolesnikov a list of the conditions stipulated in the concessionary agreements, which conditions not only offered an obstacle in the path of foreign capital coming into the country, but precluded the possibility of foreign capital expanding, if it does come in under the conditions referred to. He explained that a new concessionary agreement was under consideration at the present moment which, he felt sure, would not be so hostile to foreign capital.

Mr. Kolesnikov stated that with respect to foreign capital, it was the express desire of every member of the Russian Economic Council not to encourage Japanese capital in the Far East of Siberia. The Economic Council would be extremely glad to see American and British capital come in.

Mr. De Ladvez, manager of the Verkhne-Udinsk branch of the State Bank, who is in Chita on a visit, stated that there is an abundance of silver in Mongolia but it is Chinese silver, there being very little Russian silver there. In general, he explained, the situation with respect to Russian silver in Siberia Proper, is much better than it was heretofore.

Mr. M. Antropoff of the Dalbank, informed me that the turn-over of silver roubles and small denomination silver during the nine months' operations of the Dalbank in the Far East was 15 million. The Dalbank has received two consignments of the new Romanoff silver roubles from Moscow direct amounting to Rls. 1,100,000, so that the combined receipts of the State and Dalbanks up to date are Rls. 2,200,000. Formerly, the Japanese deliveries of small denomination silver were packed in special Japanese packages with labels upon which Japanese writings showing the amount of the contents were attached. These packages were also received from Moscow, from the Mint.

"RAISING SUN" ROUBLES.

He stated that the consignments of new roubles are packed in Russian canvas packages and are delivered from the mint in Moscow. He admits, however, the possibility that this silver comes from Japan as Russia has not had any stock of available silver. The silver that was stolen from the churches and which certain persons are endeavouring to explain has been minted into the new Romanoff rouble, was used up long ago for purposes of propoganda, etc., etc.

He considers that Moscow has received the silver from Japan as the balance of the order placed with Tokio in the former days of the Tsar's Government. He pointed out that silver currency minted by Russia never possessed the exceptional shining appearance that the new roubles possess. In addition, he drew attention to the letters imprinted on the rouble, namely—B. C. which letters in Russian language stand for "*Voshodyashtoe solutse*," which translated into English means the Rising Sun. These letters are also on the silver of small denomination supplied by Japan in 1920 and later. The Dalbank is despatching consignments of this new silver to Blagovestschensk, Habarovsk and Vladivostok.

The Russian rouble will soon be declared full face value, namely, one rouble gold value. This will assist in combating the leakage of the rouble

A RIVER JOURNEY THROUGH SZECHUAN

Chiefly Remarkable for Squeeze and a Simple Way of Scaring off Bandits

From Our Mienchow Correspondent.

Hochow to Suiling, Jan. 7 to 15.

From Hochow to Suiling is 280 *li* by road, but it is considerably greater distance by river, as the river winds about in a rather disconcerting fashion, so that at one place a day or two ago we were 100 *li* from Suiling and on going another 30 *li* found ourselves still 100 *li* from the city.

At Hochow we had an unpleasant time waiting about because the *laopan* could get no trackers to take the place of those who had left him. The city was shut up with the First Army inside; and on the hills outside were stragglers of the Second. There was some desultory firing, which did not become more than troublesome before we left. The city was taken by the Second that night.

When we got to the likin station there was more trouble for the captain; they made him pay $15.50. It is difficult for the foreigner to realize the Chinese mind on this point. To pay $61 at Nottingham and then $15.50 at Derby looks something similar to what happened here. The unfortunate *laopan* has not finished yet, however. He has just gone ahead into Suiling to square the authorities there, and will have more trouble further on.

We only did 15 *li* on this first day from Hochow. The day has been wet and unpleasant, the river is covered with other boats, and we are getting in each other's way. Thirty *li* from Hochow is a market called Wei-toh; the scenery is pretty, but the river is very winding and shallow. On the night of the 8th we reached Tongchichen. This place is 50 *li* from Hochow. It is a fair-sized market and an excellent anchorage for boats. The rocks, which enable the boat to remain in deep water, are covered with facilities for fastening to the shore.

On the 9th we had some more of the hindrances that meet the traveller by boat. We got within three *li* of Anchün, which is 70 *li* from Hochow. There the river is very shallow and the boat had to be literally hauled over the river bed in places by a team of 70 coolies. We were held back for three hours by a huge junk that would not move, though a whole army of coolies were at work on it.

There are about 150 Christians in this little town, and a nice little church. We anchored about one mile above the city so that we succeeded in doing. They were expecting fighting there the next day. Anchün is a busy river port governed from Tonglanhsien. On the 10th we did a long day getting off before daylight and going on till 7.25. We anchored at a place called Tahopa. This is a market where soldiers are generally stationed, and they 'collect' from passing boats; but on this occasion they had all gone; presumably to Anchün for the fighting. On the 11th we did a good long day. There were two or three bad rapids below Tonglanhsien. This part of the road is often brigand-infested; but the soldiers have driven them further up. We kept going till 8 p.m. and anchored three *li* below Tonglenhsien at the foot of a rapid. We were told here that the city is 140 *li* from Suiling by road, and 180 *li* by river. The city impressed us chiefly by its cleanness and its dulness! The military have so damaged the currency with paper money that dollar notes are fetching 60 per cent. less than their face value.

We saw a tract on the gate (not a Christian tract) exhorting to purity, and condemning prostitution. There is quite a fine Christian church, and schools for boys and girls here. Not far from here the river was so shallow that the boat had to be lightened of 10,000 odd pounds of its cargo, which was put on another boat.

THE BLOWOING BUGLES.

About 100 *li* from [illegible] Shuangkiangchen, a fairly [illegible] country town; and 30 *li* on [illegible] Uchikeo, also 100 *li* by road. This part of the river, and up to Taihochen, is said to be infested with brigands; so when we arrived at Tsingshipa for the night of the 13th Chang, our cook, went off and interviewed the local militia, and they kindly blew bugles quite a lot, and probably helped to keep us safely for the night. Last night, the 14th, we spent at Longfengchang a market about 20 *li* from Suiling. Here Chang's efforts were even more successful, and the local fathers came aboard with old guns, and talked reassuringly, and told us they would set a watch all night. They did, and fired away occasionally, making the hills resound with the echoes! Put them and their good deeds down to China's credit account, please! The remaining 20 *li* or so is very difficult, and it was nearly 4.30 when we arrived

A LITTLE SQUEEZE.

Just below is a likin station where a soldier and a Sien-sang board your boat. Our captain knows these people, and he was very clever. He had important business in Suiling, and asked Chang to see the boats through. I know nothing of this! So Chang went off and paid the four dollars according to the bill of lading. The two gentlemen mentioned above came on board, one armed with the "harpoon." Said they, "You don't tell us you only have 25 bundles here besides the foreigner's stuff; you have much more." And they became very zealous for the public welfare. "You must pay four dollars more, and we will let you through," they added. Chang knew his men, and turning to me, who, he cleverly arranged, should be there, he said anxiously, "Please lend two dollars, the captain isn't here." I produced two dollars, and after much argument the public men consented to be content therewith. Chang has such a poor opinion of his countrymen that he declares they will have those two dollars themselves; while the captain expressed the gratitude for much help in avoiding "squeeze."

We are told that the road to Taihochen is rather unquiet with brigands. It is either brigands or soldiers; and yet when I listen to these boat coolies shouting at their work; or remember those kindly militia-men blowing their bugles and firing their guns, I realize what a lot of honest, simple workers China still has.

FORMOSANS IN AMOY

Allegation of Manslaughter by Chinese Detectives

Peking, Feb. 9.

According to Japanese telegrams eight Formosans have been killed at Amoy by Chinese detectives during the last month. On February 6, detectives attempted to arrest two Formosans and the incident created a good deal of uneasiness among the Formosans. There had been a certain amount of excitement for several weeks, but it reached a climax on that day. Fearing that the situation would lead to serious disorders, the Japanese Consul-General sent for a Japanese gunboat which was expected to arrive on February 8.

The Formosans appear to have been killed during arrests.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

We learn from a source that is in close touch with Canton that Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Canton's Generalissimo, has sent an agent named Hsu to England to urge the British Government to withdraw its recognition of the Peking Government and to recognize the new Consolidated Government which Dr. Sun and the Kuomingtang propose to establish in Canton. It is said that Mr. Eugene Chen will also leave at an early date in connexion with the same matter. Such action on the part of Dr. Sun would not be surprising, especially in view of his telegram to Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and of the British Government's recognition of Soviet Russia.

place where they stopped numbers of sick were brought for treatment. At one centre where they "rested" one day, 250 patients were treated, and all along the road from Yunnanfu to Peking there are sick folks who are doubtless looking back upon the visit of the doctor with gratitude.

It is work of this kind which breaks down prejudice against the foreigner and his religion and opens up the way for the message of the gospel.

BREEZY NINGPO

Life a Perfect Whirl of Wild Excisement

From a Correspondent.

Ningpo, Feb. 12.

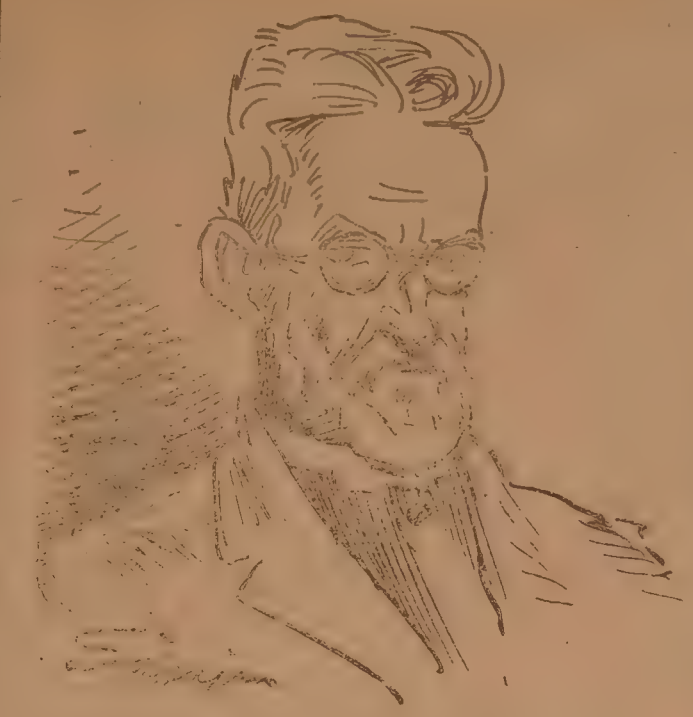
Our busy community has just experienced a sad loss in the departure from Ningpo of Mr. Alf Squeers, who has been transferred to Shanghai. Typical old-timer," Mr. Squeers was one of the earliest pioneers of Ningpo, and it is in no small part due to him that the port occupies the proud position it does to-day in the world of commerce. But it is not in business circles alone that he will be missed—St. Luke's had no more enthusiastic nor hard-working member of it's congregation than Mr. Squeers, while in the gentler world of Society he has been the "life and soul" of every party and will leave a sad gap in the hearts of more than one of the fair sex. Shrewd merchant, devoted churchwarden, genial clubman and inimitable host, Mr. Squeers occupied a niche that will be indeed hard to fill, and it will be long before Ningpo forgets his sunny personality. We can merely congratulate our rising sister port on her good fortune in being the future domicile of Mr. Squeers, and we feel that we are but voicing the unuttered thoughts of all Ningpo in wishing him Godspeed. 'I lu ping an,' Alfie!

Ningpo is nothing if not up to date. Several enthusiastic residents have recently formed a "Brighter Ningpo" Committee, though indeed it is hard to say in what way our cheery little port could possibly be made brighter. What with two palatial clubs, our popular kinematograph performances (with a practically entire change of programme once a month), our delightful promenade whereon the *jeunesse dreée* of the port enjoy the fragrant river breezes every evening, our Race Course and our numerous and well-attended churches—to quote but a few of our distractions—Ningpo is gay indeed. It is true that our Race Course it at present disused, owing to the unfortunate demise of the pony (in 1891), but amid the continuous whirl of gaiety that comprises our life here, it would perhaps be hard to find time for a Race Meeting. Nevertheless, the altruistic intentions of the "B. N. C." (as they are popularly known) are highly creditable, and we cordially extend to them and their genial chairman our best wishes for success in their mission of illumination. Go to it, boys!

Apropos of the foregoing, we understand that the as yet unmarried ladies of our community are issuing invites for a Spinsters' Ball, to be held on February 29. Oh boy! that sure should be some show! Some of our bachelors are already sprucing themselves up; anticipatively others, we hear, are arranging to be away that week-end. It will be but a fitting climax to a quite unusually snappy season—the Whist-drive on Xmas Eve, the Sale of Work and Lucky Dip on New Year Day's and now the Spinsters' Ball—we cannot recall a previous winter in Ningpo characterized by such reckless revels and so much mad abandon.

Our tame statistician informs us that he has lately got out figures which go to prove that Ningpo now has a higher percentage of clubs per member of the foreign population than any other community in the Orient. The actual figure is, we gather, 0.002901 Each: 71.5.

If placed end to end they would take three weeks to reach the moon at least we think that is what he said, though it may have been days, not weeks. However bravo Ningpo! Mozambique and Iloilo must look to their laurels now.



Mr. Warren of Changsha Gazes on the Future—with a Long Experience of the Past to Help

Great interest has been aroused recently among local sportsmen at the first armadillo of the year being reported in the river in the vicinity of Ningpo. It is extremely early for these parthenogenetic conchofers to leave the sea for their annual ovulation in the crecks and muddy rivers of Chêkiang, but it is doubtless the unusual mildness of the winter which has caused their premature migration from warmer latitudes. At any rate, their appearance is the topic of the hour, and once again there rages among our Nimrods the old, old controversy as to the respective merits of the dry fly and No. 4 shot in the circumventing of these elusive amphibians.

SIBERIA'S TIMBER MARKETS

The Immense Demand Before War and How It Is Gradually Being Recovered

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chita, Jan. 31.

The Government provided the Timber Department with 60,000 gold roubles for the preparation of timber along the shores of the Pacific and 40,000 logs were produced. The cost of one cubic foot of timber is 8 copecks. The stump tax will be paid to the State by the Timber Trust on the timber being realized. At the present moment, there are 17 saw-mills possessing 90 saws capable of producing 3,600,000 cubic feet of timber. During the present year (1923) we succeeded, comparatively speaking, in successfully selling the best quality of cedar logs prepared by Dal-les along the coast, but up to the present, owing to the absence of connexion with the markets and consumers, we are deprived of the possibility of selling our lower qualities of timber, such as fir, pine and larch, which grow in the Koppi, Nelman and Amgu forests. The sum obtained from the sale of the cedar logs exceeds 340,000 roubles gold.

Timber from the Pre-Maritime Province naturally will find its way into the timber markets of the Far East. The first market is that of China which imports annually timber material to a sum exceeding 22,000,000 roubles gold. The second market is that of timber into Australia before 8,300,000 cubic feet of timber material represnting a sum exceeding 41,500,000 roubles gold used to be imported during the period before the Great War. The importation of timber into Australia beforet the War was roughly 25,000,000 roubles gold and that of South Africa roughly 13,000,000 roubles gold. Thus these four great markets show a demand for timber averaging roughly 100,000,000 roubles gold.

The State Timber Trust known as Dal-les confined its operations last year chiefly along the Ussuri railway and along the Pacific coast, or properly speaking along the coast of the Sea of Japan. The preparation of aspeen logs for the manufacture of matches was conducted chiefly alonng the Ussuri railroad. In view of the fact that the pre-Maritime Province is the chief supplier for these logs to foreign markets (Manchuria and Korea, supply only 10 per cent,) the operations were successful and permitted the possibility of conducting them as a State monopoly. The opposition on the part of Japanese exporters which was strong at first, was soon overcome. During the past season 2,000,000 cubic feet (the *sube* here as also in all future cases represents cylindrical measurement). The entire 2,000,000 feet were sold for export abroad, 3,000 cars of aspen logs were loaded on the railroad up to July 13, 1923 and 2,239 arrived in Vladivostok and 70 cars remained on the line. There was a balance in stock of 140,000 cubic feet, 2,458 of the cars that arrived in Vladivostok, were loaded into steamers and 481 cars were held in reserve as stock. On a whole, 1,285,000 cubic feet representing a sum of 775,000 roubles gold were exported from Siberia-Vladivostok on July 13, 1923. The work of preparation is conducted by means of peasant unions, artels and stevedores.

Japan purchased 74 per cent. of the total, China 25 and roughly 1 per cent. (25,000) cubic feet were used for the state Match Factory "Red East" Krasni Vostock. The sale price for aspen logs was regulated according to the market price for that material abroad and was franco-board steamer. The first transaction was concluded at 60 copecks gold per foot and the quantity was 1,800,000 cubic feet. The price rose to 64 copecks gold and a parcel of 150,000 cubic feet was sold then the price again rose to 65 copecks gold and a further lot of 50,000 feet was sold.

The Iman and Bikin mills are executing orders received from the English Co., Dodwell & Co., on July 2, 1923 for 90,000 cubic feet of sawn timber. The preparation of cedar and fir logs, sleepers and beams was conducted in the territories of Suchan and Skotovo. 1,014,877 cubic feet of beams, logs and sleepers were prepared during the winter season of 1923. This work was conducted by peasant organizations.

Round timber and beams were sold for export abroad amounting to roughly 360,000 roubles gold.

In addition to the foregoing the State Timber Trust "Dal-les" undertook the work of floating and selling the logs prepared during former years by the Japanese timber merchants, which timber was sequestered and amounted to 937,280 cubic feet. Part of this timber has already been sold for export.

Translation from the official records published by the Central Committee of the Communist Party in December 1923.

AMERICA'S EXCLUSION OF JAPANESE

The Discrimination Clause Specially Resented: Bitter Feeling in Japan: Strong Words in Peers' Chamber

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Jan. 30.

A bitter speech delivered in the House of Peers to-day by Dr. Eigoro Kanatsugi, in which the Upper House legislator dwelt at length on the "iniquities" of America in denying to Japanese privileges that are accorded to other aliens, and in the course of which he declared that the real reason why the United States desires to exclude Japanese nationals is because "America is jealous of Japan," was the feature of to-day's meeting of the Imperial Japanese Diet. The speech serves to show that the feeling of a large proportion of the Japanese people have been swung, pendulum-like, from high expectations of an amicable settlement of the vexed California anti-alien land law and naturalization, to intense disappointment underneath which can be discerned a vein of acute bitterness.

QUOTA PLAN WELCOMED.

News received here three days ago stated that the members of the Senate Immigration Committee were considering a plan to admit Japanese immigrants to the United States on the same quota basis as other nationals. This plan, it was understood, would do away with the Gentlemen's Agreement, and, instead of thousands of Japanese being admitted to the United States—last year 5,300 were admitted—under the stipulations of that contract, only 240 would be eligible for admission according to the new quota plan. As such legislation would, however, remove the discrimination, which the Japanese maintain is the crux of the whole problem, the proposed change was welcomed, and it was thought that one of the major matters causing friction between the Island Empire and the Great Republic would be ended with satisfaction to both sides.

Officials expressed great satisfaction at the reports that such legislation was being considered by the Senate Immigration Committee, and a Foreign Office man declared that "placing Japanese immigration on such a basis would be invaluable to the furtherance of amicable relations between the two countries, because, although it would serve to reduce the number of Japanese admissible to the United States, it would also remove the stigma of discrimination which is so distasteful to the Japanese."

PLAN REPORTED DROPPED.

A couple of days later came the news that the plan to admit Japanese into the United States on a quota basis had been dropped. Satisfaction gave way to a species of disappointed consternation on the ground that an issue which had been a very sensitive one for years and might have been ended, is even more live now, especially, as the Japanese maintain, the "full seal of approval on discrimination," which has ever been a thorn in the side of the sensitive people of these islands has now been set. Some of the best friends of Japanese-American friendship assailed the Lodge-Johnson Immigration Bill in the severest of language. Viscount Shibusawa, the octogenarian merchant prince of Japan, whose labours for Japanese-American friendship and amity run back into several decades, seen by your representative, merely declared that "the extremists had managed to put it over." He then buried his head in his hands and declared that he did not want to think about the matter at the time more than he could help. Baron Sakatani, nephew and heir of Viscount Shibusawa, who has been as indefatigable as his uncle in the promotion of good feeling between the two principal nations fronting the littoral of the Pacific, in the course of a lengthy address in the House of Peers, called the proposed legislation, in accordance with the Lodge-Johnsen Immigration Bill a "Stupendous crime."

Declaring that the "Supreme Court's decision is the greatest blot ever cast on the reputation of the United States" and that, if not revoked, "it would set the death warrant on more than 100,000 Japanese in the States of California and Washington," Dr. Eigoro Kanatsugi, member of the Upper House, to-day bitterly assailed the "wave of anti-Japanism that is sweeping across the United States, singling out Japanese, as subjects for ostracism."

AMERICA'S "ERRATIC CONDUCT."

The speaker declared that he heard it accredited to Mr. Cyrus E. Woods, American Ambassador in Japan, that sentiment in the Senate is strongly opposed to the proposed legislation, but warned his hearers not to place too much faith on the hopeful outcome the American Ambassador expects will result, "for America is far too erratic in her conduct."

He then went on to give a detailed account of his appraisal of American conduct, severely censuring the United States for "spurning membership in the League of Nations which was formed, when the war was over, at the specific suggestion of an American President."

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF CONTRAST.

Dr. Kanatsugi then went on to declare that America was Janus-faced and that the two faces could never be reconciled. "The speed and goodwill with which America came rushing to our assistance after the terrible disaster of September 1," he said, "illustrates another side of the American character. It is difficult to understand why a nation that comes hurrying to the succor of a neighbour in difficulties cannot refrain from discrimination against the very country it helped. People interpreted the aid given as showing a happy turn in the sentiments and feelings of the Americans towards the Japanese. Evidence to the contrary, however, is clearly seen in the decisions of the United States Supreme Court denying to Japanese the right of naturalization and of American citizenship. Americans make a clear demarcation between reason and sentiment. Sympathy shown towards us in the recent calamity does not mean that America is more friendly towards Japan. Had the seismic catastrophe occurred in China, the Americans would have done for the Chinese just as much."

The speaker then advised the Government to "abandon the policy of goodwill towards the United States and to adopt instead a stronger attitude towards America in matters that directly concern the welfare of Japan and the Japanese" adding that if Japan bases her policy towards the United States on sympathy and goodwill "she will commit a terrible blunder"

Dr. Kanatsugi then went on to talk of other outlets for the surplus population of the country and declared that Japanese could emigrate to Australia, "for although strong anti-Japanese agitation is prevalent there, an equally strong pro-Japanese movement counter-balances this." Concluding, he declared that Japan must either develop abroad or perish.

The organization of an emigration company, looking towards South America, has just been formed in Tokio. The scheme is not an entirely new one. It was first broached by Mr. Reizo Yamashina, vice-president of the Tokio Chamber of Commerce and was approved by the late Premier, Admiral Kato, but was pigeon-holed at the time. The new association consists of 150 members and the organization is capitalized at Yen 30,000,000. The company proposes to establish Japanese colonies in Brazil and Peru to foster agricultural and live-stock production, mining and shipping.

DR. THOMPSON'S JOURNEY ALONG THE TIBETAN BORDERLANDS

The Death of Brig.-Gen. Pereira: Dr. Thompson's Capture by Bandits: Peoples of the Wild Northwest: Lecture to Royal Asiatic Society

The story of Brigadier-General Pereira's last journey was the subject of a thrilling narrative related on Tuesday to members of the Royal Asiatic Society by Dr. Gordon Thompson, M.D., F.R.C.S., who accompanied the famous Tibetan traveller on his projected journey from Yunnanfu to Peking and was himself captured by brigands when continuing alone after the death of his companion.

Dr. Thompson told his audience that he left Yunnanfu with Brigadier-General Pereira on July 17 last, with the object of travelling along the Tibetan border, that is to say, across the extreme west of the provinces of Yunnan, Szechuan and Kansu. The journey was mapped out in five sections: Yunnanfu to Likiang, Likiang to Batang, Batang to Kanze, Kanze to Lanchow, Lanchow to Paot'ao, and thence to Peking. In the first section the travellers mostly encountered Chinese and tribespeople, the latter forming more than half of the population of Yunnan and for the most part being composed of Mosu, Lisu, Lolo and Miao. The route followed by Mr. Wetherbe was avoided because of reports of brigands, and when they arrived at Likiang they heard of Mr. Wetherbe's capture. They consulted various officials and did their best to help him, but it was not until arrival at Batang that they had news of his remarkable escape. The route taken from Yunnanfu to Likiang lay through the city of Yungpeh and the Yangtze was twice crossed, first by ferry and next by a suspension bridge, believed to be the only bridge spanning the Yangtze in its entire course. General Pereira formed the opinion that the gorges in this section of the river are far more magnificent than those of Ichang.

Arriving at Likiang, the travellers secured fresh transport and mules and from now onwards had Tibetan muleteers. Likiang is the old Mosu capital, and Dr. Thompson observed that it was most interesting to see the Mosu people in their peculiar dress. From Likiang, they pressed on to Atuntze, Yakalo and Batang, crossing from the watershed of the Yangtze to that of the Me- [illegible] separated only by two short days [illegible] The [illegible] fers from that of the Yangtze in that it lies in what may be called a deep cleft of rock formation.

A DEADLY MALARIA.

A particularly virulent form of malaria fever is prevalent in this valley, and the chief muleteer suddenly developed symptoms of severe fever. At this time the party was passing over a very dangerous road continuously subject to landslides. The whole side of the hill was covered with shingle and the road itself was but 12 or 16 inches wide, and from it shingle continually rattled down into the river. The sick muleteer was swaying in his saddle and every moment they expected to see him topple off his mule and toboggan into the river, but the worst part of the road was passed before he finally collapsed. Just as he fell one of the Tibetans caught him by the leg and pulled him back on to the road. The sufferer was carried into a Tibetan village and the doctor and the General spent the night nursing him, but in 36 hours he died, and was buried by the wayside.

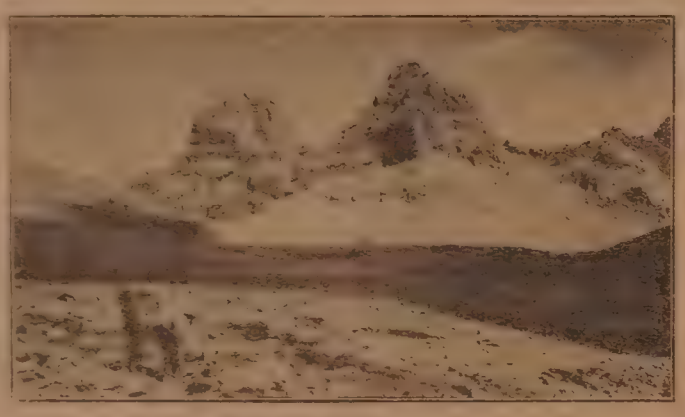
Following up the valley of the Mekong, and passing Atuntze, the party once more crossed into the Yangtze watershed, finding the whole of this part of the country populated by Tibetans though nominally under Chinese control. Arriving at Yakalo, they requested permission to travel to Batang just inside the Tibetan frontier, the whole of this part of Tibet being wonderfully peaceful and free from brigands, whereas on the Chinese side of the frontier brigands abound and constantly attack caravans along the route. However, permission was refused by the Tibetan authorities and they therefore followed the old Chinese route to Batang—the route upon which Dr. Shelton met his death at the hands of brigands. Batang was reached 35 days after leaving Yunnanfu. Although the city has a Chinese garrison, it is at present practically isolated,

The Late Brig.-Gen. Pereira (on left, wearing shawl).

and the Chinese soldiers do not dare to go more than a few *li* from the city unless they are in big numbers acting as a convoy for their own supplies from Litang or Tachienlu.

CALICO TENTS AT 8,000 FT.

From Batang to Kanze the main road lies through Tibetan territory, but, as permission to travel along this road was refused by the Tibetans, some other means of getting across had to be found and, with the help of missionaries who had been of service to a Princess of the Washih tribe, the two travellers successfully negotiated with them to convoy them across their country. Camping had not been anticipated, and the hastily contrived tents of thin Chinese calico were but poor protection



Part of the Unexplored Country of the Washih People.

from the severe weather experienced. Batang is some 8,000 ft. above sea level, but the country between Batang and Kanze is mostly much higher plateau land averaging 13,000 to 14,000 feet elevation. Fifteen days were spent in crossing this bleak country, snow falling almost every day, with an occasional blizzard for a change. Fuel was most difficult to obtain, and what little could be got consisted of yak dung, with a little brushwood, the result being that even the Chinese cook failed under this severe test and the dishes he produced were almost inedible. This high tableland country is the source of a number of the smaller rivers which flow into the Yangtze and had never before been crossed by Europeans. The country is populated by nomad tribes who constantly move from place to place in discovery of fresh grazing grounds for their Yak and sheep. The Washih people are a Tibetan tribe and, like all Tibetans, have an aversion to any one possessing a photograph of them or any article of theirs lest the owner be bewitched. Dr. Thompson therefore had great difficulty in obtaining photographs. Some good pictures were, however, secured.

THE DEATH OF GENERAL PEREIRA.

About four days before arriving at Kanze Brigadier-General Pereira was taken ill, but manag- ed to keep going, and Dr. Thompson was hopeful that on arriving at Kanze at a somewhat lower level and in a warm Tibetan house instead of the thin tent he would speedily recover. About 11.30 o'clock on the last day's journey Dr. Thompson was informed by one of the men that the General had collapsed and was lying on the ground half a mile to the rear. Dr. Thompson immediately went back and found that the General had not fallen, but had dismounted and was lying on the ground. They were then only three and a half miles from Kanze. The doctor tended him for two hours at the roadside and he then became easier and managed to mount his pony, the party then carefully and slowly making its way for two miles down to the river. A coracle ferry had to be used and, with considerable difficulty and delay, the river was crossed. Dr. Thompson then rigged up a camp bed with poles to form a stretcher and while transport was crossing the General had a good rest. An attempt was made to get people to carry the bed for the remaining mile and a quarter to Kanze, but neither passers-by nor the yak drivers of the party would touch the bed upon which the sick man lay. Very reluctantly the conclusion was arrived at that the only way to reach Kanze would be for the General once more to be helped on to his pony, and thus very slowly the town was reached. The doctor had sent a Tibetan boy ahead to find shelter and prepare a camp bed and hot water, and all was ready when the party arrived in the evening. The relief came too late, however, for although the General became more easy about midnight, a sudden change then occurred and at 1.15 a.m. he passed away. Sixteen Tibetans carried the coffin to the grave, and so he was buried under the shadow of a great Tibetan Lamasery at Kanze, in view of the range of snow-covered mountains which border the river.

IN AMBUSH.

It was a curious position in which Dr. Thompson now found himself: on the borders of Tibet, with one comrade dead, the road by which he had come now impassable and a long and difficult journey ahead. The march from Kanze to Lanchow had been planned so as to strike due north to the Yellow River, across the Golok country, inhabited by the Golok tribe reputed to be the worst robbers amongst all the Tibetans. They will rob the traveller of his last shirt. At Kanze, Dr. Thompson managed to secure the service of a Mohammedan trader who had already crossed the Golok country, and he found that the route due north was entirely blocked by fighting which was going on between the Goloks and Seta nomads. The traveller accordingly set off in a southeasterly direction, turning due north after four days' journey and so avoiding the disturbed country. The main difficulty in crossing this country was one of transport. It was impossible unless you had your own mules and yak to secure transport for more than two days at a time and there was always the uncertainty of being landed in a place where it would be impossible to go forward or turn back. Most of the territory is grass land and not agricultural. In one section there were rumours of an impending attack by Golok robbers and the party had a narrow escape. Four armed Golok tribesmen who were friendly with the yak drivers met the party and gave information that a band of robbers were in waiting down the valley. The little caravan accordingly turned aside into a ravine and after camping there quietly for 24 hours went on under cover of night, successfully passing the robbers camp without discovery.

THE WATCHERS.

This part of the country was most weird, said Dr. Thompson. Not a living being was seen for several days, yet all the time there was the feeling that they were being watched and that every movement was known. After three days' journey, they arrived at a camping place by a stream and had pitched their tents when two Golok mounted men appeared over the crest of a hill. They had come to take a look at the party, but as soon as one of the doctor's men moved out of camp to question them they instantly disappeared over the crest. A few minutes later two more horsemen appeared round the spur of the hill, and again when a man moved out of camp to find who they were the horsemen disappeared, and when the party turned the spur of the hill not a trace of them was to be seen!

THE THIBETAN NIGHTINGALE.

Ii part of this section, the drivers advised Dr. Thompson that he should request several Lamas to accompany them, for, said they, no robber would attempt to attack a caravan action was given, and the drivers promptly went to a Lamasery in the neighbourhood and procured four of the most villainous-looking Lamas imaginable. Their special duty was to sit outside the doctor's tent each night and keep up a tremendous howl, an intimation to robbers whom it might concern that somcone was on the watch. In this way the party passed safely through the Golok country, then through the Minshan, eventually reached old Taochao, and so thence to Lanchow.

Dr. Thompson Riding a Yak.

Four Lamas travelling with escort through the Golok country.

IN THE HANDS OF BRIGANDS.

From Lanchow the journey was continued by cart. To Paot'ao and it was when within six hours of the railhead of the Kalgan route at Paot'aochen that Dr. Thompson had the misfortune to encounter a band of *tufei*, composed of ex-Chinese soldiers, Mongols and non-descript robbers. He was compelled to career about the country with them for eight days, but at last managed to get away. The first difficulty was that of getting in touch with the Chinese authorities and giving them information, and with that purpose in view, the doctor refused to take any but foreign food, knowing that this could only be secured by sending in to Paot'ao. After 24 hours' discussion, the bandits agreed to this request, and the doctor wrote his letter asking for food and also giving information as to his condition and whereabouts, and how he might be recognized. He thought that, if the Chinese would only keep up pressure, he might find a chance of escaping. The doctor's Chinese boy was selected as the first messenger, and before he left Dr. Thompson whispered to him a warning not to return. He did not. Two or three letters were subsequently sent in, asking for food and at the same time giving information. After four days, no food arriving, Dr. Thompson suggested that the brigands should take him to some place where there might be a foreign mission.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

Fearing that Dr. Thompson was going to die, the brigands quickly agreed, and off they went with him to the Belgian Roman Catholic Mission at Ta Moor. The Catholic Priest there was exceedingly kind, and Dr. Thompson expressed gratitude for the help given him. The Priest did his best to negotiate with the robbers, whose terms for release were: 1,000 rifles, four machine guns, $400,000 and admission to the army. After 48 hours' "bargaining," Father de Wilde had to leave on a visit to a priest in captivity with another band of robbers, but that night the agent of a Chinese official contrived to bribe the doctor's guards, who came to him and helped him to get away. Travelling through the night, Dr. Thompson crossed the Yellow River over the ice and reached Paot'ao next day, thence going forward to Peking.

RESULTS OF THE JOURNEY.

After the death of Brigadier-General Pereira, the doctor determined to keep up all the records of the journey, and he continued the mapping, with the result that the whole of the route of the previously unexplored country was mapped. These maps the doctor managed to save from the bandits by always carrying them on his person.

The medical work of the journey was not light. As the doctor said: "I am a medical missionary and my work is not simply to travel but to help the people in body and soul." At every

so far from being any better on these points seems to be rather worse and further resolutions on all these subjects will be brought forward at this Conference.

EXTERRITARALITY.

With regard to extraterritoriality you will remember that the Washington Conference decided that a Special Commission should be sent to China to investigate the question. The sending of the Commission has been postponed and we understand that the Chinese Government itself asked for a postponement. But there seems some possibility that the Commission may come out this year. I need not say more on this subject now except to inform you that the Shanghai Chamber and the China Association have formed a joint Sub-Committee to collect information so as to present Chinese judicial procedure in theory and in practice. A mass of data has already been obtained and the joint Sub-Committee is under a great obligation to Mr. Macleod for having undertaken an exhaustive examination and for having prepared a most valuable summary and preliminary report. Further data are still to be received before a final report can be completed.

2½ PER CENT SURTAX.

You will see that we have another resolution on this year's agenda about the 2½ per cent. surtax. You will remember that last year our resolution recommended that the proceeds of the surtax should be devoted to reorganization of China's finances and disbandment of troops under foreign supervision. Of course by this was meant foreign co-operation on the invitation of the Chinese Government in a voluntary movement on their part to disband superfluous troops. At that time there was a strong public feeling amongst the Chinese themselves in favour of disbandment: the Chinese Press advocated it and Dr. Sun Yat-sen himself suggested disbandment with foreign assistance. We still feel that it was sound advice to China, the soundest advice which could be given her. But China was as a deaf adder, and the past year has witnessed the tragedy of continual civil wars especially in Szechuan and Kuangtung, and the burden of continued competition in military expenditure amongst individual Tuchuns. Since last year therefore any faint hope there might have been of China initiating a disbandment scheme with foreign assistance seems to have vanished and it has become necessary to restate our position: a resolution on this point is scheduled for Friday morning.

LINCHENG OUTRAGE.

One of the most important incidents of the past year was the Lincheng outrage which took place on the night of May 6. Both the British Chambers of Commerce and the China Association out here took a very serious view of the affair: and not only because of the seriousness of the actual incident itself but also because they regarded it as a signal proof of the trend of events in China and likely to be a forerunner of other outrages which might gradually close the interior of China both to the merchant and to the missionary.

You are already aware of the steps which were urged at the time. These included insistence by the Power on China initiating a scheme for disbandment of troops under foreign supervision and with foreign financial assistance, effective foreign management of main trunk railways and the policing of railways under foreign officers. It was also suggested that the Powers should postpone putting into operation the recommendations of the Washington Conference as they affect China until such time as an effective disbandment scheme under foreign supervision had been devised and steps had been taken by China to give protection to foreign life and property. The telegrams further asked that the international garrisons should be strengthened and extended to others of the larger Treaty ports in order to support diplomatic demands and that the foreign settlements and concessions should cease to be asylums for political agitators or defaulting officials.

It was not suggested that such measures should be imposed as a penalty for the particular incident but rather that that incident should be made the occasion for saying to China: "You have entirely failed to respond to the liberal attitude adopted towards China at Washington. You appear to suppose that foreign Treaty rights are no longer of any account. The Powers can no longer tolerate such an attitude and acting in unity they are compelled to insist on measures designed to secure adherence to existing Treaties and adequate protection to foreign life and property."

This view was not altogether shared at home: The British Government kept in close touch on this matter with others of the Powers chiefly interested in China but neither the British Government nor the other Powers regarded the particular incident or the general situation as sufficiently serious yet to justify the drastic steps recommended. The terms of settlement which they finally demanded included the degradation of the Tuchun of Shantung in whose province the outrage occurred, compensation for those taken captive, and a measure of foreign supervision in the control of the railway police. We understand that the organization of a more effective Railway Police force under the direction of General Munthe is proceeding and we must hope that some real improvement will result.

POLITICAL SITUATION IN CHINA.

It is impossible within the limit of time available to attempt to review in detail the situation in China to-day, nor has this Conference any general panacea to recommend in order to bring order out of chaos. This subject will be more fully dealt with in such resolutions as those on the 2½ per cent. surtax and on breaches of the treaties: I can but indicate here in general outline the views and the principles on which we think our policy should be based.

We have on a former occasion expressed our agreement with the general principles laid down at the Washington Conference as affecting China. But it must be emphasized that the resolutions of the Washington Conference were in no sense and were never intended to be an abrogation of foreign Treaty rights in China.

The primary object of that Conference was to discontinue an international competition in armaments, and a necessary corollary was to remove possible causes of war in the Pacific and in China.

The occasion was opportune on the one hand to endeavour to awaken China to a sense of her responsibilities and obligations as a member of the comity of nations and on the other hand to hold out promises that so soon as China could show herself able to fulfil effectively the proper functions of a civilized government the Powers would remove those restrictions and limitations which China's own attitude to foreigners and to foreign trade in the past had made it necessary to impose on her.

Those promises were inspired by genuine goodwill towards the Chinese nation: they were based on a genuine hope that China would rise to the occasion and so fulfil the proper functions of the Government of a civilized nation as to make it possible for subjects of other civilized nations to live and trade under her protection and under her laws with adequate security to life and property.

With such sentiments of goodwill toward the Chinese people and with such hopes of the future the British community in China is in full accord. We want nothing from the Chinese except to live and trade in China under just laws justly administered, and to enjoy that security of life and property which it is the fundamental obligation of a civilized Government to afford.

THE NECESSARY CONDITION.

But all such promises are conditional: China must perform her part of the obligations before we can yield one fraction of our existing Treaty rights. Unfortunately the Chinese do not seem to realize this. They seem to have absorbed the idea from the Washington Conference that the Powers no longer intend to insist on the maintenance of Treaty rights. The view of the Shanghai Chambers is that it will be exceedingly dangerous and in the long run disastrous to allow the Chinese to labour under any such delusions. We are inclined to face the facts bluntly and the facts are these: We live and trade in China under the rights afforded by the Treaties: If those Treaty rights were obtained in part by force; if they have since been maintained in part by force; there has been justification for it. But we have reached a stage where we want to avoid this necessity of force. We want to be able to deal with China on a basis of reason and good faith. But we must have guarantees and they do not yet seem to be forthcoming.

WHAT FIGURES DO NOT SHOW.

We do not wish to exaggerate the seriousness of the present situation: We admit that the Customs figures indicate that despite the disabilities, risks and disorders foreign trade as yet shows no diminution. China is a vast country and large areas have enjoyed exceptional crops, exceptional freedom from serious visitations of plague, flood and famine and comparative peace and prosperity. Moreover we do not underestimate the difficulties of a country which is still in the aftermath of revolution, nor can we count it an obligation on China to maintain ideal conditions for the expansion of foreign trade.

But although statistical figures of trade may show the truth, they do not show the whole truth: They do not show the risks run nor the losses incurred. They do not show what her trade might be under reasonable conditions. They do not show that China potentially rich is temporarily bankrupt, that her revenue is being wasted on militarism, and that her railways are being allowed to run to seed: They do not show that large districts are being terrorized by brigands, and that towns are being laid waste by looting. They do not show that provincial revenues are being derived largely from opium, grambling and excessive taxation, and they do not show that the old solid merchant classes are gradually yielding place to a new breed of get-rich-quick opportunists, caring neither for honesty nor "Face."

And let those of us who live in the comparative security of the larger Treaty Ports not forget that the hundreds, the thousands of foreigners, merchants and missionaries, who work in the smaller ports and in the far interior have now to take their lives in their hands. Let us be sure that we do not grow callous to outrages on foreigners from their very repetition.

Customs Trade figures notwithstanding, the present is bad enough: But what of the future? That is the worst feature of all because frankly we can see no daylight. One can hardly conceive a country less adapted to what the West means by a Republic or even a democratic form of Government. Can China earn deeper shame politically than her first and last parliament brought on her? Could anything be less of an election than the election of her present President? True, if he can unify the country and establish an effective Government the method of his election matters little. But what of China's Constitution? As a Republic she has already become a farce: and yet she seems too vast to be dominated under modern conditions by a single autocrat.

THE WISE COURSE.

We hold that China would be well advised to invite on her own initiative some measure of foreign advice and assistance in the settlement of her most difficult problems and this she could well do without any infringement of her sovereign rights, without any derogation of her national dignity: But official jealousies and official greed leave little hope of any such solution, destroy indeed even the desire for efficient or honest administration of government. And so China must be allowed to work out her own political salvation in her own way. But it envisages the probability of years, perhaps of tens of years of internal wars and increasing disorders. Our view is that under such lamentable conditions and until China can fulfil towards foreigners the essential obligations of a civilized government, the Chinese Government, the Provincial Governments and the Chinese people must be made to understand and to recognize that existing foreign Treaty rights will be strictly upheld and will be upheld if necessary by force. Governments and Legations may be—have been—long-suffering but there must be a limit, and that there is a limit has recently been indicated to China by events in Canton. We do not want to be forced to revert to a gunboat policy in our dealings with China. But it is only 24 years since the notorious events of 1900. What are 24 years in the history or character of China? A policy of treating as efficient and reasonable that which is neither efficient nor reasonable, a policy of weakness, a policy of drift may lead to a much more serious tragedy within the next decade.

INTERNATIONAL UNITY.

One more word and I have done: The Washington Conference endeavoured to eliminate all causes for international jealousies in China. Carrying the same principle one stage further may we not hope for some more definite provision for even closer co-operation between the Powers chiefly interested in China. Never was there greater need for strong unity of action. Whatever differences of interests may exist in other parts of the world our interests in China are common to all of us. Yes, and common not only to foreigners but to the Chinese themselves if they could but realize it. Through the medium of our National Associations and of our Chambers of Commerce the foreign communities in China, and perhaps more particularly the British and American Communities, have kept in close touch with each other during the past year and I think I am correct in saying that in our view of the existing situation and possible future situation in China, in our ideas of policy, we are very much at one.

Admittedly we are ignorant of the intricacies and difficulties of international politics, but we venture to hope that amongst the Legations in Peking and amongst the Governments of the Powers chiefly interested close co-operation and unity of action—unity of strong action—may be the basis of all policy in China.

CONSUL-GENERAL ON TREATIES.

Mr. Sidney Barton, H. M. Consul-General, speaking in his capacity as honorary President of the Shanghai Chamber then addressed the Conference. In an exceedingly interesting speech Mr. Barton sketched the history of previous treaty settlements with China, drawing a parallel between their origin and fate and the situation in which treaties stand at the present time. He emphasized that amongst the helpful lessons with which this parallelism furnished British merchants to-day were the necessity for "pegging away" and the necessity for co-operation. He pointed out that if the degree of danger and difficulty in which many matters stood to-day appeared to be greater than before, greater also and very much more efficient were our organization and our means of ascertaining the opinion of all engaged in trade and of communicating those opinions to H. M. Legation. He thought that it was precisely because the Chambers' Annual Conferences strengthened British organization that they were important and should continue. He regretted that some of the Chambers, more particularly Hongkong, had not found it possible to send delegates. The resolutions which Hongkong had on the agenda were in exceedingly capable hands, but he thought it particularly important that Hongkong should be directly represented at these Conferences as there were so many issues on which the views of Hongkong would be of greatest possible use.

Following Mr. Barton, Mr. H. J. Brett, H. M. Commercial Counsellor of Legation, addressed the Conference.

A resolution was then passed that the Conference go into Committee, that Mr. F. R. Scott be asked to take the Chair and that Meetings and discussions be opened to all members of the Chambers represented and their guests. Mr. F. R. Scott thanked the Conference for the honour which they had done him in electing him Chairman and in an exceedingly amusing speech referred briefly to the fate of last year's Resolutions. Mr. Scott adopted the happy simile of the Resolutions being children of the Associated Chambers and continuing his metaphor dealt lightly with the individual characteristics of each child.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed on Wednesday afternoon:—

QUARANTINE FACILITIES AT CHEFOO.—"That in the opinion of this Conference the absence of quarantine facilities at Chefoo and other of the smaller ports constitutes an ever-present menace to their commercial interests. The Conference would therefore urge the importance of providing quarantine facilities n all ports or, of issuing regulations providing that ships which have become infected, destined for such ports, must proceed to other ports in which quarantine facilities exist."

EX-ENEMY CONCESSIONS AT TIENTSIN AND HANKOW. "That this Conference has again to deplore the failure of the Chinese Government to give effect to its undertaking to establish municipal government on modern lines in the ex-enemy Concessions at Tientsin and Hankow; and in recording its appreciation of the persistent efforts of the Diplomatic Body to induce the Central Government to fulfil this pledge, it desires to urge again on their attention the importance of obtaining prompt settlement which will adequately safeguard foreign interests."

Resolutions on Harbour Police, Inland Navigation, Piracy, Wireless and Education

The following resolutions were passed at Thursday's sessions of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce in China and Hongkong:—

1. SHANGHAI HARBOUR AND RIVER POLICE.

"That this Conference views with grave concern the serious increase in thieving and robbery within Shanghai's harbour limits and urges that measures should be taken to reorganize the River Police Force upon a standard of efficiency commensurate with the trade of the Port."

2. INLAND WATERS NAVIGATION.

"That this Conference again places on record its strong dissatisfaction with the persistent obstruction by the Hupeh Provincial authorities in preventing foreign merchants from exercising the rights granted to them under the Inland Waters Navigation rules, rights which have been explicitly admitted within the last few months by the Board of Communications and the Waichiaopu: and it urges the foreign representatives to continue to insist on the Central Government taking the necessary measures to enforce compliance with their instructions by the Provincial authorities concerned."

3. PIRACY.

"That in the opinion of this Conference the numerous piracies that have taken place in Far Eastern waters, and the inability of any Government in China to deal with the situation, calls for immediate action on the part of the foreign Powers. The Conference urges H. M. Government to make arrangements with the proper Chinese authorities whereby, immediately a piracy is reported, punitive measures may be taken against the pirates by H. M. Navy in the locality where they have landed. Further, the Conference strongly advocates an increase in the number of naval vessels available for patrol work, especially in the Canton Delta and neighbouring waters, where frequent and successful piracies clearly indicate that the existing patrols are inadequate."

NEW JAPANESE LOAN

Four New York Banks Taking Up Whole of the Issue in America

London, Feb. 7.

Preliminary arrangements have been made to issue in the near future in London and New York under the auspices of influential banking houses a large Japanese Government loan to provide for the redemption of the £35,000,000 4½ per cent. Bonds maturing in 1925 and to furnish a considerable balance of new money for earthquake reconstruction purposes.

The newspapers point out that longer dated Japanese stocks at present stand at a price yielding about 6 per cent. and a loan issued on a basis of about 6½ per cent. will naturally be attractive to investors.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 11.

Underwriting has begun of the Japanese loan of £25,000,000, with interest at six per cent., issued at 87½ and redeemable in 1929/59.

London, Feb. 12.

In connexion with the new Japanese loan it is understood that the Japanese Government and Japanese banks hold £12,000,000 of maturing 4½ per cent. bonds which will be converted into the new issue. Holders of such bonds may convert on a basis of £195 of the new issue for £100 of the old, plus a small cash payment. The existing Japanese loans fell rather sharply on the disclosure of these terms.

It is reported that £35,000,000 at 6½ per cent. will be offered in New York at 92½.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 12.

The prospectus of the Japanese loan was issued this afternoon. Queues of people formed up outside the issuing banks. There was great activity in procuring prospectuses, clerks emerging to the street with bundles.

The prospectus mentions that a loan of $150,000,000 is being issued in America for the same purposes, namely, conversion and redemption of outstanding balances of the Japanese Government 4½ per cent. loans of March and July, 1906, and to meet expenditure on reconstruction work due to the earthquake. —Reuter.

New York Feb. 12.

Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and the National City and First National Banks have arranged for the purchase of the American share of the Japanese loan, which is being offered for public subscription in a few days, of $150,000,000 [illegible] per cent. at 92½, maturing in 30 years. Part of the American issue will be placed in Holland and Switzerland.—Reuter's American Service.

London, Feb. 13.

The rush for the Japanese loan, which led to the closing of the lists at noon, is reflected in its unofficial quotation at over one per cent. premium.—Reuter.

CRITICISM IN JAPAN.

Osaka, Feb. 13.

The announcement of the terms of the new loan has elicited sharp criticism from the *"Mainichi,"* which characterizes the efforts of the Government as driving the people to the darkest pit. The accusation is based on three grounds, firstly, the abnormally high rate of interest, secondly, the excessively large amount of the loan, and, thirdly, the consequent extravagance of expenditure.

All the market received the news without enthusiasm because the terms are disappointing.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Tokio, Feb. 14.

The first feelings of doubt and disappointmentment with which the terms of the loan were greeted yesterday, are more fully endorsed by this morning's papers, which almost unanimously declare the contract as "a deplorable failure and even a national humiliation," reflecting lack of confidence in the political stability of the country. While appreciating the unfavourable circumstances under which the loan was floated, the papers contrast the terms with those of the Argentine and Dutch Indies loans recently raised in New York.

The leading commercial newspaper, the *"Chugai Shogyo,"* questions the discretion of the Government in attempting foreign financing when there is no immediate necessity for large reconstruction funds here. It says that the present venture is likely seriously to embarrass future private borrowings abroad.

Representative bankers and businessmen comment similarly, fearing the possible effect on future financing, even domestically.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

LONDON'S OPINION.

London, Feb. 14.

Referring to the reported dissatisfaction in Japan at the price of the new loan, the "Times" contends that the price is by no means too high in view of the size of the loan and the fact that it is not specially secured and that the Austrian loan, which is specially secured and guaranteed by the Powers, is two or three points cheaper. On the contrary, Japan appears to have received distinctly favourable terms and lower would have imperilled the success of the loan.—Reuter

DEATH OF A FILIPINO HERO

Interpreter's Extraordinary Heroism Against Moro Revolutionaries

Manila, Feb. 3.

Jose B. Nisperos, a Filipino, holder of a medal of honour from the Congress of the United States, died more than four months ago at his home in San Francisco, province of La Union, yet news of his death did not reach here until a few days ago. His death probably would not have been known then outside his home town, had not a Manila newspaper printed a story stating that only three Congressional medals of honour were held by residents of the Philippine Islands and that all of these were employed in the office of the Governor-General at Malaca nan Palace.

These three holders of the medal are:—Governor-General Leonard Wood who received his decoration for distinguished service in Indian campaigns of the southwest in the eighties; Lieut.-Colonel Gordon Johnston, now attached to the Governor-General's staff, who was awarded a medal by Congress for bravery during a fight in Jolo against the Moros in 1906 when he was seriously wounded; and George Brown, patrolman at the Palace grounds, who won a medal for unusual bravery in battle in Central Luzon during the Philippine insurrection in 1899.

Publication of the story revealed the fact that José Nisperos, a private in the Philippine Scouts, had been awarded the medal by Congress for distinguished gallantry in action against hostile Moros in September, 1904, at Lapurap, Basilan Island. Nisperos, according to the records at United States army headquarters here, is the only Filipino who has ever held the Congressional medal of honour.

BRAVERY AND MODESTY.

Nisperos was acting as interpreter for Ensign Hovey of the United States Navy, who with a detachment of five sailors from the gunboat Pampanga was working in conjunction with Lieut. Cody of the Philippine Scouts, in an effort to capture Mundang, a Moro outlaw. The small detachment was attacked by a band of Moros and Ensign Hovey was killed. Nisperos and the five sailors rallied around the body of Ensign Hovey and succeeded in holding off the Moros until a scout company under Lieut. Cody arrived. During the fighting Nisperos' right arm was shot off above the elbow, but this did not stop him from fighting.

Lieut. Cody recommended Nisperos for a Congressional medal for extraordinary heroism and it was voted by Congress. Some difficulty was experienced in locating him after his discharge from the scouts, but finally he was found in San Francisco, and the medal was awarded him by Major-General J. Franklin Ball, commanding the Philippine Division, on February 3, 1913.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SHANGHAI NEWS

OPENING OF ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH CHAMBERS' CONFERENCE

The Chairman's Review of Past Year: Some Successes and Many Disappointments: Treaty Rights in Danger: A Masterly Statement of Policy

The fifth annual conference of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce opened on Wednesday morning in H.M. Supreme Court at 10 a.m. when Mr. S. F. Mayers on behalf of the Peking Chamber moved that Mr. C. G. Humprys, acting Chairman of the Association, be Chairman of the Conference. This resolution having been seconded, the Tientsin Chamber in the person of Mr. Peters proposed that Mr. Gull, the Secretary of the Association, be Secretary of the Conference.

The Chairman then addressed the Conference as follows:—

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

It is in accordance with past precedent that the Chairman of the Shanghai Committee should also act as Chairman of the Associated British Chambers of Commerce in China. During the whole of the past year that position has been filled by Mr. H. E. Arnhold who unfortunately was unable to postpone his departure for Home to attend this Conference.

Mr. Arnhold is a very busy man and this is a fitting opportunity to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to him for having given up so much of his time and for having filled so thoroughly and effectively a position which is more arduous than perhaps some of us realize.

In his absence it is my privilege on behalf of the Shanghai Chamber to welcome the delegates from other ports of China to this our fifth Annual Conference. We fully realize the inconvenience and difficulty of sparing time to come down to Shanghai, but we do believe that these Conferences achieve a useful and necessary purpose. Their vitality cannot last unless they continue to be well supported by delegates from other Chambers. Therefore we in Shanghai particularly welcome those delegates who have been good enough to give up their time to attend this Conference and we hope very much that those ports which have been unable to send delegates this year will be able to do so in future years.

It is also my privilege to welcome our guests. We are sorry that it was not possible for H. M. Minister to be with us to-day but realizing as we do the great difficulty of his getting away from Peking at all under present conditions and the many calls on his time we are most grateful for his promise to attend the later sessions of this Conference.

The Shanghai Chamber is under a very real obligation to our Consul-General Mr. Barton not only for attending our Conference but for the readiness and frankness with which he has always been ready to meet the Shanghai Committee, to discuss our problems with us and to give us his support and advice. We are very glad also to welcome to-day other distinguished members of the Consular service.

THE NAVY.

We have had during the year the privilege of meeting the Commander-in-Chief Admiral Sir Arthur Leveson and of hearing his views on the situation out here, and we are sorry that important engagements elsewhere made it impossible for him to come to this Conference. We are very glad to welcome Rear-Admiral Anderson and officers of the British Navy. Both the Commander in Chief and Rear Admiral Anderson have recently personally visited Chungking and we know that everything possible will be done—in so far as the number of ships available allow—to improve the extraordinarily difficult conditions in the Gorges. The situation in China to-day is bad, but it would be vastly worse for the security of British lives and property and trade if it were not for the British Navy in these waters. We hope that H. M. Government will sanction an increase in the British Naval Forces both in the Yangtze and West River districts.

It was with very great disappointment that we learnt that it was impossible for Mr. Fox to get away from Peking just now. We fully realize the difficulty, but we always remember that Mr. Fox was one of the originators of the British Chambers of Commerce, and of these Conferences, and we should just like to take this opportunity of telling him how sorry we all are that on this occasion it was impossible for him to leave Peking.

Ladies and gentlemen, the fact that we are here at all is due to the courtesy of Sir Skinner Turner who has once again been good enough to let us have the use of the Supreme Court for our Conference. In expressing our appreciation of his courtesy we may venture to hope that the great traditions and dignity of this Court room will not be marred by our deliberations.

PEGGING AWAY.

When we turn to a review of the past year's work we must admit that measured by the standard of positive achievement the results have been somewhat disappointing.

It is of course easier to pass resolutions than to carry them out and in the present complicated political situation of the world in general and of China in particular we cannot expect to find practical remedies easily applicable to every complaint.

But we need not allow disappointment to lead to discouragement. China as a market is of so much present importance and of such immense future importance to British trade that we should be failing in our duty if we did not strive and go on striving to keep its importance prominently before the British Government and the British Public.

Some resolutions may be mere local grievances and subjects for local adjustments out here. But other resolutions are concerned with the whole problem of the future of foreign trade in China and so inter-involved are commerce and politics that we find ourselves inevitably concerned with considerations of policy on the widest possible issues.

And so we need no apology if year by year the same or very similar resolutions continue to appear on our agenda. We have got to go on hammering at our problems year after year until eventually we arrive at some satisfactory solution.

BOXER INDEMNITY.

At last year's Conference you will remember we had a very full discussion about the Boxer Indemnity and its possible application in part to Chinese education on British lines. Many of the ablest educationalists in China assisted in drafting the final resolution, and we had great hopes that some practical support for British educational institutions in China for the Chinese would soon be forthcoming. We still live in hopes but nothing further seems to have been done and we are very much in the dark as to what the present position on this important subject is. It is of great importance to British educational institutions out here to know as soon as possible whether they can expect any financial support from this source. We have another resolution on our agenda this year about it.

While on this subject I may mention that Sir William Brunyate is shortly leaving Hongkong University. We should like him to know that he carries with him our grateful appreciation of his valuable assistance at our last Conference on our resolution dealing with education of Chinese and the Boxer Indemnity and he has our best wishes. We extend a welcome to his successor Mr. Hornell and hope that we may have an opportunity of meeting him before long at one of our Conferences.

TRADEMARKS.

In the case of trademarks something has certainly been done but not quite what we hoped for. In May last the Chinese Government promulgated a new Trademarks Law applicable to both foreigners and Chinese without first obtaining the approval of the Powers. The Law itself though mainly in accord with the Chamber's ideas has some defects. Moreover the Shanghai Committee are of opinion that the proposed administration of the Law and procedure for registration will not give sufficient protection to the very large foreign interests involved in trademarks. We do not know how far H. M. Legation agreed with our objections but if we are to believe what has been published in the Press we fear that it has not been possible to get all the modifications considered essential by the Shanghai Committee inserted in the New law. We have considered it desirable that a detailed statement of our views should be made on the subject at this Conference. This will give all the delegates an opportunity of expressing their views and of course if you think fit a resolution on the subject can be brought forward.

YANGTZE CONSERVANCY.

On the subject of Yangtze Conservancy a positive result was achieved in that the services of Mr. Palmer were retained by the Chinese Government to make a preliminary investigation of the conditions up river. The final results seem likely to be negative in so far as Mr. Palmer's report indicates clearly that the benefits to be obtained could not possibly be worth the enormous cost involved. This is particularly discouraging news for the port of Chinkiang, but it is at least some consolation to hear that in Mr. Palmer's opinion there is not the least likelihood of the Yangtze breaking through its banks and reaching the sea in some entirely new direction.

While on the subject of the Yangtze I may mention that a branch Custom house under the Nanking Customs on the north bank at Pukou has now been approved of and we owe our thanks to Mr. Pratt for the support he gave to our proposal and to the Inspector-General for the practical consideration shown to the business interests involved.

MAIL SERVICE.

Another practical achievement has been a quickening up of the mail services, and we have not recently had further complaints on this point. The latest communication received from the Postmaster-General in London assures us that the matter has his constant attention and that he will not fail to take advantage of any further opportunity of improving it.

ARBITRATION AWARDS.

Our former representations on the subject of arbitration awards have not yet been successful. We have felt that the shipper should be entitled to know the reasons on which an adverse award is based and the particular defects complained of. We must recognize that there is something to be said on the other side and no doubt the discussion on the resolution will elucidate both points of view.

CROWN LEASES.

Another subject on which no progress seems to have been made is that of Crown Leases. Mr. Kent and Mr. Perry went home as special representatives of Tientsin and Hankow to take up the matter direct with H. M. Government and to urge a definite settlement, and it is disappointing in the extreme that during the six or so months during which these gentlemen were available in England the Foreign Office and Treasury were unable to give the matter sufficient attention to arrive at a decision.

I need not refer in any detail to those resolutions of our last Conference such as Ex-Enemy Concessions, Illegal Taxation and Inland Water Navigation. We can only say that the situation

THE SOCIAL EVIL IN SHANGHAI

Report of Committee of Doctors: Historical Survey, Special Local Conditions and List of Recommendations

The "China Medical Journal" for January, published at the close of last week, contained an important supplement giving the report of the Committee which was appointed by the Shanghai Medical Society last year to consider and report on the question of the control and treatment of venereal diseases in Shanghai from a Public Health point of view. Their report is now offered, with suggestions, for the consideration of the Council of the Medical Society, and the Commissioner of Public Health.

The Committee included Dr. E. L. Marsh (Chairman), Dr. A. C. Bryson, Dr. Lagrange and Dr. Lovett Cumming, and meetings were held on April 27, May 4, June 11 and July 13, 1923, at the General Hospital, Shanghai.

Too voluminous for reproduction the report, whose authors are highly to be complimented on their work, is recommended to the earnest attention of all who are endeavouring to combat the social evil in Shanghai.

No fewer than 17 pages are devoted to a historical summary of all that has been attempted in Shanghai to regulate prostitution and check the spread of disease, from 1869 onwards. In this connexion large extracts are given from the reports of Dr. Henderson, Health Officer in the late sixties, seventies and eighties; and it may surprise some readers to find how much labour and anxious thought has been expended in the past on this question.

RECORDS IMPERFECT.

Tables of statistics of venereal disease are then given from the General Hospital, the Shantung Road and St. Luke's, showing that 4,947 have been treated in the first since 1865, 83,351 since 1870 in the second and 105 during 1919 (the only year of which records are available) in the third. The records for the Shantung Road Hospital are also incomplete, and in earlier days at the General Hospital many cases were undoubtedly not entered as venereal disease which should have been. Th Committee dwell on the high importance of every hospital keeping the fullest and most accurate records in this respect.

Under the heading of population, the Committee gives an estimate of 2,000,000 (International Settlement, Chapei, French Concession and Native City) of whom roughly 35,000 are foreigners, including non-Chinese Asiatics, Japanese accounting for about 45 per cent. of these. The Committee puts the number of Russian refugees at 3,000 which appears to be an underestimate.

THE CASE OF THE SAILOR.

The total number of seamen daily in port is estimated at 6,300. The Committee says:—

Sailors peculiarly need the humanizing effect of being cared for while on shore. Unfortunately there is no proper Seamen's Institute in Shanghai for the social life of sailors. The Hanbury Institute, the Wayport Rooms, the Union Jack Club and the Navy Y.M.C.A. do excellent work so far as they go, but the beachcomber element—nomads who are hardly ever a day ahead of their wants—spoil the two former institutions for many mercantile seamen who might otherwise find them useful.

Something better is required for sailors in Shanghai. The incidental advantage to Shanghai of a well-founded Seamen's Institute would appear in the moral and physical elevation of the inmates above the less desirable attractions of back streets. Similarly a Home or Lodging House for native seamen under voluntary or Municipal management is a desideratum. Moreover, the lot of the seamen, at any rate of British seamen, sick from venereal disease, is made more difficult than need be by those clauses of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, which provide that where a seaman is discharged and left behind at a foreign port suffering from venereal disease he loses his wages during such time as he is ill and for duty, and that his medical and hospital expenses can be deducted from such wages as are due to him. Such provisions seem altogether out of date and from blots on a succession of Acts which were passed in order to improve the lot of those who serve before the mast. The afflicted seaman naturally does all he can to hide the contagion from authority so hostile to his interests, and incidentally supplies a menace to shipping ports.

The report concludes with the following:—

SUMMORY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That in the interest of the Public Health the best public policy in Shanghai is not to foster any official system of supervision of prostitutes.

2. That prostitution and venereal diseases should be deemed matters of official concern only in the interests of the Public Health, and in the preservation of orderliness and decency.

3. That the Municipal Council organize a Venereal Diseases Department under the Commissioner of Public Health.

4. That the Municipal Council require of hospitals receiving grants in aid satisfactory accommodation and equipment for the care and treatment of venereal diseases for both men and women, including clinics for out-patients.

5. That the Council require of hospitals receiving grants in aid accurate medical records catalogued on a uniform system, including statistics relating to venereal diseases.

6. That the Council should organize additional clinics for the treatment of venereal diseases among the poor where necessary.

7. That all clinics for venereal diseases should show a prominent sign or coloured light (the Service blue light); that all clinics should be available for sterilization treatment before and after ordinary working hours; that all clinics should keep a register detailing as accurately as possible particulars as to the source of infection in an infectec, occupation, length of residence in Shanghai, etc. Registers should be available for inspection by a medical officer of the Health Department.

8. That action against any notorious source of infection should be the concern of the Commissioner of Public Health.

WOMEN INSPECTORS.

9. That the Commissioner of Health should be empowered to engage women sanitary inspectors if he considers them necessary to assist in this work.

10. That the Commissioner of Public Health should exhibit public notices about venereal diseases in each of the substations of his Department, which notices should notify free treatment, free Wassermann tests, and free facilities for sterilization.

11. That special hoardings with public notices relating to venereal diseases and their free treatment should be placed in a prominent position on public landing stages along the river front.

12. That similar public notices should be placed in public markets, public latrines, and wherever advantageous.

13. That the Commissioner of Public Health should publish and circulate leaflets stating the official position in regard to venereal disease in Shanghai; the incidence of disease in Shanghai according to hospital statistics; the risk of promiscuous sexual intercourse; the need for immediate sterilization; where public facilities for sterilization and treatment of the infected are provided; how the untreated or ineffectively treated perpetuate and spread the infections suffered by them.

14. That the advantage, if any, of the earlier closing of public bars and licensed places of entertainment in relation to the diffusion of venereal diseases be investigated by the Commissioner of Public Health.

15. That the Commissioner of Public Health should investigate and report on the facilities for proper lodging accommodation in Institutes for foreign and native seamen in Shanghai.

16. That shipowners and masters of ships be notified of the necessity of giving facilities for the treatment of cases of venereal disease among crews of vessels visiting the port.

17. That washerwomen and needlewomen should not be allowed to visit ships unless provided with special permits from the Missions to Seamen or other authorization.

18. That public advertisement of quack cures and remedies should be prohibited, and attempted treatment by unqualified persons should be a punishable offence.

19. That co-operation for purposes of public control of vice and venereal diseases should exist betwen the Public Health Department and neighbouring municipalities, and also between the Health Department and social institutions and societies engaged in this work.

20. That the Public Health Department become associated by membership with International Societies for the control and investigation of general diseases from a public health point of view.

GEN. Lin Fu, Kuangsi general whose forces are operating in Kuangtung, arrived in Shanghai from Swatow last week.

THREE weeks' accumulations of Siberian mail were delivered in Shanghai on Saturday. It appears that there was no truth whatever in the rumours of White insurgents holding up the trains, the delay of which seems to have been due to ordinary winter conditions.

GRAIN ELEVATORS FOR SHANGHAI

Development of Harbour Facilities in Prospect to Meet New Conditions

We understand that important proposals for the development of cargo-working appliances in the harbour of Shanghai are about to be made, these comprising the installation of grain elevators for the port. A representative of big Canadian interests recently arrived here, and in view of the growing trade in grain from Canada to China and Manchuria the proposal is that for the future this cargo should be handled through the medium of elevators.

The suggestion comes about as a result of the steadily growing flour milling industry in China. Not only in Manchuria, which is a large wheat-producing country, but in Shanghai as well have mills been brought into existence within the past few years. Their consumption of grain now probably exceeds the native production, and imports have been the order for some time back. The import from abroad to Shanghai in particular has increased because of the refusal of the Manchurian authorities to allow any export from their ports. This came about in consequence of a short crop there a couple of years ago, and so the Shanghai mills have been compelled to depend on Canadian and American imports. It is now stated that the Manchurian product no longer satisfies the demand there and that the mills in the north are also compelled to import supplies of grain.

At present the wheat is brought to Shanghai in bags, and in comparison with the rate at which elevators can handle grain in bulk this is a slow method. It is believed that much time and expense would be saved if steamers could carry the grain in bulk, being loaded through elevators in Canada and their cargoes being unloaded and transhipped here through the same medium. With this in view and considering the possibilities of the growth of the flour milling industry in China the proposals are bound to attract much interest.

CHINESE BOYS' HELP FOR ST. DUNSTAN'S

Institute in Edinburgh Road: The Story of Ah Ping, His Socks and 30 Cents

When the news of the founding of St. Dunstan's first came to Shanghai, it was received by many with a feeling of gratitude to Sir Arthur Pearson, and a desire to help in his work. Numerous were the institutions and societies who sent money to this new adventure, but perhaps the one small effort to help, which has the most telling story connected with it, was that sent by the Institution for the Chinese Blind, at 4 Edinburgh Road. It was felt that the boys there should know of their kindred Home across the seas, so Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Fryer told them about it, and suggested that it would be nice if they, the senior institution, sent help to the junior one whose calls would be so many. The boys were told to think in what way they could help by personal service. Many were the plans devised. One boy made himself responsible for opening and closing all the windows daily, for this at the end of a month or so, he was to receive 30 cents. Each boy elected his task, for which he was to be paid, the money going to St. Dunstan's. Until it came down to the school baby. He was passed over, as being only five years old. It was thought he was too young to do anything.

However, the baby, blind though he was, had no idea of being left out. On a Saturday morning he sought out Mrs. Fryer, and insisted that he must do something like the other boys, so she told him to think hard, and tell her about it on Monday.

THE BATH BRINGS A NOTION.

Now this wee soul had had a great dislike to being bathed, and the Saturday bath had been made attractive with animals that floated, etc., until he discovered that a morning spent in a warm bath, pushing about nice-feeling ducks, was far more enjoyable than learning lessons like the other boys. And then it became a problem to get him out of the bath, instead of a task to get him in.

When the Monday morning arrived, small Ah Ping was waiting for Mrs. Fryer. "I've thought" he said, "You pay money for my socks to be washed; I will wash my own now, and you can give me the money." Then came hard work on Saturdays for Ah Ping. Seated in his bath he rubbed and rubbed at those diminutive socks, until he and the socks were enveloped in a thick lather of soap. Then as soon as he was dry, he took the socks triumphantly and dumped them, all soapy and wet, on to Mrs. Fryer's desk "so he can see I really do wash them." Then a line had to be put up in Mr. Fryer's office, for no one else could be trusted to see that the socks dried properly, and there they hung till dry—surely a lesson in perseverance to all who beheld them.

Many of the boys took one to three months to earn their 30 cents. Ah Ping's socks cost about three cash a week to wash, so that his task was no light one, to earn his 30 cents at that rate.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME.

This Institution is always open to visitors, and, after China New Year, Mr. and Mrs. Fryer will be glad to show the work done by the boys to anyone interested. The training is on the same lines as at St. Dunstan's, and should be interesting to those who are helping the latter in making them visualize the work that is going on at Home.

THE U. S. Consul-General has received the following telegram in reply to the message sent to Mrs. Woodrow Wilson expressing the condolences of the American community of Shanghai at the death of ex-President Wilson:—"The message contained in your telegram of February 4 has been transmitted to Mrs. Woodrow Wilson who asks that you will convey to the Americans at Shanghai her thanks for their thoughtfulness and sympathy."

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA COMES UP STREAM

The Biggest Boat to Berth in the Harbour

Saturday was an epoch-making day in the annals of Shanghai Harbour. For years the Canadian Pacific steamship boats, the largest liners to call at the port, have anchored outside Woosung and their cargo and passengers have been brought to port by the smaller craft plying on the river—fast passenger tenders, lighters and the like. Two weeks ago it was announced that a departure was to be made from this custom and it was inaugurated on Saturday when the magnificent Empress of Russia came right up river and berthed at the China Merchants' Eastern Wharf.

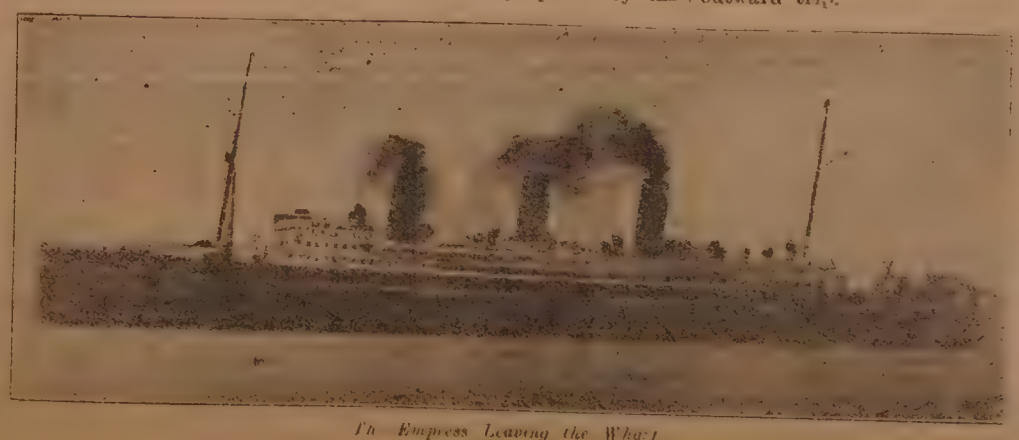
The Russia, which is of 16,900 registered tons, left Woosung shortly after mid-day and was tied up at her berth at the China Merchants' Eastern Wharf on the Pootung side at 2.35 p.m. having taken just a few minutes over two hours to make the voyage upriver, turn in the basin below the pier and make fast. The tug Alexandra met her at the mouth of the Huangpu and escorted her to near the basin, where she made fast to the bow to assist in the turn in the narrow stream, barely twice the length of the ship, but was shortly ordered to let go and under her own steam the big vessel made the turn all alone. To facilitate getting alongside and to prevent delay a line was then sent to the tug from the stern which pulled into midstream so that the flooding tide swung the bow towards the wharf, whence sampans soon carried the eight hawsers to stanchions on shore and she was tied up.

The Empress of Russia was under the command of Captain A. J. Hosken, R.N.R., while Captain A. V. R. Lovegrove is serving as chief staff officer. It will be recalled that Captain Hosken was recently awarded the French humane medal for meritorious work performed when he rescued the crew of the ill-fated Hsin Tsin off the Lammocks near Swatow two years ago.

This vessel, the largest ever to come up to Shanghai, has three funnels and is propelled by the latest model turbine engines and quadruple screws. Her length over-all is a fraction over 605 feet, while her net official linear dimension is 590 feet. As she started up the stream her waterline showed a draught of 25 feet, but as the surplus ballast water was being vented through two two-foot ports, by the time she arrived at the wharf two hours later she was considerably lighter.

It was only after considerable deliberation on the part of the officials of the company, Captain Davison, Marine Superintendent for the company in the Far East, and Mr. Lees Smith, local agent, with the Shanghai harbour authorities and the Whangpoo Conservancy Board, that it was decided to venture bringing this ship into port. Soundings were taken and the Board offered to dredge portions of the river near the pier or in sections that might be considered dangerous and with the assurance that if was possible the experiment was tried.

The Empress of Russia remained at the wharf until 1 p.m. yesSunday when she successfully proceeded downstream on her outward trip.



The Empress Leaving the Wharf

4. CANTON HARBOUR.

"That the Conference calls attention to the unsatisfactory condition of Canton Harbour and [illegible] considers that immediate action should be taken particularly as [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] again [illegible] urgent necessity for continuous means of wireless communication with H.M. smaller vessels. The Con[illegible] the improvements which are being made to increase the efficiency of [illegible] necessary increased staff of wireless operators so that communication can be effected at all times and where expedient for general purposes, when the ordinary commercial means of telegraphic communication are not available, as is frequently the case in South China."

C. THE BOXER INDEMNITY.

"That this Conference urges that immediate steps be taken by H.M. Government to give practical effect to the intention which it has publicly announced to devote the British share in the outstanding portion of the Boxer Indemnity to purposes mutually beneficial to Great Britain and China and strongly recommends that pending its final decision as to the allocation of the money some portion of it may be placed forthwith at the disposal of the Education Committee of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce in China and Hongkong so as to render possible the continuation of the Chambers' grants in aid of British educational and medical institutions in China and the work which is dependent upon them."

7. EDUCATION OF BRITISH CHILDREN IN CHINA.

"That a committee be appointed to examine the existing facilities for the education of British children in China with special reference to [illegible] That the Shanghai British Chamber of Commerce be entrusted with the appointment of the Committee."

SIR RONALD MacLEAY'S ARRIVAL

H. M. Minister to China, Sir Ronald MacLeay, K.C.M.G., arrived in Shanghai on Thursday at 10.15 p.m. accompanied by the First Secretary, Mr. G. Vereker, and Mr. Wen Shih-tsen, Commis[illegible] Kuo; Field-Marshal Chi Hsieh[illegible] Mess. Consul, Mr. H. E. Morriss, with whom the Minister and Mr. [illegible] At [illegible] from the Hongkong to the British [illegible] General, who [illegible] guest of Mr. J. T. Pratt, C.M.G. Here he received [illegible] and had a short conference [illegible] He did not [illegible] upon the [illegible] governors, but [illegible] to meet those officials upon [illegible] return.

SHANGHAI RACE CLUB

At the annual meeting of the [illegible] Race Club on Tuesday evening, the following were elected Stewards for the ensuing year: Messrs. A. W. Buckell (Chairman), H. E. Read (Hon. Treasurer), C. H. Archbold, A. D. Bell, W. Wakeford Cox, P. W. O. Ladder and W. L. Merriman.

THE SENIOR PILOT

Capt. K. K. Johnsen thinks that 27 years' service is far too short to justify retirement

THE PERILS OF THE ESTUARY

Further Details of the Rescue of the Str. Persia: A Thrilling Narrative

From the further details available concerning the salving of the str. Persia last week it will be seen that the officers of the Shanghai Tug & Lighter Company accomplished a very difficult and dangerous task in safely bringing the vessel to Shanghai.

As already reported, when the Persia ran on to the Amherst Rocks she was assisted by the Shanghai Pilot boat, and the pilot who went aboard had no other resource than to allow the vessel to drift on to the Tungsha Shoals in order to prevent her sinking. The tugboats St. Dominic, with Captains Josefsen and Roberts on board, and the [illegible] Captain Anderson, left Shanghai on Wednesday of last week and, after being delayed through fog, arrived at noon on the following day at the Tungsha Bank, which is some 45 miles from Woosung. The Persia was then completely lodged on the bank, four or five miles from the Ariadne Rocks, and in a very dangerous condition since, in addition to damage sustained to her hull, the engine room and stoke-hold were swamped, No. 3 hold was full of water, and there was 6 ft. of water in the No. 4 hold, and gradually rising, the weight of the water causing the vessel to settle more [illegible] the mud.

TOWING OPERATIONS START.

From that time until Sunday the crews of the tug boats were [illegible] at work under the most trying conditions. Pumps were [illegible] to work to reduce the amount of water in the ship. Such otherwise would very probably have gone down had any attempt been made at once to get her out into deep water. [illegible] No. 4 hold had been pumped out towing operations began. By Friday afternoon the [illegible] had been moved about one [illegible] then settling down on an [illegible] bed. At 2 a.m. on Sunday morning the St. Dominic succeeded in again floating her, getting her out into deep water. [illegible] an account of the prevailing storm and the terrific sea then running the 6 in. wire parted.

The vessel dropped anchor, but at daylight it was found that she was drifting rapidly towards the Ariadne Rocks, the very high sea running having caused her to part her anchor chain. When the Persia was perilously near the rocks—only some 500 or 600 feet away—the St. Dominic managed to get her under tow again, using a 12 in. hawser. This, however, did not stand the immense strain, and the St. Sampson then got her 6 in. wire hawser aboard and proceeded slowly towards Bell Buoy with the Persia in tow.

This was at 1 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, at which time the weather had moderated and the sea calmed down. The St. Dominic then got her 6 in. wire hawser shackled on to 30 fathoms of the ship's anchor chain, and thus in tow of the two tug boats the Persia was slowly brought in to Shanghai, reaching the Yangtszepoo Dock at 9 o'clock on Sunday night. The operation was an extremely difficult one, a great part of the starboard side of the vessel having been torn out by contact with the rocks, and much credit is due to the officers of the salvage boats, some of whom were continuously on duty for 50 hours.

DUG HOLE IN PRISON WALL

Prisoners' Early Morning Attempt to Gain Their Freedom

Half-a-dozen prisoners in the house of detention, Shanghai Procurator's Yamên, made an unsuccessful attempt to escape on Tuesday night.

It appears that six men were who being detained on minor charges in a special room, managed with the assistance of their visiting friends, to dig a hole in the wall, at the same time covering the window of their cell-door with a blanket, intending to make their bid for freedom at 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning. This action aroused the suspicions of the warder who immediately notified the governor of the prison, with the result that a guard was kept on the men. At about 3 o'clock on Wednesday morning a couple of men were noticed near the outer wall of the detention house. These were immediately taken and steps were taken to place the men in more secure quarters. They were searched and are now being held for trial for attempting to escape from prison.

THE UNION CHURCH WAR MEMORIAL

Sunday's Impressive Ceremony of Dedicating and Unveiling the New Windows

There was an impressive ceremony on Sunday at Union Church on the occasion of the unveiling of the war memorial windows. The unveiling was done by Mrs. John Prentice, assisted by members of the Sunday School and Loyal Temperance Legion, after the words of dedication had been uttered by Mr. Barton, the Consul-General, and Col. W. F. L. Gordon.

The memorial windows were designed by and executed by Messrs. A. L. Moore & Sons, London (and fixed by Messrs. Weeks & Co.), at a total lost of Tls. 4,750 which has been fully met by subscriptions. Upon the tablet under the large window is inscribed: "To the Glory of God and in grateful memory of those connected with this church who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War that all nations might enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace this window is dedicated. 'Greater Love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.'" The two small windows on either side of the organ looking south are the gift of the Sunday School, aided by the Loyal Temperance Legion.

The Rev. A. N. Rowland conducted the service assisted by Bishop Banister, the Rev. W. Robbins, of the Cathedral, and Mr. Stirling Fessenden, Chairman of the Municipal Council, who read the lesson. There were also present the American Consul-General, Mr. Edwin S. Cunningham, and Rear-Admiral D. M. Anderson. The forces were represented by a detachment of sailors from H. M. S. Bee and Cockchafer. Boy Scouts were also present.

Before the service commenced a Scottish detachment of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps was drawn up before the church and a piper and two drummers played a Scottish air. After the congregation were seated the men marched down the aisle and took their places in the pews alloted them at the front.

MR. ROWLAND'S SERMON.

Taking his text from Isaiah 42, 4, Mr. Rowland said that the establishment of justice was the greatest of all human problems, and they were in a partnership with God to secure it. There were three aspects which had to be considered. There was first the fight for liberty. It was for this cause that the soldiers had gone forth to battle and to face all the horrors associated with warfare. After the war many were deluded by a mirage, thinking that they had at least attained peace. In reality there was only a new struggle—the fight for justice. In this connexion they would always remember the great American statesman Dr. Wilson who had recently passed away. Dr. Wilson had failed twice—once at Versailles and once at Washington—but he would live again in the consciousness of nations and the awakened spirit of small nations. But beyond the principles of justice and equality which they must establish was fraternity. Heavenly justice would never be fulfilled apart from love. There must be a disarmament of armies and navies, politicians must change their methods and there must be a war against national egotism. The Redeemer of the World would never be satisfied until liberty, equality and justice had been established and for this purpose the courage of fortitude was necessary. Those who live for justice now are one with those who died for it.

THE DEDICATION.

Dedicating the window looking east Mr Barton said:

"This window has been given by friends who desire to commemorate the memory of those who went forth from this congregation during the years to serve their country and fell in the fight for justice. It is dedicated to their memory and the glory of God, in the hope that all those who worship here will feel the summons to fight for justice, and be inspired by the vision of this window to cultivate fortitude and self-sacrifice in the cause of justice."

Col. Gordon, dedicating the two smaller windows, said:

"These windows are dedicated to the glory of God and the hallowed memory of those men, once members of this Sunday School, who went to the great war in simplicity of faith, and singleness of heart, and gave up their lives for justice, right, and the protection of the weak. These men have bequeathed to us a standard of service which will strengthen us in the determination so to live that we too, having fought the last fight, may meet them across the last great divide, unashamed."

After the unveiling of the windows by Mrs. Prentice, Mr. Rowland, assisted by Mr. Robbins, pronounced the prayer of dedication. The Battle Hymn of the American Republic was then sung after which Bishop Banister gave the benediction.

The collection, which ammounted to $433, was taken by French Boy Scouts. It will be devoted to the needs of Shanghai ex-service men through the medium of the United Services Association.

OBITUARY

Mr. D. E. Nissim

MR. David Meyer Nissim, who died on Monday morning, was an old and respected resident of Shanghai. He came to Shanghai at the end of 1884 and, with the exception of a few years in Hongkong, spent the whole of his business career in Shanghai in the firm of David Sassoon & Co., Ld. For several years he served on the Shanghai Municipal Council and Chamber of Commerce, and was also an officer in the old Shanghai Light Horse. His genial personality will be missed by a wide circle of friends. Mr. Nissim leaves a widow for whom much sympathy is felt.

WHO'S WHO IN CHINA

Mr. Carroll Lunt's Third Annual Increasing Yearly: A Volume Come to Stay

Mr. Carroll Lunt, who in 1922 boldly embarked upon publication of a "who's who" of foreigners in China, has now published his third annual addition, and with the satisfaction of knowing that the enterprise is now well established. Like most works of this character, its bulk tends to increase with each succeeding issue; there are this year 200 new autobiographies in brief, and we may expect to see the "China Who's Who" assume imposing dimensions when the great unreader's social horizon will be overcome that grave modesty—or is it judicious caution!—which account for present absence of their names from the list. The editor, one imagines, will welcome them all with open arms, and the reader's social horizon will by so much be widened. As in instructive disparity in the amount of space devoted to the great and good amongst us, as thing to be expected, of course, where so much delicate tact is needed in manipulating the editorial blue pencil: though it must be observed that a great deal of personal information conveyed is merely ornamental. But this is characteristic of all "Who's Who's," and detracts not from the value of Mr. Lunt's publication as a work of reference. It should serve its purpose admirably, and well reward the reader (if one ever "reads" a reference book)—who may scan its pages with intelligent curiosity.

LT.-CDR. Whitehorn, R.N. (previously of H. M. S. Woodcock) has just returned to Shanghai to take command of H. M. S. Cockchafer.

THE death is announced at London of Mr. Harry Bu[illegible], who died of pneumonia on January 13. He was well known in China and at one time [illegible] merchant at Newchwang.

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Feb. 15.

Bank's demand selling rate for £1 at 3/4⅛=Tls. 5.98 at 71.45=$8.37

Bank's demand selling rate for G.$100 at 72=Tls. 138.89 at 71.45=$194.39

Mex. Dollars, market rate	71.6875
Native Interest	03
Copper Cash	255,000
Bar Silver	3/4 1/16
Bank rate of Discount	4%
Paris on London	Frs. 97.15
New York on London	G.$4.30¼

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/4
Demand	3/4⅛
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	71¾
Demand	72
PARIS—	
Demand	1603
INDIA—	
Demand	234½
HONGKONG—	
Demand	71½
JAPAN—	
Demand	64¼
BATAVIA—	
Demand	199
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	70½

BANK'S OPENING BUYING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/5
4 m/s. Credits	3/6
4 m/s. Docs.	3/6⅛
6 m/s. Credits	3/6½
6 m/s. Docs.	3/7
NEW YORK—	
Demand	73¼
4 m/s. Credits	75½
4 m/s. Docs.	75¾
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1680
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/4 7/16
New York T.T.	72½

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR FEBRUARY.

Hk. Tls. 5.40 at 3/3⅞	£1
„ 1 at 1505½	Frs. 16.77
„ 1.27 at 70⅝	Gold $1
„ 1 at 64⅝	Yen 1.72
„ 1 at 228¾	Rupees 2.55
„ 1 @ 1.50	Mex. $1.50
„ 1 at 16.15	It. Lire 17.99
Marks and Roubles no quotation	

Sino-Italian Bank Quotations

Selling Rates, Feb. 15.

It. Lire 16.45	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 4.12	Tl. 1
It. Lire 16.25	Y. 1

Week's Exchange Notes

Feb. 16.

At the close of business on the 14th instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 23,533,000 and $36,760,000.

These figures include Tls. 10,800,000 and $25,870,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 313 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—
Nil.
Shipments were:—
Nil.

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—
Nil.
Shipments were:—
Nil.

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—

$500,000	from River Ports
250,000	„ Wuhu
200,000	„ Kaishing
200,000	„ Yahzah
80,000	„ Soochow
$1,230,000	

Shipments were:—

$200,000	to Tsingtao
150,000	„ Hankow
100,000	„ Tientsin
$450,000	

SILVER.

Since last writing the London price remained very steady for ready delivery at 33⅛d.—33⅜d. till Saturday, when there was a sharp advance to 33½d. ready and forward. Since then there has been a further rise to 34⅛d. spot and 33½d forward, Thursday's quotation, as unchanged from the previous day. Supplies have been small, India has been both a buyer and a seller, buying orders have been going forward from China. The price of silver in New York on Thursday was 66 cents delivery at San Francisco, small business done. At closing buyers bidding at quoted price, sellers asking ¼ cent higher, very little silver offering. The New York/London cross rate is 430¾.

EXCHANGE.

Closing at T.T. selling 3/3d. before the holidays, rates opened at 3/3¼d. on the 9th instant, and on the Monday advanced to T.T. 3/3¾d. and on the following day to T.T. 3/4d. the present level at which the market is steady with sellers for cash at T.T. 3/4⅜d. and T.T. 3/4½d. February. G.$71⅜ is the quoted rate, but there are possibly sellers at T.T. 72½. 4 m/s. L/C is quoted 3/5½d. February, 3/5⅝d. March; 4 m/s. G.$74 February/March, 73¾ April/June.

LONDON BULLION

Samuel Montagu & Co.'s Report

In their report of January 9 Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co. state:—

The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue on the 2nd instant amounted to £126,233,095, as compared with £126,198,660 on the previous Wednesday.

The Indian Bazaars and the Continent have taken a good proportion of the moderate amount of gold on offer this week.

According to the December issue of the Federal Reserve Bulletin, the U.S. gold imports during the 10 months ending October last totalled $250,380,000, compared with $230,422,000 in 1922. Gold exports from the U.S.A. during the same period totalled $27,185,000 as compared with $30,734,000 during the corresponding period last year. Net gold imports for the 10 months of last year were thus $223,195,000 as against $199,688,000 in 1922. Over 40 per cent. ($100,919,000) of the 1923 total came from England, and about 20 per per cent. is credited to Germany, the amount brought to the United States since the beginning of the year ($49,614,000) representing about 40 per cent. of the gold lost by the Reichsbank during the same period. Gold imports from Canada ($44,465,000) ranked in the third place. About 78 per cent. of the total gold imports for the 10 months of last year is credited to these three countries. Substantial amounts have come also from France, the Netherlands, Mexico, and Colombia. Over one-half of the gold exported during the 10 months of last year was consigned to British India; Mexico and Hongkong being the next largest destinations.

SILVER.

Business has not been active during the week. In view of the unsettled condition of markets generally there has been a natural indisposition to open fresh commitments. The trend of silver prices for the last month or so has not encouraged speculative activity, for, although extremely large shipments have been made to the Far East, absorption has taken place on arrival. Hence a waiting attitude is likely to be maintained until the nearness of the Chinese New Year clarifies the situation. The adverse movement of exchange with America has helped to keep prices from serious weakness, although buyers are distinctly shy.

The Federal Reserve Bulletin for December, 1923, stated that the United States silver imports during October last totalled $6,969,000 and silver exports $7,523,000. Silver imports during the 10 months ending October 31 last year totalled $61,012,000 and exports $45,172,000. Both imports and exports of silver were on a larger scale than during the preceding two years. About 91 per cent. of the total silver imported into the United States during last year came from Mexico, Peru, and Canada, while about 84 per cent. of the silver exported during the same period was consigned to British India, Hongkong, and China.

CHINA'S ANGLO-GERMAN LOANS

The Amounts Valid

The Chinese Economic Bulletin reports:—

According to reports of the Chinese Legation at London, (down to and including Report No. 63) the totals of German bonds which are valid and not valid are as follows:—

	Valid	Not Valid
Anglo-German Loan	£53,000	£5,186,000
Supplementary Anglo-German Loan	90,000	6,235,000
Reorganization Loan	1,360,000	3,639,000
Tientsin-Pukow Railway Loans	636,000	4,403,000
Hukuang Railway Loan	382,000	1,117,000

The above are approximate figures. Valid bonds are those held by the people of allied or neutral powers at the time of China's declaration of war on Germany, and not bought by such persons from the Germans after the declaration. To ascertain whether a bond was actually held by a citizen of allied or neutral powers, the Chinese Government, through the Legation at London, engaged foreign lawyers to examine the testimonials of bondholders. This process of examination continued for some time, but in July, 1923, it was decided that the work should last only two months longer, and that all bonds must be presented for examination before September 11 if the holders desired to present claims of their validity. Although the totals, when they are actually compiled by the Legation at London, may differ somewhat from the above figures, the latter are approximately correct and indicate the proportion of valid bonds.

JAPANESE LOAN IN LONDON

Particulars of Flotation

The local office of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation has received a telegram from its London office stating that on the 13th instant, a new Imperial Japanese Government 6 per cent. sterling loan for £25,000,000 was to be issued at 87½ per cent.

The duration of the loan is 35 years, to be extinguished by a half yearly sinking found operative after fifth year. Coupons are payable half-yearly, January and July.

Applications for this loan, which is being issued by the Westminster Bank Ld., Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corpn., Yokohama Specie Bank, Baring Bros. & Co., Ld., Morgan Grenfell & Co., N. M. Rothschild & Sons, and J. Henry Schroeder & Co., will be received by the local office of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.

£12,000,000 of this Loan has already been earmarked for conversion of bonds of the 4½ per cent. loan of 1905 maturing in 1925, leaving £13,000,000 for public subscription.

Applications for conversion of the 4½ per cent. Loan 1905 will receive preference over ordinary applications.

Japanese Loan At Least £50,000,000

London, Feb. 8.

It is expected that the impending Japanese loan will be between £50,000,000 and £60,000,000, of which rather less than half will be offered in London. A special sinking fund will be attached to the loan.—Reuter.

Australian £25,000,000 Loan

Melbourne, Feb. 8.

The prospectus has been issued of the Federal Government's £25,000,000 loan with interest at 6 per cent. issued at par. The lists will close on March 18.—Reuter.

Mercantile Bank of India

It is announced that a branch of the Mercantile Bank of India will be opened at Socrabaya, Java, on February 18.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Substantial Purchases of Yarn at Increased Rates but Otherwise Matters Dull

Feb. 16.

Business in the Shanghai markets has not yet resumed its usual course, although there is at least one gratifying feature to report. Large orders have been placed for yarn, and the total booked by the mills since the New Year must have come to several thousand bales. Local cloth is also in favour, and orders have been placed.

The piece goods dealers have not yet attempted to resume business. No auctions were held this week, and merchants are obviously waiting until the auctions re-start before essaying any commitments.

The export market is without interest.

PIECE GOODS.

Following upon the China New Year holidays no piece goods auctions have as yet been held. They resume next week and pending the values struck at these sales merchants are not interesting themselves in actual business at the moment.

While it is too soon yet to talk of definite movements in the market, the general tone of the Chinese is said to be optimistic.

COTTON AND YARN.

China Cotton—While the American and Indian varieties are both easier, China cotton remains steady. Spot quotations are:—Tungchow, 48; Shanghai 45.50; Shensi 47.50; Hankow 43.50/44.50.

Yarn—Considerable interest has been manifested in yarn during the past week. Purchases have been made in the expectation that a strong demand from Szechuan will shortly be in evidence, although the present purchases of that province are only of moderate volume. In consequence yarn has advanced by about Tls. 2.50 per bale in comparison with the rates quoted before the holidays. The business during the week has been substantial, several thousand bales having been booked. Local cloth has also been in fair demand, and is about five candareens a piece higher than before China New Year. Clearances of cloth are proceeding quite well. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the following quotations are current for yarn:—February 178.70; March 179; April 178.70; May 178.80; June 178, July 176.70.

PRODUCE.

In produce there is nothing of interest to report. The markets in general opened strong after the holidays as supplies of most commodities are scarce. This and high exchange rates have increased C.I.F. values well beyond the ideas of Home buyers and such business as has been concluded is mainly from stock holdings.

S'HAI EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT CO.

Proposed Increase in Capital

At a meeting of the directors of the Shanghai Exploration & Development Co., Ld., it was decided to recommend to shareholders at the forthcoming general meeting that the capital of the company be increased to Tls. 3,000,000, that one share to be offered to shareholders at par for each share in the company held by them and that 100,000 shares of Tls. 5 each be offered to the Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ld., for the sum of Tls. 600,000, in return for valuable financial assistance rendered.

Formal notice of the proposed issue will be forwarded to shareholders in due course. Payment for the new shares will not be required until some time in April.

SUGAR-REFINERY FOR S'HAI

An Interesting Report

The Chinese press reports that a Japanese sugar refining company has been established in Shanghai with a capital of $5,000,000. The company has already purchased 70 mow of land in the Yangtszepoo district, on which will be erected offices and factories. The products of the company come from the Dutch East Indies.

EWO COTTON MILLS LD.

Dividend Recommendations

At a meeting of the Consulting Committee of the Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld., held on Tuesday, it was decided that the shareholders should be recommended to apportion the balance at credit of profit and loss account at December 31, 1923, of Tls. 869,615.39, as follows:

	Tls.
To pay dividend on preference shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum	72,000.00
To pay a dividend on 900,000 ordinary Shares at the rate of Tls. 0.55 per share	495,000.00
To write off buildings	45,000.00
To write off plant and machinery	190,000.00
To write off water supply	2,252.00
To write off furniture	1,306.69
To write off motor car	800.00
To add to special repairs and renewals fund	40,000.00
To pay bonus to staff at mills	20,000.00
To carry forward to new account	3,256.70
	Tls. 869,615.39

BANK OF EAST ASIA LD.

Annual Balance Sheet

The report of the directors of the Bank of East Asia, Ld., Hongkong, states:—

The profit for the year including $138,837.16 brought forward from the last year and after deducting all expenses amounts to $850,103.50 which the directors propose to deal with as follows:

To pay a dividend of $6 per share on 50,000 shares absorbing	$300,000.00
To pay a bonus of $2 per share absorbing	100,000.00
To transfer to reserve fund	250,000.00
To pay a bonus to directors, holders of founder's shares and the staff	61,689.94
To carry forward	138,413.56
	$850,103.50

Directors.—The directors have to record with deep regret the death of Mr. Kan Chiu-nam, which took place on October 28, 1923.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Percy Smith, Seth & Fleming, who retire, but being eligible, offer themselves for re election.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK

The following is the report of the Yokohama Specie Bank Ld. for the half year ended June 30:—

The net profit of the bank for the past half-year, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, rebate on bills, etc. shows Y.15,103,236.66 inclusive of Y.5,015,825.30 brought forward from last account.

The directors propose that Y.4,000,000 be added to the reserve fund, and recommend a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, which will absorb Y.6,000,000.

The balance, Y.5,108,236.66 will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

Coal Output

The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending February 2 amounted to 20,772 tons and the sales during the same period to 91,529 tons.

WATERY PIMPLES ALL OVER FACE

Spread To Child's Head and Body. Cuticura Heals.

"When my baby was a few days old eczema broke out in a rash of watery pimples all over his face. It soon spread to his head and body which were covered with sore eruptions. He could not rest day or night on account of the irritation and pain.

"I read an advertisement for Cuticura Soap and Ointment and sent for a free sample. After using it a few times he got relief, so I purchased more which healed him." (Signed) Mrs. Annie B. Richards, Low Birks, Seathwaite, Broughton-in-Furness, Lancs., England.

Improve your skin by daily use of Cuticura Soap and Ointment.

Soap 1s., Ointment 1s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. Sold throughout the Empire. For sample each free address: F. Newbery & Sons, Ltd., 27, Charterhouse Sq., London, E.C.1. Also for mail ord-rs with price. Cuticura Soap shaves without mug.

CORRESPONDENCE

NEW GAME BIRDS IN BRITAIN.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—I forward herewith an article appearing in the "Shooting Times" (London), January 5, 1924, giving details of an experiment conducted by a well known sportsman from Shanghai. Shooting men in China will wish him every success in his endeavour to acclimatize a new game bird in Great Britain.

By the way can any of your readers inform me whether the experiment of introducing bamboo partridges into Kent was a lasting success? I gathered that when first introduced they did very well indeed and multiplied exceedingly but they may have since met the fate which seems to attend so many ventures of this nature.

I am, etc.,
OYSTERCATCHER.

Shanghai, Feb. 13, 1924.

*** The enclosed article is as follows:—

The New Gamebird.—The popular Press, after the manner of its kind, has risen in ecstasy and taken to its bosom the "new British gamebird"—a quail—which Mr. John Johnstone, a Dumfriesshire landowner, is breeding and acclimatizing on his estate at Halleaths, Loch Maben. The experiment is undoubtedly of importance, but I rather doubt if it will succeed to any marked extent. Certainly it seems a little premature to proclaim the newcomer as a potent rival to the partridge. The bird was imported from Vancouver Island but it is indigenous to Arizona. No generic name is given. It is somewhat larger than the common quail, and "like the 'fool' partridge of British Columbia, it has an awkward way, on some occasions, of sulking in trees." This sounds ominous. A bird which sulks in trees is all too liable to make its moment for morose introspection coincide with the advent of the local pot-hunter.

Acclimatizing the Newcomer.—This is what Mr. Johnstone says of his importee, in a letter to the "Field":—"Twenty-five brace were dispatched last February in charges of the Dominion Express Co., and of these, 43 birds were liberated here about the end of March this year. Some strayed, but the majority remained and have bred freely, [illegible] broods of [illegible] to 15. They appear to be extremely hardy because, of all the broods we know of, very few failed to reach maturity, and the last, a [illegible] hatched [illegible] last week, and the weather in this part of the south of Scotland cannot be said to have been of the best for young game birds this summer. These quail nest on the ground in or among timber (we found one nest in the strawberry beds with 15 eggs, nine of which we hatched under a bantam). They got up well, but so far have only come forward to the guns once, when owing to their being very low, they were not shot at. They make excellent shooting in a rough open cover, but are rather hard to flush and are apt to fly into a tree and take a lot of moving therefrom. As a result of the original shipment we have now got anything from 700 to 800 birds, and I propose, all going well, to put some of their eggs out with partridge, in the spring and see if they will take to the open country. At present they come to the pheasant feeds quite regularly, and judging from [illegible] they find [illegible] to get fat on. The egg is spotty, smaller than a partridge and marked like that of a sparrow-hawk, and the young [illegible] very similar to a [illegible] chick only to have a black cheek instead of a black spotted head. They are excellent eating."

Will it Die Out?—I cannot help feeling, pessimistic though it may seem, that the new quail will have a hard fight to make headway and establish itself as a widely distributed game bird. So many experiments in acclimatization have been made and have failed. One can understand such a venture as Lord Iveagh's attempt to re-establish the bustard at Elveden meeting with swift failure, but far more promising schemes than this [illegible] have come to naught.

Virginian Quail.—Attempts have repeatedly been made to acclimatize the Virginian quail or colin, but they have failed. The most that has been accomplished has been the propagation of the species for a few years on large and well-preserved estates. Those who sponsored this bird included Lord Leicester at Halkham, in the beginning of the last century; Prince Albert at Windsor in 1840; King Edward at Sandringham in 1871; Dhuleep Singh at Elveden a few years later; the late Lord Walsingham at Merton; and Lord Lilford at Lilford, in Northants. I doubt now whether one bird survives on any of these estates. I was staying at Merton this year, and certainly, so far as I could ascertain, no Virginian quail had been shot or seen there for years, although Lord Walsingham told me that he thought the once common English quail occasionally revisited the estate at sparse intervals. The quail which Mr. Johnstone has introduced seems to be somewhat similar to the Virginian bird with the added disadvantage that it "sulks."

No Protection.—Another factor which in future will assuredly militate against the introduction of any eatable bird is the disappearance of the large estate and the growing Socialist spirit of "grab while the grabbing's good." The Radical smallholder or labourer will not think twice about helping to protect a new arrival if that arrival is fit for the pot. Much can be done to save a scarce bird on ten or twenty thousand well-keepered acres, but it is at the mercy of every Tom, Dick, and Harry in a district of 50-acre farms. However, one wishes Mr. Johnstone the best of luck with his venture, for it certainly shows a plucky spirit, and it is infinitely preferable to the attitude which regards every game bird as a walking sepulchre of the mangold weevil.

A PUZZLE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—To settle a discussion which is rapidly assuming a serious aspect we are writing in the hope that some of your readers would provide the solution to a book named the "Four Just Men" by Edgar Wallace published in 1905 by the Tallis Press and who at that time offered a prize of £250 for the best and most accurate solution gathered from clues scattered through the book as to

(1) How the Four Just Men encompassed the death of Sir Phillip Raman and
(2) Who killed Thery and what was the explanation of the stained hands?

We are, etc.
"PUZZLED."

Shanghai, Feb. 12, 1924.

*** Can anyone kindly oblige?—Ed.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—In reply to the questions asked regarding Edgar Wallace's book "The Four Just Men," I should like to help as much as I can.

It is quite five years ago since Mr. Wallace himself told me the solutions when I asked him, and my memory is not exceptionally good. If "Puzzled" will recollect he will find that the day previous to Sir Phillip Raman's death two employees from the telephone company visited the former's study for repairs to the telephone.

The next day Sir Phillip was in his study, guarded by the police, the description will be [illegible]. At a certain hour, I cannot rightly place it, a telephone call came through. Sir Phillip answered it and died.

The Four Just Men had connected the instrument with their house, this done by the bogus mechanics, and electrocution was a simple matter. Thus is explained the mystery of the stain on Sir Phillip's hands.

I have lost my copy of the book, but if I can find another I will inform your reader as to how Thiery died, I am too uncertain about it to remember the assassin.

Trusting I have helped to clear up the existing controversy.

I am, etc.,
NIGEL VAN BIENE

Shanghai, Feb. 13, 1924.

THE YEAR OF THE RAT.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—In your leading article of the 8th inst appears the heading "The Cycle of the Rat. "It should, I think, read "The Year of the Rat." It happens that the present year of the rat is the beginning of a new cycle, and the first year of a cycle is always considered in China an auspicious year as was the last, 1864, 60 years ago, when the country could again settle down after the Taiping Rebellion. The Chinese Lunar Calendar calculates time in units of cycles of 60 years, each year of which is designated by two characters, one called the stem and the other the branch. Of the former there are 12, and of the latter 10 distinctive characters, which follow in regular order, thus in a cycle any stem character appears five times and each of the branch characters six times. The 61st year would therefore start again with the same characters as the first year and instead of being called the 61st year, it becomes the first year of the new cycle.

In Chinese necromancy a cycle is divided into five periods, each of 12 years, thus corresponding in rotation with the stem characters of the Lunar Calendar. Each year is named after an animal. The following are in regular order the animal designations, and the figures which follow show the corresponding years of the cycle:

Rat:	1,	13,	25,	37,	49.
Ox:	2.	14,	26.	38,	50.
Tiger:	3,	15,	27,	39,	51.
Rabbit:	4.	16,	28.	40.	52.
Drakon:	5,	17.	29.	41,	53.
Snake:	6,	18.	30.	42,	54.
Horse:	7,	19,	31.	43.	55.
Sheep:	8.	20.	32.	44,	56.
Monkey:	9.	21.	33.	45,	57.
Cock:	10,	22.	34.	46.	58.
Dog:	11.	23.	35.	47,	59.
Pig:	12.	24.	36.	48.	60.

By using the above table anybody can easily determine in which year he was born. Thus anybody who enters his fortieth year this year was born in the Cock year, *i.e.* nine years later than the rat year which is 49. Another example: A person entering his 20th year during this year is five years behind the rat year 25, therefore he was born in the snake year which follows five years after the rat year. The above may interest such as desire to have their fortunes told by a Chinese necromancer.

I am, etc.,
H. KLIENE.

Shanghai, Feb. 11, 1924.

THAT COUNTRY COTTAGE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—You will probagly agree that a good many people when they come out East often think of the time when they will be able to retire and have a cottage in the country.

This is no doubt a mistake as it means that they fail to enjoy the present by living too much in the future, unless they find pleasure in the anticipation which is so often greater than the realization.

It is not often, however, that one makes plans for the "cottage" until the retirement is approaching, and it must be unusual for anyone to plan the exact date of every leave until the expected date of retirement in twenty years' time, but that it has been done is apparent from the following notes which I found the other day on the back cover of a library book.

	Dec. 23, 1923	34
Leave	Jan. 15, 1926	
Return	Sep. 15, 1926	
Leave	Sep. 15, 1931	
Return	May 15, 1932	42½
Leave	May 15, 1937	47½
Return	Jan. 15, 1938	48—1
Leave	Jan. 15, 1943	53—1
Return	Sep. 15, 1943	53—10

In these days of uncertainty he is a brave man who can plan so systematically for his future, and you, Sir, should warn him of his folly.

I am, etc.,
NON SEQUITUR.

Shanghai, Feb. 9, 1924.

RUSSIAN COINAGE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir:—In the article "The Silver Question in Russia" in your paper of the 13th instant your correspondent seems to see a connexion between the Russian letters B.C. (Roman alphabet: V.S.) and the Russian words for "rising sun," thereby inferring that the coins so marked are of Japanese origin.

The writer has in his possession a series of Russian small coins of 1917 minting, which were presented to him while he was attached to the British Military Mission at Omsk in 1919, and in each case the same letters appear. These are, it is understood, the initials of the local Siberian Mint. It may be that some one more familiar with the Russian Siberian coinage can inform us.

I am, etc.
W. S. P. G.

Shanghai, Feb. 13, 1924.

INTERNATIONAL SAVINGS SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—I have read the account of the method of drawing used by this Society which you gave in a recent issue of your journal which will probably give general satisfaction. But there is one matter which I hope I may have the courtesy of your columns to ventilate, I believe I am right in saying that the numbers of *all* the bonds issued by this Society are taken into account when drawings are made, whether a bond has lapsed by non-payment of the monthly subscription, or not. Thus it may be possible for bonds to be drawn which are not in benefit, and which the holders thereof have dropped forever. I think this constitutes a hardship on those bond-holders who have kept faith with their original contract and regularly keep up their monthly subscriptions. I am not suggesting that is not right and proper. The present method simply means that if a bond is drawn for a prize to which it is not entitled for the reason stated above, the Company's funds gain and the financial position becomes stronger. My point is that bonds which are not in benefit should be withdrawn from the drawing until arrears of subscription have been paid.

I am, etc.,
INVESTOR

Hongkong, Feb. 8, 1924.

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Sailings from DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN, HAMBURG and LISBON to FREMANTLE, ADELAIDE, MELBOURNE, SYDNEY and BRISBANE.

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TO SOUTH PACIFIC.
Sailings from COPENHAGEN, GOTHENBURG, CHRISTIANIA, HAMBURG and ANTWERP to ST. THOMAS (with transhipment to the GREATER and LESSER ANTILLES), CRISTOBAL (with transhipment to CENTRAL AMERICAN PORTS), GUAYAQUIL, CALLAO, MOLLENDO, IQUIQUE, ANTOFAGASTA, VALPARAISO, TALCHUANO and CORRAL (with transhipment to other SOUTH PACIFIC PORTS).

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SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SOUTHERN Rhodesia which was inaugurated as the youngest self governing Colony of the British Empire on October 1, 1923, and which had previously for 33 years been ably administered by the British South Africa Company possesses one of the finest climates in the world with long hours of sunshine, breezy temperate days and cool nights. For those who wish to take up farming or ranching in order to make the most they can of their capital, energy and technical knowledge, or for those who wish to retire from strenuous business or professional life and make a home, Rhodesia offers many advantages unequalled elsewhere. The business, social, sporting, educational and medical facilities bear favourable comparison with those of other countries. Native labour is plentiful and when properly managed is cheap and efficient. Taxation is light. Good land in healthy surroundings and amidst fine scenery is plentiful and not expensive.

Full information is obtainable on application to The Secretary, Southern Rhodesia Settlers' Board (attached to the Government of Southern Rhodesia), P. O. Box 372, Salisbury S., Rhodesia.

The giving of advice to prospective settlers will be facilitated if applicants will advise the Board in detail of their circumstances and the amount of capital they would be prepared to invest in a suitable venture.

PEPS FOR **Coughs, Colds & Chills.**
THE BREATHEABLE REMEDY.
AGENTS:—Wakefield & Co. (China), Ltd., S. Y. Sheng Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

The following telegraphic advices have been received:—
Singapore, February 14, 1924.

Smoked Sheet	47½ cents
Mar.-April	48¾ ,,
Apr.-June	49 ,,
Market ea y.	

DEBENTURES.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded		Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
1903	6 to 20	26-9-22	T93½	*b* T190,500	6	June-Dec.
1904	do.	11-1-23	T93½	*c* 214,500	6	do.
1905	do.	12-5-22	T96½	*d* 320,000	6	do.
1907	do.	24-1-22	T94	500,000	6	do.
1908	do.	6-12-23	T100	650,000	6	do.
1909	do.	15-3-23	T89	500,000	6	do.
1910	do.	11-5-23	T99	343,800	6	do.
1911	10 to 30	8-1-23	T95	350,000	6	do.
1912	do.	3-1-24	T99	310,000	6	do.
1913	do.	3-5-23	T100	756,300	6	do.
,,	10 to 50	8-5-22	T75	500,000	5½	do.
1914	10 to 30	8-1-23	T91	900,000	5½	do.
1915	do.	22-9-23	T91	500,000	5½	do.
1916	do.	1-12-23	T99½	1,400,000	6	do.
1918	10	18-10-23	T103	567,400	7	do.
1919	10	4-12-23	T104	1,795,300	7	do.
1920	10	1-2-24	T105	2,240,000	7	do.
,,	10 to 30	3-10-23	£103½	£750,000	6	do.
1921	to.	9-9-23	$112	$1,000,000	8	do.
1921	do.	1-2-24	T111½	T5,096,100	8	do.
1922	do.	30-1-24	T105	T8,000,000	7	do.
1923	do.	1-2-24	T99	*a*T6,000,000	6	do.
1911	do.	8-10-23	T96	400,000	6	May-Nov.
1911	do	12-2-23	T88	500,000	5½	June-Dec.
1915	do.			350,000	5½	do.
1921	do	20-11-23	T104	2,000,000	8	do.
1923	do	17-12-23	T95	*a* T800,000	6	May-Nov.
1922	10 to 30	2-10-23	T112	2,000,000	8	June-Dec.
1922	do	6-6-22	T108	T500,000	8	do.
1922	to	2-10-23	T105	T1,000,000	7	do.
1909	do.	29-11-23	T91	*c* 800,000	6	do.

*This interest accrued since last half-yearly payment. *See a so and or section headed "Companies' Notices, etc."

a—Now issuing; Re-issued or purchased. *b*—Tls. 65,100; *c*—Tls.51,100; *d*—Tls 34,100; *e*—Tls.68,500; *f*—Tls.262,400; *g*—Tls.189,800; *h*—Tls 12,300; *i*—$18,900

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded		Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
1905	5 to 20	31-8-22	T96½	T250,000	6	June-Dec.
1909	do.	27-3-23	T93	750,000	6	do.
1911	do.	26-9-22	T92	250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
,,	do.	27-3-23	T93	250,000	6	May-Nov.
,,	do.			250, 00	6	Jan-July
Shanghai Land 1912	do.	3-4-23	T93	250,000	6	June-Dec.
Investment 1913	do.	3-4-23	T93	250,000	6	April-Oct.
Co., Ltd. ,,	do.	11-1-24	T93	250,000	6	May-Nov.
,,	do.			250,000	6	April-Oct.
1914	do.	22-3-23	T93	250 000	6	June-Dec.
1916	5 to 25	21-8-22	T90	500,000	5½	do.
1922	do.	12-2-23	T93	750,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
1923	do.	10-1-24	T93	500,000	6	May-Nov.
Shanghai Club 1907	20	1-2-24	T93	450,000	6	do.
Country Club 1901	Perpetual			139,000	6	June-Dec.
Lane, Crawford 1913	5 to 20			130,000	6	May-Nov.
& Co., Ld. 1915	do.			110,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
Anglo-French 1906	do.			250,000	6	June-Dec.
Land Invest. 1911	do.	7-6-23	T93	300,000	6	do.
Co., Ltd.						
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd. 1923	10 to 20	27-2-23	T95½	270,000	6	do.
S'hai Race Club 1923	25	31-1-24	T100	1,200,000	6½	Mar.-Sept.
Culty Dairy Co., Ltd. 1915	10			50,000	7	Feb.-Aug.
Asia Realty Co., Inc. 1922	5 to 20	14-10-22	$92	230,000	7	Jan.-July
	5 to 20	..	..	T500,000	7	Jan.-July

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	1 24: Jan.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
			lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	8.37d.	..	22,000	21,000	25,000	22,000	90,000
Amberst (New)	,, 500,000	Oct.	72,382	81,440	80,500	*4.34d.	..	..	9,784	9,236	8,214	27,234
Anglo-Dutch	£200,000	Dec.	650,000	535,100	600,000	0/6.92d.	..	..	..	..	64,000	64,000
Anglo-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,524,711	183,000	1,550,000	6.95d.	..	..	..	..	184,000	184,000
Ayer Tawah	Tls. 300,000	Sept.	369,447	58,042	360,000	†0 24.41	..	..	..	..	..	..
Batu Anam	,, 400,000	Dec.	25,510	14,000	185,793	0/7.34d.	..	..	..	..	12,500	12,500
Bukit Toh Alang	,, 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,615	315,000	7.51d.	139,189	30,893	26,000	26,600	25,500	248,182
Bute	,, 300,000	Dec.	230,067	174,350	159,516	10.11d.	..	..	..	..	17,500	17,500
Chemor United	,, 350 000	Dec.	310,794	246,412	246,192	0/7.15d.	..	..	..	..	27,300	27,300
Chempedak	,, 425,000	Oct.	141,760	165,063	..	7.15d.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cheng	Tls. 675,000	June	154,973	143,328	..	11.09d.	..	14,000	16,700	14,000	11,000	44,700
Consolidated (1914)	,, 375,000	Dec.	609,899	633,638	574,680	0/6.58d.	52,730	18,010	15,574	15,700	10,500	112,514
Dominion	,, 350,000	Dec.	271,156	328,110	306,867	11.04d.	..	..	..	..	53,000	53,000
Gula-Kalumpong	,, £500,000	Dec.	1,113,000	938,000	1,215,000	1/0.7 d.	..	..	..	..	28,032	28,032
Java Consolidated	,, £85,000	Dec.	675,800	620,400	..	7.08d.	..	..	..	..	88,000	88,000
Kapayang	,, 150,000	Dec.	139,239	146,710	..	†26.00	..	..	..	..	68,300	68,300
Karan	,, 350,000	Mar.	114,879	104,783	84,000	8½d.	41,012	6,623	5,574	6,855	10,592	10,592
Kota Bahroe (1921)	,, 350,000	June	136,556	339,970	..	..	78,957	24,885	27,143	29,933	5,143	68,214
Kruewsek	,, £70,000	Dec.	449,000	549,800	540,000	0/7.24d.	..	..	..	..	29,156	189,074
Langkat	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	842,539	943,000	975,000	Gld. 0.28	..	..	80,800	92,500	59,000	59,000
Padang	Tls. 500,000	April	209,711	220,282	..	10½d.	66,300	17,200	17,000	20,000	92,500	271,800
Pengkalan (1921)	,, 150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,253	176,088	†40.10	..	..	..	..	19,700	140,200
Permata	,, 250,000	Oct.	98,803	86,299	..	0/8½d.	..	..	9,012	8,573	..	..
Repah	,, 275,000	Dec.	63,584	217,185	240,000	1/3½	..	..	..	..	17,100	17,585
Sarangga	,, 50 000	Sept.	301,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,100
See Kee (1918)	,, 100,000	June	179,695	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	37,615	..	10,896	12,000	8,500	129,009
Semambu	,, 300,000	Dec.	164,105	245,593	158,264	0/9.37d.	..	..	..	..	13,400	13,400
Semawang (1921)	,, 375,000	Jan.	106,500	272,500	..	*†7.35d.	180,800	28,100	23,400	21,700	21,100	275,100
Shanghai Kedah	,, 400,000	Sept.	313,414	246,512	..	8.12d.	..	22,827	21,115	23,680	24,498	92,121
Shai Klebong	,, 515,000	Dec.	126,168	109,015	..	0/9.35d.	..	..	..	..	8,700	8,700
Shai-Malay	,, 600,000	Dec.	373,111	289,156	392,000	..	..	..	..	..	22,782	22,782
Shai Pahang	,, 500,000	June	209,881	185,016	..	9½d.	52,721	20,430	15,618	12,204	16,432	117,405
Shai Seremban	,, 325,000	Dec.	173,213	147,034	..	0/8.67d.	..	..	..	..	14,400	14,400
Shai-Sumatra	,, 600,000	Oct.	661,392	679,716	650,000	Glds. 0.38	..	..	50,239	61,102	61,110	172,451
Sua-Manggis	,, 240,000	Dec.	114,880	27,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sungala	,, 199,000	Mar.	20,271	165,757	..	17.20	6,126	..	..	..	..	6,126
Sungei Duri	,, 450,000	June	208,073	296,508	229,000	11.61d.	64,560	23,302	18,774	19,773	23,608	150,107
Tanjong (1913)	Tls. 260,000	Dec.	107,011	143,689	99,000	*†30	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanah Merah	,, 750,000	Mar.	445,000	395,900	..	7.92d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,800	21,900	256,800
Tevong	,, 500,000	Jan.	534,500	650,838	717,725	0/7.66d.	450,500	66,500	67,000	72,000	67,000	723,000
Ziangbe	£150,000	Dec.	511,766	523,600	600,000	7.24d.	..	..	..	..	67,500	67,500

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses † Straits 8 cents.

See Kee Rubber Estates (1918), Ld.	T	1					100,000		T1					
Sungambu Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T	1	1.37½	1.30		1.37½	300,000		T1					
Semawang Rubber Ests (ord.	T	1.05					300,000		£1					
2s. (1922) Ltd. (12½% Cum. Pref.	T	1					100,000		T1					
Shanghai Land Investment, Ltd.	T	1.10	1.05				100,000		T1					
S'hai Sungkong Rubber Co., Ltd.	T	0.80	0.65				100,000		T1					
Shai Sungei Duri Rubber Co., Ltd. ord	T	1	1				450,000		T1					
,, 8% cum. part. pref.	T	3					150,000		T10					
S'hai Pahang Rubber Estates, Ltd. ..	T	1	0.75				200,000		T1					
S'hai Seremban Rubber Estates, Ld. ..	T	0.80	0.67½				325,000		T1					
S'hai-Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ld	T	90	80			7)	30,000		T10					
Sua Manggis Rubber Co., Ld.	T	3½				30)	56,000		T5					
Sungala Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	1½	1½			15)	100,000		T1					
Sungei Duri Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	8½	7½				40,000	£1 at Ts 3.50						
Talping Rubber Estates (1913), Ld. ..	T	0.70	0.65				200,000		T1					
Tanah Merah Estates (1916), Ld.	T	0.75				32)	750,000		T1					
Tebong Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	1.32½	1.20			154)	750,000		T1					
Ziangbe Rubber Co., Ld.	T	3½	3.40			6)	300,000		10s.					
COTTONS, ETC.														
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. (ord.	T	12½			12½	15)	1,000,000		T5					
,, (8% cum. pref.	T	113	113½			43)	10,000		T100					
Laou Kung Mow C. S. & W. Co., Ld. ..	T	10	8				80,000		T10					
Oriental C. S. & W. Co., Ld. .. .. ord.	T	5				60)	500,000		T5					
pref.	T					3)	5,000		T100					
Shanghai Cotton Mfg. Co., Ld. (Shanghai Boshoku K.K.)	T	(65 old / 40 new)	75 / 40				80,000		T50					
INDUSTRIAL.														
British-American Tobacco Co., Ld. (ord.	£		£5 5/16	£5 5/16		66)	18,000,000		£1					
,, (5% cum. pref.							4,500,000		£1					
China Im. & Ex. Lumber Co., Ld.	T	350					5,000		T100					
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.	H $	272	272				20,000		H$100					
Green Island Cement Co., Ld.	H $	37	38½				400,000		H$7.50					
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat	T	13½					200,000		Gs.10					
Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ld. ..	T	[illegible]	7	(comb. T33)	(comb. T34)		250,000		T5					
S'hai Exploration & Development Co., Ld.	T	14½					250,000		T5					
Major Brothers, Ld.	T	5			11	10)	6,000		T20					
John Richards & Co., Ld.	T	10				11)	25,000		T10					
Shanghai Gas Co., Ld.	T	45	46	48		$)	21,000		T50					
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.	T	110				19)	50,000		£20					
STORES.														
Dal. & Holz, Ld.	$	6.90	7		$18)	28 000		$20						
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ld.	$	80				1,200		$60						
S. Moutrie & Co., Ld.	$	50			17)	10,000		$50						
Weeks & Co., Ld.	$	11	6		$50)	30,000		$20						
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ld.	$	105	104		$)	2,500		$100						
MISCELLANEOUS.														
Culty Dairy Co., Ld.	T	13					10,000		T10					
S'hai Electric Construction Co., Ld., "B"	T	170												
London	£1		£2:12:6	£2:14:6			40,000		£10					
S'hai Horse Bazaar & Motor Co., Ld. ..	T	50					5,400		T50					
Shanghai Mercury, Ld.	T	25					3 000		T50					
Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. Ld. ..	T	75		71	$19.	40,000		T50						
Oriental Press (L'Imprimerie Francaise)	$	100					940		$100					

See Kee Rubber Estates (1918), Ld.	T	1					100,000		T1					
Sungambu Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T	1.37½	1.30		1.37½		300,000		T1					
Semawang Rubber Ests (ord.	T	1.05				34)	300,000		£1					
2s. (1922) Ltd. (12½% Cum. Pref.	T	1				67)	100,000		T1					
Shanghai Land Investment, Ltd.	T	1.10	1.05			34)	100,000		T1					
S'hai Sungkong Rubber Co., Ltd.	T	0.80	0.65			15)	100,000		T1					
Shai Sungei Duri Rubber Co., Ltd. ord	T	1	1				450,000		T1					
,, 8% cum. part. pref.	T	3				22)

COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Subject to audit, the Directors will recommend at the forthcoming meeting:—

To pay a final dividend for the year of £3 and bonus of £2 subject to deduction of Income Tax.

To add to Silver Reserve, 10 Lakhs.

To write off bank premises account, 10 Lakhs.

To carry forward to next year, 33⅓ Lakhs.

The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Ltd.—A net profit last year of $4,034,186, which, with the carry over, leaves available for division $7,76[illegible] It is proposed to pay a dividend of $1[illegible] and bonus of $2, and to place to the reserve $6,000,000.

The Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd.—The Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 27 The Bund, Shanghai, on Monday, March 3, 1924, at 11 a.m.

To pay a final dividend of Tls. 10 per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from February 18 to 25, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Issue of Tls. 500,000 6% Debentures 1924. Tls. 450,000 of the above are now being issued at Tls. 98. Interest payable semi-annually on June 30 and December 31. Application forms and further particulars may be obtained at the offices of A. R. Burkill & Sons, N[illegible]

The [illegible] Cotton Mills, Ltd.—The [illegible] Annual [illegible] will be held at No. 27 The Bund, Shanghai, on Tuesday, March 4, 1924, at 11 a.m.

A Dividend at 8% p.a. on Preference Shares and Tls. 0.65 per share, on Ordinary Shares.

The Transfer Books will be closed from February 25 to March 4, 1924, both days inclusive.

The New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ltd.—The 7th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 1 [illegible] on Thursday, February 28, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from February 25 to 28, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Exploration & Development Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of the directors of the Shanghai Exploration and Development Co., Ltd., it was decided to recommend to shareholders at the forthcoming general meeting that the capital of the company be increased to Tls. 3,000,000, that one share to be offered to shareholders at par for each share in the company held by them and that 100,000 shares of Tls. 5 each be offered to the Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ltd., for the [illegible] of Tls. 600,000, in return for valuable financial assistance rendered.

Formal notice of the proposed issue will be forwarded to shareholders in due course. Payment for the new shares will not be required until some time in April.

Share Report for Week Ending February 15, 1924.

No. 24.6

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use: A1 Code
A.B.C. 5th, 6th and 6th Editions
R. Brockmann's Imperial Combination Code
Bentley's Complete Phrase Code.
Telephone Cont. 171,171.

Members of the Shanghai Stock Exchange.
Land, Estate & Insurance Agents.
Hongkong Agents: [illegible]
12 The Bund.
Post Office Box No. 244, Shanghai.

Business on the local Stock Exchange has been dull during the past week with few transactions recorded. "Rubbers" are slightly firmer in tone, and are not easy to obtain on the quotations given. There has been [illegible] demand for Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. [illegible] Cottons are neglected. The market generally is quiet and steady.

London market quotations have continued firm and the latest quotations cabled to us, as stated below, show a slight improvement on those at the close of last week.

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	£ 72.	0. 0 (Middle Price)
" " " " " " F.I.	69.	0. 0 ex B.I.R.S. "
" " " " " " R.I.	66.	0. 0 cum. "
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. "B"	5.	13. 9 (Middle Price)
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ltd. (Fully paid)	1.	13. 3 "
" " " " " (10/-paid)	0.	14. 7½ (Buyers)
Shanghai Electric Cons. Co., "B"	2	13. 0 (Middle Price)
Shell Transport & Trading Co., "B"	4.	14. 7½ "
British American Tobacco Co., "B"	5.	5. 0 "
Imperial Tobacco of Great Britain (Ord)	3.	13. 0 "
Singapore Electric Tramways, Ltd.	0.	2. 8s "

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to-day is 3/4.

Shanghai, February 15, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:—

FEBRUARY	9th		11th		12th		13th		14th		15th	
	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.
RUBBERS												
Bukit Toh Alang R. E., Ltd. Tls.			..	1.15	..	..			..	..	..	..
Batu Anam R. Es., Ltd.			..	..	..	..			..	..	0.97½	..
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS	NO BUSINESS REPORTED						NO BUSINESS REPORTED					
S. & H. Wharf Co., Ltd. .. Tls.			..	..	187½	..			..	..	..	7½
Shai Loan & Invest Co., Ltd "			..	..	..	..			..	..	..	
COTTONS												
DEBENTURES												

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

February 26, Tuesday. March 25, Tuesday. April 29, Tuesday.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, FEBRUARY 15, 1924.

STOCK	Last business done.	Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Par Value	Reserves etc.	Dividend for Year ended	Last Dividend etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.									
London	£ 124								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp.	¥			81) 400,000	H $125	(a H $3,350,212	Dec.	Final $3 & Bonus $2 (mkg. $4 1922) less I/T	Feby '2
[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
INSURANCE.									
Union In. Society of Canton, Ld.	H $ 232½			55) 200,000	$	$1 (a $437,386			
						(b $69,500	Dec.	Final 18s. (mkr. 40s.) ex 1921 Work. a/o., Interim 24s. & Bonus to Contributors, 20%,	26-5-23
						(c $3,574,054		ex 1922 Work a/c	
North-China Insurance Co., Ld.	T 138			10,000	$	$5 (av T610,687	Dec.	Final 15s. (mkg. 30s.) ex 1921 Work a/o. and	
						(c T1,782,885		Interim 15s. ex 1922 Works. a/o.	30-6-23
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ld. ..	$ 27	25		21) 250,000		$10 (av $1,021,990			
						(av $2,408,630	Dec.	$2 (or T1.46) ex 1922 Work. a/o. payable in	
						(c $4,003,242		Taels at Exchg. 73	30-5-23
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ld.	T 22			1) 50,000	T	(av T[illegible]			
						(c T[illegible]	Dec.	[illegible]	30-5-23
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.	H $ 725		725	10,000	f H $100	(av H $2,172,375	Dec.	Final H $22 (mkg. H $40) ex 1921 Work. a/o.,	
						(c H $6,649,802		and Interim H $18 ex 1922 Work. a/o. ..	11-5-23
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld. ..	H $ 550			8,000	g H $50	(av H $631,023	Dec.	H $32 ex 1921 Working a/c.	28-3-23
						(c H $3,876,495			
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H $ 127	140		20,000	h H $20	(av H $1,328,926	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/o. ..	26-[illegible]-23
						(c H $5,523,650			
Assurance Franco-Asiatique	[illegible] 360	375		14,000	F500	(a F101,388	Dec.	None, Floated 1918	....
						(c F3,784,330			
SHIPPING.									
India China S.N. Co., Ltd. .. (6% cum. pref.	H $ 38	38½		27) 120,000	£5	(a [illegible]			
def. ord. ..	H $ 140			2) 120,000	£5	(b £2,167	Dec.	Pref. 6s. at Exchg.—$2/4 London Warrants	
						(c £[illegible]		less I/T 1922 Def. Ord. Nil	15-6-23
Shell T'sport & Trading (ord.	'B'			[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
Co., Ltd. .. (5% cum. pref.	£	£1 [illegible]		28) 300,000	£10	(a* £2,029,050	Dec.	Interim 2s., free of I/T, Coupon 32	5-1-24
(7% cum. 2nd pref.	£			57) 10,000,000	£1	(b £5,000,000			
Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd. (ord.	T 75	80		20,000	T50	(a T22,356	Dec.	(Int. Ord. T2.50 a/c., 1923).. ..	
pref.	T 53	53		10,000	T50	(a T470,000		(Int. Pref. T1.75 a/c., 1923)	9-7-23
DOCKS AND WHARVES.									
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld. ..	T 94			47) 55,700	T75	(a T102,535	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
						(a T1,948,000			
Hongkong & W'poo Dock Co., Ld. ..	H $ 167½			‡ 60,000	H $50	(a H $53[illegible]	Dec.	Final H $5 & Bon. H $3 (mkg. H $12, 1922)	27-3-23
						(c H $4,081,093		Interim 1923, H $4	2-10-23
New Eng. and Shipbuilding (ord.	T 6½			42) 500,000	T5	(a T[illegible]		Ord. T0.25, 1923	10-2-23
Works, Ld. .. .. (8% pref.	T 5.20	4.95	6½ 5.10	65) 500,000	T5	(b T300,000	Dec.	Pref. T0.40, 1923..	10-2-23
						(c T1,311,015			
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ld. ..	T 1874	1[illegible]		‡31) 40,000	T100	(a T12,229	Dec.	Final T12 (mkg. T15, 1922)	13-3-23
						(b T200,000		Int. T3 a/c., 1923	20-8-23
						(c T1,041,794			
H'kong & K'loon W. & O. Co., Ld. ..	H $ 184	187	190	80,000	H $50	(a H $303,494	Dec.	H. $6 & Bonus H. $3 (mkg. H $9, 1922) ..	20-2-23
						(b H $250,000			
						(c H $100,000			
MINING.									
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld. ..	£ 12/-			24) 500,000	£0.$10		June	£0.$0.50, 1920-21	26-7-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Bearer).	T 21½	21	22	‡104) 2,000,000	£1	(a £10,537	June	Final 8¾% (Coupon No. 23) free of I/T.	
London	£	£3.11.0	£3.12.0			(c £252,000		1922-1923	11-12-23
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld. ..	H $ 5.10			200,000	£1	(a £23,013	Mar.	1s. 2d., 1909-10	21-5-10
						(c £1,373			
LANDS AND HOTELS.									
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. ..	T 118			‡) 75,000	T50	(a T[illegible]			
						(b T250,000	Dec.	(Final T1.50 (mkg. T2, 1922)	26-7-23
						(c T2,[illegible]		(Interim 1923, T[illegible]	24-7-23
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld. ..	H $ 114½	111		240,000	H $25	(a H $3,231,700	Dec.	Int. H $6 a/c., 1923[illegible]	
(New Reg.)						(b H $250,000			
Humphrey's Est. & Finance Co., Ld. ..	H $ 26			150,000	H $10	(a H $123,746	Dec.	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.70, 1922	10-2-23
						(b H $50,000			
						(c H $357,303			
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld.	T 6			3,674	T20	(a T2,946	Dec.	T1.20, 1923	13-2-24
						(c T7,000			
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld. ..	T 120	120		‡23) 18,000	T100	(a T7,348	Feb.	Int. Divid. T3½, 1923-24	21-9-23
						(b T20,000			
						(c T350,000		$3 on 50,000 shs ; Scrip Div. 199 new Ord. shs.	
The Shanghai Hotels, Ld. (In liq)	$ 40	50		‡41) 150,125	$7.50	(a $475,121	Dec.	for Ld. 125 Founders' Rt., 1920	
						(c $2,465,534		Interim, $3.50 on 74,600 shs., 1921, Final, Nil..	11-6-21
Carlton, Ld.	T 53			14) 10,000	T50		Mar.	Floated April 1, 1922..	....
Asia Realty Co., Inc...	G $ 100			‡18) 10,000	G $100		Dec.	Incorporated under the laws of Delaware Ord.	
								1922, 7%	4-1-23
Raven Trust Co., Inc. .. .. (ord.	G $ 19	12½		**100,000	G $10			Pref. 1st gr. 1923, 1½%	4-1-23
pref.	G $ 10	10			G $10				
PLANTATIONS.									
Alma Estates, Ld.	T 6½	6.30	6½	70,000	£1 at T9	a T28,940	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23	19-12-23
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld.	T 0.50			‡62) 500,000	T1		Oct.		....
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld. ..	T 2.90	2.70		12) 400,000	10s.	a T32,505	Dec.	To.30, 1919	7-4-20
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T 6½	6[illegible]	6.40	4) 500,000	10s.	(a T129,151	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c. 1923	14-9-23
						(c T378,570			
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T 25	23		27) 80,000	T10	(a T16,223	Sept.	T2.00, 1922-23	28-12-23
						(b T22,000			
						(c T60,960			
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Ests., Ld. ..	T 0.97½	0.95		400,000	T1	a T30,759	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	10-4-20
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T 1.12½			500,000	T1	a T20,402	Mar.	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1916-17)	25-7-17
Bute Plantation (1913), Ld.	T 0.75	0.80		300,000	T1	a (Loss) T13,076	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkr. T0.10, 1916)	29-3-17
Chemor United Rubber Co., Ld.	T 1.07½	1.07½		400,000	T0.90	a T37,637	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	6-11-23
Chempedak Rub. & G'bier Est., Ld. ..	T 9		39)	35,000	£1	a (Loss) T13,135	Oct.	2nd Interim, T0.50, (mkg. T1, 1916-17)	16-10-17
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T 1.40			135,000	T5	a T4,120	June	T0.25, 1916-17	1-11-17
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld..	T 2½	2½	25)	500,000	2s.—T0.75	a T23,132	Dec.	To 10, 1922	20-4-23
						(a T30,000		Interim T 0.06, 1923	15-10-23
Dominion Rubber Co., Ld.	T 2		19)	350,000	T1	(c T30,000	Dec.	To 10, 1919	18-5-20
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T 9½	9	‡48)	750,000	(21,450,000	a T13,313			
					5s; 200,000	(a [illegible]			
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee,						(c [illegible]	Dec.	2s. less I/T at 5s. in £1922, "B" Coupon 20)†† ..	23-3-23
Est., Ld.	T 14		8)	85,000	£1 at 2/3½	(a T54,465			
Kai Garden Coffee Estates, Ld.	T 5	4.90		70,000	T5	(c T650,113	Dec.	Interim, T0.50, 1923	3-9-23
Kajoelangi Rubber Est., Ltd	T 12		35)	15,000	T10			Incorporated 1923	
Karun Rubber [illegible] Co., Ld.	T 6			25,000	T10	(a T6,977		(T0.50, 1922	19-4-23
						(c T4,023	Dec.	(Interim 1923, T0.50	17-7-23
						(a [illegible]	Dec.	[illegible]	1-12-23
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1921), Ld. ..	T 1.05			300,000	T1	(c [illegible]			
Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ld.	T 14	13	16	20) 70,000	£1 at T1.80	a (Loss) T[illegible]	Mar.	Final [illegible]	....
						(a [illegible]	June	(Int. T0.50 a/c., 1923	17-9-23
Padang Rubber Co., Ld.	T 6½	6½		50,000	T10	(a T29,380	Dec.		7-9-23
						(a T23,[illegible]			

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

INTERPORT FOOTBALL

Hongkong v. Hankow

Over a thousand spectators turned out last Friday to witness the third of the Interport series, and the least interesting. After their display against Shanghai on Wednesday, Hankow had but small hope of success, and Hongkong went into the game with a ca' canny intention, in view of the deciding game to be played against Shanghai this afternoon. Changes were made on both sides, and Hongkong played three reserve men, the teams lining up as under:—

Hongkong—Wavish; Wheeler and Bishop; Mair, McKelvie and Eliott; Charlesworth, Eaton, Castledine, Nash and Begg.

Hankow—Crossland; Falconer and McKay; Lasham, Hunter and Sandys; Linford, Aspden, Nash, Tweedie and Tait.

Hongkong almost scored from the kick-off, Crossland bringing off an excellent save in the first minute. In the next few minutes Hankow had one of the few chances that come their way during the game, but Linford failed to put the ball across with the inside men in waiting. The game was 15 minutes old before Hongkong opened the score, though they had fairly monopolized play and did anything with the ball but beat Crossland, who was again in capital form. He pushed out a hot one from Nash, and saved a fast return from Castledine, but the ball slipped out of his hands just inside the post. Hankow occasionally broke away, but their forward work was ineffective and throughout the half not a single shot reached Wavish. The defence showed improvement, however, Falconer and Mackay putting up a sturdy resistance and Crossland coming to the rescue on many occasions. He was beaten again five minutes before half time, Nash and Begg cleverly working for position of which Eaton took easy advantage. At the interval, Hongkong led by two goals to *nil*.

HONGKONG WITH THE WHIP HAND

In the second half Hongkong maintained the upper hand without any very strenuous effort, and soon had Crossland busy again. He made one very fine save from Eaton, just tipping a fast high shot over the bar. After 20 minutes' play, the Hongkong goalkeeper had his first shot of the match to deal with, and gave away a goal, carrying the ball over the line in turning to throw away a shot from Aspden. There was no hope of an equalizer, however, the forwards making poor use of several possible chances, and Hongkong continued to make things lively in the vicinity of the Hankow goal. Nash scored the third goal with a fast, high shot which curled out of Crosslands reach, and the Hankow goalie was next beat by one of his own men, Lasham diverting a shot from Castledine into the net. Close on time Nash scored an easy goal for Hongkong, who thus won by five goals to one.

The game was too one-sided to be interesting, Hankow never having the ghost of a chance. Crossland, Falconer and Mackay put up a good defence, and Falconer repeatedly upset the calculations of Begg and Nash, the fast and tricky left wing which required a deal of watching. Hunter played a sterling game at centre half, worked tremendously hard, and certainly saved his side from a heavier defeat. The forwards were not equal to the task of beating three clever halves and a very sound pair of backs, and played with less dash than they managed to get in during the game against Shanghai. Hongkong played a steady, capable game, and the forwards showed any amount of pretty combination, but their shooting lacked both the accuracy and force which distinguished it in the opening game on Tuesday. No doubt they were content with the lead which was easily obtained and held

Shanghai v. Hongkong

On Saturday afternoon, at the Police ground, the Hongkong Interport Association football players paid the penalty of the mistake they made in the opening match on Tuesday last, when, with the game well and deservedly won, they allowed Shanghai to break through and score in the last minute of play.

Saturday's game probably will go down in football history as one of the hardest and most interesting matches ever played in Shanghai, for there was not a minute's slackening off during the whole of the play. The combined effects of the three Interport games that already had been played on the ground during the week, and the rain that so consistently had been falling, resulted in the ground being little less than a quagmire when the teams lined up. One well-known footballer, who has played in Shanghai for many years, stated on Saturday that during recent years no football match in Shanghai had been played on so heavy and muddy a ground.

Although it is impossible to get accurate figures, it is probable that the attendance at Saturday's game created a record for Shanghai. It was estimated that at last Tuesday's game there were 2,500 people present; and on Saturday there must have been 300 or 400 more.

The teams were as follows:—

HONGKONG.—Weness; Wynne and Bishop; McKelvie, Stewart (Captain) and Lelliott; Wheeler, Eaton, Johnston, Nash and Begg.

SHANGHAI.—Remedios; Turner and Wilson (Captain); Phillips, Crawford and Knight; Madar, Johannson, Goldman, Coulcher and Witschi.

A DING-DONG STRUGGLE.

Stewart having called the coin correctly, elected to play against the wind, and immediately from the kick-off Shanghai commenced to press, Goldman taking a pass from Phillips and shooting at Weness, who cleared well. A little later Crawford tried a long shot which came to naught. Begg spoiled a nice movement by being off-side, and from the kick Phillips and Goldman again were prominent, the latter putting in a shot which Weness dived at and turned for a corner. The kick was unproductive. Hongkong's forwards then got going, some nice combination being seen, and a promising movement being nullified by Turner, who conceded a corner. From now on till the interval it was a ding-dong struggle, both sides missing chances and much excellent play being seen, especially considering the awful state of the ground and the difficulty in controlling the heavy, slippery ball. There was one great shot from Stewart who, after working for himself a nice position, sent in a terrific drive which missed the aperature by inches. A few moments later Nash had what would have been, on dry ground, a great opportunity, but the ground, rather than the Shanghai defence, was his undoing. Wheeler on the Hongkong right wing was prominent, taking the ball cleanly and centring accurately. One shot of his, a rising one, deserved a better fate than skimming the bar. Coulcher was nearly through with what looked like a certain goal, but in his case, as in that of Nash, the question of foothold negatived his effort. There was a good deal of off-side at this period of the game, Eaton, Goldman and Witschi offending in quick succession. Again, Nash was very favourably placed, following a pass from Begg, when he shot behind, to the saving of a serious situation.

Coulcher and Goldman were giving an exhibition of much better combination than in the first match with Hongkong, some of their footwork being delightful, considering the conditions and the alertness of the Hongkong defenders. The half finished soon after great solo efforts by Nash (with a pass to Eaton, who shot behind) and Coulcher, neither defence having had more of the play than their opponents, for although Shanghai perhaps did most of the attacking, the Hongkong defence was so sterling as to place the teams practically on an equality.

SHANGHAI GOALKEEPER INJURED.

The second half opened with Shanghai again attacking. Turner missed a centre from Begg but recovered finely with Eaton and Johnston dangerously placed. The Hongkong goal then had an exceedingly narrow escape, Madar sending in a pretty centre which Coulcher just failed to gather. Hongkong attacked and Turner cleverly foiled Johnston when he was about to shoot at close range. Shanghai renewed pressure and Witschi wound up a strong combined movement by shooting strongly at Weness. At the other end Wilson had to concede a corner to save a dangerous rush. When Goldman shot from close quarters Bishop nearly muffed Weness when he was about to gather. Shanghai maintained the pressure, Phillips, Crawford and the inside forwards all trying to force their way through, but the defence was cleverly maintained. At the other end Remedios had a moderate shot to deal with from Eaton. Receiving from Goldman, Coulcher dodged to the left and put in a fast, low shot, which had Weness beaten but passed just outside the post. Nash, at this period of the game, was putting in some clever work and repeatedly initiated dangerous-looking movements, but nothing came of them; the Hongkong forwards were never given a second's leave for shooting. Following a hot Hongkong attack, Eaton put in a great shot which Remedios stopped and got away with difficulty. He came into collision with Johnston and injured his nose, rather seriously, it is understood. He had to retire and Witschi came into goal.

For a few minutes after this Hongkong played up like a winning team, and time and again clever forward movements were checked with difficulty, Shanghai's defence being hard-pressed. The defence held good and Shanghai forwards went to work again, Goldman and Johannson almost beating the defence in successive movements. In one of these movements, Goldman put in a shot which Weness saved, the ball going out a yard or two in front of the goal-mouth with no Shanghai player on the spot to give the finishing touch. Madar centred well and Coulcher just failed to reach the ball.

SHANGHAI'S ONE GOAL.

Then came the one and only goal. Shanghai had been putting on pressure, and with the ball dangerously in front of the Hongkong goal, there was an apparent relaxation of energy for a second or two, and in the lull, with the defence at a standstill, Coulcher nipped in and beat Weness with one of his famous cross-drives from the left. The point was hailed with great joy by the crowd. With five minutes to go, Hongkong made desperate efforts to equalize, both wings sweeping down and closing in on goal, only to be foiled at the critical moment. On one occasion Johnston was brought down dangerously near to the penalty area. Some of the Hongkong players claimed a penalty kick, but free kick, from just outside the area, was awarded. Stewart took the kick and drove the ball straight towards goal, but Phillips diverted it with his head and the danger was over. Wilson roused Shanghai's apprehensions by miskicking into the Shanghai goalmouth, but the ball dropped on top of the net. Shanghai made a final effort to increase the lead, but were held on the goal-line.

Shanghai, 1. Hongkong, 0.

THE PLAY REVIEWED.

In this match, as in the first with Hongkong, Shanghai's short-passing movements were more or less in the mud. Goldman and Coulcher always were dangerous, Coulcher particularly so. Madar and Johannson were not up to their usual mark in the first half, but improved in the second—especially Madar. Witschi, too was better in the second half than in the first. Phillips played a great game, and kept Nash and Company well in hand. Knight was excellent and Crawford was in his usual good form. Wilson gave a good account of himself, showing a great improvement, and Turner was as resourceful as usual, putting in some particularly fine kicking. Both Turner and Wilson miskicked at the start, but whenever either made a mistake, he made a smart recovery. Both goal-keepers were so well covered that neither had anything great to do, as shots of the scoring variety were few and far between.

The Hongkong backs were fine, and the halves were as clever and untiring as ever. The Hongkong front-line gave a display of pretty football, with some long, swinging movements and very accurate passing. Nash probably was the best of the bunch. On the whole, the Hongkong forwards were worth a goal, though their finishing touches were not so dangerous as those of the Shanghai inside men.

It was really anybody's game from start to finish, and so even that one's congratulations to Shanghai must be tempered with sympathy for the visitors on leaving a flag behind after two of the best and most strenuous games seen in Shanghai for a long time.

Mr. W. C. G. Clifford, as referee, was his usual capable self. The balls for the Interport games were given by Mr. N. B. Ramsay, the local agent of Messrs. Slazengers.

THE INTERPORT DINNER

The Interport dinner took place at the Hotel Parisien on Saturday night, when the Shanghai Football Association entertained the Hankow and Hongkong teams. Mr. John Prentice presided, being supported by officers of the Shanghai Football Association, Mr. Wilton, President of the Hongkong Football Association, and the Captains of the three teams.

In proposing a toast to the visiting teams, Mr. Prentice paid tribute to the general feeling of sportsmanship that prevailed throughout the series, and said that Hankow, with so few players from whom to pick a team, had done well to send so good a combination, which, though beaten, had by no means been disgraced. Shanghai had succeeded in winning the "Hongkong Telegraph" Interport Cup, and he felt sure that when Shanghai visited Hongkong next year they would make a good effort to retain possession of it.

Mr. Stewart, on behalf of the Hongkong players, and Mr. McKay, speaking for those from Hankow, made glowing references to the good time the players had had at Shanghai, and to the general spirit of sportsmanship that obtained.

Mr. J. A. Quayle, Captain of the Shanghai team in the match against Hankow and the first match against Hongkong, voiced his opinion that, on the whole, Shanghai was lucky to have secured the cup. Hongkong had given Shanghai two great games and there was no doubt, in his mind, that while in the first match Shanghai had most of the luck that was going, in the second, which was won by Shanghai by the only goal scored, there was not half a goal difference in the merits of the sides. He considered the Hankow men such wonderful sportsmen that he always would be ready to go to Hankow to play anything from football to marbles, or anything else they liked.

CHINESE FOOTBALL TEAMS.

Mr. Wilton, President of the Hongkong Football Association, without attempting to be didactic, dwelt at length on two matters that already have been subjects of much discussion in local soccer circles—the question of the Shanghai Football Association becoming affiliated to the Football Association, Ld., England, and of local Chinese teams playing against teams of the Association.

In regard to the first point, Mr. Wilton said that in Hongkong they had a highly organized body in the Hongkong Football Association, which was affiliated to the Home body and, directly and indirectly, derived great benefit from being so affiliated. After dwelling on the various advantages which he considered would accrue if the Shanghai Association became affiliated, he asked the Shanghai body seriously to consider the matter again, as he felt sure that affiliation would react to the benefit of Shanghai football.

As to Chinese teams playing against foreign teams, he considered that so long as a man was a sportsman and played the game as it should be played, nationality was a secondary consideration. Chinese teams had successfully joined in the activities of the Hongkong Association, and he made a serious appeal to the Shanghai Association to admit Chinese teams to membership, if it possibly could be done.

The speeches closed with an eloquent address by Mr. A. H. Leslie who, as trainer of the victorious Shanghai team and for 10 years coach of the Nanyang College team, made some interesting remarks, freely interspersed with apposite similes and sage counsel. When he had overcome his initial diffidence, Mr. Leslie spoke strongly on the subject of sportsmanship in football, and made an earnest appeal on behalf of Chinese footballers, who, he said, were excellent sports, who could give the foreign teams a very good game, and who, he hoped, would in the not distant future be playing against teams of the Association.

PAPER HUNT CLUB

The Fifteenth Hunt

The fifteenth hunt of the season took place last Friday afternoon at 3.30 o'clock, fortunately just in time to avoid the heavy downpour of rain which fell in the late afternoon, and which will entirely prevent hunting over the week-end. The going was very heavy, and for that reason, the hunt was a very short one, and was laid in the old home country, more familiar perhaps to the older generation of huntsmen than to the young bloods of to-day.

The trail was laid by Messrs. Benbow Rowe, H. W. Lester and R. Moon: it began on Warren Road, and a fair-sized field of about 50 riders assembled. The route lay at first over part of the handicap course, towards Here and There, where practically all the riders crossed the jump, and had much difficulty in getting back again. The trail then led towards Five Hurdle Village, and over several old favourite jumps, including One Wide River and the dry cut beyond, and then over the Hungjao Road, where there was a check of some length. Eventually the paper was discovered over the Vermin Creek line of jumps, and led along Artery Creek to the Double Platforms, then on into the Wilderness, and out again on the line of the Handicap Course to Marah and round Westward Ho to the finish at Suez.

When close to the flag Mr. P. Stang-Lund appeared a certain winner, but he deviated from a straight course, and was caught up by Mr. H. Maitland, whose pony swerved at the last jump, carrying Mr. Stang-Lund with him, and Mr. J. C. Greig, the first over the jump, won the hunt. The card reads as follows:—

1. Mr. J. C. Greig on Strathclyde.
2. Dr. C. Noel Davis on Appledore.
4. Mr. G. Pollock on Liability.
5. Mr. N. Wells-Henderson on
3. Mr. H. Maitland on Blazing Corn Dioxide.
6. Mr. G. C. Aisker on Accelerator.

BADMINTON

Shanghai v. Tientsin

On the courts of the Cercle Sportif Français on Thursday and Friday last Shanghai and Tientsin teams played on Interport Badminton series, the result being a win for Shanghai by 6 matches to nil. The detailed scores follow:—

SINGLES.

Shanghai		Tientsin.		
Sullivan	beat	Gotch	15—4,	15—12
Meise	beat	North	15—3,	15—0
Hutchison	beat	Williams	15—1,	15—3
Caie	beat	Fabre	15—10,	15—8

DOUBLES.

Sullivan and Meise beat Gotch and North 21—12, 21—6

Hutchison and Caie beat Williams and Fabre 15—1, 15—3

As the scores indicate, Shanghai had an easy win and outplayed their opponents except in the case of the singles match between Sullivan and Gotch. This was a magnificent exhibition of Badminton at its best, as the players were very evenly matched and the games were much more evenly contested than the scores suggest, the deciding factor being the strength of Sullivan's smashes.

COMPANY MEETINGS

ORIENTAL COTTON S. & W. CO.

Annual Meeting

The seventh annual general meeting of the Oriental Spinning & Weaving Co., Ld., was held on Saturday, meeting at the office of the general managers, Messrs. Arnhold & Co., Ld. Mr. H. E. Arnhold presided, supported by Messrs. A. J. Welch, W. R. McBain and E. E. Ellis, directors, and there was an attendance representing 42,023 shares.

The Chairman said: We are having our annual meeting this year somewhat earlier so as to give me an opportunity of addressing you before my departure, for as some of you are aware I am leaving for Home this afternoon. When I addressed you last year, I pointed out that the outlook was gloomy, and I regret to say that this forecast has been borne out. Fighting between the various political factions has continued sporadically at intervals all over the country, and the trade routes have been beset with bandits and robbers, with the result that there has been no confidence, without which trade is paralyzed. The yarn market has consequently been depressed and although we operated favourably in cotton and could have sold our raw material at a very handsome profit, it has been impossible to work the Mill at a profit.

Our weaving plant has been working the full year and has proved itself to be a sound investment as we have made money on our cloth all through the year. It has found a ready market at prices which compared favourably with old-established chops.

The outstanding feature of the year has been the extremely high price of the new crop of cotton. This was largely due to the great demand for wadded garments in North Japan as a result of the earthquake and consequent fires in Tokio, Yokohama, etc, and it was enhanced by the shortage in the American crop, which has driven up the prices for American Cotton to a very high level, and the result is in considerable shipment of the China staples to America and Europe.

The Cotton situation out here has been aggravated by the great extent to which local staples are being watered, which occurs regularly whenever cotton values are high. The unfortunate state of affairs, both politically and with regard to the cotton situation, still continues. Trade languishes owing to the absence of a Central Government capable of exercising effective control over the Provinces.

With the price of cotton at a level which brings the cost of the manufactured yarn to about Tls. 20 per bale above market price for the spun yarn, mills cannot take the risk of covering their requirements far ahead. Many Chinese mills have already closed down, and it is probable that most mills will have to go on half time after the China New Year.

The outlook cannot, therefore, be considered encouraging, but China is a country of surprises. The statistical position is strong, and if the various political parties can come together, with the result that fighting does not recur, and that a real effort is made to suppress banditry, a revival of trade would set in which would enable the mills to operate satisfactorily, provided they would be in a position to obtain sufficient cotton.

Turning to the accounts, you will notice that had it not been for the heavy charge of interest, there would have been no loss on the year's working. At the last annual meeting, I emphasised particularly that the company was under capitalized, and I recommended an increase of capital. Unfortunately, owing to the difference of opinion amongst the shareholders, this increase of capital did not become available to the Company until the second half of the year, and but for this, the amount shown for interest would have been very much lower.

At the end of the year we held stocks of 2,022 bales of yarn and 3,221 bales of cloth which we could have sold at the time at prices which would have wiped out the loss, but in view of the position of trade and the higher prices anticipated after China New Year, your General Managers decided to carry the goods into the new year, rather than sell them into the old year and wipe out the loss.

Waste Plant:—This is a new item appearing in the accounts. It was decided during the year to instal a waste-spinning plant, which, it is anticipated, will fully repay its cost and very much improve our production. As we had sufficient floor-space in the Mill to accomodate this plant, further outlay for buildings has become unnecessary. The waste-plant has now arrived and is being erected, and we anticipate its working at an early date.

Buildings:—These have been slightly added to by the addition of a new Transformer House in a more central position near the Weaving Shed.

Spinning Plant: — Increase Tls. 51,707.69. This increase is due to the purchase of a number of new carding machines and speed-frames, thus bringing our preparation machinery into a more efficient state. This new machinery is now working, and we have already seen an increased production as a result of the same.

Weaving Plant: — Additions Tls. 55,503.50. This is represented by the addition of calender machinery, blanket looms and a dyeing plant.

We have written off nothing for depreciation for buildings and machinery as the cost of the new cement-floors in our No. 1 Mill, the re-adjustment of our plant, etc., have been written off "Working Account," and our Depreciation Account of Tls. 1,000,000 is far in excess of what would be necessary if we had written down our plant and buildings from year to year on the recognised scale.

The following resolutions were formally carried:

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Welch: That the statement of accounts for the 12 months ended December 31, 1923, as audited and presented be passed.

Proposed by Mr. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Welch: That the sum of Tls. 98,590.47 be transferred from general reserve and applied to the balance of profit and loss.

Proposed by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. J. A. Moller: That the appointments of Mr. R. W. McBain and Mr. E. E. Ellis to the board of directors be confirmed.

Proposed by Mr. J. S. S. Cooper, seconded by Mr. McBain: That Mr. A. J. Welch be re-elected a director of the company.

Proposed by Mr. McBain, seconded by Mr. Ellis: That Mr. E. A. Mackay, C.A., be re-elected auditor to the company at a remuneration of Tls. 1,250.

THE NEW ENGINEERING WORKS. LD.

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the New Engineering & Ship Building Works, Ltd., was held at the rooms of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, on Saturday. Mr. H. E. Arnhold (the Chairman) presided, supported by Messrs A. W. Brankston, C. A. Skinner, C. R. Burkill, C. G. S. Mackie (directors), C. A. Momber (secretary), and a number of shareholders, the total holding represented being 96,312 shares. The secretary read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, I would like to refer to the death of our late friend and manager, Mr. J. Bleeker, who was associated with this company from its inception up to the time of his retirement in 1916. He showed the greatest interest in the company, and it was largely due to his efforts that it developed so rapidly and successfully. The last seven years of his life were spent in retirement in New Zealand, where he passed away a few weeks ago, and I would like to record a tribute to his memory and to his work during the many years he was associated with us.

I would also like to explain the reason for holding our meeting so much earlier this year. As some of you may be aware, I am leaving for Home to-day, and the meeting is being held earlier so that I may have the pleasure of being able to address you before my departure.

The report and accounts for the year ending December 31, 1923, having been in your hands for some days, I will again follow the usual custom and ask you to take them as read. The amount standing to the credit of profit and loss account, including the amount carried forward from last year, amounts to Tls. 232,000.49, which you will shortly be asked to approve of for appropriation as follows:—

	Tls.
To pay a dividend of 5 per cent on the Ordinary shares	52,500.00
To pay the preference share dividend of 8 per cent.	120,000.00
To carry forward balance	59,500.49
Total Tls.	232,000.49

The above result, although showing substantial reductions as compared with the year 1922, is, in the opinion of your board, gratifying and encouraging. The great depression in the engineering and shipbuilding trade, to which I referred when addressing you last year has not only continued but become more pronounced and has resulted, so far as our company is concerned, in a reduced amount of construction work and so far as this side of our business is concerned I am afraid I cannot forecast any hopes of material improvement until we see a revival of trade in this part of the world. Notwithstanding this unfortunate loss of work, I am gland to lay before you a balance sheet showing sufficient profit not only to pay our preference dividend but also to pay a small dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary share capital of the company. Every effort is being made to effect economies in working to meet the strong competition we now have to face and I ad pleased to inform you that during the past year very considerable reductions have been made in the heavy overhead charges which a large organization, such as ours, are compelled to carry.

Turning to the balance sheet, you will find that there has been a certain amount of capital expenditure incurred during the year. Land account shows an increase of Tls. 2,968.34, chiefly covered by the cost of levelling and preparing the company's residental land for the erection of further residences, which we find we are compelled to put up to face the ever increasing housing problem for members of our staff. Buildings, plant, machinery, etc., show an increase of Tls. 27,177.15, which has been incurred by the rearrangement and equipment of our workshops, a programme decided upon during the year, with a view to reducing operating costs, the benefit from which will be realized in future. Considerable additions in tools and improvements have been made in the company's equipment generally to enable work to be handled more expeditiously and economically.

Stocks—Tls. 488,305.60. This figure shows a slight increase on last year, but in actual fact has been materially reduced, the higher figure standing in our books at the end of the year being very largely accounted for by a large amount of material recently imported for a vessel now under construction at the works. Works in progress Tls. 255,647.74. This figure is chiefly made up of two vessels, one a cruiser for the Chinese Maritime Customs Service and the other an attractive, experimental vessel for use on the Tahu Lake; both these vessels are well in hand and should be completed and delivered within a few months time. Sundry Debtors—Tls. 210,239.74. Although this figure is considerably higher than that appearing on the balance sheet last year, you can rest assured it is perfectly sound and the reserve of Tls. 8,899.38 shown in the accounts is more than sufficient to cover any doubtful debts. The rise is also largely accounted for by a very gratifying increase in repair work towards the end of the year. Payment has been already received in respect of a considerable portion of these outstanding.

Investments—Tls. 845.00. This covers the same holdings as last year, being a number of Telephone shares and Shanghai Municipal Council Debentures. Cash in hand—Tls. 299,181.69. This is a very satisfactory position and enables the company to finance the dividends which you will be asked to approve.

Turning to the other side of the balance sheet, there is, I think, little for me to say. The capital, reserves and dividend equalization fund remain the same as last year. The depreciation fund has been increased by Tls 25,000, notwithstanding the fact that the entire cost of maintenance and repairs has been written off against profits. Very careful attention is paid to the question of the company's plant generally and the depreciation fund when applied to this asset on the other side of the balance sheet reduces this item to a very low and conservative figure. Bills Payable—Tls. 3,724.57. Sundry Creditors—Tls. 94,549.66. These two amounts represent the normal outstandings at the year end and have since been almost entirely liquidated.

This, gentlemen, is all I have to say, but if any of you require any further information I shall be pleased to furnish it to the best of my ability.

No questions were asked and the formed resolutions were carried unanimously.

PERMATA RUBBER ESTATES

Annual General Meeting

The 13th annual general meeting of shareholders of the abovenamed company was held on Thursday afternoon, February 14 1924, at the registered offices of the company, No. 44, Szechuen Road, Shanghai, Mr. J. Frost presided, and was supported by Mr. T. H. Harris, Director, Mr. E. Mortimer Reid, Director and representing the Secretaries, and there were shareholders present, representing 7,942 shares in the company.

The Secretary, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report, the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some time, I will, with your permission, take them as read. In the report your Directors have, as usual, given you all the information possible and I have therefore little to add to it.

On July 17, 1923, we sent you a circular giving full details of the purchase of a small estate known as Nyalas which is about 60 acres in area and immediately adjoins our property. This estate contains trees of ten and 12 years old which have not been tapped for 18 months.

Having the increased amount allowed to be harvested by the acquisition of the Nyalas area, it will be possible to reduce the f.o.b. costs by about 2 cents per lb. over the whole production. This saving alone on the 91,671 lb. which it is estimated will be allowed to be exported, is equivalent to nearly $2,000, whilst on the extra amount allowed to be exported by acquiring this area, and on the basis that 25 cents per lb. profit is obtained, gives a further $2,750, making a total profit of approximately $4,750 directly and indirectly estimated to be obtained from this area.

Considering the purchase price on this basis and also that only 60 per cent. of standard production is allowed to be exported, the value of the acquisition can better be understood.

From the accounts you will see that we made a profit for the year of Tls. 15,298.62, which together with the balance brought forward from the previous year, leaves Tls. 31,721.65 at credit of profit and loss which we recommend be dealt with as follows:—

Pay a dividend of Tls. 0.30 per share	13,595.10
Carry forward	18,126.55
Tls.	31,721.65

Later on I shall put forward a resolution to this effect. The all in cost at 8.71d. per lb. shows a slight increase over last year but this should be reduced by the addition to our acreage. Our investments show a considerable change as we had to dispose of these in order to pay for the Nyalas Estate.

Mr. Noël resigned from the board on leaving for home and I should like to place on record our appreciation of all his conscientious work and the keen interest he always took in connexion with the affairs of the company.

A special word of thanks is also due to our agents in Malacca, Sime, Darby & Co., through whose good offices we were enabled to purchase the Nyalas Estate, and whom, in a large measure, we have to thank for a successful year.

This is all I have to say, Gentlemen, but before putting resolutions to the meeting, I shall be pleased to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

There were no questions, and the following resolutions were then put to the meeting and carried unanimously:—

That the directors' report and statement of accounts for the year ended October 31, 1923, as printed and circulated, be adopted.—Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. T. H. Harris.

That the balance at credit of profit and loss account be dealt with as follows:—

To pay a Dividend of Tls. 0.30 per share to all shareholders Tls on the register on February 14, 1924, absorbing	13.595.10
To carry forward to the next year's account	18.126 55
Tls.	31.721 65

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. E. M. Reid.

That the appointment, as director, of Mr. E. Mortimer Reid, in place of Mr. E. W. Noël resigned, be confirmed.—Proposed by Mr. J. R. Moodie, seconded by Mr. W. J. Monk.

That Mr. T. H. Harris be re-elected a Director of the Company.—Proposed by Mr. Kenneth Martin, seconded by Mr. J. R. Moodie.

That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews be elected auditors to the company for the ensuing year at a fee of Tls. 300 for Shanghai and Malacca.—Proposed by Mr. A. Masseurs, seconded by Mr. W. Thompson.

WEIHAIWEI LAND & BUILDING CO., LD.

Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Weihaiwei Land & Building Co., Ld., was held on Tuesday at 10 Canton Road. Mr. A. J. Welch presided, supported by Messrs. R. E. S. Gregson and E. E. Clark (dirctors). There were present shareholders representing 2,432 shares.

The notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report having been read, the Chairman said:—

The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days and with your permission I will take them as read. The working account shows Tls. 230.79 more profit than last year, accounted for principally by an increase in rentals of Tls. 336.03, less increase in salaries and wages of Tls. 40.70 and increased Land Tax Tls. 26.92, and other small differences. Profit and loss account, after providing for depreciation of 10 per cent. on furniture and 2½ per cent. on the cost price of all buildings, shows a balance at credit of Tls. 7,355.17, out of which it is proposed to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. or Tls. 1.20 per share, absorbing Tls. 4,408.80, and to carry forward the balance of Tls. 2,946.37. Leases for the coming summer have already been signed for eight bungalows, and the other three will be signed within the next few days. Regarding the future, there is still no definite news about Rendition, and we do not know what is going to happen.

There being no questions the formal resolutions were then proposed and carried unanimously

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

MUNICIPAL NOTIFICATION.

No. 3221.

CLOSE SEASON FOR GAME.

THE public is hereby reminded that the sale of pheasants is prohibited after February 16, and that of deer, hare, partridges and all small birds after March 1. No prohibition attaches to the sale of snipe, quail, woodcock and wild fowl.

By order,
E. S. B. ROWE,
Acting Secretary.

Council Chamber,
Shanghai, February 14, 1924.

Volunteer Corps.

Light Horse.—2nd Lieut. H. L. Molyneux to be Lieutenant, dated January 18, 1924.

"A" Company, British.—2nd Lieut. C. T. Birdwood to be Lieutenant, dated January 25, 1924.

Long Service Medal.—Upon the recommendation of the Commandant, the undermentioned members of the Volunteer Corps are awarded the Council's Long Service Medal:—

Headquarters.—Lieut. T. G. Drakeford.

British Infantry Reserves.—Lieut. J. C. Bosustow.

American Troop.—It is notified that the date of formation of this unit is September 10, 1923, and that the official title will be the "American Troop."

Tramways.

The Commissioner of Police has reported that the experimental [illegible] gates which have for some [illegible] in use on a few cars and [illegible] appear to have answered [illegible] purpose for which they are intended, namely, to prevent persons from standing on the foot boards or from boarding or leaving a moving Tramway vehicle.

It is considered, however, by the Police that the gates are none too high or too stoutly constructed and in recommending that the Council give permission to the Company to equip all their stock with gates, the Commissioner of Police suggests that if, as seems possible, these gates should prove to be not sufficiently strong or sufficiently high, it be understood that the requisite steps should be taken by the Company to improve them.

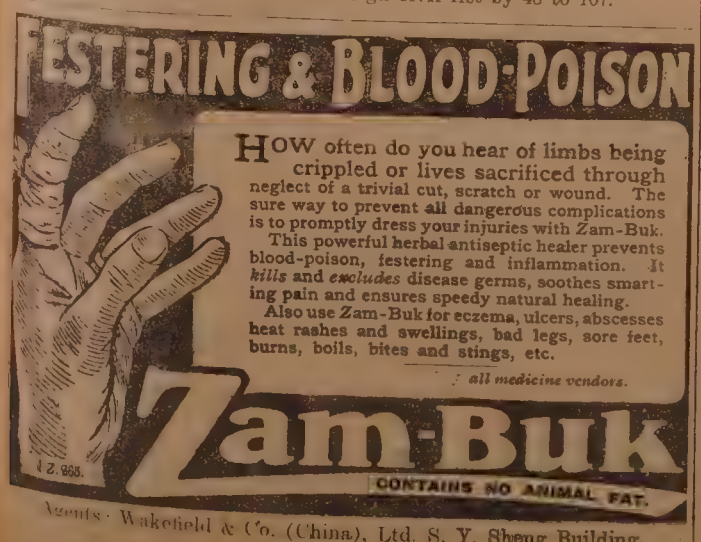
Mixed Court Report for December.

Registration in Foreign Consulates.—On October 31, a Chinese civil case was filed, the basis of the action was the return of certain cheques of the value of $103,000. On the following day an action was filed through the Portuguese Consulate against the plaintiff in the first action claiming $93,000 and interest due on certain cheques which formed part of the claim in the Chinese action. The Chinese case came up on December 20 for the hearing of a motion by the plaintiff in the foreign action for leave to intervene. The Bench consisted of the American Assessor and a Magistrate with the Portuguese Assessor watching the interests of the intervenor. Strong exception was at once taken to the nationality of the intervenor, who it was alleged, was not a Portuguese at all but a Chinese born in Kiangsu and a person who had always held himself out to be a Chinese citizen. After much argument the American Assessor and the Magistrate ruled that as the action was a purely Chinese civil case the Court was not competent to decide the intervenor's nationality and even granting that he were not a Portuguese, the Portuguese Consulate had asserted an interest by filing the intervenor's petition, consequently the case would be tried by both Assessors and the Magistrate. When the foreign action came up two days later before the Portuguese Assessor and a Magistrate, the first point to be decided was an application for a change of venue on the grounds that the plaintiff was a Chinese citizen and not a Portuguese but this was dropped as the Portuguese Assessor opened the proceedings by stating that as the petition had been filed through the Portuguese Consulate the usual and proper procedure was for the case to be heard by him and a Magistrate but in the present instance the Portuguese Consulate was quite prepared to and as a matter of fact did drop from the case and from its character as a foreign civil action temporarily waiving the status of the plaintiff. This, he continued, was not to be taken as forming a precedent of any kind, and as there were American and Portuguese interests involved, the two Assessors concerned would sit and hear the action as a purely Chinese civil one. The Court's final decision was that both the actions would be heard together.

Firearms.—Six persons were charged with being in possession of firearms. One, a Russian, convicted of importing and keeping for sale nine revolvers and one pistol together with ammunition, was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and deportation. This decision, on the application of prisoner's counsel, was subsequently rescinded, the Court ordering that he be released subject to his finding a responsible person who would guarantee his return to Russia. Another, a German seaman, charged with being in possession of five automatic pistols and 250 rounds of ammunition, admitted that he bought the weapons in Germany and was selling them for $135 each. He further stated that on his last voyage he had been approached by a number of Russians and Chinese with the request that he bring back with him firearms and ammunition for them. He was sentenced to six months and expulsion.

Unrecognized Foreigners.—There were twenty-one unrecognized foreigners charged but with the exception of the two already mentioned in the previous paragraph the only serious charges were two cases of larceny in each of which the Court gave a sentence of one month's imprisonment to be followed by deportation.

Civil Cases.—Chinese civil cases awaiting a first hearing have increased by 25 to 312, and the foreign civil list by 48 to 107.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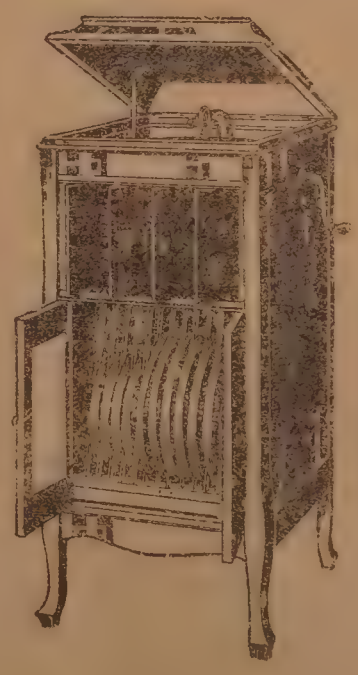
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KIANGWAN RACES

Liesenfield's Easy Champions' Win from Ataman and Capella Eyes

Though it was dry at Kiangwan last Friday, the weather conditions were still very unpleasant, for it was bitterly cold, with a strong wind blowing into the ponies' teeth all down the straight. The going had not improved noticeably, for there was too much water on the course before and the track was very sticky in the drying wind.

The big event of the day was the Champions, which Mr. Morriss probably could have won with any of his qualified ponies. He only had Liesenfield saddled and in charge of Mr. Stewart it simply strolled away from the field though the rest were led by the electric Ataman, who showed up in his very best form but could make no impression on the winner.

The day will be remembered for the record dividend paid by the pari-mutuel on a course in the Far East and but few bigger can have been paid anywhere, as the odds worked out at over 1,000 to 5. The winning pony was Pennsylvania, a fine looking animal and one which has done some good times in training, but which Mr. Allan sold as it performed so poorly in racing. Under young Mr. Encarnacao he won the New Year Stakes very comfortably and there had been but two tickets taken on it on the pari-mutuel, so that the handsome dividend of $5,730 was returned.

The results in detail follow:—

1.—THE SPRING CUP.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Mr. Hammovitch's grey, Idol Eyes (Mr. V. M. Haimovitch) ...1[illegible] 1
Hy. Morriss' grey, Plainfield (Mr. R. F. Stewart) 159—2
Henry Sheng's [illegible] shew.. Cherry Blossom (Mr. L. F. [illegible] ...152—3

Won by a head; three lengths. Time, 2 min. 54⅘ sec.

2.—THE NEW YEAR STAKES.—One mile.

lb.

Mr. Huang's grey Pennsylvania (Mr. C. Encarnacao) ... ...150—1
Meguro's cream, Takeo (Mr. S. R. Patterson) ... 161—2
Henry Sheng's grey, Woodland (Mr. L. F. Sheng) ... 151—3

Won by one length; half a length. Time, 2 min. 13⅘ sec.

3.—THE PARI-MUTUEL STAKES.—One and a half miles.

lb.

Messrs. Chow Bros.' bay, Nicoolite (Mr. J. Liou) .....155—1
Mr. Edward Sheng's white, Stewardship (Mr. Y. Wong) ...158—2
[illegible] ... 155—3

Won by [illegible] length. Time 3 min. [illegible] sec.

4.—THE LADIES' PURSE.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Messrs. Sheng Co's. dun, City of Peking (Mr. W. Hill) .....161—1
Mr. Tucksing's ches., Moon Star (Mr. S. R. Patterson) ... 154—2
,, Henry Sheng's grey, Daddy Long Legs (Mr. C. R. Burkill) ... 155—3

Won by two lengths: the same. Time, 2 min. 55 sec.

5.—THE CHINA NORTHERN PLATE.—One mile.

lb.

Capt. Bannon's grey, Lysaborg (Mr. W. Hill) ... .157—1
Mr. Property's bay, Hospitality (Mr. S. R. Patterson) ...153—2
San Sing's ches., Steameter (Mr. V. M. Haimovitch) ... 147—3

Won by two lengths; four lengths. Time, 2 min. 17⅘ sec.

6.—THE FAIRWAY CUP.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Mr. Lee's grey, Silver Spur (Mr. J. K. Beard ... ... 161—1
Messrs. Lee & Yue's bay, Golden [illegible] (Mr. W. [illegible] ... 155—2
Mr. [illegible]'s bay, Century Star (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 151—3

Won by half a length; two lengths. Time, 2 min. 52⅗ sec.

7.—THE NEW CENTURY PLATE.—Three-quarters of a mile.

lb.

Messrs. Woosung & Co.'s grey, [illegible] (Mr. W. [illegible] ... 155—1
Mr. [illegible] Sheng's ches., Redfield (Mr. Y. Wong) ... 153—2
[illegible] grey, Silver Lace (Mr. W. Hill) ... 149—3

Won by [illegible] length; two lengths. Time, 1 min. 36⅘ sec.

8.—THE CHAMPION SWEEPSTAKES.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Mr. Hy. Morriss' bay, Liesenfield (Mr. R. F. Stewart) ....164—1
,, M. M. Sokoloff's ches., Ataman (Mr. M. M. Sokoloff) ... ...152—2
Messrs. Haimovitch & Zimmerman's ches., Capella Eyes (Mr. V. M. Haimovitch) ...161—3

Won by two lengths; half a length. Time, 2 min. 47⅘ sec.

9.—THE NIL DESPERANDUM CUP.—Nine furlongs.

lb.

Mr. Huang's bay, Imperial Dragon (Mr. S. R. Patterson) 155—1
[illegible] grey, [illegible] (Mr. J. Liou) ... 152—2
Hy. Morriss' grey, Friars Hall (Mr. A. J. P. Heard) ... 153—3

Won by two lengths; one length. Time, 2 min. 35⅘ sec.

10.—THE GRAND STAND STAKES.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Mr. Hy. Morriss' grey, Patsfield (Mr. R. F. Stewart) ....153—1
Meguro's white Hakone (Mr. J. Liou) ... 147—2
,, Tucksing's ches., Pole Star (Mr. S. R. Patterson) ... 153—3

Won by [illegible] lengths; half a length. Time, 2 min. 52 sec.

11.—THE NOVICES' CUP.—One and a half miles.

lb.

Mr. Huang's dun, Yellow Dragon (Mr. C. Encarnacao) ... ...148—1
Edward Sheng's grey Ownership (Mr. L. Ozorio ... 142—2
Perchang's ches., Elevation (Mr. P. C. Wu ... 148—3

Won by two lengths; the same. Time, 3 min. 35⅘ sec.

Petersfield Wins the Grand National: Jumping Success for Mr. Day

With the course still in a very bad state and the weather again bitterly cold, the racing for the concluding day of the New Year meeting at Kiangwan on Saturday was very moderate. The Grand National was won by Mr. Morriss' Petersfield, who outran his stable companion, Leichfield. Mr. Day this time sent out a winner for the Griffins Steeplechase and won the race very easily with Theatreland, ridden by Mr. Dalgarno.

The results in detail follow:—

1.—THE HOLIDAY PLATE.—One mile.

lb.

Mr. K. H. Chun's bay, Happy Day (Mr. Maitland) .....150—1
,, Merguro's 'cream, Takeo (Mr. Encarnacao) .....161—2
,, H. Sheng's grey, Woodland (Mr. P. C. Wu) .....149—3

Won by two lengths; one half length. Time, 2 min. 17 sec.

2.—THE SUB-GRIFFINS' HANDICAP.—One mile.

lb.

Mrs. Seven's bay, Tipsy Cake (Mr. W. Hill) .....163—1
Mr. Jolly's dun, Jolly Lad (Mr. Knoll) .....162—2
,, K. H. Chun's ch., Lammas Day (Mr. P. C. Wu) ... ...152—3

Won by one half length; one length. Time, 2 min. 22⅘ sec.

3.—THE GRIFFINS' STEEPLECHASE CUP.—About two miles (back to [illegible]).

lb.

Mr. Day's ches., Theatreland (Mr. Dalgarno) .....164—1
Messrs. J. H. Tam & Co.'s bay, Good-fellow (Mr. Liddell) 153—2
Mr. Hy. Morriss' bay, Doyne Head (Mr. Sarkies) .....161—3

Won by many lengths; half length.

4.—THE [illegible] CUP.—Seven furlongs.

lb.

Mr. H. Morriss' grey, Wyvilsneld (Mr. Liddell) .....164—1
,, Hickling's grey, Settinington (Mr. Knoll) ... ...147—2
,, Sheng's bay, Citizenship (Mr. Y. Wong) .....153—3

Won by many lengths; one half length. Time, 1 min. 57⅘ sec.

5.—THE NURSERY HANDICAP.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Messrs. J. H. Tam & Co.'s ch., Witty fellow (Mr. W. Hill) 155—1
Mr. Henry Sheng's gr., Daddy Long Legs (Mr. C. R. Burkill) .....154—2
,, Property's blk., Sincerity (Mr. Maitland) ... ...144—3

Won by two lengths; one half length. Time, 2 min. 58 sec.

7.—THE KIANGWAN GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE.—Two and a half miles.

lb.

Mr. Hy. Morriss's b. Petersfield (Mr. Liddell) ... 164—1
,, Henry Morriss's ch. Leichfield (Mr. Liddell ... ...164—1
Messrs. Sparks and D. Beard's bay Wild Chance (Mr. Sparkes) ... ...156—3

Won by many lengths; four lengths. Time, 6'46⅗ sec.

8.—THE MODERATE PLATE.—Nine furlongs.

lb.

Mr. M. M. Sokoloff's grey, Bonne Affaire (Mr. Sokoloff) .....158—1
,, Woochang's bay, Golden Lake (Mr. Z. W. Yu) ...165—2
,, Edward Sheng's ches. Relationship (Mr. Y. Wong) .....158—3

Won by many lengths; many lengths. Time, 2.36⅘.

9.—THE WELCOME PLATE.—Three-quarters of a mile.

lb.

Mr. Meguro's white Hakone (Mr. J. Liou) .....152—1
Messrs. J. H. Tam and Co.'s ches. Speedy-fellow (Mr. Hill) ....152—2
Mr. Henry Morriss's bay Henry [illegible] (Mr. Heard) ... ...151—3

Won by a head; half a length. Time, 1.40⅘ sec.

10.—THE NEW YEAR HANDICAP.—One and a quarter miles.

lb.

Mr. Sing Ding's ches. South Down (Mr. Hill) .....154—1
,, Allan's dun Florida late Danesfield (Mr. Knoll) ...155—2
,, Morimoto's dun Tone (Mr. Patterson) ... ...153—3

Won by two lengths; two lengths. Time, 2.54⅘ sec.

11.—THE MAFOOS' RACE.—One and a half miles.

lb.

Mr. Perchang's ches. Elevation..... 1
,, Tucksing's ches. Pole Star ... 2
,, Kid's cream Clever Kid 3

Won by 1½ lengths; 1½ lengths. Time, 3,35⅘ sec.

PRESENTATION OF CUPS

The formal opening of Mr. T. U. Yih's beautiful Chinese garden beyond Mr. Burkill's bungalow at Kiangwan and the presentation of the cups won at the China New Year Race Meeting of the International Recreation Club were pleasantly combined on Sunday at a tiffin given by the Stewards of the International Recreation Club in the pavilion in the gardens. The gardens will not be at their best until about the end of March, but even on the dreary weather of yesterday they presented a beautiful sight and showed to the best advantage the wonderful work of the Chinese landscape gardener. Mr. Brodie A. Clarke presided, with Mr. W. G. Gerrard in the vice-chair and others present included Messrs. G. Wuilleumier, K. F. Chang, V. S. Chow, S. F. Yih, K. D. Soo, M. H. Pou, S. Matsumoto, S. F. Yih, Kum K. Yien, Tong Shao-yi, T. M. Wilson, J. Zellensky, A. G. Hill, Major H. E. Keylock, W. Hill, H. K. Strachan, A. G. Horniblow, A. P. Finch, A. W. Olsen, K. K. Chang, Geo. Dallas, E. Y. Sheng, J. H. Tam, T. U. Yih, G. L. Ho, F. Milner, Yu Ya-chang, C. T. Parsons, E. Lirde, C. C. Whitehead, K. H. Chun, T. T. Chow, Dr. T. K. M. Siao, Wm. Hu, Y. Wong, J. Liou, L. P. Quincey, B. S. Sheng, V. M. Haimovitch, P. C. Wu, H. Tomono, Z. W. Yu, W. A. Dalgarno, C. Encarnacao.

After an excellent tiffin, the Chairman paid a tribute to Mr. T. U. Yih's work in founding the International Recreation Club. He said that probably there was no other sportsman, Chinese or foreign, who could have made the club the success it had proved to be. Innumerable difficulties were encountered in its early days, but Mr. Yih always was most wonderfully optimistic, he smiled at every trouble, he always did the right thing and finally he brought everything to a happy conclusion.

Mr. Brodie Clarke then presented the cups—the Griffin Steeplechase Cup to Mr. W. A. Dalgarno (jockey for Mr. "Day"), the Race Club Cup to Mr. V. M. Haimovitch (jockey for Mr. K. D. Soo), the Club Cup to Mr. W. Hill (jockey for the Sheng Co stable) and the Novices Cup to Mr. Ozorio (uncle of Mr. Encarnacao, the winner, who was unable to be present). All the recipients made suitable responses and Mr. Y. S. Day, the popular secretary of the club, spoke on behalf of Mr. Yih, thanking all racing men, both foreign and Chinese, for all they had done on behalf of the sport and promising his further help to the limit in the furtherance of good sport and good fellowship.

MORE BETTER PUTTEE FIV' DOLLAH THAT MAN
NO. ONE GOODEE CHANCE
TOO MUCH PONY, WHAT THING CAN BACK?
O MIMOSA SAN TRIES HER LUCK
B'LONG FOOL PID 'EM THIS LACE GAME
ANY MAN SAYY, MUST WANTCHEE LOSE
THE ADMIRED OF ALL BEHOLDERS
Sapajou

Some Impressions of Kiangwan

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

Ireland Defeated by England by 14 pts. to 3

Belfast, Feb. 9.

The international Rugby football match between Ireland and England was played here to-day in showery weather before a crowd of 16,000. England beat Ireland by 14 points to 3.

The ball was very slippery. Ireland was continually attacking for the first 20 minutes and the Irish fullback, Crawford, narrowly missed a penalty goal from just inside the Irish half. A beautiful movement by the English backs resulted in Corbett getting across, but the try was not converted. This was followed by an Irish rush to the English line, and Douglas dashed over. Crawford, however, failed to convert and the score at half time was 3 points to 3.

On the resumption the Irishmen pressed heavily, their forwards playing with desperate energy, but they were met by a sound defence. After a time the Irish attacks became spasmodic and less sustained. England pressed and, after neat handling by the backs, Wickes scored an unconverted try. Then followed a couple of tries by the English three-quarter, Catcheside, the first being converted by Conway. England thus won by 14 points to 3.—Reuter.

AUSTRALIAN SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hobart, Feb. 10.

The Swedish swimmer, Arne Borg, won the half-mile championship of Australia to-day in 9 min. 57-4/5 sec. Charlton, who beat Arne Borg, over the same distance in 10 min. 5[illegible]-4/5 sec., a world's record, at Sydney, is not competing in the championships as he is reserving himself for the Olympic Games.—Reuter.

Mr. J. G. Priestwood, who appeared for the defence, dwelt upon the fact that accused was a young man, married, and a first offender, and had been drawn into this by a police informer. He suggested that to send him to prison would be too drastic, and that the Magistrate would be showing neither weakness nor sympathy, but saving him from the social penalties of a conviction, if he treated him as a first offender.

A CASE FOR IMPROVEMENT.

His Worship—No British subject should in any way be mixed up with the traffic in arms. It is a crime which must be dealt with by imprisonment and there can be no question of a first offender, except perhaps in the case of a youngster who really does not know the very serious nature of the offence.

Mr. Priestwood—I am submitting that.

His Worship—The accused is 27, and must have known of the serious cases which have recently occurred.

Mr. Priestwood—It is a shame that he should be sent to prison because the police laid a trap.

His Worship—Why did he find himself in it? It is a testimonial to the police that they got the right people in the net.

Counsel again urged that the court take into consideration the fact that accused was a young married man, but his Worship observed that the logical end to that argument would be that in future only bachelors might be punished. He regretted the necessity of having to deal severely with accused, but must send him to prison for three months. He could appeal at once if he thought the sentence too severe.

A RUNAWAY MOTOR CAR

Curious Accident in Range Road and its Police Court Sequel

C. E. Fisher, a ship's officer, appeared before Mr. G. W. King at H.M. Police Court on Thursday charged with having dangerously driven a motor-car in Range Road on Wednesday afternoon; further, with driving it while under the influence of liquor, and without a driver's licence. He pleaded not guilty.

Mr. E. T. Maitland prosecuted and Mr. M. Reader Harris appeared for the defence.

A Chinese police constable who was on point duty at the corner of Range Road and North Szechuen Road, gave evidence that he saw the motor-car jammed against a telephone pole and several Chinese lying on the ground. Defendant got down from the car and witness arrested him.

FOUR OR FIVE PEOPLE INJURED.

Mr. Maitland explained that four or five Chinese were injured, one seriously and the others only slightly. Defendant was under the influence of drink at the time.

Mr. Reader Harris said defendant did not dispute that he was in the car at the time, close to the driver's seat. He was perfectly sober. His explanation was that, having alighted from the car, he leaned over to get a bag for his friend and in so doing dropped his pocket book under the driver's seat. He then got in the car to find it, and must have accidentally set the car in motion, the driver having left the engine running and the car being in gear.

P. C. Nicolsky gave evidence that directly after the accident he saw a Chinese woman and child lying injured on the ground, and a smashed ricsha. The defendant was drunk, and when he got out of the car could not walk straight. He told witness that he did not drive the car.

Dr. Amos Wong, of St. Luke's Hospital, gave evidence that five Chinese were injured in the accident, one of them seriously, but the latter—a woman who was suffering from shock—was not likely to die.

The chauffeur of the car, which was hired from the Eastern Garage, stated that he picked up the defendant and two other foreigners at the Palace Hotel and, after leaving one at the General Hospital, drove on to Range Road. The two foreigners stood on the pavement in Range Road while witness removed the bag, and then a $5 bill was handed to him for the fare. Witness went to get change, and on returning in three or four minutes saw the car moving, the defendant driving it. Witness followed the car to the Haskell Road corner where it had collided with a telephone pole.

A ZIGZAG COURSE.

In answer to the Magistrate, witness said that he left the engine running, but the gear was on stop clutch. Defendant had hold of the steering wheel and was steering a zigzag course.

Police Sgt. Doyle, who was on duty at Hongkew Station when the defendant was brought in, described him as being drunk.

Asked what signs of drunkenness he noted, witness said that defendant was unsteady on his legs, smelt of drink, and gave his age as 96.

Defendant—I said I was born in 1896.

Witness added that defendant summoned his own doctor to examine him, but he did not know Dr. Bryson had said that Fisher was sober.

Chief Inspector O'Toole and Sub-Inspector Jones also gave evidence that defendant was under the influence of drink when taken to the police station.

For the defence, Captain B. A. Thompson, second Marine Superintendent of the C. N. S., said Mr. Fisher was employed by the company as a chief officer and had an excellent character. He had been to the dentist on Wednesday afternoon and called at the office between 3.30 and 4 o'clock, at which time he was quite sober.

AN UNFORTUNATE POCKET BOOK.

Defendant then gave evidence as to visiting the dentist, who administered two cocaine injections before drawing a tooth, and, after visiting his ship and the company's office, he called at the Palace Hotel to pick up a friend. Here he had a brandy and milk while waiting for the car. Describing what happened at Range Road, witness said that he got back into the car to find his pocket book which he had dropped, and before he knew what was happening the car was careering down the road and he did not know how to stop it. He only put his hand to the wheel when he saw the car was about to collide with a ricsha. He had never driven a car and knew nothing whatever about starting, and he could not explain what caused this car to move.

Mr. W. L. Thomas, who was in defendant's company, said that after he left the car he looked back and saw defendant groping on the floor for something, and it was then that the car started. It started to move across the road, and witness thought it was going to hit the wall on the other side, but then it started on another tack, and squared up a bit.

Addressing the court for the defence, Mr. Harris mentioned that an instance of a car being accidentally started occurred at Hongkong recently, a coolie starting the car of Mr. A. G. Stephen, the vehicle landing over a cliff.

CASE DISMISSED.

His Worship, in giving his decision, said the prosecution had given no reason why defendant should wish or attempt to drive the car, and only left it to be inferred that he suddenly took it into his head to go on a joy ride. It was within the bounds of probability that a car might have moved off suddenly in this way. As to the evidence for and against the defendant being drunk, he concluded that, while the police must be regarded as somewhat of experts, they were mistaken in this case. The defendant would be discharged.

A BUSINESS COMPLICATION OF 1914

Tangled Suit Between British, American and German Firms Dealt with by Judge Lobingier: Judgment for Tls. 13,000 Against Bank

A lengthy judgment in a case arising out of the business complications caused in 1914 by the war has been delivered by his Honour Judge Lobingier in the United States Court for China. The plaintiffs were the Chemische Fabrik Griesheim Elektron, who were represented by Mr. Fessenden, and the defendants the International Banking Corporation, represented by Mr. Chalaire, while Bradley & Co. Ld., for whom Mr. G. H. Wright appeared, were intervenors in the case.

In his decision, Judge Lobingier explains the nature of the action as follows:—

This is an action to recover damages for the alleged wrongful surrender of a deposit in the defendant bank under the following instructions which are admitted in the pleadings:

Shanghai, Oct. 12, 1914.

The Manager
International Bank,
Present.

We shall be much obliged if you will open a tael account in the joint names of Messrs. Siemssen & Co. and ourselves on the following conditions:

(1) Cheques drawn against the account to be signed by both Mssrs. Bradley & Co., Ld. and Messrs. Siemssen & Co.

(2) Any exchange required for the account to be fixed with the International Banking Corporation.

Yours faithfully
(Sgd.) Bradley & Co., Ld.

END TO BUSINESS RELATIONS.

Intervenor, a British corporation, had been for some time selling to Chinese goods furnished by plaintiff, a German corporation, and it is conceded that the purpose of this deposit was to meet the emergency created by the world war which terminated all business relations between the two. Defendant, being a corporation of a then neutral country, was chosen as the depositary of the fund to be realized from continuing sales by intervenor of stocks on hand. By March 3, 1915, this fund aggregated Shanghai Tls. 24,622.17, which amount defendant surrendered on April 30, 1919, to the intervenor without the signature of the other party named in the instructions. Meanwhile intervenor, with the approval of its consular authorities, remitted to the English Public Trustee an amount in sterling which it admitted owing plaintiff. The proceeds, however, were in taels which had risen in value, and the deposit at the time of its withdrawal was worth in sterling nearly twice the amount remitted. The crucial question is whether plaintiff or intervenor had the title to the deposit.

THE LEGAL PRESUMPTION.

In conducting this inquiry we have the advantage of starting with a well recognized legal presumption.

"The law presumes that a deposit belongs to the person in whose name it is entered and. . . where such a joint deposit is made, the presumption is that the interest of the joint depositors is equal."

The bank is estopped to question the depositor's title and the burden of overcoming the presumption rests upon anyone who questions it. Since intervenor alleged that it was "the sole owner" of the deposit it had the double burden of proving that allegation and of overcoming the presumption and for that reason, and because it alone had a witness at the trial, it was called upon to produce its evidence first.

We have searched the record in vain for evidence which would meet the burden thus assumed by the intervenor. The sole witness was its managing director who handled the transaction in question and who must be presumed to have stated the case as favourably to the intervenor as the facts would justify. He shows that intervenor sold plaintiff's goods at prices fixed by plaintiff thereby eliminating one of the tests which would make intervenor a purchaser. It received as its entire compensation a commission of 10 per cent., deducting therefrom "storage, firm insurance and any incidental charges other than duty."

The balance, it would seem, belonged to plaintiff; for it is not seriously disputed that intervenor was an agent of some sort. The original contract transfers to Bradley & Co. die Vertretung (representation, agency) in Shanghai. In a letter to defendant two days before it surrendered the fund, intervenor says:

"Before the war we were agents for the Chemische Fabrik Griesheim Elektron."

Intervenor's managing director shows that the agency was of the delcredere kind. Now it is elementary that an agent cannot profit at the principal's expense.

THE QUESTION EXCHANGE.

Nor do we find any specific evidence to the contrary. True, the witness says, that intervenor's liability was in gold while the sales to Chinese dealers were usually in taels. But that would seem to be merely a detail in the transaction. Plaintiff's title to the balance due it would hardly be affected by the medium of payment. The question of exchange was undoubtedly an important factor in producing the situation out of which the controversy arose. But we cannot see that exchange greatly affects the legal rights and obligations of the parties for the simple reason that exchange does not appear to have ever been definitely settled by agreement between them. Intervenor, indeed, fixed a rate of 2/6 in remitting to plaintiff and when fixed it seems to have been a normal rate and therefore not questioned by plaintiff. But there is no pretence of an agreement that said rate should continue indefinitely or that intervenor should reap the profit of the phenomenal rise in exchange. Of course, had plaintiff agreed to this rate in advance it could not have complained of intervenor's profit or out of its own loss. But no such agreement is claimed. It is true that the witness states that Mr. Michaelis, plaintiff's agent, wanted him to remit to New York the sterling sum which intervenor admitted owing. But even this appears contradictory to his other testimony, "we had no interview with Mr. Michaelis and no agreement with him as to the rate at which we should pay in our sterling indebtedness."

INTERVENOR'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Nor are we left to negative evidence alone on this point. For on the same date of the letter of deposit intervenor wrote plaintiff's agent as follows—:

October 12, 1914.

K. Michaelis Esq.
C/o Messrs. Siemssen & Co.
Present.

Dear Sir,—We beg to advise that in accordance with our conversation with you we have opened an account with the International Banking Corporation in the joint names of Messrs. Siemssen & Co. and ourselves into which the money due to the Chemische Fabrik Griesheim Elektron will be paid during the continuance of the war. Kindly confirm the arrangement. Please note that we undertake no responsibility for any liability that may attach to Messrs. Siemssen & Co. in the matter.

Here then we have an express acknowledgement by intervenor that the money constituting this deposit was "due" plaintiff. True, the letter does not state expressly that it was all so due, but such must have been its meaning since no deposits of proceeds of sales were made until after deducting intervenor's commission, which constituted its entire compensation. This would seem to dispose of the contention that the deposit was for the purpose of "security." It could not have been mere security if it was "due" plaintiff. It is true that intervenor was at that time forbidden by the law of its country to make actual payment to plaintiff. But this arrangement was evidently a substitute for payment. The money was recognized as "due" plaintiff and the deposit was arranged "during the continuance of the war" after which actual delivery would no longer be prevented. The facts here differ from those in the case relied upon by intervenor in at least two important particulars: (1) There was no commission; "the surplus of all profits" made by the party who sold the goods was retained to his credit: and (2) There was no agreement like that just quoted recognizing the funds in question as "due" the party who furnished the goods.

NO RETENTION OF INTEREST.

We are unable therefore to find from the evidence that either defendant or intervenor has met the burden of overcoming the presumption of plaintiff's title to this deposit. But we do find the evidence sufficient to overcome any presumption that intervenor retained an actual interest in that deposit. Had it done so it would clearly not have written as it did on October 12, 1914, and its expression at that time, long before any controversy arose, is more reliable than any subsequent one. Nor do we think intervenor has established its averment.

"That on or about April 30, 1919, and for sometime prior thereto and thereafter, intervenor did with due care and diligence seek the aforesaid Siemssen & Co. in Shanghai, and did fail to find said Siemssen & Co. or any one authorized to act for it in signing, as a joint signatory, cheques drawn against the Shanghai taels account, and that it was informed that the said Siemssen & Co. was not then in existence in Shanghai."

April 30, 1919, was nearly six months after the armistice. Meanwhile the Germans including plaintiff's agent had been deported from China.

A BREACH OF CONTRACT.

We must find that defendant committed a breach of its contract in surrendering this deposit to the intervenor and the only remaining question is the measure of damages.

Intervenor alleges:—

"That on or about April 30, 1919, intervenor did, with the consent and concurrence of and through His Brittannic Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai, deliver the sum of sterling £3,077/15/5, then owing by it to plaintiff, to His Britannic Majesty's Public Trustee Custodian of Enemy Property for England and Wales in full payment of its indebtedness to plaintiff."

The remission of the amount alleged is fully established by the evidence. Indeed it is admitted in plaintiff's brief and practically in its answer, though the actual receipt of the money by plaintiff is denied. Direct receipt, however, was impossible during the world war because plaintiff and intervenor were subjects of powers which were at war with each other and all contractual relations between them were suspended. Both Britain and Germany enacted legislation prohibiting payments to residents of enemy countries. At the close of the war the belligerents provided methods of liquidating these suspended claims.

TREATY OBLIGATIONS.

After quoting the Treaty his Honour goes on to say:—

It seems clear that while intervenor could not, between 1914 and 1919, have made payment direct to plaintiff, it could and did remit a sum to an official of its own government which expressly assumed responsibility for plaintiff's claim. Not only so but each government agreed to forbid its nationals to effect payment in any other way. Now both plaintiff and intervenor are bound by this treaty and it may be presumed that the officials of their respective governments have proceeded regularly and performed their duties thereunder.

Nevertheless intervenor so late as January 26, 1923, wrote:

"As you will see from these account sales, our indebtedness to you consists of a sum of £3,077.15.5. If you have not received the amount from the Public Trustees through your government, we are quite prepared to take up the question of recovery and payment direct to your goodselves."

STEPS TOWARDS PAYMENT.

We need not, therefore, adjudicate whether payment has been effected. But we must find from the evidence that intervenor has taken steps to that end. Should payment ultimately fail through intervenor's fault, plaintiff would have its remedy in the court of intervenor's nationality. Eliminating the item thus remitted the situation appears as stated in plaintiff's brief as follows:

"Approximately Tls. 12,300 at exchange 5½ were appropriated by Bradley & Co., Ld. from the original deposit of Tls. 34,623.17 to make this payment. After making this payment as described there remained a balance of approximately Tls. 13,000. This sum Bradley & Co., Ld. admit was appropriated to their own use."

It is this balance of Tls. 13,000, which defendant surrendered to intervenor in breach of the former's instructions and contract and in our judgment it affords plaintiff's measure of damages.

JUDGMENT FOR TLS. 13,000.

The concluding portion of the judgment deals with a legal point

LAW REPORTS

LAW OF PROMISSORY NOTES

In What Cases Is It Possible to Bring Forward a Defence to an Action?

The question as to what defence can be raised to a claim on a promissory note was argued in a case which came before his Honour Judge Sir Skinner on Monday, when a Japanese merchant named S. G. Kamei sued Linton H. de Coser (formerly describing himself as Linton H. Steward), for payment of $800 due on a promissory note.

Mr. A. Covey appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Thomas Addis for defendant.

The matter came up on a motion submitted by Mr. Covey for leave to strike out certain clauses in a defence to the action filed by defendant. In the clauses objected to it was set forth on behalf of defendant that on October 21 he arranged to purchase a garage for plaintiff at a cost of Tls. 9,500 and was to receive 5 per cent. on the purchase price as commission, having, at plaintiff's request, waived his claim on the vendor for a similar commission. It was then arranged that in lieu of payment of the commission plaintiff would give defendant a one-third partnership in the garage, of which defendant was to become manager. The partnership, said Mr. Covey, was not given, nor was the commission, Tls. 475, paid. Defendant admitted the promissory note, but claimed that his signing it was conditional upon his being made a partner. Having been engaged to assist plaintiff in his business at a salary of $200 per month, he was discharged without notice, and claimed $200 damages for wrongful dismissal, by way of further set-off to the amount of the promissory note. Counsel asked that these clauses in the defence be struck out, the transactions referred to being separate from that in which defendant signed the note for money received.

His Lordship said he did not see how the set-off could be made against a non-British subject unless he consented to an action for damages for wrongful dismissal.

ALWAYS GREAT DIFFICULTY.

Mr. Covey pointed out that in any case where a promissory note was held there was always the greatest difficulty in finding any defence whatever.

His Lordship—Then there is much credit to Mr. Addis for finding a defence.

Mr. Addis argued that the matters set forth in the defence were all part of the same transaction, and that defendant only signed the promissory note in expectation that plaintiff would carry out his promises.

His Lordship—You can only set-off against a foreign defendant in this court in respect of things which absolutely arise out of the same transaction. You cannot bring an action against him here for wrongful dismissal.

Mr. Addis contended that the signing of the note was conditional upon defendant's either getting the commission or being made a partner.

Mr. Covey replied that defendant's proper course would be to bring an action against plaintiff in the Japanese court.

His Lordship granted the application in respect to all the paragraphs named excepting that in which defendant claimed that the signing of the promissory note was conditional upon his being made a partner.

THE CLAIM ADMITTED.

The case in which S. G. Kamei sued Linton H. Coser for $800 with $80 interest on a promissory note and costs came up on Tuesday at H.M. Supreme Court.

Mr. Addis stated that the defendant would admit the claim, but asked for a stay of execution. Proceedings were being taken by defendant in a case before the Japanese Court and until judgment was given in this case he did not think his client would be able to find the money.

Judge Sir Skinner Turner granted a stay of execution for a fortnight.

HONGKONG ORDINANCES

More Cases of Companies' Inadvertance in Filing Share Returns

Before his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner at H. M. Supreme Court on Tuesday, Mr. M. Reader Harris applied on behalf of the Pung Wo Manufacturing Co., Ltd. for an extension of the time for filing with the Registrar of Companies returns of allotments of shares made respectively on August 17, September 5, November 15 and December 7, all in the year 1923, pursuant to Section 90 (1) (a) and (b) of the Hongkong Companies Ordinance 1911. Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate, represented the Registrar of Companies.

Mr. Reader Harris said that the company was incorporated on August 17 with a nominal capital of Tls. 350,000 divided into 35,000 shares of Tls. 10 each. Up till the end of September 27,600 shares had been allotted and returns of such allotments were duly made to the Registrar of Companies. Other shares, however, were allotted—on October 22 five shares to Pan Chi-seng and 10 shares on December 15 to Chi Ong-cheng—and no returns of the allotments had been made. It was purely an inadvenence due to the fact that the officials responsible did not know the law.

Mr. Wilkinson raised no opposition and the application was granted.

A similar application was made by Mr. Reader Harris on behalf of the China General Omnibus Co. in respect of certain shares. Mr. Harris stated that the nominal capital of the company was Tls. 1,000,000, divided into 100,000 ordinary shares of Tls. 10 each. Up to the end of July 34,-163 shares had been allotted and returns of such allotments were made to the Registrar of Companies, but five shares were allotted to E. H. Baker on August 17, 10 shares to Yuen Sze-miao on September 5, 200 shares on November 17 to Mr. Eugene Wihlfahrt and 2,000 shares to Mr. Hung Yue-fong on December 17. No returns had been made of these owing to inadvertence.

This application was also granted.

SEQUEL TO SHOOTING AFFAIR

Two Men Charged in Police Court with Negotiating Opium Sale

The accused in the Avenue Joffre shooting case were again before Mr. G. W. King at H.M. Police Court last Friday, W. H. Shaw and Charles Lowry being charged with entering into negotiation with a Chinese, Woo Sih-yih, for the sale of opium, and with stealing from the same person the sum of $885 by means of a trick.

Mr. E. T. Maitland prosecuted, Mr. Tycho Wing and Mr. P. W. Goldring appeared for Lowry, and Mr. Goldring and Mr. G. Sellett defended Shaw.

LARCENY BY A TRICK

In outlining the case for the prosecution, Mr. Maitland said it was one of larceny by means of a trick. A Chinese named of Woo got into touch with the accused who offered to sell him some opium. On December 6, Woo went to No. 128 Boone Road, where the accused were, and handed over $400 to one of them in an upstairs room. After waiting for some time, the defendants went downstairs and later one of them came up with an empty bag, stating that the other defendant was filling another bag, and adding that they wanted more money. Woo handed over another $450, and the man went downstairs again to get "the cargo." The Chinese waited for some time, but neither of the accused appeared again, and upon going downstairs, a small boy told him that the foreigners had left the house some time previously. Subsequently, Woo found the accused at another address, and got back $150 and a promissory note for the balance, but no further repayment had been made. The last offer to repay the $700 was made on the night the accused were arrested on this charge.

His Worship—Is it an offence under Chinese law to traffic in opium!

Mr. Maitland—Yes.

His Worship—Does this man Woo know his position?

Mr. Maitland—Yes.

OPIUM BUSINESS.

Complainant gave evidence bearing out counsel's statement, saying that upon being introduced to the accused he was taken to 218 Boone Road by a Russian woman and there talked opium business. When the first $400 was handed to Shaw, Lowry said that more must be paid, and when he hesitated "the Russian missy" assured him that it would be all right, Lowry being a man who did big business. A few days later, a Mr. Rokatoff called at witness's house and repaid $150, and Shaw had since offered to repay the whole amount, but nothing more had been received.

In answer to Mr. Wing, witness said this was his first deal in opium, and, knowing nothing about the business, he thought the accused would be able to give him the necessary information.

Did it not occur to you, when they were unable to produce the opium, that they also knew nothing about the business and were as helpless as you were?—They got the money, and I got nothing.

Witness added, in answer to further questions, that he was quite content to accept their promissory note for the money not returned. He did not sue them in the British Court for fear of losing face in being mixed up with such a business.

In answer to the Court, witness stated that he did not smoke opium himself, and was purchasing it for Chinese users.

Hermann Auslander, of 128 Boone Road, gave evidence as to accused having rented a room at the house in December; and a house boy employed at the place spoke as to the visit of Woo on December 6, when the two accused left by the back door of the house, leaving Woo upstairs.

Det.-Sgt. Schmidt gave evidence as to taking possession of some luggage belonging to the accused at the Savoy Hotel, and—in answer to Mr. Wing—said it contained nothing incriminating.

This was the case for the prosecution.

COUNSEL'S INTERESTING SUGGESTION.

In asking that both cases against Lowry be dismissed, Mr. Wing said neither of the charges would ever have been brought but for the previous day's proceedings in the shooting case. In order to fortify the position of Detective Emilianoff, every possible effort had to be made to convict the two men. The accused never intended to rob Mr. Woo, and there was no evidence of fraudulent or dishonest intention. Lowry might have been dazzled by the sight of the money, and might have thought it was an experiment which might be worth trying; but he knew nothing about opium, had not got any opium, and did not know where to get it, and the thing failed. At the most, it was a hope on the part of Lowry that he might find himself in a position to fulfil a promise which, admittedly, involved doing wrong.

Mr. Sellet made a similar plea on behalf of Shaw, but his Worship said he must hear what explanation they had to make.

The proceedings were adjourned until Monday.

Story of the Defendants

The case for the defence was heard at H. M. Police Court on Monday, before Mr. G. W. King, in connexion with the prosecution of W. H. Shaw and C. Lowry, who were charged on remand with entering into negotiation with a Chinese, Woo Sih-yih, for the sale of opium, and with stealing from the same person the sum of $885 by means of a trick.

Mr. E. T. Maitland appeared for the prosecution, Mr. Tycho Wing and Mr. P. W. Goldring appeared for Lowry, and Mr. Goldring and Mr. G. Sellett for Shaw.

Lowry went into the witness box and gave evidence that he had known Shaw for some time. Witness met Woo about a week before December 6—the date of the alleged offence—in the house of a Russian lady in Paoshan Road. The lady asked whether he knew anybody who could procure opium, and witness said he could not do it himself as he knew nothing about opium. At the urgent request of the lady, however, he promised to try and get in touch with somebody who did know, thinking that Shaw might possibly know somebody who could supply the opium. He saw Shaw, who said he would do what he could. On December 6, witness introduced Shaw to Mr. Woo and the Russian lady at a house in Boone Road. Witness then went downstairs and waited for about a quarter of an hour, Shaw then coming down and carrying in his hand a small attaché case, and they went out together, witness accompanying Shaw as far as Szechuen Road.

VANISHED CASH.

He saw Shaw that night about 9 o'clock, and was told that the Chinese had given him $850 with which to try and obtain opium, but that he had unfortunately lost the money. Witness himself did not handle the money and had none of it. Shaw afterwards asked him if he would help to settle up with Woo, and witness agreed, and borrowed $200 from a compradore, giving it to Shaw to pay to Woo. The money was later repaid by Shaw. Two days later witness telephoned to Woo and asked if Shaw had returned part of the money, and the reply was that he had and that everything was all right.

His Worship—Do you know anything about opium, Lowry?

Defendant—No.

Do you think dealing in opium is a clean business?—No.

Then why did you introduce these people to Shaw?—Because the Russian lady was so urgent about the matter.

Do you know that by saying what you have you have placed Shaw in a very bad position in this court?—Yes.

Was that a friendly act?—No.

AN UNFORTUNATE GAME OF CARDS.

Shaw next gave evidence, saying that upon being asked by Woo to get some opium he promised to do so because he was pretty well known to the Customs and the ships, and Woo gave him about $800 for the purchase. After the interview, witness told Woo to remain upstairs for a time and let witness get away first, because it would look bad if he were seen leaving the house with a Chinese. Woo agreed and remained upstairs. Witness admitted that he played cards with the money and lost it, afterwards going to Woo and promising to pay back what he could and giving him a promissory note for $850 payable on December 22. Woo appeared to be perfectly satisfied. Witness repaid a certain amount, and there was an outstanding balance of $700.

After hearing addresses by counsel, his Worship said it seemed they had not had all the evidence they might have had. He would have liked to save seen the Chinese middleman and also the lady in question, but it was perhaps as well she kept out. Lowry had tried to get out of the net by implicating Shaw, but Shaw had been more frank and fair in his statement. He found both men guilty of entering into negotiations for the sale of opium, into which charge the second one of larceny was dovetailed and really provided more evidence of the actual transaction alleged in the first charge. However, there had been no evidence that either of the accused at any time dealt in opium, nothing to show that they were in negotiation with people who dealt in opium and no opium was actually produced. It seemed therefore to be a case in which he could consider the possibility of a fine. Accused would have to pay the maximum fine of $200 each, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment.

FOREIGNER'S DEAL IN REVOLVERS

Magistrate's Severe Comment on of a Very Dangerous Traffic in Shanghai

A young man named Noble Poignand appeared before Mr. G. W. King at H. M. Police Court on Wednesday, charged with entering into negotiations for the sale of arms, contrary to King's Regulations, at 21 Fearon Road on Tuesday.

Mr. E. T. Maitland, for the prosecution, said that accused negotiated for the sale of two revolvers and unfortunately for him he negotiated with a Chinese detective. He was arrested with a Japanese who would be tried in the Japanese court. Mr. Maitland observed that this was one of the worst offences a person could commit in China at the present time owing to the unfortunate condition of affairs, and as to results of such traffic he instanced the case of acting Chief-Constable Rebsamen, who was shot about a month ago. The supplying of arms to robbers and bandits was a more serious offence than that of dealing in opium.

Det. Sub.-Inspector Conduit gave evidence that at 11.45 on Tuesday morning, receiving certain information from a Japanese detective at Hongkew, he instructed a Chinese detective to go to 21 Fearon Road, a Japanese lodging house. Witness followed, and after waiting outside the house some little time saw the accused and a Japanese leave the house with the detective. Witness stopped them and on searching the Japanese found that he carried two pistols and 25 rounds of ammunition. He said he had gone into house to look at the electric lights. Witness asked Poignand to accompany him to the police station and there he said it was the first time he had done anything like this, adding that he had obtained the pistols from the house of a Japanese in Miller Road. This place was searched, but no revolvers were found on the premises.

CHINESE DETECTIVE'S WORK.

Chinese Detective Zee Pao-ling gave evidence of his visit to Fearon Road, in company with a Japanese informer. Accused, who was there with two Japanese, asked witness if he wanted to buy any revolvers and, on being answered in the affirmative, took two revolvers from his overcoat pocket. Witness mentioned that he wanted 12 pistols and 10 revolvers, and accused said he could get plenty more—2,000 if they were wanted. The price of the revolvers was to be $52 and $160 each. They left the house together and the accused were arrested.

In his defence, accused stated that a Japanese named Yoshimura called at his office and inquired if he knew where pistols could be obtained. Witness said he would see, and approached another Japanese named Kawano who gave him two pistols, which he took to Yoshimura at Fearon Road, handing them over to the Chinese detective. Poignand strongly denied that he said he knew where 2,000 pistols could be obtained. He had no idea where any such quantity was to be found, and had never touched the business before. He got nothing at all out of the present transaction, which he undertook simply to help Yoshimura, who was out of work.

His Worship—If he was out of work how was he going to pay for the pistols?

Accused—I cannot say. I did not ask what he was going to do with them, but understood they were to be sold to Chinese.

TRADE MARK

THE TRADE MARK
OF A FAMOUS HOUSE

IT IS THE GUARANTEE OF GOOD WORK AND GOOD QUALITY.....
...A QUALITY BEYOND CAVIL OR QUESTION.

THIS MARK IS TO BE FOUND ON EVERY TIN AND PACKET OF

"Three Castles"
&
"CAPSTAN"
CIGARETTES

MADE IN ENGLAND

P.—36

This advertisement is issued by the British-American Tobacco Co., (China) Ltd.

raised as to the burden of proof, and [illegible] this [illegible] Honour says:

"It is [illegible] that plaintiff have and recover [illegible] that intervenor take nothing by [illegible] petition and that in case plaintiff should fail, through any [illegible] amount remitted by the latter to the British Public Trustee, this judgment shall be without prejudice to any right of action by [illegible] said amount.

MRS. NOSKOFF NOT A PERJURER

Re-trial Denied in Fur Trading Case: Her Original Evidence Corroborated

Further reference was made to the notorious "Commandant of Urga," Col. Sipailov, who was described as "the darkest person in the [illegible] of Mongolian events" in a decision given by Judge Lobingier in the U. S. Court Thursday over-ruling the motion for re-trial in the case of the Fur & Wool Trading Co. (D. Biederman) *v.* Andersen, Meyer & Co. The Court originally found for plaintiffs in a claim for the accounting of the proceeds of a quantity of furs obtained by defendants from Sipailov. The motion for re-trial was submitted on the grounds of the alleged perjury of one of plaintiffs' principal witnesses.

Concerning the evidence of this witness (Mrs. Noskoff) the Judge held that the motion disclosed that plaintiffs knew, long before judgment was rendered, that Mrs. Noskoff was willing to change her testimony. Not having been availed of at that time, her additional testimony could not be regarded as "newly discovered" and was not strictly admissible. Plaintiff's counsel [illegible] that [illegible] and Mrs. Noskoff had again been heard. Her new testimony, he [illegible] was based on [illegible] to, that portion of her testimony most relied upon.

The motion contained the averment "that plaintiffs in fraud of defendants, persuaded said Anna Noskoff to testify falsely." The only evidence offered in support of this averment was the statement of Mrs. Noskoff that her testimony was in consequence of [illegible] letter from Raskin, plaintiffs Trustee [illegible], under date of November 9, 1921.

It would be observed that the passage quoted contains no suggestion that Mrs. Noskoff should testify falsely.

PROMISED TO BE HAGGED.

Her very first letter written on April 17, 1921, immediately after the occurrence, recited:—

"We were summoned to the Commander's Office several times during the day, whereon were promised to be hanged and, finally, were ordered to sell the goods of your firm."

Of course such a transaction was not a good deal and it would seem that Raskin was doing no more than protecting his firm's interests in bringing out that fact and the consequences of any other interpretation. His language might have been more diplomatic and discreet, but it did not amount to a threat.

As to payments of money by defendant to Mrs. Noskoff, there was to be found the true reason for such charges as her testimony as she did make. No evidence of [illegible] could be found, but the Court did find that the amount in dispute, which she testified Mr. Tien had paid [illegible] was not extortionate, was the money which she knew was given not only for the furs then purchased, but also at a time when he himself was disinterested.

None of the original findings were based upon Mrs. Noskoff's testimony alone. In every instance corroboration was looked for [illegible] none of it now as the case of the second hearing. But it was corroboration of her original testimony and not of its changes.

We [illegible] have found no [illegible] Sipailov, as he is called, acted on behalf of Noskoff and Mrs. Noskoff'," the Judge proceeds. "It would surely be a [illegible] that one who seizes another's property under threats of death acquires thereby authority to act on behalf of its custodian. If any fact is apparent [illegible] it is that whatever Noskoff and his wife did in this matter was done under the direct compulsion. The instance mentioned in the decision when Mrs. Noskoff was ordered by Colonel Sipailo to point out the goods' is only one. A mere suggestion from that source would have amounted to compulsion. For the notorious Colonel, whose real name seem to have been Sepailoff or Sepailov, was known to stop at nothing in enforcing his will."

ALLEGED IMITATION OF A TRADEMARK

China Soap & Candle Co.'s Case in Mixed Court Against A Chinese Firm

The alleged imitation of a trademark belonging to the China Soap & Candle Co., Ld. (represented by Mr. M. B. Brown) by a Chinese firm, the Ting Fong Soap Manufacturing Co. (represented by Mr. A. M. Preston), was the subject of an important hearing at the Mixed Court on Monday morning. Mr. C. E. Whitamore (British Assessor) and Mr. Lee Sieu-mei (Chinese Magistrate) occupied the Bench.

At the last hearing, the prosecution informed the Court that as there had been a considerable number of infringements of their business trademarks during the past years, they had found it necessary to institute criminal proceedings against defendants as other methods had proved to be ineffective. The seal bearing the imitation marks in this case was of a different quality to the soap which accused sought to imitate. It was much inferior. The result was that they (the complainants) had received many complaints from their agents in different sections of the country as to this and other imitations. While a recent case against a retailer was dismissed on the ground of insufficient evidence, the case in which the present defendants were charged was adjourned until yesterday.

THE CHINESE CRIMINAL CODE.

The full charge against defendants on Monday was that they manufactured and sold "a certain article namely soap, bearing [illegible] and Chinese characters namely Peh Tien in imitating and so closely resembling the device and Chinese characters namely Peh Gee used by complainants on their soap as to be calculated to deceive thereby injuring the business and credit of complainants contrary to articles 242 and 359 of the Chinese Provisional Criminal Code."

At Monday's hearing, the defence was proceeded with and the general manager stated that he himself had other business and put the business of his factory in the charge of a man named Dien. Part of the business consisted of manufacturing soap for customers who suggested the names for the soap and provided the dyes for marking.

Dien was called and stated that in this instance he had been approached by a broker named Ling, who asked him to make the cases of the Peh Tien soap and suggested the name. Witness as the case queried the character Tien, but had been assured that Peh Tien was a proper name and mark. Witness then made 140 cases and delivered them to the [illegible] who had been discharged. His people had been exceedingly [illegible] and there was no thought of imitating trademarks belonging to complainant or any body else. His company was one of the largest soap factories in Shanghai.

The Magistrate observed that there was no such character as "Tien" in the Chinese dictionary.

Mr Preston argued that there was, and the Assessor said there was none in "Giles' Dictionary."

An accountant of the defendant firm was called to prove that the profits of the transaction were very small.

DEFENDANTS' INTENTIONS.

Mr. Preston then argued that the small profit in itself showed [illegible] there was no [illegible] of fraud. The business of the company was to make soap and the fact that they had carried out an order for a customer was not at all unusual. There was no standard concerning trademarks by which accused could be guided, so that he could not say whether there was an infringement or not. If there was an official record or gazette, it would be different, but there was none. Counsel then proceeded to cite the case of the Evening Light Soap, in which the same company were defendants. In that case defendants had given an undertaking not to imitate complainant's trademarks. At that time defendants had applied to the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce for registration of the trademark, but the Ministry refused this on the ground that a Chinese company had already registered the name and mark. They did not know at that time that the trademark in that case had anything to do with complainants. Shortly afterwards, a suit had been instituted against them as a result of which they gave an undertaking to imitate the brand no more, it being stated that the mark had been registered with the Customs here. There was no record to guide defendants. submitted counsel, and he could not see how complainants' business and credit had been injured in view of the fact that it was an inferior soap and sold at an inferior price. On the whole, he said, one Chinese character differed from that of complainant.

Replying, Mr. Brown stated that the Shanghai District Magistrate had issued a proclamation forbidding the manufacture of the Peh Gee Soap by any firm other than complainants. The accused had been convicted once previously, in 1914, for the same offence. Counsel pressed for a heavy penalty, a term of imprisonment, instead of a fine, for one of the officers of the company.

Mr. Preston stated that the present manager had no knowledge of a conviction which did not occur in his time, but in the time of his ancestors.

The Court reserved their decision until Wednesday morning.

The Maximum Penalty

We have imposed the maximum penalty because we consider this to be a very gross case of fraudulent imitation and an infringement of the laws of trademark," said Mr. C. E. Whitamore (British Assessor) at the Mixed Court on Wednesday in fining Shen Ching-foong, manager of the Ting Feng Soap Factory $100 for infringing a trademark of the China Soap & Candle Co., Ld.

In the course of his judgment, the Assessor (who sat with Magistrate Li) said that the Court had considered the case very carefully and had come to the conclusion that, in view of the character of the case, under Article 243 of the Chinese Provisional Criminal Code, no conviction could be sustained. Under Article 289, however, the Court was satisfied that an offence had been committed and a conviction would be entered accordingly. The maximum fine under this Article, the Assessor said, was $100. A short term of imprisonment had been suggested by the prosecution, but with this the Court could not agree.

The defendant company would be fined the maximum amount under the Article.

Mr. M. B Brown, who prosecuted, remarked that there were 23 cases of the imitation soap in Nantao which were seized and detained by the city police, and the Chinese authorities were not inclined to deliver them up to complainants. He considered a proper case for the soap to be surrendered and returned to complainants so that it could be melted down.

THE PAUL REGENDANZ AFFAIR

Question Raised of Mixed Court's Jurisdiction over Ships in Harbour

"In reading over the rules of the Mixed Court of 1869, I find that this Court has jurisdiction in the Treaty Port of Shanghai. This to my mind certainly includes vessels on the Huangpu in the harbour of Shanghai." This view was expressed by Mr. N. A. Allman (American Assessor) at the Mixed Court on Thursday, in connexion with the case arising from the fracas on board the str. Paul Regendanz on January 19. He added, "Although the complainants have left the jurisdiction of this Court, the accused admit that they took part in and intended the assault. They will be sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment from date of arrest."

At the outset of the case, Mr. A. S. Allan, who originally appeared for the prosecution on behalf of the captain and officers, said that, as his clients, the complainants, had left Shanghai and as he had no instructions to proceed with the case, he was not prepared to argue on the question of jurisdiction.

Mr. R. G. McDonald (who, with Mr. L. K. Kentwell, defended) stated that he understood that Dr. O. Fischer, who appeared for the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, wished to address the court on the jurisdiction question, and he (Mr. McDonald) would postpone his argument until Dr. Fischer had finished.

FOREIGN COMMISSIONER'S PROTEST.

Dr. Fischer, addressing the Court, stated that the case must be decided without any further action because the complainants had left the jurisdiction of the Court in spite of the fact that on February 1, the International Mixed Court issued an injunction against the steamer restraining her from leaving Shanghai. Nevertheless, counsel was instructed by the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs to make certain remarks with reference to the jurisdiction in this case and to state that the Mixed Court was not competent, and never was, to try this action. It appeared from the charge sheet that there were four complainants, some of whom were Germans and one Norwegian. It appeared from the record that the warrants against accused were issued by the American authorities. The steamer was flying the flag of the Republic of Panama, which had no treaty rights in China and counsel was instructed that the United States authorities in China protected the interests of the Republic of Panama but that, in the opinion of counsel and according to a former case decided in this Court, did not give and could not now give the United States authorities the right to claim jurisdiction or the right for the American Assessor to hear the case in the Mixed Court. It was true, said counsel, that one of the complainants was a Norwegian but it appeared that the Norwegian Assessor only took an interest in the case at the third hearing whereas it was the duty of the Norwegian authorities, if they desired to claim jurisdiction in the case, to issue the warrant and sit in the case from the very beginning.

Mr. Allman remarked that the American Assessor sat in his capacity as Assessor when he issued the warrant, not because the United States authorities claimed jurisdiction in the case.

Dr. Fischer referred to the record of the case which showed that the captain accompanied Superintendent Woodfield, of the River Police, to the United States Consulate to make out the charge.

Superintendent Woodfield was called and corroborated this statement.

PROBLEM FOR CONSULAR BODY.

In delivering judgment, the Assessor made the remarks mentioned above, and informed Dr. Fischer that if the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs did not agree with this ruling, he had better take it up with the Consular Body as [illegible] was [illegible] been and not the Court. The accused in this case should have gone to the United States Consulate and got their wages at the very beginning or they should have gone to the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs to lay their grievances with him, but they could not take not law into their own hands. Of course, it had to be admitted that they were ignorant men. Anyhow the Commissioner could take the matter up with the Consular [illegible]

Dr. Fischer stated that that would be done, but so far this was the first decision of the Mixed Court in which such an opinion was expressed by an Assessor.

THE ACCUSED'S INTENTION.

Mr. McDonald:—In view complainants' departure, it obvious that the case must dismissed. This is greatly to regretted because if the case has been heard, I would venture to say that defendants have complete defence. I had a number of other witnesses and case has not been completed it had been heard in full, aspects of the case would have proved to be entirely different.

The Assessor—The accused have admitted that they intended the assault and that they carried iron bars for this purpose. admitted taking part assault.

Mr. McDonald—I beg to differ Accused have admitted nothing of the sort. They might have prepared for a fight with the new crew, they may have intended to intimidate them, but did not intend to assault foreign officers, and this charge with which they accused. We have a complete answer to that.

Superintendent Woodfield ed that he had received a bill for $40, hospital expenses for the wounded men, and as a matter of humanity he would like to know who would pay this. Would Mr. Allan? He counsel for complainant.

Mr. Allan—As counsel for complainants, I would like to get hold of the captain myself for my fees. (Laughter).

Mr. McDonald stated that he would be responsible for the hospital bill.

THE MAGISTRATE'S COMMENT.

Judgment was then entered by the Assessor as stated, but the decision of the Magistrate, translated, was as follows:—

In this case the complainants have left Shanghai. This, being the case should allow for its dismissal. However, as accused have admitted that they took part in the assault, we hereby order that they shall be sentenced to terms of imprisonment for periods of 21 days each, from date of arrest, which terms have already been served. With reference to the death of Hsia King-yung who died as the result of wounds inflicted on him by pistol shots by one of the complainants, an inquest has already been held. The defendants should therefore file suit against the said foreigner in his consular court. Apart from bringing this matter to the attention of the *Chien-cha-sho* (the Procurator's Office), they should also notify the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs.

A message from Reno (Nev.) states that two Chinese, sentenced to death in the District Court for the murder of a compatriot, will meet their fate in the lethal gas chamber. They are the first Chinese in America to suffer the extreme penalty by the new method.

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Asthma Cure
GIVES INSTANT RELIEF.
No matter what your respiratory disease may be suffering from—whether ASTHMA, INFLUENZA, NASAL CATARRH OR ORDINARY COUGH you will find in this famous remedy a restorative power that is simply unequalled.
FAMED FOR FIFTY YEARS.
Sold in tins by all Chemists and Stores throughout the Country.
BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

The Treaty definitely re-establishes political relations. The Italian Government will appoint an Ambassador at Moscow immediately—Reuter.

Holland Seeking Treaty

Amsterdam, Feb. 9.

It is reported that negotiations are proceeding for a commercial treaty between Russia and Holland.—Reuter.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

To be Submitted to Free Vote of the House of Commons: Government Impartial

London, Feb. 7.

Reuter's Agency learns that the Imperial Conference resolutions will be moved in the House of Commons from the Government bench and submitted to a free vote.

The resolutions are regarded as very important, emanating from a body which the Government holds in the highest respect. Each will be explained by the Minister in charge. If there are points with which the Government does not entirely agree, it will explain its position. If the resolution involves extra taxation, the Treasury will give its view.

The procedure in Parliament of the matter will be exactly the same as if the Government itself were responsible.—Reuter.

PROTECTION DROPPED

But Conservatives Concentrating on Imperial Preference

London, Feb. 8.

It is understood that yesterday's meeting of the Unionist leaders convened by Mr. Stanley Baldwin, including the Earl of Balfour, the Earl of Birkenhead and Mr. Austen Chamberlain, resolved, in view of the verdict of the electorate, to eliminate the general protectionist policy from the Party's programme but to advocate a tariff to protect the particularly depressed industries which will prove a necessity to the satisfaction of the Board of the Board of Trade and also to maintain the principle of imperial preference within the limits laid down by the Imperial Conference. —Reuter.

UNIONIST POLITICAL GATHERING

Leadership and Party Policy Discussed: The Question of Imperial Preference

London, Feb. 11.

Over 500 members, including a considerable number of defeated candidates and 200 Peers, attended a meeting of the Unionist Party at the Hotel Cecil this afternoon to decide questions of leadership and the future policy of the party.

Mr. Stanley Baldwin, who was given a warm reception, briefly stated the Party's policy.

The Earl of Balfour moved, and Mr. J. F. P. Rawlinson seconded, a resolution of confidence in Mr. Baldwin as leader, which Mr. Austen Chamberlain supported. The resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. Baldwin declared that the policy of a general tariff on imported goods must be dropped in favour of Imperial preference and extensions of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, whereby special assistance would be given to distressed industries which could prove to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade that they required some form of protection.

An Emphatic Declaration.

Later.

Mr. Stanley Baldwin's speech at to-day's Unionist meeting outlining the future Conservative policy was warmly applauded, especially his emphatic declaration of his intention to stand fast and unhesitatingly to everything decided at the Imperial Conference, fighting if necessary to the end. The ex-Premier announced that he would confer with agricultural interests to devise a practical policy to assist the industry. He declared that the Conservatives' great enemies of the future would not be the Liberals, who were moribund, but Labour which was very much alive. "You are not going to beat Labour on a policy of tranquillity, negation or sitting still." Mr. Baldwin urged the party to examine in a modern light the number of pressing domestic problems and prepare a social policy ready for the next election.—Reuter.

"SECRET PACT" SQUIB

French Press Pleased with Mr. Macdonald's Attitude

Paris, Feb. 8.

With extraordinary unanimity the newspapers refer to the excellent impression created by the British Government's attitude in regard to the Lloyd George "interview." Even the *"Echo de Paris"* joins in the chorus. Satisfaction is expressed at Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's haste to justify his good faith toward France which M. Poincaré greatly appreciated. The most friendly sentiments are voiced as regards the Labour Cabinet.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 8.

Mr. Lloyd George has returned to the Foreign Office the proofs of the French Yellow Book which caused the controversy.

It is stated on good authority that M. Poincaré has intimated that as far as he is concerned the incident may be regarded as closed.—Reuter.

A Wholesome Change.

London, Feb. 10.

In a speech at Burnley, where he has been adopted as the Labour candidate for the by-election, the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Arthur Henderson, referring to the correspondence between Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and M. Poincaré, expressed the opinion that already a wholesome change had begun to operate in Britain's relationship with France and that this change would find its full expression presently in a conference not only between Britain and France but, so far as the Government could influence it, all the countries in Europe and the United States, and that such a conference would make the most effective and satisfactory beginning in laying the foundation of a new international order founded on cooperation and goodwill.—Reuter.

THE NAVAL BASE AT SINGAPORE

Chain of Oil Reserves for an Oil-burning Fleet: The Value of the Battleship

London, Feb. 13.

Mr. L. C. M. S. Amery, the former First Lord of the Admiralty, lecturing on the naval defence of the Pacific at the Colonial Institute to-night, regretted that the Government had stopped the present work commitments at Singapore, but was glad to hear that the question was being carefully investigated and that no decision would be taken without consultation of the Dominions affected.

He claimed that the battleship would always remain the kernel of the great complex, comprising the fleets of the future. The British fleet would ultimately be entirely oil-burning, necessitating a chain of oil reserves, which was the great reason for developing Singapore.—Reuter.

NATIONALIST PARTY IN INDIA

Attempt to Force the Hands of Government

Delhi, Feb. 7.

A Nationalist party has been formed, consisting of 45 Swarajists and 27 Independents, constituting a majority in the House of 143 members. The party is pledged to ask the Government to appoint a round-table conference to frame a scheme for a full responsible Government.—Reuter.

Gandhi in Chastened Mood.

Bombay, Feb. 8.

The first pronouncement of Mr. Gandhi's views since his release takes the form of a letter addressed to Mr. Mohamed Ali deploring the Hindu-Mohammedan dissensions and declaring that without unity of all communities all talk of Swaraj is idle. The only remedy for growing pauperism in the land is the spinning-wheel. Two years of solitude and hard-thinking in gaol have made him a firm believer in the efficacy of a constructive programme, to carry out which they need never resort to civil disobedience though his belief in the efficiency of that method is not weakened.

Mr. Gandhi concludes by urging his followers not to quarrel with the moderates, and adding that Englishmen, too, are friends. The struggle is against the system and is not against the Englishmen administering it.—Reuter.

Self-Government Impossible But Concession Foreshadowed

Delhi, Feb. 9.

Replying to a crowded Assembly on a motion in favour of full self-governing Dominion status for India and provincial autonomy, Sir Malcolm Hailey said that immediate granting of full responsibility was impossible, but the Government would undertake an official inquiry with a view to removing the difficulties revealed in the working of the Government of India Act.

The debate was adjourned.—Reuter.

Rejection of Convention to Prepare a Constitution

Delhi, Feb. 13.

The Legislative Assembly today rejected a resolution in favour of summoning a representative convention to prepare a Constitution and submit it to Parliament.

In the course of further debate Mr. Patel urged Indian control of the Army, but wanted British officers and troops to stay (laughter).

Colonel Gidney contended that it was nonsense to expect a fully responsible Government without a proper Army.

The Council of State passed an unofficial bill, already adopted by the Assembly, regulating the entry into and residence in India of persons domiciled in other British possessions. The sponsors contended that the passage of this measure of retaliation or reciprocity was necessary in view of the treatment of Indians in the Colonies.—Reuter.

SEPARATISTS IN THE PALATINATE

Unpopular Movement Quelled by Public Demonstration in Hand-to-hand Fight

Cologne, Feb. 10.

With the Separatists' evacuation of the public buildings at Wiesbaden, Worms, Bingen and Alzey the Separatist movement has practically disappeared in south Rhineland except at Mainz and a few unimportant villages. The Separatists, attempting a *coup* at Bingen, were disowned by the French and ejected by the loyalists. The movement, however, has had a recrudescence in north Rhineland, especially at Duesseldorf, where Herr Matthes has started a new campaign in conjunction with Communists.—Reuter.

Berlin, Feb. 10.

The Separatists have evacuated Treves.—Reuter.

Berlin, Feb. 13.

It has never been doubted that the Separatists' days in the Palatinate are numbered, once the support hitherto accorded them is withdrawn, and the events at Pirmasens are regarded as warning the Separatists elsewhere to fade out of the limelight as quickly as possible.

The accounts of yesterday's affair depict most bloodthirsty scenes. The Separatists, armed with rifles and grenades and numering about 40, were barricaded in the building and refused the repeated demands of the attackers to come out. The crowds swelled to enormous dimensions, armed with all available weapons, like axes, sticks and knives. They were unable to break down the barricades, so set fire to the building with benzine. Forcing their way in, they engaged the Separatists in a hand-to-hand battle until the latter surrendered. Howls of execration greeted the exit of the Separatists. The maddened crowd brushed aside the guards and massacred the Separatists like dogs, including the leader, Herr Schwab, whose body was thrown into the flames. Thereafter followed a man-hunt for Separatists through the streets of Pirmasens. Several were found and shared the fate of their comrades.

The French troops remained perfectly neutral and it was not before five o'clock in the morning that French and Moroccan reinforcements arrived in motors and surrounded the burning building.

An affray between Separatists and the populace at Kaiserlautern to-day resulted in two persons being killed. The Separatists at Zweibruecken, hearing of the events at Pirmasens, hastily quitted the town.—Reuter.

Martial Law in Pirmasens.

Duesseldorf, Feb. 13.

The Inter-Allied High Commission to-day unanimously decided to proclaim martial law in the Pirmasens district and to dissolve certain Nationalist societies and associations.—Reuter.

Coblence, Feb. 14.

It is reported that ten persons were killed and many wounded at Kaiserslautern, where a crowd, armed with Mauser rifles, attacked the Separatists.—Reuter.

Serious Clash of Separatists and Pro-Reich Germans: Numbers Massacred

Berlin, Feb. 13.

There was heavy fighting at Pirmasen in the Palatinate last night between the inhabitants and the separatists for possession of the Government building, where the separatists had barricaded themselves. It is reported that 14 separatists and three besiegers were killed and 20 besiegers wounded. It is stated that the separatists fired on and bombed a crowd which was attempting to storm the building, the latter set fire to the building, after spraying it with benzine with fire hoses.

The separatists ceased fire and pleaded for mercy but several were massacred as they emerged, including the leader, "Government Commissioner" Schwab. The French attitude was neutral.—Reuter.

FRENCH FINANCES

Government Proposals to Save Money Hotly Attacked by Opposition

Paris, Feb. 4.

After a week of preliminary skirmishes between the Government and the Opposition, the Chamber of Deputies to-day embarked on a lively discussion of some hundred articles comprising the Government's financial proposals. The Opposition hotly opposed the first article, aiming at at least Frs. 1,000,000,000 reduction in administrative expenditure and authorizing the Government to modify statutes by decree. The Left deputies complained that the provision was unconstitutional and dictatorial and hinted at the danger of a dictatorship on the Italian and Spanish model.—Reuter.

Economy Scheme Passed

Paris, Feb. 9.

After an agitated sitting the Chamber of Deputies voted by 329 to 217 the article on the decrees, which provides for reductions of at least 1,000,000,000 francs in State expenditure and authorizes the Government for four months after the promulgation of the law to proceed by decrees, approved by the Cabinet and agreed upon by the Council of State.

If the decrees necessitate modification of existing laws they will have to be sanctioned by Parliament.—French Wireless through Reuter.

FRANCE'S POLICY IN THE RUHR

Extensive Modification Urged: An International Loan and Neutralization

Paris, Feb. 12.

That French opinion with regard to the Ruhr policy is changing is the consensus of articles in the Opposition press, commenting on an article by M. Sauerwein in the *"Matin"* which is believed to be inspired. M. Sauerwein, after admitting that everything received by France has been swallowed up by military expenses, advocates extensive modification and even abandonment of the occupation of the Ruhr in exchange for a new system of guarantees, which would be placed in the hands of the inter-Allied Governments and not merely in the hands of the French and Belgian Governments. This indicates that France would expect full payment through an international loan and a neutralized Ruhr and Rhineland if it consents to an inter-Allied instead of a purely French and Belgian settlement.

The *"Oeuvre"* says that this is a return to commonsense and a programme which will point to realization of the Cannes Conference when M. Briand fell.—Reuter.

PERSIAN OILFIELDS

Concession Given to American Syndicate in Return for a Big Loan

New York, Feb. 9.

A letter from the Persian Minister to the "New York Times" explains the present position of the proposed Sinclair concession in Persia.

The Minister says that, desirous of shaking off British and Russian economic domination, Persia opened negotiations with the Standard Oil Company in 1921, inviting exploitation of the northern provinces. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company, whose claims to the concessions have been proved null, succeeded in bluffing the Standard Oil Company, which then offered to enter the field on a 50/50 basis with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. The Persian Government rejected the offer and the Standard Oil Company later changed their attitude and offered to take over the entire concession. The Sinclair Corporation had meanwhile made a favourable offer.

The letter adds that the terms of both the Sinclair and the Standard Oil companies were rejected because the royalties were considered inadequate.

The Persian Legislature then passed an oil law authorizing a grant to "a reputable and independent company of the United States." The law provided that the concessionaire must arrange a loan of least $10,000,000 to Persia through American banks. The law was submitted to the Standard Oil Company, which did not reply, but the Sinclair company made counter-proposals and an agreement was finally signed last year accepting the concessions on a basis closely following the law.

It now remains for the Persian Parliament, which is being convened next month, to ratify the agreement, without which the concessions are ineffective.—Reuter.

MANILA, Feb. 13.—Three hundred Constabulary under Colonel Bowers are bombarding 400 Colorums, entrenched on Bucas Island, according to unofficial advices.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MANILA, Feb. 13.—A delegation of Moro chiefs called on Governor-General Wood to-day and requested him to forward a resolution to Congress that Mindanao should remain under United States sovereignty.—Reuter's Pacific Service

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

THE RE-ASSEMBLING OF PARLIAMENT

A Bombardment of Questions: Prime Minister's Strong Speech: No Need For Nervousness: Restoration of Good Relations With France

London, Feb. 12.

The House of Commons re-assembled quietly, but the Ministers were soon bombarded with questions on domestic and foreign policy. The Conservatives were no keen on putting supplementary, controversial queries that only half the usual number of questions were disposed of in the first 40 minutes.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, who made his first Parliamentary appearance as Prime Minister, did not shed any new light on questions of foreign policy. He afterwards made a statement with regard to Ministerial salaries, declaring that he would not draw a salary as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Mr. J. R. Clynes, the Deputy Leader of the House, would draw £5,000, instead of £2,000, which was the Lord Privy Seal's usual emolument. Viscount Haldane, the Lord Chancellor, desired to receive £6,000 instead of the £10,000 to which he was entitled.

The Prime Minister said that he was not going to resign as a result of any snap division, but only if he were defeated on substantial issues or if a direct vote of no confidence, moved by responsible leaders of either of the other parties, were carried. He thanked the calm, sane businessmen, who had warned investors not to make fools of themselves owing to the advent of a Labour Government. He appealed to the country to keep steady.

Mr. Macdonald defended the order of the Minister of Health rescinding the order of Sir Alfred Mond imposing surcharges on the Poplar Board of Guardians in respect of excessive out-relief. He declared that Mr. John Wheatley's order was an insignificant mechanical operation and no indication that the Labour Government was going to encourage extravagance by any spending department.

Imperial Conference Resolutions.

The Government, Mr. Macdonald, continued, would submit all the Imperial and Economic Conference resolutions to the House. They would indicate their views regarding each and would provide the House with every item of information on the matter in the possession of the departments. Decision would be left to a free vote.

Mr. Macdonald hoped to have the report of the Imperial Wireless Committee by the end of the week and that it would be possible to settle the matter finally.

The Government would carry on the inheritance of the social measures, mentioned in the King's Speech. The Government were aiming at building £500 houses with an average rental of 9s. a week, including rates.

The country sooner or later had to become acquainted with the driving hand of Labour and it would be very glad that it had come sooner.

Referring to the apprehensions expressed by Sir Robert Horne on his return from America with regard to the Labour Government, the Prime Minister said that the sooner that sort of thing was proved sheer bosh, the better it would be for everybody concerned. He hoped that the experience the country and the Empire were going to have of Labour government would make it impossible for any such statements to be made in the future. The Government was not going to pursue a policy of tranquillity but a policy of confidence. He proposed to take the decision of the Commons with regard to the ratification of the Lausanne Treaty and also of the Treaty of Tannec.

The Unemployment Question.

With regard to unemployment, the Government would aim, firstly, at the restoration of trade, pending which there must be adequate maintenance of unemployed. The Government would speed up the trade facilities scheme and extend the period of operation of the export credits. An authoritative committee would be appointed to survey the national finances for the guidance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The building trade would be guaranteed work over a term of years and he was confident that a working agreement would be reached with that trade. The Government would not have a tariff or bounties for agriculture but would adopt a system of loans or guarantees for agricultural cooperative enterprises and would re-establish the Agricultural Wages Board.

The Recognition of Russia.

The Prime Minister was sure that there would be a considerable impetus to trade as soon as the recognition of Russia was completed by economic acreements but we must not be too impatient to reap the harvest of the Opposition (ironical laughter). A complete statement of all the outstanding points between the two countries would be sent to Russia. One of the most important was cessation of anti-British propaganda, on which he would certainly insist. Before the end of the week M. Rakovsky, the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires in London, would be on his way to Moscow for final instructions with regard to the opening of negotiations.

Relations with France.

Relations with France had drifted under the Conservative Government so far that they could only have resulted in a fresh European war. He hoped that complete agreement would be reached in a few days with regard to the Palatinate and before the end of the year France and Britain should be whole-hearted cooperators with the other nations in establishing the conditions of a European settlement. Reparations was the first bar to a general settlement and, when this was reported on, it would be time to make another survey of all questions, including debts.

The Prime Minister paid a tribute to the hearty response of M. Poincaré to his approaches. "Our diplomacy," he added, "must be perfectly straight, absolutely frank and quite sympathic. It only asks for a similar response from the other side. France has nothing to fear from any policy we pursue and I am sure nothing will arise between us but goodwill, honest dealing and sincerity. We must consider the problems of reparations and the Ruhr from the point of view of France, Britain and Europe and must do everything to find a satisfactory agreement, above all remembering that time is running a tragic race against us."

With regard to Russia, Mr. Macdonald proposed to send to Moscow a complete statement of our cutstanding difficulties. The Soviet Government had agreed to appoint Russian members of an Anglo-Russian Commission, to which would be referred all details regarding debts and other questions.

The League of Nations.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister said that there must be an agreement on armaments, therefore he would do his utmost to increase the representative character and the authority of the League of Nations. Germany must enter the League and he hoped that Russia would enter. He was confident that America, as soon as she knew that the problem was being worked out from a new point of view with enthusiasm and idealism and without more expenditure on armaments or more European rivalry, would be ready to join.

Mr. Macdonald concluded by moving the adjournment. Mr. Stanley Baldwin and Mr. Asquith agreed, the former remarking that Mr. Macdonald's speech had been of surpassing interest. Commander Kenworthy, Independent Liberal Member for Hull, and Colonel John Ward, Independent Labour Member for Stoke, however, opposed adjournment.

Major Barnie, Liberal Member for Bootle, subsequently interrupted the debate by moving a private member's bill, which was negatived.

On the Government motion the House then adjourned.

Lord Haldane's Speech.

Later.

In the House of Lords, Viscount Haldane, the Lord High Chancellor, enlarged on Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's statement with regard to foreign affairs and dwelt at length on the importance of maintaining friendship between Britain and France. He declared that security was what the French in their hearts desired most. He did not wonder at it. The British Government wished France security almost as much as she wished it herself. The only difference was the difference of methods.

Viscount Haldane pointed out the impossibility of reducing armaments until a better method of security had been obtained by some sort of common mind among the European nations. He said that, if France would come with them into consideration of this other method of security, they would not only assure her an untroubled future, but would secure relief both for France and Britain from a very heavy burden.

Marquess Curzon replied banteringly. He stated that his apprehensions had been sensibly relieved by what he had heard from Viscount Haldane.—Reuter.

Mr. Stanley Baldwin's Speech on Foreign Affairs: Liberal Leader and Poplar

London, Feb. 13.

In the House of Commons today, supplementary questions poured in from all sides in connexion with a reply by Mr. C. G. Ammon, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, with regard to the future of the Singapore scheme. Mr. Ammon laid stress on the fact that the present Government had always contended that adequate reason had not been shown for the very large proposed expenditure, but he thought that it was only right to examine the case for the scheme before announcing a decision. This was being done and in the meantime fresh commitments would not be entered into. The effects of the recent terrible disaster in Japan which Commander Kenworthy said would put Japan out of the running for another decade was receiving attention in that connexion. Mr. Ammon added that £13,000 had been expended on the scheme up to January 20 and that signed commitment totalled another £34,000. Liabilities, the extent of which was at present unavailable, had also been incurred on work which was being carried out in respect of railways, roads and water. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty said that the Dominions would be consulted.

Our Continental Debtors.

Later.

Mr. Stanley Baldwin, the Opposition leader, resumed the debate in the House of Commons to-day. He trusted that the Government would very carefully consider the views of the Dominions on the Singapore base. He wished the Government well in the fresh negotiations with France. The Prime Minister believed that by sweet reasonableness we could bend Europe to our will, but sweet reasonableness might be carried to excess without reaping the rewards due to it (cheers). He asked whether the Government proposed to abandon the Safeguarding of Industries Act.

In Mr. Baldwin's opinion the Government would find it almost impossible to carry out its Russian policy. He asked what exactly was meant by the Soviet Union and with whom we were really going to make arrangements. All our continental debtors, he declared, were eagerly watching and hoping that we were going to surrender our claims against Russia, whereupon any hope of collecting our debts from other European countries would disappear. He emphasized the terrible risk to the world if Bolshevik propaganda in Asia ever bore fruit, and the bloodshed and misery which would result if anarchy were called into existence among the teeming millions of the East (Opposition cheers).

In conclusion, Mr. Baldwin said that he sympathized with the loftiness of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's speech, but he felt that a short term of office would prove that the world was too hard for the Prime Minister's idealism.

Liberal Leader and Poplar.

Mr. Asquith, who followed Mr. Baldwin, approved the recognition of Russia. He wished to know the Government's attitude with regard to the Safeguarding of Industries Act.

The Liberal leader then made reference to Poplar, saying that the Liberals regarded the matter as one of capital importance.

Referring to Mr. Wheatley's rescission of his predecessor's order which imposed surcharges on the Poplar Board of Guardians in respect of excessive out-relief, Mr. Asquith said in the plainest and most unequivocal terms that, unless the Government could see its way to reconsider the action of the Minister of Health, there was not the slightest chance of that administrative act receiving the countenance and approval of the House of Commons (loud Conservative and Liberal cheers).

The Labour Members constantly interrupted Mr. Asquith, who declared that the matter did not affect Poplar alone. The action of Mr. Wheatley, the Minister of Health, was discouraging and paralyzing to other distressed districts, which were manfully fulfilling their duty (Conservative and Liberal cheers). Mr. Asquith declared that the time had come to reform the chaotic London Government and to reconsider the basis of the Poor Law itself (Ministerial cheers).

Mr. J. R. Clynes, the Deputy Leader of the House, promised that an opportunity would be given later to discuss Poplar and kindred subjects of controversy. The fullest facts would be given to the House.

Russian Credits.

The speaker emphasized that the Prime Minister did not intend to treat Russia differently from other countries in the matter of credits. Replying to interruptions, he said that the internal conditions of Russia were beside the point. The Government wanted to arrange better trade relations, and the documents, already exchanged between Russia and ourselves, amply provided for the necessary security on the subject of propaganda.

Mr. Clynes doubted whether the Government could be expected to regard the Safeguarding of Industries Act as a means of relieving unemployment.

In conclusion, the Deputy Leader said that the Government hoped to enlist the support of the House in its attempts to deal with social needs. He declared that it was impossible for the Government to approach the question of a capital levy without national approval.

The House of Commons devoted the evening to what was virtually a debate on tariff reform on the motion of Mr. J. S. W. Milne, Conservative Member for Kidderminster, advocating the appointment of an expert committee to inquire into the most effective method of dealing with the problem of safeguarding industries. After characteristic arguments for and against Imperial preference, etc., the motion was rejected by 290 votes to 103.

The House then adjoured.

The "Times" and Singapore.

Feb. 14.

In an editorial article on Mr. C. G. Ammon's statement with regard to Singapore, the "Times" says that no reasonable objection to this course can be taken, but urges the necessity of conducting the examination in an open-minded spirit and not with the object of justifying a pre-conceived policy. The journal points out that the Dominions have already approved the scheme.

The Labour organ, the "Daily Herald," interprets the statement by Mr. C. G. Ammon, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, as meaning that it would be "very costly and dangerous" for the Singapore scheme to be dropped.—Reuter.

The Entente with France.

Paris, Feb. 13.

Official circles are most appreciative of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's cordial tone towards France and are convinced of his sincerity and determination to appreciate the French point of view. They are confident that the practical task of working out a solution of the various questions will be carried out in a spirit of mutual understandng and conciliation, based on the new cordial atmosphere.—Reuter.

THE RUSSIAN REPLY TO BRITAIN

Cordial Reception of Recognition: Readiness to Settle All Claims: Special Emphasis on Abstention from Propaganda

London, Feb. 9.

It is understood that the Russian reply to the British Note according recognition to the Soviet Government will be handed to the Foreign Office to-day and that it closely follows the lines of the recent resolution of the Second Congress of the Soviets, expressing satisfaction at Britain's recognition and declaring that cooperation between the people of Britain and Russia remains one of the first cares of the Soviet, which would make every effort to settle all disputed questions and misunderstandings and develop and consolidate economic relations.

Later.

The Russian Note is couched in diplomatic language. It expresses readiness to replace treaties which have been denounced or which have lost their juridical force in consequence of events during or after the war. The Soviet Government will therefore send plenipotentiaries to London, whose tasks will also include settlement of mutual outstanding claims and obligations as well as determination of means to restore Russia's credit in Britain.

The Soviet emphasizes that mutual confidence and non-interference in internal affairs remain the indispensable conditions for the development of friendly relations between Britain and Russia.

The Note intimates the appointment of M. Rakovsky as Chargé d'Affaires pending the appointment of an Ambassador.—Reuter.

ITALY'S TREATY WITH THE SOVIET

Far-reaching Commercial Bargain and Recognition

Rome, Feb. 3.

The Italo-Russian settlement is of a double character, having important commercial and diplomatic clauses, which means Italy's recognition of the Soviet Government. Immediately after ratification, which will probably be by decree, it is expected that the Government will nominate M. Jordansky as Ambassador to the Quirinal and Italy will probably make Marchese Paterno Ambassador to Moscow. M. Jordansky who has been in Rome since the death of M. Worowsky, has been the moving force on the Russian side of the negotiations.

The commercial part of the settlement will last for three years with special transit rates for Italian goods on Russian railways. Russia promises to supply hard grain for Southern Italian factories, while Italy allows the Soviet Government to take over property formerly owned by the Tsarist Government, including the former Russian Embassy. The agreement also provides for the trade with the Black Sea Ports being reserved for Italian ships. It also includes a clause stating that both countries will shortly revive the exchange of consular officers on pre-war conditions.

Regarding the restoration of the property of Italians in Russia, the Soviet Government are agreeable to restoration to the owners on condition that the owners agree to share their profits with the Soviet Government. The "World," however, learns that this aspect of the settlement has yet to be examined in detail. Italy's *de jure* recognition of the Soviet Government is embodied in the first clause of the agreement, which is followed by the Soviet's promise to abstain from political propaganda in Italy.—Italian Wireless through Reuter.

Rome, Feb 7.

The Italo-Russian Treaty has been signed.

PLAGUE IN RUSSIA

Grave Outbreak on East Side

London, Feb. 9.

A serious outbreak of bubonic plague in East Russia is reported. The whole Government of Astrachan has been proclaimed as affected. Drastic conbative measures are proceeding. Ninety anti-plague detachments are working in Kirghiz province and six in Kalmuck province.—Reuter.

RUMOURS OF DISORDER IN RUSSIA

Riga, Feb. 9.

Besides increasing disorders in the Ukraine, hitherto unconfirmed reports assert risings in the Caucasus, Turkestan, Siberia and White Russia.

It is reported that insurgents under General Sicheff have formed a provisional government in the Blagovestchensk district of East Siberia. The Soviet Government accuses the Chinese of assisting them. Khiva was said to be surrounded by insurgents under Junaid Khan on January 26.—Reuter.

COMMUNISM BREAKING UP IN RUSSIA

Riga, Feb. 10.

It is reported from Moscow that at a meeting of the Communist Executive to-day M. Zinovieff said that it was imperative to follow M. Lenin's tactics. They must at all costs get closer to the peasantry even if force were necessary. He foreshadowed great cleansing operations and declared that the present arguments, if allowed, would continue to tend to destroy the Red Army and the State.

The Political Department passed a resolution ordering the provincial Communist branches to cease quarrelling and observe the strictest party discipline.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 11.

A Moscow despatch states that M. Rykoff, in his first public speech since he succeeded M. Lenin, indicated that he would carry out M. Lenin's foreign policy. It was not one of aggression, he declared, but so long as the international situation was disturbed by the aftermath of the Versailles Peace Treaty the Red Army must be maintained.

Unrest in Russian Army.

Feb. 11.

It is reported from Riga that travellers from Moscow report that the authorities ordered the disbandment of the famous Lett Regiment in Moscow owing to its mutinous actions. The regiment refused to be disbanded, but the Tartar Regiment overcame its resistance after a short fight.—Reuter.

THE MEXICAN REBELLION

More Federal Victories

New York. Feb. 7.

It is authoritatively reported that Gen. Huerta's forces have evacuated Puerto Mexico.—Reuter's Special Service.

Vera Cruz. Feb. 9.

The revolutionary forces reoccupied Orizaba, Anordaba and Vera Cruz on February 7. Martial law has been proclaimed there. Some looting has occurred.—Reuter's American Service.

Mexico City, Feb. 11.

Government troops again took possession of Vera Cruz this morning. — Reuter's American Service.

Later.

The Federal troops are reported to have decisively defeated the rebels on Saturday in a battle lasting 11 hours at Ocatlan. Heavy casualties resulted on both sides, those of the Federal forces numbering 349.—Reuter's American Service.

Later.

The Federals' victory at Cootlan on Saturday is described as the worst reverse the rebels have ever suffered on the western front. The rebel casualties amounted to thousands. — Reuter's American Service.

SCHEMES FOR EMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

The Trade Facilities Act

London, Feb. 13.

In the course of a speech at Burnley, instancing the Government's determination to speed up the operations of the Trades Facilities Act and the scheme for export credits, Mr. Arthur Henderson, the Home Secretary, said that the Government had increased the amount guaranteed for trade facilities by £5,000,000. The Government had confirmed the late Government's decision for a loan for construction of the Kenya-Uganda Railway, half of which would be expended in Britain, while the Colonial Office was examining other large schemes for Empire development.—Reuter.

DUTCH NAVAL INCREASE

Government Set on Its Project Despite Former Defeat

Amsterdam, Feb. 9.

The Government's memorandum relative to the naval estimates for 1924 shows that in spite of rejection of its former measure the Government intends to introduce a new naval bill. It is not expected, however, that this will be dealt with by the current session as restoration of State finances has preference.

In the meantime the Government has submitted proposals to construct two flotilla vessels, two destroyers and one submarine mine-layer for the East Indies, and six reconnoitring aeroplanes for service in Holland.

The expenditure involved is 16,000,000 guilders.—Reuter.

HONDURAS REVOLUTION

U.S. Cruiser Sent to Protect American Citizens

Washington, Feb. 8.

The U.S. cruiser Rochester has proceeded to Honduras in response to an appeal from American residents there.—Reuter's American Service.

Note.—A revolutionary movement is developing in Honduras as a result of the expiration of the term of office of President Gutierrez. Senor Carias has proclaimed himself President and, although no hostilities are yet reported, the situation is threatening.—Reuter's American Service.

THE 48-HOUR WEEK

British Labour Ministry Urged to Enforce It

London, Feb. 8.

A deputation from the Trades Union Congress waited on the Minister of Labour to-day and urged immediate steps to give legislative effect to the Washington Convention with regard to the 48-hour week.

The deputation quoted statements in support of their contention that ratification of the Washington Convention in foreign countries had been largely help up by Britain's attitude and that there had therefore been a tendency to lengthen hours of labour.—Reuter.

A LOCK-OUT IN NORWAY

Employers' Strong Attitude

Christiania, Feb. 13.

The National Association of Employers has proclaimed a lock-out of 12,400 workmen from February 28. The lock-out applies to breweries, electro-chemical and chocolate works and printing presses, except newspaper offices.

Note.—This decision follows the action of the National Association of Trades Unions in calling a strike in sympathy with the dockers, who are on strike against a reduction of wages.—Reuter.

THE ANGLICAN AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES

London, Feb. 6

The Archbishop of Canterbury in a statement to Convocation at Westminster to-day emphasized that the Malines conversations, which have lasted for the last two years between unofficial representatives of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches with a view to exploring the outstanding barrier between the two Churches are not even within measurable distance of negotiations, but are conducting private conversations about the respective history and doctrines of the Churches of England and Rome.—Reuter.

FRENCH LOANS TO LITTLE ENTENTE STATES

London, Feb. 6.

It is understood that replies have been received from Rumania, Poland and Yugo-Slavia to the British inquiry as to how far the liens to which these countries are subject as succession States are likely to be affected by the loans recently concluded between them and France. All are very affable and alike maintain that the assets at the disposal of the respective Governments are more than adequate to guarantee both the older and the newer obligations.—Reuter.

DANISH PRINCE AND DOLLAR PRINCESS

New York, Feb. 9.

Dr. James Green has announced the engagement of his daughter, Eleanor, to Prince Viggo of Denmark, a nephew of Queen Alexandra. Prince Viggo is at present at Ottawa where on Monday he will attend the marriage of his brother, Prince Eric, to Miss Lois Booth.—Reuter's American Service.

Ottawa, Feb. 11.

Prince Waldemar of Denmark, Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, and Lord Byng, the Governor-General, representing King George, were among the 400 guests at the wedding of Prince Eric of Denmark and Miss Lois Booth to-day.—Reuter's American Service.

GERMAN RAILWAYS

Paris, Feb. 9.

It is reported from Coblence that the British and French High Commissioners have reached an agreement with regard to the railways in the Cologne zone.

The agreement, it is stated, provides that the Cologne railways shall remain under German direction, but the Regie shall have the right to send trains through the zone.

French political circles are very pleased with the settlement, which is due to the friendly conciliation of both sides. The French emphasize that relations are in an excellent position for dealing with the paramount issues on which a general European settlement depends.—Reuter.

THE DOCKERS' DISPUTE

London, Feb. 8.

It is understood that the employers who conferred yesterday are prepared to meet the dockers halfway with regard to their demand for a two-shilling increase of wages.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 11.

The negotiations in the dockers' dispute have broken down, the dockers having rejected the offer of the employers to meet the wage demand half-way.

Later.

The Ministry of Labour has intervened in the dock dispute and has summoned a meeting of the parties to-morrow.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 13.

While the conference between the Minister of Labour, Mr. Thomas Shaw, and the representatives of dockers and employers adjourned late yesterday evening without reaching a definite conclusion, a much more hopeful spirit prevails. It is understood that the dockers will be offered an immediate increase of 1/- per day and a further 1/- per day later.—Reuter.

TUTANKHAMEN'S TOMB

Luxor, Feb. 11.

M. Lacau, the director of the Egyptian Department of Antiquities, arrived here to-day in anticipation of the raising to-morrow of the lid of Tutankhamen's sarcophagus. Egyptologists believe that several mummy-cases will be found enclosing the mummy.—Reuter

Luxor, Feb. 12.

The lid of the sarcophagus has been raised and Tutankhamen's mummy has been found. When the lid was raised it revealed the most splendid gilded mummy case ever found in Egypt. The case is three metres in length.

Later.

The opening of the mummy-case is such a formidable operation that there is no question of undertaking it this year.—Reuter.

Luxor, Feb. 13.

Owing to alleged discourtesy of the Public Works Department, Mr. Howard Carter has closed the tomb of Tutankhamen and abandoned the work.—Reuter.

Anti-Saloon League Leader Imprisoned

New York, Feb. 9.

William H. Anderson, the New York State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, has been sentenced to from one to two years' imprisonment.

Anderson was convicted on January 30 on both counts of an indictment charging him with forgery in the third degree.—Reuter's American Service.

Dutch Colonies' Fears of Germany

London, Feb. 8.

It is reported from Amsterdam that the scheme of a German group for exploitation of parts of Dutch New Guinea is causing uneasiness in Holland. The Minister of the Colonies, replying to members in the Second Chamber yesterday, declared that public authority would not be given to the concessionaires but some distrust is still expressed by the press.—Reuter.

Princess Kitashirakawa

Tokio, Feb. 1.

Princess Kitashirakawa, the widow of the late Prince Kitashirakawa who was killed in a motor accident in France, reached Kobe from France this afternoon.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Chilean Bank Failure

Santiago de Chile, Feb. 11.

The French Bank of Chile has gone into voluntary liquidation by a decision of the shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting.—Reuter's American Service.

A Daring Navigator

Paris, Jan. 12.

M. Alain J. Gerbault, to whom the Academy of Sports recently awarded its annual prize of Frs. 10,000 for his successful navigation of the Atlantic between France and New York in a 30-ft. boat, has informed the newspaper *"L'Auto"* that he intends to use the money to fit out a new craft in which he will sail for the Pacific coast in April.—Reuter's American Service.

Locomotives for India

London, Feb. 11.

In connexion with a report, which has been given much prominence in the press, that the Indian Government had ordered six locomotives from Germany, it is announced to-day that tenders have been invited from Scottish locomotive builders for 60 powerful engines and much railway plant.—Reuter.

The Singapore Base

Sydney, Feb. 10.

Mr. Matthew Charlton, the leader of the Opposition in the Commonwealth Parliament, in the course of a speech to-day expressed the opinion that the proposed Singapore base would incur the displeasure of the Japanese, who have always played fair.—Reuter.

Avalanches in Austria

Vienna, Feb. 11.

Forty persons, mostly woodcutters, have lost their lives during the last few days under avalanches of snow from the mountains of Styria and the Salzkammergut.—Reuter.

The Thames Collision

Gravesend, Feb. 11.

The steamer City of Paris, from Kobe, docked at Tilbury to-day. She was damaged in the stem and starboard bow as the result of the collision with the str. Matheran.—Reuter.

The Italian Ambassador to Russia

Rome, Feb. 12.

The Soviet Government has approved the appointment of Count Manzoni as Italian Ambassador in Moscow. Count Manzoni will depart immediately.—Reuter.

British Empire Exhibition

London, Feb. 13

The Dockers' conference has again adjourned until to-morrow morning.—Reuter.

An Unfounded Rumour

Paris, Feb. 12.

Contrary to the allegation in certain papers, the French Government emphatically denies that it ever intended to give over to the United States certain of its Colonies, namely, those in the West Indies. The American Government itself has stated that this rumour is ridiculous and extraordinary.—Reuter.

Salvage of Germany's Scuttled Fleet

London, Feb. 12.

The contract for the salvage of the German men-of-war scuttled at Scapa Flow has been signed. It will be the biggest salvage feat ever attempted. Operations will begin at the end of March.—Reuter.

British Trade Returns

London, Feb. 12.

The Board of Trade returns for January show that imports totalled £101,258,000, a decrease of £7,931,000 as compared with December, and exports £64,235,000 an increase of £119,000.—Reuter.

Britain's Additional Budget Estimates

London, Feb. 12.

A supplementary estimate of £8,659,000 for the year ending March 31 has been issued, making a total of £13,078,000. The estimate includes £168,000 for the Diplomatic and Consular services, including £10,000 each for relief of distress in Japan and for compensation to Diplomatic and Consular officers for losses in the earthquake in Japan.—Reuter.

Execution by Lethal Gas

Carson City, Nevada, Feb. 8.

The first execution by lethal gas in American history was carried out to day in the case of Gee Jon, a Chinese convicted of murder. Reuter's American Service.

AMERICAN OIL SCANDAL

Mr. McAdoo's Self-Vindication

Washington, Feb. 8.

Mr. William Gibbs McAdoo formally announces that he has terminated his professional services with Mr. Doheny and that he desires to testify at the oil leases inquiry. He declares that his life is an open book. He has betrayed no trust and has not enriched himself at the expense of the country or of the people.

Later.

The oil lease committee will hear Mr. McAdoo at his own request to-morrow.

Feb. 9.

The oil lease committee has deferred the examination of Mr. McAdoo for a week.

Later.

Further sensational testimony to-day developed from the investigations of the senate committee into the oil leases, when Mr. Bonfils, the publisher of the "Denver Post," alleged that the Sinclair, Doheny and Standard Oil and allied companies had conspired to assure the award of the Teapot Dome oil lease to the Sinclair Corporation.—Reuter's American Service.

Sensational New Development

Washington, Feb. 11.

Mr. William G. McAdoo, who until recently was the most favoured candidate for Democratic nomination to the Presidency, gave evidence before the Senate investigation committee to-day. He stated that he did not know Mr. Doheny before he resigned the Secretaryship of the Treasury. Mr. Doheny employed him and his firm a year later in connexion with their Mexican difficulties. Mr. McAdoo had now terminated his services with Mr. Doheny. The ex-Secretary of the Treasury declared that he had learned to appreciate the importance of oil to railways and also to modern warfare.

A first-class scandal arising from allegations of corruption in connexion with the granting of Government concessions and oil leases in Wyoming has necessitated the appointment of a special Senatorial committee of investigation, which has summoned a number of eminent witnesses. The affair had a dramatic development to-day when the Senate passed a resolution demanding the resignation of Secretary of the Navy Denby.

Answering the Senate's resolution regarding Secretary of the Navy Denby, President Coolidge says that no official recognition can be given to the passage of a resolution relating the Senate's opinion concerning members of the Cabinet or other officials under Executive control.

President Coolidge adds that he does not propose to sacrifice an innocent man for his own welfare nor to retain in office any [illegible]. As soon as special counsel advise him regarding the validity of the oil leases he will take such action as seems essential for full protection of the public interest and he will not hesitate to request the resignation of any officials whose conduct in this matter warrants such a step.—Reuter's American Service.

A Fresh Sensation

Washington, Feb. 13.

The report that President Coolidge is preparing to withdraw the nomination of Mr. Silas H. Strawn as special Government counsel in connexion with the oil-fields affair has provoked a fresh sensation. It is declared that the nomination of Mr. Strawn's colleague, Senator Atlee Pomerene, will also probably be withdrawn. Opposition against both nominations developed in the morning papers, in which it was stated that the withdrawal of one of them was due to the fact that the nominee was connected with the directorates of two Standard Oil banks.—Reuter's American Government.

Mr. McAdoo's Candidature

Washington, Feb. 12.

Mr. McAdoo has requested the Democratic leaders of the various States who support his Presidential candidature, to meet in Chicago as soon as possible to determine whether his employment by the Doheny oil interests makes him unavailable as their nominee. "If they think I am unavailable," he added, "I shall gladly withdraw, but, if they think I should lead, I will do so with all my power."—Reuter's American Service.

STRIKE OF GERMAN SEAMEN ENDED

Negotiations to Begin: Men Repatriated

London, Feb. 8.

The strike of German seamen in British ports is off. Negotiations have been agreed on.

Feb. 9.

Six hundred German seamen, who have been on strike, have left London for Hamburg, repatriated by the Seamen's Union, an official of which explained that they were being repatriated in the interests of the shipping community and the world generally and also as a protest against the action of certain shipowners in chartering German bottoms on account of cheapness rather than using their own vessels, as a consequence of which hundreds of British seamen are unable to obtain work. Captain Tupper said that, if any men were penalized by the German ship-owners, strike action in Britain would be resumed and all German shipping in British ports would be completely boycotted.—Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 7.

The Chamber of Deputies to-day registered a vote of confidence in the Government by passing an important clause of the financial proposals by 333 votes to 205.—Reuter.

U. S. NAVAL BUDGET

Expenditure of $272,000,000: Reduction on Last Year

Washington, Feb. 9.

The Appropriations Committee has approved the annual naval appropriation bill providing for an expenditure of $272,000,000, of which $30,000,000 will be available for the completion of over a score of vessels under construction.

The total is $4,500,000 less than the budget estimate and $23,000,000 less than that allotted to the Navy last year.

The bill also provides for an expenditure of $14,500,000 for aviation, which is slightly below that for last year.—Reuter's American Service.

AMERICA AND WORLD POLITICS

Pres. Coolidge on Prospects of German Debt Solution and the U. S. Cooperating

New York, Feb. 12.

Addressing 2,000 diners on the occasion of Abraham Lincoln's Birthday banquet, President Coolidge promised immediate and unshrinking prosecution of all found guilty of complicity in the oil scandal. He defended the sale of arms to Mexico.

The President eulogized the British funding plan as an exhibition of the highest type of international honour.

Referring to the inquiry of the committees of experts, he declared that a prospect of a European settlement had arisen which held promise. Any settlement would no doubt call for European funding and financing, which would be a doubtful success without American participation.

The present time did not appear propitious for a further effort to limit armaments, but, should a European settlement be accomplished, something might be hoped for in that direction. The United States was ready to join the other Great Powers when yet there appeared a reasonable prospect of agreement in further limitation of competitive armaments.

The export of such capital as was not required for domestic business and which the American people felt could be profitably exported, having in view financial returns, the enlargement of American trade and the discharge of America's moral obligation of bearing her share of the burdens of the world, was entirely in accordance with the choice of their own independent judgment and ought to be encouraged.

President Coolidge expressed the opinion that there could be little criticism if the Government or private interests furnished other countries with military [illegible] for purposes of national defence and policing, but they wished to discourage rather than encourage such traffic.—Reuter's American Service.

THE THURINGIAN DIET

Socialists' Crushing Defeat: The Swing of the Pendulum Taken as a Forecast

Berlin, Feb. 11.

The elections to the new Thuringian Diet have resulted in a crushing defeat for the Socialists, who have hitherto had a strong majority in the Diet, but are now replaced by the bourgeois bloc. From 80 to 90 per cent. of the electorate voted.

The result is symptomatic of the general swing towards the Right, which is occurring in Germany and will undoubtedly be repeated at the general elections to the Reichstag, probably in June.

The election to the Diet of the Free State of Luebeck has also converted the Socialist majority into a minority against the bourgeois parties.—Reuter.

OBITUARY

Mr. John Fowler

New York, Dec. 31.

The "New York Times," in an obituary notice of Mr. John Fowler, a member of the United States diplomatic forces in China for many years, who died on December 29 as the result of a fall at Winchester, Mass., recalls his distinguished services in China during the Boxer uprising.

During his service as Consul at Chefoo, Mr. Fowler, at his own expense, chartered and operated two steamers, which rescued from the interior of Shantung several hundred foreigners whose lives had been imperilled by the Boxer uprising. President McKinley included praise of Mr. Fowler for this act in his message to Congress in 1900. In addition, the foreign community of Chefoo presented him with a silver punch bowl for the assistance rendered to them.

He was decorated by the Emperors of both Japan and China and received the thanks of the Russian, Japanese, Chinese, British and Canadian Governments for the aid which he had given to the citizens of those countries during the years of his Consulship in Chefoo. Mr. Fowler was appointed United States Consul at Ningpo in 1890, where he remained until 1896, when he took up the position of Consul at Chefoo, which he held until 1912.

At the time of his death Mr. Fowler was 65 years of age and for the last few years had been almost blind. His hearing failed him during his service in China as the result of severe strain during the trial of an American marine charged with murdering a Chinese girl in Shantung.—Reuter's American Service.

Lady Hewitt

London, Feb. 11.

The death is announced of Lady Hewitt, the widow of the late Sir Thomas Hewitt and the mother of Lieutenant-Commander H. G. Hewitt, who is on his way Home from Hongkong, as the result of a fall.—Reuter.

Professor Loeb

New York, Feb. 13.

The death is announced of the famous physiologist, Professor Jacques Loeb.

Professor Loeb had been head of the Department of Experimental Biology of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research since 1910, and received honours from nearly every European country. He was born in Germany in 1859 and studied medicine at the Universities of Berlin, Munich and Strasburg, receiving the degree of Doctor of Medicine from Strasburg University in 1884. He came to America in 1891, after having held posts at the University of Wurzburg, the University of Strasburg and at Naples. He became Professor of Physiology of the University of California in 1908. His outstanding published works are: The Heliotropism of Animals; Physical Morphology; Comparative Physiology of the Brain and Comparative Psychology; Studies in General Physiology: Dynamics of Living Matter: Artificial Parthenogenesis and Fertilization; the Organism as a Whole: and Forced Movements, Tropisms and Animal Conduct.—Reuter's American Service.

THEFT OF AEROPLANE PLANS

Alleged German-Soviet Plot: Further Details of Theft of French Designs

Paris, Feb. 9.

A French engineer, a Russian woman and a Russian foreman have been arrested in connexion with a theft of designs of new aeroplane engines at the Breguet aeroplane works.

Correspondence seized, it is stated, shows that those arrested had relations with persons abroad.—Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 10.

The newspapers publish additional details of the theft of aeroplane engine plans from the Breguet aeroplane works.

The Russian foreman, Mindouk, is an ex-officer of General Wrangel's army and the father of the arrested woman typist. He is said to belong to the Moscow police and was taken prisoner by the Bolsheviks. The new motor, the plans of which were stolen, took two years to construct, and it is claimed that it would have revolutionized aviation. It is stated that the police believe that the plans were intended for the Soviet Government, by whom they would have been communicated to Germany. It is rumoured that much more serious activities of a band of German and Russian spies have been discovered.—Reuter.

POLITICAL PLOT IN ECUADOR

Nipped in the Bud: Alleged Attempt to Assassinate the President

Ecuador, Jan. 12.

Advices from Quito say that the police of the capital have discovered a widely extended plot to assassinate the President of the Republic, Dr. Tomayo, and other political leaders.

Thirty-eight arrests, it is said, have been made including the staff of the newspaper "*Humanido*," which has suspended publication.

The instigator of the plot was frustrated in an attempt to take the life of Colonel Juan Manuel Lasso, a candidate for the Presidency. Other prominent persons marked for assassination, the reports assert, were General Leonidas Plaza and Senor Gonzalo Cordoba. The latter is the Presidential candidate of the Liberal faction in the National Assembly.—Reuter's American Service.

CONSERVATIVE HONOURS

Mr. Gershom Stewart Knighted

London, Feb. 8.

Mr. Stanley Baldwin's resignation honours list comprises one peerage, five Privy Councillorships, nine baronetcies and 16 knighthoods.

Sir John Butcher receives a barony. The K. B. E. is conferred upon Mr. Gershom Stewart for Colonial and Imperial services.

Note.—Sir John George Butcher, K.C., is Conservative Member for the City of York. He first entered the House of Commons in 1892 and remained a Member until 1906. Since 1910 he has again been the representative of York.

Mr. Gershom Stewart has been member for Wirral since 1910. He was enagged in business in Hongkong from 1882 to 1906, during which time he was a member of the Legislative Council and held other offices.—Reuter.

LANCASHIRE UNIONISTS

A Talk to Party Leaders

London, Feb. 10.

After a three-hour private conference at Manchester presided over by the Earl of Derby, which is reported to have been marked by some plain-speaking, the Council of the Lancashire Federation of the National Unionist Association adopted a resolution by an overwhelming majority against retaining the Protection policy in the party programme. The conference protested against the leaders embarking on a General Election without consulting the party organization throughout the country and urged the establishment of a method of liaison between the party leader, the central office and the local organization.—Reuter.

THE PRINCE OF WALES

Collar-bone Healing Nicely

London, Feb. 8.

The Prince of Wales's collar-bone was broken by a simple fracture, which has been surgically attended to by a London specialist. His Royal Highness is in bed at York House and is as comfortable as circumstances permit.

Later.

Sir Stanley Hewett, Surgeon Apothecary to the Prince of Wales, issued a bulletin this afternoon stating that there were no complications and that His Royal Highness was progressing favourably.

Feb. 9.

The Prince of Wales passed a good night and is progressing well.—Reuter.

GERMAN CURRENCY

An Important Plan

Berlin, Feb. 10.

The first committee of Allied experts, under the presidency of General Charles G. Dawes, has issued a *communiqué* stating that its labours have led to the unanimous adoption of a plan for the establishment of a German gold note bank which would exchange its own notes for the notes of the Rentenbank and of the Reichsbank. The President of the Reichsbank agrees in thinking that carrying out of the plan would prove a very important step towards the final stabilization of Germany's currency and the balancing of her budget. The committee will urge on the Reparations Commission the necessity of carrying out the plan with the utmost despatch.—Reuter.

GERMAN HOSTILITY TO LATE DR. WILSON

Likely to Prejudice German Loan in America

New York, Feb. 8.

The indignation aroused throughout the country by the neglect of the German Embassy to half-mast its flag in honour of ex-President Wilson is reflected in a statement in the "New York Tribune" that some financial circles are of opinion that the incident may seriously affect the prospects of any German loan in America.—Reuter's American Service.

PARIS, Feb. 8. The death is announced of M. Laffitte, Chairman of the Havas News Agency.—Reuter.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

The Tragedy of the Western Highlands: Becoming a Land of Aged Poor Through Emigration: Unemployment and Thrift: Glasgow Savings Bank's Record Year

From Our Own Correspondent.

Edinburgh, Dec. 31.

Great distress, as you are already aware, prevails in the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland due to the almost total failure of the crops and the fishing; but it must be added that the present state and immediate future of the Highlands as a whole is very far from hopeful.

The people are declining in numbers year by year. The younger and more robust leave for other and more hospitable scenes. This year alone has witnessed the departure for the Colonies, principally Canada, of thousands of the best life of the straths and glens, with the result that to-day more than ever before the Highland population consists of a large proportion of the older folks. These struggle as best they can to eke out their existence from the harvest of both land and sea, and it is wonderful how comfortable and contented they make themselves in their lot. In normal seasons their life is tolerably happy. They have at least a sufficiency of life's necessities. Such luxuries as they enjoy come from their kith and kin who have wandered to the cities of the South or have crossed the seas, and it is to their credit that the sons and daughters of the North, where they are at all able, dutifully remember the old folks at home.

The present distress in the north-west, has been in existence since early in the present year, but nothing has been heard of it by the outside world owing to the sturdy independence of the Highland people and their reticence in complaint.

It is perhaps forgotten, or unknown, in many quarters that the war has told its sad tale in the Highlands more than in other parts of the land or Empire. No doubt the war has had its disastrous effects elsewhere, but in the Highlands specially so. Before 1914 the younger population of the north and west had been diminished by losses through emigration. But when the war came, practically every able-bodied man joined up for service with either the land or sea forces, and they did so mostly during the first three months of the fighting. From Lewis alone came almost its entire population of the able-bodied for service in the Navy and such Highland Territorial regiments as the Seaforths had their full strength over in France by November of 1914. Naturally, having been so early in the trenches and on the high seas and continuing their service right through the stress of war, the casualties among them was correspondingly large, and when the war was over it was found that but few of these fine fellows returned to the home scenes. This deprived the older folks of their main supports, leaving father and mother to carry on, with an outlook as sad as it was hopeless.

NO TOURISTS EITHER.

Added to this there came the great change in the social as well as the Economic condition which has completely revolutionized the life and work of the north. The old country families—regarded as "land fathers" in the Highlands—one by one felt the pinch of reduced incomes or, what meant the same thing, the increased cost of living and the growing burdens of taxation. The effect on the people generally, in the rural districts, was a blow from which they are still suffering. Along with this, the old-time wild sports of the north—deer-stalking and grouse-shooting, with angling—have been since 1918 but the ghost of their former selves. This has meant less employment for the large number of men who used to be engaged for two or more months in the year as ghillies; and so forth, at good pay. The tourist seasons in the Highlands have also been failures since 1914, with the obvious consequence to the very large number with suitable country cottages who depended for no little part of their livelihood on the streams of visitors from the south.

What of the future? At the moment the representatives of several Colonies are in the Highlands lecturing on the prospects offered under the British Flag abroad, and large numbers are leaving their northern homes for new life under other skies. That may be good for those other lands, but it bodes ill for the Scottish Highlands and Islands—and for our industrial centres at home which hitherto have reaped the benefit of the infusion of Highland blood among the city population.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THRIFT.

There was published recently a table showing the number of persons out of every 10,000 of population who were in receipt of poor-law relief in the chief industrial centres of Great Britain. For Scotland the figure was 887; but while in Edinburgh it was only 446, in Glasgow it was 1243, a proportion exceeded only in Paisley and Greenock, where the figure was 1,304, the highest in the United Kingdom. Those figures give some idea of the extent to which the Clyde area has been affected by the trade depression of the past two and a half years.

Conditions throughout England have been bad enough; but in Glasgow they have been three times as bad. There would have been little occasion for surprise, therefore, if the cumulative effects of Glasgow's passage through the worst period of trade depression experienced by any British industrial area in modern times, had been reflected in a serious decline in the deposits of the Glasgow Savings Bank, an institution whose depositors are mainly of the working class. But during the past year the amount deposited had exceeded the amount paid out by over £300,000, which balance, along with accrued interest added to the accounts brought up the total deposits to the record figure of £20,183,208.

The bank has proved a sheet-anchor for many decent people who, but for the encouragement it had given to their instincts of thrift and independence, might have found themselves in desperate straits. The kind of people who have built up a bank balance are not the kind who go finally "under" and yield to the demoralising influences that are, unfortunately, affecting a certain proportion of the unemployed. This satisfactory record in thrift is repeated in Edinburgh, and indeed in every place in Scotland where a savings bank has been instituted.

EYESIGHT, GOLF AND BILLIARDS.

A discussion has been going on in west of Scotland newspapers on "muscle and sport," and this recalls a theory voiced by a gentleman some years ago. He was very keen upon golf; he read and studied everything connected with the game, and at last he came to the conclusion that he could never become a scratch or first-class player. He possessed everything he was told was necessary to become such, but he discovered for himself that he lacked the one thing essential, and that was what he called "equal" or "true" eyesight.

In his search for perfection also he discovered that among his friends ability at golf was always equal to ability at billiards. The one thing common to these two games is eyesight, and on investigation among his circle and club members he found that a person's proficiency at each of these games depended almost entirely on their possession of equal or true eyesight. He asserted that very few people have true eyesight, and that their ability at golf and billiards depended entirely on the difference between the strength of one's eyes. His theory was that only a player with equal eyesight could ever be a first-class player, as the others, with unequal vision, were seeing things at a false angle, more or less, and therefore were incapable of keeping a true line.

GOLFER'S PARADISE.

If the North Berwick people go on with that proposed new course at Fidra it may be the proud claim of that part of East Lothian around Gullane and North Berwick to assert that it is possessed of greater golfing facilities than any other corresponding area in the world. The whole district is simply a network of golf links and even North Ayrshire from Bogside to Prestwick, with its numerous progeny, must take a back seat to it in point of numbers of courses.

WHO WANTS THE "FLOATER"?

I cannot find among Scottish golfing professionals very much support for the idea of J. H. Taylor to adopt a "floater" or other light ball. In a talk with Arthur Butchart and Tom Fernie, our present and past champions, both announced themselves as vigorous opponents to such a step. The view of these players is that the interests of the mass of players, not the professionals, are to be consulted. It is they who have made the game what it is, and their enjoyment of it must be encroached upon by fads for champions.

"WANGLE" COMES TO STAY.

The Oxford dictionary might neglect a word that has been in illicit but current use for some time, but when one of almost Prime Ministerial rank utters that word a seal is set upon it. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald has just conferred recognition upon the verb "to wangle," in a speech he delivered at his native town of Lossiemouth, and in a sentence which has caused quite a nice little seven days' squabble. Why should anyone object to its use? It is an excellent word signifying, if one may be permitted a definition, to adjust matters by the use of ingenious and unconventional expedients for the purpose of achieving a desired end. Thus, when one's motor cycle goes wrong, one wangles it by methods which the motor engineers would scarcely approve. One wangles a perfectly preposterous call at bridge by a piece of bluff. One gets a day off from duty by wangling. But the field of illustration is infinite, as all ex-Service men will admit.

PREMIERS OF HIGHLAND BLOOD.

A North Country Tory says there is only one consolation in the prospect of a Socialist Government—the Premier will be a Mac. It may be added that if Mr. Ramsay Macdonald is called upon to take office he will succeed another member of the clan, for maternally Mr. Baldwin is of the Macdonalds. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman was entitled to wear a great West Country tartan, and Mr. Gladstone had a Robertson strain in him. The Earl of Rosebery is descended from the Argyle Campbells, though somewhat remotely.

BRITISH RAILWAY'S NOVEL POSTER SCHEME

Stations Captured by Revolutionaries in Colour and Design: Smoke Writing on Night Skies: Roadside Signs Removed by Famous Firm

From Our Labour Correspondent.

Manchester, Dec. 30.

The recently published news that 12 Royal Academicians and five Associates of the Royal Academy have been commissioned by the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway, to design posters for their line, has created no little interest in Great Britain. The scheme dates from last autumn when the railway company commissioned Mr. Norman Wilkinson, the celebrated painter of marine subjects and the inventor of naval camouflage, to design three posters for them. Mr. Wilkinson had previously designed several very successful posters and took great interest in the art. He suggested to the railway authorities that it was time a definite poster policy was adopted. They took up the idea with great enthusiasm and asked him to organize it.

He at once approached Mr. Frank Brangwyn, Mr. G. Clausen, Mr. D. Y. Cameron, Mr. M. Griffenhagen, Mr. George Henry, Sir David Murray, Mr. Julius Olsson, Sir Bertram Mackennal, Sir William Orpen, Mr. Augustus John, and several other world famous artists, and commissioned each to do a poster. The railway company indicated the subject or place they wished to be represented and the artist was then given a free hand in its interpretation. Many of the designs are already completed. Mr. George Henry has done Edinburgh; Sir David Murray, Conway Castle; Mr. Cameron, a Highlands poster; and Sir William Orpen a driver and fireman on a modern locomotive.

THE FUTURIST'S CHANCE.

Britishers who have been abroad for many years may think that this announcement indicates something like a revolution in railway poster art. From 10 to 20 years ago the average railway poster was a very stodgy affair. It was either a muddy reproduction of a poor water colour painting, or a trite composition representing some seaside resort blessed with an impossibly blue sea. The one or two exceptions only emphasized the dull commonness of the majority. Since the war all that has been changed. A galaxy of brilliant young artists have awoke to the fact that the super-rich are more interested in motor cars than art; that the buyers for the provincial art galleries usually play for safety; and that the publications where new work stands a chance of reproduction have a very limited *clientèle*. The poster is practically the only outlet for them, for poster buyers are as keen on new ideas as other picture buyers are conservative. The outcome of this enterprise has already turned our railway stations into miniature art galleries for revolutionaries in colour and design. Ten years ago Austrian, French, and German posters could be detected at a glance, as their designers had mastered the fact that poster designing was an art in itself. Nowadays many continental efforts are quite drab looking in comparison to the home made article. Not a few of these riots in colour lack point, inspiration, and beauty, but on the whole they are an immense improvement on the hack of the past.

It is probable that the delightful series of posters for the Underground Railway, that began to appear about 12 years ago, encouraged the great railway companies to develop this phase of their activities. Many public buildings and private individuals have gone to considerable trouble and expense to obtain copies of these posters. Series of them, with all advertising matter trimmed away, and suitably framed, are to be seen in many of our newer public libraries, where their decorative effect is much admired.

A WELCOME REPENTANCE.

Art critics and lithographers are curious to see what the Royal Academicians will make of their new medium. Many of them have never designed a poster before and should bring an entirely fresh outlook to it. If they merely paint a picture in their usual manner and expect the printer to reproduce a facsimile of it everyone will be disappointed and the art of the poster will receive a considerable set-back.

A week after the announcement of this renewed interest in poster art the famous Shell Mex. Ltd., distributors of "Shell" motor spirit, decided to remove the whole of their roadside advertising signs in Great Britain. This decision has given more delight to lovers of the English countryside than the publicity scheme of the London Midland and Scottish Railway has to art lovers. The directors of "Shell" in announcing their welcome decision state that they have been much impressed with the evidences of dislike for this kind of advertising and they hope and expect their competitors to follow their example. Everyone who has seen their glaring enamelled iron signs staring over the hedgerows or marring the green beauty of the wayside pastures will echo that hope. It is curious how the motor car that unlocked the beauty of the English countryside for so many thousands of people served also to spoil the charms it revealed.

Against these happy improvements in the amenities of Great Britain (for everyone who has been stranded for a hour or two at one of our railway junctions will realize what a boon a collection of clever posters are) there must be debited some new proposals to make an advertising use of the skies. Aeroplanes are to manœuvre at night above the streets with illuminated puffs of Somebody's Soap and Somebody-else's Meat Extract. It is reported that the Government looks with particular favour on this idea in the hope that it will provide experience for aeroplanists in night flying. For ourselves we must confess that our sympathies are with those aesthetes who declare that their only escape at present from the coruscating electrical vulgarities of the shopping streets is to look upwards at the "star sown vault of heaven." It is a pity that this relief is likely to be denied them in the future. Some consolation is to be drawn from the brief period of popularity of smoke writing in the sky. When the first aeroplane scrawled "Daily Mail" in black smoke across the empyrean there were many prophets who foretold legions of imitators, but the idea has completely died out.

A ROUND-THE-WORLD AIR FLIGHT

Details of Proposed Route of U. S. Army Aviators

Washington, Jan. 12.

The Army Air Service Board considering the round-the-world flight decided to-day that the attempt would be made "on or about April 1 next," and would start from Seattle.

"The around the world flight," said a statement issued by the Board, "is expected to leave Seattle on or about April 1 next, when it will proceed upward along the coast of Alaska *en route* to the Aleutian Islands. It is expected that each of the four Douglas world cruisers, the planes selected for the flight, will have six changes of motors before the circumnavigation of the globe by air is finally concluded."

Lieut. Clayton L. Bissel, advance officer of the first division of the flight, will be sent to Attu Island, Aleutian group, to investigate airway and landing facilities. He will leave here on January 12.

The flight is divided into six divisions, the second extending from Attu Island to Nagasaki, the third ending at Calcutta, the fourth at Constantinople, the fifth at Hull and the sixth at Washington.

Lieuts. La Claire Schulze and Leslie Arnold, two of the army aviators who have been chosen to take part in the attempt to fly round the world next spring, have gone into training preparatory to the trip at Langley Field, Va. They will go through an intensive course of preparation under the direction of Major F. L. Martin.—Reuter's American Service.

ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH

Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 10.

Another universe of stars has been discovered and measured. Photographs made at the Harvard Observatory show that a faint and nameless luminous haze in the sky in the constellation of Sagittarius, the Archer, is another universe like ours, although perhaps smaller. Formal announcement of this will shortly be made in the bulletin of the Harvard Observatory by Dr. Harlow Shapely, director.—Reuter's American Service.

The Honduras Rebellion

Washington, Feb. 13.

The United States Government has severed diplomatic relations with Honduras, where a revolution against President Gutierrez is in progress.—Reuter's American Service.

German Miners Investigating Mongolia

Riga, Feb. 14.

It is reported that a German expedition to investigate the mining possibilities of Mongolia has passed through Urga.—Reuter.

Suspected Corner in Tin

London, Feb. 14.

The fact that the cash price of tin yesterday was over £275 a ton, being a rise of £41 on the year, is leading to talk of a possible corner in tin.—Reuter.

Canadian Captured by Mexican Bandits

Ottawa, Feb. 12.

The Canadian Government has asked the United States to assist in securing the release of Mr. McKenzie, a Canadian citizen, captured by Mexican bandits a fortnight ago and held for ransom of $200,000.—Reuter's American Service.

Unrest in Russian Army

Paris, Feb. 12.

Anti-Bolshevik movements have broken out in the Amur, Khive and Turkestan districts. The Anti-Soviet insurrections appear to be seriously extending. Travellers from Moscow confirm the revolt of a regiment.—French Wireless through Reuter.

Proposed Tariff on Oil

Washington, Feb. 12.

The Republican Congressman Rosenbloom has introduced a bill in the Lower House proposing a tariff of 25 cents a barrel on fuel oil and 35 cents a barrel on crude oil.—Reuter's American Service.

American Restriction of Immigration

Washington, Feb. 13.

Secretary of State Hughes, in a letter to the Chairman of the House Immigration Committee, declares that sections of the immigration restriction measure pending in the House would exclude Japanese from the country, which is inconsistent with treaty obligations to Japan. Japan has already brought the matter to the attention of the State Department.—Reuter's American Service.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

LABOUR AND NATIONAL PROBLEMS

Moral Welfare in China Squadron: Big Profits from Persian Oil Investments: The Question of Empire Defence: Redistribution of British Fleet

London, Feb. 14.

In the House of Commons today, replying to Viscountess Astor, Conservative Member for Plymouth (Sutton), Mr. C. G. Ammon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, stated that the prevalence of venereal diseases in the China Squadron was matter was unfair to the Anglo-Persian Company, the British Government had no intention whatsoever of reconsidering its decision.—Reuter.

Problems of Defence.

London, Feb. 14.

The House of Commons to-day ernment's declaration of policy. A division was not challenged.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, the Prime Minister, declared that the Committee for Imperial Defence was exploring the whole problem of defence in a much wider sense than hitherto, not merely from the point of view of the strength of the Army, Navy and Air Force, but from the point of view of civil, foreign and international policy. He said that the Government would not remain in office for five minutes after a division of the House had deprived it of a sense of duty.

The Liberal Member for North Lambeth, Mr. F. Briant, gave notice of a resolution condemning the action of the Minister of Health in cancelling the Poplar order and remitting any likely surcharge under it.—Reuter.

Redistribution of the Fleet.

Malta, Feb. 14.

It is understood that the redistribution of the Fleet, which is now taking place, practically amounts to reversing the positions of the Atlantic and Mediterranean Fleets in commission. Dispositions have already been made or are impending, including the accepted certainty that the 1st Light Cruiser Squadron will be despatched to the Mediterranean at the conclusion of the Empire cruise.—Reuter.

Persian Oilfields Profits.

London, Feb. 14.

In the House of Commons today, replying to three questions with regard to the Government's decision not to sell its holding in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Mr. Philip Snowden, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that the Burma Oil Company had apparently been prepared to pay between 75 and 80s. for shares. This would represent a profit of nearly 6s. on the original price and about a sovereign on the current market price on 5,000,000 shares.

The Government after full investigation was satisfied that it would not have been in the public interest to part with the shares to a syndicate. Also, in particular, naval interests for which the original investment in the independent oil company had been made, would have been seriously prejudiced.

Mr. Snowden added that, as the existence of doubt in the would largely undo the work of the Washington Conference, which has so greatly improved our relations with Japan." As a substitute for the proposals, Mr. Hughes suggested that Japan should be placed on the same basis as other nations. Reuter's American Service.

AMERICAN RESTRICTION OF IMMIGRATION

Relations with Japan

Washington, Feb. 11.

The letter of Mr. Hughes, Secretary of State, to the Chairman of the House of Representatives Immigration Committee was prompted by the Immigration Bill submitted to the House by Congressman Johnson, the proposals of which, Mr. Hughes declares, militate against the Treaty of 1911 and should be eliminated. Mr. Hughes added: "I believe such legislative action

U. S. COURT FOR CHINA

Washington, Feb. 14.

The Senate has not yet confirmed the nomination of Mr. Milton Daught Purdy, of Minnesota, as United States Judge for China.—Reuter's American Service.

GERMAN SEPARATISTS AND COMMUNISTS

Further Riots in Palatinate and Several Casualties: Quiet at Pirmasens

Berlin, Feb. 14.

Everything is quiet at Pirmasens. Two Separatists and one civilian have died as a result of wounds, and the total death-roll is 31 Separatists and nine civilians.

A Communist demonstration took place in Stettin yesterday evening. Communists fired on the police from houses, wounding one. The police returned the fire, killing one Communist and wounding seven.

Events similar to those at Pirmasens occurred at Badduerkheim in the Palatinate. The Separatists refused to evacuate the town and a crowd stormed their headquarters, killing six. French gendarmes intervened and dispersed the crowd. A curfew has been proclaimed.—Reuter.

Allied Intervention.

London, Feb. 14.

As the result of further communications between Britain and France, an agreement has been reached on the Palatinate question. A commission will shortly be despatched to the Palatinate, composed of British, French and Belgian officials, to advise the Bavarian Local Council regarding the carrying on of the administration pending the establishment of a new, permanent administration. The chief task at present seems to be arming the police and disarming the population.—Reuter.

Further Casualty List.

Berlin, Feb. 15.

The latest casualty figures at Pirmasens are 15 Separatists and 13 civilians killed and 15 Separatists and 15 civilians wounded. Seven persons were slightly wounded. Seven persons were slightly wounded at Badduehkheim.—Reuter.

FRANCE'S POLICY IN THE RUHR

No Indication of Any Change at Present: Adherence to Irreducible Minimum

Paris, Feb. 14.

That a change in the French policy in the Ruhr is not so imminent as is believed by the Opposition press appears in an article by "Pertinax" in the *"Echo de Paris,"* declaring that the idea of a volteface on the part of M. Poincaré is purely imaginary, asserting that France adheres to her irreducible minimum in the Ruhr and doubting greatly whether Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and M. Poincaré will reach an understanding.

It is noteworthy that even supporters of the *"Matin's"* suggestion, like the *"Ere Nouvelle,"* emphasize that if France is prepared to abandon her economic system in the Ruhr and Rhineland, she will maintain her military control. The *"Ere Nouvelle"* forecasts the possibility of a commercial treaty between France and Germany. The *"Matin"* is believed to have been inspired by M. Millerand and the *"Echo de Paris"* by M. Poincaré.—Reuter.

AMERICAN OIL SCANDAL

Further Developments

Washington, Feb. 14.

Developments in the oil case are ensuing with sensational rapidity. A startling statement by the banker, Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip, yesterday, alleging an excessive price paid to President Harding in connexion with the sale of his newspaper, the "Marion Star," shortly before his death, has aroused much resentment and Mr. Vanderlip has been subpœnaed to testify before the investigating committee.—Reuter's American Service.

Later.

The Senate Oil Committee to-day decided to inform President Coolidge that Messrs. Strawn and Pomerene were unacceptable as special Government Counsel. President Coolidge consequently withdrew Mr. Strawn's nomination, but not Mr. Pomerene's as he considered that no evidence disqualifying him had been produced.—Reuter's American Service.

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

CHINESE INDUSTRIAL MISSION'S VISIT TO LONDON

Astonished at the Marvels of Modern Travel in London: Visit to World's Largest Power Station at Chelsea

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Jan. 9.

After sightseeing in dockland, where they inspected the huge bonded stores and cold storage warehouses of the Port of London Authority, Mr. Chang Chien, Jr., and his colleagues of the Chinese Industrial Mission, who were recently in London were shown over the world's greatest power-house in Lot's Road, Chelsea, where Underground officials escorted them through the various departments. Nearly an hour was spent there and then the visitors were taken to Earl's Court Station to see working the great electric signal cabin.

"It is astonishing," ejaculated Mr. Chang Chien as he and his fellow-countrymen watched the signalman passing trains along the route. Suddenly the attention of the delegation was attracted by the great illuminated diagram of the section of the line controlled by the particular cabin. Slowly patches of red moved along the maze of lines representing the rails.

"What is that?" gasped one member. "Look, the red patch moves." It was explained that the red patch represented a train approaching the station, and a second red patch moving in the opposite direction another train.

"Accidents are, humanly speaking, impossible with this system" said Mr. Evan Evans, assistant superintendent of the Underground, who entered into the technicalities of the diagram.

"It is all so wonderful" said Mr. Chang Chien. "We have seen the Paris Underground and its power-house, and we were very much impressed, but I think that we have been even more impressed by the system here.

"All is so clean, so smooth-working, so scientific. In the London power-house there is no rushing about, no excitement among the workmen. Each seems to have his task and know exactly how to do it. We have no electric underground in my country, but if ever we do have one the London Underground system will be our model. It is so scientific, so fascinating."

Interviewed in the visit to the docks, Mr. Chang Chien said; "On our return we will present a report on the whole range of industrial activities in the countries which we have visited. We wish to bring China into touch with the economic conditions of the world. We were much impressed by the fine port facilities, especially the internal arrangement of the ware houses and the quick handling of the merchandise. This is the first visit of myself and most of my staff to London, and we were greatly impressed on our way to and from the docks by the well-kept streets and office buildings.

WONDERFUL LONDON.

Over and above all, it is the majestic size of London that strikes us; and though I know New York and other great ports, I have never seen anything that conveyed such an impression of might, of vast trade, of speed in handing it, of variety and intelligence in the devices for the business, as I did at the London docks. The Royal Victoria, the Royal Albert, the George V, and the other docks we visited have opened our eyes, and we shall convey as much in our reports. London people must be proud of their docks."

"They don't go to their docks or the Tower" he was told.

'Ah, well' said Dr. Chu, "As I said, "Englishmen can often tell me of the wonders of China, but I shall go to the Tower. I have already made a tour of the parks. I saw them in the sunshine, and really they are an extraordinary possession for a huge commercial city. There are so many of them—such a chain of them they pleased me more than I can say: and I think that visitors coming to London for the first time, as we have done, must compliment London on its almost incredible cleanliness."

"In China now," continued the speaker, "we have most things that you have here, but on a smaller scale. There are motor-buses, not flocking through streets as do yours, but employed on long-distance services from town to town. Our wireless has not yet reached the pitch of broadcasting to private houses with receiving sets of their own. The underground system of railway has yet to be introduced."

When votes for women and female representation in Parliament were mentioned, the High Commissioner said gravely:

"I think that to admit women to Parliament is a reasonable step in political evolution. Personally, I do not see why there should attach to the designation "woman" any sex distinction which should be any handicap in the case of an individual intellectually qualified."

WANTED TO SEE A FOG.

So far as the internal condition of China is concerned, M. Chien thinks it is only a question now of unification under the Republic for the country to go ahead in remarkable fashion. "Our natural resources are rich and varied" he said, "We are studying how to adopt western methods. While on this mission, too, we have in mind the machinery which may be required. China has very great possibilities."

"We don't find the weather at all uncomfortable, but we shall be disappointed if there is no fog. We have read of fogs. We have had them described to us. But fog is not something in which imagination can take the place of experience" Dr. Chu laughed—"and it is unseeable anywhere else—unseeable even in the mind's eye. We want to meet it."

ENTERTAINED BY LONDON CHAMBER.

The luncheon to the Commission given by the London Chamber of Commerce was very successful. Mr. R. L. Barclay, of Barclay's Bank, presided, and the guests included Mr. F. Anderson, of the China Association; Sir John Jordan; Mr. David Landale and Sir Newton Stabb. Mr. Barclay welcomed the guests briefly, as did Mr. Anderson in a somewhat lengthy speech. Mr. Chien replied as follows:—

"I come here with more than a sense of pleasure and honour. I have in addition a feeling of fraternal warmth. It is on account of my realization that I come to speak on behalf of, and represent, the organized industrial and commercial interests of China, as embodied in the Chinese National Chamber of Commerce. I bring from it a message of felicitation and goodwill to the London Chamber of Commerce, and an expression of their genuine desire to promote the furtherance of economic relations of the two regions. Judging by the glowing reception accorded me and by the remarks of your President, I am certain that the message and the sentiment will be sympathetically received.

Since I came to London a few days ago I have witnessed daily confirmations of the spirit of cordial and generous hospitality for which the English people is justly praised, and have visited the foremost public and private enterprises which are at once inspiring and instructive. To come to London is certainly nothing short of receiving inspirations of commercial achievements and of world economic solidarity. One would, indeed, be in want of imagination and of powers of observation, if one fails to carry away lessons of value in leaving London.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE DESERT AND THE SOWN

Notes of a Sermon Preached by the Rev. C. E. Darwent in Union Church, Tientsin, on Sunday Evening January 6

"The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose." Isaiah XXXVI 1 and 2.

Deserts are fascinating places. They are almost as interesting as cities. Instead of being full of emptiness, it almost looks as if they were more furnished with great things than cities. The only three religions in the world, that have any future are, what may be called, desert religions. Judaism, Christianity and Mohammedanism, for Christianity sprang out of Jewry. Colonel Sykes, who has travelled in deserts more than most men, not natives of deserts, says that monotheism could not have originated anywhere else than in the desert. And his reason is, that the view in the desert, wherever you look, is a Unity, suggests unity; sky and land, level horizon and sky blending are one. No wonder India has "gods many," because nature has been so prolific in growing countless species of plants and animals; so the mind is drawn to multiplicity of gods. But the desert is one. One sees only it and the sky; they seem one plane.

I have taken the title of this sermon from that of a wonderful book by Miss Lowthian Bell, the daughter of a great Scottish ironmaster. She made a journey on the east side of Jordan, all by herself; a thing that no woman would have done 50 years ago, to trust herself alone among those wild people. What will woman do next? It was a wonderful journey. It appears that remains of Roman civilization are far more numerous on the east than on the west side of Jordan. Good houses, theatres, temples show how rich and populous the land was in Roman times. The Turks and other invaders have seen to it, that it will be hundreds of years yet, before it is as it was 2,000 years ago. And it is all because the desert has been allowed to have its way.

THE NEVER-ENDING STRUGGLE.

Suggestive of great thoughts and faiths as the desert has been, it is a terrible thing, she shows. She says, that in that region there are now little patches of cultivation here and there, where the soil is a little kindlier; an acre or two of wheat or barley; sometimes a few more. And these patches of cultivated land are called "The Sown," in contradistinction to the barren desert surrounding them, where nothing grows. It is pathetic to see these little islands of struggling crops in a vast area of sandy desert. For the little patches of wheat are in danger all the time. The wind lifts the sand and blows it over these poor little struggling bits of arable land. The desert is always trying to swallow up the "Sown"; and if the farmer neglects to look well after his little crops of wheat or barley the desert sand will encroach on it until bit by bit, the "Sown" disappears altogether. This will account for the condition of the Eastern side of the Jordan river. Once there was a large population to watch the land, that was sown; to fight the encroaching sand of the desert. It is a case of subtle and persistent encroachment. And when the population was swept away in the terrible wars that marked the Mohammedan conquest, the desert swallowed up the "Sown," all but little patches.

DESERT PROBLEMS.

There is another interesting book about deserts, that teaches the same fact but on a larger scale. This is Professor Gregory's "Dead Heart of Australia." Professor Gregory is a great geologist. He was sent out to Australia some few years ago to see if anything could be done to mitigate the dryness of the Lake Eyre region of Australia. This region is a "lake" on the map, but it is really a desert. It lies low, a good deal of it below the sea-level. The idea was to find out whether a canal could be dug from the sea to turn it into a real lake, this desert area. But Professor Gregory found, that evaporation is so terrific in this region, that 96 inches of water in depth disappears in a year. That is, that if you had a lake 96 inches deep, and no rain fell on it, the air would suck it all up in a year, whereas in England evaporation is only 16 inches a year: And he propounds the idea that there are two belts of aridity round the earth, in about latitudes 40, North and South. In the North there is the Gobi Desert and the great American desert, similarly one in the southern hemisphere. And he believes, that these desert belts are slowly but surely encroaching on the richer and more watered lands to the north and south of them.

It looks like it. It is hard to understand why the Chinese settled first in the north of China, if the climate was as dry then as it is now. Far later than that, there is historic evidence, that the climate was not as dry and desert as at present. The explorations of Sir Aurel Stein, sent out by the Indian Government, have revealed the existence of large populations and cities 1,500 years ago, to the west of the Gobi, where now there is naught but dry sand. Even Chinese scrolls of silk have been found dry but legible after being in the sand 1,500 years. Even when Marco Polo crossed Asia to China it was not as arid as now. These belts of dryness have spread themselves. The desert has encroached on "The Sown." And it looks as if the dried up area was extending. Whence the dry seasons, that bring famine in the north of China, as in 1920? The desert creeps on and on, its sands choking and burying green crops, unless it is watched and cleared off again, and the poor struggling wheat and barley given a chance.

THE NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

This is New Year Sunday. One tries to have a message, which may be of use to us all the year. It is hard to find one that is not trite by reason of oft repetition. But here I think, we have one, that we may all, with profit, keep in mind as the months go circling round, carrying us on to the time when we have to give an account of our lives to the Giver of it, an audit, that we might well keep in mind more than we do.

What then is the "Sown," and what the desert in general? "The Sown" is the whole mysterious but real inner side of things in us; the unseen, the spiritual, the moral; the things that endure; that man so often tries to forget, but cannot. The "spirit of man is the candle of the Lord"; there is that in us, that is of the divine image. There is the yearning for the Infinite, man's dissatisfaction with things that perish with time; "the things that are not seen are eternal"; they are "The Sown"; The little flame of faith in God in all of us is "The Sown": The christian, the religious life in us, that redeems us, slight as it is, from being merely superior animals, is "The Sown"; the Church of the Living God throughout all the world, struggling to keep alight the flame of spiritual life in the world, is "The Sown": All, who believe, that "man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," who have a divine ideal for their life, not to be their own but God's, who are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, to show forth the praises of Him, who called them out of darkness into His marvellous light" are the Sown; indeed, God has always had patches of the "Sown" in the world, in all nations; those whom Peter describes "in every nation, he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted with him."

THE ENCROACHING ELEMENT.

And the Desert? Everything that encroaches on the divine idea of life, that we have been considering: Everything, that deadens the heart towards God, that scars the conscience; that blinds the vision of eternal things; that hardens one's better feelings; that corrupts the imagination; that beates down our sense of right and wrong; that coarsens the soul; that makes us content with the present, with the pleasure and satisfaction of the moment, as against the christian idea, that our Lord makes so plain, that "man's life consisteth not in the things that he hath," but in God "and every word that proceedeth out of the month of God." The New Testament calls all this "The world"; John calls it "The lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and the pride of the eye." We sum it up as "The world, the flesh, and the devil." All the passions of the flesh, which some men idealize; the dislike of restraint; the material view of life, whether gross or refined; all these are the "Desert." And they nibble and nibble at the life of the spirit in any one of us. They encroach like the sand on the little patch of religious life in us, both in the church and in christian civilization. Our Lord might well tell us to "watch and pray lest we enter into temptation." Isaiah is evidently surprised, that the desert shall blossom as the rose. That indeed is the wonder of wonders, for the desert is so persistent, so aggressive, so subtle in its advances, on the "Sown."

First, notice how true this is of every man and woman in his or her personal life. For some reason or other, God has so ordained, that you can keep nothing worth keeping without care and attention to it. And that is true of our religious and moral life. The desert gains on all the "good instructions," the good examples we have had set us, the ideals of christian living, that in our best moments we have set for ourselves.

PRICE OF LIBERTY.

The "apples of Sodom hang over the garden wall," we are told by a great authority; we may pass them a few times, but then we have a bite at one. "The price of liberty is perpetual vigilance" is an oftquoted, but true saying. The desert farmer can never relax his watch, if he is to have a crop. And it is so in life. The desert encroaches on our private prayers till we gabble only a few words before tumbling, half-asleep into bed, and then drop them altogether, and then wonder, like Lord Morley, how "his old Methodism had faded away." The desert encroaches on our devotions; we come to let "any old thing" take their place, music, social engagements, the country and so on. But men like Isaiah and Paul, and all the saints hold their commanding place in the veneration of the world, not because they listened to violins and danced, but because they "thirsted for God, the living God," for the Christ the "Bread of God."

Anything can be turned to desert sand, if it takes the place of the real things, faith, prayer, reverence, love to God. We do not often think of that, but it is the fact, that far more souls are lost from letting things good in themselves, good in their place, become "the be-all and the end-all" of our life than from love of wicked things. The religious life of even the best christians is only a patch of cultivation in a desert. Let us see to it this year, that we watch encroachments on the little we have.

A DEAD SET.

This is true also of all that we mean by the christian idea of life. There is a dead set against it, in all kinds of subtle forms, from the open contempt of that German philosopher, Nietzsche, who did so much to bring on the war, and who called christianity a slave religion, because of Christ's championing the poor and neglected, to the more refined haters of it. There is a set against its supernaturalism. But Christianity is supernatural or nothing. At Atami where I used to go on holiday, there was a hot spring that gushed up with tremendous volume once a day. You might as well say that that immense volume of superheated water had been boiled in a villager's kettle as that Christianity is "natural," in the sense, that it is just man's effort to find God, and not as it is, God's effort to find and save man. It is the gracious breaking-in of divine power, in a divine Saviour and a divine Spirit into the killing round of the natural. There is a dead-set against this. Don't let the desert sand rob you of this glorious faith, that in Christ a strong hand has been stretched out from heaven to save us: we are not left to be everlastingly stretching up helpless hands to a God, who never gives a sign.

Then, I might show at great length, that there is a dead-set against the christian idea of the moral life. Dr. Watkinson truly says, "The significance of Christ is wholly moral." He "came to make us good" as says Dr. Newman. What then are we to say about this quotation, that Dr. Watkinson gives from a prominent writer on the naturalistic side? "The Ten Commandments are a very crude code of morals for modern civilization." There is a good deal of this kind of desert encroachment in the popular literature of the day. Don't let yourselves be overwhelmed by sand like this. We still need these hoary old commandments, to keep the patch of faith and divinity alive in us.

CHINESE EDUCATION IN SHANGHAI

Does It Need Recasting?

From a Correspondent

With the opening of another school year in Shanghai a few words on education may not be out of place. In the opinion of not a few the whole educational system in Shanghai would benefit by being remodelled. New methods in local schools would check the present phenomenon of some of our best pupils scurrying off to other centres where greater facilities of learning are offered and more modern methods employed. Why should not Shanghai be sufficient in itself? It is distressing to see the departure of promising pupils to Hongkong, Europe and America when the credit of their education might well be preserved for Shanghai. Lack of system appears to blame, and a carefully selected educational board, including representatives of the various branches of study, might do much towards re-organizing and advancing the standard of work in the Settlement.

The youth of this city is not wanting in ability in his particular sphere. As a mathematician he may claim a foremost position, as a linguist he may not be so brilliant. Yet as a capable all-round business man he is no way behind his "brother in arms."

There never was a time in which the prospects of commercial education were brighter than they are now. The testimony of the commercial instructors proves this. Their confidence, which might be attributed to a sort of interested optimism, is abundantly justified by the growth in the number of entries in the commercial classes and the enthusiasm of the pupils. The old apathy has long ago been conquered and the distrust which most Chinese instinctively feel towards new movements has given way to keen and active support; and if the cause of commercial education is in any danger, the peril lies rather in the possibility of overdoing it than in any likelihood of a lack of hearty and sustained assistance.

THE TEACHER'S TIME WASTED.

However, the quality of the material that finds its way into the class-rooms is not always what could be desired. Too much of the teacher's time has to be devoted to the strengthening of weaknesses that ought not to exist in the elementary classes. Yet the raw material does get shaped into something creditable, and teacher and pupil are alike better for the strain and the effort that has achieved that result. The very success of the commercial education movement may prove injurious in the long run if it should lead to a general feeling that all is as it should be and that there is no room for reform and improvement. All is not as it should be. There are grave problems in connexion with the Course System that have yet to be faced. The development of the whole commercial education movement itself will raise question that only a few have yet obviously foreseen.

What places are such elementary subjects as handwriting, arithmetic and English composition to take in any distinctively commercial scheme of training? Shall we frankly recognize that one of the first and most important of the tasks before us is to strengthen the foundations in these subjects which, after all, lie at the base of all effective commercial training? Half the failures in shorthand are due to the want of knowledge of English. The common every-day deficiencies of which commercial teachers and business men complain are weaknesses as to quite elementary matters. What constitutes a sentence, what a paragraph, how and in what way a paragraph should be commenced, when capital letters should be brought into use, how the ordinary punctuation marks should be utilized, these are all rudimentary points on which the commercial school teacher and the office manager have a right to expect that youths from even the elementary schools shall be well informed. Too often they prove to be hopelessly ill-informed.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

Whatever may have been the shortcomings of the Chinese in the past in regard to the study of foreign languages, there is overwhelming evidence at the present time of a widespread desire to be able to communicate with men and women of other nationalities in their own speech. Examination statistics bear corroborative testimony to the rapid growth in the number of Chinese students of foreign languages, and examiners' reports record fairly favourable results. Commerce is international. Somehow or other the language difficulty has to be overcome. Every encouragement should, therefore, be offered to those who intend to become clerks to acquire one or more of the great commercial languages of the Continent. There is ample room for liberal and generous encouragement, for the stimulation of the young to work hard till the highest possible stage of linguistic proficiency is acquired.

Employers might in increasing numbers offer special remuneration to those able to use another language in their clerical work. The advantages of an acquaintance with a foreign language are numerous. To understand a language completely is to understand something of the people who speak it; and more of that understanding the commercial world can acquire, the better for commerce generally and for the individual worker in particular.

HEEL-TAPS;

"You can tell a girl's character from her shoes, especially the heels."—A Doctor in a Daily Paper.

By their feet, my dear Boy, ye shall know 'em,
Though her beauty allure and cajole,
And her mind be as pure as a poem,
She may not be sound in her sole!
I implore, by the stars up above you,
That you note what her instep reveals,
Although I'm aware that in love you
Are head over heels!

If she walks with a "brogue,"—
Gracious Heavens!
'Tis a sign she will talk by the yard;
If her shoes are at sixes and sevens,
She'll make a dispiriting pard;
Should she tread on flat feet, 'tis conclusive
The lady won't show what she feels,
But her thoughts will be just as elusive
As slippery eels!

So keep in your mind these mementoes,
Or else the result may be grave;
It is plain if she turns up her ten toes,
She can't know the way to behave
You can't be too careful in choosing;
Look well at each foot as she kneels:
Then there won't be much risk of you losing
Your head over heels!

OUR CANADIAN LETTER

Canada's Permanent Emigration Commissioner in China: Mr. Featherstone's Appointment Confirmed

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, Jan. 17.

Official confirmation has reached here of earlier advices to the effect that Canada is to have a permanent immigration representative in China, Mr. J. E. Featherstone, the appointee, was formerly secretary to the Hon. Charles Murphy, Minister of Immigration and Colonization for the Canadian Government. The duty of Mr. Featherstone will not be to induce Chinese to come to Canada. Instead, he will check up at ports of departure, the credentials of Chinese applicants for admission to the Dominion.

The Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Education and Public Health for British Columbia, reports a startling increase in the number of Oriental pupils attending the public schools of this province. There are now no less than 2,784 Oriental children in British Columbia schools, 1,346 being Chinese, 1,422 Japanese and 16 Hindus.

OPIUM SMUGGLER CAUGHT.

When an employee of a Canadian Pacific liner is lean one day and stout the next he is an object of suspicion on the part of Canadian Customs officials. A. Worsfold, second electrician of the R.M.S. Empress of Australia, was arrested late on last Saturday night as he left the ship on its arrival here from China and Japan. Worsfold, who lives near here, is a married man with a family. He joined the ship in England just after the British government took it over from Germany. As the electrician who is a particularly thin man, was walking down the gangway, customs men noticed his increased avoirdupois. They followed him along the dock and arrested him. He was immediately searched. Under his buttoned-up coat he was wearing a specially made vest, studded with pockets just the size of tins in which opium is customarily packed, it is alleged. Also on his person was a ticket with the name of J. D. Lee, 466 Union Street, Vancouver. This was believed by Customs officers to be a distributing depôt, as the ticket also bore a signature which was taken as an indication that one delivery had been made. The house was searched but no drugs were found. Several other addresses are now being investigated.

CHINESE SEAMAN IMPLICATED.

On information developing out of the arrest of Worsfold the Customs officials raided the Chinese quarters on the vessel and found a small quantity of drugs; but also got sufficient evidence to warrant the arrest of Lew Sing, No 1 fitter, on a charge of importing drugs, and Lun Kong, engineers' mess boy, on a charge of distributing drugs. Both Chinese have been on the ship more than a year. According to the police, Worsfold while being conveyed in a patrol wagon to the city gaol, is alleged to have stated that he was paid $60 by Chinese on the boat to smuggle the narcotics ashore. When the case came up in court yesterday, Worsfold, who gave a queer explanation as to how he came to have 20 tins of opium concealed in his belt, was found guilty, and is awaiting sentence. According to Worsfold's story to the magistrate the No. 1 fitter came to him and asked him to take a parcel ashore. "I understood it was Chinese joss, or gods, for the new year celebration in February," said the prisoner. "Thinking I would do him a good turn, and as he promised me $60 for it, I never thought any more about it, but said I would do so. Then the No. 1 cabin boy, I think it was another boy anyway, brought me the parcel. I put it on without looking to see what there was and walked ashore. Worsfold said he was to deliver the stuff to an address in Union Street. The magistrate refused to believe the story. The case of Lew Sing was dismissed. That of Lun Kong was adjourned.

CAPT. ROBINSON'S CRUISE.

Captain Samuel Robinson, R.N.R., the well-known Canadian Pacific skipper who has recently been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of the valuable work done by him in relief at the time of the great earthquake in Yokohama, was recently transferred from the Empress of Australia to the Empress of Canada which today reached Panama in the course of her world cruise. Over a thousand persons were assembled on the dock to bid the liner Godspeed on her journey. The fine ship looked spic and span in her new coat of paint as she moved away from the dock to the sound of cheers. Among the leading company officials who are making the trip are the Vice-President, Mr. Grant Hall, and Mr. Charles Murphy, general manager for western lines in Canada.

RICH INDIAN WORLD-TOURIST.

Among recent arrivals here from the Orient was Sir Jerhangir Kothari, O.B.E., of Karachi, India, who is making his seventh trip round the world. A millionaire many times over, during the war he gave a war donation of $2,000,000 to the British Government.

FIRST WHITE ALASKAN.

Guy Colwell, who is credited with being the first white child born in the Kodiak region of Alaska, died recently in Hongkong, according to word received here. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Colwell, reside at Oakland, (Cal.). A few years ago the late Mr. Colwell resigned a position with the U. S. Air Mail Service to take charge of an aeropane factory in China.

THE LATE MISS BATE.

Relatives here have been advised of the death in China of Miss Vivien Bate, a native daughter of British Columbia. For several years before leaving Vancouver for Shanghai to visit her sister she was practising her profession as a nurse. According to a letter received by her father, Councillor Thomas E. Bate, Miss Bate had suffered from heart weakness caused by shock after the death of her sister, Miss Evelyn Bate, who died from drowning.

Belonging, through both sides of the family, to two of the oldest and most highly respected pioneer families in British Columbia, news of her passing was received with sorrow in many homes in this province. She was a grandaughter of Mr. Mark Bate, for many years Mayor of Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, and Senator Planta, one of the British Columbia representatives in the Canadian Parliament at Ottawa, is a family connexion. During the war Miss Bate was keenly disappointed at being unable to reach France, although for some time she served as a war nurse at a depôt.

BIG NATIONAL DISASTERS

A League of Nations Insurance Plan

Big catastrophes, such as those which lately overtook the people of Japan and Central America, have led many people to wonder if some system of international insurance could not be organized to meet the contingency. The League of Nations is the obvious body to organise such a scheme, and it is interesting to notice that the League is well on the way with a scheme.

For some time past a proposal of Senator Ciraolo, President of the Italian Red Cross, has been before the League, for the formation of an International Federation for the relief of people overtaken by disaster. An outline of the scheme has just been circulated to all the States member of the League for their comments. It would provide for an international relief fund, which would be contributed by the States members in an agreed quota, the size of which would be determined by their political, geographic, economic, and financial positions.

MURDER AS A NATIONAL RECREATION

Ugly Figures from the North-West Frontier

Public interest in Great Britain as well as in India is, unfortunately, too frequently focussed on the North-West Frontier of India by reason of the atrocious crimes committed against Europeans.

Some idea of the conditions which prevail in the "dangerous areas," and the difficulties which the police find in bringing the offenders to justice, is afforded by the report on Police Administration in the North-West Province for 1922, which has just been published. Mr. Adam, Superintendent of Police, Peshawar, is quoted as maintaining that "the general attitude appears to be that crime or lawlessness is an issue between the Government and bad characters, in which the general public has no responsibility."

The Inspector-General of Police (Mr. Cocks), who is responsible for the compilation of the report, asserts that only the death penalty cures murder—a comment directed at the fact that the death penalty is inflicted in only a minority of the cases sent for trial.

The state of the general atmosphere which prevails in regard to the free use of lethal weapons—which, of course, most of the natives carry—creates that spirit of lawlessness which leads to the killing of Europeans; and, in analysing this atmosphere, statistics prove an alarming rise in crime. Of the murders committed in the Province in the year under review, 172 were due to relations between the sexes, 261 to blood feuds, and 63 to land disputes. Sir John Maffey, having examined the statistics of crime for the years 1910 to 1922, remarks that, taking reported cases, the figures show at a glance that while under certain heads crime has remained fairly constant, murders, after showing little variation until 1918, went up at a bound from 349 in 1918 to 563 in 1919, 651 in 1920, and 710 in 1921. In 1922 the reported cases totalled 608 but the "true cases" are returned at 733, so that the figures of reported cases, though illustrating the course of crime, do not provide an exact indication of the position in any particular year.

Sir John Maffey also points out that owing to the passion for revenge one murder leads to another, and there is thus a tendency towards an increase of murders in geometrical progression. The inference is that, in the case of the murder of Europeans, if those who commit the crime are caught and hanged, the relatives will carry on what they imagine to be a "blood feud"—"Observer."

THE LEWIS GUN TO BE REPLACED

London, Jan. 4.

The British Army, according to the "Star," is abandoning the Lewis gun, which figured so prominently in the World War, for the Browning gun, an American invention.

The new weapon is more easily carried, and, as it weighs only 15 lb., it can be fired either from the shoulder or from the hip. Its magazine holds 40 service cartridges, which can be fired in 2½ sec. and replaced with a new batch in 2 sec.

Another advantage is that a rifleman can use it at pleasure as an ordinary gun or a machine gun. If he sees one enemy he can fire a single shot, and, if he thus flushes a detachment, he can let the other 39 go one after another.

The Browning guns will be issued as the Lewis guns wear out and are returned to the stores.—Reuter's American Service.

DINOSAUR EGGS ON SALE

New York, Jan. 7.

The American Museum of Natural History, which has a world corner on the dinosaur egg market, decided to-day to sell to the highest bidder, for not less than $5,000, one of the 25 fossilized eggs of the *Protoceratops Andrews*, uncarthed in Mongolia last July by Prof. Roy Chapman Andrews, curator-in-chief of the division of exploration and research.

Proceeds of the sale said Professor Andrews, would be devoted to the $250,000 fund with which, this summer, he hopes to lead an expedition into the Gobi desert, 1,000 miles from Pek'ng, in search of remains of primitive man as he was from 500,000 to 2,000,000 years ago.—Reuter's American Service.

PRO REGE NOSTRO

What have I done for you,
England, my England?
What is there I would not do,
England my own?
With your glorious eyes austere,
As the Lord were walking near,
Whispering terrible things and dear,
As the song on your bugles blown, England—
Round the world on your bugles blown!

Where shall the watchful sun,
England, my England,
Match the master-work you've done,
England, my own?
When shall he rejoice agen
Such a breed of mighty men
As come forward, one to ten,
To the song on your bugles blown, England—
Down the years on your bugles blown?

Ever the faith endures,
England, my England:—
"Take and break us: we are yours,
England, my own!
Life is good, and joy runs high
Between English earth and sky:
Death is death; but we shall die
To the song on your bugles blown, England—
To the stars on your bugles blown!"

Mother of ships whose might,
England, my England,
Is the fierce old Sea's delight,
England, my own,
Chosen daughter of the Lord,
Spouse-in-chief of the ancient sword,
There's the menace of the Word
In the song on your bugles blown, England—
Out of heaven on your bugles blown!

WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY.

A MAH JONG LYRIC

A great many English newspapers employ some whimsical lord who tries with varying success to recapture the inimitable spirit of a W. S. Gilbert or a C. S. Calverley. One of these men, Mr. Gordon Phillips of the "Manchester Guardian," frequently writes some really clever verse, of which the following stanzas Mah Jong are typical. Mr. Phillips assumes the pen-name 'Lucio.'

I propose to take as subject of my song
The prospective growth and triumph of Mah Jong
(In which plan I am supported
By the fact—which can't be thwarted—
There are several well-assorted Rhymes in 'ong')

Do they play it to the beating of a gong,
This inviting, this exciting game, Mah Jong?
At the subsequent collation
Do the guests (with imprecation)
Use a chopstick for their ration
Or a prong?

Does light conversation help the game along?
Does one chatter as one joins the earnest throng?
Or sit silent as a mummy?
Does it need a fourth or dummy?
Is it aught like 'nap' or 'rummy,'
This Mah Jong?

Are there 'local rules,' I wonder, in Mah Jong?
Is the code the same from Bolivar to Bhong?
Though the thought a trifle strange is
It may be the custom changes
As from Harrogate one ranges
To Hongkong.

My inquiries now enwrap me like a thong;
But I'm told a doom has sounded ding-a-dong;
Bridge is fighting for survival,
So, with praises adjectival,
I salute the glad arrival
Of Mah Jong.

AMERICA, JAPAN AND CHINA

An Interchange of Compliments: America the Common Friend of Oriental Nations

New York, Jan. 12

Emissaries of Japan and China, guests of honour to-night at the annual festivities of the Ohio Society of New York, pledged the friendship of their respective nations to each other and to the United States.

"It would be an unmixed calamity for Japan to have any but the most cordial and close relations with China," said Mr. Masanao Hanihara, the Japanese Ambassador at Washington.

"Certainly Japan would do nothing that might impair the friendliness of her so important relations with America."

Mr. Alfred Sze, the Chinese Minister at Washington, cited as evidence of his country's feeling toward Japan, that Chinese relief ships were the first to reach the earthquake ridden islands of her neighbour after the disaster.

As for the attitude of the American nation toward China, and Japan too, Mr. Sze quoted from a series of international treaties which were documentary proof, he said, of "the position of the United States as a common friend of both countries." Reuter's American Service.

THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE EAST
QUALITY FIRST
WHC
PAINT
Varnishes, Enamels, etc.
Large Stocks Kept in China
Wilkinson, Heywood & Clark
SHANGHAI— HONGKONG

THE WOMAN'S PAGE

TO A HAT MARKED $65

(As Mrs. Shakespeare Might Have Written in 1924)

Farewell! thou art too dear for my possessing,
And like enough thou know'st thy estimate:
The pricemark on thy brim makes the confessing
Of all too-scanty means my sorry fate.

For how can I wear thee but by my paying?
And of that richness I am undeserving
The cost of this fair gift, sad truth I'm saying,
For incomes like to mine is quite unnerving.

I tried it on, thy own worth then not knowing,
The milliner my bank account mistaking,
So, her attempt at sales a misfit showing,
She took it back again, excuses making.

Thus have I had thee as a dream doth flatter;
In sleep, a queen; but waking, no such matter.

E. P.

"MY AMAH SAYS"

By Elizabeth Pepys.

My Amah says that China New Years belongs velly good, in fact plenty ding-hao, but that she had to catch some sleep some time and so it was more better she come back to work this morning. She says that before China New Year every Chinese man makee his house plenty clean, makee move big furniture and sweep in back of it, all same fashion foreign missy. But too muchee rain, small babies no can go outside to play, everybody come inside, bring plenty mud, so no use to have makee clean beforehand.

My amah says that they have plenty chow homeside, velly good chow, more tasty than foreign chow. Foreign style velly funny, not puttee New Year card on door, sendee through mail. Chinese style more ploper. Suppose wanchee good luck in shop, more better put sign on door. Foreign man wanchee plenty noise New Year but he likee jazz; Chinese man likee firecrackers.

Everybody belong very clean China New Year, makee wash clothes, makee shave head, makee wash. Must pay all bills, but foreign man makee plenty bills Christmas time, no pay till summer time. Eye-yah, too muchee chu pop-po dumplings, too muchee nien kao sticky sweet cakes. More better amah catch ploper pidjin just now.

THE BENEVOLENT TRAM COMPANY

"Walking is a first-rate exercise. It is beneficial to get into the habit of not seeing the convenient tari."—Dr. Cecil Webb-Johnson—for handy ricsha or tram.—Ed.)

By Elizabeth Pepys.

There is indeed a deep debt of gratitude which residents of Shanghai owe to the Shanghai Electric Construction Co., Ld. We are not speaking now as representatives of the United Ricsha Owners nor the Amalgamated Hire-Car Association. These commercial institutions have indeed good reason to give daily and hourly thanks to a concern which so unselfishly enlarges their respective enterprises. But it is rather in the interests of the larger public of Shanghai that we rise to say to the Tramway executives: "We thank you, sirs."

It is not, again, simply because this company has enabled us to do away with some of the superfluous coppers which weigh down our pockets and wear holes in our bags, that we raise a paean of thankfulness for the increase of the single fare from three to four coppers. No, the springs of our gratitude rise from a deeper and a finer source. We have not always experienced this rare spirit of appreciation. Nay, as children who do not kiss the rod or the castor-oil spoon we have on occasion said some impatient and even unkind things about the tram service. Now we know better. We sing in fuller realization:

(At least it is to be hoped so)
How dear to the heart are the things that should not be,

The cigarette, cocktail, too-plentiful food.
Health measures sound stupid, and so as a lot we

Just jeer at the doctors intent on our good.

What? Breakfast, and tiffin, tea, dinner—resign them?

Will we walk? The word raises a chorus of sighs.

It we must we can do it. 'Tis where the tram line then

Appears as an an angel, in perfect disguise.

The secret is now out. Under the transparent veil of conducting a public utility, the Shanghai Electric Construction Co., Ld. is really teaching Shanghai to walk. Were it not for their self-denying refusal to extend their business and their profits by putting on additional rolling stock those of us who cannot afford to ride in motors or ricshas might never realize that generous Providence has provided us with legs which may be used for walking as well as dancing.

THE SOULFUL CORPORATION.

Could we, when we felt so inclined leap aboard one of the tram cars which ply about our busy streets, we might never realize the truth of the poetic gem: My feet they carry me about, they hoist me up the stair, I only have to guide them, and they'll take me anywhere." If tram transportation were readily available, the foreign pedestrian would soon become as rare as the Dodo. Let grateful hymns arise to the Tramways management for preserving the perigranadious advances of avoirdupois weter.

Lest the reader should not comprehend immediately how this compulsory training for Marathons is accomplished, let us outline a typical morning's experience. Being warned by the insidious advances of avoirdupois we released ourselves from the enervating luxury of a private ricsha. Alas, it was all too easy to summon the public *wambatsu*. At last we made an pact with ourselves. "Aut tramcar, aut itinerans" we said, and we have been walking ever since.

THE DAILY DOZEN.

It works out thus. We arise from the breakfast table to find to our daily surprise and indignation that it is at least 15 minutes later than it should be. We set out to walk the short distance to the tram, regretting that devotion to duty prevents us from walking all the way to the office. At Carter Road there is no tram in sight so we step blithely along to the Country Club, feeling that we are hurrying office-ward as rapidly as circumstances will allow.

Still no tram in sight, so if it is not too late and the day invites we swing off to Mohawk Road. Halfway down the stretch a tram passes. A hundred thousand curses! It appeared to have a vacant seat. "That could have happened once, and we

THE FIRST SPRING HATS.

missed it, lost it forever!" A pause on the safety zone to await the next. It arrives too crowded to invite another entry. The clock on the Race Club tower suggests that since no car is in sight the walk might as well be continued. It is. Somehow it is another case of never the tram and the station and your own self altogether.

We walk to the Win-On-Sincere safety zone, and there, painfully conscious of the flight of time, look anxiously for a tram. It comes. But so many people have seen it first that its present unavailability is painfully apparent. It departs without us. Time presses. We grow impatient but the next tram is even more impossible. No self-respecting sardine would consider being packed within it. Another follows equally jammed. Coolies fight to get on. We are all but dislodged from the platform and ground beneath the procession of motors.

THE TARDY OFFICE-WORKER.

A long wait ensues during which one has opportunity to reflect upon the habits of the business public and to conclude that few if any reach offices before 9.05, while the rush continues well on to 9.35. We grow apprehensive. Is it time for the semi-cessation of downtown traffic which occurs each morning after the first mad fury of the business exodus is over? No. Another tram draws up, but in such a state of repletion that the passengers within cannot force their way out much less can those on the outside get in.

The next car which comes along looks equally hopeless but the second class passengers are not easily discouraged and a half dozen more manage to jam in. It looks for a moment as if one-half a coolie would get down town, leaving his other half severed by the gate, behind on the platform. Determined pushing by the passenger, pulling by the conductor and shoving by the inspector get him all inside finally, and the tram moves on.

Finally, a long time afterwards, we secure a seat on the sixth tram to pass, reinforced and strengthened in our determination to walk to the office the following morning. As a physical culture exponent the Tramway Co. is certainly IT.

THE HIGH WAISTLINE

Alarming Rumours from Paris

By Elizabeth Pepys.

A spectacular elevation of the waistline is cabled from Paris and all the leading modistes and their ultra modish patrons here are thrown into spasms on its receipt. Consternation reigns among those who have already given orders for gowns quite devoid of waists or for waists falling somewhere about the knees.

Sundry bold spirits assert that come one, come all this waist shall fly from round my hips as soon as I want it to, and not an instant sooner. Others are soothing flurried sisters with reminders of numerous other advices to this same effect, which have appeared with each succeeding season, only to be disregarded. One party, however, is hastily evolving Empire models, and will flaunt them at the slightest excuse. With the waist elevated to the arm pits and the sleeve practically non-existent, the matter of the waist itself should not be difficult, since it results in little more than a pair of shoulder straps or a berthe.

THE NEED OF CHANGE.

One of the arbiters of the Rue de la Paix declares that his clients are clamouring for a different fashion so that he has been forced to go to another extreme to create the desired novelty. We trust we may be pardoned for polite scepticism on this point, for it has always seemed to us that the designer decreed and all the clientel did was to obey, but we may be obliged to adjust that impression. At all events we are told that skirts will be short enough to reveal the ankles—which is not altogether news to us—and that there will be no trains on ballroom gowns.

IN THE WORDS OF COMMERCIAL EXPERT.

The telegram when received was almost sent to the financial page, where it would doubtless have appeared as: Waists, previously quoted at knees, now at arm pits. Fashion's demand selling rate for waists formerly two, now 4½ feet from ground. Paris on London: ankles to be worn but no trains in ballroom. Local speciality shops rate of discount at least 5%. Style fluctuation due to determined effort to impose French styles. This exceptional augmentation abnormal and to be regarded with suspicion.

HOME HUMOURS

Excuse Me, Mr. Longfellow.

I shot an arrow in the air:
I don't know how it fell or where;
But, strangely enough, at my journey's end,
I found it again in the neck of a friend.

"BEACHCOMBER" IN "DAILY EXPRESS."

SHIFTING STANDARDS.

The old-fashioned girl who married a man to reform him now has a daughter who would rather marry a reformer to make a man out of him.—"Life."

IN THREE GENERATIONS.

Teacher: Jimmie, define and give an example of heredity.

Jimmie: It means that—that—that if your grandfather didn't have no children your father wouldn't have none neither—and neither would you.

—Nashville Tennessean.

A DREAM SONG.

A young man went into a music store the other day and said to the clerk: "Have you got a song called 'You Carry Your Barnacles Hither and Thither'?"

"Do you know who wrote it?"

The young man shook his head.

After a search that lasted a quarter of an hour, the clerk said:

"I'm afraid I can't locate it. Do you know the publisher?"

"No," the young man replied. "In fact I am not certain there is a song like that at all. I dreamed about it the other night and I just wanted to find out."

Youngstown Telegram.

TESTED RECIPES

Baked Eggplant.

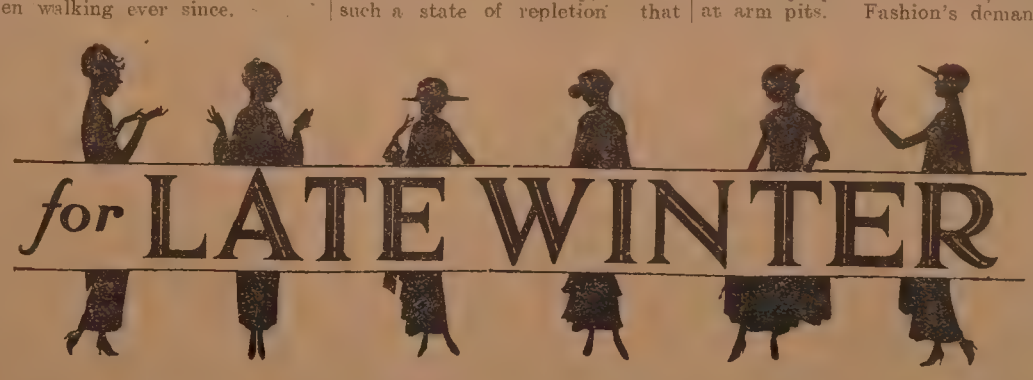
Peel the eggplant, cut in rather thick slices, sprinkle with salt, and let stand under a heavy weight for one hour. Then cover the eggplant with boiling water, add one teaspoonful of salt, and cook until tender, but not mushy. Drain off the liquid and chop the eggplant into small pieces. Place one-third the quantity in a buttered baking-dish, sprinkle lightly with salt, pepper, the chopped green peppers, bread-crumbs, cheese, and bits of butter. Add the remaining portion of the eggplant; cover with grated cheese and bread-crumbs. Bake at 350° F. for thirty-five minutes.

SCALLOPED ASPARAGUS.

Clean the asparagus, cut into short lengths, barely cover with boiling water, and cook slowly until tender. Drain and save the liquor. Melt the butter and pour over the bread-crumbs. Arrange the asparagus and the bread-crumbs in alternate layers in a greased baking-dish; sprinkle with salt and pepper and the onion juice. Cover the top layer with crumbs. Add the cream to the asparagus liquor, heat to the boiling-point, then pour over the asparagus mixture. Bake at 500° F. for fifteen minutes.

BAKED ONIONS.

Peel the onions and boil them slowly until tender, but not too soft; then drain. Scoop a small section out of the top of each onion. Place the onions in a baking-dish, then fill the cavities with chopped, uncooked bacon, and also lightly cover the tops of the onions with the bacon. Sprinkle with the salt and pepper and add the bread-crumbs. Pour the bacon fat and the hot water around the onions and bake at 450° F. until the onions are lightly browned—about forty minutes—according to the size of the onions.



THE END OF THE SEASON WARDROBE

Whether one calls the frocks one is designing or buying "late winter" or "early spring" makes very little difference in their style or material, since spring is likely to be a fairly chilly season in Shanghai. Unless one goes in for the frankly picturesque period gown the skirts still keep their straight and narrow way, diversified with many modifications in the way of flounces, aprons, tunics, ruffles and godets.

Moderation seems to be the key note of the fashion just at the moment, the skirts adapting their lengths to their uses, short for sports, creeping down a bit for the street, but none of them extravagantly long, even for the evening. Despite the reports that the Empire style is to be universally adopted the style books for the spring so far in hand do not bear out that rumour, and indeed there seems to be very little change in the models up to date. The coat frock is particularly popular.

A good way reanimate a familiar dress or suit is to make a new choker, a jabot attached to a band of velvet fitting close about the throat above the round decolletage of the blouse itself. This pleated jabot or rabat is of lingerie run with narrow velvet ribbon. Another way to enable a blouse whose front may have become worn or soiled to finish the season with credit is to insert one of the new mannish shirt fronts, which are making such a hit. Contrasting colours of the same material or organdie inserts are used.

E. P

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

Our average English reader is curiously indifferent to style in his books, so long as he can cry with the hero of fact or fiction, "Once aboard the lugger and the girl is mine!" It shows an upward tendency that the short story, not the mere fragment of a novelist's workshop, but the considered tale, has this year lightened its grip. Mr. Rudyard Kipling, who began our reformation with his "Plain Tales From The Hills," has shown again what can be done with a marketable commodity, apart from anything else. Some time in October the Macmillans printed 35,500 copies of his "Land and Sea Tales," as a first edition. Early in November they printed 22,000 more, and late in November 22,000. Came December, and a fourth edition of 23,000 was needed, and no doubt the printers and binders are, at the moment, engaged on a fifth edition.

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Some people thought the day had gone when politicians had time, or energy, or ability, to be also authors. It has certainly returned, thanks in part to the frequency with which public men write newspaper articles. A handsome invitation comes to make them into a book, and with a little licking into shape that is done. Anything which Mr. Asquith writes is shapely from the first, as this "Studies and Sketches" will surely again show. Its subjects range from Dr. Johnson and Fanny Burney, to the Victorian Age and Joseph Chamberlain, whose biography, done by Mr. J. L. Garvin, will, one supposes, be a book of the New Year.

∴

A "big book" which has certainly earned its advance royalties, large as we know these to have been, is Mr. Winston Churchill's "World Crisis." Thanks to its quality of writing and drama of action it made itself a "best seller" in the best sense. Mr. Asquith's "Genesis of the War" is not a work of light reading, but its author has the homage of the intellect of the country, and it is in its third or fourth edition. A volume of addresses which he published several years ago also had an unusual sale for a book of the sort. Now he promises us, through Hutchinson, a series of "Studies and Sketches," and it will be awaited with genuine interest.

∴

Not many books of short stories could hope for the success of Mr. Kipling's "Land and Sea Tales," but Mr. John Galsworthy's "Captures" is to be singled out, alike for its material and its artistic success. He has also made a conspicuous hit with his "Forsyte Saga," all in a single volume, because it has sold nearly fifty thousand copies within a few months. It is a new book in a way since the various tales which make it have hitherto been in several volumes, but many people will call it a "collected edition." The conspicuous triumph with a new "collected edition" has been the Stevenson "Tusitala," which is cheap and good. Moreover, it contains everything by Stevenson ever likely to be published, except his play, "Monmouth" and the letters he wrote to Lady Colvin.

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The life-story of Mr. Fawcett, who, though blind, became a Cabinet Minister and Postmaster-General, interested us all. His wife, Mrs. Millicent Garrett Fawcett, is still, happily, with us, and she has written her reminiscences, which Mr. Fisher [illegible] as "What I Remember." Her memory goes back, in particulars to Aldeburgh, where she spent her childhood and where to-day Mr. Edward Clodd, eighty and more but unconquerably young, flies the flag of literature. Mrs. Fawcett may, like him, remember Edward FitzGerald as a [illegible] neighbour of quaint old Aldeburgh Anxbow, her recollections of the town will give us a contrast in English life as between the mid-nineteenth century and the twentieth century.

Now, as a year ago, "The Immortal Hour" is attracting large audiences to the Regent Theatre. The success of the opera, with its haunting music, has naturally interested people in its composer, Mr. Rutland Boughton. Accordingly Mr. Gerald Cumberland has written a biographical and critical study of his life and work, and it will, by-and-by, appear from the Bodley Head. Mr. Boughton has other interests besides music, and the exploration of Glastonbury Cathedral has been one of them. Mr. Cumberland we know for "Set Down in Malice," and one or two other books.

∴

A young author, Mr. David Garnett, and a success which continues with his unusual story, "Lady Into Fox." He has a new one, which may also prove unusual, appearing with Chatto under the title, "A Man In the Zoo," and this will be his third book. His first one was published under a pen name, but he may now, perhaps, think of giving it the value of his own name. Some folk thought, when Mr. Thomas Burke began to write, that he was using a pen name, for a natural simplicity in anything makes some minds suspect things. Mr. Burke has books in hand at present, and he is also dealing with a request to be the literary god-father of a bench of schoolboys in America, a compliment which he likes, and will oblige in full generosity.

CONRAD'S LATEST BOOK

"The Rover." By Joseph Conrad (Fisher Unwin: 7/6).

By Achilles.

"The Rover" is a most breezy volume A cliff on the Mediterranean, overlooking that wonderfully-coloured sea is the scene or overlooks the scene of practically all the events in the story, except those which occur in the reminicensces and rambling self-revelations which flash out in all Conrad's books, and which in this chiefly proceed from the mouth or the mind of the Rover himself. The Rover has been in many prisons and commanded many vessels. He has roved wildly over the world with a flair for striking hot corners.

It is a relief to have a yarn from Conrad not dealing with tropical swamps, South America or Anarchists, and focussing on the coast as opposed to the open sea. The fanning winds of the blue waters dance over the headland, and in the house on the upstanding promontery we overlook the English frigate "Amelia" riding at ease, watching the shore at safe distance from the batteries. She is part of the English squadron blockading the French fleet at Toulon. The Rover plays her a smart trick. We meet Nelson on the "Victory" through the efficacy of the latter, although the naval officers never discovered how they had been duped and the Rover lost his life in the process. Nelson was troubled with a bad cough and nervous agitation and his face bore an expression of suffering which however was in startling contrast to the fire of his one eye.

ATMOSPHERE.

It is remarkable how the atmosphere of the cliff and the sunlit coast dominate the book, more than so the Rover himself or the astonishing Lieutenant Réal and the maiden Arlette. The latter is a close replica of the amazing heroine of Conrad's short story "A Stroke of Fortune" which is one of the trio of his "Tales of Unrest." As in Thomas Hardy's "Return of the Native" the changeless, silent power of Egdon Heath holds sway over the puny human beings who flit across that stage, so in "The Rover" the form of Escampobar and the strip of land and water which it surveys reign over the [illegible] erratic members who perform in this adventurous tragedy, superimposing the superiority of their strength over that of even strong creatures like the Rover. As a rule books dealing rather with people than places are liked. But even when a locality is given precedence characters are necessary to make it stand out: thus in "The Woodlanders" Hardy while allowing the forest to have a very large say introduces us at the same time to one or two of his best creations, such as Marty South. So Conrad, although giving us the happy feeling of being in shirt-sleeves in the summer time on the top of a cliff in the sunshine and the breeze, and stressing place over person, lets us meet fellows whom we like and who capture our attention. It is however certainly not one of his best books.

CHASING A PHRASE.

Justly praised as Conrad is for his prose, outstandingly excellent for a foreigner, admirable even for an Englishman, it is not infallibly *sans reproche*. He has a weakness in this volume for the expression 'mortal envelope.' He runs it to earth and worries it gently before he lets it drop. But there are rare passages worthy of the man competent to set a standard of prose in the English language.

PIRATES

The Horrid Truth

By Robert Lynd

"The Buccaneers of America." By John Esquemeling. Translation of 1684-5, revised by W. S. Stallybrass. Broadway Translations. Routledge. 12s. 6d.

This is a book written by a seventeenth-century pirate, a Dutchman, who paints his fellow-pirates as the most horrible villains. There could hardly be more unattractive beasts of prey than the robbers and murderers who march in herds through these pages. Such is the glamour of physical daring, and such is national vanity, however, that the first translator praised the book on the ground that it recorded the "glorious actions" of the English nation. It informs us, he declared, "of as great and bold attempts in point of military conduct and valour as ever were performed by mankind, without excepting here either Alexander the Great or Julius Cæsar or the rest of the Nine Worthies of Fame." And by the end of the paragraph he is once more rhapsodizing over the "unparalleled if not inimitable adventures and heroic exploits of our own countrymen and relations, whose undaunted and exemplary courage, when called upon by our King and country, we ought to emulate."

COURAGEOUS DEVILS.

Of the courage of the pirates there is no question. Morgan's overland march to Panama, in the course of which he and his men were driven by hunger to eat the leather bags the fleeing Spaniards had left behind them, was an amazing feat of human boldness and endurance. And the pirates had other qualities that appeal to the romantic part of our nature. "Among themselves," wrote Esquemeling, "they are very civil and charitable to each other. Insomuch that, if any wants what another has, with great liberality they give it one to another." When they had money, too, there was a "Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum" recklessness about them not entirely alien to the atmosphere of "Treasure Island." Esquemeling tells us, for instance:

> My own master would buy, on like occasions, a whole pipe of wine, and, placing it in the street, would force everyone that passed by to drink with him; threatening also to pistol them, in case they would not do it. At other times he would do the same with barrels of ale or beer. And, very often, with both his hands, he would throw these liquors about the streets, and wet the clothes of such as walked by, without regarding whether he spoiled their apparel or not, were they men or women.

These, however, were the most innocent diversions of the pirates that Esquemeling chronicles. For the rest, they more than justify Esquemeling's description of them as "the wicked order of the Pirates, or Robbers at Sea."

Their wickedness, perhaps, is not to be wondered at. Many of them, such as Morgan and Esquemeling himself, had been slaves in the West Indies, and knew freedom only as outlaws. They were outlaws, moreover, upon shores where cruelty was a tradition—cruelty of Indians, Spaniards, Frenchmen, Englishmen, and every race that came to them Roche Brasiliano, a Dutch pirate, hated the Spaniards so bitterly that, on capturing some of them on the mainland on one occasion, he "commanded several to be roasted alive upon wooden spits, for no other crime than that they would not show him the places, or hog-yards, where he might steal swine." Torture of this kind seemed natural to pirates as a means of compelling unhappy mainlanders to show them where they could get food or treasure.

THE CRUEL CAPTAIN.

L'Ollonais, the pirate captain, was as cruel on one occasion, when his Spanish prisoners were unable to direct him by another way out of Puerto Cavallo besides that along which he suspected an ambush:—

> Having asked them all, and finding they could show him no other way, L'Ollonais grew outrageously passionate; insomuch that he drew his cutlass, and with it cut open the breast of one of those poor Spaniards, and, pulling out his heart with his sacrilegious hands, began to bite and gnaw at it with his teeth like a ravenous wolf, saying to the rest 'I will serve you all alike if you show me not another way.'

Esquemeling's book, however, is not a mere compilation of horrors. He does not dwell on cruelties more than is necessary to give a true picture of the lives of the buccaneers, and there is a fine Plutarchian impartiality in the way in which he can set down every vice Morgan possessed and at the same time on occasion let a heroic light play upon his sinister figure. There is something noble about Morgan's reply to those of his men who objected that they were too few to assault and capture so great a town as Porto Bello. "If our number is small," he said, "our hearts are great. And the fewer persons we are, the more union and better shares we shall have in the spoil." Yet, as Andrew Lang says in an excellent essay reprinted in the present book, this heroic leader was a thief who "bilked" his own crews with as little remorse as he plundered the Spaniards.

Lang's essay is a perfect answer to.

A PUBLISHER'S REMINISCENCES

Pulling Down the Park Railings

"Sixty Years a Bookman." By Joseph Shaylor. Selwyn and Blount. 6s.

Mr. Shaylor was born in the West of England in 1844, and after an apprenticeship to bookselling at Stroud he moved to London and joined the firm of Simpkin, Marshall & Co. in 1864. Since then he has had a long and useful career, joining the directorate of his firm in 1894 and performing various public services. His account of the bookselling and publishing business during the 60 years he has known it is full of interest. He tells us of the change of fashion in reading, the notable decline in religious works, and mediocre verse, both of which had enormous sales about the middle of last century.

He has much to say, too, concerning matters of trade customs and terms, and his fellow-booksellers and publishers should not miss these chapters. The general reader will probably most enjoy Mr. Shaylor's more personal recollections, and particularly those of his early life in London. Before going to London he had never been inside a theatre, and his first experience was at Sadlers Wells, where he saw "Hamlet," and was so enthusiastic that he went three nights in succession, and only stopped because funds run out. He helped to pull down the railings in Hyde Park, and got a crack across his back from a truncheon for his pains.

Writing of old Holywell-street, where there were numbers of secondhand bookstalls, he tells us how he once bought what he thought was "a book with not a very chaste reputation" for the sum of half-a-crown. It was done up very carefully in a sealed envelope, and when he opened it at home he found that the volume was an old soiled Common Prayer Book. "I did not get what I expected," he writes, "but perhaps it was better for me that I was swindled." Such odd recollections make up a very attractive little book.

LIGHT-WEIGHT CHAMPIONS

Yea and Nay. Brentano's, Ltd. 6s. net.

This series of lectures and counter-lectures, which was given at the London School of Economics a short time ago in aid of the hospitals of London, is well worth reprinting, despite the widespread publicity it received in the daily Press. For there is a remarkable freshness and sincerity about these able and merry disputants—Mr. Wells and Mr. Osborn fighting again the familiar battle of the international or national teaching of history; Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith and Miss Rebecca West on the sex novel; Mr. St. John Ervine and Mr. Cochran on the commercial theatre; Miss Sitwell and Mr. Noyes on modern poetry; Mr. McCurdy and Mr. Chesterton on modern journalism; "Ian Hay" and Mr. Sinclair Lewis on Main Street and High Street; Mr. A. G. Gardiner and Mr. Guedalla on biographies; the Duke of Northumberland and Mr. Oswald Mosley on the ape and the tiger in man's nature; and the University Unions on Education.

The lectures are fresh and sincere because the disputants were obviously on their mettle. They knew they had to face one another; they could not take refuge in anonymity or fire their shots from the safe trenches of a newspaper office or a private study. Even the chairmen, who purred suavely and sententiously, were in the firing-zone. They said little, but they listened, and there was not only the eager public who actually heard the lectures, but the wider public who read them in the newspapers the next day. These were gladiatorial contests, and the gladiators had sharpened their swords. Mr. Osborn was not only discussing education but keeping a sharp eye on Mr. Wells; Miss West had to contemplate not only her sex in general but Sussex or Miss Kaye-Smith in particular; and the Duke had to fortify himself against the witticisms of Mr. Mosley.

The result was great fun. Indeed, how much our daily journalism and controversial literature would improve if the disputants had to write in the presence of one another! There might be greater moderation, but there would be greater reality. Leading articles would no longer pummel shadows, and there would creep into literature again that courtesy which is born of fear. How compelling, how real, how inspiring is personality when it is embodied in actual flesh and blood!

We confess to one preference among all those talented lecturers, and the preference is inspired by something more than a sense of gallantry. Miss Rebecca West's remarks are very amusing and fruitful, probably because, as her chairman, Mr. Squire, pointed out, she paid very little attention to the subject of the lecture. What sensible person could be bothered to talk or write or think about sex!

We are glad to hear from Mr. Stelling, who was responsible for the lectures, that another series will, it is hoped, be arranged in the early months of next year. If the new series is as good as the old, it will be very good indeed. And why not try and get the chairmen into the arena this time? Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, Mr. Gosse, Mr. Asquith were judicial in the first series. Why should they not be controversial in the next?—"Morning Post."

The North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE

WEEKLY EDITION OF THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

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The Japanese Press is much exercised over the Singapore naval base scheme.

KUOMINTANG SCHEME OF GOVERNMENT

Conference at Canton: A Bolshevist Form in View: Soviet Agent Advising: Financial Stringency: Merchants' Resistance to Fresh Paper Issue

From Our Own Correspondent.

Canton, Feb. 2.

During the past few weeks the situation here has not changed very greatly. There has been a large conference of the Kuomintang from all over the country, for the purpose of discussing the formation of a new Government of Reconstruction.

The conference was attended by about 200 delegates from all provinces, including four representatives of Marshal Chang Tso-lin. All the representatives were elected by the members of the party in their various provinces. The form of Government will be on Soviet lines, and Mr. Borodin, the Soviet Representative in Canton, was present at the meeting. The supreme power will be vested in a Committee, elected from the representatives of the various provinces, and will have a Chairman elected from amongst them, who will take the place of a President. The Government is to be inaugurated as soon as possible and it is expected that a start will be made during the current month. It is almost certain that Dr. Sun Yat-sen will be elected Chairman of the Committee.

The financial situation shows little signs of improvement, but the Yunnanese military commanders have been ordered to hand back the Revenue Bureax controlled by them at present at once, and it is thought that they will obey the order. In this case it may be possible for the finances of the Southern Government to be reorganized on a more sound basis. Instructions have also been given for the cessation of the unpopular sales of public property.

The Chinese New Year did not pass without several unfortunate incidents. The urgent military expenses were met by paying the troops with special notes secured on the property of the Nine Charitable Institutions of Canton, but, owing to the fact that the merchants had not had sufficient warning, they in many cases refused the notes and as a result several small fights took place between troops and Merchant Volunteers, in which several were killed on both sides. It is understood that these notes have now been cancelled by the authorities, but what steps they intend to take have not yet been made public. In spite of this there are many shops which have not yet reopened for business after the Holidays, fearing trouble.

The strike of the rice coolies has not been settled yet, and is having a very serious effect on the price of that commodity, the middle quality now selling at only eight catties for a dollar.

There is a complete absence of any news as to any fighting, and it appears that there is a temporary lull in operations. This may be due to the fact that, as is believed in many circles, negotiations for peace with Chen Chiung-ming's followers are in progress.

KIANGSI AND FUKIEN

Some Political Appointments

Peking, Feb. 12.

Foreign telegrams from Kiukiang and Foochow alike state that reports are in circulation that General Tsai Cheng-hsun is likely to be recalled to Peking, owing to friction with Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan of Nanking, and that General Sun Chuan-fang Chu Cheng will be appointed Tuli of Kiangsi, while General Wang Yuan-chuang will replace General Sun Chuan-fang at Foochow. General Tsai, it is stated, will be given a high post on his arrival at Peking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MR. Sun Fo, son of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, will soon leave Canton for Moscow, states the Chinese press, and he will be succeeded as Mayor of Canton City by Mr.

THE RENDITION OF WEIHAIWEI

China's Dissatisfaction with Commission's Report: Claim for Modifications

London, Feb. 19.

Acting on the orders of Dr. Wellington Koo, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Chu Chao-hsin, the Chinese Minister in London, to-day conferred with Mr. Ramsay Macdonald at the Foreign Office and presented the Chinese case with regard to Weihaiwei.

China is dissatisfied with the decision of the Anglo-Chinese Commission in that connexion, the report of which is before the two Governments, China claiming modifications especially concerning Chinese sovereignty, and asks the British Government to resume the negotiations.

Mr. Macdonald promised to study the question and expressed a desire that the whole matter of transferring Weihaiwei to China should be completed as quickly as possible.—Reuter.

GERMANY AND CHINA

Peking, Feb. 15.

The Government, according to report, has decided to return the German cable at Shanghai to its former owners. The cable was confiscated by the Chinese Government upon the declaration of war against the German Empire. The report has not yet been officially confirmed.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

London, Feb. 18.

In connexion with the reported Sino-German agreement with regard to Germany's war indemnity to China "The Times" says that, as soon as payment is made to China, China should remove the notices of invalidation of her outstanding bonds issued in Germany and that this should be followed by a prompt removal of the Stock Exchange ban on certain Chinese securities. The journal doubts whether Germany has the credits necessary to take full advantage of the opportunity of developing trade with China. —Reuter.

GEN. FENG AND THE LEGATION POLICE

Breach of Traffic Regulations and Avoidance of Arrest: Policeman Assaulted

ACTION TAKEN BY THE DIPLOMATIC BODY

Peking, Feb. 17.

A very regrettable incident occurred in connexion with the traffic regulations of the Diplomatic Quarter on Friday evening.

Owing to the common practice of Chinese driving through the Quarter with one light or three, at dangerous speed, the police have recently been given strict orders to ensure safety by insisting upon motor cars inside the Quarter using two ordinary lights and not the glaring third which is such a nuisance in Peking City. An old regulation prohibits armed outriders from being carried inside the Quarter, in common with the Chinese regulations in the city itself. The regulations are plainly posted at the gates of the Quarter, but recently at night-fall a large number of rickshas and motor cars infringing the light regulations have been stopped at the various gates of the Quarter, while numbers of cars have been stopped and warned owing to the terrific speed with which they have been rushing through the Quarter.

On Friday evening Gen. Feng Yu-hsiang was a guest at the American Legation. He entered the Legation Quarter from the Hatamen with three glaring lights and three outriders carrying Mauser pistols under their coats. Mr. Gailey was in the car with Gen. Feng. On arrival at the intersection of Legation Street and Rue Marco Polo the policeman on duty attempted to stop the car without success. He blew his whistle and the man on duty in front of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank got in front of the car and gamely stood his ground. The car pulled up, and the outriders jumped to the ground and hustled the policeman from in front of the car. The policeman raised his baton and struck the outriders. The policeman received a blow on the face which caused a bruise. Gen. Feng got out of the car, the baton was taken from the policeman and Gen. Feng re-entered the car with the baton in his hand. The car then proceeded, accompanied by a chorus of whistles of warning to policemen on duty further along the street. Gen. Feng threw the baton on to the footpath as the car proceeded.

After leaving the bank, the car considerably increased its speed. The policemen in front of the Yokohama Specie Bank and the International Bank attempted to stop the car, but it swerved around them and went on to the American Legation. Mr. Thomas, Secretary of the Legation Quarter, followed the car to the American Legation and insisted that, when Gen. Feng left the Legation, he should go out by the Western end of Legation Street, lest there should be further trouble.

Peking, Feb. 19.

The Diplomatic Body to-day discussed Gen. Feng Yu-hsiang's recent brawl with the Legation Police and infringement of the Legation traffic regulations.

It is understood that a Note will be sent to the Waichiaopu on the matter.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Diplomatic Body's Action.

Feb. 20.

The Note from the Diplomatic Body reached the Waichiaopu this morning. It calls attention to the frequent disregard of traffic regulations in the Legation Quarter

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PASSENGERS

INWARD.

Per R.M.S. Empress of Russia, February 9. From Hongkong. Mr. M. Canmat, Miss E. Coiteu, Captain J. Crommelier, Captain W. A. Davison, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. D. Dura, Mr. and Mrs. P. Drummond, Mrs. S. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Kadosie, Mr. P. W. Massey, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Moore, Miss F. Neave, Mr. and Mrs. J. Parsons, Mrs. Paterson, Miss Paterson, Mr. and Mrs. P. Peebles, Mr. P. J. Rycroft, Mr. J. Satier, Miss K. Shahmoon, Miss F. Shahmoon, Miss M. Shahmoon, Mr. E. Shahmoon, Mr. A. B. Thompson, Mr. E. S. Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. C. Wigg, Mr. P. H. Holdsworth, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Davies, Dr. V. B. Appleton, Miss E. Bell, Mr. J. F. D. Caldas, Mr. J. L. Durand.

Per str. Woosung, February 10. From River Ports. Mr. M. E. Columbine, Mr. A. M. Bourne, Mr. W. S. Howie, Mr. J. R. Haster, Mr. J. L. Crompton, Mr. R. P. White, Mr. Rogerson, Mr. J. P. Jones, Mr. A. M. Gutteriez, Mr. S. R. Callaco, Mr. J. N. Ribeiro, Miss Dansan, Miss Illingworth.

Per str. Loongwo, February 10. From River Ports. Mr. K. Galish, Mr. A. Glaser, Mr. Litter, Mr. M. M. Whitaker, Mr. Sucliffe, Mr. G. D. Grant, Mr. Mace, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Mossop, Mr. Hall.

Per P. & O. S. Soudan, February 11 From London, Mr. R. C. Groves. **From Bombay.** Mr. G. M. d'Arcy, Mr. D. S. Engineer. **From Hongkong.** Mr. G. H. Gray.

Per P. & O. S. Naldera, February 12. From London. Miss K. Addy, Mr. and Mrs. Brierley and two children, Mr. and Mrs. A. Black and child, Miss A. M. Busch, Mr. and Mrs. L. Comber, Miss K. Castle, Mr. J. M. d'Almeida, Rev. H. Emmett, Mr. C. C. Franklin, Miss B. Gasby, Mrs. J. Haines, Mrs. K. Howe, Miss L. Henderson, Miss E. M. Harvey, Dr. R. Lane, Mr. R. Munzing, Mr. and Mrs. H. Porter and child, Miss Porter, Captain and Mrs. Petterson, Miss J. M. Petterson, Mrs. L. Radcliffe and child, Mr. T. Radley, Mrs. B. D. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Snape and three children, Misses (2) Snape, Mr. J. H. Stockley, Dr. M. [illegible], child, Mrs. J. Tomlinson, Dr. R. Tait, [illegible], **From Marseilles.** Mrs. M. Anderson, Mr. Farquarson, Mr. A. de Giolma, Dr. M. S. Hopkins, Miss Hopkins, Mr. J. W. King, Mr. W. King, Mlle. M. Rev. Mrs. Varalda. **From Port Said.** Mrs. L. V. [illegible] dren. **From Bombay.** Dr. R. E. Cameron, Mr. A. H. Spink. **From Singapore.** Mr. Brooby, Mr. and Mrs. G. Cranna, Mr. S. Garner, Mr. H. Jakobsen, Mr. H. McCauley, Mr. Waring. **From Hongkong.** Mr. C. Arthur, Mr. T. Bowack, Miss O'B. Butler, Mr. T. Masseures, Lieut. H. Robinson, Miss P. A. Sharpe, Miss G. Selzer, Mr. C. Thwaites, Mrs. D. Wyon.

Per str. Shengking, February 13. From Ningpo. Mr. Hogg, Mr. Percy [illegible].

Per str. Poyang, February 13. From River Ports. Mr. Paterson, Mr. and Mrs. Mason and two children.

Per str. Luenho, February 13. From River Ports. Mrs. G. [illegible], Miss G. [illegible], Mr. Cowan, One Native, Hsiang Miss Longhurst, Mrs. O. Kirk, Mrs. E. A. Sykes, Mr. G. Cureton.

Per str. Fausang, February 13 From Tientsin. Mr. A. Bee, Mr. G. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Anderson, Mr. C. Mr. A. Bucknall, Mr. Cuthbert. **From Chefoo.** Mr. Wm. Little, Mr. Nagamine, Mr. L. G. Phillips.

Per str. Chengtu, February 13. From Tientsin, Chefoo and Weihaiwei. Mrs. Stewardson, Mrs. Lewis, Master Lewis.

Per str. Kungwo, February 14. From River Ports. Messrs. R. H. Gibson, A. J. Hogg, A. Bucknell, C. Grimo.

OUTWARD.

Per str. Tungting, February 9. For River Ports. Rev. Franciscan Fathers, Mr. and Mrs. G. Cranna, Mr. Bowden, M. C. R. Greenberg, Mr. J. M. Lundgren, Mr. Nowan, Mr. Kung, Mr. and Mrs. Bucknell.

Per N.Y.K.S. Yoshimi Maru, February 9. For Hongkong Mr. A. Paul. **For Marseilles**—Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Christensen, Miss B. Lardy, Miss C. Lardy, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. E. Lardy, Miss C. Reuter, Mr. W. H. Sowden. **For London**—Mr. M. J. Andrews, Mr. F. Watchead, Mr. J. R. Adams, Mr. A. Bathgate, Mr. C. L. Brockbank, Mr. A. W. Charman, Mr. W. McDowell, Mr. E. F. Fleuriot, Mr. S. J. Nailes, Mr. E. L. Jones, Mr. F. D. Rimmer, Mr. A. W. Seaward, Mr. F. G. Marshall, Mr. W. P. Muckle, Mr. J. Nimmo, Mr. T. P. True.

Per R.M.S. Empress of Russia, February 10.—For Vancouver, etc.—Mr. H. T. Arnhold, Mr. L. J. Campbell, Mr. G. D. Frey, Mr. G. Gordon-Holmes, Mrs. H. D. Hume, Miss A. Harrison, Miss E. M. Hinder, Mr. T. Mullin, Mr. C. W. Reeve, Mr. I. Silberlust, Mr. R. C. Andrew, Mr. J. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Behre, Miss M. Behre, Miss D. Chapman, Mr. H. B. Hogg, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Lillie, Miss E. Lillie, Master R. Lillie, Miss [illegible], Miss A. [illegible], Mr. N. Lamb, Dr. R. F. Maddren, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Nielson, Mr. M. Rubin, Captain H. M. Sorensen, Mr. A. D. Stokes, Mr. G. W. Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. G. Thompson, Miss M. Thompson, Master D. Thompson, Miss D. Thompson, Mr. W. Young.

Per str. Soochow, February 10.—For Hongkong—Mr. P. W. F. Mills, Mr. R. L. Stewart, Mr. Andrews. **For Canton**—Mr. E. C. Fort.

Per str. Shengking, February 11.—For Ningpo—Miss M. Rollestone, Miss E. C. Dickie, Mr. and Mrs. Decker and two children, Two Sisters of Charity, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Daniels, Mr. Wilcox.

Per str. Kanchow, February 12,—For Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Zotoff and three children, Master Zotoff, Miss Martincff, Mr. Scott, Mrs. T. R. Pringle.

Per str. Fengtien, February 12.—For Weihaiwei—Master I. Mackenzie. **For Chefoo**—Master E. Bromley, Miss Gaff, Miss H. Smith, Master Darlington, Master E. Darlington, Miss Willoughby, Miss Darlington, Mr. E. K. Hall, Miss M. Evans, Miss W. Evans. **For Tientsin**—Mr. and Mrs. Kovalewski.

Per str. Nganking, February 12.—For River Ports—Mr. R. Chefalo, Mr. Capretto, Mr. Franklin, Miss F. Livanti, Miss D. Faal, Mr. J. Tamon.

Per str. Shengking, February 13. For Ningpo—Mrs. G. High, Mr. A. L. Fitzsimmons, Mr. Gerson Krate, Miss Murray, Dr. T. M. Poteat, Miss Lasner.

Per str. Woosung, February 13.—For River Ports—Misses S. and M. Johnson, Misses E. and G. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Johnson and child, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Trobridge and child, Mr. Kales.

Per str. Sunning, February 14. For Amoy—Mrs. Lian.

Per str. Poyang, February 14.—For River Ports—Mr. Feuerbach.

BIRTHS

BARNES.—On January 30, 1924, at Calcutta, to Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Barnes, a daughter.

CLIFTON.—On February 14, 1924, at Dr. Fearn's Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Clifton, a daughter.

LEE.—On February 7, 1924, to Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Lee, H.B.M. Consulate, Foochow, a son.

MOONEY.—On February 11, 1924, at No. 13 Kungping Road, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. Austin J. Mooney, a son.

MURPHY.—On February 12, 1924, at Dr. Fearn's Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Murphy, a son.

WESTBROOK.—On February 12, 1924, to Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Westbrook, a daughter.

MARRIAGE

HUGHES—SUMMERS.—On February 8, 1924, at the British Consulate, Peking, and afterwards at the British Legation Chapel by the Right Rev. Bishop Norris, Bishop of North China, Wilfrid Vernon Bowen Hughes, younger son of the late Rev. W. B. Hughes, of Llanishen, and Mrs. Hughes, to Eileen Mary, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Summers, of Peking.

DEATHS

AGUIAR.—On February 7, 1924, at Macao, Francisco Xavier d'Aguiar, of Ilbert & Co., Shanghai. Deeply regretted. (By cable).

BUSH.—On January 13, 1924, in London, Henry A. Bush, formerly of Newchwang, North China, of pneumonia, in his 59th year.

DALLAS.—On February 12, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, Mary, elder daughter of the late Barnes Dallas, of Shanghai.

D'ALMEIDA.—On February 14, 1924, at the Isolation Hospital, Shanghai, Tony, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. d'Almeida, at the age of one year and four months.

GORDON.—On February 9, 1924, at Glasgow, John L. Gordon, late of Shanghai Electric Construction Co., Ld. Deeply regretted. By cable

GORDON.—On January 21, 1924, Mary Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Gordon, Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, Singapore, aged 4 years and 11 months.

NISSIM.—On February 10, 1924, at 90 Route des Sœurs, Shanghai, David Meyer Nissim, aged 59 years. Deeply regretted.

TONNOCHY.—On February 12, 1924, at 47 Point Road (East Yalu Road), Shanghai, Frank Tonnochy, aged 42 years.

TORKILDSEN.—On February 14, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, Gerhard Sofus Torkildsen, Norwegian Chief Officer, aged 47 years.

WHITEWRIGHT.—On January 11, 1924, at Bristol, England, Mrs. M. A. Whitewright, wife of Rev. J. S. Whitewright, of Tsinanfu, Shantung, in the 61st year of her age.

SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month	Barometer 9 A.M.	Barometer Attied Therm	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Feb. 8	30.17	50.7	N N E	2	38.0	36.2	41.9	36.2	
„ 9	30.02	50.7	N E	2	43.4	42.6	47.3	38.7	O.
„ 10	30.78	48.9	N W	3	35.8	35.1	38.0	34.4	O. M.
„ 11	30.29	47.7	N W	2	33.8	33.1	37.4	31.6	O. D.
„ 12	30.33	46.8	N W	2	36.5	33.6	41.4	31.1	O. S.
„ 13	30.49	44.8	N N W	1	31.8	26.5	39.9	27.0	S. C.
„ 14	30.21	44.8	S	1	35.4	32.8	50.5	26.6	S. O.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date	Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Inches 1923
Feb. 8	37.0	26.8	45.0	42.0	Nil.	[illegible]
„ 9	40.0	31.5	46.4	40.5	0.08	0.58
„ 10	35.6	33.5	42.4	48.3	Nil.	0.05
„ 11	32.8	37.8	38.6	43.8	0.03	0.10
„ 12	32.2	40.8	41.0	47.2	0.48	0.02
„ 13	28.0	41.0	39.0	49.2	1.18	Nil.
„ 14	30.4	40.8	50.0	49.0	0.15	Nil.

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WHY THE WORLD'S UNEMPLOYED?

Feb. 18.

WHEN one recalls the desperate search there was for men in the days of the Great War and how much it was impressed on the nations that man-power was to be the deciding factor in the struggle it is amazing that to-day the world seems to team with superfluous men. Money was nothing accounted of in those days. A thousand million pounds! It was a mere bagatelle. You floated your war loan. Old scrip—like the old lamps of the fairy tale—was taken in exchange for new and behold the thing was done. But man-power was different; the human wreckage could not, like the old scrip, be re-written and re-named and sent forth apparently as good as ever. The blind, the maimed and shell-shocked soldiers were of no further use to the Moloch of battlefields and so men were more precious than gold.

To-day all that is changed. Money is scarce and men are superfluous. We have here in Shanghai some seven thousand Russians. Physically and intellectually as good men as could be found anywhere; trained workmen, too, many of them are and yet we have no use for them. Our only problem is how to get rid of them. We have carefully examined every likely solution of our problem; have scanned the horizon for a possible haven for these strangers within our gates who can find no work here and threaten to die of starvation on our streets and it is fair to say we are at our wits' end for no solution is in sight.

At home in Britain there are a million unemployed men. It is true the clouds are lifting. The new year has brought with it a more hopeful outlook and despondency is giving place to optimism. It is true also that there always has been and always will be a certain number of men out of employment. A reserve of man-power is as necessary in industry as in war but when everything that can be has been said in palliation of the circumstances, it still remains true that our superfluous population is a serious menace to the country's welfare.

China is supposed to be a land where the people toil like busy bees and where Satan can find no idle hands to work the mischief he finds for them. But this is the China of the tourist. Ask any Chinese and he will tell you that the number of idle people in China, who live like parasites on the labour of others, is greater than in any country in the world. Look into the Chinese shops as you walk our streets and it will go hard with you to find one that has half as many customers as it has servitors. The bandit menace which occupies such a large space in our columns is largely the result of unemployment. If remunerative labour could be found for the robbers who are terrorizing vast districts, plundering and burning whole villages, they would be metamorphosed into honest farmers as by the wave of a magnician's wand. And the waste of it! Here is the late Lao Yang-ren, a bandit who has led a rabble of untrained followers through three provinces, eluding the government troops when possible and fighting them when battle was unavoidable. Could any trained general have done better? And yet we rejoice when we hear that this old rascal has been shot; forgetting the dictum of the judge who said, "Depend upon it, the worst use you can put a man to is to hang him." But we have hanged him and hope that Honan will now be at peace. But what is to become of his unemployed following? They are scattered but they still exist, roaming hither and thither, hungry and superfluous.

And yet, in spite of this vast army of superfluous men, the world's work is not done. There are millions of hungry bellies that are not filled and millions of shivering bodies that are not clothed. There are roads that should be made and bridges that should be built. If there is an army of unemployed men there is also a wilderness of untilled land waiting to be broken up. The problem of governments is to bring together the waiting task and the idle hands. It may be difficult but it is not impossible. It has apparently been solved in the province of Shansi, for our correspondent tells us that Governor Yen Hsi-shan has turned his army into workmen and set them to build roads, clean up cities and cultivate waste patches of ground. And this unorthodox activity seems to have solved the bandit problem so far as Shansi is concerned; for, so far as we can learn, bandits there are as scarce as snakes in Ireland. We commend the policy of the Governor of Shansi to all those who are frightened by the bogey of superfluous men. Nature has an antipathy to superfluous things. She first disintegrates and then destroys them. The unemployed man is also subject to this law of deterioration. He is first unemployed, then unemployable and finally anti-social. Put a spade in his hand and you immediately start him on the upgrade.

SIR. R. MACLEAY'S REMINDER

Feb. 19.

CERTAIN passages in Sir Ronald Macleay's speech last Friday at the opening of our new building were so important that more attention should be drawn to them than it was, perhaps, possible to give in all the bustle of an unusually crowded week-end. The Minister has been speaking of the rôle of a newspaper as a dispassionate historian and friendly critic and he continues thus:

I fear that in recording and commenting on the present unrest, disunion and lack of stability in the country, we are, I think, too prone to forget that we are ourselves in some measure responsible. It must be remembered that we foreigners originally forced the door of China's exclusiveness and, first by wringing from a reluctant Chinese government extraterritorial rights, special privileges and concessions, and then by opening up the country with railways and by steam navigation on the inland waters—as well as by the moral, religious and educational propaganda of our missionaries—we gradually introduced Western ideas and novel political theories. Subsequently by attracting young Chinese to study in America and Europe we inculcated in the younger generation the belief that our methods and ideals were superior to theirs, and in so doing we sowed the seeds of the 1911 Revolution.

From the aftermath of that upheaval China is suffering and it can hardly be wondered at that she should take some time in passing from "the rule of an autocratic, sacrosanct and inaccessible Emperor to the strange and complex machinery of a democratic form of government based on the rule of the people" and Sir Ronald continues:

It is therefore necessary to maintain a nice sense of proportion, to admit the right of Chinese thinkers to opinions which we do not necessarily share, and to give the recognized Central Government of China, which is in friendly relations with H. M. Government and which I fully believe is sincerely anxious to maintain those relations, the credit for its good intentions.

Such an attitude is not incompatible with a sturdy defence of British interests in China or Shanghai, should these appear to be in any way endangered; nor does it preclude the friendly and candid criticism of events and policies in China, or even the stern reproval of abuses such as opium and brigandage.

Now we may not like the view that the foreigner must admit his share of responsibility for the disturbance in China. And we are fully entitled to plead that that responsibility was incurred in absolute innocence. It cannot be called a crime that foreigners wished to enter China and do business with her, as everybody except the mandarin class was quite willing that they shou'd do. But what Sir Ronald Macleay says is none the less true and in these trying times it behoves us all to look carefully to our steps. On both the Chinese and the foreign side there is a good deal of sore and angry feeling. Foreign scorn is excited by the flagrant falling-away from the virtuous professions of the anti-opium movement of fifteen years ago and anger stirred by the equally unchecked and unrequited outrages of brigands. Meanwhile, Chinese accuse the foreigner of caring for nothing but his own pocket, of presuming to lord it in a country where he is only a tenant, even of deliberately fomenting trouble for his own ends. At no time, say they, does the foreigner evince the least sympathy for the difficulties that China has to overcome. This not altogether just, but also not altogether surprising view has induced in some foreigners a sloppy sentimentality which is probably no less damaging all round than the gunboat policy. What middle course are we to steer between the two?

In the present fluid state of Chinese society, we certainly do not see that any good can come of allowing treaties to be trampled upon. Nor does Sir Ronald Macleay, for he speaks of "a sturdy defence of British interests" as being in no way incompatible with a clearer recognition of our position in this country. While centralized government has broken down and every local chieftain is a law to himself, treaties remain the one stable feature of commercial life. The foreigner who insists that Government shall protect him in the lawful pursuit of business against brigands, licentious soldiers and illicit taxation, helps to secure the same immunities of civilized life for millions of Chinese. And if the Diplomatic Body had tamely permitted Dr. Sun Yat-sen to seize the Kuangtung Customs, the whole of China both now and in the future would have suffered for it. On the other hand, we cannot but think that the foreign Powers are morally committed to something more than a purely passive attitude of patience until China sets her own house in order. Innocent though their responsibility is for her troubles, they cannot evade the consequent duty of helping her to pick up the pieces. That is the feeling which has led to the suggestion that they should issue a friendly invitation to leaders throughout China to join them in seeking for some system by which unity, peace and a permanent scheme of government may be evolved. The popular conception of a Tuchun as a monster disguised in man's form is rapidly dissipated by actual contact with them. There are black sheep in every flock. But we have not the slightest doubt that the great majority of leadng Chinese officials are weary of disorder and genuinely desirous of a better state of things. Mistrust and the terrible backstairs influences of every oriental court keep them asunder and it needs some stronger push than any of them can exert to force them to face their differences in common and adjust them.

As regards this paper's part in current problems, we would earnestly invite our Chinese readers to let us know their views from time to time on the course of events. In recent years they have shown an increasing tendency to send us letters for the correspondence columns and these we greatly value. We may not always agree with what the writers say, but we wish to know what they think and, if they desire to criticize and find fault, they will be assuredly free to do so. Only by learning each other's point of view can we arrive at a common understanding.

MOTOR-CAR PILFERAGE

Feb. 20.

AFTER what we understand has been a period of quiescence, thefts of accessories from motor-cars on the Bund have started again. On Friday night a Baby Peugeot was robbed of its tools, and on Monday evening the lock of a dickey-seat of another owner-driven car was picked and everything valuable abstracted. It happens that both these thefts took place opposite Peking Road, a spot somewhat notorious in the history of this manner of pilferage in the past, and for fear that this is a recrudescence of the former state of affairs, one of the car owners has suggested it to us as a subject for comment. It is one to be approached with great caution, realizing that if we lose a proper sense of proportion we shall readily lay ourselves open to the complaint of espousing class legislation, for after all thefts of or from motor cars are only a phase in the crime of the Settlement and their relative importance has to be judged in comparison with other kinds of crime. The case is by no means simple. There is an impression abroad that owner-driven cars, which inevitably remain unoccupied for long periods of time, are the principal victims of pilferage, but although they are the most vulnerable, this theory is by no means borne out by facts. The Chinese chauffeur's capacity for sleep renders his car almost equally accessible to the pilferer, and knowing something of the various cases which have come up, a former widely-held theory has to be dismissed. At one time it was believed that a union of Chinese chauffeurs was at the back of the pilferage from owner-driven cars, so that people would be forced to employ chauffeurs in every instance. The facts have shown that cars with chauffeurs are just as liable to be the thief's objective as the other type mentioned, and this seems to dismiss the charge.

Inquiry shows that in relation to the general crime of the Settlement thefts of or from motor-cars constitute a very small proportion, and in comparison with the United States—the country where this form of crime is most rife of all—our losses in this respect are infinitesimal. The reason that they are apt to bulk so largely in the public view is that the class in Shanghai most able and ready to make its views known is a car-owning class. Naturally when an owner finds that his tools have been abstracted from his car his annoyance is extreme, and if his chauffeur (provided he has one) has been asleep at the time, this annoyance turns into justifiable anger. There is, therefore, a demand that the Police should do something, and it is seldom recognized that the Police are only staffed sufficiently to look after the general peace of the Settlement. They have not the men to guard each individual motor-car, or each group of cars, and in view of the limitation of numbers, the Force must preserve an accurate sense of proportion between various interests. They are dealing with a matter which is in no sense a great crime wave such as the motor-car thefts of the United States, which we believe still baffle the authorities. They are not even dealing with a local criminal wave such as armed robbery or opium trafficking, which have elicited special measures that are still continuing although many months have elapsed since the evil first became of the first importance. We have to deal with the fact that in the Settlement five motor-cars have been stolen, or it would be more correct to say borrowed for a day or two, and that a considerable number of accessories have been taken from cars, and that the people apprehended and convicted of this form of crime have been for a spanner or a screw-driver order—the man who steals a brass cap and sells it for old metal or who vets a few cents for a spanner or a screw—driver which it will cost the owner a very great deal more to replace. As for the stolen cars, it is practically impossible to get rid of them in this district, and it is generally recognized that when stolen they have been used in some particular scheme of crime—merely borrowed without any intention of depriving their owners of them for more than a few hours.

We have endeavoured to show that in the circumstances of the case the Police Force of the Settlement is not large enough to devote any outstanding portion of its time, as against its other multifarious duties, to the protection of motor-cars alone,

by Chinese and cites the Feng Yu-hsiang incident as a glaring example. The Government is requested to draw the attention of the Chinese public to the necessity for Chinese who enter the Quarter to conform with its traffic regulations. The Note makes no demands.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE RUMOURS OF WAR

Explicit Denial by Gen. Lu of His Rumoured Loan to Tan Yen-Kai

We have received the following letter from Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang, Director-General for the Reorganization of Military Affairs in Chêkiang, with reference to a report which appeared in these columns several days ago to the effect that Gen. Lu had made a loan of $200,000 to Gen. Tan Yen-kai, a prominent member of the Kuomingtang, who was formerly Tuchun of Hunan, in order that the latter might make another attempt to regain his lost position. Gen. Lu states:—

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News,
Shanghai.

Sir:—

My attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in your valuable paper a couple of days ago relating to the rumours of further internal warfare. In this report it was stated that I had made a loan of $200.000 to Gen. Tan Yen-kai in order that he might carry out his plan against Hunan which would be the beginning of a general internal campaign.

I do not know where this false report came from, but I can sincerely assure you that it is absolutely false and without any foundation whatsoever.

Of course a newspaper is at liberty and has the right to publish whatever it hears or learns, but do you not think that it would be more proper to investigate, as you usually do, thoroughly into your reports before publishing them, and to find out whether or not there is any truth in them so that you may decide what to publish and what not?

Your paper has won a name for itself for its truthfulness and its justice. It has always been careful to publish only those reports which it has found reliable and it has taken care always to investigate before publication. It would be a pity now to allow yourselves to be cheated by mischievous rumours which tend to do nobody any good but the originators.

I sincerely trust that you will maintain your good name and keep the honour of the paper pure. I have always respected you and the members of your staff hitherto, and I am sure that there will be no occasion for me to change my confidence in you. False and mischievous rumours like these which are intended to cause trouble must, however, be corrected and I am sure you will not grudge me a little space in your valuable paper to publish my statement.

Your sincerely.
Lu Yung-hsiang.

Chekiang, Kiang-su and Anhui Expected to Compromise

Peking, Feb. 13.

Counsels of peace are apparently prevailing in respect of the threatened trouble between the provinces of Chêkiang, Kiangsu and Anhui, for, according to reports reaching Peking, the authorities of the provinces mentioned have agreed to withdraw troops from their respective borders a distance of 50 li. Delegates from these provinces are meeting in Shanghai to decide upon the methods for giving effect to this agreement.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Feb. 14. Dr. Lo Wen-kan, former Minister of Justice, following the declaration of his innocence of the charges against him by Mr. Wu Ching-lien, has registered as a Legal practitioner at the Local Court and will resume his former legal practice.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING'S OFFER TO MARSHAL TUAN

Solatium to Anfu Leader: Handsome Pension if He will Retire

As already reported in these columns, the Peking Government have offered to Marshal Tuan Chi-jui, the Anfu leader, a monthly remuneration of $10,000, in payment of his past services and on condition that he will remain away from public life. Further details of this have been received from Tientsin by one who is in close touch with Marshal Tuan.

It appears that Marshal Wu Pei-fu first made the proposal to President Tsao Kun by telegram that the Government should offer to Marshal Tuan a monthly pension of $15,000 or $20,000 in order that he should be repaid for his past services to the country and that he should remain away from politics and give the Chihli party a clear course to carry out their plans for peace and reunion.

The proposal is stated to have been approved by the Cabinet and President Tsao and Marshal Wu sent Gen. Lu Ching (Minister of War) and Mr. Hsu Yenpeng to Tientsin as their special representatives, but the Aufu leader refused to receive them. This mission proving unsuccessful, a new plan was arranged, *i.e.*, that the Premier, Mr. Sun Pao-chi, should be sent to Tientsin to meet Marshal Tuan. The idea of this was to make use of the Premier's "name and face" to influence Marshal Tuan and get him to accept the offer. It was proposed, should Marshal Tuan accept, that a presidential mandate should be issued by President Tsao granting him the monthly sum and offering him the same "special good treatment" such as has already been conferred upon the Manchus.

With this plan in view, we are told, the Chihli leaders hoped to leave the Anfu party and other anti-Chihli-ites leaderless. Thus the opposition to the Chihli party would be dissolved automatically and no further fighting would be required. Should Marshal Tuan refuse the offer, the only means at the disposal of Chihli would be military force.

However, the matter has been dropped for the present, we are told, as the attention of Chihli is being concentrated upon Admiral Wen Shih-teh who, it is stated, has seized the gunboats at Tsingtao and is now refusing to obey the orders of Admiral Tu Shih-kuei, the Commander-in-Chief of the Navy. Marshal Chi Shich-yuan, Governor-General of Kiangsu, Anhui and Kiangsi has telegraphed to the Government opposing the actions of Admiral Wen, who, it is reported, is receiving the support of Marshal Wu Pei-fu, and states that Admiral Wen's acts are unfortunate, unfair, and unlawful.

CHINA'S TREASURY BONDS

Attacks on Mr. Wang Ko-ming Unjustified

Peking, Feb. 15.

Three hundred and forty-two members were present in the House of Representatives this afternoon when the House discussed the question of the impeachment of Mr. Wang Ko-ming on the ground that he had issued $1,000,000 worth of Treasury Bonds for the expenses of Legations and Consulates abroad without securing Parliament's sanction. Two hundred and eight-two members voted on the matter, but only 280 name-cards had been inserted in the name-box. Consequently the vote was declared to be informal. The actual result of the voting was 213 in favour of impeachment, 67 against and two informal.

The question of the impeachment of the Finance Minister was adjourned.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Feb. 15.

Various Chinese newspapers not connected with Mr. Wang Ko-ming's party attack on Mr. Wang in connection with the issue of $2,000,000 worth of treasury bonds to provide funds for the upkeep of Legations and Consulates abroad are wholly unjustified, as the issue was made on September 24, whereas Mr. Wang only assumed office on November 1. The papers point that Members of the Parliament should have been acquainted with this fact, which reduces their attacks on Mr. Wang on this matter to an absurdity.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE RUSSO-CHINESE CONFERENCE

Soviet Envoy's Conditions: Abandonment of Extra-territorial Rights

Peking, Feb. 19.

The "Far Eastern Times" to-day publishes the following as conditions and wishes alleged to have been expressed by M. Karakhan, Soviet Envoy in the Far East, regarding the opening of Russo-Chinese Conference:—

(1) The formal restoration of diplomatic relations between Russia and China, the immediate exchange of diplomatic and consular officials and the return to Soviet Russia of the Russian Legation and Consulates in China.

(2) The joint administration of the Chinese Eastern Railway on an equality of conditions and the abolition of all obstacles to the sovereign rights of China within the region attached to the Chinese Eastern Railway.

(3) The recognition of Mongolia as a territory belonging to China and the withdrawal therefrom of all Russian troops, the exact date of the evacuation and matters relating hereto to be decided upon at a conference of the representatives of the two countries.

(4) The abandonment by Russia of her extraterritorial rights as well as her concessions in China, reserving to herself the right to hold property.

(5) The settlement of the question concerning the right of navigation to be effected on a basis of equality.

(6) The organization of a commission which is to readjust boundaries of the two countries.

(7) The conclusion of a treaty of commerce and navigation on the basis of the most-favoured-nation clause.

(8) The abandonment of the Boxer indemnity due to Russia and the disbursement of the money is to be discussed at a joint meeting of the representatives of the two countries.

(9) All the old treaties and agreements concluded between the two countries are to be replaced by the new treaty to be entered into according to the spirit of the proclamations made by the Soviet Government in 1919 and 1920.

It is inferred that the foregoing news has emanated from the representatives of Soviet Russia.—Eastern News Agency.

MONGOLIAN SOVIET REPUBLIC.

Tokio, Feb. 18.

A Moscow report says:—M. Karakhkan is preparing to issue a statement on the subject of a Mongolian Soviet Republic. Though Mongols are averse to Soviet troops being stationed in Mongolia yet Bolshevists have on several occasions been requested to continue the military occupation. M. Karakhan protested to China, recently, about the support given to the rebels in Siberia, saying that if any White army should enter China, the Red army will attack them even within Chinese borders.

The negotiations to conclude a Russo-Mongolian Commercial treaty are still in progress.

The Moscow Government is paying much attention to Mongolian horses as there is need of supplying horses to the Russian cavalry forces.—Eastern News Agency.

MILITARY EXPENSES FOR CHIHLI TROOPS

Peking, Feb. 15.

It is reported in semi-official circles that Marshal Wu Pei-fu has telegraphed to the Government requesting one month's military expenses for the Chihli troops in Loyang, Hunan and Szechuen. The request has been referred to the Cabinet for consideration.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING DAY BY DAY

China and the Soviet: The Matter of Recognition: Gold Franc Question

Peking, Feb. 13.

There is much speculation as to the action which the Chinese Government will take in response to the Note from the Eight Powers on the subject of gold payment of the balance of the Boxer Indemnity. In certain quarters it is freely asserted that China will ask that the dispute be referred to an International Court of Arbitration, but inquiries addressed to official sources elicit the reply that such a statement is premature. A special meeting of the Cabinet had been scheduled for yesterday, but owing to the day being a public holiday the meeting did not take place. The Cabinet, however, will meet to-morrow, when, it is understood, consideration will be given to how best to have the matter discussed.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Feb. 16.

A group of professors of the Government University have written to Dr. Wellington Koo and Dr. C. T. Wang expressing the opinion that the time has come for China to recognize the Soviet Government.

The Diplomats' reply to the Waichiaopu on the gold franc question was again discussed by the Cabinet at the regular meeting this morning. No decision was reached.

Mr. Wu Ching-lian's supporters are striving to oust the Administrative Committee of the House of Representatives, which is carrying on affairs connected with the Speakership, with a view to paving the way for the return of Mr. Wu.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Feb. 18.

Dr. C. W. Wang who returned Peking on the 17th instant has told a Chinese journalist that he intends to open negotiations with Russia first and the question of the recognition will be considered later.—Eastern News Agency.

PARLIAMENT TO BE DISSOLVED.

Peking, Feb. 19.

The semi-official organ, the *"Ching Pao,"* says that there is a probability of the Government taking measures to terminate the present session of Parliament, which the President is entitled to do under the Constitution as the business for which Parliament itself extended its term of office has now been completed. The paper goes on to say that the Government does not see any likelihood of presenting any bills which cannot await the inauguration of a new Parliament.

Commenting on the matter, the journal says that the present Parliament does not aid the Administration, but, rather, is hampering it by its undue severity towards official measures.

Feb. 19.

It is understood that Admiral Wu Yu-lin, the Minister of Communications, who left for Loyang and Nanking this morning, is charged with the mission of removing the friction between Gen. Wu Pei-fu and Gen. Chi Hsieh-yuan over the report that General Wu had offered Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang the Vice-Presidency, to which Gen. Chi aspires.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Some Official Appointments

Peking, Feb. 17.

Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan has recommended Mr. Wei Tsung-lien, Superintendent of Chinese Customs at Ichang, for appointment as Minister abroad. Mr. Wei was formerly in the Consular Service. Marshal Hsiao reports that he has appointed Mr. Chen Chieh, former Commissioner of Foreign Affairs at Wuchang, as his diplomatic adviser.

Marshal Wang Huai-ching left here for Tientsin last evening to make personal inquiries regarding the health of Marshal Tuan Chi-jui.

The Ministry of Commerce has granted the resignation of Mr Chin Juai-chieh, Chief of the Trade Marks Bureau, and has appointed in his stead Mr. Li Cheng. The appointment was gazetted to-day.

Admiral Wu Yu-lin will shortly go to Nanking. It is understood that he intends to consult Marshal Chi and Admiral Tu Hsi-kuai regarding the appointment of Admiral Yen Shu-teh, Commander of the Tsingtao Squadron, as Commissioner of Coast Defence at Pehhai (Chihli Gulf). It is expected that the appointment will be announced on Admiral Wu's return from Nanking.

It is reported to-day that General Li Chi-chen, Chief of Staff to Marshal Wu Pei-fu and Civil Governor of Honan, will succeed General Chang Fu-lai as Tuli of Honan, retaining concurrently the post of Civil Governor.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Gold Francs Issue: Delay in Reply to Diplomatic Body: Friction in the Navy

Peking, Feb. 18.

A group of Mr. Wu Ching-lien's supporters in the House of Representatives, headed by Mr. Lin Shou-hsien, have brought forward an interpellation to the Government asking when the Government intends to reply to the Eight Protocol Powers regarding the gold franc issue, pointing out that the Diplomats' Note was received eight days ago, and urging that the reply be sent within the next five days. The interpellation asks for a definite statement on the attitude of the Government.

It appears that friction has arisen between Admiral Tu Hsi-kuei and Admiral Wen Shu-teh, commander of the Tsingtao squadron, over the occupation of the naval office at Chefoo by marines belonging to the Tsingtao squadron. It is stated in naval circles that, when the squadron reached Chefoo, marines were landed and occupied the naval office, and complaint is made that this was done without notice being given of their intention to do so or receiving authority to occupy the premises. On learning what had been done, Admiral Tu Hsi-kuei became angry, and it is believed that the object of Admiral Wu Yu-lin's contemplated journey to Nanking is to mollify Admiral Tu. The date of Admiral Wu's departure has not yet been announced.

MILITARY COMMISSIONERSHIP.

Feb. 21.

The Cabinet this morning decided to abolish the post of High Military Commissioner for Amoy and Changchow, at present held by Gen. Tsang Chim-ping, creating instead a Military Commissionership of Amoy, to which Gen. Cheng Yi is appointed.

The Cabinet also appointed Gen. Teng Peng-ying Military Commissioner of Kiungchow and Hainan.

Chinese circles believe that a conference, which will open shortly at Loyang, will lead to important developments. The subjects for discussion at the conference will be mediation between the Naval Leaders, plans for the election of a Vice-President, co-operation in the forthcoming Parliamentary election and plans for the proposed expedition against Canton.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A CUSTOMS CONFERENCE

Peking, Feb. 12.

It is reported on good authority that the Government has decided to hold a conference to discuss the question of the International Conference regarding Chinese Customs dues. Premier Sun will preside and Dr. W.W. Yen, Dr. Koo, Mr. Kao Ling-wei, Mr. Wang Ko-ming and Admiral Tsai will be present. It is expected that a regular commission will be formed which will meet periodically.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Marshal Tuan Chi-jui will celebrate his 60th birthday next month. Both President Tsao Kun and Marshal Wu Pei-fu are planning to have some distinctive honour conferred on him.

Still more fighting 'planes have been added to Marshal Chang Tso-lin's Air Force. A score of aeroplanes of the latest French design have just arrived in Mukden from Tientsin, these having been ordered by the younger Gen. Chang (Chang Hsiao-ling), who is Director of the Mukden Aviation Bureau.

pose to be insular. Every nation is in varying degrees and in the case of America the immensity of the land, the exciting preoccupations of its development and its geographical remoteness from Europe, which only the past two decades have really lessened and only the war obliterated, must guide men's minds in channels wholly aloof from European affairs. And just as the British Government was always a stage behind public thought in the conduct of the war, so American officials would appear to be behind the best national opinion in breaking with the tradition of insularity. It would be useless to deny that there is a large section of Americans who believe that their country's duty is to follow her own destinies in "splendid isolation." But there is, if not a larger, certainly a more influential section which recognizes with growing conviction that the boundaries of country and language are largely artificial, that the world is but one family, in which no member can be satisfied "to allow his brother to go to the devil in his own way", and that the independence which Washington proclaimed, the freedom which he inspired and the strong moral sense which he bequeathed through the form of the Constitution were but the means of fitting the American people for the great part which they must sooner or later take in helping the spread of those same virtues and privileges throughout the globe. The average American is certainly anything but ungenerous as a thousand benefactions eloquently prove, but he hates to be "done" or as he himself would say to "have one *put* over on him"; and he is rather afraid that that is what Europe just now is trying to do. Let him once be reassured on that point, and as we said above millions of him need no reassurance, and his help will be as lavishly forthcoming as it was in the war.

Owing to failing health, Mr. Gilbert Lyall, has retired on the December 31 from the position of London manager of the Union Insurance Co. of Canton, after 42 years' service with the society, and its associated office, the North China Insurance Co. Mr. Lyall's passing from business life is a matter of extreme regret among colleagues in the underwriting rooms of the offices and at Lloyd's. He was active in the preparation of a number of important policy clauses, in which his wide knowledge of legal questions was found invaluable. Mr. Lyall is a brother of Mr. L. A. Lyall, Commissioner of Customs, Shanghai.

Lord Knutsford, who has just succeeded in raising £160,000 for the London Hospital within eight weeks, is a person of infinite resource, and it may be added, of infinite assiduity, in getting subscriptions for that institution. It is related that the late Mr. Kennedy Jones once put an advertisement in the "Times" asking someone to find a fortnight's employment for an honest, hard-working man badly in need of a job. The man was promptly engaged by Lord Knutsford, and given the job of calling every day on Mr. Kennedy Jones and asking him to subscribe to the London Hospital —which benefited accordingly. Still, even the "Prince of Beggars" occasionally comes a cropper. "Some people," writes Lord Knutsford, "are so circumstanced as to be impregnable to all attacks. To a lady whose subscription was considerably in arrear I wrote: 'I hope I am not to think of you as a lost sheep.' That letter came back endorsed: 'Please do not think the lady you wrote to has been dead some years.'"

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Case of Pirmasens

The wild climax of the German Separatist movement which has just been reached at Pirmasens in the Bavarian Palatinate is likely to appeal to people in very different ways according to how they judge the European situation. It was certainly a peculiar outburst. A Separatist movement was talked about in German Rhineland as long as four years ago, and the spread of its principles to the Pirmasens and setting on foot a Palatinate was as natural an event as could be conceived. A few months back the movement took tangible shape, but it excited apparently no more interest in the parts of the country affected than would a political controversy in England. The more curious it is, therefore, to find infuriated mobs suddenly turning upon the Separa- regular man-hunt. Those people who are invariably suspicious of everything that Germanv does will doubtless say that the outbreak of the populace was engineered from headquarters, and it is interesting to note a delicate innuendo in the French Wireless where it says that former German officers of the counter-espionage service had a hand in it. Should this prove to be the case, it may well be put down to a skilful and certainly successful scheme of the German authorities to bring to an end an inconvenient movement. On the other hand one able British investigator, Mr. R. H. Clive, has to all intents and purposes corroborated the view that the whole Separatist movement was artificial, and apparently he believed it to be fostered from the outside. This being so, the presence of the Separatist agitators would prove an irritation to the communities where they stationed themselves, and irritation would readily increase to anger if not worse when the people recognized the menace to their peace which they imported. And when a community is fully aroused, it is only one step to mob law.

Respect of Treaties

One does not altogether envy Herr Von Hoesch his task of opening up the German Embassy in Paris, and the awkwardness that he would naturally feel was probably in nowise diminished by the punctilious but terrible politeness with which the presentation of his credentials at the Elysée was surrounded. Nor did President Millerand fail to improve the shining hour. But apropos of respect for treaties, one point of view may be emphasized which is too commonly ignored by those who find them inconvenient. A treaty is none the less binding because it is as the catchphrase goes "extorted by force." Two nations go to war with one another, and at a certain point of the encounter, one says to the other, "If you have had enough, I am willing to leave off, if you in turn will promise to do certain things." Which the defeated nation accordingly promises or does not promise, according to whether it feels able to keep up the struggle. But having promised and having, in return, been permitted to get up again and metaphorically dust its clothes, it is morally bound to perform to the utmost of its ability. Whether the terms are harsh or not, whether the war was just or unjust, is beside the point. It is extremely regrettable that force counts for more in the world than moral suasion and everything that mankind can do to eliminate the rule of the one and instate the other should be done. War is a ghastly, hateful thing. But the fact that it has preceded a treaty does not make the promises given in that treaty by the defeated side any the less binding and the morality of the world is not improved by pretending otherwise.

Shanghai's Neutrality

Bellicose rumours are again in the air. War preparation are reported in North China and in our midst. Chang Tso-lin is to go inside the Great Wall and Chêkiang is to attack Nanking. Hangchow and Nanking are preparing for the fray. Plenty of money is to be wasted by bankrupt China; trade is to be stopped; all that a few Tuchuns may enjoy a little outdoor sport. In all these plots and preparations Shanghai has a very vital interest, knowing as she does how they will affect the well-being of the population here, both foreign and Chinese. The trade of the port has suffered severely because of wars remote from here, and in the same way the rumours which have been abroad for months now with scarce a cessation have badly undermined confidence in business circles. Needless to say the present state of affairs will very quickly put an end to the dreams of a prosperous new cycle, and if things come to their worst there will be disaster, especially if the environs of Shanghai are affected by warfare. It is a well-known fact that the Chinese merchants and public bodies of Shanghai are strongly opposed to becoming mixed up in any of the political squabbles of the country, and last year they greatly deplored the coming of a section of Peking's Parliament, some going so far as to protest and ask the M.P.'s to take themselves off. They will feel even more strongly should the armies of rival Tuchuns proceed to manœuvre in the near vicinity, and their views ought to be brought prominently before these leaders. They know that protests against distant wars are unavailing, but, as in the case of the Parliament, their demand that this district should be kept neutral ought to carry weight. If it does not, it may prove to be somebody else's business to secure that neutrality and it will probably be done.

The Stay-In Strike

A shipping man has shed some light upon the manner in which a "stay-in" strike such as London proposes will succeed in paralyzing shipping. The men at present receive a weekly wage for working a certain number of hours per day, but as anybody acquainted with great docks knows, they are constantly called upon to work overtime so that ships may sail according to their time-table. The "stay-in" strikers now propose to work only their regular hours and no overtime, and in the circumstances it will readily be seen that within a very few days harbours will become congested and all sailings will be late. Accordingly first of all the shipowners will begin to lose money, and then in cases where goods are waiting to be but have not been loaded on to railway wagons merchants will have to pay demurrage as well as warehouse costs, and so also lose money. The reply to such a strike should naturally be a lock-out, but in such a case the master stevedores or the dock owners (harbour trustees or whatever their name is) would render themselves liable to shipowners, merchants and everybody else for damages for delay. The strike clause would not operate in such a case. A very powerful weapon seems to have been forged in the "stay-in strike," and obviously the only shield against it is a combine of dock-owners, shippers and shipowners, perhaps even railway companies. Probably it would be welcome, for if people dislike a strike, they will dislike a canny strike a great deal more, and this is what the last case amounts to.

A Belgian Father's Death

On Christmas Day, in the Belgian Catholic Mission at Hokiao, near Suiyuan, Mongolia, the Rev. Father Achille Soenen was murdered, being shot in his own house. Through Chinese news agencies various accounts of the tragedy have been published, the most amazing being that the Rev. Father was shot because he had been engaged in trafficking in arms. While the sheer improbability of this version, even although it received some sort of Chinese official sanction, would suggest itself to all foreigners and most Chinese, the friends of the murdered priest are anxious that the matter should be cleared up once and for all, so that no hint of scandal may remain. Briefly put, the case was as follows. After supper on Christmas Day Father Soenen and his companion Father Leemans were sitting at home, when four unknown men entered the building and asked for medicine. Father Soenen went to his dispensary cupboard to get it, and not suspecting anything Father Leemans strolled out of doors. The latter suddenly heard gunshots, but being without arms realized the impossibility of doing anything to assist his colleague, and decided that the only course was concealment. When he was able to emerge Father Soenen was in the mission garden, dying, and all he was able to say was *"Gloria Deo."* Investigation set on foot proved that the murder was committed by disbanded soldiers who were on a looting expedition; they had come a distance of 90 *li*, and apparently were intent on securing some arms kept in the mission for its defence. The fact that there were these arms has been utilized by Chinese officials to produce the most defamatory statements, the principal being that Father Soenen was murdered by his own Christian followers because he was engaged in trafficking in arms. The case, of course, is that not only must these outlying missions arm themselves to ward off the attacks of bandits and soldiers, but in some cases fortifications have had to be constructed and the Christian Chinese used as sentries. Considering that missions have been sacked and missionaries carried off, the need for such measures is transparent, and so bad is the case that Msgr. van Dyck has called in the most exposed of the missionaries. All of which makes the recent libel more hideous.

Pro Patria

The suggestion made by Major C. M. Manners at the annual general meeting of the United Services Association, to the effect that the Association should take some steps to entertain British children on Empire Day, in order to bring home to them the reality of the British Empire and to instil in their minds further feelings of patriotism, an increased appreciation of what the Empire stands for, a realization of what it means to them, and a keener understanding of what the men of the Empire fought for and its women suffered for during the years 1914/1918, is one worthy of consideration; and it is sincerely to be hoped that the United Services Association will submit to the Empire Day Committee (on which the Association is not represented), recommendations and suggestions on the lines indicated by Major Manners. In this matter of a national day, when special efforts should be made to bring home to the minds of our children the might, the majesty and the ideals of the Empire, we Britons in China appear to have been, comparatively, somewhat lax, if not actually neglectful. It should be borne in mind that there is no single school in Shanghai at which the children are exclusively British, and in this matter at least the British children here appear to be at a disadvantage in comparison with those at Home and in the Colonies, where instruction and enlightenment on the Empire are made much of. Suitable arrangements in regard to Shanghai need be neither difficult nor elaborate and, as Major Manners so pertinently remarked, no day would be more suited to the purpose than Empire Day which, year after year, is attaining a deeper and a wider significance, both in Great Britain and in the Colonies. The subject will no doubt receive the careful consideration of the four British patriotic societies (St. Andrew's, St. George's, St. Patrick's and St. David's) which, we believe we are correct in stating, make themselves responsible for Empire Day celebrations in Shanghai.

The Pilferage of Cargo

In connexion with the British Chamber of Commerce discussions last week we published a leading article on the subject of the great evil of cargo pilferage within the Harbour, and in it mention was made of a case in which laodahs, brokers and loaders carried out a wholesale theft, disappearing with a consignment of cargo valued at over Tls. 6,000. The statement was made that neither boat nor cargo had been heard of since. A reader points out that this does not accord with the facts, and inquires we have made in consequence elicit an interesting story of successful work carried out by the River Police. It transpires that six days after the theft the River Police with the aid of the Woosung Constabulary arrested the laodah of the missing boat, four loafers and an ex-laodah. They also traced another boatman together with more than half the stolen goods to the village of Yangkoung, the man being arrested and this portion of the stolen goods recovered. Further stolen cargo was traced to the island of Tsungming and a receiver there was arrested, the property recovered being restored to the owner. Altogether the River Police arrested eight principals and two lesser ones connected with the robbery, and recovered approximately Tls. 5,000 worth of the stolen property as well as the cargo boat. Naturally we are anxious to give full credit to the River Police for this fine piece of work and to congratulate Superintendent Mellows and his staff. This, however, does not alter the principal aspect of the case with which we dealt. However hard the Police work they are not a sufficiently large body to deal adequately with the evil stalking abroad through the Harbour, and the fact that it is possible for a boat and Tls. 6,000 worth of cargo to disappear for a week must strengthen the case for better protection in the port.

Japan's Labour Party

The success of the Labour movement in Great Britain in placing Mr. Ramsay Macdonald in power, is apparently exercising a profound influence in Japan, and it is by no means unlikely that a similar influence may spread elsewhere. The newspaper *"Yomiuri"* indicates the change in sentiment which has come about thereby, and which can only be described as extremely interesting and important. During the years it has worked as a political entity, Labour in Japan has been in the position of seeing little immediate hope of success attending its aims, and urged on by international organizations has steadily been drifting to communism and even anarchism. In time to prevent such a disaster three events have taken place. First of all there is a general movement towards manhood suffrage in Japan itself, and the moment this comes about the aspirations of Labour will have a much greater chance of being fulfilled than ever before. In the next place it has been seen how the middle classes have co-operated with the working classes in the last British election in returning Labour candidates and how the Liberal Party is giving a large measure of support to Labour. The third point is that Labour is now in power in Britain. Here is a very important success in Great Britain attained by purely constitutional means, and it has had the effect of diverting the attention of the Japanese Labour Party from Communism and worse and to raise the hope in their breasts that they also may finally achieve a similar success by similar means. If this fresh outlook on affairs can be continued and extended the advent of a Labour Cabinet in Britain will have proved an important element in the peaceful progress of the world.

Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan and Mr. Han Kuo-chun (Military and Civil Governors of Kiangsu) gave a dinner on Saturday evening in honour of the foreign members of the Nanking community, the occasion being the Spring Festival day. Governor-General Chi acted as toastmaster and in a few words expressed his friendship for the foreigners and his happy relations with them ever since he had entered into a political life. There were about 30 guests in all. All regretted the absence of Mr. J. T. Pratt, C.M.G., H.M. Consul-General who went to Shanghai on very important business and to attend the opening of the Building of the *"Tzelinpao."*

although it undoubtedly does very useful work in this respect. Realizing this position, as motor-car owners should do, the suggestion has been put before us that a combination of the insurance companies and an institution such as the Automobile Association might come to an arrangement to employ watchmen under police supervision to guard the places where cars are usually parked, and this is an idea which might prove fruitful. It is stated that in view of the very great number of motor thefts in the United States, insurance companies there are now only insuring against third-party risks, leaving out the other accident and theft clauses, and as this so greatly emphasizes the accessibility of the car to the purposes of the thief, owners here may take a hint from it. As yet cars cannot be transported out of the Shanghai district to elsewhere—at least no case has been reported—but cars being shipped from here to Hankow and other ports by steamer have been stripped of everything movable, so that when one has to be thus carried it is found advisable to detach all movable parts and send them separately. In view of the state of affairs noted the opinion has been expressed in insurance circles that sooner rather than later rates must be increased in Shanghai, and it seems a fair thing to suggest that some system, such as that of watchmen, or a better one if it can be devised, should be inaugurated by those interested in an effort to deal with the evil. If these latest thefts mean that we are in for another bad spell of pilferage, now is certainly the time to take action.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE FRANC

Feb. 21.

There will be plenty of people to say, of the decline of the franc, "we told you so," and with the gathering momentum of a five-franc drop since yesterday, to prophesy still deeper abysses. For once a currency begins to crumble, as the world well knows, there is no telling what will become of it. The greatest anxiety will be felt as to whether the Government's financial reform—twenty per cent. increase of taxation, special machinery to prevent evasions and catch profiteers and the right to impose economies in expenditure by decree—will stop the rot. The difficulty in trying to form an opinion is the untrustworthy nature of news from France. The wireless service is, almost shamelessly, official propaganda. Agency telegrams, if not actually censored, strike one as being subject to very clearly understood limitations. On several occasions in the past twelve months M. Poincaré's policy in the Ruhr has been submitted to the Chamber's approval and always has emerged triumphantly. The last occasion was on January 18 when the vote of confidence in the Government was passed by 115 to 151. Yet only three weeks later an article by M. Sauerwein in the "*Matin*," believed to have been officially inspired, caused general sensation by advocating radical recasting of the Ruhr policy. The inspiration was denied next day. But there was enough in the opposition press on this subject and in the strenuous resistance to the Government's new financial measures to suggest that, whatever an obedient majority may vote in the Palais Bourbon, the country is very uneasy.

It is to this uneasiness and not to any of the normal causes seen in other countries that the franc's collapse appears attributable. Industrially France is reported to be most active, enviably so indeed from a British point of view; the occupation of the Ruhr has not brought in what was expected, but at least according to Government claims it has paid for itself and even netted a surplus of Frs. 506 millions; and the paper currency has not been notably increased. The explanation then of the fall of the franc must be looked for elsewhere. In the opinion of good judges it is due to the fact that the French people, particularly the peasant class, are losing confidence. Instead of hoarding francs as they have done from time immemorial, they are turning them into things more stable as quickly as they can, purchasing land, dollars and sterling. And meanwhile the bourgeoisie of the cities, the vast army of people on fixed incomes, must sell what they can to meet the increased cost of living. We are told that Government loans do not meet with success and even the advocate of a lottery loan, to take the place of increased taxation, when advancing his proposal in the Chamber felt bound to allow for the possibility of its not being filled. In such circumstances something decidedly more fundamental than fiscal changes and the closing of the Bourse de Commerce to prevent daily quotations from spreading a panic are needed.

There can be no understanding French politics and policy which does not recognize that the antagonism between French and Germans is as racial as that between cat and dog, as old as history and probably older. And the motive of all M. Poincaré's action is national self-preservation. While France still has the upper hand over Germany she endeavours to assure herself as far ahead as it is humanly possible to foresee against Germany's resurgence. She has bolstered up Poland with money and munitions and allied herself with Czecho-Slovakia; and thus although the proposed loan to Rumania is not to come off, she endeavours to make sure of the Little Entente—Rumania, Czecho-Slovakia, Jugo-Slavia and Poland. Northwards, through Belgium she reaches out for an understanding with Holland and Denmark and the new Baltic republics Latvia, Esthonia and Lithuania. It is a chain of alliances and ententes from North Sea to Black Sea to ring round Germany. Again, her answer to British complaints regarding war debts of which not even the interest has been paid would probably be something like this: "It is true that I am lending money to Poland and elsewhere instead of paying you. But I I have not the least intention of repudiating my debt. I will pay you when I can. But as you and America disappointed me of the guarantee against unprovoked assault by Germany that I was led to expect, I must first make myself secure by other means. It is obviously wiser for you to wait patiently. For if I go under, you will never get anything." The logic of this position from a French point of view is irresistible. But as suggesting any prospects of an outlet from the present intolerable deadlock in the Ruhr it is not promising. This is the problem, the basis of all differences between France and Britain, that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald has set himself to solve and it is easier to find solutions in newspaper interviews than in fact.

BRITAIN'S AERIAL DEFENCE

Feb. 22.

The doctrine enunciated this week by the British Under-Secretary for Air cannot fail to create grave misgivings in the minds of a very large section of the populace. The weakness of our Air Force is made the subject of earnest representations to the Government, and apparently the Under-Secretary would dismiss the matter with nothing further than a reference to Labour's academic theory of peace and war. To the Under-Secretary's way of thinking the Great War knocked the bottom out of the time-honoured and tested maxim, *Si vis pacem para bello*, and because he quite rightly concludes that the nations which made the greatest preparation for war ultimately got most of it, he is not alarmed if our defences fall below the margin of safety which is called for by military experts. To replace this margin he offers a pious hope of aerial disarmament and something in the shape of a belief in the moral regeneration of nations. The doctrine scares us, for if Labour believes that the world is in a pacific frame of mind to-day the average man certainly does not, and has good grounds for his opinion. The practical position which Britain to-day has to consider is that France has a thousand first-line aeroplanes against a hundred possessed by Great Britain, and what we want to know is whether we are justified in allowing this disparity in strength to continue.

In a case like the present outside opinion is often extremely useful, and we have a very candid view of the situation presented by Italy which may show us how we stand in a way that a great many of us do not usually envisage. Italy may, of course, be altogether wrong, but as an outsider, though an interested one, she must be given credit for seeing more of the game than the participants. The Italian view is that Great Britain would long ago have taken up a very different attitude with regard to German reparations than her late mild and indecisive one, only that she was afraid of breaking with France because of the latter's predominance in the air. Italian observers seem to think that France could almost dictate to us, and that as matters stand we could only feebly protest and at the best pursue a policy leading to nowhere in particular. In the strictly military sense the Italians are probably right, but it is hardly the sort of view which would appeal to the British public. For four and a half years we became a military nation, but on the whole we seem to have employed the time since then in forgetting the principles we learned. While, therefore, the public would probably pooh-pooh the theory just mentioned, politicians of experience realize how it affects them and how it ties their hands, and hence the concern of the Conservative Party over the state of our Air Force. It is altogether repugnant to the average Briton to suggest a breach with France, but our politicians and military advisers have an altogether different outlook to take on the matter, and if they do not prepare for eventualities they will be criminally at fault. The moral regeneration of nations, thus ensuring universal peace, may come sooner than we generally anticipate, but as a factor in the defence of any country to-day it leaves much to be taken on trust. A little bit of Cromwell is not to be despised, and his "Trust in God and keep your powder dry" seems perfectly sound advice to-day.

When it comes to this question of aerial defence the Labour Government shows no more originality of thought than any of its predecessors. It is heading towards the same state of unpreparedness that has been characteristic of British Governments from time immemorial. Moreover, Mr. Leach, the Under-Secretary for Air, confuses two great military considerations, and this makes matters ever so much worse. He says that all the nations that prepared most for war got the most war, but he omits the corollary of this, that the nations who found themselves uninsured for peace were almost as badly off. It is one thing to prepare forces with the idea of an offensive war, and a very different one to regard them as an insurance policy, and make provision accordingly but not beyond. This is all that the Conservatives are asking to-day, and their demand is an absolutely proper one. Labour replies with talk of an aerial disarmament conference, but how would Britain with her hundred first-line machines be able to contend at the council table with a nation possessing a thousand? There could be little hope of any substantial agreement on a proportion likely to ensure world peace. Then from the Cabinet comes the argument that even if we increase our Air Force we shall not be able to stop raids on our territory. That is perfectly true, but given an adequate number of fighting machines we shall be ready to carry the greater part of the war into the enemy's territory and so employ him there that he will have less time for operations in ours. We ought to be in a position to do this, but apparently the Labour Cabinet prefers depending upon what are after all untried theories. We in China should note these debates and indications of policy with more than ordinary interest, for if one branch of the Services is being treated in this manner, the others, on which we reply much more out here, may find themselves following suit.

Despite his looks Lao Yan-jen who was recently executed appears to have dominated his bandit armies. Mrs. Kilen upon her release from captivity stated that she had seen him ride up and down the line many times urging his 20,000 followers on and keeping them on the alert against the troops.

We learn from the Chinese press that various labour organizations in Shanghai—among them the Spinners' and Weavers' Union, the Hunan Labour Bureau, the Hupeh Labour Society, the Printers' Guild, and the Beef and Mutton Dealers' Union—are arranging a reception in honour of M. Karakhan, the Soviet representative, shortly expected to arrive in Shanghai. The Beef and Mutton merchants should be able to contribute substantially towards international amenities.

THE BIRTHDAY AND AFTERWARD

Feb. 23.

The occasion of Washington's Birthday must certainly not pass without expression of those convey, on the British comhearty felicitations which it is our pleasant duty annually to munity's behalf, to our American fellow residents. The weather yesterday was almost as bleak as February knows how to be; but we do not think that this made any difference to the day's festivities; and at least as regards the ball, whatever argument there may have been over the choice of locality, there were no two opinions as to the evening's being a splendid success. It is natural that the Americans should exceed almost every other people in the enthusiasm with which they celebrate the national fête. When Washington is spoken of as "the Father of his country" the ancestry is near enough to make them feel a personal share both in his distinction and in all the national development that has followed since his declaration of independence. One of our correspondents to-day—may we without breach of confidence say that he is *not* British—recalls a certain episode from Washington's diary which appears slightly at variance with the cherry-tree story. But the incident related merely gives us a new appreciation of the humanity of Washington's character. There can assuredly be no reflexion on its essential integrity.

That characteristic, as reflected in the democracy of the state that he fathered, is finely illustrated to-day in the so-called oil lease scandal. To a superficial view that scandal does not present a very agreeable picture. We are not prejudging the case. But, at any rate, the charge is that a man in high position has been using his office to feather his nest, and everyday's telegrams serve to cast suspicion in some new direction. But the wide publicity given to the Teapot Dome story and the burning interest taken in it by the American people are the finest possible testimony to the national consciousness and the vigour of American democracy. In China there is also a democracy so-called. But it is unhappily notorious that officials look upon public property and national resources as their own perquisite, treating the masses of the people as their servants and enriching themselves with impunity: and there is no one with courage and determination enough to challenge their actions. Until the people of China take a greater interest in their own government and its activities and insist that the component members of that government shall remember that they exercise a national stewardship, there can be no democracy worthy of the name. In America, the mere suspicion that a public servant has betrayed his trust rouses every citizen, whose whole instinct is, with the French king, that *l'état c'est moi*, and he insists that there shall be the fullest possible sifting of the whole scandal, no matter what public washing of dirty linen it may involve—the more public indeed, the better—no matter whose head may fall.

Signs are not wanting that this keen sense of propriety in domestic affairs is beginning to extend also to international. It is not in the least surprising if the American people are dis

MR. BESSEL'S INJURY

Condition Serious: Legation Pressing for Arrest of Culprit Col. Chen

Peking, Feb. 16.

The condition of Mr. Bessel, the traffic inspector of the Peking-Mukden line who was assaulted on February 1 at Fengtai station by a party of Chinese soldiers, is proving to be more serious than it was at first thought and it will probably be necessary to bring him to Peking for an operation shortly. There seems to be grave danger of a permanent injury.

The British Legation is pressing for the arrest of Colonel Chen, whose vicious kick inflicted the principal injury, but he seems to be protected by the militarists, over whom the Ministry of War's control is only nominal.

The Waichiaopu is doing all that is possible, but so far has met with no success.

Later.

It appears that Colonel Chen is the Hupeh likin collector and that the Government has instructed Gen. Hsiao Yao-nan to arrest him.

It is now officially stated that a soldier inflicted the kick and that he has already been arrested and is awaiting trial at Peking.

Feb. 17.

Three doctors examined Mr. Bessel to-day and decided that he should come to Peking for an operation.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Feb. 19.

The British Legation is pressing hard for the arrest of Colonel Chen, in connexion with the assault on Mr. Bessel, the traffic inspector, at Fengtai station on February 1.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PRESBYTERIANS AND NANKING SEMINARY

From a Correspondent.

Missionary readers of the "North-China Daily News" will be interested in a recent meeting at Chinkiang of the North Kiangsu Mission, one of the two large missions of the American Southern Presbyterian church, the other being the Mid-China Mission. Your correspondent did not attend the sessions nor has he before him a written and exact copy of the actions taken, but has heard them at length from an intimate friend who was present in voting capacity.

The specific question before the N. K. Mission was its attitude toward Nanking Seminary, a Union institution which has for some years been a storm centre. This school of theology was founded about 20 years ago by the Northern and Southern Presbyterians, and enlarged eight or 10 years later, admitting to the board of control the Disciples and the Northern and Southern Methodists. Several of these denominations have more than one mission in this part of China, each of which has its representative on the Board of Managers, which at present consists of eight or more foreign members and about the same number from the various branches of the Chinese church.

MODERNIST *v.* CONSERVATIVE.

Your correspondent is not in possession of all the facts, but as far as he has been able to learn there is not now nor has there been any friction along denominational lines and beliefs as such. The conflict has come along the lines of Modernism *versus* Conservatism, a problem with which nearly every denomination the world over is more or less concerned to-day. While the institution was founded as out-and-out Conservative, Modernistic teaching began to creep in several years ago and towards its eradication this controversy has been aimed. And if I am correctly informed, the effort of the Presbyterians has been largely successful, the present teaching staff on the field being acceptable even to the Conservatives. What the present row is about is not easy to explain or understand without going deeper into the merits of the controversy than is permissible here but briefly may be stated as follows:

While the North Kiangsu Mission has investigated and "sustained" the examinations of all on the field they claim that nothing is really settled. That the objectionable men have not been removed by Board action but by the accident of sickness and furlough and acceptance of other work and no safeguards against their return or others of like faith can be secured from the present Board of Managers. Believing that the battle is certain to be opened again and the same long continued fight ensue, the North Kiangsu Mission by an overwhelming majority voted to withdraw from the institution.

But there are two sides to every question. Other denominations in the union declare their right to put into the institution men of their own choice. They point out that at present as from the start the school has been dominated by the Southern Presbyterians, the latter having now five men out of 11 on the faculty and it is nothing more than fair that the others should have freedom in selecting their men. They claim that they have conceded generously all that they could be expected to concede and naturally feel that the North Kiangsu action is precipitate and unfair.

A SHARP DISSENSION.

But there is another angle to this affair of even greater interest to those nearby. John Doe's neighbours are interested in knowing whether he is a Republican or Democrat, Unionist or Labourite, but they are infinitely more interested in the smashing of the crockery and the thud, of the rolling pin that proceed from the Doe docicile in the efforts of John and Mary Doe to prevail the one against the other in a family argument as to how to keep the home happy. And the present moment finds the two Southern Presbyterian Missions utterly unable to agree.

The Mid-China Mission at its meeting passed a resolution of confidence in the Seminary.

North Kiangsu, its sister mission, now votes to pull out.

Mid-China asks North Kiangsu to have a joint meeting on the whole subject in order to present to the home courts a united report.

North Kiangsu declines the request and goes ahead on her own.

For many the centre of interest has shifted from the Seminary to the conflict between these sister missions. A decision on the case can only be reached by the General Assembly of their church which meets in May. One may not agree with North Kiangsu, but it must be admitted that she has furnished the "ingredients" for a perfectly lovely scrap and it would seem that somebody has either to win or lose in a clear cut manner.

JAPAN AND THE SOVIET

Tokio, Feb. 19.

Japan's policy *vis-à-vis* Russia remains unchanged. She is desirous of resuming full relations with Russia provided outstanding questions are settled, according to a statement by Baron Matsui, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in reply to an interview with M. Karakhan by Japanese correspondents in Peking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A Moscow telegram of interest and importance, if authentic, was published in "New Shanghai Life" on Wednesday. The message stated that the Soviet authorities have presented a Note to the Japanese Consul at Vladivostok stating that in consequence of the rejection of Soviet proposals for the resumption of normal relations between the two countries, the Soviet Government sees no reason why Japanese officials should remain in territory of the Union of Soviet Socialistic Republics. Moreover, in view of their being opposed in principle to mutual agreement, and in the absence of judicial connexion, their presence in the Republic is unjustifiable.

THE Draft Restricting Channels on the Lower Yangtze, Woosung-Hankow, are reported to be in a very good condition, and with the present extraordinary rise of the river, a vessel of 18-feet draft can reach Hankow with safety, a somewhat unusual occurrence for this time of the year.

IMITATING FOREIGN GOODS

One Reason for Shansi's Sudden Prosperity? Customers Asked to Buy Alleged "Native" Wares

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kiangchow, Sha., Feb. 6.

Everywhere there are new native manufacturies, but they are of the kind that seldom require new premises. Goods of various kinds are being produced for local use in out-of-the way corners. Many of these products are imitations of foreign goods, and "Support native industry" is the motto.

Spinning, weaving, knitting and kindred industries are meeting native demands.

The improvement of a rough kind of delf ware is also becoming a big industry in the hills and goods are being manufactured on a scale which promises considerable development of the industries concerned. What a contrast to conditions a few years ago! This province is surely stumbling along the path of progress despite many mistakes and obstacles.

People say that the collection of small accounts this year was easier than it has been for many years. Ready money even if only the paper notes now gaining favour seemed available everywhere. Despite losses by old-fashioned firms on account largely of being out of touch with the export market conditions at the coast, there is an air of prosperity in all the cities.

ANTI-OPIUM MEASURES.

The Anti-Narcotic Society is much in evidence. There is no doubt that the promoters of this society are actuated by the best and purest of motives, yet it is difficult to find public-spirited people in each place who will carry out their high ideals. The society are, of course, chiefly handicapped by the fact that the chief users and dealers in narcotics are either the millionaires and their sattelites or officials. Each *hsien* has official orders to organize a branch of this society, with so many honorary officials, and paid agents for each.

The latter spend 20 days per month in visiting villages, in each of which they are supposed to check up the number of *yen min* (people addicated to smoking). These are all supposed to be gradually overcoming the habit and it is of course taken for granted that there are no fresh victims to the habit, and that officials and gentry are above suspicion.

We know of course that the Governor and his own immediate friends give no countenance to slipshod procedure. But even the most vigorous officials find it no easy task to grapple with the conditions in the villages.

MODERN UGLINESS.

The passion for glass shop fronts, and to disfigure the streets with ugly jerry-built erections with crude and weird embellishments is spreading throughout the province. Even this very conservative city is becoming a victim to the popular craze. The really artistic and the picturesque is fast disappearing. What is thought to be "Modern Universal Style" is taking its place. The prevailing features seem to be false facades, usually mis-shaped with dummy clocks, Republican flags and blue floral borderings in fresco on stucco—usually all of very inferior quality and execution. Thus the face of Shansi's cities is changing. Street paving is having some attention.

At present cattle disease is rampant. A fatal form of measles is also claiming many victims among the children. Possibly the mortality may be due to treatment more than to the disease.

GEN. FENG YU-HSIANG

The Christian General whose Wedding took place on Tuesday.

NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Last Day of Biennial Conference

The Fifth Biennial Conference of the Naitonal Medical Association at Southeastern University, Nanking, came to a successful termination on the 12th instant.

The 100 delegates who attended the conference were always prompt and regular in their attendance, displaying a marvellous spirit of unity and co-operation. Practically all of them,—a few were forced to leave owing to pressure of their own work—remained until the conference was brought to a successful conclusion. Some 40 interesting and valuable papers were read. An exhibition of medical books and medicines was this year a noteworthy feature of the conference.

Papers on the following topics were read at the closing session:—"Acute intestinal obstruction—a plea for early diagnosis and treatment" (Dr. S. F. Li); "Twilight sleep in China" (Dr. M. H. D. Ling); "Remarks on incidences of certain diseases among Europeans and Chinese" (Dr. W. H. Chun); "The use of colloidal gold and colloidal silver" (Dr. T. T. Chu); "Experimental studies of false anise" (Dr. P. C. Kiang); "Saline solution in the treatment of erysipelas" (Dr. C. C. Wong); "Study of 300 cases of leucorrhea" (Dr. Arthur Woo).

Dr. John Kirk, President of the China Medical Missionary Association, Dr. P. W. Kuo, President of Southeastern University, and Dr. David Yui, General Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., were elected honorary members of the National Medical Association.

AMERICAN GUNBOATS ON THE YANGTZE

The Late Capt. Brandt's Death

Commenting recently in San Francisco on the murder of Captain J. F. Brandt, while on the run upriver, Comm. J. F. Nielsen, U.S.N. who formerly served on the Yangtze River, said:—

"The killing by Chinese bandits of Captain J. F. Brandt, master of the str. Tze Hsui, a Chinese-owned boat running between Ichang and Chungziang, on the Yangtze river, gives new proof of the need for stronger naval forces on the Yangtze.

Comm. Nielsen, it will be remembered, gave the readers of the "North-China Daily News" a short *resumé* of these conditions several months before the death of Captain Brandt.

Continuing he declared,

"American gunboats on the Yangtze are ready for the scrap heap." Their speed is about 11 knots, while the river at high water runs in some of the rapids as fast as 15 knots. This necessitates the employment of Chinese coolies to haul these ships over the swift parts of the river.

"The upper Yangtze is patrolled by ten foreign gunboats, four Japanese, two English and two American. The Japanese boats all have high power and are up to date. All the others are obsolete.

"The chaos in China demands a stronger naval force to protect the lives and commerce of Americans and other foreigners on the great Chinese waterway."

CHEKIANG'S NEW YEAR

Salvoes of Crackers: A Bank Failure: New Launches on the River

From Our Own Correspondent.

Shaohsing, Chê., Feb. 16.

This year's celebration has been a record breaker. The lid has been off so far as the use of fire-crackers is concerned. From the night of the 23rd of the 12th moon to the night of the 30th there was an almost incessant roar. After the past few years of martial law the come back this year was all that could be desired.

Recently a band of gendarmerie has been organized under the direction of our efficient police magistrate. These men are well equipped and active in their patrol of the city. During the holiday season excellent order has been maintained. The expenses of the company are met from the tax on theatricals.

Just at the close of the old year a well known bank failed. Knowing that failure was inevitable the manager is said to have tried to get what he could out of it for himself. The result was a heavy loss to the creditors and a serious blow to the prestige of Shaohsing bankers.

The latest improvement in transportation is a crude oil-burning motor on the Zao-ngo-Sihing run. A new line between sihing and Shaohsing is about to be opened. Already there are three launches west and two east each day.

Recently there has been a recrudescence of the lottery evil. After being closed down the business has reopened briskly. The stores on the great street are showing the tickets and pedlars go about the streets and no the launches. Winners are few and those who win in the end lose more than they win.

"AGAINST THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE"

Fukien Official's Protest to Superiors Against Poppy-Growing

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kienning, Fu., Feb.

Leaders of the gentry in this city have been greatly stirred over the attempt of the authorities to compel the people to sow poppy hereabouts. A strong branch of the Moral Welfare Society has been formed which now knows the power of legal combination. During a visit of the Foochow Moral Welfare Society's secretary, the Rev. I G. Hu, most enthusiastic meetings were held. After an abortive effort to enforce the order the *hsien* here has reported to his superiors that it is against the will of the people.

In the Sungkihsien the poppy has already been planted, and one fears it is too late for much to be done, though the local Moral Welfare Society has received a despatch from Gen. Chou, the second military official in the province, saying he has ordered the *hsien* to prohibit it.

The Society is determined to give as much prominence as it can to the names of all those enemies of their country who have any share in the revival of this curse.

The year end is proving a sad one for most people in this prefecture, owing to the presence and exactions of the large companies of soldiers.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

THE ADMINISTRATION OF TSINGTAO

Gen. Chen Kan's Grave Charges of Misappropriation of Territorial Funds

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Feb. 12.

Discussing the present situation in the former leased Territory, Lieut. Gen. Chen Kan at a press dinner on the 11th, said that the foreign residents had very good grounds for protesting against the callousness of the Administration in regard to matters of grave importance. Foreign representation in the management of municipal matters, although provided for in the Washington Treaty, was something which the administration declined to allow, whereas the clause providing for the ascertainment of foreign opinions was completely ignored. Gen. Chen had only one explanation to offer in regard to these two questions and that was that the Administration fully realized the fact that once the foreigners had any voice in the management of the city's affairs, all opportunities for "squeeze" would have to be done away with. He was not afraid to give this out as his own opinion. As a matter of fact, he wished it to be made known where his sentiments were.

Concerning the plan of Marshal Wu Pei fu to turn the former leased Territory into a special administrative area, General Chen said that it was the Marshal's conviction that, in order to be a successful proposition, the territory must be considered as being entirely independent of Shantung, and run by a qualified Director-General who need not take the instructions of the political crooks in Tsinan. It was not known who was the man the Marshal had particularly in mind for this post but the speaker thought that Mr. Kao En-hung was the only official capable of making the district a success both in the matter of revenues and the question of China's prestige. Up till now the Administration had made a mess of things.

The revenues of the territory exceeded $4 million dollars, and the retrocession was effected the expenditure was calculated not to exceed $2 millions at the most, and yet, at the present time, the Administration not only has no money with which to meet expenses but has huge sums owing to various parties. Graft was the order of the day, and as an example, Lieut.-General Chen cited the case of the Public Works Department which compiled a budget of $270,000 whereas its actual expenditure was $130,00. Where was the rest of the money? asked General Ch'en.

Tsingtao, Feb. 15.

The belief that Gen. Chen Kan in his statement last Tuesday to local newspapermen gave voice to some most significant utterances is fast gaining ground here. Gen. Chen, who is adviser from both the Central Government and Marshal Wu Pei-fu to the Kiaochao Territorial Government, called public officials here everything but downright crooks and predicted their forced removal inside a month. The news has spread like wildfire and native and foreign elements of this cosmopolitan city believe that Gen. Chen knew of what he spoke.

The gravity of the charges is evident when it is mentioned that Gen. Wu's right hand man here accused the Administration of appropriating territorial funds to the amount of more than $3,-000,000. This revelation has called for stinging criticism of the Administration, the real control of which is, of course, at Tsinan, the provincial capital, without whose sanction the former lease hold administrators cannot take a step. Gen. Chen practically laid the responsibility for the whole affair at the door of Governor Hsiung Ping-chi.

STAFF'S UNPAID SALARIES.

Gen. Chen declared that the total revenue for the first fiscal year under Chinese rule, following the retrocession on December 10, 1922, was well over $5,000,-000. The budget for departmental expenditure was approximately $2,000,000. "Still," he added, "even this amount was not available. You and I know that every single department has had to curtail operations and under-officials and employees have gone unpaid for weeks. Why? The answer is perfectly obvious.

"At the present time the departments, striking an average, are two months in arrears in salaries and wages. Many poor coolies, faithful and hard-working, performing their daily tasks in ignorance of the corruption going on, have been half-starved because of the failure of their department to discharge its salary obligations.

"I would not accuse every public official. Thank Heaven, there are a few who still have some sense of decency left. I can name one in particular who, unable to secure money from the Administration to pay off his personnel, drew on his personal bank account. The trouble is not so much with the department heads as with those higher up who control the finances."

PRO-JAPANESE FORCES?

Gen. Chen hinted at strong pro-Japanese forces at work here. He even went so far as to intimate that the Administration had secretly favoured Japanese interests to the exclusion of those of other nations. He accused the Japanese of desiring to bring discredit on the Kiaochao Administration for the purpose of arousing a popular demand for a change to international control, in which the Japanese would seek to gain the dominating power.

The Adviser was of the opinion that a separate province will be created from the Kiaochao Territory, including Tsingtao and the adjacent district. In this event it would be entirely separated from Shantung and the Tsinan group of politicians, whose influence, Gen. Chen believed, was an evil one.

"I believe that Kiaochao will be a separate administrative area, accountable to Peking direct," Gen. Chen predicted.

THE PROPOSED NEW HEAD.

Mr. Kao En-hung has been prominently mentioned as the new head of the territorial administration. He was formerly Minister of Communications in Peking and is reputed an able and honest executive. He is residing in Chefoo and has been living in retirement for some time. Whether he would consent to assume the responsibility is not yet known here. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

C. E. R. REVENUE

A Profit of over $6.000,000

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 10.

According to statistics from the Accountant's Department of the Chinese Eastern Railway the railway's gross receipts for 1923 amounted to 37 million dollars odd, whilst the expenses exceeded 26,000,000 whilst a further five million must be deducted for maintenance of the Railway Guards and other payment to Chinese Government institutions. The net profit for the year is thus over $6,000,000, which is greater than what was expected by the management owing to the non-collections of the Land Department on account of the dispute with the Chinese authorities last October.

HONGKONG UNIVERSITY

Rockefeller Foundation

Hongkong, Feb. 8.

At a congregation held at the University to-day the Vice-Chancellor announced that the Rockefeller Foundation had donated $250,000 for a Chair of Obstetrics.

Sir Charles Eliot and Sir William Brunyate, former Vice-Chancellors, received the degree of LL.D. (*honoris causa*).—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINESE NEW YEAR IN CANTON

Behaviour of Mercenary Troops Good on the Whole Despite Non-payment of Wages

Canton, Feb. 8.

The Chinese New Year in Canton passed quietly without the trouble expected from the non-payment of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's mercenary Yunnan, Kuangsi, Hunan, Honan, Shansi and Shensi troops. The only contretemps during the past few days were the shooting down of three Cantonese by the mercenaries, one at 140 Ti-pei-man Street on February 4, another at Kwong Feart Hotel on February 6, and the third at the Kung Chong Shing Company, Yi Tak Maloo, on February 7. On the whole, the mercenaries behaved pretty well during the last three days: they only broke into one gaol, wounded only one guard, and rescued only one prisoner. They did not cause very much trouble. It is true that they raided No. 1 sub-station of the 10th police district on February 4 and gave the police lieutenant and the staff on duty a sound beating, but they did not kill anyone.

The main reason for the murder of a few Cantonese was the fact that the Canton charitable associations and Chamber of Commerce endorsed some $500,000 worth of unsecured military notes, issued by the General Headquarters, but failed to induce the merchants to negotiate them as cash. Probably Dr. Sun's warriors will cease shooting down the Cantonese for a while now, for the merchants have been ordered to aid the Government to redeem these unsecured notes in proportion to their business standing. For this purpose businesses will be divided into six classes: the first paying $500, the second $200, the third $50, the fourth $20, the fifth $10, and the sixth $5. It is expected that the Cantonese police and the Cantonese Volunteer Corps will complete the assessment of the firms before February 14 and allow the mercenaries to have the $500,000.

SOME NEW APPOINTMENTS.

The Cantonese are not only presenting the mercenaries with half a million dollars within a week, but they are also going to let them have the Governor's yamên. Dr. Sun has appointed Mr. Yang Shu-chau, a Szechuanese, as Civil Governor of the part of Kuangtung where his compatriots are collecting taxes, and protecting gambling and the opium traffic.

Mr. Cheng Hung-nien, Assistant Secretary of Finance, will replace Mr. Mei Kwang-pui as Kuangtung Commissioner of Finance. Mr. Mei has for nearly a year been Dr. Sun's chief agent for the sale of public lands.

DR. SUN'S NEW YEAR GREETING.

Dr. Sun has issued a New Year greeting card to the Cantonese, assuring them that he will stop further confiscation of their lands to swell his war treasury, but asking all to present their land deeds to the proper authorities for verification and to pay an examination fee of two per cent. of the value of their lands, when they are found not to be former public property. The emergency military notes, issued on last New Year's Eve, old calendar, will be legal tender for part payment of the deeds verification fees.

NEW TAXES ON FOREIGN IMPORTS.

Although Dr. Sun has not formally established another Customs House in Canton, as he declared he intended to do when he was trying to regain control of the Customs surplus, his mercenary troops are levying new taxes on certain foreign imports under the pretext of selling licences and Government monopoly. A tax will be collected on the sale of rubber soles and wood alcohol. Dr. Sun has finally cancelled the surtax on the sale of ammonia sulphate, which is imported from abroad and used by many Cantonese farmers as a fertilizer.

DEMANDS BY YUNNANESE.

The Bun Nam Tea House and the Sun Yuan Native Bank in Wing Hon Road were unable to have their usual New Year reception last Tuesday morning, for each had a dead Yunnanese in front of its shop. The two Yunnanese were killed the night before when they attempted to pass papers for silver. The comrades of the dead men are accusing the Cantonese volunteers of having shot them and are demanding compensation. As the shops do not want their frontage to be used as a mongue, it has been suggested that $1,500 should be paid to the relatives of the deceased to remove the bodies.

Up to the present the Yunnanese are still in control of the Canton-Samshui Railway. On New Year's day one of the trains on this line was attacked by bandits, who captured three passengers.

RAILWAY DIRECTOR DISMISSED.

Mr. Wen Teh-chang, the Managing-Director of the Canton-Kowloon Railway, has just been dismissed by Dr. Sun on a charge of having assisted the transport of the enemy forces under Gen. Chen Chiung-ming at Sumchun, near the British section of the railway. Mr. Wen is a Peking appointee and has been with the Railway Company for many years. He is at present in Hongkong, where he is prudently remaining, disregarding a summons from the Cantonese Chief of Police. Mr. Chan Hing-hon, Managing-Director of the Yueh-Han Railway, will temporarily also direct the Canton-Kowloon Railway. The Canton-Kowloon line is now facing bankruptcy on account of the failure in its revenue since it has been taken over by the military. The other lines running out of Canton, the Canton-Samshui and Yueh-Han, will operate under war rates for another three months. The war tariff is 56 to 69 per cent. higher than that of a year ago and is to no small extent responsible for the present high cost of living in Canton.

THE HIGH PRICE OF RICE.

The strike of rice-shop workers still continues and the lowest grade of rice is now selling at $8.60 a picul. To relieve the situation, the strikers have established depots for the sale of rice at cost price, plus expenses of transport. Mr. Yen Yu-sheng, the leader of the rice-shop workers and the Chairman of the Shuntak Kwomintang Party, was murdered a fortnight ago, presumably in connexion with the present deadlock between the proprietors and the workers. In spite of the offer of the Kuomintang leaders to arbitrate, there is not the slightest sign at present of an end to the strike.

Dr. Sun has ordered the reorganization of the Higher Normal School, the Canton Agricultural College, and the Canton Law School into a University under the name of the National University of Kuangtung. Mr. Chau Lu, former Salt Commissioner and the present Principal of the Higher Normal School, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee on Reorganization.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MISSIONARY MOBBED IN KASHGAR

Peking, Feb. 18.

A foreign telegram from Kashgar reports that the Rev. Mr. Nyrstrom, a Swedish missionary, and two converts were mobbed in the streets of Yarkand and beaten and dragged to the residence of a Mussulman judge. The Chinese local authorities acted firmly and imprisoned the ringleaders and are protecting the missions. The situation is normal. It appears that the outrage was the outcome of a fortnight's street preaching by a mullah of Turkish origin.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN NORTH CHINA

Peking, Feb. 20.

The Bureau of Economic Information learns from official sources that the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Communications have no knowledge of any agreement relative to construction of three railways in North China. No agreement of this nature has been submitted to any Ministry for consideration.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MARSHAL WU PEI-FU'S LATEST PROJECT

Move to Control Former Kiaochow Leased Territory?

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Feb. 9.

Marshal Wu Pei-fu's reported ambition to make the former Kiaochow Leased Territory entirely independent of Shantung Province, with himself at its head, is said to have resulted from a plan submitted to Loyang by Rear-Admiral Wen, when the latter called on the marshal with the view to obtaining funds for the upkeep of the squadron taken over from the South.

It is stated that he intimated that he could administrate Tsingtao quite efficiently, and to the satisfaction of all, with the present revenues of the port, and without availing himself of money from the Kiao-Tsi Railway. He has reckoned without the opposition of the Chinese business community however, for the merchants have expressed their determination vigorously to oppose the proposition to turn the former leased territory into a sphere of interest for Wu Pei-fu and the Port of Tsingtao into a Naval Base.

Rear-Admiral Wen's recent trip to the Peking which was hitherto believed to have been solely for the purpose of raising money for the payment of the wages due to the men of the squadron now turns out to have been an attempt to get the Central Government interested in the plan to make Kiaochow territory a special district, independent of Shantung.

Whether Marshal Wu Pei-fu's plan will eventually materialize is watched by the community with unabating interest inasmuch as it would be contrary to the terms of the Washington Treaty. The community at any rate thinks that should Tsingtao be turned into a Naval Base it would be a violation of the terms of the Treaty.

It is learnt that the squadron has already received through in direct means the sum of $200,000 from the Kiao-Tsi Railway. It is reported that the Japanese Legation has been instructed to lodge a protest against the use of the railway's funds for the assistance of the fleet on such a grand scale, although up to the time of writing your correspondent has been unable to secure confirmation of this.

The Administration may undergo great changes if Marshal Wu Pei-fu appoints Mr. Kao En-hung, the former Chief of the Communications Department, to the post of Director of the Administration, with Mr. Lao Tsi-chang as Co-Director. Possibly, the prospective Director, Mr. Kao, may also concurrently be the Managing Director of the Railway. Should Wu Pei-fu succeed in getting all positions filled by his own men, the problem of financing the Navy here would not worry the Marshal any longer.

POLITICAL CHANGES IN JAPAN

Tokio, Feb. 18.

The plan suggested by the Government some weeks ago of splitting the present Department of Agriculture and Commerce into its two component parts and creating each as a separate Department under its own Minister will, it is reported, be put into force next April.

The new Department will be entitled the Department of Agriculture, while the present bureau will be known as the Department of Commerce and Industry.

The name of Count Oki is most freely mentioned in connexion with the new ministerial portfolio—that of Agriculture.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MANILA INSURRECTION

Manila, Feb. 16.

One constabulary lieutenant and eight privates and 35 Colorums were killed in a battle at Guibang, Agusan. It is believed that the Colorums were refugees from Socorro.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE BUDDHIST CEREMONY OF ORDINATION

Strange Midnight Scene in Ancient Temple

From Our Wuchang Correspondent.

Wuchang, Feb. 11.

Every winter there takes place in one of the large Buddhist temples in this centre the remarkable ceremony of ordination, or initiation of Buddhist monks. This ceremony is known as "sheo kiai," or "taking the vows," and its chief feature is the burning of a number of spots upon the shaven head of the initiate. Usually nine spots, in three rows of three, forming a square, are burned, representing the nine vows which are taken by every Buddhist priest; and the cauterized marks are indelible and remain on the scalp for a life-time. This ceremony is not often witnessed by a foreigner, though it is performed annually at every big centre of Buddhism throughout the length and breadth of China, and the sight of the shaven crown and burned spots of the Buddhist priest are quite familiar to inland residents. Some account of the ceremony as seen by the writer may be of interest.

PERVADING PRECIOUSNESS.

Not far outside the East Gate of Wuchang is a small hill known as the Hung Shan; upon the hill is a pagoda; and beneath the pagoda is the "Pao Tung Shih," or "Monastery of Pervading Preciousness." The pagoda itself is of interest. It consists of seven stories, each having a stone gallery round it on the outside. The ascent is made inside by means of a spiral stone staircase rising from floor to floor. From each floor two straight staircases opposite each other lead out to one of the galleries; and these staircases are arranged alternately, so that from one story they lead out to north and south, and from the next to east and west. The pagoda must be several hundred years old, but it is still in a fairly good state of preservation, and it certainly shows remarkable ingenuity and skill on the part of these who planned and constructed it.

The monastery dates back to the beginning of the Tang Dynasty, and the story of its foundation is quite a romantic one. The original Hung Shan—much more worthy of the name of "Vast Mountain" is a high hill in the lonely region which lies in a big triangle formed by the three cities of Teian, Suichow and Anlu. Here is a group of high hills, with one peak in the centre higher than all the rest. It is a wild region, uninhabited except for scattered farmsteads. This desolate country is the home of legend and folk-lore. Dragons live in the dark recesses of caves deep under the roots of the hills. Fairies haunt the waters of the streams which issue forth from these mountains of low down to far away populous towns. On the summit of one of these peaks was formerly a tarn, filled with water; but a dragon rose from below, making a vast hole in the mountain, and the water flowed away leaving only a dry crater.

RAIN-MAKERS OF OLD.

At least 1,200 years ago, there was a Buddhist monastery on this Hung Shan, even as there is one still to-day. At that time, the monks of this monastery were famous for their power to bring down rain by their prayers. One of them, Tsi Ren by name, set forth with his begging-bowl and his rosary, and made a journey which brought him as far as the banks of the Yangtze. This was one of the duties of the monks. They used to set out with the simplest equipment, and go on long tours, preaching by the way, and receiving alms for their support. Whatever was put into his begging-bowl, the monk must eat, but he might not ask for what he desired. So Tsi Ren came to Kianghsia on the southern bank of the Yangtze. It must have been even then a large city; it has since become the military capital of China, with its name changed to Wuchang, meaning "Military Splendour." Here the people were suffering from drought. Tsi Ren sat on a hill and prayed for rain, and the rain came. A great official of the empire, happening to be in Wuchang at that time, reported this to the Emperor; and the Emperor, being pleased with the monk's piety, enabled him to found a monastery on the hill where he had sat and prayed for rain. The hill itself, though by no means a "vast mountain," was named "Hungshan" after the mountain on which Tsi Ren had first lived.

During the thousand years of its history, the Pao Tung Shih has been partially burned or destroyed several times, and restored again by the munificence of one or another official. It has no doubt been increased in size from time to time, and it now consists of four great courts with temples between, and it also contains accommodation for over a hundred monks. It is a wealthy institution, drawing rents from many lands in and around the city. Signs of prosperity are not wanting in these modern times; for within the last year or two some of its great images have been gaudily repainted, the roofs have been retiled, the pond in the first court has been reconstructed, and a new bridge of smooth white concrete has been made across the pond, in place of the old rude stone bridge overgrown with weeds.

THROUGH FROSTY NIGHT.

It was to this temple that we made our way, a little after dark, along the straight road that leads away from the city gate toward the east. In the frosty night the ice crunched under our feet, and the dim light of our lantern showed that all the doors were closed, not even a dog being abroad in the keen winter air. Reaching the great front entrance at the foot of the hill, we found to our relief that the big gates were unbarred. We climbed the steep slope of the first court, our feet slipping on the frozen stones, and so reached the second barrier. But alas! the second gate was closed. No lights or sounds within gave any hope of admittance. It seemed as if our journey was to be in vain.

Turning to the right, and passing over a low wall, we found ourselves in an experimental garden, outside the temple precincts. Up the hill once more, winding in and out between the trees, stumbling along a frozen ditch, we made our way. At last we found ourselves on known ground, standing outside a little wooden door at the extreme north-east of the temple boundary-wall. Voices and lights this time; but too far away to be attracted by our knocking, unless we chose to arouse the attention of the whole monastery by our banging and shouting. So, down the hill again, to a little side door which we know leads in through the woodhouse, kitchen and refectory to the very centre of the temple buildings.

WITHIN THE TEMPLE.

This time we were successful in making ourselves heard by one of the underlings, who opened the door and led us through to the guest-room on the further side of the principal court. There our difficulties were at an end, for we were received by several of the senior monks, with one of whom we had previously struck up an acquaintance, and they readily gave us permission to be present at the ceremony which was about to take place. Interchange of cards, drinking tea, and conversation filled up the couple of hours' wait which we found lay before us. The part of host was played by a monk of some standing, who revealed himself as the headmaster of a Buddhist school in Hankow, his present business being to take a part in the very initiation which we had come to see. Of middle age, with intelligent face and keen, earnest eyes, he showed himself well able to take a part in discussing with us topics of mutual interest. The relation of Buddhism to modern education, the problem of theism or atheism, the connexion between body and soul, the question of human destiny—on such questions it was interesting to compare the Christian and Buddhist standpoints. In spite of his evident enthusiasm, and his knowledge of the Buddhist point of view, our friend showed no great ability to grasp or meet any suggestions from the other side. To all our theistic arguments he replied with cut-and-dried formulae—as if they settled everything.

Meanwhile, from the temple close at hand there came the continual sound of gongs accompanied by chanting. A brief visit under the guidance of our friend enabled us to see what was going on there. It is a great dimly-lighted hall, one we know well by daylight, but looking unusually dim and mysterious in the feeble light of a few wax candles. Down each side are ranged nine gilded images, the 18 Lo Hans or earliest disciples of Buddha. In the centre is the great gilded image of the Buddha, sitting cross-legged facing the entrance. In front of this image was a table, with three cowled monks sitting on either side, and standing at the head was a young-looking monk with a scarlet tiara-shaped hat upon his head. Each of them had a book in front of him, and out of their books they were reading, sometimes by turns, sometimes in union, in a sing-song chant, every pause being filled in by the clashing of gongs and beating of wooden drums. In a dark corner was a wooden box, in which sat a solitary monk, cross-legged and silent, performing the duty of meditation.

THE ORDINATION BEGINS.

Next, we crossed the upper court to another temple building, where the candidates for ordination were awaiting their ordeal. There they sat, some 60 or 70 of them ranged round three sides of the hall, all in grey robes and with great round shaven polls looking like a row of death's heads in the semi-darkness. Some looked fairly old and some young; there were even a few women among them.

Back to the guest room for more desultory talk. The chanting and gong beating had been going on for more than two hours now; but at last there were signs of movement. We returned to the front temple, and found the scene quite changed. Instead of the little table in front of the great idol, we now found a long wooden counter with a row of straw kneeling-cushions in front of it. Behind this counter stood the officiating monks, chief of whom, in the middle, we recognized our late friend; and upon it were the instruments of torture. Little packets of incense wrapped in red paper a gummy substance in small saucers, cut-up chunks of raw turnips, and wax candles and tapers all alight. The solemn row of cowled and gowned figures might have been the executioners of the Spanish Inquisition awaiting their victims. And the victims soon appeared. The first batch of a dozen came in and kneeled on the straw cushions, their clean shaven heads looking for all the world like a row of great ostrich eggs gleaming white in the candle light. Behind each stood a monk, who laid one hand on each side of the initiate's head and held it with a firm grip. Upon the top of each bald pate were marked a number of small circles, painted exactly where the spots were to be burned. Some had three, some nine and some 12, in straight rows of three each. In the case of the women, a rectangular patch is cleared on the top of the head, instead of the poll being completely shaven.

NO SIGN OF EMOTION.

Now the officiating monks take the little sticks of incense, each about half an inch long, and by means of the gum they fix them upright upon the head, one on each of the little painted circles. The taper is used to light them at the tops, and in about two minutes the little lighthouses burn right down to the bare scalp. Pieces of turnip are placed between the burning patches to keep the surrounding skin cool. All the time, a monk in the background is beating a big wooden drum with a heavy mallet—possibly to drown any groans of pain which may escape from the sufferers. But if that is the object, it is apparently quite unnecessary. Not a lip quivers, and not the least contortion appears to disturb the line of heavy profiles seen under the flickering light.

All the time, the meditating ascetic was sitting cross-legged in his box in the corner, as if entirely unaware of what was going on close to him. As each stick of incense burns itself down, the ashes are pressed down on the head with the fingers, a cloth is thrown over the initiate's head by his friend behind, and he is led out with eyes tightly closed. There is no order. The remainder of the candidates are standing round the door, and as each place is vacated it is filled by another kneeling figure.

It is a strange ceremony—partly pathetic, partly grotesque. I once asked a monk if his ordination hurt him much. He replied, "If you believe the doctrine of Buddha, you don't feel the pain." Which proves that there is nothing very original in M. Coué's teaching after all.

EXPLORER'S TEA WITH LIVE GODDESS

Sir Charles Bell's Adventure: Priest Dices for Victory of Good Over Evil

The days of banqueting with the deities did not end with the explosion of old Roman theism as a myth, for Sir Charles Bell, who has just returned to London after a year's sojourn in Tibet, reports that while at Samding, one of the few important towns in that country, last year, he had tea with a goddess. She is not a common goddess either, but ranks as an incarnation of a Buddhist deity and as such is the highest lady in the land.

She rules over a monastery of 20 monks, whom she can convert into pigs whenever she likes. This at least is what her Tibetan subjects believe, and her vaunted power insures her not only high social position but an income as well. Sir Charles says he was the first white man to visit the "goddess," who, after a sprightly conversation, regaled him with an excellent meal.

The Tibetan explorer describes her as about 24 years old, with a pensive mien and an air of quiet dignity. In accordance with Tibetan custom the hostess and guest exchanged presents.

TEACHES HER TO TELL TIME.

Sir Charles gave her the first watch she had ever seen and taught her how to tell the time. Until then she, like all the natives, had lost track of the hours, knowing only that sunrise was nature's signal to arise and sunset indicated bedtime.

Sir Charles, in relating his experiences, described the great prayer service of the Lamas, at which 12,000 monks assisted. These officiates were divided into sections and placed wherever room could be found for them. At various places priests were stationed, armed with stout poles eight or nine feet long and some six inches in circumference. One of them belaboured a monk who was not taking a proper part in the service.

The Dalai Lama, said Sir Charles, is the chief Buddhist monk of Tibet and rules an area of some half a million square miles. There are no railways, no roads and no motor cars in his domain. It is a land of mountain, desert and unbridged rivers; a land of snow and ice and blizzards.

The last 10 days of the second Tibetan Month, corresponding with the early part of April, are taken up by a festival known as the Tsoncho or "The Offerings of the Assembly." One of the rites of this festival is a crapshooting contest between the Dalai Lama and the devil. If the devil wins, evil will triumph during the next year and the people of Tibet will suffer.

OSTRACIZING THE DEVIL.

Should the Dalai Lama load his dice, however, and win the match, the year will be one of bounty and happiness for his subjects. The devil's delegate in the match is the Serpent King, who wears a long coat of white goatskin and a long peaked hat and carries in his right hand the black tail of a yak. His face, white on one side and black on the other, shows that he is a doublefaced rogue full of deceit.

Whether he wins or loses, the Serpent King, after the dice throwing, which takes place at the entrance of the temple in Chanchupling 30 miles from Lhasa, the capital, becomes the scapegoat of the country. He is driven from the city and bears the evil with him. He also takes with it a good deal of money, for the Tibetan Government not only gives him presents, but many persons make him offerings on the understanding that he takes his or her troubles out of town.

SUNGARI CLOSED TO RUSSIAN SHIPS

No Real Hardship to Already Impoverished Shipowners: Harbin's Indignation

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 5.

Another bombshell has been thrown by the Chinese authorities. Consternation reigns in Russian business circles at a proclamation issued by the Taoyin and Commissioner of Foreign Affairs forbidding the Sungari to Russian-owned vessels.

It is stated that the proclamation has been issued on instructions received from Marshal Chang Tso-lin notifying the local authorities that in the Sungari basin there are vessels flying the old tri-colour Russian flag. It is represented that the monarchy is defunct, the tri-colour flag signifies no nationality. As navigation of the Sungari and other inland waterways of China is prohibited to foreigners, therefore, says Marshal Chang, there is all the more reason why vessels flying the old tri-colour should be strictly prohibited.

IRONY OF RUSSIAN PRESS COMMENT.

The Russian press is full of fantastic comment on the matter, dwelling upon the losses that will be suffered and monopolies that the Chinese will obtain to the detriment of Russian traders. Included among the steamship owners are the vessels belonging to the Chinese Eastern Railway, according to these papers, which are holding forth that the railway is Russian.

As a matter of fact there is really nothing to object to in the proclamation, and of course the Chinese Eastern Railway fleet is not excluded, and though there are numerous Russian steamships in the Sungari, most of them have been sold by their owners. Indeed there are very few Russian-owned ships in the river nowadays and these are lying idle.

Able to give inclusive freights by water and rail, and owing to the advantages they enjoy on the Sungari, the C. E. R. vessels have prevented others belonging to individual or private companies from doing any profitable trade, save in the case of those vessels which navigate the Amur as well, making Habarovsk, Blagovestchensk and other Russian ports of call. Those vessels that still fly the tri-colour are liable to seizure, whereas under the agreement C. E. R. craft enjoy Chinese protection.

EXCLUSION OF SOVIET SHIPS.

Undoubtedly the presence of vessels flying the old Russian flag is preventing a mutual understanding with the Soviet authorities regarding reciprocal rights of Russian and Chinese-owned vessels to navigate freely both the Sungari and the Amur, as was the case before the Russian revolution. Russian vessels under Soviet control have been excluded, while those flying the old flag of Russia have been permitted to navigate the rivers.

It is the future that both countries must have in view. The Russians have already decided to make a modern port of Nikolaievsk, having in view the export possibilities of Eastern Siberia, as well as Manchurian produce. Though a few years may elapse before the work is complete, the Chinese authorities cannot ignore future possibilities, nor must they forget that the inhabitants of the Russian Far East will be good customers for Manchuria for many years to come.

THE TAX ON TOBACCO

Peking, Feb. 17.

According to Chinese reports, the Government has not yet obtained General Chi Hsieh-yuan's obedience regarding the cessation of illegal taxation on foreign tobacco. The British Legation has sent another Note urging immediate presure upon General Chi.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE CIVIL WAR IN SZECHUAN

Chengtu and Luchow Captured by Northern Troops: Southern Forces in Retreat

Chêngtu, Jan. 26.

Gen. Yang Sen with a large army is now at Anyo. The advance guard of the Northern armies is heavily engaged by the Szechuan armies under Gen. Lai Hsin-huei at Chaokiatu, 100 li from Chêngtu.

Yesterday the city gates were closed for a time, and it was reported that this was the action of Gen. Liu Yui-chiu to refuse admission to Gen. Hsiung Ko-wu's representatives, who had appeared outside the North Gate to collect the house tax he recently instituted.

Peking, Feb. 12.

Foreign telegrams from Szechuan state that Chêngtu is not yet captured by the Northern troops, and it is not expected that they will occupy the capital of Szechuan much before another ten days.

The Northern armies are now at Chungkianghsien, Tungchuan, Tzeyenghsien and Tzechung, while General Hsin Ching-yang is at Neikianghsien and reinforcements are coming to his assistance from Chihsuhting, on the Kueichow border. The reiuforcements are under the command of Generals Tang Hsi-mou and Chou Hsi-cheng.

It is not expected that Generals Liu Cheng-hsun and Hsiung Keh-wu, who are working together in occupation of Chêngtu, will be able to make much resistance, but the gathering forces in the rear of the Northern troops may prove dangerous unless the capture of Chêngtu is effected before the Northerners can be attacked in the rear.

NORTHERN GENERAL'S CONFIDENT REPORT TO PEKING.

Peking, Feb. 13.

General Chow Yung-hua, special commissioner despatched by the President to report upon the condition of the Northern troops in Szechuan, has informed the Government that he has reached Chungking and will shortly proceed to Tungshan to inspect the troops in the neighbourhood of Chêngtu. General Chow Chun, the first commissioner to inspect the troops in Szechuan, is on his way back to Peking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Feb. 15.

A later foreign telegram from Chêngtu says that the battle near Tungchuan was fought fiercely, the Szechuanese leaving 1,000 dead on the field. The Northern forces captured large supplies of arms and ammunition.

The defeated First and Sixth Divisions have since reached Chêngtu, which the Northerners were approaching on February 4.

In support of an earlier statement that General Wu Pei-fu was endeavouring to avert hostilities in the south west, it is asserted to-day that he is sending General Shih Hsiao-chuan to interview General Lu Yung-hsiang and an agreement is [illegible] whereby danger of a conflict will be averted.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Loyang, Feb. 17.

Tuchun Liu Chun-hou reported on February 12 that Chêngtu fell on February 9. The enemy troops were hotly pursued in all directions.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHENGTU'S CAPTURE CONFIRMED.

Peking, Feb. 18.

Foreign official telegrams confirm the fall of Chêngtu and add that the Northern forces captured Luchow on or about February 13.

A delayed message from Chêngtu, dated February 6, stated that Gen. Yang Sen's and Gen. Teng Hsi-hou's forces were heavily bombarding Chengtu, while the Szechuan General, Liu Chunghsun, was making overtures to the attackers with a view to capitulation. Gen. Yang replied that the bombardment would cease if Gen. Hsiung Ko-wu and Gen. Tan Mou-hsin handed over and the defenders surrendered.

A Chinese official telegram says that Gen. Tang Shih-tsun's forces entered the northern gates of Chêngtu on February 8 and the whole city was occupied on February 9.

The Szechuanese troops from Chêngtu are retreating in three columns in the direction of Sintsinghsien, Kienchow and Jenchowhsien.

The fall of Luchow improves the position of the two captured Japanese officers of the Yiyang Maru, as the Northern forces are now on three sides of Lungchanghsien, from which they will probably march on the city, where the Szechuanese may attempt another stand.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SLEEPING SICKNESS IN HARBIN

One Fatal Case and Girl Who Slept for a Month: Doctors on the Alert

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 12.

The new sickness has made its appearance in Harbin and though it cannot yet be called an epidemic it is engaging the closest attention of the medical profession.

It is called "Enzenfalit" or more commonly sleeping sickness. The first case was that of a doctor of the Railway Hospital who slept off and on for seven weeks. The sleeping sickness has left him, but he is still in bed and very weak. A third case is that of a collector of the Municipality, who has now been sleeping for 17 days; a girl of 16 has been in the state of lethargy for over a month In both cases on being awakened and asked how they felt they have replied quite all right and are in no pain whatsoever, They take but little nourishment and soon fall off to sleep again. In one case it has been fatal, the victim being Mr. Kazlovsky, a popular lawyer and one of the best known public men in Harbin. In this case the patient first had an attack of fever and lethargy followed, death following within five days.

Several cases in the hospitals are being watched very closely. The latest victim is the popular artiste, Labounsky, who feeling very unwell after a performance went home to bed and has been there ever since. When aroused from her slumbers she says simply, "Let me sleep."

It appears that the microbe is but little known though Dr. Klein of Berlin states he has found a cure. It is called Beyer No 205. With this preparation he visited the interior of Central Africa and made numerous experiments with good results. It was announced in December last year that he had proceeded to London, to give practical demonstrations of his cure, It is said that the first record of an epidemic in Europe of sleeping sickness was in Germany in 1712 and that the next serious outbreak was in northern Switzerland, Dalmatia and South Hungary in 1890. According to past statistics one third of the cases proved fatal. In Africa, especially former German West Africa, among the natives the disease is common. The first symptoms of the Harbin cases have been headaches, pains in the head, dizziness and feeling of weakness, followed by the brain becoming slightly affected, the patient making rambling statements. Lethargy follows and the patient goes to sleep for a period from a week upwards and is aroused with difficulty.

PARTY POLITICS IN JAPAN

A National Demonstration

Tokio, Feb. 17.

More than 10,000 persons attended a mass meeting to-day which adopted a resolution demanding the immediate resignation of Viscount Kiyoura and his Ministry The crowd then paraded the streets and held a demonstration before the Peers' Club Police reserves were called out but the demonstrators behaved in an orderly manner.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

AN EYE ON THE YANGTZE
Rear-Admiral Murray Anderson

POPPY GROWING IN SZECHUAN

Farmers Smartly Dealt with by Junhsien Magistrate: Robbers Also Scarce

From Our Own Correspondent.

Junghsien, Sze., Jan. 28.

Thanks to the neutral or rather "independent" attitude of Gen. Cheng, of the 8th Division, with headquarters at Kiating, and under whose authority this county is at present, peace is maintained and there is very little molestation from soldiers.

General Cheng attends to his own little domain, avoids oppressive levies and taxes and is very jealous of any one else trespassing. While some counties in the province have already paid the land taxes for the 18th and 19th years, this county has not been called upon to pay the tax in advance.

Recently a local office hunter and a strong partisan of the Southern party tried to secure office from those in power. As a preliminary, he was sent back here to propose that Shih Chin-yang, one of Hsiung Keh-wu's lieutenants, should quarter his troops in this city and district. When he made this proposal the local gentry were very wrath and some were of a mind to remove his head, but they finally "passed the buck" by appointing him to carry the proposal on to Gen. Cheng. That seems to have disposed of the matter for the officer referred to promptly went into hiding and has not been seen since. The report on the street was that Gen. Cheng's men were under orders to fight if necessary, to maintain their hold on this section.

Our magistrate, Wang, for a man of his years is most energetic, spending much time touring his district. He has taken active steps to prevent the planting of opium, fining heavily some who were guilty of the offence and supervising the digging up of some which had already sprouted. Lists have been made of these farmers upon whose land the poppy has been found growing and these will be added to as evidence comes in. Those who have dug up the plant or whose poppies have been dug up by officers of the law have been noted and recently, the magistrate, in his tour of inspection of the local militia, told the local captains of his attitude and what he had done, and then placed the responsibility for digging up all that might appear in their locality upon them. There is no doubt that unless the magistrate is removed from office little opium will be grown in this county. It is reported that the magistrate's intention is that if any poppy comes to blossom he will confiscate as public land both the property upon which it grows and the property of the militia captain who should have uprooted it.

We have experienced a very dry winter, certainly the mildest winter I have known here in 20 years. It is is forcing up the price of rice, owing to the poor wheat, beans and rape crops.

Business seems to have been fairly good and merchants express satisfaction with the year's turnover.

Work on the proposed new government middle school seems to have ceased. It is said that funds have been exhausted. Three teachers in the present middle school are about to open a private middle school in the south suburb. There is no doubt but that they will get plenty of students, even though they ask a fair fee, for the number of those seeking education has overtaxed all local facilities.

Despite modern influences in education, a typical daughter of young China cut off a piece of skin and flesh, about two by three inches, from her arm and made soup with it with which she fed her parents, who were both ill. So far as one could see the only effect was to make the old father most attentive and solicitous about the daughter, so that she might have had anything in his power to give her. "Face" demands nothing less. Several native physicians and the foreign doctor in the city are called in every day.

It is almost a year since we heard of robbers in the county, but a couple of days ago a report was brought in of a gang having visited a town about 90 *li* away. They attacked one man's place, tied up the proprietor, secured a quantity of coppers and some silver, and killed one of his fat pigs which they took off with them. The magistrate is hot on their trail and we will expect to hear of their suffering soon for their boldness.

Small cash has almost disappeared. To meet the need for small change the local Chamber of Commerce have cut up some old, unused, local, thousand cash notes and on the back have stamped upon them the value of five cash. These have been eagerly received. They are guaranteed by the Chamber of Commerce in which, it is said, funds have been deposited for their redemption. Even ten cash coppers are scarce, the more abundant denomination being the 200 cash one, containing copper to the value of about 15 of the small cash. Three thousand one hundred and fifty cash are now being offered for the dollar. Small silver coins pass at par; i.e. five twenty-cent pieces for the dollar. Ten cent pieces are seldom seen.

We are now suffering from a 'slow mail' famine again. Letters reach up in good time but papers, magazines and parcels are resting somewhere, for the robbers dominate both the land and river routes between up and the outside world. A poor chance for any fleeing anywhere west of Chungking.

CHINESE LEARNING IN WUSIH

Popular Scheme of Education: Canal-widening to Check Floods: Builders Active

From Our Own Correspondent.

Wusih, Ku., Feb. 19.

An interesting development about to take place in Wusih is the establishment of 18 free schools in the city and its vicinity. These schools are for the purpose of giving an elementary education in Chinese characters to all who desire it, between the ages of 14 and 40. The length of each term is to be four months, at the end of which time the class is expected to have mastered 1000 characters, thus being enabled to read newspapers, shop signs, and so forth. The "graduating" class is not allowed to continue its studies, but must pass on to make room for a new class of beginners. These schools, which are being established by the Board of Education of the city are expected to begin functioning in the late spring.

A large and important high bridge outside of the West Gate has recently been declared to be responsible for the excessive flooding of about one fourth of the rice fields immediately northwest of the city. This is owing to the fact that this large bridge and its adjacent bunding crowds the water of the Grand Canal at that point into such a narrow channel that it overflows its banks during the rainy season and causes great destruction of crops. It is proposed to take down the bridge, widen the canal, and build a broad level bridge connecting the ricsha roads inside the city with those outside.

Wherever one turns new buildings meet the eye and this thronging city has never presented a busier appearance than now, as it returns to work after its annual Chinese New Year holiday.

NEW ATHLETIC CLUB FO R TOKIO

Tokio, Feb. 18.

The various clubs and associations that at present supervise and manage different forms of sport in this country are likely soon to be combined into one club, if the organization of the proposed Tokio Athletic Club is satisfactorily accomplished.

The purpose of such a club is ambitious, because it aims not only at the development of interest in sports at home, but at being acknowledged abroad as the representative of Japanese athletics in all international events.

The promoters of the new Club claim to have the backing of a number of football, baseball, rowing, and athletic associations, including the Japan Lawn Tennis Club, and the Japan Physical Training Association.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

FIGHTING ON TIBETAN BORDER

Chinese Garrison Victorious Near Batang: Road to Yunnan Re-opened

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tachienlu, Sze., Jan. 14.

The situation in the Tibetan Marshes has cleared up considerably during the past few weeks. What at one time seemed chaos and disorder is now slowly settling down; men and roads and business are making some progress in the right direction. Ninety young fresh bloods—Chinese soldiers—arrived in Batang about one month ago and with them they carried silver and rations for the somewhat depleted Chinese garrison. With the prospect of their coming or to show that their coming was an insignificant and unimportant affair, Gen. Wang, commanding the Chinese garrison made a very determined and successful attack on the Ra-na Lama, whose forces are devastating the country to the south of Batang.

Gen. Wang (a Hunanese officer) collected a number of the De-ho Tibetans. Some local Tibetans were also mustered and to these were added a few Chinese soldiers. This miscellany left Batang in the following order—the De-ho Tibetans, followed at some distance by the local Tibetans, and bringing up the rear were Gen. Wang and his few Chinese soldiers. In this order they marched forth to fight the Ra-na Lama and if possible open the road to Yunnan.

The De-ho vanguard soon encountered the Ra-na Lama's men and a fierce fight ensued. The Lama was evidently taken by surprise as the De-ho Tibetans had an easy victory and captured considerable loot.

Gen. Wang, the local Tibetans, and the Chinese soldiers are now maintaining that this loot ought to be equally, fairly, and honourably divided. The De-ho Tibetans apparently think differently and thereby hangs a tale. At present the biggest question on the Tibetan frontier is the simple division of some legitimate loot. When this is settled we once again resume the attitude of Micawber. The defeat of the Ra-na Lama and the scattering of his Tibetan forces has opened the main road south which was closed for six weeks. This defeat has also for the meantime greatly increased Chinese prestige, while the arrival of 90 soldiers has now increased the Chinese garrison in Batang to 600 men.

CATTE-RAISING IN HEILUNGKIANG

Important Statistics

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 10.

Some very interesting statistics are furnished by the Economical Department of the C.E.R. concerning cattle and live-stock breeding in Heilungkiang Province. The principal district is is on both slopes of the Hinghan Range, both of which have their own peculiarities. On the Western side is Barga, a part of Inner Mongolia, where the country is practically uncultivated and inhabited principally by Mongols leading a nomad life. On the eastern slopes it is the Chinese who are principally engaged in this industry and trade.

As the following table shows the Mongols on the western slopes breed horned cattle, horses, sheep and goats, and camels. On the eastern side one finds that more cattle and horses are raised than in the west, but no camels and far fewer sheep, whilst on the other hand pig raising is of the first importance.

TABLE IN 1,000's.

Locality	Horned Animals	Horses	Camels	Sheep and goats	Pigs.
West of Hinghan	150.0	525.4	10	1,500	—
East of Hinghan	468.7	1,353.8	—	308.2	2,193

In addition, on the East slopes both mules and donkeys are bred by the Chinese, besides which land is under cultivation and a considerable amount of poultry including chickens, ducks and geese, are raised.

It is because the Mongol does not go in for cultivation that none of this smaller or domestic live-stock is raised, but as the Barga district becomes more and colonized by Chinese settlers undoubtedly in the future this state of affairs will change.

In 1921 the total trade in live stock from the Hinghan district is estimated at 35 million dollars and over one million pouds in weight were carried by the railway. In addition to this some 40,000 pouds of poultry and 1,332 pouds of eggs and egg-yolk were also carried by the railway from this point. Note—All C.E.R. calculations are in pouds.

It must be remarked that Mongolian cattle and livestock are both small in size and of an inferior breed though very hardy. Only the pigs are of Chinese origin, having been brought there by the Chinese settlers.

The Mongols hold important fairs every year at Barga and also at Hailar which are the two principal marts where sale of live-stock takes place and which attract a great number of people.

JAPANESE MILITARY MISSION ABROAD

Tokio, Feb. 18.

At the end of this month a military mission, consisting of five officers under the leadership of Lieut. Gen. Kameji Wada, Commandant of the Military Staff College, will leave on a six months' tour of inspection through Europe and America.

The purpose of the mission, says the spokesman of the party, is to study military progress since the close of the World War. A considerable time will, it is stated, be spent in France and America, where the officers expect to learn much of modern military tactics and of new methods and means of attack and defence.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

U. S. SECRETARYSHIP OF THE NAVY

Mr. Denby and Mr. Warren: Both Well Known in Far East and College Friends: An Odd Coincidence in the Appointment

The resignation of the American Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Edwin Denby, and the rumoured appointment of Mr. Charles Beecher Warren to the post is of much interest to the Americans of the Orient. Both men were formerly in the East, the latter as Ambassador to Japan and the former held a position in the Chinese Maritime Customs, while his father was at one time Minister to China and his brother, Charles Denby, American Consul-General (1907-09 in Shanghai), he himself leaving his post in China to return to America to complete his collegiate studies. Mr. Denby was in Shanghai 18 months ago. Few indeed will remember that he was the father of the Bill providing for the American Court for China and still less will recall that he said while here with reference to the U.S. Gaol, "That was a much better building 20 years ago."

It is related of him that in 1906, when his proposal was before the House, that he spent the better part of a week preparing a treatise which he was to deliver before that Body which would consume four hours to deliver. The matter had had some publicity however, and when the appointed time came for making the address, he rose but had been barely two minutes under way when one of the majority leaders (whips) came and sat in the seat next to him and said, *sotto voce*, "Is that a good measure?"

"A very good one," he replied in an undertone.

From another whip, two minutes later, "Are you sure that will prove a good proposition?"

Again the same answer.

"You are positive?" came from still another who had inserted himself into the convenient chair. Again the response of authority. "Well, sit down then, it will be passed," came the rejoinder. Mr. Denby sat down and the Bill was passed, authorizing the American Court for China, though he had been on the floor less than 10 minutes.

PRESIDENT HARDING'S CHOICE.

However, the irony of the present proffer of the post to Mr. Warren, connected with his former aspiration, is still more interesting.

Mr. Warren we are told, who is a member of the Newberry faction (his resignation from the Senate while under charges preferred by the opposition candidate, Mr. Henry Ford, is still vivid in the public mind) was at the time of the election of Mr. Harding to the Presidency an aspirant for a Cabinet portfolio, preferably that of the Secretary of the Treasury. The president to-be had, however, already chosen Mr. Mellon (who is sponsoring a cut in the surtaxes under the present income tax law), and the only position still unfilled was that of the Secretaryship of the Navy. Accordingly, the Michigan Republican State Organization sponsored the choice of Mr. Warren for the place and asked that Mr. Denby, then holding a minor office in the Detroit Municipal body, but at the same time a candidate for the nomination for the Governorship of the State of Michigan, should vouch for and support Mr. Warren.

"Heart and soul for Mr. Warren," said Mr. Denby. "Surely I will do all I can for him. Didn't we attend the same college at the same time and didn't we live in the same house afterwards? He is a good friend of mine," and despatched a telegram at once.

Mr. Harding was at that time spending the early winter months, prior to the inauguration on March 4 1921, at St. Augustine, Florida. Rumours in the southern press were consistent that Mr. Denby was himself to be the man for the Navy Office and sure enough, several days later, Mr. George Christian, private secretary to Mr. Harding, telephoned by long distance to Detroit and requested that Mr. Denby would come to Florida. He left immediately.

"You are the man, I want," Mr. Harding is reported to have said.

"I cannot fill the place, however," reiterated Mr. Denby, "for two reasons. I have stated in my campaign for the Michigan nomination that I favour the cancellation of the Allied Debts, secondly I am not a rich man, I have enough to send my children to school, and live comfortably with my wife, but cannot support the diplomatic whirl of Washington."

"This administration is not a social one; you will have no cause to worry on that score. You are the man I want." He called in the newspapermen and said, "Gentlemen, meet Mr. Denby, the Secretary of the Navy."

MR. WARREN AS AMBASSADOR.

It is then reported that Mr. Warren was requested to go to Tokio as Ambassador, but did not accept until after he had made a trip to Europe. After his resignation in Japan, Mr. Warren went to Mexico where he showed himself to be an able propagandist and diplomat, and brought about the Mexican (Obregon) ratification of the recognition treaty between the two American republics.

It is anticipated in inside circles that the actual appointment of Mr. Warren to the now vacant post of Secretary of the Navy will really take place in the next few days. Though it may be gratifying personally to him, it is urged that, should he now get the post, the State of Michigan will line up solid for President Coolidge in the Republican Convention in June. Such a political movement will in part circumvent the dismay now existing in Republican circles because of the disruptions between the standpatters and the radical elements of the Republican Party, on the one hand, caused by the oil scandal; and, on the other hand, will in part overcome any Democratic hopes of triumph in Michigan also resultant from the same disclosures.

SOOCHOW'S FIRST MISSIONARY

And Founder of Anti-Opium League: The Dr. Du Bose Memorial Church

From Our Own Correspondent.

Soochow, Feb. 13.

The laying of the corner stone of the Du Bose Memorial Church took place yesterday afternoon. The funds for this new church were raised partly in China but largely in America, in the South Carolina synod of the Presbyterian Church, as a memorial to the Rev. Hampden Coit Du Bose, D.D. and his wife, Mrs. Pauline McAlpine Du Bose, who were the first resident missionaries in Soochow, where they arrived in September, 1872. They remained here for the remainder of their lives, Dr. Du Bose dying in 1910, and Mrs. Du Bose in 1914.

At the ceremony addresses were given by Chinese pastors representing various churches here. Official representaties of the Taoyin, the Chamber of Commerce and other bodies also spoke. There were also present two lifelong friends of the deceased missionary.

Yesterday was the 10th anniversary of Mrs. Du Bose's death. It is hoped that the church will be dedicated on September 30, which will be the 79th anniversary of Dr. Du Bose's birth.

ANTI-OPIUM EDICT RECALLED.

Dr. Du Bose is perhaps best remembered in Soochow as the organizer and the leader of the Anti-Opium League. Through the courtesy of the late Viceroy Tuan Fang in Nanking, who had been one of Dr. Du Bose's warm friends while he was in Soochow, Dr. Du Bose was able to meet Yuan Shih-kai, then Premier, and also to visit many of the other viceroys. Through Tuan Fang and Yuan Shih-kai, the Doctor was able to send the Throne an anti-opium memorial signed by 1,333 British and American missionaries. On August 19 1906, Tuan Fang forwarded this memorial from Nanking to the Throne and on September 20, one month later, the famous anti-opium edict was issued.

It was almost a verbatim copy of the anti-opium memorial. One cannot help believing, from the splendid suppression of opium begun in 1906, that the curse would have been wiped out of China, had the Manchu rule continued a few more years.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE

Big Increases in Imports but Decreases in Exports Especially to China

Tokio, Feb. 5.

Japan's foreign trade during the month of January showed a total of Y.320,295,000. Of this amount imports amounted to Y.210,137,000, and exports to Y.110,158,000, the excess of the former being practically Y.100,000,000. The chief exports were:—

	Jan., 1924 Y.	Jan., 1923 Y.
Marine Products	1,520,000—	220,000
Refined Sugars	2,025,000+	1,225,000
Coal	1,608,000—	89,000
Raw Silk	45,444,000+	13,116,000
Cotton Yarn	4,390,000—	2,808,000
Cotton Cloths	20,133,000+	3,066,000
Hosiery	1,364,000—	336,000
Porcelain	1,546,000+	66,000

The outstanding imports were:

	Jan., 1924 Y.	Jan., 1923 Y.
Raw Cotton	46,311,000—	4,404,000
Steel	19,262,000+	12,112,000
Lumber	13,111,000+	8,382,000
Wool	9,980,000+	2,883,000
Oilcake	9,290,000+	1,854,000
Beans	7,408,000+	3,430,000
Wheat	6,826,000+	5,252,000
Sugar	5,297,000+	1,816,000

TRADE WITH CHINA.

Feb. 8.

The trade between Japan and China during January totalled Y.16,591,000 of exports and Y.21,427,000 imports, which maens an excess of imports to the amount of Y.4,836,000.

Compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year, an excess of exports, amounting to Y.4,551,000, has been converted into a deficit of an almost equivalent amount.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

RISING IN ARMS AGAINST REDS

Half-hearted White Insurgents in the Amur: Harbin as a Holiday Centre

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 10.

In connexion with the recent reports of risings against the Reds in the Amur, official news is now to hand which states that in the middle of January Cossack settlers along the Zea River near Blagovestchensk joined certain former White officers and deserters from the Bolshevik forces. The sending of Red troops to the area quickly suppressed the movement. Many of the insurgents crossed over to the Chinese side of the Amur, where they were disarmed by Chinese troops.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Mr. Kermit Roosevelt and his wife, made a stay here two days prior to proceeding to Europe viâ Siberia. They were somewhat astonished at the size of the place and at the its numerous fine buildings. Mrs. Roosevelt, senior, was full of admiration for the C. E. R. railway coaches, saying they were better than those in America.

Upon their departure, Mr. Ostroumoff, General Manager of the Cer, presented Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt with an album of views taken along the railway.

Thanks to the energy and initiative of the general manager of the railway, numerous places along its route are becoming increasingly popular as summer resorts. At most of them there is bathing and other recreations, besides excellent scenery and a good climate. At all of them there is a Railway Club, where excellent entertainments are given, artists frequently being engaged in Harbin. And the cost of living here is far less than in Japan.

VETERAN MISSIONARY'S DEATH

The Late Mrs. J. W. Whitewright

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsinanfu, Feb. 17.

The community at Tsinanfu was deeply grieved upon learning the death of Mrs. J. W. Whitewright at Bristol while Home on furlough. News is just to hand that she passed away in a nursing home on January 11. The warmest sympathy is felt for Mr. Whitewright who is about to return to China to take up his work as Director of the Extension Department of the Shantung Christian University.

Mrs. Whitewright came to China in 1883, when she joined her husband at Tsingchowfu, Shantung. In 1904 they removed to Tsinanfu, where Mr. Whitewright founded and established the well-known institute, now incorporated with the University. Both through her help in the institute and through the gracious hospitality in the home, Mrs. Whitewright has done much for Chinese and foreigner alike. There are many foreigners in business and missionary life throughout China who very gratefully remember Mrs. Whitewright's generous friendship.

A Memorial Service was held in the South Suburb Church, Tsinan on the 13th when a large congregation gathered to mourn her loss.

CHANGES IN TSINANFU COMMUNITY.

The British-American Community of Tsinan is bidding farewell to Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Christian (B. A. T.), upon Mr. Christian's transfer to Tientsin. Their many friends wish them good luck and hope to see them again sometimes in Tsinanfu.

Mr. J. L. McCarron (late of B.-A. T., Tsinan) died suddenly of intestinal trouble at Linchingchow. Mr. McCarron left Tsinan for the north a few days ago in perfect health. The sad news has deeply shocked his friends.

We understand that a new steamship line is shortly to be established between Shanghai and Korea by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

JAPAN AND SINGAPORE BASE

Press Critics' Condemnation: Direct Challenge to Japan and World Peace

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Feb. 11.

The advent to power of a Labour Cabinet in Great Britain has brought to the fore once again the question of the establishment of a naval base by the island empire of the North Sea at Singapore, which it is declared refers keenly to the safety of Japan and which, if it provokes Japan to war with Great Britain, will also provoke a racial war. The comments, however, lack the ating and the bite that characterized the vigorous editorials that were written when the plan was first mooted, and generally take the form of "sweet reasonableness" that, when Great Britain has been shown the folly of her ways, the scheme will be abandoned.

The "*Hochi*," a big Japanese daily whose circulation is confidently reported to be over 1,000,000, in an editorial, appeals to the "common-sense of the British working man to prevail and to give a fillip to world peace by crushing the plan to turn Singapore into a vast modern fortress."

"The attitude of the British Labour party towards the Indian question and towards the Singapore naval base," it states, "are to us the most interesting of all the policies of the new British cabinet. The Singapore base question is the more important because it refers keenly to the safety of Japan. From the attitude hitherto adopted by the Labour party, it seems as though the scheme will be dropped. Mr. Hays, a Labour member, declared his opposition to the plan and warned the Government that in the event of an outbreak of war between Great British and Japan, other coloured men would support the Yellow nation. Labour members in the House of Commons also questioned Mr. Baldwin, when the Conservatives were in power, regarding the Singapore base and declared that they did not see any use for proceeding with the scheme.

"If the Singapore plan is cast overboard, a great impetus to world peace will be the result and this will be much appreciated by the Japanese people, not to mention the fact that the abandonment of the base will improve Japanese feeling towards Great Britain, If the Labour party wishes to further world peace and a harmonious understanding amongst the nations, then one essential is that the Singapore naval base should be abandoned.

JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE LOSSES.

Declarinng that the establishment of a vast naval base at Singapore will embroil Japan, China Great Britain and the United States sooner or later and that the earthquake of last September, with its calamitous fires, has considerably weakened Japan's defence establishments, the "*Yomiuri Shimbun*, also a Tokio daily with a large following and one that is generally inclined towards liberalism but sometimes wobbles into the quicksands of imperialism and then bangs the big drum with more impudence than dignity, pleads that the Singapore naval base scheme be rejected by the Labour Cabinet. Its reasons are many and varied and are interesting in that some of them have not been advanced before, although the papers have dealt with the subject of the proposed naval station almost voluminously.

"The question," says the "*Yomiuri*," of establishing a naval base at Singapore is a direct challenge to Japan. If war comes, the struggle will be between the yellow and the white races, and Japan will never attempt to strike the tinder that will cause such a conflagration. The heavy losses we sustained on account of the earthquake and the resultant fires, in respect of our national defence finance and economics are better known to American and British statesmen than to us journalists. British upholders may say that the object of the base is in order to be prepared for the defence of Australia and for retaining India. This plan, if carried out, may excite anger among the Indian masses to the detriment of the British authorities there. Even if Great British gains certain advantages in Australia she will lose much more in India, China and Japan.

"BRITAIN THREATENS WORLD."

That little stepping stones, like Malta, Aden, Ceylon, Singapore have been the means of making and consolidating the British Empire and have resulted in "British Imperialism which threatens the whole world" is the next argument the "*Yomiuri*" summons in its attack on the Singapore base scheme. "The Singapore plan calls for the extension of defensive systems and oil stations at Malta, Ceylon, Aden and other strategic points. This will be viewed with suspicion, not only by Japan, but also by European nations, like Holland and France. Holland is already experiencing financial difficulties on account of the additions she has made to her navy—as a result of the British plan to fortify Singapore—in order that she can defend the neutrality of her East Indian possessions against either one or other of the combatants. Japan in the ostensible enemy that the Singapore scheme is providing against, and this menace to us prevents the Japanese from effecting disarmament on a bigger scale and plays directly into the hands of our militarists and fire-eaters. Any menace to Japan will be resented by the Chinese too, for it will ultimately be a threat to our neighbour also."

PROVOKING AMERICA.

The Singapore naval base plan is also a provocation against the United States, according to a further contention of the "*Yomiuri*." "Who can say," it asks, "that Singapore may not be utilized as a base against the United States in the event of an Anglo-American war? America has the Philippines, Guam and Hawaii. Her trade relations with China are important. Thus if Great Britain fortifies Singapore, the United States will be justified in further strengthening Pearl Harbour and Cavite and in increasing the strength of her standing squadrons on the Asiatic station and the Pacific. International unrest will result and all hopes for a closer union between the English-speaking nations of the world will be lost.

"The apparent purpose of the plan is to defend Australia. The suspicion that Japan will attack Australia is due to Japanophobia. If there were no Japan in the Pacific Australia would be regarded as free from all apprehension and menace. As a matter of fact, one reason why Australia is in an everlasting nightmare of fear is her own selfishness. Japan is ready to take up the gauntlet if provoked. But she does not want to be the provoker or to be provoked. Suppose Japan had to go to war, it would be with the whole of the Buttish Empire. It will be really a declaration of war on all white peoples, which would be foolish. As there are no Japanese who would go to war with the United States on account of the California immigration restrictions, so there are no Japanese who would care to go to war with Great Britain because of Australia's White Policy ideas. Why then should the Singapore base be built?

"To be brief, the plan will ultimately hurt Great Britain more than anyone else. It will not only rouse the suspicions of the Eastern nations but will also excite the jealousy of various European Powers."

MISSIONARIES ATTACKED.

In the course of an essay, rather than an editorial, the Tokio "*Nichi Nichi*" (Tokyo Daily News), a paper with distinct Liberal leanings, asks to know whether a warless world is feasible. Replying to its own question that it is feasible, it says that such will be only if provocations for war are eliminated and suppressed as they arise. "The Singapore naval base is steering the world to war, to a worse war than the one that made a shambles of Europe. Missionaries argue sanctimoniously about how to prevent the next war, make pious generalizations that another war must not be and while the Singapore naval base, an incentive to struggle, stares them in the face make no attempt to use their influence to have an end made of it. And thus, by leaving what leads to war to remain, they want to end wars!"

RUSSIAN CONVICTS AMNESTIED

President Tsao's Clemency: Kroniloff's Death Sentence to Be Commuted

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 5.

The Harbin Supreme Court recently received from the Minister of Justice instructions to the effect that in commemoration of his election to the presidency, Tsao Kun has been pleased to grant an amnesty to Russians imprisoned in the Special Area gaols of the Three Eastern Provinces.

The chief reason for this amnesty, so reads the circular, is the peculiar political status of Russians living in the Special Area; many of whom having fled from Russia for political reasons, have become criminals rather starve. No exceptions are to be made except with persons that have less than a month more of their sentences to run. The number of Russians in Harbin gaol is 180.

Kroniloff is included in this number. His appeal case against the sentence of death passed by the Lower Court has still to be heard. If it is upheld, this criminal will not be executed by virtue of the amnesty; he will receive a life sentence. If reversed then the life sentence he had received previously will be most probably mitigated to one of 20 years' hard labour.

It is stated that Kroniloff when he heard of the President's act of grace immediately felt much relieved. The prisoner is chained both hands and shackled. He is only freed of the his fetters for half an hour daily, when he is closely guarded by four armed warders.

The Law Courts in the Special Area are quite independent from the Special Administrator of this District, taking orders only from Peking direct. Russians are very dissatisfied at decisions in civil cases in these Courts. Both local authorities and the public think some reforms are necessary. Harbin being such an international city, with so many foreigners other than Russians, who do not enjoy extraterritorality, the Mixed Court system of Shanghai no doubt would be welcomed.

C. E. RLY. LAND CASE SETTLED

Provisional Agreement: Only Official Text

The "Far Eastern Times" publishes the following official text of the decision reached by Mukden in regard to the C. E. Rly. lands dispute.

According to Article 6 of the renewed C. E. R. Agreement the privileges and rights as well as the functions of the railway company must be strictly confined to those of a purely commercial nature; the company is not allowed to take part in anything of a political nature, and the Chinese Government shall have the right to place restrictions on the actions of the company.

Now the said company have in violation of the Agreement issued land leases for the establishment of markets and streets, which is not only contrary to the regulations governing the purchase of land but also openly infringes China's administrative rights. Such a case of a commercial concern under Chinese rule in Chinese sovereign territory making administrative establishments is never found in any other country in the world. Thorough investigations have now revealed ample self evident proofs that the said company have gone far beyond their specified functions. The Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Provinces deems it necessary to correct the actions hitherto taken by the said company in violation of the agreement concerning land purchase. But, with a view to the prevention of misunderstanding at present the Commander-in-Chief thinks it wise to reserve the question to be brought up at a more opportune moment in the future.

CHINA'S ADMINISTRATIVE RIGHTS.

As to matters relating to China's administrative rights, however, strict restrictions should at once be imposed on the said company in accordance with the Agreement, in order to preserve China's sovereign rights. For this purpose the following regulations are hereby drawn up for enforcement:

(1) The properties of the said company originally acquired shall be maintained.

(2) Except the lands directly required for use by the company and the buildings thereon, the drawing up of plans for the establishment of markets, ports, towns or villages and the construction work connected therewith as well as all other administrative affairs shall be undertaken by the Chinese authorities; the said company shall not be allowed at their own will to take up such matters.

(3) In case of letting land of the said company or transfer of other immovable properties or privileges the Chinese official departments concerned shall be petitioned for sanction and registration before they can be considered valid. Regarding the land leased or let in the past such applications for sanction and registration shall be made to complete the procedure now required.

(4) For the purpose of working for the prosperity and maintenance of the local market the property owners shall have the obligation to obey the orders or prohibitions concerning administrative establishments and to pay taxes imposed by the Chinese authorities in connexion therewith, or imposed for the purpose of promoting public welfare.

(5) All the above provisions concern purely China's administrative rights and should be carried out forthwith.

EARTHQUAKE CLAIMS IN JAPAN

Insurance Companes and Their Responsibility As To "Sympathy" Money

Tokio, Feb. 18.

The refusal of the majority party in the Diet last December to discuss the late Government's proposal to assist the fire insurance companies in their payment of "sympathy" money on the claims arising out of the great earthquake and fire, which refusal drove the responsible Minister, Baron Den, out of office, naturally led to the temporary shelving of the whole issue.

According to press reports, the claimants for insurance, whose patience is exhausted, are proposing to try and obtain redress through the courts.

The present Government, however, is credited with the idea of so far modifying its predecessors' scheme as to refuse any financial assistance to the companies themselvse, which would in that case be expected to pay the "sympathy" money out of their own funds, and to assist the claimants to rehabilitate themselves with loans at a low rate of interest.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Tokio, Feb. 20.

Whereas the former Insurance proposals provided that the companies should pay 10 per cent. of the claims resulting from the earthquake of last September, receiving the equivalent in the form of a subsidy, it is at present understood that the Government are prepared to advance Y.180,000,000 to the companies in proportion to the percentage of claims each may arrange and is able to pay, whereby the weaker companies will be more greatly assisted.

It is proposed to classify those that insured so that the smaller claimants will receive the most benefit.

The loan will be repayable in 50 years, the interest running on a downward scale from 4½ per cent., according to the amount a company must pay out.

The insurance companies are holding a conference to decide on a possible basis of payments.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE JAPANESE LOAN

One of the Greatest Successes in Recent Years: £43,000,000 Already Subscribed

London, Feb. 18

Stock Exchange dealings in the new Japanese loan began at 1¼ per cent. premium. An Amsterdam despatch states that the Dutch portion of the loan has been considerably over-subscribed.

"The Times" states that, when the details are available, it will probably be found that the public response to the loan has been such as to make the issue rank as one of the greatest foreign loan successes in recent years.

Later.

It is stated that Stock Exchange applications for £1,000 and upwards of the Japanese loan will receive 10 per cent. and upwards. The loan is now at 1½ per cent. premium.

Later.

Subscriptions to the Japanese loan are about £43,000,000.—Reuter.

New York, Feb. 18.

The Japanese loan has been over-subscribed by $100,000,000.—Reuter's American Service.

Finance Minister's Reply to Critics: Immediate Need of More Money

Tokio, Feb. 21.

Replying to critics of the recent loan transactions, the Finance Minister, Mr. Shoda, addressing the Bankers' Club, declared that Japan's application to the world's financial markets was necessitated by her immediate need for money for reconstruction purposes, which demanded the expenditure of Y.1,500,000,000 of which Y.1,400,000,000 must be raised by domestic and foreign loans, and Y.700,000,000 was required by the end of 1925.

The Minister drew attention to Japan's adverse balance of trade, which by March 31 was expected to total Y.400,000,000, and also to the high money rates now prevailing on the world's markets. He paid a tribute to the sympathy of the lending countries, which was an important asset in the success of the loan, instancing the assistance rendered by the American Secretary of State, Mr. Hughes, the American Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Mellon, Judge Gary, the President of the United States Steel Corporation, Mr. Montagu Norman, the Governor of the Bank of England, and New York and London banks.—Reuter.

THE CHARGES AGAINST CHANG CHING-YAO

Responsibility for the Murder of American Missionary: Shelter in Hankow

Peking, Feb. 15.

Chang Ching-yao, the former tuchun of Hunan, has been much in the lime-light these days by reason of the fact that it was reported that he was to be the recipient of honours from the Government. It was also reported that he was proceeding to Loyang at the request of Marshal Wu Pei-fu.

The accuracy of the second report may be doubted, while the first is unfounded, as it is learned from a reliable source that the Government has no intention of conferring any appointment upon Gen. Chang.

It will be remembered that the chaban against him has been removed by a special pardon granted by the President, but the charge against him in respect of responsibility for the murder of the American missionary still stands, inasmuch as it has never been investigated owing to Chang Chin-yao having taken shelter in the foreign concession in Hankow.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPANESE WARSHIPS SCRAPPED

Tokio, Feb. 16.

The Navy Office announces that the first period of the work of scrapping 10 warships in accordance with the Washington Naval Treaty has been completed.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SHANGHAI NEWS

"N. C. DAILY NEWS" BUILDING OPENED BY SIR RONALD MACLEAY

Fine Weather and Crowds of Visitors: The Minister's Review of the Paper's History and the Part to Play in China

CONGRATULATIONS FROM PRESIDENT TSAO KUN

The "North-China Daily News" new building was opened Friday, February 15 by Sir Ronald Macleay, K.C.M.G., British Minister to Peking, who came specially from the capital at the invitation of the Directors of the Company for the ceremony. The weather could not have been more beautiful, and several hundreds of friends assembled in the large hall on the ground floor. At 11.45 punctually the Minister arrived from the British Consulate, accompanied by Rear-Admiral D. Murray Anderson, C.B., Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., H.M. Consul-General, and Mr. G. Vercker, First Secretary, preceded by mounted troopers. His Excellency was greeted on arrival by Mr. H. E. Morriss, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Mr. Gordon Morriss, Director. The latter, representing the architects, handed to the Minister a gold key in a silver and ebony casket, with which key his Excellency opened the front door. He was followed into the hall by the undermentioned guests, who accompanied him to the platform: Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Murray Anderson. Mr. Sidney Barton, Sir Skinner and Lady Turner, M. Wilden, Consul-General for France, and Mme. Wilden, Mr. E. S. Cunningham, U. S. Consul-General, and Mrs. Cunningham, Mr. Loomis, former U. S. Secretary of State, Mr. S. Yada, Consul-General for Japan, and Mrs. Yada, Mr. Hsu Yuan, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs (representing the Civil Governor of Kiangsu), Judge T. S. K. Loh (representing General Ho Feng-ling). Mr. H.P. Wilkinson, Crown Advocate, and Mrs. Wilkinson, M. and Mme. V. Grosse, Captain G. Hopwood, Mr. G. Vereker, Mr. S. Fessenden, Chairman of the Municipal Council, Sir Edward and Lady Pearce, Mr. Wen Shih-tsen, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs and Superintendent of Customs at Nanking (who attended as the representative of President Tsao Kun), Mr. H. E. Morriss, Mr. Gordon Morriss, Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Green, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wood, and Mr. Kang Yu-wei.

The following Chinese officials and merchants were present or represented:—Marshals Wu Pei-fu, Chi Hsieh-yuan, Wang Cheng-ping, and Chang Tso-lin, Generals Lu Yung-hsiang, Ho Feng-ling, Chang Hsiao-liang, Wang Yung-kiang, and Liu Yu-ao, Admirals Tu Shieh-kuei, and Lin Kien-chang, Governor Han Kuo-chun, Commander Hanson Feng, Col. Lu Yung-chien, Messrs. S. K. Chen, N. T. Yang, Shen Pao-chang, Tang Shao-yi, Wen Tsung yao, Sun Hung-yi, M. Y. Chung, Che Hsien chen, T. K. Lowe, Fang Chu-pah, Chu Pao-san, N. Y. Chang, Pan Ching-poo, Chun Bing-him, Chen Shut-kai, Yang Moy-nam, Ma Feng-tsz, Francis Zia, K. S. Zee, K. C. Chang, P. K. Chu, Wang Yi-ting, Shen Lien-fong, J. P. Fu, Fu Siao-en, and K. C. Chen.

When all were assembled and the hall full, Mr. O. M. Green, Editor of the "North-China Daily News," rose and said:

THE EDITOR'S WELCOME.

Sir Ronald, Ladies and Gentlemen, The great honour has fallen to me of welcoming you here today. I will not dwell upon the deep appreciation we feel of his Excellency's kindness and of the great honour that he pays us, in coming all the way from Peking to open the "North-China Daily News" new building, because that part of the morning's proceedings is in better hands than mine. But I would say how glad we are to see so many friends assembled here to-day.

I feel that you are indeed friends for several good reasons. For example, it is the time-honoured privilege of a friend to be candid; and I cannot imagine that anyone could possibly be more candid than one of our readers when he finds something he does not like in the paper. Again, a true friend changes not and, equally, he seems to dislike change. During the nearly 17 years that I have been connected with the "North-China Daily News," I have assisted at many changes in its make-up and I cannot recall one which was not instantly greeted with a chorus of disapprobation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would say that nothing is more keenly relished by my colleagues and myself than this close watchfulness on our readers' part. They make us feel that the paper really belongs to them, that it is their paper and that we must be particularly careful what we put into it. No journalist can have a greater stimulus, or be paid a finer compliment, than to be thus made to feel that what he puts into print really matters. And this clear intimation of Shanghai's peculiar proprietorship in the "North-China Daily News" has helped more than anything else to build up whatever success it has had.

Ladies and gentlemen, you and your ancestors have supported the "North-China Daily News" for nearly 60 years, the "North-China Herald" for nearly 74. I thank you and I hope you will continue to do so.

I will now ask Sir Ronald Macleay to declare the new building open.

THE MINISTER'S SPEECH.

Sir Ronald Macleay, who was greeted with applause, said: It is my great privilege to-day to offer my humble tribute of congratulation and admiration to the "North-China Daily News" on the attainment of nearly 74 years of public life and on the completion of its new home in which its plant and activities have recently been installed. I desire to include in these congratulations and in their expression of admiration the architects, Messrs. Lester, Johnson & Morriss, who by making the fullest and most skilful use of the narrow frontage at their disposal, have enriched The Bund with this admirable specimen of a modern business building—at the same time practical, massive and commodious.

I should like to begin, if I may, with a little history. Shanghai was opened to foreign commerce by the Treaty of Nanking on August 29, 1842; the Imperial Maritime Customs was installed here in 1852, and two years previously, to be precise August 3, 1850, the "North China Herald" was founded as a weekly paper. The need of a daily journal was soon felt, and the "North China Herald" some 14 years after its birth blossomed out into a daily edition to which the title was given "The North-China Daily News," the "Herald" continuing to appear every week. So you will see that the paper is an institution practically as old as the Port itself. The name, too, if you consider it, is an interesting indication of its ago. The "*North* China Daily News" or "Herald"! When you think of the geographical position of Shanghai, there does not appear to be much "*north*" about it; but we forget that at the time of the paper's birth in 1850 Peking was still a remote and mysterious capital in which the Powers had not yet succeeded in even establishing permanent Legations. Tientsin, as a great export market and place of residence for foreign merchants, was still a thing of the future, and in practice so far as the penetration of the Middle Kingdom by enterprising British pioneers was concerned, Shanghai could be truly regarded as the "furthest north." So the name of the "North-China Daily News," which the paper still proudly bears, though perhaps an anachronism now, was not strictly a misnomer then.

THE EDITORS.

The paper in the course of its existence has had 11 editors. I can only touch on a few of these, though all are worthy of mention. The fifth in order, Mr. R. S. Gundry, who presided over the destinies of the paper from 1866 until 1878, is still alive and has made his home in Wiltshire. This shows that in spite of what we have heard to the contrary, journalism must be a healthy occupation. In am sure that my friend Mr. Green must derive much satisfaction from this comforting example of editorial longevity. After him came amongst others Mr. Frederick Balfour, the notable Chinese scholar and translator; Mr. Maclellan, author of "The Story of Shanghai"; and perhaps best known of them all, Mr. "Bob" Little, athlete, oarsman, enthusiastic Volunteer and amateur actor, fluent writer and ready speaker, a man who the French would have described physically and metaphorically as *tout rond* —may we say, all round good nature and no angles?

THE PROPRIETORS.

I pass to the proprietors of the newspaper. Mr. Shearman, the original editor and proprietor, was followed in the second of these capacities by Mr. Edwin Pickwoad. On his death, the late Mr. Henry Morriss acquired a controlling interest which has remained ever since in his hands, and those of his family. To Mr. Morriss's fostering care and generosity, to his realization of the part which such a paper could and should play in the education and development of his beloved Shanghai, and to his unfaltering belief in its future, are due the present prosperity of the "North-China Daily News," and the land on which these splendid new premises have been erected. Mr. Morriss, as you all know, was a great rider and lover of horses, and it was doubtless his indulgence in that capital form of sport, the Paper Hunt, which led him to appreciate the real value and proper destination of a large-sized morning paper. As a serious newspaper proprietor, as well as a true sportsman, he preferred to guide his followers with well selected scraps of paper rather than with the scent of the elusive red herring.

It is a matter of satisfaction and congratulation that the control of the paper should have remained on his death in the family of whom Mr. Harry and Mr. Gordon Morriss, the present directors, like their father can be trusted to respect the paper's independence and to appreciate its value as the organ of an enlightened public opinion with no selfish objects in view and no individual axe to grind.

THE CONTRIBUTORS.

The paper has had the good fortune as well as the good sense to open its columns to several distinguished contributors among whom are men who are famous for their study and knowledge of things Chinese, and of the life and activities of the Chinese people. May I mention first Dr. Arthur Smith, whose delightful "Chinese Characteristics" has become a classic and will remain a joy to all new-comers anxious to obtain an insight into the lives, the qualities, the feelings and the idiosyncracies of the teeming millions of the Sons of Han, among whom choice or destiny has determined their future residence. Other vigorous and instructive writers on their respective subjects are Dr. Martin, a contributor for over 60 years, Archdeacon Moule, and the Rev. C. E. Darwent. I was also pleased to learn that a former British Consul-General and distinguished Sinologue, the late Sir Everard Fraser, was wont occasionally to escape the routine of office work and the tedium of despatch writing to contribute under a pseudonym some interesting reminiscences to the paper. That is an admirable example which should certainly be followed by his successor (laughter), and if you, Mr. Green; can prevail on Mr. Barton to take up Sir Everard's pen and become a contributor, be it of memoirs, poetry, sport, travel, fact or fiction, I can at least assure you that your editorial patience will not be strained by the illegibility of his copy—a defect from which I understand some of the distinguished contributors to the "North China" are not immune. Being by compulsion rather, I fear, than by inclination, a humble delver in the Legation archives, I can honestly say that Mr. Barton's beautiful handwriting is a joy and a relief to the weary seeker after official knowledge. I say it with all due jealousy, being a very indifferent penman myself.

CORRESPONDENTS IN THE INTERIOR.

The paper has also some remarkable Chinese contributors whose mastery over our language, fluency of expression and distinction of style, are at once our admiration and our despair. To mention but a few; first the late Mr. Spencer Laisun, a permanent member of the staff; then among the outside contributors Mr. V. K. Ting, the eminent authority on Chinese geology; Dr. Wang Chung-hui, the Jurist; Dr. Wu Lien-teh, the discoverer of the pneumonic plague bacillus in Manchuria, and last but not least, that old die hard conservative and polyglot controversialist, Mr. Ku Hung-ming.

A special feature of the "North China Daily News" is the army of correspondents in the interior composed of both sexes who contribute admirable letters from all parts of China describing the course of events and the trend of thought in their districts. These letters are of great assistance to the student of China's affairs, as they enable him to form a more or less comprehensive picture of the political situation in China. I sincerely hope that the paper will continue to encourage these local correspondents.

The subject matter, the style and the printing of the "North-China Daily News" are a sufficient tribute to the excellence of the staff, but the paper is nothing if not up-to-date, and it has recently secured the services of a talented Russian caricaturist, Mr. Sapajou, who must I think be the deity whom the poet Burns had in his mind when he said:

'O, wad some power the giftie gie us
To see airselves as ithers see us.'

I speak feelingly but with conviction as one of his victims. As for what I hope I may be allowed to call without disrespect the "side shows," I gather that the dramatic and musical critics are always prepared to break a friendly lance in the columns of the paper with those of their readers who venture to challenge the authority or accuracy of their judgments, and the paper is altogether so admirably equipped that even in the extremely improbable event of the failure of the editorial inspiration, or of Rodney Gilbert's imagination and of the flight of the other helpers, there is always, I understand, in reserve that versatile and omniscient polemist Mr. Gordius Nielsen, who can be relied upon to create a diversion (Laughter).

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

It is, however, not only the official and ceremonious inauguration of these spacious and imposing premises which makes this day a memorable one in the annals of the "North-China Daily News." The paper also proudly recalls the fact that this year is the 60th anniversary of its existence, and that we are invited to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee. There is something about the term "Diamond Jubilee" which appeals to our imagination and claims our sympathy. Perhaps it is because we associate the expression with those very elderly couples, dear old Darbies and Joans who marry young enough and live long enough to celebrate 60 years of connubial felicity and call it a Diamond Wedding. The analogy with a Diamond Jubilee is sufficient proof that to-day's celebration has such a venerable and highly respectable sanction as befits so respectable and venerable an institution as the "Old Lady of The Bund."

But the expression and the occasion recall to me another celebration which I was privileged to witness 27 years ago—the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The year 1897 marked the apogee of that great Sovereign's reign and the combination of the era which will for ever bear her name. In the eyes of her loyal subjects the Empire had never been so mighty or so secure. We were at peace with all the world. In Egypt we were preparing under the skilful and vigorous leadership of Lord Kitchener the expedition which was to free the Sudan from the fanatical rule of the Mahdi and avenge by the victories of Atbara and Omdurman the death of Gordon. Never had our prestige stood higher, never had the horizon appeared so free of cloud. But before the Great Queen passed away, a shadow was to fall across the closing days of her life. England was to find herself engaged in the South African War and to see her strength and resources sorely tried in the task of maintaining one of the outposts of her Empire against the resolute, brave and resourceful enemy. Queen Victoria lived long enough to receive from Lord Roberts the assurance of the ultimate victory of our arms, but she was not spared to witness and approve the final settlement which, by its statesmanlike moderation and political foresight ensured the creation of a United South Africa, and when in 1914 the great storm cloud of war burst upon the world, rallied to the side of Great Britain in support of the Empire and in defence of freedom the adversaries of only 14 years before.

TSZLING'S MANY MEMORIES.

Just as Queen Victoria through her long reign experienced the trials and anxieties which beset a great Empire in the making and lived to see it emerge triumphant and prosperous, so the "North-China Daily News" has in the course of its existence seen the state of China and the fortunes of British trade and prosperity of Shanghai, as is witnessed by the splendid buildings erected by British enterprise on The Bund of which this edifice is a notable example. Surveying things as a whole, the "North-China Daily News" has seen the old Manchu Dynasty after successfully overcoming a formidable and widespread rebellion, decay, weaken and finally collapse before the challenge of Western innovation and the influx of modern currents of thought.

It is particularly as a witness of and a commentator on these phases of China's political evolution that an English newspaper like the "North-China Daily News" should endeavour to fill the double rôle of a dispassionate historian and of a friendly critic. I fear that in recording and commenting on the present unrest, disunion and lack of stability in the country, we are I think, too prone to forget that we are ourselves in some measure responsible. It must be remembered that we foreigners originally forced the door of China's exclusiveness and, first by wringing from a reluctant Chinese government extraterritorial rights, special privileges and concessions, and then by opening up the country with railways and by steam navigation on the inland waters—as well as by the moral, religious and educational propaganda of our missionaries, we gradually introduced Western ideas and novel political theories. Subsequently by attracting young Chinese to study in America and Europe we inculcated in the younger generation the belief that our methods and ideals were superior to theirs, and in so doing we sowed the seeds of the 1911 Revolution.

China is now suffering from the after effects of that convulsion of her political and social system, and when one considers her history and the nature of her institutions and the character of her inhabitants, it is not surprising that the country should take some time to find its feet and to evolve order out of the confusion created by the collapse of a time-honoured and centralized form of government based on the rule of an autocratic, sacrosanct and inaccessible Emperor, and its replacement by the strange and complex machinery of a

JAPAN'S GRAND OLD MAN

Mitsuru Toyama, Samurai, Socialist and Great Gentleman: Most Commanding Figure in Modern Japan

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Feb. 13.

A breaker of Cabinets, an enthusiastic supporter of a revolutionary cause, provided those involved had not contravened a criminal code, a champion of the weak and the poor, a man that the highest in the land fear,—such is a stoutly-built, grey-beard of Japan who has lived in two worlds, that of Feudal Japan before Commodore Perry knocked at the door, and of the present, now one of the Great Powers of the World.

Mitsuru Toyama, for such is his name, is revered and respected by friends and foes alike. What he has done, his escapades and his feats, would fill volumes. Over 70 years of age to-day, he still commands the perfect loyalty of several hundred persons who regard his word as law. Young men burn to join him, work for him, fight for him, do anything for him; but those who have managed to be accepted into what

MR. MITSURU TOYAMA
(*From "Japan Advertiser"*)

some regard as the charmed circle of Toyama's adherents are severely tested—tested for courage, kindness of heart, readiness to sacrifice everything in order to achieve an ideal.

Millionaires fear Toyama; the poor idolize him. The wronged have only to convince him that they have been shabbily dealt with and Toyama immediately moves heaven and earth to see that justice is done.

HELPED DR. SUN.

It is difficult to devise an Occidental figure that would apply to Toyama. One rather likes to liken him to the moving spirits of the French Foreign Legion in the 19th Century or to the leaders of the doughty White Company that Conan Doyle immortalized. Toyama never was an outlaw. He always held the person of the Emperor in the deepest respect and was ready to combat any cause that refused to accept this fundamental basic fact on which the whole social and political structure of the Japanese Empire is reared. Toyama never stooped to anything like banditry or robbery. He never countenanced any such thing among his followers who had implicitly to obey the Bushido code laid down in feudal days for the *samurai* (knights of Old Japan) though the code required that, to wash away a stain of dishonour, the culprit had to commit *hara-kiri*.

When the tide in China was turning against the Manchus Toyama was heart and soul in favour of the revolutionaries, against the wishes Japanese Government. His home has always been a refuge for political refugees and Dr. Sun Yat-sen was, just before the revolution in China a guest in the unpretentious home of Mr. Toyama, at Reinanzaka, Tokio.

THE KOMAGATA MARU AFFAIR.

Toyama has also had a share in the plottings and conspirings that were an indispensable part of the Great War. His championing of the cause of some Indian revolutionaries all but led to difficult diplomatic issues between the British Empire and that of the Rising Sun. People will faintly remember that a Japanese vessel of the name of Komagata Maru was the source of a great deal of trouble to the British, but few know the inside story of the affair. The Komagata Maru had trouble in Canada, was in fact a gun-runner for the Indian revolutionaries and was manned, so the story goes, by Indians and Japanese, both determined to aid the Indian revolutionaries even to the extent of having to fight a British vessel—a rather serious affair when one remembers that Japan was an ally of England. The ill-fated expedition failed, British Secret Service men having got wind of the plot and two of the leaders—Gupta and Thankur—managed to get to Japan from the United States. The British Embassy demanded their arrest. The Foreign Office issued orders to that effect and gave the men 24 hours to leave Japan. The only ships sailing within that period of time were going westwards and so nothing but arrest was in sight for the two revolutionaries as soon as any vessel they took touched port. Toyama heard of the matter and used all his influence and oratory with the police authorities to have the order of deportation extended for sufficient time when a ship would be sailing for the United States. The matter having now reached the dimensions of an international affair, the police rightly refused. Toyama managed to have the two men brought to his house and there asked them whether they were in any way allied with Germany. They stoutly denied this. "Then," said Toyama, "I will save you."

He secreted the men in his house and when a squad of police traced them there, Toyama had already spirited them away. One went to Kyushu, the southernmost island of Japan, where he donned the garb of a coolie and worked for six months in a coal-mine, never coming up to the surface during that period. The other, too, managed to escape—how, can't be traced.

CHALLENGED PRINCE YAMAGATA.

Prince Yamagata, the "Bismarck of Japan" and the most powerful statesman that Japan has ever known, respected the wishes of only one person, Mitsuru Toyama. Prince Yamagata was the head of the Choshu clan, which controls the Army. Clan pride is still the governing factor in a great deal of Japan's domestic politics and when the Prince Regent (then the Crown Prince) grew to man's estate, Prince Yamagata devised the ambitious plan of having a Choshu princess one day Empress of the Japanese Empire. In the meantime, the Princess Nagako Kuni, grand-daughter of Prince Shimazu, leader of the Satsuma Clan, bitter rivals of the Choshus, had been informally selected to wed his Imperial Highness. Prince Yamagata determined to prevent the alliance which would give Satsuma a powerful lead over Choshu and moved heaven and earth to have the match annulled. Somehow or another the story got wind. Toyama called in person on Prince Yamagata and delivered an "ultimatum" to him. The grizzled warrior bowed before the absolute tornado of public censure that followed and retired from participation in active politics, domestic or otherwise. Misturu Toyama's adherents claim that it was his attitude that did the trick.

"HONGKONG" seems to be fancied as a name for race horses this season. One so named distinguished itself at the Ipoh races. Another bearing the name of the Colony gained a place in a race at Newbury last month.

CONSIDERABLE excitement has been caused in Macao by the appearance on the market of large numbers of forged $10 notes resembling those issued by the Banco Nacional Ultramarino. Two arrests have been made.

SOUTHERN PIRATES

Attempt on Steamer Foiled by Chief Officer's Promptitude: Suspected Men Seized

Hongkong, Feb. 21.

Whilst the Chinese steamer On Lee, with over 200 passengers, was on her way from Hongkong to Kongmoon last night shots were suddenly fired by pirates on the main deck. The Chief Officer, Mr. T. Martin, immediately ordered the Indian guards to prepare to defend the bridge and all lights on board the vessel were put out. Mr. Martin then steered the ship to Hongkong.

Near Castle Peak rockets were fired from the ship, attracting a police launch, which escorted the On Lee into the harbour.

The ship was strongly guarded by the police and a large number of suspected persons were removed to the police station. It is believed that the pirates threw their arms overboard. There were no casualties.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

HISTORIC EVENT IN HANGCHOW

Wondering Populace Sees First Aeroplane to Circle Over City

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hangchow, Feb. 16.

The city remains quiet, and I think all fear of trouble from troops is gradually disappearing although the people to-day were a little scared when they saw the first aeroplane circle round the city.

The Civil Governor's father died on Wednesday at his home in Dzenyien, near Shaohsing. Immediately after the death he telegraphed to the Tuban, and according to Chinese custom, begged to go into retirement, and wished to be relieved of his official duties for the time being. The Tuban sent messages of condolence, but replied asking him kindly to continue in office because the present state of the country just now demanded it. Many have gone to his home to show their sympathy, and sorrow with him in his bereavement.

The New Year festivities are slowly coming to an end, and people are gradually returning to their work. The shops are opening up, and the clanging of cymbals ceases.

We hear that one Chinese insurance firm did so well last year that they are opening several branches throughout the province.

CHINESE DEMONSTRATION IN HARBIN

Harbin, Feb. 20.

A large crowd of Chinese marched through the streets today bearing banners reading. "Down with Ostroumov! Down with the Russians!" They finally surrounded the railway offices demanding an interview with M. Ostroumov, who is General Manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway here, with the intention of informing him that he must resign and quit China. The interview was refused and a noisy demonstration followed, but police finally dispersed the crowd.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

REVIVALIST MOVEMENT IN JAPAN

Tokio, Feb. 20.

To-day the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education opened a series of conferences with representative religious leaders aiming at the improvement of the national thought and the uplifting of the people's morale, which are declared seriously to have declined since the disaster last year.

The Premier in his address laid stress on the necessity for checking tendencies to mock at faith and to extreme radicalism, which he declared to be totally inconsistent with national ideals.

To-day's conferences were attended by Buddhist and Shinto leaders. Christian representatives of all denominations have been summoned to attend to-morrow.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

RESCUE OF FATHER VAN PRAET

Peking, Feb. 20.

The Waichiaopu has received a telegram from Gen Ma Fu-hsiang, the Tutung of Chahar, saying that Father van Praet has been rescued from the bandits and that he safely reached Taliang on February 15.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

IN TYRE

By Eva Spurway

In Tyre they ran, with naked feet,
To load the heavy trading ships,
And merchants screamed, with darkened lips,
Their orders through the noise and heat;
And there was toil, without surcease,
To catch the favoured wind for Greece.

For here a merchant's trading-mark
Was black and red on corded bales,
Where beggars wailed their woeful tales,
Along the burning quay, till dark,
And thanked God for a little shade,
Or cursed the myrmidons of trade.

The burdened slaves of ancient Tyre
Wore twisted cloth about their loins;
But Hebrews, paid with Hebrew coins,
They sped like blue and crimson fire,
And ear-rings wore of heavy gold,
And chanted songs none knew how old.

Tyre plies no more her Grecian trade
With cloth and scarlet, as of old,
Great merchants cord no crates of gold,
Nor things of ivory and jade—
And yet are not the richer we
Who have these for a memory?
—"Weekly Westminster"

SIR Havilland de Sausmarez, Bailiff of Guernsey, has issued a statement to the people of Guernsey urging them to relieve his Majesty's Government of so much of the cost as they can afford of the pensions of Guernseymen enlisted in Guernsey for the war and the dependants of those who fell. The Government asked for £275,000 a year, and a special States Committee recommends the payment of £25,000 a year for 15 years. This payment, Sir Havilland says, is a debt of honour, and he adds that if no reasonable response is made to the Government's request, it seems safe to say that Guernsey cannot look forward to sympathetic consideration of their difficulties at the Home Office or material help in dealing with them.

CHINA Journal of Science & Arts, edited by Mr. A. de C. Sowerby and Dr. J. C. Ferguson, is a bi-monthly, profusely illustrated magazine. It contains authentic articles written by experts on the Arts, Literature and Science of China. The annual subscription is $10.00 Shanghai currency, or $6.00 gold for U.S.A. and Canada. Office:—Room 102, the Ben Building, Shanghai. Central 3247.

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felt that such an occasion as the opening of the new building must not pass without some fitting celebration by the Chinese staff. During the past 17 years on the "North-China" he had invariably found that however much work had to be done, he always received smiling and ungrudging help from his Chinese fellow-workers. In this connexion he wished particularly to name Ah Kow, Che Nam and Fuh Shui. They and other members of the Chinese staff and himself had worked very closely together on the "North-China Daily News." He knew, too, that they felt as he did, that they were both working not only for themselves, but were trying to do what they could to help China—that great country in which foreigners found themselves so well received and treated with such friendliness. He thanked them in conclusion for the most loyal co-operation and the friendship they had displayed towards him throughout the 17 years he had been with among them.

Mr. W. H. Chen spoke briefly on behalf of the Chinese staff and thanked the Directors, Mr. Davis and Mr. Green for their kindness and friendship. He hoped there would be annual dinners of this kind so that the Chinese and foreign staff would come to know each other better.

Mr. Francis Zia, foreign secretary of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the invited guests, paid a warm tribute to the "North-China Daily News," as a newspaper which commented with fairness and the utmost impartiality upon Chinese problems and events, and was a sterling example of what could be achieved by friendly co-operation between foreigners and Chinese.

Mr. R. W. Davis said that the few words he had to say were solely to the Chinese staff. He was very glad to welcome them for two reasons, firstly because he had a number of very old friends on the Chinese staff, four of whom—Fuh Shui, Si Long, Kang Yung-kuei, the compradore, and Kang Sing,—he had known for 20 years. Secondly, he welcomed them because most of the Chinese staff of the "North-China Daily News" were printers and pressmen, "and I am printer and pressman myself," Mr. Davis went on. (Laughter). He felt he must also couple with his remarks Mr. Davy and Mr. Haslam. He hoped that he also would meet the staff again 20 years later and that before that time they would have many more dinners together. Proposing the health of their guests, he reminded them that two foreign guests, Mr. McIntosh and Mr. Douglass, were also printers and pressmen (renewed applause).

Mr. McIntosh responded in Chinese, after which Mr. Kang Sing, on behalf of the compradore, his father (who, said Mr. Kang, had been with the "North-China" for over 30 years) and Mr. Kang Fuh-shui, offered a welcome to the foreign guests and expressed the thanks of the Chinese staff for a most enjoyable evening.

A correspondent writes on the back of every envelope he posts locally the name of the street and district in which it is posted and the date and time. If this were done by others, no doubt, the postal authorities could be greatly assisted in finding out who is responsible for the present delays. Just now few things can be indicated with less precision than when our correspondents will receive our letters.

Mr. C. F. Lawson, of the Phoenix Assurance Co., left Shanghai on Tuesday by the str. Mooltan, and is proceeding to South Africa. His departure is greatly regretted, as he has taken a prominent part in the life of the community during the three years he has been here. After serving throughout the war he was appointed to the Shanghai office of his company, and shortly after his arrival joined the Shanghai Scottish S.V.C., in which he became a very popular and valuable member. He represented the company at Rugby football and in S.V.C. competitions, especially in Lewis Gun work, while in other directions he was equally well known.

POSTAL DEVELOPMENT IN SHANGHAI

Division of Town into Several Sections with Fully Equipped Offices and Locally Expert Men in Each

When the present post office was built in 1906 and leased for a period of 20 years it was considered that it would be ample for the whole period of the lease. By some it was considered a wastefully large structure, an unwieldy white elephant. The extraordinary growth of postal business and the taking over, earlier than anticipated, of the foreign postal agencies, before all the necessary arrangements had been possible, had the effect of making existing office accommodation entirely and hopelessly inadequate. Much inconvenience has in consequence been felt by the public, many annoyances have resulted, and many inevitable delays have been caused owing to the cramped space and the swarming crowds pressing at its counters.

While all these hindrances will fall away when the post office moves into its new building, the postal authorities realize that one central office for the whole of Shanghai, however large this office may be, can no longer meet the needs of this constantly growing city with its continually lengthening distances. It is therefore the intention gradually to establish a number of fully equipped and fully functioning post offices at suitable points in various parts of Shanghai, to divide the Shanghai postal area into sharply defined postal sections with an office for each section.

EACH SECTION ITS OWN NAME.

Each section will have its distinctive postal appellation such as "Central Section," "Western Section," "Northern Section," etc. Altogether it will probably be found necessary and convenient to form at least eight such sections. By eventually having one's mail matter addressed, as is done in large cities abroad, to the postal section in which one lives, "Shanghai C," "Shanghai W," "Shanghai N," etc., sorting at the Central Office will be made easy and a much speedier delivery should result, while mistakes and misdeliveries will be brought down to their irreducible minimum. Shanghai is growing too large for one central sorting staff to be able to acquire and retain that intimate knowledge of the whole postal area with all its streets and lanes which is required for efficient and rapid sorting of the large quantities of mail matter passing through their hands.

Sectional offices will be adequately staffed and equipped to allow all manner of postal transactions to be effected. Parcels have to undergo formalities due to Customs requirements, but it is hoped that it will be possible, at least to some extent, to accept and deliver parcels at sectional offices.

All these offices will be connected with the Central Office by a service of regular and rapid motor vans so that mail matter will suffer no delays but be delivered or despatched as soon as if it had been posted at the Central Office itself.

REDIRECTED LETTERS.

From a purely postal point of view the establishing of sectional offices will be the means of overcoming many of the existing difficulties which lead to almost inevitable mistakes and irregularities. When for instance a member of the public asks that his mail matter shall be redirected from his former to his new address, it might seem a simple matter to effect such redirection. But if it is known that there are on an average no less than 2,000 such requests on file at any one time it may be understood how almost impossible it is for a special sorting staff in one central office to bear in mind all these various requests at the time all the mail matter for Shanghai passes through their hands. Written records are of no avail as there is no time to consult records when the mails have to be rapidly sorted.

This is only one of the many difficulties experienced under the present centralized working system, difficulties which will not be solved by mere additional working space but only by an organized decentralization of all postal work, by a postal division of Shanghai into distinct sections.

CHINA SOCIETY OF SCIENCE & ARTS

New Medico-Biological Section: An Art Exhibition Planned: All-Round Interests and Pursuits

The formation on Monday last of a Medico-Biological Section of "The China Society of Science and Arts" marks the latest development in the wave of intellectual interests that is sweeping Shanghai and China generally.

In a recent issue of "Nature," one of the leading British scientific papers, the well known American geologist, Professor J. W. Gregory, F.R.S., who recently carried out an expedition into West China to investigate geological problems in connexion with the highlands of Yunnan, published a highly interesting and instructive article entitled "The Scientific Renaissance in China." Amongst other phases of this subject he mentions the activities of "The China Society of Science and Arts," and "The Shanghai Chemical Society," both of which have for their official organ, "The China Journal of Science and Arts," and both of which have been started recently in Shanghai.

The China Society of Science and Arts is the outcome of a movement set on foot by Mr. A. de C. Sowerby, primarily to have a Biological Society in China, with a journal of its own. It was found, however, that there were not enough biologists in China to undertake such an organization successfully and so it was decided, after consultation with Dr. J. C. Ferguson, the well known sinologue, and other prominent scientists in China, to form a society with a sufficiently wide scope to embrace all branches of human knowledge in relation to China.

THE SECTIONS.

In order that individual sciences and arts should be given due prominence, it was decided to have "Sections" for these within the larger organization.

The Society has now been formed, and the officers for the present year elected. Several "Sections" have been formed, and the society now stands as follows:—

General Society.

President: Arthur de C. Sowerby, F.Z.S., F.R.G.S.

Vice presidents: John C. Ferguson, PH.D. (Arts). Herbert Chatley, D.SC. (Science).

Hon. Sec.: Verne Dyson, B.A.

Hon. Treas.: Clarice S. Moise, B.A.

Committee: Miss Mary A. Mullikin, Miss J. G. Anderson, PH.D., Wu Lien teh, M.D., Prof. C. R. Kellogg, Rev. George D. Wilder.

Literary and Sinology Section. Hon. Sec.: Dr. J. C. Ferguson, Hsi Chiao Hutung, Peking.

Art Section. Hon. Sec.: Miss M. A. Mullikin, 397 Elgin Avenue Tientsin.

Biology Section. Hon. Sec.: Professor C. R. Kellogg, Fukien Christian University, Foochow, Fukien.

Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics Section. Hon. Sec.: Dr. H. Chatley, Whangpoo Conservancy.

Medico-Biological Section. Hon. Sec.: Dr. F. Reiss, 14 Kiukiang Road, Shanghai.

Mr. George Sokolsky, of No. 10 Route de Grouchy, Shanghai, is organizing a Political and Social Science section.

There is provision in the Constitution of the Society for Patrons: that is to say, any one who denotes a sum of $100 or upward to the funds of the Society becomes a patron. Mr. E. Luty is the first patron of the Society.

The objects of the society embodied in Clause I of the Constitution are as follows:—

The Society shall be called "The China Society of Science and Arts," and shall have for its aims the advancement of scientific research in China and the promotion of interest in Chinese Arts, Literature, Philosophy and kindred subjects. Its activities shall take the form of encouraging the establishment of local museums, research stations, field clubs, art galleries, technical exhibitions and reference libraries, etc.; to co-operate with all public establishments such as biological and pathological laboratories, fisheries boards, meteorological, astronomical and seismological observatories; to assist as far as possible the work of individual qualified investigators; and generally to advance human knowledge.

The activities of the Society have already begun to be felt.

SOME ATTRACTIVE MEETINGS.

Owing to the interest and generosity of Messrs. Arthur and Theodore Sopher, who have kindly placed the beautiful concert hall in their residence at 445 Avenue Joffre at the disposal of the Society, the latter are now able to hold monthly meetings, at which matters of intellectual interest, especially in regard to China, are discussed by competent lecturers. Meetings are held there on the last Saturday of each month, at 5 p.m., the hosts very kindly providing refreshments, and at which all interested in the progress of science, art, literature and kindred subjects in China are welcome.

At the first meeting, held on January 26, Mr. A. de C. Sowerby gave his presidential address, taking as his subject "The Progress of Science in China." Dr. F. Oppenheim gave a most interesting lecture on "Birth Ratios in China," and Mr. G. Sokolsky a lecture on "Secret Societies in China."

The next meeting is on February 23 at 5 p.m., when Dr. Chatley will speak on "The Mystery of Cohesion" and Mr. Jabin Hsu give a lecture entitled "Gems of Chinese Literature."

The objects of the recently formed Medico-Biological Section are:

1. To carry out medical and biological research work in China.
2. To establish, if possible a laboratory for such work in Shanghai for members of the Section.
3. To appoint specialists in various medical subjects to prepare brief extracts of various articles appearing throughout the world in their own special lines, which extracts will help medical men engaged in other lines to keep *au courant* with medical progress in the world.
4. To have lectures delivered in various languages, especially English, French and German, as there are many medical men in Shanghai who are familiar with but one of these languages.

Under the auspices of the Art Section it is proposed to organize an Art Exhibition in Shanghai this spring, and later in Tientsin and Peking, at which both European and Chinese artists may exhibit their work. Announcements regarding these exhibitions will be made later.

MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY.

One of the main objects of the Society will be the establishment of a Natural History Museum, Art Gallery and Reference Library, and the activities of the Shanghai members will be directed to that end. It is hoped that similar undertakings will be attempted in other important centres in China.

The only qualification necessary for membership to the Society is an interest in its aims. The annual subscription is $10 (Shanghai currency) and this entitles the member to the privileges of the Society and to receive the "China Journal of Science and Arts," its official organ. Members may belong to any or all of the Sections, provided they conform to such regulations any section may decide upon.

Applications for membership should be sent direct to the manager of the "China Journal of Science and Arts," at the office of the latter, 102 The Ben Building, Shanghai, which is also the headquarters of the Society for the present.

A Chinese detective was shot at near 615 Avenue Edward VII just after midnight on Monday night, while in charge of a search party. On being approached by the officers a man named Chang Yoong-zen drew a pistol and fired a bullet which passed through both cheeks of the detective. On being arrested the Chinese gave information which led to the arrest by the British Police of a man stated to be the ring-leader of a dangerous gang.

THE NEW U. S. COURT JUDGE

Announcement from Department of State

Mr. Edwin S. Cunningham, U. S. Consul-General, has received from the Department of state the following telegram regarding the appointment of Judge Milton Dwight Purdy to be Judge of the U. S. Court for China. It is assumed that in definitely announcing the appointment the State Department intends to imply confirmation by the Senate. The telegram was sent from Washington on February 20 and states:—

"Milton Dwight Purdy has been appointed as Judge of the Court for China. Judge Purdy was born in Mogadore, Ohio, in 1865. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1891 and was admitted to the Bar in 1892. From 1893 to 1902 he was successively Assistant City Attorney of Hennepin County in Minnesota, Assistant U. S. Attorney and U. S. Attorney. He served as Assistant Attorney General of the U. S. from 1903 to 1905, and as Assistant to the Attorney-General of the U. S. from 1905 to 1908. He was appointed U. S Judge of the District of Minnesota, and served from 1908 to May 1909 when he resigned He has been in the Philippines during the past year on a special mission, relating to alien property. On his return last February he was put in charge of the alien property section of the Department of Justice. A short time ago he was requested by the of the Aircraft Division in the War Trade Section."

SHIPBUILDING COSTS IN SHANGHAI

A Recent Order for Repairs and a Comparison with Japan

Much has been written lately about the cheap cost of labour on the Continent in comparison with Great Britain and the consequent loss of work to the homeland, especially in large competitive repair jobs, but the following incident showing the alacrity and cheapness with which such work can be executed in Shanghai in comparison with other ports in the Orient is, we think, worthy of record. The str. Gleniffer, after having been on fire during her last voyage home, arrived back in Shanghai during the middle of January, part of the fire damage repairs having been executed in Antwerp, and it was the intention of the owners to have the completion of the repairs carried out either in Shanghai or Japan.

Estimates for the work were submitted here amounting to £2,700 and the vessel then proceeded to her final port of discharge in Japan where competitive tenders, the lowest of which amounted to £10,000, were also received. The difference was so enormous that the owners immediately ordered the vessel back to Shanghai where the work was entrusted to the Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld.

The repairs were carried out with all speed, work proceeding night and day, and the vessel left on Wednesday morning immediately after completion for the Pacific Coast to load for home.

Mr. M. J. Divecha, the well-known Parsee cricketer, unfortunately has met with a serious accident. About 9.15 a.m. on the 15th instant he was riding on his motor cycle along North Szechuen Road and near Boone Road was compelled to halt owing to a traffic signal, there being then, first a motor-car, and then a tramcar in front of him. When the line of traffic was released, the tramcar moved on, but the Chinese chauceur of the motor-car for some reason backed his car, which ran into Mr. Divecha's machine, damaging the motor cycle very badly and also injuring Mr. Divecha's left foot. He was taken to the General Hospital, where an X-ray examination showed that the bones were broken, but the foot is very badly bruised and cut.

democratic form of government based on the rule of the people.

THE DUTY OF A NEWSPAPER.

It therefore seems to me all the more essential that the "North-China Daily News," representing as it does the weighty opinions of the important and influential British community in Shanghai, opinions which have their repercussion not only in China but at home in England, should continue as it has done in the past to approach China's problems in a friendly and sympathetic spirit. It is essential that it should remember that we are after all guests here in China who are under obligation to our host. It is therefore necessary to maintain a nice sense of proportion, to avoid over-statement and exaggeration, to admit the right of Chinese thinkers to opinions which we do not necessarily share, and to give the recognized Central Government of China, which is in friendly relations with H. M. Government and which I fully believe is sincerely anxious to maintain those relations, the credit for its good intentions.

Such an attitude is not incompatible with a sturdy defence of British interests in China or Shanghai, should these appear to be in any way endangered; nor does it preclude the friendly and candid criticism of events and policies in China, or even the stern reproval of abuses such as opium and brigandage. Conducted on such lines, the "North-China Daily News" will not only be a great asset for British prestige and British interest in China, but a real factor for good and an abiding influence.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.

The life of a newspaper is fortunately not subject to the laws of nature, and therefore we have every reason to hope that this Jubilee is only the first of many such anniversaries. The existence and fortunes of the "North-China Daily News" are bound up with the life and prosperity of the British community in Shanghai, and I cannot conceive—provided the paper continues to be produced under such able management, edited with such skill and directed to such unselfish objects as it is at present—why it should not become an evergreen and flourish indefinitely, or at least until the printer, his ink, his "devil" and all his works, shall have disappeared into the limbo of forgotten things—a contingency which is not likely to occur in my life time or in yours.

It is in the belief that the "North-China Daily News" has a great mission to perform, and in the confidence that it possesses the strength, the means and the ability to fulfil it, that I once more offer to the directors, the proprietors, the editor and the staff, as well as to all its subscribers and readers my heartiest congratulations on this auspicious occasion and my fervent good wishes that the leading and oldest English newspaper in China, now that it has been transplanted to this new and palatial building, will continue to develop its activities and to reap the rewards of its public service in the form of an ever-increasing circle of English and Chinese readers and of an ever widening influence. (Applause).

MR. H. E. MORRISS'S COMPLIMENTS

Mr. H. E. Morriss said:—Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my pleasant duty as representative of the family who are the proprietors of the "North-China Daily News," to thank His Excellency the Minister for the trouble he has taken in coming down here, and for the very kind words he has spoken. I am sure that those whom I represent will be highly gratified on reading what the Minister has said, for his words cannot fail to touch a chord that is still closely tied to this spot, and to this office.

I am myself ignorant as to the exact date when the affectionate term "The Old Grandmother" was first bestowed on the "North-China Daily News," but researches into ancient history have revealed the fact that when the "North-China Herald" was born on Saturday, August 31, 1850, there were only 157 grown men in Shanghai, of whom only 31 were married. Presumably they had children, and it must have been some of these who in later life found the term appropriate, for nearly everybody else had disappeared. But the "Herald" and the "Daily News" remained. What, therefore, would be more natural, than naming what to them represented hoary age with such a kind appellation!

But while this conjecture may not be in strict conformity with the real facts, it is nevertheless true that the "North-China Daily News" has had the good fortune to be regarded with much sympathy by its readers, and for this we have every reason to be grateful. Three-quarters of a century have nearly passed since this old lady saw the light of day, but her vigour could not have been maintained if she had not had a succession of capable guardians to look after her health. It must be remembered that few papers in the world occupy such a unique position as does the "North-China Daily News." Although the paper is a British journal which has ever striven to uphold the best traditions of British journalism, and has devoted itself to supporting every legitimate British interest, it must not be forgotten that Shanghai is a cosmopolitan community, among the members of which the "North-China Daily News" has many readers who have a right to expect that a journal of this standing shall treat their interests with impartiality. Our motto "Impartial Not Neutral" has therefore a special significance, and it is the difficult task of the editor to see that the spirit of impartiality be not infringed.

May I be permitted to say a few words of personal regard for the editor, Mr. O. M. Green? He has succeeded a line of editors of which any paper may feel proud. For 13 years Mr. Green has conducted this paper with painstaking care, and it has grown under his hand, ably and loyally assisted by our Managing Director, Mr. R. W. Davis, and the staff, to a size and circulation that is most gratifying to its proprietors. It is owing to Mr. Green's ability and energy that our late quarters became too small for our requirements and that we are here assembled to-day for the purpose of inaugurating our new premises.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, with your permission I shall send home to my family a report which will speak of the honour you have done them by being present at this ceremony. I shall mention that his Excellency the Minister has come all the way from Peking, in order to perform the formal opening of our new offices, and that you have been kind enough to come in large numbers to assist, and to see the place from which it is hoped that the "North-China Daily News" will be edited, printed and published, when our great-grandchildren are all old men and women (applause).

PRESIDENT TSAO KUN'S MESSAGE

Upon learning that the formal opening ceremony of the "North-China Daily News" new building was to take place last Friday, Field-Marshal Tsao Kun, President of the Chinese Republic, sent the following telegram:—

"O. M. Green, Esq. Editor, "North-China Daily News," Shanghai.—I am directed by his Excellency the President of China to send you the following message:—'On the occasion of the formal opening of your splendid new premises, I wish to tender my sincere congratulations to you and your staff. Since my earliest recollections I have known of and been familiar with your admirable publication, which is and always has been typical of sound British commercial principles and enterprise. I have watched with keen interest and the utmost pleasure the progress of your honourable journal, the daily as well as the weekly, from the days when Shanghai itself was but an insignificant place and when your paper occupied a comparatively small place in the realm of commerce and journalism. In the development of Shanghai into one of the world's greatest commercial centres your paper has, indeed, taken a most prominent part. This progress has been mutual, and I trust and feel confident that the sterling qualities which have won you such remarkable success in the past will continue to bring their just reward in the future.'—Wang Yu-chih, chief secretary to the President."

THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMPLIMENTS.

Dr. Wellington Koo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, sends us the following:—

"It is with much pleasure that I extend to you and through you to the publishers and staff of the "North-China Daily News" my hearty congratulations on the occasion of the opening of your new building. The "North-China Daily News," through the commanding position it has won for itself in the journalistic world, exercises a remarkable influence in the moulding of pubic opinion in China and the Chinese public always looks upon its views with high esteem even though it may at times differ from them. The development of democracy depends upon the dissemination of accurate news and the formation of sound

THE GOLD KEY WITH WHICH THE "NORTH-CHINA" BUILDING WAS OPENED BY THE BRITISH MINISTER

public opinion. I therefore wish long life to the "North-China Daily News" and hope that it will exert an increasing force in China in the creation of sound public opinion.—V. K. Wellington Koo."

THE GOVERNOR OF KIANGSU.

Mr. Hsu Yuan, Commissioner for Foreign Affairs here, who represented also the Civil Governor of Kiangsu, Mr. Han Kuo-chun, in a congratulatory message said:—

"On the occasion of the formal opening ceremony of the new offices of the "North-China Daily News" I have great honour in representing Mr. Han Kuo-chun, the Civil Governor, and to express his heartiest congratulations, and also personally wishing the *"Tsziingpao"* the utmost success which it deserves for years to come. The "North-China" has for more than 70 years been the bulwark of fairplay and justice. China has for many years found in the "North-China Daily News" a great friend who has been willing to help her, to sorrow with her in her troubles and to rejoice with her in her joys. I trust the "North-China Daily News" will always maintain such great friendship and close relations with China, and I am sure that what is done for China will be greatly appreciated."

Mr. Wen Shih-tsen, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs at Nanking, who came to Shanghai especially for the occasion, represented the President, Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan and the Nanking officials, and in a congratulatory message, says:—

"On behalf of the President, Marshal Chi, as well as myself and other Nanking officials, permit me to congratulate you on your wonderful success and your very fine building which is being opened to-day. "The North China Daily News" is the oldest foreign newspaper in Shanghai, first appearing under that name in 1864, but as a weekly paper it appeared even earlier, in 1850. With us Chinese, old age means much and we pay respect to an organization which has been able to survive so many difficulties for so long a period. But old age alone does not explain the great esteem in which we hold the "North-China Daily News." Much more important are the ethical standards, the sense of right and fairness, the unwillingness to become the servant of any special and selfish interest. These qualities of justice and decency have given the "North-China Daily News" a national prestige. Within recent years you have opened your columns to Chinese affairs and you have published extensively all sides of all questions. This has given to the foreign friends of China an opportunity to understand that we are not as bad as some would make us out to be and that in reality we are striving to reconstruct our country, although we are not certain what to do. In giving such information to foreigners you are doing a great service to China and you may be sure that the Chinese people appreciate it."

From Field Marshal Wu Pei-fu, Governor-General of Chihli, Shantung and Honan, Loyang.—It has been my pleasure to know of your paper for many years. I am told you have been steadily working and growing in our humble country for several tens of years. Your advocacy is of the best, the most peaceful and the most truthful. Now your honourable building is being formally opened. I trust that your business will continue to grow daily and I trust that your teachings will be better as each day goes on.—Wu Pei-fu.

From Admiral Tu Shieh-kuei, Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Navy, Nanking.—Your excellent writings, teachings and advocacy have gained full leadership among the literature of the Far East and is a model example for other papers throughout the globe to follow. Allow me heartily to congratulate you upon the formal opening of your new building. Apart from ordering one of my staff officers to proceed to Shanghai to attend the official ceremonies I hasten to send you this telegram to greet and congratulate you. I wish you long life for ever and prosperity. — Tu Shieh-kuei, Commander-in-Chief of the Navy.

From His Excellency Han Kuo-chun, Civil Governor of Kiangsu.— Your paper is an example which throws out its light like the sun. It is full of glory and is like a wheel which continually revolves, but gives new things every day. I wish you every luck and blessing. Han Kuo-chun respectfully offers his bow.

From Gen. Liu Yu-ao, Chief of Staff to the Military Governor of Kiangsu and the Governor-General of Kiangsu, Kiangsi and Anhui.—Offer my sincerest and heartiest congratulations. Please convey to staff and directors. Sorry I cannot be at your opening but I have asked Mr. Wen Shih-tse to represent me.—Liu Yu-ao.

From Hon. Tu Tzun, Salt Commissioner for Chekiang.—Upon the formal opening of your new building, of which I have seen many beautiful pictures, allow me to offer you my humble congratulations. Your building is evidently a fine and up-to-date one but I hope that within few years to see you accommodated in even a larger and more spacious one. With you every success and a continuance of your high journalistic efficiency.—Tu Tzun.

SOUVENIRS AND GOOD WISHES

Framed souvenirs, with congratulatory messages, were received from Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan, Gen. Ho Feng-ling, Mr. Wen Shih-tsen, Mr. Hsu Yuan, and from Messrs. Pan Ching-poo, N. Y. Chang, Chen Shut-kai, Yuan Teng-shin, Chun Bing-him, and Mow Chin-tai.

Other congratulatory messages were received from Governor Han Kuo-chun, Mr. Tang Shao-yi, Mr. Kang Yu-wei, Gen. Liu Yu-ao, Gen. Lu Yung-chien, and Mr Chang Yi-ao.

Mr. Tu Tzun, Salt Commissioner for Chêkiang, sent in a beautiful silver shield.

Scrolls were sent in by Messrs Wen Tsung-yao, Sun Hung-yi, and Yen Chia-chih.

The following telegrams were yesterday received:—

"Offer heartiest congratulations opening new building. Sorry cannot be present in person, but with you in spirit. Drink to your success.—Chi Shieh-yuan."

"Continue your excellent services.—Tuan Chi-jui."

"On occasion opening of your new building I have pleasure in wishing you every success and prosperity. Your success is like the continued turning of a wheel I cannot be present with you personally, but I would like to race on my horse to greet you and congratulate you.—Lu Yung hsiang."

"Everybody knows of your goodness, which brings you success. May this continue from generation to generation.—Chang Tso-lin."

"You have come from afar to help China. Please continue to do so. Wish you continued success and hope you enter another new building larger than the present one soon."—Chang Hsiao-liang."

"You have built your foundation. Continue on your fight for righteousness.—Wang Yung kwang."

"Your advocacy is excellent and cannot be surpassed. It has reformed society. Congratulate you upon the completion of your new building. It is a matter which deserves the highest congratulation and gratitude.—Wang Cheng ping."

"You have worked hard to attain your present success. You have been faithful for fairplay and justice. Please continue Heartiest congratulations.—Feng Yu-hsiang."

Dinner to Chinese Staff

The Great Eastern Hotel on Saturday night was the scene of an enthusiastic gathering of all connected with a big daily newspaper, the occasion being a dinner given by the "North-China Daily News" to its Chinese staff in celebration of the opening of the new building. Over 300 Chinese compositors, machine-minders, pressmen, fitters, warehousemen, messengers, book-binders and clerks sat down to dinner, together with the foreign members of the staff. In addition to the Chinese guests, Mr. G. E. Sokolsky, Mr. G. McIntosh, and Mr. C. W. Douglass of the Presbyterian Mission Press and Miss C. England were invited. Mr. O. M. Green, editor of the "North-China Daily News," and Mr. R. W. Davis, managing director, were the joint chairmen.

Among those present were Mr Y. H. Chang, representing Marshal Chi Shieh-yuan, Governor-General of Kiangsi, Kiangsu and Anhui; Mr. S. W. Tong, representing Gen. Chang Hsiao-liang, son of and Chief Staff to the Governor-General of the Three Eastern Provinces; Judge T. S. K. Loh, representing Gen. Ho Heng-lin, Military Governor of Shanghai and Sungkiang; Col. G. S. Chang, representing Gen Lu Yung-chien, acting Director of Shanghai and Woosung Constabulary; and Mr. Chen Shen-chow, representing the Civil Governor of Kiangsu, Mr. Han Kuo-chun, and Mr. Hsu Yuan, Commissioner of Foreign Affairs. A dozen Chinese and several Japanese journalists were also present.

Mr. O. M. Green said the Directors, Mr. Davis, and he had

the memorial closed a memorable and impressive ceremony.

THE WREATHS.

The wreaths laid on the memorial by civil and military representatives were very numerous and beautiful, and ranged from many of elaborate design to the simple wreath of laurel, H. M. Navy's tribute, and one posey of violets without a name, the whole making a massive floral group completely concealing the base of the monument. The offerings were representative of the whole community, private and public, and the following is a list of the principal contributors:—

The Allied Consuls; Shanghai Municipal Council; French Municipal Council, French Consulate-General; Amicale des Anciens Combattants Francais de la Concession Francaise de Changhai; French Volunteer Company; Cercle Francais; the British Navy; the U. S. Navy; La R. M. Marina Italiana; Associazione Nazionale Combattenti; the Italian army; To the proud memory of our fallen, 1914-1918, from their comrades of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps; Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation; Clergy, Trustees, Vestry and Choir of Holy Trinity Cathedral; Members of the Asiatic Petroleum Co., Ltd.; Yangtze Insurance Co., Ltd., General Ho Feng-ling, Defence Commissioner of Sungkiang and Shanghai; Zero Club; In memory of Gunner G. G. Mollison, R. F. A.; Jack Whiting, "Bethune;" Frederick Ward Post, No. 1, American Legion; United Services Association; Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ld., Messrs. Butterfield and Swire; Nursing Sisters, Shanghai Municipal Council; In most loving memory of our beloved ones, Handley and Eric; Marine Engineers' Institute; Shanghai Municipal Police in memory of 11 members who fell in the war; British-American Tobacco Co., and Affiliated Companies; Ex-Gunners' Roll of Shanghai; Ex-Sappers of Shanghai; Officers and Members of the Shanghai Light Horse; Old Comrades of the Field Artillery Battery, S.V.C.; Shanghai Scottish, S.V.C.; Country Club; Cathedral Girls School; French Municipal School; Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China; In loving memory of Pte. John West Middleton, 25 Batt. A.I.F.; Shanghai Public School for Boys; French Municipal School; In memory of those gallant Scouts who fell in the war; Shanghai Race Club; Shanghai Club; Shanghai Paper Hunt Club; Ex-service members of the R. N. A. S., R. F. C., and R.A.F.; L'Esercito Italiano; In proud and loving memory of my son, Allan, Pte. G. A. Benn, 10th Royal Fusileers; La Marine Francaise de Changhai; Shanghai Scottish; Girl Guides. There were also a number of Chinese and Japanese wreaths.

The Debt Paid Off by Inaugural Day

FINANCIAL POSITION.

Tael subscriptions:	Tls
Previously acknowledged	31,046.13
M. Reader Harris	50.00
Robert Dollar Co.	1,000.00
Shanghai Stock Exchange	100.00
M. Demets	30.00
A. & A. Scottish Rite	1,000.00
Arts & Crafts, Ld.	100.00
In memory of the late G.M. Waggott: "L.K.B."	50.00
	33,376.13

Dollar subscriptions:	$
Previously acknowledged	48,080.23
Arthur West	5.00
Herbert Webb	10.00
W. J. Russell	12.00
J. P. Bissett & Co.	100.00
Members of Shanghai Stock Exchange	120.00
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Leslie	100.00
H. Martin Little	50.00
Sterling Fessenden	50.00
	50,527.23

FULL AMOUNT RAISED.

The donations promised but not yet received will bring the total of the fund up to the amount required.

E. F. GOODALE,
Hon. Treasurer.

BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

The Tientsin Cotton Crisis: Customs Surtax: Broken Treaties: Trade Marks

The following resolution was passed on Thursday of last week at the Conference of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce in China and Hongkong:—

TIENTSIN COTTON CRISIS.—"That this Conference views with grave apprehension the decline of Chinese commercial morality as evidenced by the recurring instances in which many Chinese merchants have of late years disregarded their contractual obligations and more especially as demonstrated by the wholesale repudiation of forward contracts by the Chinese cotton dealers in Tientsin during the past three months. That this Conference is convinced that unless the validity of forward contracts be upheld, the very basis of China's international commerce throughout the Treaty Ports will be irretrivably undermined and trusts that, in view of the Chinese Government's aspirations as expressed at the Washington Conference, H. M. Minister will urge them to realize the gravity of the situation thus created and to ensure that speedy trial and execution of judgments be given in the Chinese Courts in cases against defaulting dealers."

The following resolutions were passed at Friday's sessions:

1.—THE 2½ PER CENT. CUSTOMS SURTAX.—"That in view of the disregard of treaties and the many outrages which have occurred during the past year, this Conference desires to restate its position regarding the proposed 2½ per cent. Customs surtax. It reaffirms the view expressed last year that the effective control of the Provinces by the Government is an essential preliminary to all reforms, whether administrative or fiscal, and urges H. M. Minister to transmit to H. M. Government an expression of the earnest hope of this Association that the granting of the 2½ per cent. Customs surtax be made conditional on such reforms as will, in addition to preparing for the eventual abolition of *likin*, insure adequate protection to foreign life, property and treaty rights.

"This Association further hopes that pending ratification of the Nine Powers' Customs Treaty by all the Powers concerned, the Surtax Conference will be preceded at an early date by joint consideration and decision by the Powers of their policy towards China."

2.—BREACHES OF THE TREATIES.—"That the commercial treaties concluded between Great Britain and China were necessitated by interferences with the persons and cargoes of British firms, which for many years formed an insuperable barrier to trade; that security and expansion of trade, with the prosperity ensuing to Chinese and British alike resulted from the honourable fulfilment of treaty obligations by both parties; that the Chinese Government guaranteed freedom from all taxation in Treaty Ports, a regular rate of taxation for goods transported to the interior and immunity from interference for British subjects, their goods and property; that evidence is before this Conference of recent disregard of the treaties under all the above heads and that the Conference desires to invite the attention of His Majesty's Minister and of His Majesty's Government to the importance of securing reaffirmation and maintenance of old established treaty rights and usages for the security of trade."

3.—TRADE MARKS.—"That this Conference earnestly requests His Majesty's Minister to use every possible endeavour to ensure that the rights and property of British subjects are not jeopardized by the recognition or acceptance of the New Trade Mark Law by His Majesty's Government, without such modifications as will provide for adequate foreign representation in the Trade Marks Bureau, and on every Tribunal which may be called upon to give any decision affecting foreign interests in connexion with Trade Marks."

4.—JUNK-BORNE CARGO IN KUANGTUNG.—"That China be called upon to put into immediate effect Article 3 of the Commercial Treaty of 1902 whereby the duties and *likin* combined levied on junkborne cargo between Hongkong and Treaty Ports in Kuangtung shall not be less than the duties levied by the Maritime Customs on similar goods carried by steamer. That, failing compliance with this request, the duties levied by the Maritime Customs be reduced to the level of those levied on junk-borne cargo."

5.—THE UPPER YANGTZE.—"That this Conference whilst deploring the continued prevalence of disorder and brigandage on the Siang and Upper Yangtze Rivers necessitating the maintenance of a strong Naval Flotilla welcomes the more active policy recently inaugurated and desires to record its appreciation of the good work done by H. M. Navy in these waters."

Closing Session and Banquet: Appeal for Naval Club at Chungking

The fifth annual conference of the Associated Chambers terminated on Saturday morning with a review of the proceedings by the Chairman of the Conference in Committee, Mr. F. R. Scott. H. M. Minister made an exceedingly interesting speech in which he dealt with the present situation in China and with various aspects of the Associated Chambers' work. The proceedings terminated after Mr. C. G. Humphrys had thanked H. M. Minister for his attendance, and for the light that he had thrown on various difficult situations.

The annual conference dinner was held at the Shanghai Club on Saturday night, about 100 guests being in attendance. Mr. C. G. Humphrys, presiding, proposed the toast of H. M. Minister, Sir Ronald Macleay, K.C.M.G., in a witty and eulogistic speech, and Sir Ronald replied at some length.

The toast of H. M. Navy was proposed by Mr. E. F. Mackay, who dilated on the cheery spirit which always characterized our defenders on the sea, and paid high tribute to their work on the Yangtze and on the China coast.

Admiral Anderson replied in a manner that bore ample testimony to the truth of the former speaker's tribute to the Navy's cheerfulness, and at the same time put in an appeal on behalf of our sailors stationed at Chungking. He pointed out that a Union Jack Club was badly needed for that outport, as the present structure was wholly inadequate. The authorities at Home were prepared to put up the sum of Tls. 8,000 if the rest, about Tls. 11,000, could be obtained in Shanghai. He left it to them.

Before the next speaker arose the Chambers had pledged themselves to subscribe the amount asked.

Mr. A. W. Burkill gave the toast "Delegates and Visitors" and Mr. E. C. Peters of Tientsin replied.

ARMED ROBBER OUTRAGE

Miscreants Who Rob the Poor

The unscrupulous hand of the armed robber fell heavily upon a group of Chinese living in extreme poverty on waste land off Connaught Road on Tuesday night. Half a dozen men armed with revolvers, choppers and iron instruments attempted to break into one of the huts, occupied by a ricsha coolie and his family, by breaking down the bamboo-mud door. Failing in this, they demanded entrance, and the frightened coolie opened the door. The hut was at once ransacked of its poor possessions, and a shot was fired at an old woman who attempted to save the cover of the bed upon which she was lying, the shot inflicting serious injury. Five houses were visited in this way, and the robbers decamped across country with "booty" in cash and clothing worth about $100. The Jessfield police visited the scene, but made no attempt to assist the injured woman, whereupon the ricsha coolie reported the matter at Connaught Road Police Station, when the police ambulance was sent to convey her to Shantung Road Hospital.

"DEAR BRUTUS"

Amateur Dramatic Club's Production of Sir J. M. Barrie's Masterpiece

A comedy in three Acts by Sir J. M. Barrie.

Mrs. Coade	Mrs. Wayte Wood.
Alice Dearth	Mrs. Chris Wingrove.
Mabel Purdie	Mrs. A. J. Stewart.
Lady Caroline Laney	Miss I. Hones.
Joanna Trout	Mrs. Frank Barry.
Matey (Butler to Lob)	Mr. Leigh Turner.
Lob	Mr. C. E. Whitamore.
Mr. Coade	Mr. A. B. Puddicombe.
Jack Purdie	Mr. R. H. Burns.
Mr. Dearth	Mr. H. E. Muriel.
Margaret	Mrs. A. Welch.

Producer: Mr. P. Le Bris.

Not even in Shakespeare have the A. D. C. attempted anything more ambitious than "Dear Brutus." It is at once in the nature of a morality play and modern comedy; it contains nothing melodramatic or declamatory; its climaxes and its moments of appeal are touched in with the utmost delicacy; and it deals with none but the most ordinary people, excepting the mysterious Lob, whose functions, had Barrie wished, might almost have been managed in a prologue. Even in reading the play, one has to go over it more than once for proper understanding; even thus we hardly realize the purport of the first act till after the second; and in the book things can be explained (like Coade's putting a footstool under his wife's foot, and the tap of the imaginary hammer on everyone's head as they go into the wood) which are hardly explicable on the stage. It is, therefore, certainly no discompliment to the A. D. C. to say that in some respects they failed; the best company of practised professionals with every device for "getting over" might fail in making the first act intelligible to one who knows nothing about the play. On the other hand, the production showed the greatest care in rehearsal and in the study of all parts. Many of the scenes were admirable. The whole production was enjoyable. If it cannot be said that the A. D. C. altogether succeeded, they are to be complimented on a very fine effort in an infinitely worthy undertaking.

The first act, which is also the hardest, was the least meritorious. Without any danger of overacting it might have been played more emphatically. A longer pause with the theatre in darkness before the curtain goes up would have focussed the attention of the house and made the ladies' entry more impressive. That entry is very important. They are already rather in a state of "nerves" over the mysteriousness of their host and this helps to show that they are really much more set on forcing an explanation from Matey than on getting back their rings. The scene also with the butler might have been taken more quickly to indicate the questioners' excitement. Again, the scene in which Lob gets under the table might have been worked up more distinctly. One did not appreciate as one should the sudden change from his pretended endeavour to keep the party at home to the petulant outburst of his real purpose. However, Mr. Whitamore generally played Lob very well, a mystery, yet not too much of the fairy world to be believable as a whimsical old country gentleman.

The second act was delightful, beautiful staged and well acted. One might take the opportunity here of giving special praise to the acting of Mr. Leigh Turner as Matey, Mr. Burns as Purdie and Miss Iris Hones as Lady Caroline. The latter part is a peculiarly thankless one and Miss Hones played it in both its aspects very well. Mr. Burns too was excellent; a philanderer is none the less an object for sympathy because philandering is objectionable and Mr. Burns cleverly retained his audience's sympathy, even while losing nothing of Purdie's nature. As for Mr. Leigh Turner, his butler-cum-rogue-financier was really a perfect study and his reawakening in the third act, where all were good, was a little masterpiece. It was in this third act that Mrs. Barry came out excellently; her joy on finding that she is *not* Purdie's wife was deliciously done. Mrs. Stewart's acting is always a pleasure to watch. If Mrs. Purdie in the play is as clever as her impersonator, she ought to keep her husband alive to the repentant mood of his self-discovery. Mr. Puddicombe was excellently cast as Coade; to dance about with a flute is no easy task as he did it. And Mrs. Wayte-Wood was soft and sympathetic as Mrs. Coadie. As Mrs. Dearth, Mrs. Chris Wingrove has one of the three greatest parts in the play. Like practically everyone else she was so careful not to overact in the first act, that she played the part almost too quietly. In the second and third she was very fine, and Mrs. Wingrove's Alice Dearth remains one of the best things she has done. Mrs. Welch as Margaret was not, perhaps, always quite hoydenish enough; sometimes a little too grown up; nevertheless in all it was a charming study and her last despairing cries for her daddy were heart-rending. For Mr. Muriel's Dearth there can be nothing but praise; his admirable semi-intoxication in the first act; renascence in the second; the tragedy of the third, all these were most feelingly and beautifully played. He has never done anything to approach it.

The third act was all good. The various reawakenings were exceedingly well pourtrayed and the interplay of the characters good. The whole act was woven together into a fitting sense of climax, in a play which apparently presents no climax at all.

WEDDINGS

Allan—Harvey

A very pretty wedding was solemnized at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Saturday, when Miss Elsie Mitchell Harvey, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Gourlay Harvey of Rockfort, Helensburgh, became the bride of Mr. J. R. Angus Allan of Shanghai. The Cathedral was artistically decorated with spring blossom and lilies. The Very Rev. Dean Symons officiated and Mr. R. J. Young presided at the organ.

The bride, who was given away by Mr. P. C. Rielley, looked charming in a gown of brocaded charmeuse gracefully draped and arranged with side panel which formed a train. She wore an embroidered veil held in place with a coronet of orange blossom and carried a shower bouquet of white carnations and fern. The little Misses Edna and Dorothy Wheen, who attended as flower-girls, wore dainty frocks of apricot coloured taffeta and wreaths of forget-me-nots on their hair. They carried tiny flower baskets of sweet peas. Mrs. R. A. Allan, mother of the bridegroom, was gowned in grey marocain with hat to match. Mrs. P. C. Rielley, who acted as matron-of-honour, wore a dress of old gold marocain.

Mr. T. R. Macdonald accompanied the groom as best man and Messrs. R. H. Wallace and H. J. Stevenson were ushers. A reception was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Rielley where many friends attended to offer their felicitations. The bride's going-away dress was of petunia and saxe-blue georgette, and a black picture hat trimmed with ospreys. The honeymoon will be spent in Hangchow.

Kahler—Henry

A pretty wedding was solemnized at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Wednesday when Miss Thyra Joyce Kahler, daughter of the late Mr. W. F. Kahler, of the Imperial Maritime Customs, and Mrs. Kahler, was married to Mr. Francis Henry, son of Mr. Malcolm Henry. The Very Rev. C. J. F. Symons officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her brother-in-law, Mr. R. Rhyss-Jones, wore fawn and crêpe-satin with cape effect lined with shell-pink satin, and a gold-laced picture hat to match. Miss Edith Henry, sister of the bridegroom, acted as bridesmaid. She was in nigger brown cloth with old gold satin trimmings, with a hat of deep salmon pink. Mrs. Kahler wore grey cloth trimmed with velvet.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at 448A Avenue Joffre, at which Mr. H. E. Middleton, who had officiated as best man, toasted the newly-married couple, the bridegroom responding.

UNVEILING SHANGHAI'S WAR MEMORIAL

Impressive Ceremony Witnessed by a Great Throng in the Presence of Chief Representatives of all the Allies: Tribute to Memory of the Glorious Dead

After many days!

It may seem that Shanghai, in comparison with other great cities, has been somewhat tardy in paying the common tribute of a memorial to those who gave their lives in the great war. But there were many unavoidable delays, and the memorial loses nothing in character as a fine emblem of gratitude and remembrance because of its late completion. The Allied Committee has well discharged the duty allotted to it by the community, and our thanks are due to all of them, and particularly to Sir Edward Pearce, who has been chairman of the committee since its formation. The memorial is a beautiful piece of work, simple in conception and striking in its general effect, and much credit is due to Messrs. Stewardson & Spence, the designers and architects, for the admirable way in which the work has been done.

The unveiling ceremony on Saturday morning, favoured with beautiful weather, was witnessed by a great throng. Every point of vantage in the vicinity of the memorial was taken up, hundreds of people witnessing the event from the windows of adjacent buildings, while The Bund itself was packed with a crowd extending from Avenue Edward VII to beyond Canton Road. The great majority of the people [illegible] of the actual ceremony, but remained throughout the proceedings to pay tribute by their presence to the men in whose honour the memorial was unveiled. Those officialy taking part were drawn from every section of the Settlement's many-sided life and seldom has a more representative assembly been seen, the group in the great square fronting the memorial being composed of the Allies' chief representatives in religious, civic, diplomatic, and naval and military life. As a public demonstration, the scene was unique in its completeness, and appealed to the eye by reason of its colour and features of striking interest.

THE CROWDS ASSEMBLE.

From 11 o'clock onwards the public began to assemble and by a few minutes to 12 the spacious square fronting the memorial was the centre of a great concourse. In the centre of the square, drawn up in line facing the monument, were the official representatives of the Allied Forces, viz., a detachment of the Chinese National Army, Annamite Police, Sikh Police, Officers of the French Volunteer Corps, and officers of the S. V. C., all of them men who had fought in the war and most of them wearing decorations, and on their right were representatives of the Allied Navies. To the right and left at the foot of the memorial, relatives of those commemorated, representatives of the Mercantile Marine, of the United Services Association, Siccawei Fathers who served in the war, members of the French and International Municipal Council, the War Memorial Committee, and others closely interested in the proceedings took up positions in the places reserved for them. One was pleased to note that the school children were favoured with a prominent position, for theirs is the great tradition which the memorial symbolizes. The many companies of Shanghai Scouts were represented in force, as were also the Girl Guides, while the Police of both Concessions, and the Fire Brigades had very smart detachments on parade, the firemen with their beautifully turned out machines making a brave show. The line on the extreme limits of the square was held by the French Volunteers and the S. V. C. All were formed up by noon, and at this hour the Army party, composed of representatives from each company of the S. V. C. and in the command of C. S. M. Leighton, marched into the square in short time and with arms reversed, ascending the steps of the memorial and filing round its base, to remain with bowed heads and resting on their arms during the ceremony. They were followed into the square by members of the Consular Body and principal naval and military officers, and the Roman Catholic and Protestant clergy, taking up their position immediately in front of the various groups.

SIR EDWARD PEARCE'S ADDRESS.

Advancing to the steps of the memorial, Sir Edward Pearce addressed the assembly, as follows:

Friends and Fellow Citizens:—On behalf of the Shanghai War Memorial Committee, I have the honour to present to you this Memorial to our glorious dead, erected by the Allies in the Great War on the soil of China, set apart for the residence of citizens of other nations. We have to thank the architects, Messrs. Stewardson & Spence, for the design and execution of all the necessary work, Mr. Harpur, of the Public Works Department, for the foundations, and to congratulate the sculptor, Mr. Henry C. Fehr, for the exquisite bronze statue which crowns the Memorial. The casting of this group was executed by Messrs Singer & Co., of Frome. The flanking symbolical trophies and the Roll of Honour were designed and cast locally by Arts & Crafts, Ld.

This monument will stand for ever as a world's unparalleled but silent emblem to the glory of those many Allied nations who fought side by side with such indomitable valour in the struggle that Justice might live.

We are here to-day to pay homage to those gallant men of ours who went forth from Shanghai and gave up their lives in singleness of heart for all that we hold sacred. They will rise again; nay, they are here to-day, those great peace makers of ours, ready again to defend Right against Wrong.

We remember and must charge our children to remember that as our dead heroes were equal in sacrifice so are they equal in honour, for the greatest and least of them have proved that sacrifice and honour are no vain things but truths by which the world lives. I fervently pray that both as residents in this great city of ours and as individuals we may so order our lives after the ideals for which our fellow citizens died that unashamed we may be able to meet their gallant souls in the great hereafter.

Commander de' Rossi, I will take it as a great honour if you will unveil this Shanghai Memorial to our illustrious dead.

Commander G. de' Rossi—who, as Senior Allied Consul, performed the unveiling—next spoke, saying:

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: The erection of this War Memorial, dedicated to the everlasting memory of those who fell on the field of honour, has been for the past few years the most cherished wish of the Allied Communities in Shanghai; and I think it is my pleasant duty to express our thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Allied Committee for having been able, through strenuous efforts, to put this wish into realization. Erected on Chinese soil across the limit of the International and French Concessions this Monument can be considered as a symbolical emblem of the unbreakable bond which has united the Allied Nations in the Great War.

Although dedicated to the imperishable memory of our glorious dead, it is intended also to stand there as a memento for ever of the loyalty and gallantry of all our men who left these shores to "do their bit." Put no monument of stone or bronze would be enough to exalt the memory of such men: something more than this we must do.

It must be henceforth our sacred duty to bring our children, as in a pilgrimage, in front of this memorial and to impress upon them, and through them impress on future generations, the feeling of the strongest, the highest thankfulness and admiration for all those men, dead and alive, who so bravely, so gallantly have put forth such a splendid example of self-sacrifice, for the love of their country, and also for the love of these two greatest principles, without which the life of nations should not be possible: the principles of Righteousness and Justice.

To those men, whose names live for ever, I unveil this memorial.

I have now the honour to hand it over for preservation to both the Municipal Councils of the International Settlement and the French Concession.

Commander de' Rossi then drew the cord releasing the black pall covering the front of the monument, revealing the simple laurel wreath in bronze and the names of the dead.

There followed a few appropriate words from the Chairmen of the French and International Councils.

Mr. S. Fessenden, Chairman of the Municipal Council, said:

Ladies and Gentlemen:—As the representative of the people of the International Settlement and in conjunction with Monsieur Le Bris, representing the French Concession, I accept with profound appreciation this sacred trust which to-day has been placed in our keeping.

I am deeply moved by the references which have been made by Sir Edward Pearce and Commander de' Rossi to the splendid endeavours of the residents of Shanghai, in co-operation with their brethren in their respective homelands, to do their part in the Great War.

It is most fitting and seemly that you should to-day accept with deep reverence this beautiful memorial of the supreme sacrifice made by those members of our community who went forth from the peace and safety of Shanghai to lose their lives in the service of their respective countries.

It is to them, and to those of our respective nationals who have gone before us, that we owe this great and flourishing city which it is our endeavour to-day to develop into a still greater city which shall be representative of the best ideals of those nations from which we have sprung.

This site, upon which we stand to-day, has been chosen as being on the boundary line between the International Settlement and our good friend and neighbour, the French Concession. Each has donated a moiety of this site. Thus the Memorial stands as an additional connecting link between the two Settlements, and an imperishable record of those of our respective nations who fought and fell side by side in the Great War.

It remains, ladies and gentlemen, only to thank you for your presence here to-day to do honour to those of our glorious dead who are here commemorated, and to express the hope that we may worthily uphold their traditions.

FRENCH COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN.

M. Le Bris, Chairman of the French Council, speaking in French, said: Ladies and gentlemen: The words which have just been spoken by my distinguished colleague of the Municipal Council describe, as completely as possible in their brevity, the sentiments of both of us on receiving, in the name of the residents of our community, the monument dedicated to the glorious dead in the Great War.

In its simplicity, this monument is a symbol of the solidarity which the Allied Nations proved during the tragic years between 1914 and 1918. This solidarity we must maintain so that we can pay the debt that we contracted on behalf of those who sacrificed their lives to enable us to live in peace.

We cannot, without very great emotion, peruse the list—a list too long, alas of our friends who we shall never see again. In tendering to the families who are represented here our expression of sympathy, our gratitude goes to the highest and the humblest. While this monument will tell future generations that from this distant corner of the world legions left to do their duty to their country, their splendid example of denial and sacrifice will be a lesson which will assist in perpetuating the principles of honour and justice in our own countries.

In conclusion, in the name of the French Concession which I have the honour to represent, with all my heart I associate myself with what Mr. Fessenden has said to all those who have come to honour the memory of our glorious dead. And like him, I swear that by our acts we will show ourselves worthy of the traditions which those glorious dead have left to us.

THE CEREMONY OF DEDICATION.

Then followed the ceremony of dedication. Mgr. P. Paris, S.J., the Roman Catholic Bishop, with attendant priests and acolytes, ascended the steps and performed the Roman Catholic rite of dedication, and the same was done in the name of the Protestant faith.

The Rev. A. N. Rowland, Pastor of Union Church, in clear and ringing voice, read this beautiful passage of Scripture:

"Our glory is slain upon our high places: How are the mighty fallen, and perished the weapons of war. But the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and there shall no evil touch them; Their reward is with the Almighty and the care of them with the Most High. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead; For as in Adam all die even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Prayers were then said by the Very Rev. Dean C. J. F. Symons, and Bishop Graves pronounced the Blessing.

Four buglers of the S.V.C. sounded the "Last Post," a solemn and impressive call which no soldier can hear without a thrill, and the minute gun was then fired from H.M.S. Diomede, a minute's absolute stillness being broken by the firing of a second gun. Trumpeters of the French Corps sounded the Reveille, and the laying of wreaths at the foot of

Photograph by Star Photo Co.

THE UNVEILING OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Feb. 22.

Bank's demand selling rate for £1 at 3/3⅛=Tls. 6.13 at 7135=$8.59

Bank's demand selling rate for G.$100 at 70½=Tls. 139.86 at 7135=$196.02

Mex. Dollars, market rate	71.5875
Native Interest	04
Copper Cash	257,000
Bar Silver	33 7/16
Bank rate of Discount	4%
Paris on London	Frs. 102.85
New York on London	G.$4.31¾

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/3
Demand	3/3⅛
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	70¼
Demand	70½
PARIS—	
Demand	1658
INDIA—	
Demand	230¼
HONGKONG—	
Demand	71½
JAPAN—	
Demand	64¾
BATAVIA—	
Demand	194
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	71½

BANK'S OPENING BUYING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/3¾
4 m/s. credits	3/5
4 m/s. Docs.	3/5½
6 m/s. credits	3/5½
6 m/s. Docs.	3/6
NEW YORK—	
Demand	71¼
4 m/s. credits	73¾
4 m/s. Docs.	74¼
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1735
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/3⅜
New York T.T.	70¾

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR FEBRUARY.

Hk. Tls. 5.40 at 3/3⅜	£1
„ 1 at 1505½	Frs. 16.77
„ 1.27 at 70⅜	Gold $1
„ 1 at 64⅜	Yen 1.72
„ 1 at 228¾	Rupees 2.55
„ 1 @ 1.50	Mex. $1.50
„ 1 at 16.15	It. Lire 17.99

Marks and Roubles no quotation

Sino-Italian Bank Quotations

Selling Rates, Feb. 22.

It. Lire 16.20	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 4.03	Tl. 1
It. Lire 10.25	Y. 1

Week's Exchange Notes

Feb. 23.

At the close of business on the 22nd instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 24,655,000 and $39,000,000.

These figures include Tls. 9,150,000 and $27,490,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 955 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—
952 bars from America.

Shipments were:—
30 bars to Hongkong.

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—
Tls. 200,000 small coins to be melted.

Shipments were:—
Nil.

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—

$1,020,000	from River Ports
900,000	„ Nanking
620,000	„ Cotton districts
250,000	„ Hangchow
50,000	„ Ningpo
$2,840,000	

Shipments were:—

$300,000	to Tientsin
300,000	„ Hankow.
$600,000	

SILVER.

London ready silver is ⅝d. and forward 11/16d. lower than a week ago, the price on Thursday being 33⅛d. spot and 33¼d. forward, as against 34 1/16d. ready and 33 15/16d. forward last Friday. India has been both a buyer and a seller, China has been a seller to a small extent. Stocks of sycee in Shanghai have improved Tls. 11 lakhs and stocks of dollars $23 lakhs on the week. The price of dollars keeps low, 71,5875, and it is very unlikely that the Mints will start working before the end of next month: this, combined with lack of exports, tends towards a weak market, in as much as it does not look at present as if China will need so very much more silver in the near future. The New York price of silver in America on Thursday was 64⅛ delivery San Francisco, small business done, sellers holding back for higher prices. The New York/London cross rate is 431⅞.

EXCHANGE.

The market was steady at last week's closing quotation, ⅛d., till Tuesday, when the speculators, whose position then was reported to be about square, turned buyers; there was also a fair merchants' demand and no cover, so rates dropped shortly after opening to 3/3⅛d. and the market closed easy. Rates opened on Wednesday at T.T. selling 3/3⅛d., at which it remained till Thursday forenoon, when there was a drop to T.T. 3/3⅛d., in the afternoon a further decline of ⅛d. to T.T. selling 3/3d. the present level. At the moment, however, there are sellers at T.T. 3/3⅛d. for the balance of the month, 3/3⅛d. March and ⅛d. down per month after: Gold $ T.T. 70⅜ February, 70½ March, 70⅜ April.

LONDON BULLION

Mocatta & Goldsmid's Report

Writing on the London bullion market on January 10 Messrs. Mocatta & Goldsmid state:—

During the remainder of last week, the market kept steady in the neighbourhood of 34d, owing to a little bear covering both from India and China.

On January 7, however, large selling orders came in from China and in two days, the price reacted from 34 1/16d. to 33 7/16d. without much business passing, as a good many of the selling orders were limited in price. Yesterday, there was a reaction of ⅛d., but with a little more scattered selling to-day and the market devoid of buyers the price has relapsed to 33⅛d.

Neither India nor China seem very disposed to buy at the current level and we not see the prospect of much improvement at present, although if Indian exchange should show a steadier tendency, there might be a little buying for that quarter.

Gold.—The arrivals from South Africa this week were small, and owing to the weakness of the rupee mentioned above, India was not a very keen buyer. There have, however, been some Continental inquiries, so that only about half of the arrival is left for New York. The price has varied between 95/10d. per ounce fine and 96/5d.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANK

Annual Report: Proposed Final Dividend £3 and Bonus £2

The following report by the Director of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, for the year ending December 31, 1923, is to be submitted at the annual general meeting of shareholders to be held in the City Hall, Hongkong, next Saturday, February 23.

The net profits for the year, including $3,350,212.49, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts and contingencies, amount to $16,583,873.49.

The Directors recommend the transfer of $1,000,000 from the Profit and Loss Account to credit of the Silver Reserve, which will then stand at $25,500,000.

They also recommend writing off Bank Premises Account the sum of $1,000,000.

After making these transfers, deducting the interim dividend of £3 per share, paid on August 7 last viz.:—£480,000 @ 2/3= $4,266,666.67, and remuneration to Directors, there remains for appropriation $10,267,206.82, out of which the Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of three pounds sterling per share, viz., £480,000, and a bonus of two pounds sterling per share, viz., £320,000, amounting in all to £800,000 which, at 2/3⅞, the rate of the day, will absorb $6,887,892.37.

The balance of $3,379,314.45 to be carried to New Profit and Loss Account.

The sterling equivalents of the Assets and Liabilities are shown at 2/3⅞, the rate ruling on the last day of the year.

Mr. D. G. M. Bernard has been elected Chairman for the year 1924, and Mr. W. L. Pattenden Deputy Chairman.

Mr. E. V. D. Parr, Mr. G. M. Dodwell and Mr. A. M. Bowes-Smith resigned their seats on leaving the Colony and Mr. N. L. Watson, Mr. A. H. Compton and Mr. J. P. Warren were invited to join the Board.

These appointments require confirmation at this meeting.

Mr. G. T. M. Edkins, Hon. Mr. A. O. Lang, and Mr. H. P. White retire in rotation, but being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly.

The accounts have been audited by Hon. Mr. A. R. Lowe and Mr. C. Bernard Brown, who offer themselves for re-election.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Opening of the Markets after China New Year: Inquiry for Piece Goods but Small Business

Feb. 23.

Following upon the China New Year holidays the markets did not open properly until this week, and they are not yet in anything like full swing.

In piece goods the tone is steady, and owing to the lower price of American cotton there has been inquiry for bookings with Manchester. Business has been small on the whole.

Exchange has adversely affected the export market, and nothing of interest has transpired there.

In local yarn purchasers are apparently holding off in the hope of more favourable quotations.

PIECE GOODS.

The first piece goods auctions since the holidays were held this week, and dealers showed a fair amount of activity. Generally speaking, the market has opened firm, and hardly possessing the same buoyancy as has been a feature of the opening in other years. The drop in American cotton has brought out a considerable amount of inquiry to Manchester, but it is believed that notwithstanding cheaper cotton and the position of exchange, actual business has been limited in quantity. Whites and a few Greys as well as a small quantity of Fancies have been ordered, but the activity of the early part of the week has in the last day or two been less pronounced. Clearances of goods bought prior to the New Year have been brisk on the whole.

As far as the auctions are concerned the market reopened very much on the same levels as it had closed prior to the New Year. A considerable number of dealers are still away, and speculators are largely manipulating prices to enable them to clear off previous purchases. Venetians were sluggish, but there was a pronounced demand for Italians, and some of the high and medium quality chops registered an advance of anything up to 7 mace. To some extent this rise is of a speculative character, but the statistical position of Italians is so strong that a good proportion of it may prove to have been justified. Greys were inclined to be slack in many cases, but White Shirtings were steady to firm, Changsha, Hankow and Tientsin being interested. It will be interesting to see how the market for White Shirtings fares during the Spring, following reported private purchases this week.

Woollens are moving well, clearances of cargo bought prior to China New Year being very satisfactory. Local sales during the past few days have been quite good, but business with Home is out of the question, as prices there are now very high, and there is consequently no demand from here.

COTTON AND YARN.

Chinese Cotton—While there has been a drop in the price of American cotton, Chinese spot prices have not shown any proportionate reduction. Indian varieties are now more on a parity with Chinese, and if their prices continue to decline somewhat more it will enable local mills to buy considerable quantities of the Indian staple in preference to the native. Chinese spot prices are as follows:—Tungchow Tls. 47; Shanghai Tls. 44; Shensi Tls. 45; Hankow Tls. 43. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange prices have declined by about Tls. 2, rates quoted there being as follows:—

February 44.85; March 44.50; April 44; May. 43.70; June 43.60; July 43.20.

Local Yarn—No fresh business with local mills has been reported since last week. The drop in the price of American cotton has resulted in the Szechuan merchants, who were prospective buyers, holding off in the hope of obtaining more favourable prices, but meantime the mills are showing no inclination to reduce their rates. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange a reduction of from Tls. 4 to Tls. 5 has been registered, Thursday afternoon's closing figures being:—February 175.30; March 174.60; April 173.40; May 172.50; June 171.60; July 171.10. The price of local cloth is down by about one mace since the opening of the market following China New Year, and very little demand has been in evidence.

PRODUCE.

High exchange has operated against any export business this week, but it is hoped that the easier tendency in evidence at the moment will continue and bring C.I.F. values more into line with the ideas of Home buyers.

Sesamum Seed—There has been no change in the situation at Home, and no business is reported.

Groundnuts—Home buyers are holding off and the market is dull. The Tsingtao market is easier and stocks are said to be accumulating.

Reduction of Price in Insulin

London, Feb. 20.

It is officially announced that the retail price of insulin will be reduced on February 25 from 12s. 6d. to 6s. 8d. per 100 units. This is below the most recent American retail price.—Reuter.

American Copper Combine

New York, Feb. 15.

The shareholders of both companies have approved the absorption of the Chino Copper Company by the Ray Consolidated Copper Company through the exchange of 12/3 shares of the Ray Company for one share of the Chino Company.—Reuter's American Service.

The Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the company held on Monday, it was decided to recommend to the shareholders that the balance of profit and loss account for the year ended December 31, 1923, amounting to Tls. 138,423.59, after the payment on August 9, last of an interim dividend of 3½ per cent. on the preference shares, Tls. 17,500, and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, Tls. 50,000, making a total of Tls. 67,500, leaving the amount at disposal of Tls. 138,423.59, distributed as follows:—

	Tls.
A final dividend of 3½ per cent. on 10,000 preference shares	17,500.00
A final dividend of Tls. 4.50 per share on 20,000 ordinary shares	90,000.00
To general reserve	7,438.28
To carry forward	23,575.31
Tls.	138,423.59

Shanghai Land Investment Co.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. held on Monday afternoon it was decided to recommend (subject to audit) at the annual general meeting the payment of a final dividend of 6 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent. (making 16 per cent. for the year) for the half year ending December 31, 1923.

Kroewoek Java Dividend

At a meeting of the Board of Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ld. held yesterday it was decided to recommend to shareholders at the forthcoming annual general meeting that a final dividend of Tls. 1 per share, making Tls. 1.50 per share for the year, be paid.

Coal Output

There was no output of coal from the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending February 9, while the sales during that period were 43,716 tons.

Fu Chung Coal

The general managers of the Fu Chung Corporation advise us that the sales of their coal (Honan anthracite) for the month of January last amounted to 162,919 tons.

Shanghai Tramways

The following is the traffic return of the Shanghai Tramways (Foreign Settlement) for the week ended February 20, 1924, with figures for the corresponding week last year:—

	1924.	1923.
Gross receipts	$84,589.91	$62,309.69
Loss by currency depreciation	37,342.10	25,091.76
Effective receipts	$47,247.81	$37,217.93
Percentage of loss by currency depreciation	45.41	42.37
Car miles run	116,745	99,167
Passengers carried	2,369,576	2,120,543

INTERNATIONAL SAVINGS SOCIETY

Statement of Accounts

At the annual general meeting of the International Savings Society, held on Wednesday, the following statement of accounts was presented:—

Profit and Loss Account.

Nett Profit for 1923		$16,595.10	
5 per cent Interest on paid-up capital	$2,250.00		
Write off on furniture and Fixtures	14,345.10	16,595.10	16,595.10
and Balance of		150,000.00	
to be apportioned as follows:			
5 per cent. Legal Reserve	7,500.00		
10 per cent. Directors	15,000.00		
30 per cent. Founders' Shares	45,000.00		
55 per cent. Ordinary Shares	82,500.00		150,000.00
			$166,595.10

Dividend.

(A) Ordinary Shares a dividend of Shanghai $93.97 equivalent to Mex. $130.38 per share.

(B) Founders Shares Mex $150 per share.

Reserves.

as at December 31, 1922, amounting to Mex. $7,122,107.51 divided as follows:

10—Mathematical Reserve	6,796,207.65
20—Legal Reserve	30,326.78
30—Extraordinary Reserve	70,000.00
40—Exchange Reserve	25,000.00
50—Counter Insurance Reserve	8,020.64
60—Savings Bonds Reserve	1,650.08
70—Contingencies Fund	190,893.36
	7,122,107.51

Bonds.

Bonds in force at December 31, 1923 40,627
against 31,579 at December 3, 1922.

OBITUARY

Det.-Sub-Inspector Ross

It is with very much regret that we announce the death, which took place at the General Hospital at 3 o'clock on Sunday morning, of Detective-Sub-Inspector John Ross, one of the youngest and most promising members of the Shanghai Municipal Police detective force, after an illness of about a week's duration.

A native of Ayrshire, Scotland, deceased was 37 or 38 years of age, and came to Shanghai 13 years ago. He was one of the first of the Police to volunteer for service in the Great War. From Louza Station, where he resided and to which he was attached, he went as a members of the first Shanghai contingent which left by the Suwa Maru in October, 1914. At Home he joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He afterwards joined the Cycle Brigade in France, winning his commission and serving with great destinction. From France he went to the Gold Coast as an officer.

Before coming back to Shanghai he was married, and he leaves widow and two children.

Coming back, he was attached to the detective staff and was placed on duty in the North Szechuen Road, and later Stanza, Stations.

The funeral took place on Monday, the service in the Bubbling Well Cemetery Chapel being conducted to the Rev. A. N. Rowland, in the presence of a large number of friends and members of all branches of the Municipal Police. The pall-bearers were:—Det.-Insp. Kay, Asst. Gaoler McKenzie, Insp. Sinclair, Sub-Insp. Robertson, Sub-Insp. Mackintosh, Sgt. McGillivray, P. C. Mackie and Sub-Insp. Adams.

A very large number of beautiful wreaths was sent from confrères in the police Force, Associations with which the deceased had been connected and many sympathizing friends.

Before the Mixed Court sat Monday morning, Mr. A. J. Martin (British Assessor), with the concurrence of the senior Chinese Magistrate, Mr. Kuan Chun, made sympathetic comment on the death of Det.-Sub.-Insp. John Ross.

Mr. A. Bersouza

The death is announced of Mr. A. Bersouza, who for ten years has been plant foreman of the Shanghai Mercantile Printing Co., Ld., and who prior to his service in Shanghai was connected with the "Peking and Tientsin Times." Mr. Bersouza, who had just passed his 46th birthday was taken ill a few days before the China New Year.

Mr. N. H. Langley-Smith

It is with feelings of very deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Nelson Humphries Langley-Smith, which occurred at the Victoria Nursing Home early on Tuesday morning.

The late Mr. Langley-Smith, who was only in his 32nd year, was a son of Mr. W. Langley-Smith, of Wotton Hill House, Gloucester, England. He was called to the Bar in 1918, a member of Gray's Inn. and a graduate from Queen's College, Cambridge.

After some experience in practice at Home, he came out to Shanghai early in 1920 to join the firm of Messrs. Hanson's, and was admitted to practice at the Bar of H. M. Supreme Court for China on April 15 of that year.

Mr. Langley-Smith had served with the British Army during the War from 1914 until the Armistice and it was on account of this service that his call to the Bar was delayed.

During the few years that he has been in Shanghai, Mr. Langley-Smith has endeared himself to a large number of friends. He proved himself a hard and conscientious worker and a capable and painstaking advocate.

Mr. Langley-Smith's activities were not confined to his profession for he was rendered valuable service to the Shanghai branch of the China Association, of which he had been Secretary for more than three years. He was a member of the Shanghai branch of the China Association, of which he had been Secretary for more than three years. He was a member of the Shanghai Club, Country Club, and Shanghai Golf Club.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends and the deepest sympathy is extended to his bereaved relatives in England.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late Mr. N. H. Langley Smith took place at the Bubbling Well Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, the service being attended by the Judges of H.M. Supreme Court, the Magistrate and the Court staff, the majority of the members of the British Bar, the Committee of the China Association (of which Mr. Langley-Smith was the Secretary) and a large number of personal friends, there being every evidence of his general popularity besides appreciation of the work which he so willingly performed outside his profession. The service was conducted in the cemetery chapel by the Very Rev. Dean C. J. F. Symons and the pall-bearers were:—Sir Edward Pearce, Dr. R. E. Cameron, Messrs. G. H. Wright, A. C. Holborow, M. B. Browne and A. E. Fenton. Dr. H. R. Friedlander was the chief mourner and amongst the many others present were noticed:—Sir Skinner Turner, Mr. Peter Grain, Mr. G. W. King, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Major K. M. Bourne, Messrs. E. M. Gull, R. C. Faithfull, F. W. Potter, M. Reader Harris, P. W. Massey, C. J. Scott, A. G. Mossop, R. F. Le Mesurier, A. M. Cannan, J. H. Teesdale, A. L. Dickson, R. N. Macleod, V. D. K. Craddock, A. C. Clear, A. Sims, E. M. Ross, E. F. Mackay, Tycho Wing, L. G. Cubitt, H. Martin Little, H. Lipson Ward, A. S. Campbell, G. M. Billings, Ranald G. McDonald, A. McLure, R. F. C. Master, A. E. Seddon, H. Browett, A. M. Preston, C. G. Humphrys and many others.

Floral tributes were sent by a very great number of sympathizing friends.

Mr W. G. Worcester

We much regret to announce the death of another of Shanghai's most popular residents—Mr William George Worcester. Indeed, it is scarcely correct to claim him for Shanghai alone, for he was one of the best known and liked men in Hongkong and in every port along the coast, whilst there is evidence that he was as much thought of in Singapore and in the Mediterranean. Mr. Worcester, who was about 48 years of age, was born in Malta, and was the son of a distinguished Captain in H. M. Navy, who subsequently became head of the P. & O. in Malta and held that position for many years, doing such good work that he received a decoration from the hands of the late King Edward. The son evidently inherited the characteristics of the father, for friends of the latter speak of him in the same affectionate terms which the modern residents of Shanghai applied to his son.

Mr. Worcester followed in his father's footsteps, for he also joined the P. & O. and was successively stationed at Aden, Singapore, Shanghai and Hongkong. Some years ago he left the shipping firm and joined Messrs. Moxon & Taylor, share and general brokers, Hongkong. He left them to open his own business as Worcester & Co. at Hongkong, and about 1915 he came to Shanghai, established a branch here and made it his head office. For years Mr. Worcester was a sufferer from sprue, which continually recurred despite periodical indications that he was recovering. About three years ago he decided to go Home for treatment and after travelling for a while in America, where he was attended by specialists, he went to England for further attention, but a message was received on Thursday of his death at Tunbridge Wells.

Mr. Worcester was one of the best of sportsmen, a keen golfer and paper-hunter and a clever lawn tennis player. He won several lawn tennis championships, principally in Hongkong. Like Mrs. Worcester, who is a sister of Mr. E. S. Benbow Rowe, he also was a clever amateur stage artist and he was one of the best known members of the Hongkong A.D.C., though he did not do so much in this line in Shanghai. He was a member of many local social and sporting clubs and was a Mason of long standing. He was known to all as a man of a most genial and likeable disposition and will be sadly missed by very many friends.

About 14 years ago Mr. Worcester married Miss Elena Rowe, the daughter of Mr. S. Bryant Rowe, Commissioner of Land and Surveys for Western Victoria, and he is survived by Mrs. Worcester and two children, for whom the greatest sympathy will be felt.

On the very day of pious sacrifice to the God of Wealth, a shopkeeper in Chaotfoong Road was visited by profane men and robbed of $700. To make matters worse, he has now received a threatening letter demanding $3,000. The victim is asking special assistance of the Street Unions and the Municipal Police.

WHAT IS A BROKER'S PONY?

To maintain the purity of the China pony and the best sport in racing, measurement of brokers' ponies appears indispensable.

FRENCH TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

The By-Law Altered

Following upon a Police Court prosecution for obstructing traffic in the French Concession and thereafter a case of deliberate obstruction of traffic in the International Settlement, the French Municipal Council has altered the wording of its by-law which created all the trouble.

The situation arose out of a ruling by H. M. Magistrate in the first half of January, that because a man had deliberately obstructed traffic in the French Concession he could not be convicted under a by-law which brought the offence into the category of "negligence." Following upon this ruling, Dr. Tartois, who is a member of the French Council, proceeded to hold up traffic for a few minutes at the corner of the Bund and Nanking Road, and then fined himself $100 which he handed to the Muncipal Council.

So far as the French Concession is concerned the position has now been amended by the insertion of a phrase which will bring within the by-law all who voluntarily or by negligence obstruct traffic, the last paragraph of Article 4 of the Traffic Regulations being made to read as follows:—

"Les conducteurs de véhicules doivent éviter de provoquer soit volontairement ou par leur négligence, toute interruption ou obstruction du trafic."

SHANGHAI SCOUTERS

Preliminary Training During Chinese New Year

The first course of the Shanghai Scouters' Training Camp, which is recognized by the Boy Scouts Association, London, was held during the Chinese New Year holidays at 120 Route Ghisi, by kind permission of Mr. Eric Moller.

Mr. S. Hore, who has been associated with Scouting in Shanghai since its very early days, when recently at Home, took the opportunity to go through a course at the Scouters' Training Centre, Gillwell Park, Chingford, Essex, England, as a result of which he was appointed Deputy Camp Chief, with power to run recognized camps on similar lines in China.

The object of the course is to train Scout officers in the principles, aims and methods of the movement, in accordance with the ideas of its founder, Sir Robert Baden Powell, ; especially as regards the practical application of the training outlined in the handbook "Scouting for Boys."

Eight Scouters, representative of the various Troops, attended this course, in spite of the unfavourable weather conditions. That it has proved a success is evident from the enthusiastic appreciation expressed by those who went through it. Mr. Hore handled the course in a masterly manner, and the various Scoutmasters will turn to their Troops with a new keenness.

At the conclusion of the camp, Mr. Hore presented a gold swastika, the Scouts' badge of thanks, to Mrs. Moller for her assistance and advice in the catering.

Scoutmaster Vanderburgh expressed the appreciation of the campers for the work done by Mr. Hore.

THE BOK PEACE PRIZE: A PRO POSED REFEREN. DUM AMONG AMERICANS IN CHINA

Mr. Harry Kingman, of the Young Men's Christian Association, 120 Szechuen Road, is endeavouring to hold a referendum in connexion with the American Peace Award among Americans in China. The award arose out of a prize offered by Mr. Edward Bok, the plan in brief being as follows:—

I. That the United States shall immediately enter the Permanent Court of International Justice, under the conditions stated by Secretary Hughes and President Harding in February, 1923.

II. That without becoming a member of the League of Nations as at present constituted, the United States shall offer to extend its present co-operation with the League and participate in the work of the League *as a body of mutual counsel* under conditions which

1. Substitute moral force and public opinion for the military and economic force originally implied in Articles X and XVI.
2. Safeguard the Monroe Doctrine.
3. Accept the fact that the United States will assume no obligations under the Treaty of Versailles except by Act of Congress.
4. Propose that membership in the League should be opened to all nations.
5. Provide for the continuing development of international law.

In bringing the referendum to the notice of Americans in China Mr. Kingman says:—"The most urgent problem confronting the world to-day is that of discovering the road to peace. War and humanity cannot much longer exist in the same world. There may be no one plan which will succeed in establishing a workable basis of co-operation among the nations of the earth, but the best must be immediately chosen and put into progress. Whether or not the winning plan of the American Peace Award is the best plan is now being decided through a referendum conducted among American citizens the world over. Cast your vote promptly and mail it in order that the results may be rapidly forwarded to Mr. Bok's committee in New York."

American readers are asked to fill in the subjoined form, sending it to Mr. Kingman:

Do you approve the plan in substance? Yes
Cross out either "Yes" or "No" No

Name ..... (Please print)
Address .....
City ..... State .....
Are you a voter? .....

THE AMERICAN PEACE AWARD
342 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

NOTE: Those interested in expressing fuller opinions are cordially urged to send them, on a separate sheet.

Cut out and mail to Harry Kingman, 120 Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

The following telegraphic advices have been received:—

Singapore, February 20, 1924.

Smoked Sheet ...	... ...	46¼ cents
Mar./April	... ...	47 ,,
Apr./June	... ...	48 ,,

Market opened easy but closes steady.

DEBENTURES.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded *	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
S'hai Municipal Council	1903	6 to 20	26-9-22	T98½	b T490,500	6	June-Dec.
	1904	do.	11-1-23	T98½	c 214,500	6	do.
	1905	do.	12-5-22	T96½	d 320,000	6	do.
	1907	do.	24-4-22	T91	500,000	6	do.
	1908	do.	6-12-23	T100	600,000	6	do.
	1909	do.	15-3-23	T98	300,000	6	do.
	1910	do.	11-5-23	T99	313,800	6	do.
	1911	10 to 30	8-1-23	T95	350,000	6	do.
	1912	do.	3-1-24	T99	340,000	6	do.
	1913	do.	3-5-23	T100	756,300	6	do.
	,,	10 to 50	8-5-22	T78	500,000	5½	do.
	1914	10 to 30	8-1-23	T91	900,000	5½	do.
	1915	do.	22-9-23	T99	800,000	5½	do.
	1916	do.	4-12-23	T99½	1,400,000	6	do.
	1918	10	18-10-23	T103	507,300	7	do.
	1919	10	4-12-23	T104	1,793,300	7	do.
	1920	10	1-2-24	T105	2,240,000	7	do.
	,,	10 to 30	20-2-24	£105½	£750,000	6	do.
	1921	do.	18-2-24	$110	$1,000,000	6	do.
	1921	do.	1-2-24	T111½	T5,096,400	8	do.
	1922	do.	30-1-24	T105	T8,000,000	7	do.
	1923	do.	21-2-24	T99	a16,000,000	6	do.
	1911	do.	8-10-23	T96	400,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914	do.	12-2-23	T88	500,000	5½	June-Dec.
	1915	do.	do.	do.	350,000	5½	do.
French Municipal Council	1921	do.	20-11-23	T108½	2,000,000	8	do.
	1923	do.	17-12-23	T95	T800,000	6	May-Nov.
	1921	10 to 30	2-10-23	T112	2,000,000	8	June-Dec.
	1922	do.	6-6-22	T108	T500,000	8	do.
S'hai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	1922	do.	2-10-23	T105	T1,000,000	7	do.
S'hai Gas Co., Ltd.	1909	do.	29-11-23	T94	800,000	6	do.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded *	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld.	1905	5 to 20	31-8-22	T96½	T250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1909	do.	27-3-23	T98	750,000	6	do.
	1911	do.	26-9-22	T92	250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	,,	do.	27-3-23	T98	250,000	6	May-Nov.
	,,	do.			250, 00	6	Jan-July
	1912	do.	3-4-23	T93	250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1913	do.	3-4-23	T93	250,000	6	April-Oct.
	,,	do.	11-1-24	T94	250,000	6	May-Nov.
	,,	do.			250,000	6	April-Oct.
	1914	do.	22-3-23	T98	250 000	6	June-Dec.
	1916	5 to 25	21-8-22	T90	f 500,000	5½	do.
	1922	do.	12-2-23	T98	750,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	1922	do.	10-1-24	T98	500,000	6	May-Nov.
Shanghai Club	1907	20	1-2-24	T93	450,000	6	do.
Country Club	1901	Perpetual			130,000	6	June-Dec.
Lane, Crawford	1914	5 to 20			130,000	6	May-Nov.
& Co., Ltd.	1915	do.			110,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld.	1906	do.			250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1911	do.	7-6-23	T98	300,000	6	do.
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd.	1923	10 to 20	27-2-23	T95½	h 270,000	6	do.
S'hai Race Club	1923	25	31-1-24	T100	1,200,000	6½	Mar.-Sept.
Cuity Dairy Co., Ltd.	1915	10			50,000	7	Feb.-Aug.
Hall & Holtz Ld.	1914	5 to 20	14-10-22	$92	i 230,000	7	Jan.-July
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	1922	5 to 20	..	..	T500,000	7	Jan.-July

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment.

†See also under section headed "Companies' Notices, etc."

a—Now Issuing; Redeemed or Unissued:—b—Tls.65,100; c—Tls.51,100; d—Tls.34,100; e—Tls.68,500; f—Tls.262,400; g—Tls.169,800; h—Tls.12,300; i—$18,90

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	1924: Jan.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
			lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	b.	b.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	8.87d.	..	22,000	21,000	25,000	22,000	90,000
Amherst (New)	,, 500,000	Oct.	72,382	81,440	80,500	*4.34d.	..	..	9,784	9,236	8,214	27,234
Anglo-Dutch	£200,000	Dec.	650,000	535,100	600,000	0/6.92d.	..	..	..	..	64,000	64,000
Anglo-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,524,711	183,000	1,550,000	6.95d.	..	..	..	..	184,000	184,000
Ayer Tawah	Tls. 300 000	Sept.	369,147	58,042	350,000	10.24.41	..	..	..	..	12,500	12,500
Batu Arang	,, 400,000	Dec.	258,516	162,742	185,793	0/7.31d.	..	..	..	..	12,500	12,500
Bukit Toh Alang	,, 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,615	345,000	7.54d.	139,189	30,893	26,000	26,600	25,500	248,182
Bute	,, 300,000	Dec.	240,067	171,250	159,516	10.11d.	..	..	..	..	17,500	17,500
Chemor United	,, 360 000	Dec.	340,794	216,412	240,192	0/7.15d.	..	..	..	..	27,200	27,200
Chempedak	£55,000	Oct.	145,750	163,033	..	1/5.12d.	..	..	14,000	16,700	14,000	44,700
Chenz	Tls. 675,000	June	151,923	145,338	..	11.09d.	52,730	18,010	15,574	15,700	10,500	112,514
Cycle Chiated (1914)	,, 375,000	Dec.	669,899	633,648	574,660	0/6.58d.	..	..	..	..	53,000	53,000
Dominion	,, 350,000	Dec.	271,150	323,140	304,867	11.01d.	..	..	..	..	28,032	28,032
Gula-Kalumpong	£500,000	Dec.	1,113,000	958,000	1,215,000	1/0 7/16d.	..	..	..	..	88,000	88,000
Java Consolidated	£85,000	Dec.	675,800	649,100	..	7.08d.	..	..	..	..	68,300	68,300
Kapayang	150,000	Dec.	189,239	116,710	..	126.90	..	..	..	..	10,592	10,592
Kanau	,, 250,000	Mar.	114,879	104,753	84,000	8½d.	41,012	6,623	5,574	6,858	8,146	68,213
Kota Bahroe (1921)	,, 300,000	June	138,330	239,970	..	..	78,957	24,885	27,143	29,933	29,156	190,074
Kroewoek	£70,000	Dec.	449,000	549,800	540,000	0/7.24d.	..	..	..	..	59,000	59,000
Langkat	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	842,589	943,000	975,000	Gls.0.28	..	..	86,800	92,500	92,500	271,800
Padang	Tls. 500,000	April	209,711	220,232	..	10½d.	66,300	17,200	17,000	20,000	19,700	140,200
Panchalan (1921)	,, 150 000	Mar.	172,022	135,255	176,088	†40.19	..	..	..	..	..	..
Permuta	,, 250,000	Oct.	98,303	86,299	..	0/8.1d.	..	..	9,012	8,573	8,080	25,665
Resah	,, 275,000	Dec.	68,581	217,135	240,000	1/5½	..	..	..	..	17,400	17,400
Sangaran	,, 600,000	Sept.	391,816	250,833	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sei Kopar (1918)	,, 140 000	June	179,665	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	97,613	..	10,896	12,000	8,500	129,009
Semanon	,, 300,000	Dec.	164,105	242,536	158,264	0/9.37d.	..	..	..	..	13,400	13,400
Senawang (1921)	,, 375,000	Jan.	106,500	272,500	..	*7.35d.	180,800	28,100	23,400	21,700	21,100	275,100
Shanghai Kedah	,, 400,000	Sept.	313,414	246,542	..	8.12d.	..	22,827	21,118	23,680	24,496	92,121
S'hai-Klebong	,, 315 000	Dec.	126,106	109,015	..	0/9.35d.	..	..	..	..	8,700	8,700
S'hai-Mabuy	,, 600,000	Dec.	373,111	289,136	392,000	..	..	..	..	..	22,782	22,782
S'hai Paloetar	,, 200,000	June	209,881	188,013	..	9¼d.	52,721	20,700	15,618	12,204	16,432	117,405
S'hai Serdangan	,, 325,000	Dec.	173,215	117,034	..	0/8.67d.	..	..	..	..	14,400	14,400
S'hai-Sumatra	,, 630,000	Oct.	661,339	679,710	650,000	Gls.0.38	..	..	50,239	61,102	61,110	172,451
Sua-Mauggis	,, 280,000	Dec.	114,380	27,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sungei Duri	,, 100,000	Mar.	30,279	165,757	..	7.20	6,126	..	..	7,884	8,892	22,902
Sungei Duri	,, £10,000	June	268,673	296,568	229,000	11.61d.	64,560	23,302	18,774	19,773	23,698	150,107
Taiping (1913)	Tls. 200,000	Dec.	107,011	103,689	99,000	*130	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanah Merah	,, 750,000	Mar.	415,000	395,900	..	7.92d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,500	21,000	256,800
Tebong	,, 750,000	Jun.	534,490	620,838	717,725	0/7.66d.	450,500	66,500	67,000	72,000	67,000	723,000
Zlangbe	£150,000	Dec.	514,566	523,600	600,000	7.24d.	..	..	..	..	67,500	67,500

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses

† Straits $ cents.

Benambu Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	1 37½	1½	1.50		360,000		T1				
Benawang Rubber Estates (ord. Co. (1921), Ld. (12% Cum. Pref.	T	1 05			34)	300,000		T1	a	300,000	Dec.	(To 30, 1922 .. .. ..

COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation—...subject to assent, the Directors will recommend at the forthcoming meeting:—

To pay a final dividend for the year of £3 and bonus of £2 subject to deduction of Income Tax.

To add to Silver Reserve, 10 Lakhs.

To write off bank premises account, 10 Lakhs.

To carry forward to next year, 33½ Lakhs.

The Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd.—The Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 27 The Bund, Shanghai, on Monday, March 3, 1924, at 11 a.m.

To pay a final dividend of Tls. 10 per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from February 18 to March 3, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Issue of Tls. 800,000 6% Debentures 1924—Tls. 450,000 of the above are being issued at Tls. 98. Interest payable semi-annually on June 30 and December 31. Application forms and further particulars may be obtained at the office of A. R. Burkill & Sons, No. 2 Canton Road, Fourth Floor.

The Ewo Cotton Mills, Ltd.—The 3rd Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 27 The Bund, Shanghai, on Tuesday, March 4, 1924, at 11 a.m.

A Dividend at 8% p.a. on Preference Shares and Tls. 0.55 per share on Ordinary Shares.

The Transfer Books will be closed from February 23 to March 4, 1924, both days inclusive.

The New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ltd.—The 7th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, February 28, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from February 25 to 28, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Exploration & Development Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of the directors of the Shanghai Exploration and Development Co., Ltd., it was decided to recommend to shareholders at the forthcoming general meeting that the capital of the company be increased to Tls. 3,000,000, that one share to be offered to shareholders at par for each share in the company held by them and that 100,000 shares of Tls 5 each be offered to the Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ltd., for the sum of Tls. 600,000, in return for valuable financial assistance rendered.

Formal notice of the proposed issue will be forwarded to shareholders in due course. Payment for the new shares will not be required until some time in April.

The Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—The 21st Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 2 French Bund, Shanghai, on Monday, March 10, 1924, at 4.30 p.m.

A dividend of 3½ per cent. on 10,000 Preference shares.

A Final dividend of Tls. 4.50 per share on 20,000 Ord. shares.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 1 to 10, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ltd.—The 5th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 1 The Bund, Shanghai, on Tuesday, March 4, 1924, at 4 p.m.

A dividend of 10 per cent. (Tls. 0.50) per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 1 to 4, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Laou Kung Mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.—The 30th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 1 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, March 6, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 1 to 6, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of the board of directors

Share Report for Week Ending February 22, 1924.

No. 24/7

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use A1 Code
A.B.C. 4th 5th and 6th Editions
B. Broomhall's Imperial Combination Code
Besides a Complete Phrase Code.
Telephone Cent. 171 & 171.

Members of Shanghai Stock Exchange.
Land, Estate & Insurance Agents.
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building,
12 The Bund.
Post Office Box No 244, Shanghai.

Business has continued dull in the local share market, though prices generally have been well maintained, with the exception of "Rubbers." Local Debentures are offering freely but sellers continue to hold for rates somewhat above the better than 6 per cent. basis.

London exchange quotations have remained firm during the past week and the following are the latest rates available to-day:—

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	£	73.	0. 0 (Middle Price)
" " " " " " F.I.		70.	0. 0ex B.R.I.S.
" " " " " " R.I.		67.	0. 0 cum " (Sellers)
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. "B"		3.	12. 6 (Middle Price)
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ltd. (Fully paid)		1.	11. 9 "
" " " (10/- paid)		0.	14. 3 (Buyers)
Shanghai Electric Const. Co., "B"		2	15. 3 (Middle Price)
Shell Transport & Trading Co., "B"		4.	14. 6 "
British-American Tobacco Co., "B"		5.	5. 0 (Sellers)
Imperial Tobacco of Great Britain (Ord)		3.	11. 3 (Middle Price) ex. div'd.
Singapore Electric Tramways, Ltd.		0.	3. 0 (Sellers)

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to-day is 3/3.

Shanghai, February 22, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:—

FEBRUARY	16th		18th		19th		20th		21st		22nd	
	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.
RUBBERS												
Anglo-Java Est., Ld. .. Tls.	..	..	..	6.55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ayer Tawah Rub. Est., Ld.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	..	..	..
Tebong Rub. Co., Ltd.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.22½	..	..	..
Kah Gilik Coffee Est., Ltd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5½
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS												
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd. Tls.	73	..	73	..	73	..	73	..	..	..	13½	..
S'hai Exploration & D. Co., Ld. ,,	..	..	13½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S. & H. Wharf Co., Ld. .. .. ,,	..	..	..	..	..	..	192½	..	..	..	..	..
Langkats (single)	..	..	..	..	..	..	12½	..	12	..	..	..
S'hai Tug & Lighter Co (Ord.) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81	..	81	..
S'hai Loan & Invest. Co., Ltd. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6½	..
New Eng. & S. Wks. (Pref.) ,,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5½
COTTONS												
DEBENTURES												
S. M. C. 6% 1920 stg. Loan .. £	..	..	..	..	..	..	105½	..	..	..	..	..
S. M. C. 6% 1923 Debs. .. Tls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	99	..	..	..	99	..

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

February 26, Tuesday. March 25, Tuesday. April 29, Tuesday.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, FEBRUARY 22, 1924.

STOCK	Last business done.		Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Paid-up Value	Reserve, etc.	Finan. year ended	Last Dividend, etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.										
London	£	124								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Cor.	$	1150			61) 400,000	H $125	(a H $3,350,212	Dec.	Final 6% & Bonus 6% mk. 6% 1922) less I/T Febg. 2	
							(c H $6,127,851			
Chartered Bank of I., A. & C. .. London	£	134			600,000	£5	(a £222,211	Dec.	Final 7s. & Bonus 6s. 3d. (mkg. £1 0s. 3d.),	
							(c £3,800,000		free of I/T, 1922	5-4-23
INSURANCE.										
Union In. Society of Canton, Ld.	H $	232½			(55) 200,000	d £4	(av £137,386		Final 16s. (mkg. 40s.) ex 1921 Work. a/c.,	
							(b £50,500	Dec.	Interim 24s & Bonus to Contributors, 20%..	26-5-23
							(c £3,771,054		ex 1922 Work a/c	
North-China Insurance Co., Ld.	T	138			10,000	e £5	(av T610,087	Dec.	Final 15s. (mkg. 30s.) ex 1921 Work a/c. and	
							(c T1,742,857		Interim 15s. ex 1922 Works. a/c.	30-5-23
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ld. ..	$	27			21) 250,000	$10	(av $1,921,395			
							(aw $2,108,536	Dec.	$2 (or T1.46) ex 1922 Work. a/c. payable in	
							(c $4,006,242		Taels at Exchg. 73	30-5-23
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ld.	T	22			1) 50,000	T20	(av T515,846			
							(aw T291,034	Dec.	T1.20 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	30-5-23
							(c T19,561			
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.	H $	725		710	10,000	f H $100	(av H $2,172,875	Dec.	Final H $22 (mkg. H $40) ex 1921 Work. a/c.	
							(c H $6,643,892		and Interim H $18 ex 1922 Work. a/c. ..	11-5-23
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld. ..	H $	350			8,000	g H $50	(av H $671,693	Dec.	H $32 ex 1921 Working a/c.	28-3-23
							(c H $1,870,055			
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H $	127	140		20,000	h H $20	(av H $1,328,926	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/c. ..	26-5-23
							(c H $5,723,050			
Assurance Franco-Asiatique	F	500	475		11,000	F500	(a 140,198	Dec.	None, Floated 1918	.....
							(c F5,781,330			
SHIPPING.										
Indo-China S.N. Co., Ld. .. (6%cum.pref.	H $	38	38½		2) 120,000	£5	(a £2,167			
(def. ord.	H $	140			2) 120,000	£5		Dec.	Pref. 6s. at Exchg — $2.71 London Warrants	
							(c £2,103,182		less I/T a/c., 1922. Def. Ord. Nil	15-6-23
Shell T'sport & Trading (ord.	"B"				56) 30,000,000	£1				
Co., Ld. .. (5%cum.pref.	£		£4:13:0	£4:16:0	25) 500,000	£10	(a* £2,029,050	Dec.	Interim 2s. free of I/T, Coupon 42	5-1-24
(7½% cum. 2nd pref.	£				57) 10,000,000	£1	(c £5,000,000			
Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld. (ord	T	84		82	20,000	T75	(a T22,456	Dec.	(Int. Ord. T2.50 a/c., 1923)..	
(pref.	T	53	53		10,000	T50	(c T470,000		(Int. Pref. T1.75 a/c., 1923)	9-7-23
DOCKS AND WHARVES.										
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld. ..	T	94	92		47) 55,700	T75	(a T102,535	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
							(c T1,948,000			
Hongkong & W'pao Dock Co., Ld.	H $	167½	169		‡ 60,000	H $50	(a H $583,680	Dec.	Final H $7 & Bon. H $3 (mkg. H $12, 1922) ..	27-3-23
							(c H $4,081,632		Interim 1923, H $4	29-10-23
New Eng. and Shipbuilding (ord.	T	5½	5½	5½	42) 500,000	T5	(a T2,400		Ord. T0.25, 1923	10-2-24
Works, Ld. .. .. .. (8% pref.	T	5.20	4.90		65) 500,000	T5	(b T300,000	Dec.	Pref. T0.40, 1923	10-2-24
							(c T1,114,015			
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ld.	T	192½	191		‡31) 40,000	T100	(a T12,229			
							(b T200,000	Dec.	Final T12 (mkg. T15, 1922)	13-3-23
							(c T1,041,794		Int. T3 a/c., 1923	30-8-23
S'kong & K'loon W. & G. Co., Ld. ..	H $	180		182	80,000	H $50	(a H $305,494			
							(b H $250,000	Dec.	H. $6 & Bonus H. $3 (mkg. H $9, 1922) ..	20-2-23
							(c H $100,000			
MINING.										
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld. ..	£	12/-			24) 500,000	G. $10	———	June	G $0.50, 1920-21	26-7-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Bearer).	T	21½	21	22	‡64) 2,000,000	£1	(a £10,537	June	Final 5% (Coupon No 23) free of I/T,	
London	£		£3:10:6	£3:14:6			(c £252,000		1922-1923	11-12-23
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld. ..	H $	5.10			200,000	£1	(a £23,613	Mar.	1s. 2d., 1909-10	21-5-10
							(c £4,873			
LANDS AND HOTELS.										
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. ..	T	118	118½		‡) 78,000	T50	(a T25,559			
							(b T250,000	Dec.	(Final T3 & Bonus T2 (mkg. T8, 1922)	23-3-23
							(c T2,166,583		(Interim 1923, T3	26-7-23
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld. ..	H $	114	113		240,000	H $25	(a H $157,880	Dec.	Final H $1.50 & Bonus $2 on 200,000 shares	
(New Reg.)							(b H $250,000		mkgs. H $5, 1923) H $2.50 on 40,000 new shs.	28-1-24
Humphrey's Est. & Finance Co., Ld. ..	H $	23½			150,000	H $10	(a H $1,500,299			
							(b c H $50,000	Dec.	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.80, 1923	9-2-24
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld.	T	8			3,674	T20	(c H $421,458	Dec.	T1.20, 1923	13-2-24
							(a T2,946			
							(c T7,000			
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld. ..	T	120	120		‡23) 18,000	T100	(a T7,848	Feb.	Int. Divid. T3½, 1923-24	21-9-23
							(b T20,000			
							(c T350,000			
The Shanghai Hotels, Ld. (in liq)	$	40	50		‡41) 150,123	$7.50	(a $475,121	Dec.	$3 on 50,000 shs; Scrip Div. 199 new Ord. shs.	
									for ea. 123 Founders shs., 1920	.....
Carlton, Ld.	T	53			14) 10,000	T50		Dec.	Interim, $3.50 on 74,600 shs., 1921, Final, Nil..	11-6-21
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	G $	100			‡18) 10,000	G $100	(c $2,465,534	Mar.	Floated April 1, 1922	.....
								Dec.	Incorporated under the laws of Delaware Ord.	
Raven Trust Co., Inc. .. .. (ord.	G $	19	12½		**100,000	G $10			1922, 7%	4-1-23
(pref	G $	10	10			G $10			Pref. 1st gr. 1923, 1½%	4-1-23
PLANTATIONS.										
Alma Estates, Ld.	T	6½	6		70,000	£1 at T9	a T28,940	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23	19-12-23
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	0.50	0.25		‡82) 500,000	T1		Oct.	.....	.....
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld. ..	T	2.99			12) 400,000	10s.		Dec.	T0.30, 1919	.....
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T	6½	6.15		4) 500,000	10s.	a T32,505	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c. 1923	7-4-20
							(a T129,151			14-9-23
							(c T378,570			
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T	23			27) 30,000	T10	(a T16,223			
							(b T22,000	Sept.	T2.00, 1922-23	28-12-23
							(c T69,960			
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Ests., Ld. ..	T	0.97½			490,000	T1	a T20,789	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	10-4-20
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T	1.12½	1.05	1.10	500,000	T1	a T20,402	Mar.	Final T0.25 (mkgs. T0.50, 1916-17)	25-7-17
Batu Plantation (1913), Ld.	T	0.75	0.70	0.80	300,000	T1	(Loss)T13,076	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkgs. T0.10, 1916)	29-3-17
Clemor United Rubber Co., Ld.	T	1.07½	1	1.10	400,000	T0.90	a T37,697	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	6-11-23
Chempedak Rub. & G'ther Est., Ld. ..	T	6			39) 35,000	£1	(Loss)T13,435	Oct.	2nd Interim, T0.50, (mkg. T1, 1916-17)	16-10-17
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	1.40			135,000	T5	a T4,120	June	T0.20, 1916-17	1-11-17
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld..	T	2½			25) 500,000	2s.—T0.75	a T23,192	Dec.	T0.10, 1922	20-4-23
							(c T30,000		Interim T0.05, 1923	15-10-23
Dominion Rubber Co., Ld.	T	2	1.80		19) 350,000	T1	a T13,813	Dec.	T0.40, 1919	18-5-20
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T	9½			‡48) 750,000	(21,450,000	(a			
						5s; 200,000	(c		2s. less I/T at 5s. in £1922, "B" Coupon 20)††	28-3-23
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee,										
Est. Ld.	T	14			8) 85,000	£1 at 2.31½	a T54,465	Dec.	Interim, T0.50, 1923	3-9-23
Kah Gilik Coffee Estates, Ld.	T	5			70,000	T5	(c T650,113			
Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ld. ..	T	12	5½		35) 15,000	T10			Incorporated 1923	10-4-23
							(a T6,977		(T0.50, 1922	17-7-23
Karan Rubber Estate Co., Ld.	T	6			25,000	T10	(c T4,023	Dec.	Interim 1923, T0.50	17-7-23
							(a T3,098		T0.60, 1922-23	1-6-23
							(b T30,000	Mar.		
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1921), Ld. ..	T	1.05			300,000	T1	a (Loss)T38,263	June	(T0.60, 1922	17-12-23
Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ld.	T	11	13	16	20) 70,000	£1 at T1.80	(a T30,000		(Int. T0.50 a/c., 1923	5-6-23
							(c T30,000			

CORRESPONDENCE

THE SHANGHAI MINT.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR, The "*Sin wan pao*" published a letter on the Shanghai Mint from Mr. L. T. this morning calling attention to the fact that the Mint is not yet open and that my extravagance and carelessness is responsible for it. That the public may be enlightened as to the true facts of the situation, will you kindly permit me to give them through your columns the following information:

I was appointed Director of the Mint during the summer of 1921 (10th year of the Republic). Previous to my appointment a loan had been concluded for $2,500,000, but when interest and discount has been deducted the Mint was credited with $1,955,750. On September 9 of that year I submitted a budget to the Ministry of Finance, the Bureau of Currency and the Chinese Banking Group in which attention was called to the fact that the above amount would be inadequate for the purposes of the Mint. My conclusions were reached on the following figures:

Land for Mint	$307,593.14
Machinery	2,040,704.00
Building	625,000.00
Lighting, gas, piping, heating	250,000.00
Vaults	80,000.00
Excavation work	50,000.00
Bunding of creek	80,000.00
Enclosure and roads	70,000.00
Furniture for shops and offices	150,000.00
Transporting and installing machinery	100,000.00
Bridge across Soochow Creek	150,000.00
Sundries and contingencies	50,000.00
Director's office and staff for 20 months	80,000.00

It must be noted that the various estimates for land, buildings, machinery, fittings, etc., had to be approved by the Bureau of Currency and the Chinese Banking Group.

I therefore proposed that the loan be increased to an effective $4,000,000 so that the Mint could be operated without impediments or difficulties. While I was in charge of the Mint the political situation in Peking was such that Ministers and Directors General of the Currency Bureau were constantly changing and nothing could be done. Six weeks before I was dismissed all the machinery arrived and one week after my dismissal the buildings were completed. The Chinese Banking Group had the power to supervise disbursements under the original loan and the appointment of an auditor to the Mint, who during my tenure countersigned cheques.

From the above it will be seen that during my tenure in this office, everything was done to facilitate the opening of the Mint. It is not my fault that the cost of construction and machinery was under-estimated, and that my efforts to place the finances of this project on a sound basis were unavailing.

Thanking you for your courtesy,

I am, etc.,
SAH FU-MOW.

Shanghai, Feb. 15, 1924.

THE MASSACRE OF KOREANS.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The Japanese government has officially, and the Japanese people have publicly, "confessed and acknowledged" their wrong in the Korean massacre during the Tokio disaster, as manifested, for example, in "an open letter to my Korean friends" written by an S. Sheba, published in the "Japan Advertiser" and also in the "Honolulu Star-Bulletin" recently. However, we, the outraged people, cannot be satisfied with a mere "confession." The barbaric and wanton slaughter of more than 4,000 innocent and unarmed people of our race seems to us a matter which cannot be dismissed with a word of regret, however sincere the regret may be.

Therefore, let it be resolved at the Delegate Assembly of the Korean National Association held this day, January 14, 1924, at the City of Honolulu, that the President of the Association representing 5,000 Koreans residing in this Territory of Hawaii, be authorized to send to the Japanese government, and to Japanese and Chinese newspapers for publication, a statement embodying the followed principles which we consider just and fair conditions upon which the "apology" will be known to have been sincere.

1. A thorough investigation should be started at once by a joint Committee composed of Korean, Japanese and American committeemen, named by both countries. (Our information gives the number of the victims far above 4,000 while the Japanese reports vary between 500 and 700. Japan owes it to herself, to Korea and to the world at large to ascertain the exact number and make it public. When our people at home organized an investigation party, Japanese police ordered them to dissolve it. Our people are entitled to find out for themselves how many of their countrymen were killed.

2. All the Koreans who are still imprisoned without a just cause should be released at once and all due reparations be made for the damage sustained through imprisonment.

3. All the perpetrators of the crime, including the government officials who gave out the order that the Koreans in Japan be killed at sight, should be tried and punished according to the law. This must be done without delay in order to satisfy the demands of justice and to guarantee the safety of the Korean residents in Japan.

4. An indemnity should be made to the families and dependents of those killed.

5. An official statement should be published by the Japanese Government retracting all the groundless charges perniciously incriminating the innocent people that were barbarously slaughtered.

6. To the end that justice may be complete, Korea should be immediately restored to its owners, the Koreans, and all the Japanese military and civil forces that are now in occupation of the peninsula promptly withdrawn.

If Japan really desires to "bury the past" as expressed in the letter above referred to, let her make amends by ascertaining by frank, open investigation the extent of the wrong, by indemnifying those whose sufferings have resulted from wanton slaughter and unjustified imprisonment, by punishing the offenders and finally by the great atonement,—once more re-establishing Korea in the family of free nations.

By direction of the Korean National Association of Hawaii.

I am, etc.,
Y. K. KIM,
PRESIDENT.

Honolulu, T. H., Jan. 14, 1924.

DYSENTERY IN DOGS.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Can any of your readers suggest a cure for blood dysentery in sporting dogs? This illness appears to be very prevalent amongst our canine friends in Shanghai, and any suggestions regarding proper food and medicine will be very greatly appreciated.

Thanking you for your valuable assistance and enclosing my card.

I am, etc.,
PAT.

Shanghai, Feb.13, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Under the above heading Pat asks for a cure for dysentery, I would advise Pat to take his dog to a veterinary surgeon to try and find the cause of dysentery or bleeding as the case may be. If he is not in a position to see a vet., the following may help him to a correct diagnosis of the disease. Very frequent stools, with great straining, the stools are liquid with mucus and blood. Frequent passing of urine in small quantities and highly coloured, the dog is usually dull, restless, thirsty and has more or less fever. The anus is generally red, sore and puffy. If the above answers to Pat's dog's symptoms, I would advise giving him half an ounce of castor oil with 30 drops of laudanum on an empty stomach; follow this by an enema of gruel or cold starch. Suppositories made of opium, Hamamelin and lead, of each one grain, one suppository night and morning. Great care must be taken in the feeding of the dog; use only foods which can be taken in small quantities but are rich in nutriment such as Bovril, Virol, Brand's Essence, bread and milk, eggs, patent barley, and a little brandy if necessary. See that its drinking water is kept fresh, and it may have barley water to drink if it will drink it; but some dogs do not care for the latter. I have frequently used the above treatment for dogs with success, but of course without seeing the dog you cannot prescribe with any great success. The above will be without doubt, beneficial where there is great bleeding, even if the disease is not pronounced as dysentery. If the above does not help Pat, he can get in touch with me, through your usual courtesy and I will give him further advice if possible (no charge).

Your correspondence column has opened to the doggy subjects at last, and I would like to see more subjects discussed about our canine friends and so arouse more interest in them. I believe the energetic secretary who worked so hard for our last dog's show is again on the war path; if so we will soon be hearing of another show in the near future. There are in Shanghai to-day more breeds of dogs than there were last year; one of these is a lovely pair of Samoyedes. These pretty white dogs are a great favourite among fanciers at home. Our Alsatians are numerous and will be in good evidence at the show. I would like to mention whilst on the subject a thing I read in one of our English dog's books. "The chow dogs here are probably better than those in China to-day." Our chow fanciers here will not hesitate to dispute this statement I guess. Dog fanciers one and all, start getting your dogs in condition for the bench.

Apologizing for taking up so much of your space, but hoping others will come forward and take up more with more interesting news.

Enclosing my card,
I am, etc.,
P. H. H.

Shanghai, Feb. 18, 1924.

A NEW SORT OF MUNITIONS.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—A local firm has recently imported a quantity of gunmetal steam valves, and the Customs authorities have refused permission to the firm to take delivery of these valves. Now, a steam valve is an essential element of the steam installation of a mill or factory, and these valves have been imported into China, without let or hindrance, ever since industrial establishments began to be erected in this country.

These valves are made of different metals, including non-ferrous metal alloys. In past generations, before steel became properly known, ordnance was made of non-ferrous metal alloys, different countries employing different mixtures, and these alloys came to be known as "gunmetal." Research work and experience showed that these alloys were much more suitable for certain industrial purposes than ordinary brass or copper, particularly where correction had to be contended with, and where greater strength was required. The result is that the higher qualities of steam and other valves are now made of gunmetal, and this alloy is in use all over the world, and it never occurs to the ordinary engineer or metallurgist to associate the term "gunmetal" with munitions of war.

I understand that the Customs authorities object to the valves being described as made of gunmetal, and contend that they come under the category of munitions of war. To anybody with the slightest technical knowledge such a description seems to be the height of absurdity. The Customs authorities might just as well object to the importance of certain shipbuilding materials because they are made of naval brass or naval bronze. To carry such absurdities to their logical conclusion one might imagine a sensitive Customs official objecting to the importation of yellow metal. Another might consider that gunny bags had something to do with guns, and class them as munitions of war.

I am, etc.,
FERRO.

Shanghai, Feb. 20, 19124.

BREEZY NINGPO—OR TYPHOONY?

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—I cannot adequately express my surprise that you should have seen fit to publish the article on "Breezy Ningpo" in your issue of the 15th instant. I trust that I may claim to be as broad-minded as most men, and I do not think that I can be accused with justice of a total lack of sense of humour, but I fail to see how anyone can find anything the least funny in this article and am amazed that those who bear any love for Ningpo can tolerate such deliberate and malicious balderdash. One was prepared to take the short correspondence that was published on this subject last October, as an ill-timed but harmless joke; an article in the same strain, under the caption of "Social Activities in Ningpo," appeared in January and I was unfortunately suffering from too poor health at the time to be able to take up my pen in reply; but this final piece of rubbish must not be allowed to pass without receiving the scourging it deserves. Nobody, I suppose, will take exception to a fool, for the simple reason that he is a fool, provided that his folly is not aggressive, but what excuse can be advanced for the man who brazenly brandishes his lack of wit by perpetrating villainous drivel, and, in addition, is of such meagre intelligence as to be unable to realize where mere fun stops and poor taste begins? Should anyone be under the impression that that article (which is so evidently devoid of humour) was written in all good faith, I may say at once that the parish-church at Ningpo is named St. Simon & St. Jude's and not St. Luke's and one is left to assume that the eulogy of Mr. Squeers (whom I strongly suspect to be fictitious) is mere senseless twaddle.

The harm worked by such correspondence is twofold: in the first place, it gives a false impression to strangers who quite wrongly imagine that Ningpo is without interest or attraction! and in the second, no-one who has ever lived there—no matter for how short a time—can fail to keep a tender spot in his heart for it, and naturally objects to the scene of so many fond memories being made a subject for ridicule.

I am, etc.,
C. I. SMITHSON-JONES.

Anhui, Feb. 18, 1924.

UPPER YANGTZE OUTRAGES.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—For all I know to the contrary, Mr. Gordius Nielsen may be an authority on International Law, and so I should like some further information from him.

Mr. Nielsen was mistaken in assuming that the Kingwo was fired upon when passing "between the lines." The whole of the river between Chungking and what he sought to inspire and Ichang was at that time under the control of the northern forces, and they deliberately fired on the Kingwo. What difference would this make to Mr. Nielsen's pronouncement?

Was it in accordance with International Law that the indemnity was negotiated in Chungking and not in Peking?

What does International Law say about the murder of Captain Brandt?—a British citizen on a Chinese steamer.

The British Chamber of Commerce Conference has asked for more gunboats: presumably these will escort British steamers. If these gunboats return fire from the bank, will they be liable to detention at Chungking until an indemnity is paid?

The gunboats return fire with shells, and these are liable to kill women and children. Does International Law sanction this?

My object in asking these questions is not that nothing should be done. Far from it. For British steamers to be constantly receiving fire from the bank and to have no alternative policy but "grin and bear it," is unreasonable.

Neither are my questions in any way anti-Chinese, for the risk to Chinese lives is much greater. The foreigners form only a small proportion of the humanity on board, and they are on the bridge protected by armour-plate.

I am, etc.,
S.

Shanghai, Feb. 20, 1924.

RUSSIAN REFUGEES AND THE LEAGUE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The late Lord Morley used frequently to ask "What is the direction of the policy just enunciated?" That great statesman looked closely at tendencies.

In dealing with the Russian refugee problem I am constantly being brought up sharp by sensing a direction in a proposal which is contrary to the spirit of the League of Nations for which I am acting.

Similarly, I am all the time finding criticisms of my plans of repatriation and emigration which show that there is mistrust of the direction of the policy. This, I ought to say, is most frequently among the Russian refugees themselves.

It is certainly natural that the refugees should scrutinize more closely than others any plans which concern themselves so intimately. It is right that they should do so. It is also not surprising that those who have lived all their lives under the autocratic form of Government of the late Tsarist *régime* should suspect the League of Nations of wishing to lay down the law to them in an arbitrary manner. That, I am certain, will in time be shown to be a misconception.

What I wish, if possible, to make as clear as words can make it is this: *The League of Nations stands for the relief of the oppressed, the righting of wrongs, the brotherhood of man, and the comity of nations.* It's powers are of necessity limited by the conflicting political and commercial interests of the states composing it, but, of one thing we can be absolutely certain, and it is this: the direction discernible in all its activities is towards a *juster social order and a higher standard of health and happiness.*

To those, therefore, who may have misgivings about either of the remedies which I am recommending for the present distress, let me say, that the League is concerned, first, and chiefly, with the refugees themselves and their welfare; and only, secondarily, with relieving China and the foreign communities from the burden of their support.

If my recommendations are adopted by the League, it will do what is possible to restore to their homes and families those who themselves consider the conditions favourable for them to return. It will probably find a place to found new homes in other lands for those who cannot return to Russia, if they are considered to be suitable immigrants.

In no case will the League compel or induce anyone. It will only offer its help. It lies with each one to decide for himself what he will do. The direction will be shown. The choice must be his own. If he has political or personal reasons for declining the offer which the League will make the responsibility is his own.

To many these statements may appear unnecessary. My experience proves that these statements need to be made. May I particularly request the Russian newspapers in Shanghai and Harbin to give these facts full publicity.

I am, etc.,
JAMES A GREIG.
Delegate of the League of Nations in China.

Kirin Manchuria, Feb. 15, 1924.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Meeting on the Question of Dissolution: Membership Campaign Launched

The question of whether they should continue or not as a public body was the vital matter considered by the Shanghai Ratepayers' Association at their annual meeting last Friday evening. Eventually it was decided to make a big effort to obtain further members before deciding on dissolution and the meeting was adjourned for a month.

Reviewing the activities of the Association, Mr. Hughes said that such a body was not only essential but almost inevitable in a city where revenue was raised by taxation. In Shanghai it was especially necessary inasmuch as they were labouring under obsolete Land Regulations and had no real elections as in other places where the people had a chance by such means to make their power felt. The only real publicity respecting municipal affairs was that given by such a body as theirs and there was no really effective criticism possible. At one time the "Municipal Gazette" had promised great things, but this had degenerated and was now merely a dry record of proceedings.

Nothing is ever known but what is creditable to the Administration could be said of their relations with the public. As members of the Ratepayers' Association they stood for the right of knowing what was being done. They desired friendly co-operation, but this was not extended to them by the authorities. This was largely due to the ratepayers themselves who should join up in order to make the Ratepayers' Association a really representative body.

Referring to the necessity for more provision for motor traffic, Mr. Hughes said that a main thoroughfare was needed suitable for motor traffic entering at, leaving the Settlement and pointed out that no such thoroughfare existed.

How was it, asked Mr. Hughes, that the Ratepayers' Association could scarcely exist in Shanghai while in other places similar institutions were well supported. This was a most important question. Every community got the administration it deserved and the bad conditions in Shanghai were due to the ratepayers themselves.

Finally, as the matter for discussion by the meeting he put to them the following questions: Does the Ratepayers' Association "fill the bill"? If so, can it be maintained as a really representative body?

LUCK OF A NAME.

Mr. Cecil Holliday said that he was inclined to attribute the ineffectiveness of the Association to the fact that they had changed their name from the Civic League to the Ratepayers' Association. As the Civic League their activities were not circumscribed by the question of boundaries and there was hardly a question they could not deal with. As the Ratepayers' Association, for instance, such questions as the Russian problem, Child Labour, and the dredging of the Soochow Creek hardly came within their scope. Moreover, by changing the name they naturally became regarded as in opposition to the Council and the average man looked upon them simply as those who scoffed and did little more, and so he would not join. He also thought that the subscription of $5 was too much. Finally, he recommended reverting to the original title, aims and objects.

Mr. Hughes said that in his opinion the scope of the Civic League was too wide. As for the subscription the Committee had practically decided to revert to the original subscription of $2.

The Rev. W. Robbins urged that so far they had been unable to raise any enthusiasm or cut any ice. Not until they had decided whether they were really a representative body could they decide on a change of name and he thought they should gracefully expire.

Mr. V. J. S. Rance pleaded for another effort to induce people to join.

Mr. Hughes suggested that the meeting be adjourned for another month during which period they could see what response there was to an appeal for new members and what support the newspapers would give them. He also suggested that the subscription be reduced from $5 to $2 from the beginning of the current year.

The meeting was adjourned until Friday, March 14.

UNITED SERVICES' ASSOCIATION

Satisfactory Financial Position More Members Wanted: The Annual Meeting

There was a fairly good attendance at the annual general meeting of the United Services' Association, held on Tuesday evening in the Masonic Hall Major A. Hilton Johnson presided, and was supported by Major M. Reader Harris, M.C., Lieut. T. Addis Martin, Lieut. E. H. McMichael, Major O. S. Benbowe Rowe, M.C., Lieut. J. T. Turner, Major F. R. Barry and Lieut. H. J. West, R.N.R.

In reviewing the activities of the year, Major Hilton Johnson said: Ladies and Gentlemen, The year 1923 has been a normal one for the Association. Nothing of any special note has occurred. Colonel Gauntlett, the Chairman of your Committee, resigned on leaving for Home in June and I was co-opted to serve in his place. Mr. Houghton, an old Committee member, also resigned on his retirement from China in July and the vacancy has been filled by Mr. Tom Martin. Mr. Catley joined us as Secretary in April in place of Mr. Bliss who went Home, and I will ask you to confirm his appointment at this meeting.

MEN OUT OF EMPLOY.

During the year, your Committee met 15 times, and as usual a good deal of work has been done by individual members outside of Committee meetings. As you know, one of the principal things the Committee has to do is to find work for ex-service men out of employment. A good many have been found jobs in the past year, but as time goes on work is getting harder and harder to obtain and your Committee would much appreciate all the assistance members can give in this matter. Very often there must be small jobs of one kind or another going which are known to some of the members of this Association. If they would be so good as to notify the Secretary in such cases without delay, I think we might be able to take advantage of many opportunities which I feel sure we now miss for lack of information.

OBITUARY.

We have to record with regret the deaths of five of our members during the year, and of Mr. N. H. Langley-Smith, who passed away at the Victoria Nursing Home this morning. At the end of the year we had 416 annual and 354 life members, a total membership of 770. The net increase during 1923 was only 17, this low figure being due to the fact that a number of names were dropped from the roll of persons whose identity and whereabouts were unknown. If members would notify any change of address, it would facilitate matters considerably from your Committee's point of view. Another thing we should like to see is a large increase in the life membership of the Association. The more life members we have, the more solid our organization and the better our financial position. There must still be quite a number of ex-service men and women in Shanghai who do not belong to the Association, and we would ask members to assist by endeavouring to persuade them to join. The subscription is only $1 a year, and for $10 any one eligible can become a life member, which relieves him of further payments for all time.

Unfortunately, there are no rules of the Association available for distribution at the moment, as the constitution is undergoing a much needed revision. We had hoped to bring up the amended draft for your approval and confirmation at this meeting; but that was impossible and an extraordinary general meeting will have to be called later on to pass it. When that has been done, copies of the new constitution will be sent to all members.

HOW FUNDS ARE ADMINISTERED.

Coming now to the question of accounts, you will see that from the purely financial standpoint, the Association is in a very sound position. The chief points to note, I think, are that we have cash and invested assets amounting to $45,117.81; and that including $7,226.54 advanced to members during the year, we have a total of $10,342.85 on loan which we expect to recover.

In regard to this item, the difference between the figures for this and the preceding year is explained by the writing down of bad and doubtful debts. Before making up the accounts each one of the large number of debts outstanding in the shape of loans to members was reviewed in detail by your Committee and only those amounts of which there was considered to be a reasonable chance of repayment were kept on the credit side of the balance sheet.

In presenting a balance sheet of this kind, one anticipates the criticism that not enough money is spent on relief. Having so much, it may be asked, why not spend more? Why hoard it? What use is it going to be in the bank? and so on. Well, ladies and gentlemen, as there is clearly more than one point of view in this matter, it may be as well to mention the principles on which your Committee have administered the funds at their disposal. In the first place, we have never considered that the fact of having the money available is of itself any reason to spend it. And in the second place we make sure that every case for relief that comes before us is carefully gone into, firstly by the Secretary or the Hon. Secretary, or both, and then (as a rule) by the whole committee either in meeting or by circular. All such cases receive careful consideration and each is dealt with strictly on its own merits. Naturally, some of the people assisted do not get all they think they ought to have; but then, after all, who does?

A BUSINESSLIKE POLICY.

Some of you no doubt will remember a letter signed by a "Disgusted Member" which appeared in the "North-China Daily News" of June 11 last. This gentleman said he thought that the Association was becoming nothing more or less than a sort of fifthrate Home for the Assistance of Disreputables; that it was about time the present Committee were put out of office and room made for a broader minded set of men and women. . . . who were in a position to take a more lenient view of life. He added that his letter was intended simply to draw attention to the miserable pettifogging indulged in by the Committee at the expense of members in unfortunate positions.

Now, I don't know whether the writer of that latter has come forward for election as a Committeeman for the ensuing year: but I think, judging from the names of those that have, that you must expect the incoming Committee to continue to regard themselves as trustees of the Association's funds and to pursue a strictly businesslike policy in regard to their disbursement.

In this connexion, I may state that last April the then Secretary and Honorary Secretary of your Committee attended a meeting called by the Charity Organization Society, whereat certain arrangements were made to further co-operation in relief work in Shanghai and to prevent the overlapping that had been inevitable up to that time.

CELEBRATION OF ARMISTICE DAY.

In regard to the celebration on Armistice Day, several of our members showed their dissatisfaction with the arrangements made by your Committee by writing letters of complaint to the press. None of them wrote to the Committee, which naturally we should have preferred; but the matter, nevertheless, was taken up at once and an extraordinary general meeting was held on November 5 at which the wishes of members of the Association were sought. As a result of that meeting, your Committee endeavoured to re-arrange the plans they had made to meet what seemed to them to be the ideas of a considerable number of those present; and (although the attendance of our own members was rather disappointing) a very successful dinner was held at the Carlton Cafe on November 10 at which a number of official guests, including the Admiral Commanding-in-Chief, the Consul-General, and representatives of the Committees of the French and American Associations were present. On the following evening the members of your Committee were the guests of the French Committee at the French Club. It is suggested to the incoming Committee that before next Armistice Day an extraordinary general meeting of the Association be called to decide what form the celebrations are to take. There is one point in connexion with Armistice Day which I must not omit to mention, namely the thanks we owe the members of the Ladies' Committee through whose efforts our funds benefited to the extent of nearly $1000 from the sale of poppies on November 10 last (applause).

WOMEN MEMBERS.

During the year, the matter of the eligibility of women for membership of the Association came up, and your Committee made the ruling that women who had served in the War in any capacity and had received service medals were eligible as a matter of course, and that other cases would be dealt with by your Committee on their merits. This ruling, by the way, is one which requires confirmation at this meeting.

You will remember that at the last annual meeting a year ago the member sanctioned a proposal put forward by the Committee that the Association should join the British Empire Service League. This, however, was not done, because, when we endeavoured to gain the assent of the neighbouring Associations to the formation of a Far Eastern Section of the League, in accordance with the wish expressed by the League's President, Earl Haig, it was found that Hongkong, on the advice of General Fowler, the G.O.C., seemed to favour joining the British Legion rather than the British Empire Service League. The matter is now in abeyance until the return of Colonel Gauntlett from Home; when your committee, after hearing what he has to say, will put a definite proposal before members.

WELCOME DONATIONS.

A number of donations have been received during the year, for which we are most grateful and of which due acknowledgment has been made. Among them were $5,625, from the British Flower Shop and $4,000 from the Stewards of the Shanghai Race Club. Our special thanks are also due to Mr. E. A. Nottingham, proprietor of the "Shanghai Times," for his generous offer to insert free of charge in the "Shanghai Times" and the "Shanghai Sunday Times" advertisements on behalf of all those whose names appear in the unemployment circular periodically sent out by the Association. (applause). The thanks of the Association are also due to the British Women's Memorial Association who take charge of certain cases and visit members who are sick in hospital; to our own Ladies' Entertainment Committee; to Messrs Seth, Mancell & McLure, who have kindly undertaken to keep our accounts and to Mr. J. A. Turner of that firm, a member of your committee, who actually does the work of Honorary Treasurer; to the Auditor, Mr. W. D. Jamie; and to Major F. R. Barry, our indefatigable Honorary Secretary. Unfortunately Major Barry is leaving for Home this year and is compelled on that account to resign his position. Mr. Tom Martin, however, has been good enough to consent to take up the work and I would ask you to confirm his appointment at this meeting.

The report and accounts were unanimously passed, on the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Major Reader Harris.

THE NEW COMMITTEE.

The following were appointed members of the General Committee: Mr. A. J. Griffith (late Band Sergeant, R.M.L.I.), Major Reader Harris, Major Hilton Johnson, Captain R.M.J. Martin, Lieut. T. Addis Martin, Lieut. E. H. McMichael, Captain H. E. Middleton, M.B.E., Rev. W. W. Robbins, Major O. S. Benbowe Rowe, M.C., Lieut. H. Suter, D.S.C., R.N.R., Lieut. J. A. Turner and Lieut. H. J. West, R.N.R.

Various matters were discussed. A member suggested that means be devised for getting in touch with the committee and members when any matter of urgency arises, and the Chairman intimated that this is being provided for in the new constitution.

Major Manners suggested that the Association consider the advisability of arranging some programme on Empire Day for the special interest of British children, and it was agreed to refer the matter to the in-coming committee.

A cordial vote of thanks to the outgoing committee was passed.

SHANGHAI RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers: Loan to Small Bore R. C.

At the annual meeting of the Shanghai Rifle Association held on Tuesday evening at the S.V.C. Club, Mr. Stirling Fessenden, chairman of the S.M.C. and president of the Association, presided, supported by Dr. S. A. Ransom, chairman of the committee, Q.M.S. C. T. Rose, and Messrs. R. I. Ito, F. E. Hodges, C. G. Hoh and J. C. Bosustow, and Mr. A. M. Collaco, secretary and treasurer. In addressing the meeting Mr. Fessenden spoke a few words of introduction and then begged to be excused from further remarks because he was quite unacquainted with the affairs of the organization.

The main discussion of the meeting centred upon the relationship of the two organizations—the Shanghai Rifle Association and the Small Bore Rifle Club. In proposing a loan of up to $2,000 to the latter group including the past financial aid amounting to $1,413, Mr. Rose said that it was the duty of the elder organization to assist the other, which had been organized but eight months, though it would take as much as seven years to pay off the amount loaned. He was a member of both committees and was actuated by a double motive. They now had as many as 60 to 70 guns and the average attendance at the shoots was less than a third of the stand.

Mr. Lambert was of the opinion that the debt had not really been incurred by the younger group entirely, but that they had already shown a net profit of $200 since its inception. He thought that the S.M.C. might assist them financially, as the service rendered was of great value to the community from a protective and training point of view. He did not have any objection to the proposal of Mr. Rose and he did wish to see the debt wiped out, but it seemed to him that the two bodies were drifting apart.

Dr. Ransom from the chair suggested that there was no desire on the part of anyone to allow them to separate and that the results of the S.B.R.C. season were good (it was too early to criticize), but thought it best to consider the adopted of the accounts first. After this matter was disposed of Mr Rose's resolution that up to $2,000 be advanced to the S.B.R.C., was put and passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The present secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. M. Collaco was re-elected as were the committee *en bloc* with the substitution of Mr. C. J. Langley for Mr. J. C. Bosustow, who is to leave for Home soon.

The meeting adjourned with a vote of thanks to the president, Mr. Stirling Fessenden.

LAW REPORTS

ACT OF 1709 STILL APPLICABLE

Landlord, Tenant and Sheriff in Supreme Court

A legal matter of unusual interest relating to an English law passed in 1709, was dealt with last Friday in H. M. Supreme Court before his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner. In connexion with the case of Woo Kan-zung *v.* W. and T. E. Poignand (trading as Schiller & Co.), Mr. A. Sopher, of Ezra Buildings, entered an interpleader summons (as Trustee of the estate of the late Mr. Edward Ezra), claiming Tls. 275 from Messrs. Poignand, balance of rent due for offices at 9 Ezra Road.

Mr. J. E. Baddeley appeared for Mr. Sopher, and Mr. Tycho Wing for defendants.

Mr. Badeley explained the circumstances in which Messrs. Schiller & Co. took the premises on a three years' lease, and went on to say that in November and December last the rent fell into arrears, and an arrangement was come to with their sub-tenants for payment of $150 per month. A writ was eventually issued for the balance and judgment obtained, and consequently an execution was levied. The landlord did not know of this and when, following the sale of goods distrained upon, people went to remove their purchases, Mr. Ezra's representative objected and told the Marshal of the Court that he had a claim on the goods. The Marshal then informed him that he must submit his claim in the proper form and accordingly Mr. Ezra's representative withdrew his opposition and the property was removed. He now put forward this claim under the Landlord and Tenants' Act of 1709, which was still in force and which, it had been held, must be construed liberally in favour of landlords.

Mr. Wing held that the landlord was not entitled to claim, for the reason that he had not made his claim known to the Sheriff before the sale took place. Notice should have been given either before the sale or before removal of the goods. In this case, the sale was publicly advertised in the newspapers and the landlord should have known what was about to take place. The landlord based his present claim on the fact that, by the act of the Sheriff, he had been deprived of his right to distrain, but in the absence of notice before the sale or before removal of the goods the Sheriff was helpless. Counsel held that the Statute cannot be enforced once the sale has been held and the goods removed by the purchaser.

His Lordship observed that the Act in question was undoubtedly passed to protect landlords from being deprived, by judgment creditors, of their right to distrain. He understood counsel's contention to be, in this case, that the only time the landlord had for distraining was in the interval between the selling of the goods and their removal from the premises. To do so, it would be necessary for him to obtain a distraint order, and while he was doing that the goods might be taken away.

Mr. Wing—Yes. In those circumstances his right might be difficult to exercise, but it is the only right he has. If the Sheriff sells goods knowing that the landlord has an outstanding claim, the latter may hold the Sheriff responsible and claim compensation; but in this case the landlord gave no notice and the Sheriff therefore was not in a position to preserve the landlord's legal rights. Not having taken the necessary steps, the landlord is not entitled to claim now from the proceeds of the execution.

Mr. Badeley pointed out that the landlord knew nothing of the sale. He did not intentionally stand aside, and upon discovering what was taking place he was advised to submit, under protest.

His Lordship reserved judgment, after pointing out that the law of 1709 was certainly one which could be applied as between two British subjects residing here. As to whether this was so in the case of dispute between a British and a non-British subject was a matter of interest, but one which he was not then called upon to decide.

Judgment for the Landlord

In giving his decision, on Wednesday,

His Lordship said:—In this case the plaintiff obtained judgment against the defendants on December 13 last for Tls. 1,989.72 and costs. Execution was levied on the premises and sale of goods so seized took place. After the sale and before the goods were removed from the premises the landlord claimed rent due and unpaid under the Landlord and Tenant Act, 1709. The goods were taken away by the purchasers, and in face of this claim of the landlord the Marshal paid the monies still in his hands into Court and a summons was taken out to determine the rights of the parties. The judgment creditor now resists this claim on the ground that the landlord was too late. It is clear that this is the correct procedure in a case like this and it is expressly provided for in our Rule 905 which deals with a claim for rent. To my mind the law is clear that a landlord can make his claim for rent at any time while the marshal (sheriff) has the goods of the judgment debtor in his hands or the proceeds of the sale thereof (Arnitt *vt* Garnett 3 B. and Ald. 440). The Act of 1709 was passed to protect the rights of the landlord. By the seizure in execution his right to destrain is lost, and it might even be the duty of the Marshal to withdraw any execution where the claim is made before sale. The position was stated by the Master of the Rolls in *in re* Mackenzie: 1899. 2. Q.B. on p.575, and a landlord can consent to the sale and then obtain his rent out of the proceeds. If the sheriff (marshal) has notice of the landlord's claim before the proceeds of sale are parted with, the landlord can obtain payment out of the proceeds. The question of his consent to the sale does not affect the general law: as long as the marshal has the goods or the proceeds of sale in his hands, the landlord's right is not lost. But the marshal is under no obligation to inquire whether any rent is in arrear.

The result is that the claimant succeeds and I understand the figures are agreed. He must have the costs of this summons.

Mr. Wing asked for an order, that after payment of the present judgment debt to the landlord, and the costs, the balance in court be paid out to Woo Zang-kung, together with the balance remaining in court from a previous execution.

His Lordship agreed, ordering that all monies remaining in court after satisfaction of the landlord's claim and costs be paid to plaintiff in this action.

A Chinese student, born in the Dutch East Indies, was brought before Mr. Jacobs and Magistrate Kuan at the Mixed Court on Saturday on a charge of travelling on the footboard of a tramcar and with assaulting a Chinese policeman. The case was dismissed, on the ground that he was a Dutch subject and because there was not sufficient evidence against him.

An infringement of the Companies' Ordinance by the West End Estate Ld. was the subject of an application to his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner on Monday. The company is registered in Shanghai, with a capital of Tls. 100,000, in 100,000 shares at Tls. 10 each, all now issued, and the present application was in respect of 1,400 shares issued on December 5 to a Chinese merchant for each, of which transaction no notice was given to the Registrar of Companies. Inadvertence was pleaded by Mr. R. G. MacDonald, who appeared for the company, and no objection being raised by the Crown Advocate, representing the Registrar of Companies, his Lordship granted the extension of time asked for.

SIKH CHRGED WITH FORGERY

Interesting Allegation of How He Manipulated a Savings Bank Passbook

Forgery of an ingenious character was alleged against a Sikh named Sadar Singh, who appeared at H. M. Police Court on Monday before Mr. G. W. King charged with forging and uttering a receipt for $550, with intent to defraud.

Mr. E. T. Maitland, who appeared for the prosecution, stated that the complainant, Suchar Singh, at the beginning of January received G.$300 from America through the American Express Company, and subsequently opened an account for this sum at their savings bank in Shanghai, receiving the usual pass book. For some reason or other, he thought the book would not be safe in his own hands, and so handed it over to the accused for safe custody. Subsequently, a Sikh called at the bank, reported that this pass book had been lost, and asked for a duplicate, which was issued to him. Later, accused went to complainant and told him he had better take his pass book back, as he, accused, was afraid of losing it. "I am a poor man," said he, "and if the money was lost I might not be able to refund it." Complainant accordingly received back his book, and upon going to the bank to draw out some money, found it already withdrawn and the account closed, the duplicate book having been used for the withdrawals and complainant's signature forged.

Det.-Sub-Inspector Yorks gave evidence of arresting accused at the Kung Yik Cotton Mill on Saturday morning, at which time he had $209 in his pocket. He admitted that he had had complainant's pass book in his possession from January 8 to 13, but offered no explanation when asked how the money came to be withdrawn. He was put among five Sikhs for identification, and was identified by Mr. Riggs and the Chinese paying teller at the bank, but two other members of the failed to identify him.

Mr. D. S. Riggs, cashier of the American Express Company, gave evidence that the money was paid in by complainant on January 8 and withdrawn on February 11, the receipt being signed by the accused, whom witness later identified.

The company's shroff, who was next called, was unable to identify either the man who paid in the money or the man who drew it out, nor could the book-keeper, the next witness, identify the man to whom he issued the duplicate receipt book.

Complainant gave evidence bearing out Mr. Maitland's opening statement, and his worship then intimated that he would adjourn the case and consider what charge, if any, should be framed against the accused.

Accused was remanded in custody.

Sent for Trial

Sadara Singh appeared again on Tuesday before Mr. G. W. King, and his Worship framed against him a charge of having forged and uttered a document bearing the name of the complainant, Sucha Singh. This is the case in which the accused, upon receiving complainant's bank pass book for safe keeping, is alleged to have falsely declared the loss of it, taken out a duplicate, withdrawn the full amount of the deposit ($550) and then have given plaintiff back the original pass book saying he was afraid he might lose it.

Mr. Kentwell, for the defence, intimated that accused would call witnesses and give evidence himself.

Hr. E. W. Burgess, assistant cashier at the American Express Company, was first called and said he saw neither the Indian who made the deposit nor the man who withdrew it.

Asked by Mr. Kentwell what was required upon the issue of a duplicate pass book, Mr. Burgess said that the bank would require the depositor's signed declaration that the pass book had been lost.

Accused, employed as a clerk in the Kung Yih Cotton Mill, admitted that he received a deposit book from complainant, but he could not say whether it was the original or the duplicate. Witness did not open it, nor did he know the name of the bank or where the bank was situated. Complainant asked for the book back after a week, to make a further deposit of $50, and then he returned it again to witness, finally taking it back again on February 13. On the 11th., the day on which the forged document was alleged to have been uttered, witness was at work in the mill all day, and could not have left without obtaining leave from the foreigner in charge He did not go to the bank at all.

Mr. T. H. Hood, weaving master at Kung Yik Mill, said the accused, who was employed in his department, did not ask leave to go out on the day in question, and witness did not miss him at all that day.

In answer to Mr. Maitland (prosecuting) witness said it was possible that accused might have absented himself for two hours without his absence being noticed.

After further evidence had been heard, his Worship committed accused for trial, allowing bail in a personal bond of $500 and two sureties of $500 each.

DEBT COLLECTING WHEN DRUNK

A Sabbath-Breaking Sikh

A disturbance in the Astor House on Sunday afternoon led to the appearance of Amar Singh before Mr. K. W. King on Monday, charged with having been drunk and disorderly.

Chief Inspector O'Toole, appeared for the police, whose evidence was that defendant called upon the watchman at the hotel and offered some very uncomplimentary remarks about that worthy's relatives. He was ordered to go away but pushed his way into the hotel and gave the watchman one on the head with his stick. He was arrested and caused further disturbance.

P. S. Mesling, who was on dety at Hongkew Station when defendant appeared, stated that Amar swore at witness and the Indian police, in Hindustani and English, pushed witness, and flung his turban on the ground.

Defendant explained that he went to collect a debt, but was told by his Worship that he was a very obstinate person and should not go debt collecting when drunk. Fined $10 or seven days.

A TRAFFIC BREACH

Owner-Driver Who Missed a Signal

At H. M. Police Court on Thursday, before Mr. G. W. King, H. E. Jones was summoned for failing promptly to obey a police traffic signal at the Nanking-Kiangse Road crossing at 11.35 p.m. on the 5th instant.

Mr. E. T. Maitland prosecuted, and the police evidence was that defendant, driving along Kiangse Road from north to south at a fast pace, took no notice of the police signal to stop at the crossing but went on, with the result that a car travelling westward along Nanking Road had to swerve sharply to the left in order to avoid a collision.

Defendant explained that he was driving at about 15 miles an hour and first saw the green light. The hood of his car was low, and when he got closer to the signal it was impossible to see that the light had changed unless he craned forward. The night was very "thick" and it was not until he reached the crossing that he realized the light was against him, and then seeing the other car, he put on his accelerator to clear the crossing and avoid a collision.

Fined $3.

Judge Lobingier ceased to preside at the U. S. Court for China last Friday, and no further sessions will be held in the higher Court until his successor arrives. Judge Purdy's nomination for the post has been sent to the Senate by the President, but has yet to be confirmed, states a Reuter telegram.

SPECULATION IN ROUBLES

Russo-Asiatic Bank Suing Max Wulfsohn & Co. on Exchange Contract of $160,000

Judgment was delivered last Feiday in the United States Court for China in the case in which the Russo-Asiatic Bank sued Max Wulfsohn & Co. in the matter of certain exchange contracts entered into between them. Messrs. Shuhl & Schoenfeld were for the plaintiffs and Mr. R. T. Evans for defendants. In giving judgment, his Honour Judge Lobingier said in part:—

This is an action on five "exchange contracts" by which plaintiff purchased from defendants an amount in United States currency aggregating G.$160,000 to be delivered at the various dates named in the contracts. The consideration was roubles but no dates are fixed for their payment.

Much is sought to be made of the claim that the banks in Russia were "nationalized" by the Soviet Government. Apparently this means that their property was sequested; but there is not the slightest indication that it involved the termination of plaintiff's corporate existence. On the contrary, as we have seen, plaintiff's power to execute the contracts in suit is admitted. And they were executed in 1919, a couple of years after the Soviet Government of Russia came into power. Up to that time, then, the acts of that government, whatever they were, had not affected plaintiff's corporate capacity which defendant recognized by dealing with it.

It is contended that plaintiff's head office is required to be in Petrograd and that it was transferred to Paris in violation of law. An examination of the English version of the Statutes which is hereby admitted, fails to disclose anything more than descriptive phrases like "the Russo-Asiatic Bank whose Board is situated in St. Petersburg," and "general meetings of shareholders which are held in St. Petersburg." In view of the express permission "to open branches in Russia and abroad" and of the disturbed conditions in the former, we could hardly say that the above quoted provisions make it unlawful to locate the "head office" elsewhere than in Petrograd. In any event there is nothing to indicate that such an act would affect the corporate existence.

No effort seems to have been made to prove the denial (which certainly does not prove itself) "that the persons bringing this action are the Russo-Asiatic Bank to whom defendants gave the instruments" etc. On the contrary the amended petition is verified under oath by one who swears "that he is an officer of the Russo-Asiatic Bank, the plantiff in the above entitled action." He is elsewhere shown to have held various offices for plaintiff "having a power of attorney" which we cannot assume to have been issued more than three years previously. The presumption is that his authority continues.

II

It is claimed in defendants' brief that "the pleading in paragraph 3 of the amended petition is that the roubles in question were delivered after the execution of the five documents in question." But we do not so read these averments which are as follows:

"3. That during the years of 1919 and 1920, the plaintiff bought from the defendants and the defendants sold to plaintiff the sum of Gold $160,000. for which the plaintiff agreed to deliver to the defendants roubles as more particularly set out in these certain exchange contracts hereto attached and made a part of this petition.

4. That the plaintiff has completed its part of the Contract but the defendants have refused, neglected and failed to perform thier said agreement, and that there is now due and owing from the defendants to the plaintiff the sum of Gold $160,000."

These averments would seem quite consistent with the theory that plaintiff utilized a prior delivery or payment of roubles to fulfil its contract.

A PALACE OF ARTS FOR SHANGHAI.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR:—In many ways the foreign settlement of Shanghai is such a model municipality that one hesitates to assume what might be construed as a critical attitude. But the absence of anything resembling a museum of natural history and fine arts is the subject of comment, not to say complaint, among those who would like to see our city rank in cultural matters with other important world centres.

Twice within the past week this need has been emphasized by exhibitions of considerable importance and artistic appeal which were placed before the public through the enterprise of two public-spirited women's organizations:—*i.e.* The exhibition of pictures assembled through the efforts of the British Woman's Association, and the rare Tibetan collection of religious and household objects shown by Mr. R. R. Service under the auspicies of the American Woman's Club. Both collections merited consideration and study which it was not possible to give them within the time limits that could be accorded for their display. Both suffered from the fact that in the circumstances it was impossible to show them to the best advantage.

When one contemplates the amount of money ungrudgingly expended to give the Shanghai public good music, to afford physical recreation, to maintain proper roads for motor-cars, it would seem that such a valuable educational adjunct as a good museum could be secured provided the community awoke to the possibility of its realization.

The modern museum has come to play an important part in intellectual development not only because of the educational opportunity it affords growing youth by visualizing and vitalizing what otherwise would be merely dead matter and hearsay art—"book larnin'"—but in the cultural stimulation it brings to the entire community and the very real help it gives to students, scholars, scientists, artists, writers and all others who seek to form contacts with life through deeper channels than mahjongg and golf.

That Shanghai contains many persons who are intellectually hungry is evident in the increasing number of thoughtful groups that have arisen this winter for serious discussion, and in the number of persons to be found at lectures good, bad and indifferent, however badly advertised.

Unquestionably Shanghai possesses the nucleus for a good museum which would also contain a reference library and art galleries, where loan collections could be shown, as well as affording a permanent home for *objets d'art* that would accrue as time went on.

If the various social organizations that look to the betterment of the city, if public-spirited individuals and men and women of artistic ability and scientific achievement could be brought together, with cooperation of the newspapers, it seems to me that the community would get back of such a movement and push it on to an achievement worthy of the spirit that has made of a mud-hole a beautiful and important city.

China has become the happy hunting ground of the archaeologist. Her treasures are shipped all over the world to inspire interest and stimulate further research while we in Shanghai have little knowledge of and less opportunity to learn from these records of the past than residents of far off Chicago, New York, London. Doesn't it seem worthy of an effort?

Thanking you for any courtesy you may extend this letter,

I am etc.,
E. G. P.

Shanghai, Feb 20, 1924.

CAPTAIN Robert Doller, who recently visited Peking, has made a contribution of 5,000 pesos to a fund to build a Chinese Y.M.C.A. in Manila. He sent his pledge by radio from the Francoma on which he sailed from Manila for Singapore.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

PAPER HUNT CLUB

Mr. J. G. Lyon Wins his Pink in Consolation Hunt: Mr. V. D. K. Craddock First of Heavies

The Consolation Hunt, postponed from last week on account of the weather conditions, took place on Saturday afternoon, the the start being from the Christmas Tree Village, a long way down the Minghong Road.

The card read:—

1.—Mr. J. G. Lyon, on Wee Jimmy.
2.—*Mr. V. D. K. Craddock, on Mahjongg.
3.—Mr. A. Hughes, on Dash.
4.—Mr. E. O. Allan, on Hawfinch.
5.—Mr. F. S. Gibbings, on Emerald Bay.
6.—Mr. S. R. Patterson, on ——
* Heavyweight winner.

The Ladies' Hunt

The ladies had their Consolation Hunt yesterday, when there was also a big turnout, both of riders and spectators, at the start on Miss Johnstone's Line. run resulted in Miss Ritchie winning her pink, the full card reading:—

1. Miss Ritchie, on Tara.
2.—Mrs. Ellig, on Shira.
3.—Mrs. Lester, on Coat-of-Arms.
4.—Miss Trindle, on Paper Money.
5.—Mrs. Eustace, on Cathay.
6.—Miss Lemiere, on Patapouff.

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

Wales Beat Scotland 2-0

Cardiff, Feb. 16.

In fine weather to-day before a crowd of 30,000 Wales beat Scotland in an International Association Football match by 2 goals to nil.

The attendance was a record for a soccer international in Wales. There was plenty of thrilling play in the opening half, but the cleverness of the respective defences prevented scoring. After 15 minutes of the second half W. Davies finished a fine run with a splendid goal. After this the Welshmen took command and near the end Len Davies scored a goal in a *melee* in front of the Scots' goal. Wales winning by 2 goals to 0.—Reuter.

BRITISH ARMY DEFEAT FRENCH ARMY.

Paris, Feb. 16.

In the international triangular soccer tournament being played here the British Army beat the French Army by 3 goals to 1.—Reuter.

INTERNATIONAL GOLF

The "Walker" Cup

London, Feb. 14.

A conference of delegates of the county golf unions at York has decided unanimously to challenge for the American Walker Cup.—Reuter.

Victory for Kirkwood

San Antonio, Feb. 17.

Kirkwood to-day won the Texas Open Golf Championship with a score of 279 for 72 holes. The winner finished seven strokes ahead of Ockendon. Havers' card showed 292.—Reuter's American Service.

LAWN TENNIS

Davis Cup Competition

Sidney, Feb. 17.

It is reported that the selectors have recommended Messrs. Patterson, O'Hara Wood, Schlesinger and Kalms to represent Australia in the Davis Cup competition.—Reuter.

New York, Feb. 18.

South Africa has challenged for the Davis Cup.—Reuter's American Service.

Sydney, Feb. 18.

The Tennis Council has approved the selection of the Davis Cup team as follows; Messrs. Patterson (captain), O'Hara Wood, Solesinger and Kalms.—Reuter.

INTERPORT PAPER HUNT AT PEKING

Victory of Col. Ruxton, With Mrs. Feeney Third: Tientsin Visitors Entertained

Peking, Feb. 17.

Under excellent weather conditions, which enticed many people to the meet, the Peking Paper Hunt Club held the Interport Hunt this afternoon. At the sound of the Master's horn about 50 riders got away, the first run being between two or three miles. At the first check there were very few riders missing, and after a rest of two minutes the Master led the field away again. The second run was not so long, a few excellent jumps, kaoliang fences and walls being encountered. The second check was for about three minutes, when the Master lined up the field to go away on the home run.

The field went away at a fast pace towards the first jump of the run, with Mr. H. E. A. Davey leading. Along the valley the leaders were Mr. H. E. A. Davey and Mrs. Feeney, closely followed by Mr. Teichman and Mr. Murray. At the jump on the crest of the hill Colonel Ruxton, Mr. Teichman and Mr. J. S. Jones went over together, coming in sight of the spectators. Immediately after the jump was a thin line of trees, at which the Buccaneer swerved, bringing his rider's right leg into violent contact with one of the trees. This unseated him and he slid under his pony. Mrs. Feeney and Mr. H. E. A. Davey went up to third place, but could make no impression on the leader, Colonel Ruxton, who passed the post half a length ahead of Mr. Teichman, with Mrs. Feeney in third place, two and a half lengths behind. The card reads as follows:—

1. Colonel Ruxton on Grey Mist.
2. Mr. Teichman on Red Tape.
3. Mrs. Feeney on Cinders.
4. Mr. Bradley on Microbe.
5. Mr. Murray on Hsin Feng
6. Mr. J. E. Andrews on Girondin.

The Tientsin vistors were entertained at dinner at the Peking Club on Saturday evening.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

HOME FOOTBALL

The F. A. Cup Competition: Draw for Third Round

London, Feb. 18.

Crystal Palace defeated Notts County by two goals to one in the second round replay of the F.A. Cup competition at Birmingham to day.

The following is the draw for the third round, which will be played on February 23:—

Cardiff City *v.* Bristol City; Crystal Palace *v.* Swindon T.; Southampton *v.* Liverpool; West Bromwich A. *v.* Wolverhampton; Watford *v.* Newcastle U.; Burnley *v.* Huddersfield Town; Aston Villa *v.* Leeds U.; Brighton & Hove *v.* Manchester City.—Reuter.

Scottish League and Cup Competitions

London, Feb. 19.

In a Scottish Football League match to-day the Rangers beat Kilmarnock by 2 goals to 0.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 20.

Scottish League:—Clydebank 2, Hibernians 4: Falkirk 3, Raith Rovers 0: Dundee 2, Ayr United 1.

The following is the draw for the third round of the Scottish Cup, which will be played on February 23:—

Aberdeen *v.* East Stirling: Hearts *v.* Clyde; Clydebank *v.* Ayr United; Partick Thistle *v.* Hamilton Academicals; Rangers *v.* Hibernians; Motherwell *v.* Airdrieonians; Raith Rovers *v.* St. Bernard's; Falkirk *v.* Queen's Park.—Reuter.

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

Police Report for January.

Serious Crime.—This includes the murder of a coolie who was shot in a field off Penang Road on January 6 when crossing the path of armed robbers retiring from the scene of a crime; the murder of a Chinese female associate of bandits who was shot in a house in the West Hongkew District on the morning of January 23; and the murder of two women and a man who were shot in a house in the Sinza District on January 28. Enquires revealed that the latter was a well-known bandit leader who pitted his men on several occasions against the Government troops in Shantung and who in addition was one of the participants in the Lincheng outrage. He had two fairly well-furnished houses in Shanghai with women in each who had been carried away at different times from places in the North during raids made there by men under his command.

The case against six Chinese charged with the murder of a pawnshop assistant during an armed robbery at a shop on Woosung Road on December 5 was concluded during the month when five of the accused were remitted to the Court of the Military Governor and one was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Robbery.—Eight reports of armed robbery from dwelling houses and shops, two of attempted armed robbery from dwelling houses and one of armed highway robbery were received. In three instances shots were fired by the robbers on departing, resulting in the death of one man and the wounding of another. In connexion with the foregoing and armed robberies occurring prior to January 1, fifteen persons in possession of two automatic pistols were arrested. One was remitted to the Court of the Military Governor while the remaining fourteen were under remand at the end of the month. One man was arrested for armed robbery committed in territory under Chinese jurisdiction and handed over to the authorities concerned. Nineteen of the twenty-four persons mentioned in my report for December as being under remand charged with armed robbery, were dealt with. Eleven were sent to the Court of the Military Governor, one was sentenced to imprisonment, one committed suicide in the Police cells, the charge against four was withdrawn and two were discharged. The remaining five were still under remand at the end of the month.

Three cases of highway robbery in which no arms were used and one of attempted robbery from a dwelling house occurred during the month. In connexion with these and reports received prior to January 1, four persons were arrested, two of whom were sentenced to imprisonment and one to expulsion from the Settlement whilst the fourth was under remand at the end of the month. Two persons under remand at the end of December on a charge of highway robbery were sentenced to imprisonment.

Property Stolen.—579 reports made under this heading during the month represent a total estimated loss of $117,473 and include 42 cases of burglary, 10 of housebreaking, 5 of godown-breaking and 6 of shop and office-breaking. Successful investigation was made in 177 cases, resulting in the recovery of property valued at $45,854, in addition to which recoveries to the extent of $6,377 were made in connexion with reports received prior to January 1.

Trafficking in Firearms.—A Chinese saloon boy employed on a foreign steamer was sentenced to one year's imprisonment at the Mixed Court for being in possession of two automatic pistols and 268 rounds of ammunition. A foreigner charged with dealing in firearms and in whose possession one pistol was found, was sentenced to five days' imprisonment.

"Hwo Wei" Lottery.—Twenty-eight Chinese were charged in connexion with the promotion of Hwo Wei lotteries. Sentences ranging from three months' imprisonment to a fine of $5.00 were inflicted.

Threatening Letters, etc.—On January 8, seven men, two of whom were stated to have been armed, entered a dwelling house in the Hongkew District but left without stealing anything on a servant closing down two trap doors which led upstairs. The incident was followed by the son of the widow who occupied the premises receiving one letter on January 11 and one on January 15 demanding $2,000 and threatening death to various members of the family should this sum not be forthcoming. On January 24 a shell about six inches long was found inside the front gate leading to the house, together with a piece of paper containing certain writing which when translated read "Take notice of the bomb. Expecting that you will be awakened." Two other instances of Chinese residents receiving threatening anonymous letters in which the sums demanded were $5,000 and $500 respectively, were recorded.

Crime beyond Settlement Limits.—Three cases of murder, in one of which the victim was a foreigner, and 12 of robbery and piracy were reported as having occurred during the month in territory under Chinese jurisdiction in the neighbourhood of Shanghai. In one instance pirates attacked a boat and seized it, while in another the laodah was killed and several boat hands wounded.

Executions.—Two Chinese found guilty of armed robberies in the Settlement in September last and with being in possession of firearms were executed at Lunghua on January 30 in the presence of a representative of the Municipal Police.

Public Health Report for January.

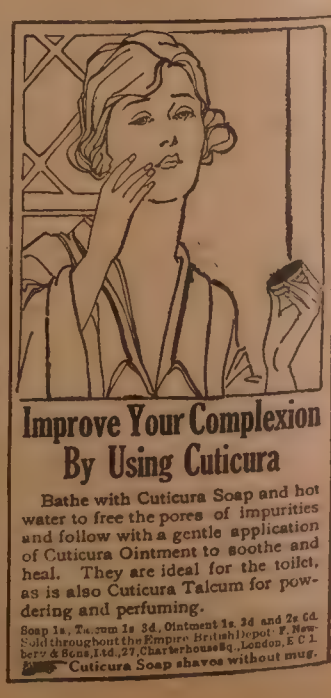
The state of the Public Health at the beginning of the New Year was, on the whole, satisfactory, the death-rate among foreigners being below, but that among Chinese, slightly above normal.

Smallpox continued to be unduly prevalent. There were 6 fresh cases notified among foreign residents, and 14 deaths altogether among foreigners, 5 of whom were residents of six months and over. Among the Chinese, 35 deaths were reported from Smallpox, compared with none during January, 1923.

Of the 5 fatal cases among foreign residents, 2 were infants who had never been vaccinated, 2 adults who had not been vaccinated since infancy, and 1 adult unsuccessfully vaccinated 2 years ago.

Once again it is necessary to urge the vital importance of vaccination and re-vaccination as an almost absolute preventive measure against Smallpox.

In China Smallpox infection is always present and the Asiatic type of the disease is often so virulent that efficient re vaccination is advisable every 3 years in order to maintain a high standard of immunity.



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Again it is urged:

"Plaintiffs have pleaded a contract of sale. They have pleaded that they have sold and delivered roubles to the defendants. They have pleaded that the defendants have not paid for them. [illegible] they have not sold any roubles [illegible] have bought roubles to defendants."

But it will be seen that defendants do not allege that they have "sold and delivered roubles." They allege that they have "bought . . gold . . for which" they "agreed to deliver . . roubles." The latter, in other words, are the consideration for the purchase and we see no reason why it might not have been paid in advance and even in the form of a loan. For a pre-existing debt is a valid consideration. Not only have defendants not pleaded failure of consideration, but they have expressly admitted execution of the contracts which includes the element of consideration.

Again there is positive evidence that plaintiff delivered some 33,000,000 roubles to defendants. We do not think that Gustamesoff contradicts this, even were we to ignore the very serious imputations upon it by Borjanovsky when he says: "The difficulty was on the transfer. The advice was for 20 or 30 million roubles and we received one or two millions at a time."

Evidently he is complaining not of non-delivery but of slow delivery. Moreover repeated expressions from defendants demonstrate not only that no objection before suit was made for non-delivery of roubles but that their liability was fully recognized. Nearly six months after the last contract was made, defendants, through their agent, acknowledged a balance of practically that sum in plaintiff's favour. This agent had a power of attorney and in its absence we do not think we could presume that his signature had no significance.

The answer, indeed, alleges "that gold dollars to the full value of all roubles delivered have been delivered by defendants to plaintiffs in New York." But this affirmative allegation of performance was one for defendants to prove and they do not even claim to have done so. Plaintiff, however, produces testimony to the contrary, which it was not required to do.

Moreover, defendants' course of conduct shows that they recognized their undischarged liability on these contracts from the time of making them until almost the commencement of this action.

We are unable, therefore, to find any valid and meritorious defence to this action and we are obliged to and do, overrule the motion for nonsuit and second motion to dismiss.

It follows that judgment must be rendered for plaintiff which is hereby considered and adjudged to have and recover from defendants the sum of $160,000. United States currency, with interest on the various items thereof from the dates of delivery fixed by the respective contracts, and costs.

THE EXPENSIVENESS OF CRACKERS

The expensiveness of celebrating with firecrackers was demonstrated again in the U. S. Commissioner's Court for China on Saturday morning in a suit brought by Gun Kwei-long, of Route Ghisi, against Mr. Carl Oren for losses, estimated at $267, sustained by the burning of the plaintiff's household goods by a fire alleged to have occurred through the negligent firing of crackers by defendant or his agents on January 1, 1924.

At the opening of the case Mr. F. J. Schuhl, appearing for the defendant made a tender of $75 in payment for damages, which Mr H. E. Snyder, appearing for the plaintiff, refused to accept. Gun, a gardener, gave a minutely itemized list of the furniture and gardening implements of the dwelling, but at that he omitted three wooden tubs and the extra clothes of his wife, as given later on by his mother. On cross-examination he denied having estimated the damages originally at $50 and that the defendant had offered at one time to give him $150 to start him out again. Mr. Horatio Robertson testified to the condition of the ruins of the hut and its contents.

The case was adjourned until Saturday morning, March 1, to be heard after the traffic cases, if any.

POLICEMEN'S PLIGHT

Alleyway Battle with Armed Highwayman

A 22-year-old hawker was brought before Messrs. Martin and Kuan (British Assessor and Chinese Magistrate) at the Mixed Court on Monday on charges of picking a compatriot's pocket and stealing a wallet containing $550, attempting to murder Chinese P.C. 310 and Chinese P.C. 1278 by threatening to fire at them with a pistol, and with returning to the Settlement after an order had been made by the Mixed Court for his expulsion.

The evidence showed that accused was seen by a Chinese police constable (310) picking the pocket of a Chinese. The policeman gave chase and accused dashed off down Chêkiang Road, and as he was nearing Tientsin Road he turned and drew out a pistol, threatening to shoot the policeman if he came any nearer. The policeman stopped and accused ran into an alleyway. Meanwhile the policeman just going off duty at Hsiang Fun Loong saw the man coming and made an attempt to stop him, but was stopped for a second or two with the same threat. The policeman waited to see if he were in earnest when suddenly he (the policeman) rushed up to grapple with him. Accused struck him on the head with the butt of his pistol and run again. By this time there was a general hue and cry, and accused, who had continued to run dashed into the open arms of another Chinese policeman who had heard the whistle blowing and who effected the arrest.

Prisoner stated that he got the pistol from a friend, but did not know how to use it. He simply made the threats to frighten the policemen.

The Court found him guilty and postponed sentence.

CHIVALROUS BAGSNATCHER

Incident at the Unveiling Ceremony

His would-be act of courtesy, according to his own statement, was not appreciated, said Lien Ching, a tailor, who made his second appearance at the Mixed Court on Monday this time because he attempted to steal a leather handbag, containing $15, from Miss Hibbard after the unveiling service on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Hibbard said that he was with his daughter on the Bund on Saturday afternoon after the unveiling of the War Memorial. Witness went in front of the girl, who was 15 years old, because there was a tramcar approaching. A minute later, when he looked round, he saw accused with the hook of the bag in his hand, as though he was going to snatch it. Witness then arrested him and handed him over to a policeman.

Prisoner, questioned by the Magistrate, said that on Saturday afternoon there were numerous people who were pushing against each other, and the girl was being pushed against a tramcar. He put out his hand to prevent her from being injured. He indignantly denied that he tried to steal the bag.

The Court refused to believe this story, and, in view of the fact that he had once previously been convicted, sent him to prison for a month.

Sympathetic reference to the death of Mr N. H. Langley Smith was made in H.M. Supreme Court on Wednesday by his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner, who said: May I say before we begin this morning how much the Bench sympathises with the profession and with Messrs. Hansons in particular, on the sad loss we have all sustained in the death of Mr Langley-Smith.

CABARET ARREST

Proprietor Who Gave Credit: Charge of Obtaining Money by False Pretences

An Argentine merchant, Marcello Matias (37), was at the Mixed Court on Tuesday charged with obtaining $4,000 from L. E. Brown by means of false pretences by giving him a worthless cheques for cash without having sufficient funds in the bank to meet them.

Mr. H. R. Snyder prosecuted and Mr. C. S. Franklin defended.

Det.-Sub.-Insp. J. Hunter, giving evidence of arrest, stated that he placed prisoner in custody in the Winter Garden Café at 2.45 p.m. on Monday.

Cross-examined by Mr. Franklin, he stated that the manager of the Winter Garden Café had telephoned to the police. He informed witness that accused, for whom a warrant had been issued, was at the place. Witness went there and saw accused speaking with Brown, the proprietor, the complainant, and a girl. Prisoner asked him if the warrant was for a theft of jewellery. He was taken to the station and searched, a cheque book being found on his person. Witness had been in possession of the cheque-book ever since except when accused required it to get a blank cheque to fill up his security of $4,000. Other than that there were no changes in the book.

Prosecutor stated that he was proprietor of the Winter Garden Café. Prisoner had been known to witness for about six weeks, during which time witness had cashed for him cheques for various amounts. On the afternoon of the 3rd instant witness was resting when he received a call to go downstairs as accused wished to see him. He asked him to go with him to his office lend him $4,000 as he had some cargo arriving on the following day, but did not have enough funds to meet the bill. Witness gave him $1,000 and a cheque for $3,000, and accused made out a post-dated cheque for $4,000 saying that he expected to meet the cheque on the 11th instant although the cheque was dated the 15th. At the same time, said witness, accused wrote out a supposed mortgage on his motor-car so that if he failed to meet the cheque on the 15th instant it might be seized. On the 15th and 16th instant, witness tried to cash the cheque, but accused did not have the funds in the bank to meet it.

On Saturday morning, witness went to the accused about the motor-car and was told that it was at the garage being repaired. He sent a foreigner the next day to the garage to see if the car was there, but this man found accused there to receive it. On the same evening, witness sent a representative to accused's house and found that the car had already been locked up in the garage.

A lengthy discussion then took place between the Bench and the lawyers concerned as to the criminal nature of the case.

Mr. Snyder stated that if the Court would hold accused on substantial security he was prepared to withdraw the criminal action and transfer the case to the Civil Court.

The bench dismissed the case and stated that civil proceedings must be taken against accused and a petition filed within 24 hours. The bail of $4,000 would stand, in lieu of immediate security.

Operators in the Shanghai Telephone Exchange should feel comforted by the fact that they are not in Canton when they read this from the "Canton Gazette": "Not being able to communicate his message to his office in the Police Headquarters from a telephone on the Bund, owing to the detention made by the telephone operator yesterday, General Techen Wu, the Police Commissioner, was very indignant over the operator not dutiful. He immediately sent for the operator when he went back to the office. The operator will be detained in the Police Headquarters for a few days as punishment."

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"Whilst engaged on surveying duty in the French Congo," writes Mr. Henry Rudland, of Green Point, Seven Oaks, Natal, "I was bitten on the feet by mosquitos. Festering and inflammation developed, and soon my feet were a mass of painful discharging disease known out there as "Craw-Craw."

"I could wear neither boots nor shoes for many weeks, nor could I rest day or night for the intense itching irritation. Nothing brought ease until I was able to obtain a supply of Zam Buk. This balm was wonderfully cooling and soothing, and it allayed the fiery itching pain and soon stopped all discharge. Further dressings of Zam-Buk caused all soreness and inflammation to vanish and the disease was quickly and completely defeated."

Sakar Lal Moti Lal, writing from Navb Dewan Dhrol, Kathiawar, says:—"I and my children were afflicted with itch. The disease with its incessant irritation was most distressing. It defied all attempts to remove it until friends told me about Zam-Buk. It only needed persistent application of this pure and soothing balm Zam-Buk to cure us all. I also find Zam-Buk a valuable remedy for the cure of boils, and other troublesome eruptions and sores."

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THE NEW TAXATION IN FRANCE

Government Scale Strenuously Fought: 20 per Cent Increase to Catch Profiteers

Paris, Feb. 15.

In the Chamber of Deputies to-day the Minister of Finance, defending the proposal for a 20 per cent. increase in all taxes, stated that the 1923 ordinary Budget was balanced with a bonus of Frs. 540,000,000, and the Budget would also be balanced in 1924.

"We have to face only the sums due by Germany and unpaid."

The Ruhr in 1923 brought in a net profit of Frs. 506,000,000. The Government had reduced National Defence Bonds by Frs. 2,000,000,000 francs since 1921. It would repress evasion of capital, carry out the maximum economies and make the war profiteers pay. The 20 per cent. increase was only a transient surcharge and would principally develop the yield of the general income tax.

The Minister pointed out that German propaganda was striving to frighten foreign holders of francs.

Feb. 16.

After 18 days of keen debating, the Government has succeeded in forcing the passage through the Chamber of two of the 110 articles comprising the new financial charter. A string of amendments to Clause 3, which increases taxation by 20 per cent., ranging from complete reversal of the Government policy, like flotation of a lottery loan and the institution of a capital levy, to minor modifications, were all defeated by varying majorities, many of which were close.

Members of the Left criticized drastic taxation, while the Government was making loans to Eastern and European States. M. Tardieu and his supporters contend that it would be useless to improve the franc abroad at the expense of the domestic cost of living.

Arbitration Clause Resented.

But the most solid opposition is based on the power the Clause confers on the Government to issue decrees enforcing administrative economies without reference to Parliament. With the object of making definite progress, M. Poincaré may send the Clause to the Senate as a separate measure, as the Premier, while confident of the support of the Chamber, is anxious to test the feeling of the Senate, which is more hostile to his domestic policy.—Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 15.

In the course of the debate M. Forgeot proposed to replace the 20 per cent. increase by a State of lottery of Frs. 10,000,000,000 free of interest with a view to lowering the currency circulation. If on August 1 the lottery had not produced Frs. 5,000,000,000, the increase would be applied. This proposal was opposed by the Government and rejected by 328 votes to 217.—French Wireless through Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 18.

The Chamber of Deputies has adopted the Government's proposal to increase all taxation by 20 per cent.

The voting was 315 to 254. M. Bokanowski, the Budget Reporter, stated that the taxation hitherto agreed upon amounted to Frs. 4,730,000,000. The sitting lasted till 5.30 this morning.—Reuter.

FRANCE'S ELECTORAL REFORM BILL

Modified Form of Proportional Representation Opposed by Democratic Party

Paris, Feb. 19.

Having won the day with the most controversial features of the Finance Bill, namely, authorization of the Government to reduce expenditure by decree and to increase taxes generally by 20 per cent., the Government is now faced with a hard battle in the Senate on the Electoral Reform Bill. The Left Democrats, who are the majority in the Senate, oppose the modified form of proportional representation, which was the feature of the Bill as it was passed by the Chamber of Deputies on December 6, and demand a return to the old majority system, but it is anticipated that many will abstain from voting in order not to overthrow the Government on a question which is not regarded as of national importance.

It is noteworthy that Customs dues on goods imported from abroad are exempted from the 20 per cent. increase in taxation.

The Increase in Taxation.

Later.

The taxation proposals adopted by the Chamber of Deputies were embodied in Clause 3, which has been hotly debated for nearly a month. The Chamber thereafter got more rapidly to work on the remaining 110 clauses of the Government's Financial Measures Bill, passing this morning Clauses 4 to 31, dealing with details of the increases in duties.—Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 20.

The Chamber of Deputies to-day by 355 votes to 215 rejected a Socialist amendment cancelling Article 36 of the Government financial proposals, which provides for the disposal of the State match monopoly.—Reuter.

The Fall of the Franc

Paris, Feb. 18.

Travellers arriving at Boulogne to-day received 100 francs for a pound sterling, a new record.—pound sterling, a new record.

Later.

The Bourse du Commerce of Paris has been closed *sine die* by a decree of the Prefect of Police on the ground that quotations resulting from the exchange crisis would be calculated to lead to abnormal increase in prices.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 18.

French Rentes were flat and touched low records to-day, four per cents being quoted at 17-1/4 and five per cents at 21-1/8, ex-coupon, under the influence of the collapse of the exchange to 102.10 francs to £.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 19.

The French franc to-day fell to 105 to £1 and the Belgian franc to 125.—Reuter.

FRENCH INTERESTS IN CHINA

The Banque de l'Indo Chine and the Chinese Consortium

Paris, Feb. 14.

Speaking before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber, M. Sarraut, the Minister of the Colonies, pointed out the importance of the French interests in China.

The committee approved the report of Deputy Guernier recommending renewal of the privileges of the Banque de l'Indo Chine under reservation. The Foreign Minister will survey the operations of the Chinese Consortium and will lay before Parliament a yearly report on its operations.—Reuter.

Privilege of Issue Renewed Under Control.

Paris, Feb. 15.

M. Sarraut, the Minister of the Colonies, in a speech before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, referred to the renewal of the privilege of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine. He France's policy in the Far East from the point of view of the imdealt with the whole question of portant position now held by Indo-China and also of French interests in China. He outlined an economic programme, aiming at accelerating the development of the French colonies.

The Committee adopted the conclusions of M. Guernier's report on the question of the privilege of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine. The report pointed out that the Committee had only to consider the privilege of issue granted to the Banque in relation to its activity outside French territory, particularly in China. M. Guernier proposed renewal of the present arrangements with the reservation that the Foreign Ministry should permanently exercise surveillance on the operations of the Chinese Consortium and submit to Parliament an annual report thereon.—Reuter.

GERMAN SEPARATISTS

Berlin Reports the Movement Ended: French Troops Now Taking Action

Paris, Feb. 15.

The prompt action of French gendarmes at Frankenthal in dispersing crowds who were besieging Separatists in the sub-prefecture, prevented a repetition of the events at Pirmasens and Kaiserlautern.

Berlin, Feb, 16.

The Separatist Government in the Palatinate is actually ended. Ex-Government officials have been released from Separatist prisons and have resumed duty. A committee, appointed by the Inter-Allied High Commission, is negotiating with the German authorities on the subject of a definite form of government. The committee has promised to disarm the Separatists and to abolish all restrictions on traffic in the Palatinate.—Reuter.

Feb. 17.

The special Inter-Allied Commission in the Palatinate has reached an agreement with the Bavarian local authorities for the creation of a provincial government by the elected Provincial Council of the Palatinate.—Reuter.

Reichswehr Resignations

Munich, Feb. 18.

The Bavarian Dictator, Dr. von Kahr, and General von Lossow, the Commander of the Bavarian Reichswehr, have resigned.—Reuter.

Berlin, Feb. 18.

Dr. von Kahr's resignation is attributed to disagreement with the Bavarian Ministry and his connexion with the impending trial of General von Ludendorff and Herr Hitler, and also to certain British representations with regard to the Palatinate.—Reuter.

The German Reichstag

Berlin, Feb. 20.

The dissolution of the Reichstag is expected next week in consequence of the opposition of the Social Democrats to the Emergency Powers Act in its present form.—Reuter.

EUROPE'S NEED OF A NEW LEAD

British Premier's Definition of the Essentials for Reconstruction

Paris, Feb. 15.

Interviewed by M. Sauerwein, the correspondent of the "*Matin*" in London, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald emphasized that he had not committed himself with regard to an international reconstruction conference. A conference must be the end and not the beginning of the chapter. It stood no chance unless preliminary examinations completely clarified the problems. He desired frank, honest exchanges of views with France through the Ambassadors and, if necessary, by personal correspondence.

Differences of opinion did not matter provided they were without ulterior motive. He honestly intended to discuss ideas and not to attack individuals. He would use neither strategy nor complicated formulæ in diplomacy, but would proceed straightforwardly, solely desiring to alleviate Europe's sufferings by settling a few essential problems in agreement with France.

Mr. Macdonald was strongly idealistic and believed in the possibility of human progress. He regretfully admitted that the warlike elements were gaining ground in Germany and expressed the opinion that we had not used the best means to support the moral of the *élite* of Germany, who to-day were almost decimated by misery. The good elements of Germany must be strengthened and the Imperialistic and bellicose ideas of the Junkers must be eradicated. France and Britain should cooperate morally, economically and politically in order to eradicate everything bad in Europe. In conclusion the British Prime Minister said: "Let us work with confidence."—Reuter.

New German Ambassador to France

Paris, Feb. 16.

President Millerand to-day received in audience Herr von Hoesch who presented his credentials as German Ambassador.

A battalion of infantry rendered military honours on the arrival of Herr von Hoesch at the Elysée. President Millerand was supported by a crowd of dignitaries, including M. Poincaré. In a speech the new German Ambassador said that he was fully conscious of the difficulties in the way of improving relations between the two countries, but he would devote all his efforts to achieving progress and solution of the great questions on which the future of Europe largely depended. President Millerand replied welcoming the choice as Ambassador of so skilled a diplomatist, who was personally acquainted with the wishes of France, which could be summed up by the words "respect for treaties".—Reuter.

THE AMERICAN OIL SCANDAL

Fresh Implications Following Senate's Call for Details of Other Concessions

Washington, Feb. 15.

Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip testified before the committee inquiring into the oil scandals to-day. He had no facts whatever to substantiate the use of President Harding's name in his recent speech, but he suggested an inquiry into the circumstances of the sale of the "Marion Star," thinking that it was a public duty to call attention to rumours in order to kill them. He was a life-long friend of President Harding and merely wanted to clear the late President's memory of a whispering campaign against him.

A development which is likely to be very important in the naval oil lease scandal is the Senate's adoption of two resolutions, firstly, calling on the State Department to furnish all the diplomatic correspondence relating to the Colombian Treaty, in the ratification of which the oil interests and Mr. Fall as the Secretary of the Interior are said to have played a leading part, and, secondly, asking for the correspondence relating to the securing of oil concessions for American corporations in Russia, Mexico, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Burma, Persia and other foreign countries.

President Coolidge has nominated the Philadelphian, Mr. Owen Roberts, Government Counsel in the oil prosecutions, replacing Mr. Strawn.

Feb. 16.

The House of Representatives to-day adopted the Senate resolution directing the Department of the Interior to move for the recovery of the Elk Hill naval oil reserves held by the Californian Standard Oil Company.

The Senate has approved the nominations of Mr. Roberts and Mr. Pomerene as Government Counsel in the oil leases case.

Feb. 17.

The Senate, after six-hours debate, to-day confirmed the appointment of Mr. Pomerene as Government Counsel in the oil leases case. Action with regard to Mr. Roberts, the President's other nominee, was deferred till Monday, when approval is anticipated.—Reuter's American Service.

Resignation of Mr. Denby Accepted by the President

Washington, Feb. 18.

President Coolidge has accepted the resignation of Mr. Edwin Denby, the Secretary of the Navy.

The resignation of Mr. Denby followed a telephonic communication with the President, in the course of which the situation as regards the naval oil leases scandal was briefly discussed in the light of information conveyed to the President by the Republican leaders in the Senate. There has been considerable speculation as to whether Mr. Denby would actually resign, in spite of the Senate's resolution on February 11 demanding his resignation and in view of the strong support which President Coolidge has accorded him.

Later.

The Senate has confirmed the appointment of Mr. Owen J. Roberts as Government Counsel in the oil leases case.

It is understood that the possible resignation of Attorney-General Daugherty will be discussed at to-morrow's Cabinet meeting.

President Coolidge, in a letter, accepts the resignation of Mr. Denby, the Secretary of the Navy, with regret.

Mr. Denby's Standpoint.

Mr. Denby was not only a party to the oil leases, which he signed with Mr. Fall, but repeatedly defended his part in the proceedings. He has publicly declared since the controversy arose that he believes that the contracts are legal. It was therefore pointed out to the President that it might appear inconsistent to retain a member of the Administration holding these views while the Administration was preparing to take action to annul the leases on the ground that they were made without the authority of the law.

Mr. Roosevelt, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, after conferring with Mr. Denby, had half an hour's interview with the President at the White House, after which he announced that he would not resign.—Reuter's American Service

Chicago, Feb. 18.

The supporters of Mr. McAdoo have unanimously approved his candidature for the Presidency. The officials of many railway and labour unions also passed resolutions that his candidature was not impaired by the oil developments.—Reuter's American Service.

Stockbrokers' Accounts Examined.

Washington, Feb. 19.

In order to counteract reports that the business situation has been injured by the oil disclosures, President Coolidge has made known the view that business in the United States generally is in a healthy condition and probably many of the rumours with regard to the oil leases will be discovered upon investigation to be without foundation. Americans, he added, may look forward to the coming months hopefully.

The Senate Oil Committee's private examination of certain New York stockbrokers, who produced their account-books for inspection, and the continued refusal of Attorney-General Daugherty to resign are the features of to-day's development of the scandal. The object of the new turn in the Committeee's inquiry is undoubtedly to ascertain whether any officials took advantage of advance information regarding the Teapot Dome lease to speculate in stocks.

It is learned from a reliable source that the name of one Government official, whose identity has not yet been disclosed, appears in the books of a certain firm, which the Senate oil committee examined to-day.—Reuter's American Service.

Mr. Daugherty Persisent in Refusal to Resign Despite Sentiment in Senate

Washington, Feb. 20.

It is understood that the Republican Senators during the last few hours have been increasingly pressing for the resignation of Attorney-General Daugherty. Mr. Daugherty, in a brief conference with the President, again affirmed his determination not to resign under fire. He then returned to the Department of Justice where he dictated a statement affirming his decision to stay in the Cabinet.

Upon the heels of the publication of this statement Senators Lodge and Pepper proceeded to the White House to acquaint the President with the growing sentiment in the Senate in favour of Mr. Daugherty's retirement.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

SETTLEMENT OF DOCKERS DISPUTE

Dockers' Claim for Reversion to Wages Paid in 1922: Shipowners' Contention that Reductions are Due to Bad Trade: Further Conferences and Agreement

London, Feb. 15.

[illegible] the Secretary of the Political and International Department of the Transport and General Workers' Union, announced to-day that the postponement of the dockers' conference meant that a strike on Saturday was inevitable unless the two shillings a day increase were granted to-night.

Later.

The negotiations in the dock dispute have broken down and a strike is now certain to-morrow.

A final attempt to secure a settlement was made by the Ministry of Labour, who requested the dockers' delegates to remain in London and meet again to-morrow. The delegates, who were about to return to their districts, agreed to remain, but confirmed by telegram the orders to cease work at noon on Saturday.

Feb. 16.

One hundred and twenty thousand men engaged in practically all the ports in Britain are expected to cease work at midday, but the negotiations have not ended and a final effort will be made during the morning. In the event of a strike all sea-going goods traffic will be immediately paralysed and if the stoppage continues for some days coal mines will be rendered idle and other industries affected, and the food problem is bound to arise, accompanied by increased prices.

Dock work, however, nominally ceases on Saturday afternoon and Sunday and, hence, the full effects of a strike would not really be felt until Monday, so there is still an interval in which the mediators may strive to end the dispute. In the event of the strike extending to include all workers of allied unions the total number of persons affected would be 1,200,000.

Later.

Following conferences throughout the day which were interrupted by several adjournments, the negotiations in the dock dispute broke down. The leaders announced that the strike, which started at noon, will continue.

Later.

The only fresh development this evening in the dockers' dispute is that the London employers have issued a notice that from February 18 all empolyees' wages will be increased by 1/- a day on a "half-daily basis." The chief remaining point in dispute concerns the second shilling demanded, on which arbitration has been offered and rejected.

London, Feb. 17.

The Holt Liner Sarpedon, with a full cargo for China, was among the vessels that got away from Liverpool in spite of the strike.

Later.

It is understood that the Prime Minister himself will probably intervene in the dock strike to-morrow.—Reuter.

Surprising Action of the Stevedores' Union

London, Feb. 17.

The first meeting of the National Strike Committee at Westminster this morning passed a resolution in favour of instructing all transport workers to decline to haul to and from docks, wharves and warehouses during the strike.

The last meetings in London today of the National Stevedores' & Lightermen's Union decided to adopt the policy of a "stay in" strike, continuing work during port hours only from 8 o'clock in the morning until 5 in the evening for five days a week and from 8 in the morning until noon on Saturday and going slow on piece work with no over time.

A National Strike Committee bulletin says that reports from all districts are splendid. The men are determined everywhere. The delegates' conference's decisions have been honoured in all ports. Where safety men are allowed to continue work, they may only do so as long as blacklegs are not introduced.

A surprise move in the dock strike to-day was the decision of the National Stevedores' Union in favour of a "stay in" strike. The Union is a rival organization to the Transport-workers' Union and claims to have 20,000 members in the Port of London and to represent all the stevedores and lightermen and 50 per cent. of the dockers. The members of the Stevedores' Executive declared that, as a result of this policy, there would be more chaos in the Port of London in 48 hours than had the Union struck and they would speedily obtain recognition.

Why Should Women Starve?

Mr. Ruark, the General Secretary of the Stevedores' Union in the course of a speech at a mass meeting of the members of the Union at Bermondsey, recommending the "stay-in" strike, asked them why they should punish their wives and children and themselves by striking during severe weather and playing the game of the employers and the other Union. He added that negotiations were not yet all over and he believed that the Minister of Labour and the Prime Minister were moving in the direction of bringing about an agreement between all parties. The policy the Stevedores' Union proposed was quite new in industrial strife and he hoped that they would carry it out at least for the first three days of the week, after which, if necessary, it could be changed.

"Hands off London."

Other speakers claimed that the Stevedores' Union controlled the Port of London and said that their message to Mr. Bevin was "Hands off London. Keep to the provinces with your strike action." They were not going to be dragged at the heels of Mr. Bevin and did not intend to pull chesnuts out of the fire for someone else, but to adopt an original policy on the Asquithian method of wait-and-see.

Feb. 18.

Mr. Bevin stated to-day that the dockers in all provincial ports were out solidly and that London had struck in spite of practically all the dockers under the instructions of other unions. —Reuter.

Court of Inquiry Appointed to Investigate Conditions: Work Continuing in London

London, Feb. 18.

In the House of Commons today, Mr. Thomas Shaw, the Minister of Labour, announced that it had been decided to appoint a court of inquiry under the Industrial Courts Act to investigate the causes and circumstances of the dock strike, under the chairmanship of Mr. Holman Gregory, K.C. Meanwhile he would try to get the parties to meet again with a view to coming to an agreed settlement.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald said that the Government did not fear to take the necessary steps to secure the transport of essential food supplies and had already established the nucleus of an organization. Mr. Macdonald added amid general cheers an expression of shope that nothing would be said in the House of Commons which would make difficult the only thing that really mattered, namely, settlement of the dispute.

Asked whether the Government was in favour of demanding payment of reparations from Germany, the Prime Minister replied in the affirmative amid Opposition cheers.

Later.

The employers assert that work is [illegible] owing to some London [illegible] with anyone men and that [illegible] is fairly general at others.

Effect on Cotton Trade.

Later.

With regard to the effect of the dockers' strike on the cotton trade, the "Manchester Guardian" says that the effect on imports of raw cotton is unimportant for the present as stocks in Britain amount to 879,000 bales. A short time movement has started and a great lock-out is threatened, but, if the export trade is suspended for any length of time, probably a great curtailment of production will be necessary.—Reuter.

Cabinet's Warning to Food Profiteers.

London, Feb. 18.

A sharp warning to food profiteers is contained in a Cabinet *communiqué* to-day. It declares that there is no reason for the increases as high as 50 per cent. in meat and other prices, of which the Cabinet has received information from various centres. The Cabinet intimates that it has requested law officers to draft emergency measures to prevent exploitation of consumers during the present strike.—Reuter.

Many Dockmen Still Working in London.

London, Feb. 19.

Whereas most of the other ports are at a standstill, approximately 3,000 dockers are working in the London docks to-day, being one-fifth of the normal number. Thirty-two ships are discharging.

An emergency committee of the Trade Union Congress to-day passed a resolution congratulating the transport workers and dockers on their magnificent stand, pledging the support of British trade unionism and calling on all affiliated organizations to assist the strikers.—Reuter.

The Court of Enquiry.

London, Feb. 20.

Meetings of the members of the Stevedores' Union at Poplar and Canning Town have unanimously decided to cease work. The stevedores had decided to give a few days' trial to a "stay-in" strike, after which the union officials might decide upon a full strike.

The dockers' strike has spread to Ireland. Following instructions from London, dockers at Belfast to-day declined to discharge ships from Britain. Dockers at Londonderry have struck.

The Court of Inquiry into the dispute, presided over by Mr. Holman Gregory, accompanied by Mr. H. Boothman, Secretary of the Association of Operative Cottonspinners and Sir Andrew Duncan, Vice-President of the Shipbuilding Employers Federation, opened publicly at the Law Courts this morning.

The Case for the Dockers.

Neither of the disputants had retained counsel. Mr. Ernest Bevin, opening the case for the dockers, said that he did not propose to call witnesses, but desired the Court to call witnesses from the other side. Sir Norman Hill, the Vice-President of the Chamber of Shipping, was present, representing the employers.

Mr. Bevin pointed out that the dockers had unwillingly accepted reductions, totalling 6 - a day, since 1921, because they were fighting to establish national agreements and to abolish casual labour, which was a social disgrace. Their present claim was for reversion to the wages paid in 1922. He asserted that many of the employers did not give their permission to reject the claim. Indeed, hundreds of companies wanted to pay the increase.

Shipowners and Bad Trade.

Sir Norman Hill, on behalf of the shipowners, contended that the wages reductions were necessary in consequence of bad trade. While freights had fallen, working expenses had not diminished. Many shipowners had abandoned the hope of ever making profits.

The Chairman said that the strike must be settled without delay. The Court hoped to report to the Minister of Labour on February 22.

The hearing was then adjourned.

Later.

The port employers met to-night with the object of bringing the Liverpool employers into line with the rest of the ports with regard to a new offer by the employers, which, it is confidently expected, will form the basis of a settlement if it is agreed upon. When the meeting concluded after a long session, no statement was made, but such is possible when the Court of Inquiry resumes to-morrow.

The road transport commercial group committee has requested the National Strike Committee to instruct road transport workers to strike.

A Settlement Reached

Feb. 21.

It is officially announced that the dock strike has been settled.

Later.

The Secretary to the Ministry of Labour states that further conferences, held at the Ministry under the chairmanship of the Minister, Mr. Thomas Shaw, Shaw, resulted in the representatives of the parties reaching an agreement, the terms of which have been accepted by the employers' representatives and will be recommended by the men's representatives to a delegate conference, which will be summoned to meet at the Ministry of Labour this evening. Subject to confirmation, work will be resumed in all ports as soon as arrangements can be made.

Later.

The dockers' inquiry has adjourned *sine die*.

The terms of settlement of the dock strike provide for an increase of a shilling a day immediately and a further shilling a day as from May 1. There is to be no victimization. Reuter.

BRITISH FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Malta, Feb. 14.

It is understood that the redistribution of the Fleet, which is now taking place, practically amounts to reversing the positions of the Atlantic and Mediterranean Fleets, rendering the latter the strongest British Fleet in commission. Dispositions have already been made or are impending, including the accepted certainty that the 1st Light Cruiser Squadron will be despatched to the Mediterranean on the conclusion of the Empire cruise.—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S AERIAL DEFENCES

Government Asked to Maintain Adequate Strength for Self-Protection: Need for Aircraft Disarmament Conference: A Comparison of Strength

London, Feb. 19.

The evening sitting of the House of Commons was devoted to a motion by the ex-Minister for Air, Sir Samuel Hoare, on the question of air defence, in which he invited the House to affirm the principle of maintaining a home defence Air Force of sufficient strength to give adequate protection against the strongest Air Force within striking distance of British shores. He contrasted the British and French services, the former with 100 first-line machines as compared with France's 1,060. Sir Samuel stated that his resolution followed the lines agreed upon by the Dominion Premiers. It was embodied in a programme only costing £5,000,000 to £6,000,000 annually, but was more vitally important to the safety of the country than any other phase of national defence. He asked for an assurance that the Government were anxious to see civil aviation developed.

Mr. William Leach, Under-Secretary of State for Air, replying, stated that there would be no change at present regarding the expansion of the Air Force already planned. He declared that the war had killed the doctrine that in order to get peace you must prepare for war. All nations that prepared most, got most war (Ministerial cheers and Opposition dissent). The Government would do their utmost to facilitate an international aircraft disarmament conference. Mr. Leach declared that the legacies of development inherited from the old Government would be fulfilled. They were anxious to foster civil aviation and would encourage the development of airships. In conclusion, he declared that the Army and Navy might repel land attacks, but the Air Force could not prevent an air-raid. The only adequate defence was a changed international atmosphere.

An Astonishing Doctrine.

Major-General J. E. B. Seely, Liberal Member for the Isle of Wight and former Under-Secretary of State for Air, declared that the House had listened to a most astonishing doctrine which would mean disbandment of the Army and Navy if followed to its logical conclusion, and they must challenge the Government upon it (Opposition cheers).

Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, stated that the Government's policy was definitely to make the Air Force adequate and, whilst recognizing the necessity of defence, realizing the Imperial aspects of the question, and giving assurance of continuity on the first stages of the programme, the Government reserved the right to do nothing which would prevent them working for disarmament. He hoped that the House would reject the motion.

The motion was talked out. The Speaker would not accept the closure, which Sir Samuel Hoare moved, because he was of opinion that the debate on a matter of this magnitude in such a short period ought to be resumed when the Air estimates came on.—Reuter.

The Premier's Health.

London, Feb. 19.

Persistent reports that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald is contemplating resigning the Foreign Secretaryship on account of ill-health are authoritatively denied. It is stated that the reports of Mr. Macdonald's ill-health are unfounded.—Reuter.

LOANS UNDER TRADE FACILITIES ACT

An Aggregate of £65,000,000: Interest on Dominion Loans: A Fleet of Motor-ships

London, Feb. 19.

In the House of Commons today, moving a series of financial resolutions extending the aggregate of loans guaranteeable under the Trade Facilities Act from £50,000,000 to £65,000,000, Mr. William Graham, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, explained that the resolutions included at least one of the proposals of the Imperial Economic Conference, namely, that authorizing the Treasury to guarantee for five years three-quarters of the interest on certain Dominion and Colonial public utility loans, the proceeds of which were to be expended in the United Kingdom.

The resolutions were agreed to without a division.

The Bank of England invite applications for £1,800,000 five per cent. debenture stock, issued at 98½, in respect of which the Government guarantee principal and interest under the Trade Facilities Act. The proceeds are required to pay for a fleet of motor-ships for £1,800,000 ordered from Messrs. Harland & Wolff. —Reuter.

London, Feb. 21.

In the House of Commons last night the Trade Facilities Bill was read for the first time. The bill is based on yesterday's resolutions, one of which deals with the Sudan loan guarantee.—Reuter.

NORWAY'S RECOGNITION OF RUSSIA

Christiania, Feb. 16.

Norway's recognition of Russ[illegible] has been officially announced, simultaneously with the publication of a Russian Note recognizing Norway's sovereignty over Spitsbergen. Temporary Charges d'Affaires will be appointed and a Russo-Norwegian commission will settle outstanding questions. Reuter

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

FIVE NEW CRUISERS FOR BRITAIN TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT

Government's Policy Violently Attacked by Little Englanders but Successfully Supported by Conservatives

London, Feb. 21.

In the House of Commons today a volley of criticizing questions followed an announcement by Mr. C. G. Ammon, Parliamentary Secretary of the Admiralty, that the Government had decided, in view of the serious unemployment, to proceed with the laying down of five cruisers (Labour cries of Oh! and Opposition cheers), three of which would be built in the Royal Dockyard, and two destroyers. Tenders would be invited immediately so that work might be proceeded with as soon as Parliament sanctioned it.

Replying to Mr. L. S. Amery, the former First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Ammon said that the depot ships and other items on the programme, which Mr. Amery had previously submitted to the House, were still being considered.

Mr. P. A. Harris, Liberal member for the Southwest Division of Bethnal Green, asked whether these boats were actually needed for the defence of the country urgently and would it not be better to use the money in more productive ways (Loud Ministerial cheers).

Mr. E. Thurtle, Labour member for Shoreditch, asked whether or not this decision was to be taken as a great moral gesture to the world.

A Labour member asked, Would Mr. Ammon take into account the fact that the laying down of these cruisers would lead to the laying down of further cruisers by foreign countries, which would lead to a possible catastrophe creating far more unemployment?

Mr. Ammon, replying, contended that they were largely replacements and were not really adding to our weight of armaments.

Mr. W. M. R. Pringle, Liberal member for Peniston, asked leave to move an adjournment as the matter was of urgent public importance.

All the Liberals and over half of the Ministerialists present supported the motion, which will be discussed this evening. The Opposition ironically cheered the fact that some Labour members did not support the motion.

Liberals the Chief Critics.

Later.

The Liberals were the principal critics of the Government when Mr. Pringle moved the adjournment of the House of Commons to-day in order to draw attention to the Government's shipbuilding proposals.

Commander Kenworthy, the Liberal member for Kingston-upon-Hull, ironically commented upon this method of pacification of Europe. He asked why, as a logical conclusion, the Government did not seek to cure or relieve unemployment by embarking on a first-class war with somebody.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, explained that the ships would not be laid down until the House had sanctioned the expenditure when the estimates came up. He declared that the vessels were purely for replacement purposes. The Government could not carry out its disarmament pledges by allowing the Navy to disappear by wastage from the bottom (Opposition cheers). The whole question of the future Naval programme was now being explored, until the completion of which no decision would be reached.

Mr. Macdonald stated that 2,250 men would be discharged from the Royal Dockyards in March if fresh construction were not undertaken. This would be increased by another 2,500 in March, 1925. He declared that when he came into office, the Government begged the public authorities, the War Office and the Admiralty to put work in hand with a view to relieving unemployment and the present proposal arose from this.

Mr. L. S. Amery strongly supported the Government. He was only sorry that the Government had not seen their way to carry out the whole programme of the late Government, namely, eight cruisers and a considerable number of other vessels, including aircraft carriers.

Mr. Pringle's motion was rejected by 372 votes to 73.

Saved by the Tories.

Feb. 22.

The result of last night's division in the House of Commons, which was the first critical division since the Labour Party came into office, was greeted with cries of "Saved by the Tories! Baldwin the Socialist! The new Coalition!," a huge muster of Conservatives responding to the special whip and voting with the Government.

The minority were entirely Liberals, *plus* one Labour member and the Independent member, Mr. Scrymgeour. Mr. Macdonald's explanation had placated the earlier anger of his followers, with the result that they eventually voted almost solidly against the motion, though there were abstentionists, including at least two Clydeside members. Fifty Liberals abstained and 20 voted for the Government.—Reuter.

THE DOCK STRIKE SETTLEMENT

Further Terms to be Discussed: Work Delayed Pending More Concessions

London, Feb. 21.

Resumption of work by the dockers is expected to-morrow. The terms, which include establishment of an inquiry into the question of decasualization, (discontinuance of the practice of engaging casual labour) must first be approved by the conference of docker's delegates convened for to-night, but this is regarded as certain. The situation is complicated by the fact that the stevedores unions are independent and claim an increase of 2s. 6d. This has not yet been considered by the employers, yet resumption will not be fully effective until the stevedores also return.

Later.

There is a more unfavourable outlook on endorsement of the strike settlement in view of the fact that the dockers of Manchester, Salford and Newcastle have instructed their delegates to accept nothing less than an immediate two shillings advance and decasualization.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald in the House of Commons to-day paid a tribute to Mr. Thomas Shaw's skill and patience. He hoped that the dispute would be finally settled to-night to permit resumption of work to-morrow.

An Adjourned Conference.

Later.

The dockers' delegate conference to consider whether to endorse the provisional terms of settlement adjourned this evening after a long sitting until to-morrow, no decision being taken. It is understood that the port areas are sharply divided.

With regard to the terms of settlement, the second shilling is payable on June 1, not May 1 as previously reported.—Reuter.

BUDAPEST, Feb. 16.—Mr. John Balfour, Secretary of the British Legation, will shortly take up the Embassy at Washington. It is understood that Mr. J. H. S. Birch, Secretary of the British Embassy at Tokio, will succeed Mr. Balfour.—Reuter.

BRITISH SQUADRON IN AUSTRALIA

Absurd Story as to Government Instructions Contradicted by the Premier

London, Feb. 21.

A fantastic story, circulated in Melbourne, that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald had issued instructions to the officers of the Special Service Squadron, which would "considerably nullify any jingo patriotism," ordering them not to make any political distinctions during their stay in Australia, has caused some sensation as it was published on the eve of the Squadron's arrival.

Doubts were expressed by the Australian newspapers as to the genuineness of the story, which Mr. Macdonald to-day authorized Reuter to deny emphatically. Mr. Macdonald says that there is not a single word of truth in it. The source of the story is unknown. Downing Street is completely puzzled.—Reuter.

OBITUARY

Sir Henry Lucy

London, Feb. 21.

The death is announced of Sir Henry Lucy, Lucy, "Toby M.P." of "Punch," at the age of 78.

For over 40 years Sir Henry was one of the most prominent figures in the Press Gallery of the House of Commons, representing the "Daily News." He joined the staff of "Punch" in 1881, creating the character of "Toby M.P.," from whose diary the "Essence of Parliament," commenced by Shirley Brooks, was extracted.—Reuter.

GERMANY'S CAPACITY TO PAY

Investigations by Committees of Experts: Enormous Expenditure

Paris, Feb. 21.

The Second Committee of Experts has reached an estimate of the amount of German capital sent abroad and will now determine the means of repatriating it.

The First Committee of Experts is observing the strictest secrecy with regard to the drafting of the report on the financial situation in Germany. It is stated, however, that there is no truth in the rumour that the experts discussed the restoration of the German Colonies with a view to increasing her capacity to pay. Such a solution was, apparently, not even touched upon. There is reason to believe that the experts were struck by the enormous expenditure by Germany on domestic works, particularly the improvement of internal communications.

Speaking in the Senate to-day, M. Poincaré said: "I have no secret desire to shirk office at a time when we are on the eve of events which may be decisive and which, moreover, present themselves under favourable auspices." It is presumed that M. Poincaré referred to the work of the experts committees.—Reuter.

THE DIXMUDE DISASTER

Paris, Feb. 21.

The Commission of Inquiry into the Dixmude disaster, presided over by Marshal Fayolle, has given its verdict that the accident was due to lightning and that no individual or collective responsibility can be assigned. —Reuter.

FRENCH ELECTORAL REFORM BILL

Constitutional Representation Clause Carried and Also Financial Proposals

Paris, Feb. 21.

The Senate to-day by 150 votes to 134 rejected the proposal to revert to the system of single member constituencies in the debate on the Electoral Reform Bill. M. Poincaré in an earlier debate had made the question one of confidence. He denied that his attitude was a pretext to laying down office.

The Chamber of Deputies by 365 votes to 188 adopted Article 36 of the Finance Bill, abolishing the match monopoly. This was the most hotly contested Article of the Bill after Articles 1 and 3. The Government made it a vote of confidence.

As a result of to-day's divisions M. Poincaré is practically assured of retention of the Premiership, at least until after the elections. The Government's victory in the Senate is attributed to the large number of abstainers, who were hostile on the immediate issue, but were unwilling to create a Ministerial crisis at the present international juncture. Senator Jeanneney, the President of the Electoral Commission, in the course of the debate in the Senate bitterly complained that M. Poincaré was placing the Senate in an unworthy position and compelling the House to vote on a measure with which two-thirds of the members disagreed. —Reuter.

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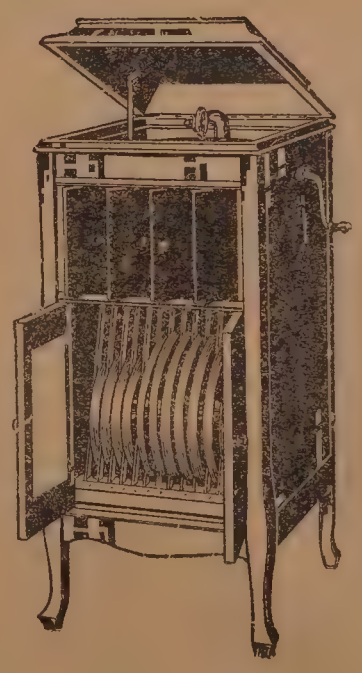

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ROBINSON PIANO CO./LD.

While Mr. H. P. Whitney, a prominent New York stockbroker, was giving evidence before the Senate Oil Committee to-day, Senator Elkins (Republican) of West Virginia announced that he had purchased Sinclair Oil stocks and was perfectly willing to go before the committee and tell all he knew about the matter.—Reuter's American Service.

Vanderlip Sued for Libel

New York, Feb. 21.

The joint owners of the "Marion Star" are suing Mr. Frank Vanderlip, the banker for $6000,000 for alleged slander and libel implicating the "Marion Star" in the oil scandal. Mr. Vanderlip alleged on February 13 that an excessive price had been paid to the late President Harding in connexion with the sale of his newspaper, the "Marion Star," shortly before his death.—Reuter's American Service.

MEXICO'S REBELLION

Federal Forces Ambushed

Mexico City, Feb. 15.

The Federal troops under General Obregon entered Quadalajara yesterday, the inhabitants pelting them with flowers. General Escobar, although wounded, ordered an immediate advance against Morelia, where the rebel Generals Estrada and Dieguez are reported to have concentrated their forces. There is an unconfirmed report that the Federal troops have occupied Tuxpam.

Yucatan, Feb. 15.

The American cruiser Richmond and the French light cruiser Capetown have arrived at Progreso.

It is reported that the revolutionary General Pineda has defeated the Federal General Belascos in the State of Chiapas and taken a number of prisoners.—Reuter's American Service.

Vera Cruz, Feb. 17.

It is unofficially reported that the Federal General Topete with 2,000 men, advancing from Cordoba to Port Blanco on the Isthmus Railway, was ambushed by rebels in Motzirongo. His force was defeated and dispersed, losing its trains.—Reuter's American Service.

OBITUARY

Dr. Alexander C. Garrett

New York, Feb. 20.

The death is announced of Dr. Alexander Charles Garrett, Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, at the age of 92.

Dr. Garrett was born at Ballymot, County Sligo. He was appointed curate of East Worldham in Hampshire in 1856 and in 1859 left for British Columbia as a missionary. In 1870 he came to America and was elected missionary bishop of Northern Texas in 1874.—Reuter's American Service.

Bishop Domenico Pozzoni

Hongkong, Feb. 21.

The death took place last night at the French Hospital of the Right Reverend Domenico Pozzoni, Bishop of Tavia and Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong, from heart failure.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NEW USES FOR RUBBER

Boots, Paving Stones and Waterproof Linings for Teachests

London, Feb. 20.

In a paper read before the Royal Society of Arts on new uses for rubber Mr. P. J. Burgess, the Chairman of the Rubber Growers' Association, suggested that Ceylon tea-planters might experiment in waterproofing teachests with rubber latex instead of lead-foil. He anticipated that crêpe rubber soles would become the standard equipment of all boots and shoes, but the crêpe rubber must be plantation finished and the retail price of such footwear must be reduced to equal to or less than leather-soled boots and the liability of the rubber sole to slip in wet weather must be overcome.

The difficulty of obtaining satisfactory adhesion of the rubber road block to its base appeared to have been solved. Mr. Burgess was of opinion that the use of large blocks would overcome the remaining difficulties of rubber road construction, which was the only direction in which he saw hope of solving the chief rubber problem, namely, finding a use for rubber on a big scale, which would function as a practicable proposition with raw rubber at some pivotal price, say, 1/6 per pound.—Reuter.

ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE IN RUSSIA

Severe Sentence on University Professor

Riga, Feb. 18.

It is reported from Moscow that a Soviet tribunal sentenced to death Professor Clair, of Ekaterinburg University, for economic espionage in supplying French capitalists with information concerning the platinum industry in the Urals. The sentence has since been commuted to ten years' imprisonment and confiscation of the Professor's belongings.—Reuter.

DUEL WITH BOOTLEGGERS

American Senator Wounded

Washington, Feb. 16.

While walking along Pennsylvania Avenue to-day in company with his wife, Senator Green of Vermont was wounded in the head during a duel between Prohibition agents and bootleggers [illegible] a hospital.

The bullet which struck Senator Green did not remain in his head, but caused a slight fracture in the region of the frontal bone.

Later.

Physicians attending Senator Green have come to the conclusion that a portion of the frontal bone has been driven into the brain and an operation, therefore, may be necessary. — Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Feb. 17.

Senator Greene was operated upon to-day and the splintered bone taken out of his skull. His condition is serious, but physicians are hopeful of recovery.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Feb. 18.

The condition of Senator Greene is critical.—Reuter's American Service.

THE MORGAN LIBRARY

Priceless Collection of Books

New York, Feb. 16.

Mr. J. P. Morgan as a memorial to his father is transferring his magnificent library, valued at $7,000,000, with the ground on which it stands in one of the most valuable sections of New York to trustees, who will maintain it in perpetuity for scholars from all parts of the world, but it will not be available to the public owing to the fragility of the books and manuscripts.

The collection contains 25,000 ancient and irreplaceable books and is believed to be the biggest private one in existence. An endowment of $1,500,000 accompanies the gift.—Reuter's American Service.

TUTANKHAMEN'S TOMB

Luxor, Feb. 15.

Mr. Howard Carter on presenting himself at the tomb of Tutankhamen this morning was refused admission by the chief of police who showed him a written order of the Government. Mr. Carter retired.—Reuter.

Cairo, Feb. 15.

It is officially announced that the Egyptian Government will take energetic steps to fulfil its obligations towards science and the public in connexion with Tutankhamen. Lady Carnarvon's licence was issued in July last year and is due to expire on November 24, 1924. The Director-General of Antiquities will proceed with the opening of the tomb, and laboratories and other depots will take measures to safeguard and preserve the antiquities.—Reuter.

GERMANY'S FINANCES

Paris, Feb. 20.

Dr. Schacht, the President of the Reichsbank, has left for Berlin. He will return to Paris in a week's time, when he will again confer with the committee of experts with regard to the details of his scheme for a gold credit bank, which the experts are understood to have accepted in principle.—Reuter.

THE FLIGHT TO THE POLE CANCELLED

Washington, Feb. 15.

President Coolidge has ordered the suspension of the naval aerial expedition to the North Pole in the summer on grounds of economy.

The Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Denby, states that considerable opposition existed to the expenditure of the $350,000 required and therefore the President has postponed the expedition until Congress has been given an opportunity of expressing its views.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Feb. 16.

The newspapers register the astonishment and disappointment of the Navy Department at President Coolidge's order cancelling the Polar flight of the airship, Shenandoah, which is described as coming like a flash out of a clear sky. Efforts will be begun immediately to secure the approval of Congress to the flight, but it is admitted that it is now probably too late. It is declared that, if no Congressional action is taken within ten days, it will be impossible to attempt the expedition this year. The advance party, which was already on the way to Alaska to carry out the preliminary work in connexion with the flight, has been halted at Bremerton Navy Yard in Washington State. All other preliminary activities have been stopped.—Reuter's American Service.

CHINESE LABOUR IN NAURU ISLAND

London, Feb. 18.

In the House of Commons to-day, replying to Mr. J. W. Black, Liberal Member for Harborough, who suggested steps to secure henceforth that Chinese contract labour employed in the Nauru phosphate mines should only be recruited under the proviso that a certain proportion of women accompanied the men, Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, said that the British phosphate commissioners had informed him that many Chinese were offered free accommodation for their wives at the island, but hitherto the social prejudices of the Chinese had prevented more than a very few women from taking advantage of this offer.—Reuter.

MORE COTTON DISPUTES

London, Feb. 21.

The absence of card-room operatives' representatives from a joint conference at Manchester to establish an agreed system of control for American yarn sections of the industry has caused a deadlock in the scheme, and the conference has indefinitely adjourned.

It is feared that the dispute may lead to a lock-out in the cotton trade.—Reuter.

COAL MINERS' WAGES IN AMERICA

Jacksonville, Feb. 20.

An agreement providing for the renewal of the present bituminous miners' wages scale for two years was signed to-day by Mr. Lewis, the President of the Miners' Union. He declared that it laid the ground-work of peace in the coal industry and a continuous supply of fuel for at least three years.—Reuter's American Service.

Dutch Banking Development

London, Feb. 16.

"The Times" city editor says that Amsterdam appears to be making a bid for international monetary fame. The formation of a second credit institution in Holland, in which Swedish, Dutch, British and German banking interests are concerned, is the second development in the past month. It is understood that a third combination is contemplated.—Reuter.

Oldham Cotton Dispute

London, Feb. 15.

A dispute has arisen in the cotton room of the Thornham Spinning Company's mill near Oldham where 300 operatives are employed. The point at issue is of the first importance and may lead to a lockout, involving all the mills within the Federation and 150,000 operatives. The employers have convened a meeting of the whole trade for February 26.—Reuter.

Mr. H. E. R. Hunter's Estate

London, Feb. 17.

Mr. H. E. R. Hunter, the Eastern banker, etc., left £63,161.—Reuter.

Woman's Vote in S. Africa

Capetown, Feb. 16.

The Assembly passed the second reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill by 54 votes to 48. The Prime Minister, General Smuts, supporting the Bill, pointed out a difficulty regarding Cape Province, where native men were eligible to vote.—Reuter.

Penny Postage Impossible at Present

London, Feb. 17.

It is stated that the Postmaster General has definitely decided that an early return to penny postage is impossible as the anticipated Post Office surplus will not be available for it.—Reuter.

The Murder of Mr. Day

Calcutta, Feb. 17.

The Bengalee, Gopinath Saha, has been sentenced to death for the murder of Mr. Ernest Day, whom he shot on January 13 in mistake for a high police official.—Reuter.

Round-Table Conference in India

Delhi, Feb. 18.

The debate in the Legislative Assembly ended to-day with the adoption of a resolution in favour of calling a round-table conference to prepare a scheme for further Constitutional advance by 76 votes to 48 amidst Swarajist cheers.—Reuter.

The Prince of Wales

London, Feb. 18.

The Prince of Wales has recovered from his recent accident and attended a football match to-day between Tottenham Hotspur and Oxford University in aid of the Tottenham Hospital. The Prince's right arm is still in a sling. His Royal Highness received an ovation from the crowd.—Reuter.

Bombay Cotton Mill Strike

Bombay, Feb. 18.

All the mills reopened this morning, but the operatives did not return to work. Instead, they assumed a threatening attitude. Some grain-shops were looted, but up to the present no serious disturbance has occurred.—Reuter.

The Fiume Agreement

Belgrade, Feb. 20.

The Chamber has ratified the agreement between Italy and Jugo-Slavia with regard to Fiume.—Reuter.

The Limitation of Armaments

Washington, Feb. 18.

Secretary of State Hughes, in a letter to Mr. Fish, a number of the House of Representatives, declares that it is not feasible at present to call an international conference on further limitation of naval armaments.

The letter adds that as far as light cruisers, submarines and aircraft are concerned America's position is the same as at the Washington Conference and the difficulties of reaching an agreement are not yet removed. An agreement on poison gas was reached at the Conference but one signatory Power has not yet ratified the treaty and it has therefore been impossible to put it into effect. The United States has reduced its land forces to the fullest extent practicable.—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. War Debt Policy

Washington, Feb. 18.

The Government's war debt policy remains unchanged after to-day's conference of the Debt-funding Commission, which failed to act on a proposal that the debtor Governments should again be reminded that the United States is awaiting their funding proposals.—Reuter.

Liquor Prohibition in America

Washington, Feb. 19.

A short delay is likely in the signing of the Illicit Liquor Prevention Treaty between Canada and America in consequence of Canada declining the suggestion that vessels plying between Canada and the United States, carrying liquor, should be denied clearance. It is argued that this is a violation of Canadian law.—Reuter's American Service.

Cotton Growing in the British Empire

London, Feb. 19.

In the House of Commons to-day, replying to Sir Leonard Lyle, Unionist Member for Epping, Mr. Sidney Webb, the President of the Board of Trade, stated that the Government considered an increase in the world's supply of raw cotton as most important and had every intention of carrying on the policy of promoting cotton growing within the Empire.—Reuter.

Violent Storm on U. S. Atlantic Seaboard

New York, Feb. 20.

A stinging sleet storm, sweeping eastward from the Lake district, has held up trains and broken down telegraphs on the Atlantic seaboard. The streets of New York are impassable.—Reuter's American Service.

"T.P." And Chinese Affairs

London, Feb. 21.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Nationalist Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool, has been elected Chairman of the Parliamentary group formed to look after Chinese affairs.—Reuter. American Service.

ITEMS

London, Feb. 18.—The Chinese Chargé d'Affaires was received by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald at the Foreign Office this morning.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 18.—Eleven women and one man were killed in an explosion to-day at Slades Green Shell-Filling Factory near Erith.—Reuter.

New York, Feb. 19.—Thirteen lives were lost in a fire at a tenement house in the ghetto district last night. Some of the victims were burned to death in their beds.—Reuter's American Service.

Berlin, Feb. 14.—In response to the suggestion of General von Seeckt, commanding the Reichswehr, President Ebert has agreed to raise the state of siege as from March 1.—Reuter.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

Less Drunkenness North of the Tweed: Edinburgh's Sober New Year: 6,000,000 Scottish Acres Change Hands

From Our Own Correspondent.

Edinburgh, Jan. 9.

Only 41 cases of drunkenness were called at Edinburgh Police Court on the morning after New Year holiday. This seems a trifling matter to report to an overseas newspaper, but to those who know Scotland and its old holiday drinking customs it is a very interesting and pregnant fact.

In pre-war days the average apprehensions used to be over 100. The figure for the present year, therefore, shows a striking diminution, and the reduction has been recorded not only in Endinburgh but all over the country.

During the war arrests for drunkenness decreased to a surprising extent. They tended to increase after the Armistice and while trade was good and money abundant. Thereafter they diminished, and the final results is that we appear to have reached a state of great and permanent improvement.

It is not only from police statistics that we can draw that comforting conclusion. Every observant citizen knows from his own experience that the change in the habits of the people was in progress long before 1914, and that the war only hastened the process.

Shall we ever return to the old drunken conditions, such as were focussed to our sight with painful cleaness during New Year festivities? We think not. The figures are almost sure to rise with an improvement in trade, but never to the height of former days. What was tolerated 30 or 40 years ago in social and in business life is now quite beyond toleration. It is certain that a different standard of behaviour has been set up, not only in Scotland, but in England, and in many other countries. In Scotland there have been contributary causes. During the New Year holidays, for instance, time was when public-house bars offered almost the only attraction, but now sport is the principal thing that matters. Football claims first attention, and complete programmes on the first two days of the year go a long way to counteract the temptation of the public house. Other causes have undoubtedly been early closing, the high prices of liquor, and, let it be admitted, the advertisement that temperance has obtained by the Prohibition campaign in connexion with the last two Local Veto elections. But the movement has been continuous for years—long before the recent phase of Prohibition was heard of—and the reasonable conclusion is that the fundamental cause is to be found in the enlightenment of the people and in the general advance of education, in the best sense of that word.

ELECTIONS OF PAST TIMES.

Now that matters have quieted down we begin to wonder whether the General Election that has just finished was really so bad in some of its aspects as we supposed it to be at the time. A great deal has been written about election hooliganism—I have written a good deal that is condemnatory about it myself—but is it absolute fact that hooliganism at political meetings grows worse, that the liberty of free speech was never before so imperilled as now?

Is it not the truth that in this respect we are always improving. Brutal assaulting and beastly bellowing were the weapons of the old hustings. Little more than 20 years ago Mr. Lloyd George had to be protected from violent mobs by a bodyguard of police; a pacifist meeting he addressed in Glasgow was able to proceed only because a regiment of Stalwarts had been engaged as chuckers-out and did their work with efficiency and enthusiasm. Stalwarts of this kind used to be employed by all the political parties; a glance over the old files of any newspaper will make it apparent that they were an urgent necessity. To-day the disorderly meeting is exceptional, and as often as not arises from some indiscretion of a candidate.

The first election in which I took a part—a very youthful part—was in a country. There were very few polling-places; and great bodies of electors had to be taken to the poll by special steamers. The Conservatives hung their flags out from the George Hotel. In the community itself there were only about half-a-dozen Tories; it was a sort of belated pocket burgh in which loyalty to the Whig landlord or mere bread-and-butter discretion made the majority frantic at the very sight of a bule rosette. The George Hotel was stormed by the free and intelligent, and practically every window on its frontage broken. The six notorious Tories lived haunted lives for several weeks, their doors were broken open at night and rowing boats were deposited in their lobbies. There were plans for their kidnapping on the day of the poll.

One of the steamers coming in with voters from a distant part of the country was filled with electors known to be solid for the Tory. The passengers had to move in close formation to the polling place, otherwise they would never have reached it. When the steamer was leaving again, it was under a rapid fire of uncooked herrings and potatoes, barrels and bags of which happened to be on the quay. Shameful, imbecile—but great sport!

There was a burgh election at the same time. The Liberal candidate got all the votes, but even his supporters could not conceal that he had most of the attributes of a due. His opponent was conscientiously hooted down, but the Liberal paid painfully for his ultimate triumph at the poll by having to submit to be carried shoulder high, in which helpless position he was joyfully "nipped" in the more salient parts of his person by his more youthful rude supporters. How would the candidate of to-day like that? A few years later and the same constituencies were trueblue Tory.

ANOTHER "LAND FLOAT."

The latest Scottish Peer to form his estates into a joint stock company is Lord Saltoun. The capital of the company is £1,000,000. Lord Saltoun is Superior of the town of Fraserburgh which was originally formed into a Burgh of Barony by one of his ancestors. The Philorth estates, which extend to about 12,000 acres, are all in the neighbourhood of the town and in adjoining parishes. The throwing of their estates into the form of a company gives landlords certain advantages in regard to taxation, particularly in the assessment of income-tax and death duties.

SCOTLAND CHANGING HANDS.

During 1923 another 200,000 acres of Scotland changed hands. Since November 11, 1918 (Armistice Day) no fewer than 6,000,000 Scottish acres have been sold. This means that in all about one-third of the whole country is owned by new lairds. The biggest estate to come into the market was that of Lord Leverhulme in Lewis. The acreage was 282,000.

ST. ANDREWS.

A Plus man stood, driver in hand,
St. Andrews, O St. Andrews;
Watching his caddie tee up the sand,
By the bonny bunkers of St. Andrews.

The ball was placed (a Silver King),
St. Andrews, O St. Andrews;
The golfer smiled and took his swing,
By the bonny bunkers of St. Andrews.

Slow was the rise, speedy the fall,
St. Andrews, O St. Andrews;
The club by a hair's breadth missed the ball,
By the bonny bunkers of St. Andrews.

The caddie laughed out loud with glee,
St. Andrews, O St. Andrews;
The golfer slew him on the tee,
By the bonny bunkers of St. Andrews.

They met to find out how he died,
St. Andrews, O St. Andrews;
And brought in the verdict, "Suicide,"
By the bonny bunkers of St. Andrews.

—N. M'E.

(in the "Glasgow High School Magazine").

BARING-GOULD A SCOTOPHOBE.

The late Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould was probably the champion Scotophobe. His views about us, if anybody were to collect them, would be highly entertaining. He felt particularly bitter when he thought of the Scottish Archbishops and of Scottish matrimonial alliances with the royal family. This last weakness of his makes it likely that his last year was the unhappiest of his long life.

THE HOUSE WITH THE GREEN SHUTTERS.

The publication of the illustrated memorial edition of that powerful Scots novel "The House with the Green Shutters" recalls a story current at Oxford during George Douglas Brown's residence at Balliol. It helped to explain his marked lack of enthusiasm for Jowett, the famous Master of that College. At a breakfast given to some freshmen, among whom was Brown, Jowett remarked—"I don't know how it is, Mr. Brown, but you remind me very strongly of my late lamented friends. Professor John Conington." Ten minutes later the Master, quite forgetful of his previous remark, said in connexion with some other topic, "Without doubt my late lamented friend, Professor John Conington, was the ugliest man I ever knew!"

LEGEND OF HOGMANY.

A knot of collegiate waggis
Played ball in the High with a haggis;
A man in the scrum
Fell prone on his tum
And flattened the ball on the flaggis.

A Sassenach rescued the haggis,
Reproving the 'varsity raggis;
With various types
Of skirl on the pipes
He blew out the ball with his baggis.

A. W. in the "Daily Chronicle."

SEEING SESSUE

An Ambassador from the Far East: Cinema Stars Best Kept to the Screen

By Our Labour Correspondent.

Manchester, Dec. 20.

Few weeks pass in any of our larger provincial towns without a visit from some famous man or other. It may be a writer like. H. G. Wells, a poet like John Masefield, a scientist of the standing of Professor Thomson, or a well known inventor, singer, or musician. They all arrive in the cavernous gloom of our grimy stations and drive unwelcomed to their hotels, or they are met on the platform by a few diffident enthusiasts who have a few minutes to spare and take this opportunity of profitably using them. And the unobtrusive manner of their arrival is characteristic of their departure. They may be fêted by their admirers in the lecture room or concert hall, but, civically, we ignore them.

To this commendable restraint there has always been one exception. Royalty is popular everywhere in Great Britain but particularly so in the provinces. Even in the dark wynds of Motherwell where they raise little Communists, it is believed that the King, Queen, and Prince of Wales would be welcomed as enthusiastically as in Conservative Birmingham. And so whenever Royalty of any degree pays us a visit the Lord Mayor dons his Sunday suit, the mace bearer invests in an extra tin of metal polish, the Chief Constable is helped on to his charger, and we put the red carpets down. We then line the pavements with the schoolchildren in front and cheer a little self-consciously, confident that the local press will describle our efforts as "deafening" in the special editions printed to commemorate the occasion. All of which is proper to the event, and in strict accordance with our ancient traditions. Royalty is almost invariably cheered while alive and forgotten when dead. Famous men are usually ignored when alive and lionised when dead. The justice of this is obvious although some disgruntled geniuses have been known to demand the cake and the ha'penny too.

CHIPS OF HOLLYWOOD.

This greediness compares ill with the more debonair deportment of those whom we have always delighted to honour now that they are confronted with powerful rivals from another sphere. For times are changing, and one of their later manifestations has been a willingness on the part of the public to put down the red carpets and re-gild the municipal coat of arms for a new kind of celebrity most of whom hail from the thriving township of Hollywood, California. It matters little to our native fervour whether the superstars of film-land are male or female. Rudolph Valentino is assured of as rapturous a welcome as Barbara La Marr. Another cause for our satisfaction is the pleased conviction we have that our enthusiasm is approved by the Lords of the all-speak-with-one-voice-press. It enables us to compensate them in some degree for the political set-backs we have lately given them. Not but what there have been unfortunate misunderstandings over this. There was the case of Mr. Charles Chaplin, for instance, The popular press blazed the advance trail more conspicuously for him than for any previous trans-Atlantic visitor. On his arrival the traffic was everywhere held up, and we nearly squeezed him to death in our efforts to demonstrate how warmly we loved him. And then the Argus-eyed journalists detected his deplorable predilection for "dangerous thoughts" and the press cooled off, leaving us in the air.

After Mr Chaplin there came a whole host of Hollywoodites—or should it be Hollyweeds? We welcomed them all, as America a few months ago welcomed our incomparable Welsh wizard. The handful of baggy-trousered, bespectacled high brows on the station platform was not their portion. The mayor in his chain of office, the local member of Parliament, and the fattest of our aldermen were all dusted and brought out to greet them. And if there are any ill-conditioned citizens who privately think that Nola Nazimova or Scoot Hobsan are somewhat less impressive in the flesh than in the "close-up," they are well advised to keep such subversive imaginings locked tightly in their bad hearts.

SOMETHING REALLY TOP-HOLE.

And so by slow stages we arrive at the incomparable Japanese super-star, movie genius, Mr Sessue Hayakawa. The first rumours of his proposed visit to us were believed with difficulty. Their confirmation created great excitement, for Sessue is locally regarded as one of the tragic Olympians of the film. And when it was reported that he was to play the principal role in a playlet at the local music hall everyone bought tickets and awaited his advent with ill-concealed impatience. We could not have been more impressed if we had heard that the Prince of Wales was going to be married in our old parish church. Everyone who has seen the preternaturally solemn countenance of Mr Hayakawa in a "close up" will realize its possibilities at first hand. For ourselves we have long harboured an elvish heresy that Sessue would be improved by having a slip or two of Chaplin grafted on him, a wayward fancy we carefully conceal from our fellow citizens who have firmly established the convention that it is the business of a tragedian to be always tragic and a comedian always comic.

When the great day dawned we early took our place among the welcoming crowds at the station. The mayor and mayoress, and the local member of Parliament were also there in their official capacities. In a pretty speech Mr Hayakawa was welcomed as an unofficial ambassador from the land of our brave little Allies. His car was then driven slowly through our principal thoroughfares so that we could all see our distinguished visitor.

OH WHAT A FALLING OFF!

As may be imagined, we were early in our seats that evening to see and hear our honoured guest in "The Knees of the God", the play in which he was billed to perform. The music hall turns preceding it seemed if anything a little more tedious than usual and when Sessue's number went up it was with ill-concealed impatience that the audience endured the films of Sessue alighting from the train, Sessue shaking hands with the mayor, and Sessue being interviewed by the reporters. But the great moment came at last, and then,—alas for our roseate dreams. Sessue may be a superstar in film-land but the only star that evening was the ancient author of the wise old saw "A cobbler should stick to his last." As an actor on the legitimate stage Mr. Hayakawa's terrestial magnitude is about the size of a snow ball.

It was true that the wretched play would have taxed the powers of a Martin Harvey. Its only apparent connexion with the "knees of the Gods" was their suitability as a whipping place for Sessue in tackling something so obviously beyond him. He appeared in the rôle of a Europeanized Japanese who had been brought up in childhood with an English girl who called him "little brother." Little Mary, now in her teens, is engaged to be married to a brutal Briton with a wicked past, although it was difficult to imagine how a Tooting Percy with a pronounced Cockney accent and a taste for profuse 9-carat adornments could be guilty of any greater villainy than snatching odd pennies out of the petty cash box. Nevertheless, "little brother" has documentary evidence of Percy's ineligibility for membership of the Y.M.C.A. and surprises him in a nocturnal effort to obtain them. There is a heated argument during which Percy's fiancée arrives on a visit to "little brother." Her attempt at peace-making provokes Percy into shooting "little brother" through the stomach. The victim, to soothe the girl's troubled heart, declares the bullet has missed him, and spends the remaining 10 minutes of his life in the joint occupation of joining the lovers' hands and surreptitiously applying clean handkerchiefs to his abdominal perforations. The lovers gone, he concentrates his energies on the laborious business of dying theatrically, and the curtain falls.

LITTLE BROTHER.

Having no wish to minimize any of Mr. Hayakawa's achievements we willingly admit that his pronuncation of the two words "little brother" was perfect. Nor did he let us forget it. Of his brave struggle with the rest of our language the less said the better. Nor could any exception be taken to the excellent moral of the play. The contrast between his own attitude to women and the chivalrous beauty characteristic of Japanese men must have made the most, thick-skinned Lancastrian blush for shame. At the conclusion of the performance applause was fairly general but it lacked warmth. It was as nothing compared to the riotous shout of laughter which greeted the two red-nosed comedians who followed, when the fat one entering from the right greeted the thin one from the left with, "Where have you been *little brother*"?

Sessue was ill advised to do it. We shall never again sit spellbound in a cinema at the slow play of emotion on his impassive Oriental face, while he commits hari-kari in the cold grey dawn, or balefully lifts a Vermilion Pencil to condemn an erring concubine to a slow passage through a Berkel bacon-slicer, without a dispiriting memory of his inadequacies in the flesh. It is, however, some help to us in our efforts to preserve our waning awe at the fabled glamour of the mysterious East to think that Sessue may after all hail from the Far West, and claim California as the land of his birth.

And from now onwards our heart will go out in sympathy to those unhappy cinema owners in America who in their trade papers are frantically beseeching the super-stars to stop in Hollywood as nothing more surely deflates the movie-madness of the film "fans" than the sight of their idols in the unromantic flesh.

THE Taikoo Dockyard and Engineering Company of Hongkong has constructed a complete model of its dockyard for presentation at the forthcoming British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, London. The model shows at a glance the wide scope of the company's activities, and will undoubtedly interest and surprise visitors to the Exhibition as to the extent of the ramifications of a dockyard out East.

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER

The Tropical West Progressing: Budget Comedy: Treasurer Who Expected too Little Now Piling up Huge Surpluses: Pearl Luggers Smuggling Japanese into Dominion

From Our Own Correspondent.

Melbourne, Jan. 3.

There is no lack of holidays in Australia, but there is some proof that the constant joy-making is beginning to pall upon both workers and employers. The usual year-end holidays passed off with nothing of special notice. The weather was fine, not abnormally hot, and though there were the usual batch of accidents, motoring, drowning, and so forth, there were none out of the ordinary.

In Victoria the manufacturers largely solved the difficulty of broken time and abnormal wages by closing their works and sacking all hands for about a fortnight. This of course caused much feeling, but the employers pointed out that it was less unprofitable to do this than to keep men, imbued with the holiday spirit, nominally at work at something like treble rates of pay.

In New South Wales the authorities closed down the Cockatoo dockyards, and gave the men a prolonged holiday without pay. In the past, the yards being controlled by the Commonwealth Navy Department, there was no Minister with backbone sufficiently stiff to do this. Now they are under the control of the non-political Shipping Board, which is quite independent of Parliament. The men were furious, but of course powerless. It is probable the action taken by the Board was more for the purpose of impressing upon the men that there was an independent board in control, and that in future they could not hope for political interference, than of saving a few hundred pounds.

On the New South Wales coalfields the miners took the usual holidays, but even now with the New Year actually started there are at least a dozen mines where the men have not yet returned to work. They declare that their holidays are not yet finished.

As a useful gift very welcome rains fell during the holidays in the pastoral areas of most of the States. In some parts where drought had been causing much anxiety great relief was experienced. The harvesting of the wheat crops went forward unbrokenly, the fruit-picking is being somewhat delayed by the lack of ripening weather, the sugar industry nearly reached optimistic expectations, and its outlook for the coming year has been relieved by rain. On the whole, therefore, the holidays passed over satisfactorily and the new year commences with the prospects of industrial prosperity.

JAPANESE SMUGGLED IN.

Temporary excitement was caused by the news that some eleven Japanese had been secretly landed in North Queensland from one or two pearling luggers. Most of these men have been arrested and promptly given six months' gaol, pending their deportation.

It is interesting in this connexion to know that some of the men were arrested because they could get no help from their countrymen already in Australia, these worthies being afraid of the penalties attaching to harbouring prohibition immigrants. Thus, though perhaps unintentionally, the Japanese themselves have helped to enforce the Australian law.

It is about this time every year that the talk of smuggling coloured labour into the country is heard. The pearling luggers have to come into Thursday Island on the northeast and Broome on the northwest and lay up until after the hurricane season. Twice at least when they have failed to do this in time they have been caught by cyclones and scores of luggers and hundreds of the crews sent to the bottom of the sea. The men form camps ashore, where there is much drinking, gambling and sometimes knifing, and it is not unusual to find some of the episodes translated into attempts by the Japanese to over-awe the comparatively small force of Australian officials.

But there are two main reasons why coloured labour does not enter the country, and these are because the men will starve if they do not come in at places where there is settlement, and because the settlers give them away to the authorities if they land where there is a white population. Further Queensland offers the best chance along her eastern coast, but the State insists upon Japanese registering themselves before they can be employed in the sugar industry, and the Japanese seeking work without a ticket is naturally liable to be pounced upon at any time.

TROPICAL POPULATION.

An interesting return has just been issued by the Commonwealth Statistician which shows to some extent the progress of otherwise being made in the matter of settling the Australian tropics, which comprise almost 40 per cent. of the whole of the Commonwealth. Figures of the last five censuses show that in the Northern Territory the population has remained unimportant and stationary; in Western Australia during the past 30 years the population in the tropical portion, asserted by some meteorologists to be the worst country in the world for white men, has slowly increased, being now 5,691, exclusive of aboriginals. This, however, is the figure of the 1921 census. Since then there has been a strong movement towards increased settlement, a regular aeroplane service established with Geraldton, north of Perth, and further service on the verge of being started between Derby and Wyndham. There is little question that the populating of that portion of tropical Australia will now go forward space.

The chief progress has, of course, been made in Queensland where the population north of the Tropic of Capricorn has risen in the 10 years 1911-21 from 157,112 to 181,397, despite the disturbing influences of the war. The quality of the people is best shown by the fact that of these 172,723 are of European blood, and of these Europeans 168,811 are either Australian or British-born.

The total coloured or half-caste population in the whole of tropical Australia only amounts to 12,224. Of these 1,683 are half-caste aboriginals, and nearly 2,000 Japanese employed chiefly in the pearling fleets. There still remain some 1,474 Polynesians in the country.

The Chinese, numbering 3,750, are the most numerous of the coloured nationalities. It is probable that the greater number of these date from before Federation, and from the days when many thousand were brought by South Australia to the Northern Territory for the purposes of railway construction.

It may be argued that the progress is slow but it is certainly sure, seeing that the newcomers in North Queensland are mostly connected with the sugar industry, while at the same time there has been much decadence in regard to mining. Had the latter industry thriven as a few years ago the increase of the population would have been far more striking.

While upon this matter it may be mentioned that the vital statistics show that in the four registration divisions of Queensland, entirely within the tropics, the infantile mortality is the lowest, the female death-rate the lowest, and the male death-rate only very slightly higher than the average for all Australia.

It seems now that the Northern Territory is no longer to be the Cinderella of Australia. It is true that the great meatworks, erected by Vestey Bros. at Darwin, costing nearly £1,000,000, are still idle. There has been a continuous and unremitting effort to show that the idleness of the works is due to the stupidity of the workers, who certainly played at Sovietism with most disquieting effects. But there are other causes, and ones which seem to show that the proprietors are merely holding work up in their own interests until the beef market, in which Argentina is playing a desperate game, becomes something more worth while. Vestey Bros. want better harbour accommodation, and at one time they were asking the Commonwealth to guarantee them a supply of coal, because the coalminers of New South Wales had at one time left them without fuel. The works will probably reopen in due course.

But the Commonwealth Government is trying other measures to attract a population to the Territory. Farms of reasonable size have been granted along the Katherine river, which flows westerly from about 200 miles south of Darwin. More important than this is the project of a large cotton venture on the Roper river, a stream which rises about where the Katherine does but flows easterly into the Gulf of Carpentaria. The proposed company is to be allowed some 60 square miles of country along the river, which is navigable for a fair sized vessel for some 100 miles or more from the mouth. The latter is only about 100 miles north of the McArthur river, where it is proposed to establish a port among the Sir Edward Pellew Islands. The land on the Roper will be given rent free for 21 years, but the lessors will be expected to plant a certain area with crops, and facilities will be given to sub-let the land in farms to settlers. Though nothing can be done until Parliament meets the Minister for Home and Territories has announced his intention of creating a permanent commission to administer the Territory, and it is clearly intended to take the place of Melbourne in the matter of control, lasting until the time comes when the people will be able to manage their own affairs. Its powers will, however, be executive and advisory, and not legislative.

FINANCIAL SURPRISES.

Even his warmest friends can no longer accuse the Commonwealth Treasurer of knowing much about national finance. Last July he boastfully produced his Budget, and Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the coming year. He was urged further to reduce taxation, and make greater concessions to the old age pensioners in view of the abundance of his Treasury surpluses and the continued high cost of living. He refused, and when some of the ministerialists were disposed to back the last request actually threatened a political crisis which might prevent the Prime Minister attending the Imperial Conference. He declared that the surplus of £7,500,000 in hand must be reserved partly for defence, partly for the redemption of gratuity bonds and partly to balance any possible losses incurred by his proposals in regard to taxation. He also expected the Customs and Excise revenue to be less by £3,000,000 and the Post Office receipts by £100,000. Six months have passed, and so far his customs and excise receipts have in that period wiped out the whole of his estimated deficit, leaving him with a prospect of £3,000,000 more instead of less than last year. His postal receipts already show an increase of £87,000, instead of the proportional loss of £50,000. No hint is given as to how the expenditure is going, but seeing that nothing but bare necessaries are being bought for defence, and none of the £2,500,000 nest egg has been touched, there seems quite a possibility that at the end of next June there will be an accumulated surplus of £12,000,000, or about £2 per head of the population. It is a large sum for any government to play with.

LABOUR SHOALS AHEAD.

Labour professes itself quite assured of getting back into power in Australia upon the next appeal to the country, which in the ordinary course of things would take place in 1926, but it is still desperately fighting in its own ranks.

Probably the most important quarrel just now is that in New South Wales, where the Australian Workers' Union, quite the most powerful Union in Australia, threatens to break away. The whole matter arises out of the decision of the A.L.P. (Australian Labour party) executive in that State to expel the President of the A.W.U. from the ranks of Labour in consequence of his being proved guilty of malpractices with ballot-boxes used within the movement. On the other hand the A.W.U. declares that it considers its chief official innocent and demands publication of the whole of the evidence. The A.L.P. executive agree to this provided it is all published, and not specially bowdlerized editions of it. Or the said executive is willing to have a public trial, provided that it can be made a legal one, the tribunal to have the right to administer oaths, to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, and so on and so forth.

The matter has been in abeyance during the holidays, but will probably be soon taken up again. It certainly does not make for the comfort of the 750,000 members of the party, nor for their harmonious working, and there seems a growing tendency for the members of the craft unions to settle their quarrels with the employers, rather than rely upon the aid of the enormous political machine they have created.

The Industrial Christian Fellowship, which has gained such a hold in Britain, has made a start in this country, and its activities are bound to create more friction. As usual the Labour leaders harp upon the string that the movement is one of poor people, and must depend upon the pennies of the masses, to help against the thousands which capital pours into the ministerial coffers.

A circular letter recently stated that the A.L.P. in Sydney was always hard up, and just now is more so than usual. It invited Federal Labour members to make a levy on their own parliamentary salaries and contribute. The secretary of the Parliamentarians—doubtless with his tongue in his cheek—advises that it would be better to rely upon voluntary subscriptions than upon a levy.

Mr. E. J. Holloway, Secretary of the Melbourne Trades Hall, has returned from attending the International Labour Congress at Genoa. When he left he promised to examine the labour question in most European countries including Russia, and in America. However he has hurriedly returned, saying his health would not stand the strain, and declines to say anything until he has reported to the Federal Government which appointed him.

BUSES v. TRAMS.

Many citizens of Melbourne are just now holding their sides with mirth at the controversy which is going on concerning privately-owned motor 'buses, which are competing very effectively with the tramways and suburban railways, both of which are owned by the State.

Sydney has been through the reform, and now the 'buses are there in large numbers and the State tramways must adjust themselves to public requirements, or go out of business. Happily for the reputation of the Harbour City it was not proposed to block this form of vehicular traffic in the interests of the State-owned services.

In Melbourne, which is only just now awakening to the fact the people prefer the 'buses, which stop anywhere and pick up anywhere, and pull in close to the pavements, to the rigid tramway service in the middle of the streets with its attendant risks to passengers, the Government actually introduced a Bill, the simple purpose of which was to drive the 'buses off the streets by excessive taxation, but the measure was not passed when Parliament rose.

The Tramway Trust complains that the 'buses cut up the streets, while the Tramway Employees are solemnly saying that the 'buses should not be allowed to compete with the trams and deprive them of revenue, otherwise the employees on the trams may find their employment curtailed or their wages reduced. The Government frankly says that it does not want the 'buses because they cut into the tramway and railway revenues.

One leading newspaper, which spends its days looking for cases of government failure and private enterprise success, argues that the Trust should start 'buses of its own, and then consideration might be given to the matter of driving private enterprise off the streets. Meanwhile the 'buses are thriving and increasing in numbers, and variety of services, the latest being the initiation of all night services. The tramways knock off about midnight, so that only the hirers of taxis or owners of motors can indulge in a night at the theatre, and supper afterwards, without the risk of having to walk a few miles to their suburban homes.

SHIPPING COMBINE'S DISCOMFITURE.

As a set-off to the foregoing paragraph about the Melbourne tramways and 'buses, Queensland is giving us the opposite picture. There for a long time past the shipping combine which, protected by the Navigation Act, controls the coastal shipping. The combine has been charging outrageously for carrying passengers between Brisbane and Townsville and intermediate ports. A short time ago the last link between Mackay and Townsville was completed, and trains were able to run right along the coastal line from Brisbane to Townsville. The Government announced its charges, which after making due allowances for food on the trains, sleeping accommodation, etc., enabled a passenger to make the return journey between Townsville and Brisbane at a saving of £6 in actual money and two days in time. The shipping companies appear to have held out for two or three weeks, but they have now announced a reduction in fares, bringing themselves on to figures which will compete with the railway. But the competition will not cease at that. There must clearly be room for cheaper carriage of goods by the trains than by the steamers as at present.

MALTESE IMMIGRANTS.

When Australians read the stories of the United States Immigration authorities and the horrors of Ellis Island they are prone to flatter themselves that such happenings would be impossible in Australia. They have quite forgotten the famous six hatters, and the drowning seamen who were promptly locked up as prohibited immigrants. They are just being reminded of one of the most unpleasant episodes which occurred in 1916.

There arrived in Sydney a steamer upon which were some 200 Maltese. As the first conscription campaign was on just then Labour seized upon this fact to preach the story that the purpose of conscription was to get all the white workers out of the country, and substitute coloured, and, pointing to the Maltese, there was the first batch. Mr. Hughes, then Prime Minister, prevented the Maltese landing, and probably the men were sent home again. Later an arrangement was made by which the number of Maltese allowed to leave for Australia was limited to 260 a year. Now we hear that a new understanding has been reached, removing all restrictions, except a proviso that the people must be able to talk English. The whole civil population of Malta is less than 250,000. The people are mostly southern Europeans, Roman Catholic in religion, and they are British subjects. In 1917 at least one State Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland, was a Maltese and to-day is known as Count Della Catena, and is a member of the Maltese parliament. No, we cannot always throw stones without damaging our own glass house.

WE are informed by the Coast Inspector that wireless messages dated 16th instant have been received from Captain Rowe of the str. Takada, reporting that that vessel sighted a waterlogged derelict fishing sampan, with mast and sail attached, in Latitude 37°38'' N. and Longitude 121°35'' E., and a derelict junk, bottom up, in Latitude 27°58½'' N. and Longitude 121°50'' E., both of which are dangerous to navigators.

THE OLD AGE PENSION ACT IN BRITAIN

Agitation for its Extension: How British Subjects Abroad Stond: Boon to the Aged

From Our Labour Correspondent.

Manchester, Dec. 3.

The recent political changes in Great Britain have encouraged those people who advocate an extension of the Old Age Pension Act to think that success is now in sight. As this matter is one that might be of considerable interest to those British subjects abroad who ultimately intend to return Home a short article on the subject might be of some interest to them.

At present every man and woman in the United Kingdom over 70 years of age, and with an income from all other sources not exceeding £26 per annum, is entitled to an Old Age Pension of 10/- per week; subject to the fulfilment of certain important residential qualifications. These are that the recipient, if a natural born British subject, must have resided in the United Kingdom for an aggregate period of not less than 12 years since attaining the age of 50 years; and if not a natural born British subject for an aggregate period of 20 years. From this it will be seen that the British subject abroad must return Home at 58 years of age if he is to be eligible for the pension at 70, and the fortune he has won in exile must not bring in more than 10/- per week if he is to receive the maximum amount. For man and wife the joint Old Age Pension is, of course, £1 per week

The agitation for an extension of the Old Age Pension Act has concentrated first on the clauses that limit its payment in proportion to the private income of the pensioner. It is justifiably argued that these penalize thrift, and discourage ex-employers who are willing to grant coals, money, and additional pensions to their old employees. They also penalize dutiful sons and daughters who help in any way their aged parents, and those people who buy their houses through Building Societies, or endeavour to make some small provision for their old age by paying weekly contributions into Friendly Society and trade union superannuation schemes.

MAJORITY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Majority Report of the Government Departmental Committee on Old Age Pensions recommended that the means limit should be abolished and that the pension should be paid to all citizens over 70 years of age. It was pointed out that the pensions cannot be compared to any form of Poor Law Relief but are granted as a reasonable provision for old age in recognition of long service. As, in many cases, the alternative would be the workhouse it is pertinent to note that the average cost of an indoor pauper in the United Kingdom is £1. 15. 6½d per week, so the State saves more than 25/- on every person whom the pension keeps out of the workhouse. The net weekly cost of every criminal in penal servitude is £2. 9s. 7d. It is now fairly certain that in the near future the 10/- per week will be paid to every person over 70 who fulfils the residential qualifications, no matter what his, or her, private means may be.

Labour proposals for the extension of the Old Age Pension Act include an increase in the pension and the reduction of the age limit to 65. Now Labour is on the threshold of power less is heard of these expensive additions to the Act from Labour leaders and Members of Parliament. The rank and file, however, have not forgotten them, and if Labour has a long spell in office they will expect something done on these lines. During the General Election most of the candidates of the older political parties gave evasive replies to demands for support to these extensions. There have been no proposals for a reduction in the residential qualifications, and these are likely to remain at their present figure.

For every shilling of private income a pensioner has over 10/- per week a corresponding shilling is deducted from his pension. Of the 1,029,367 persons drawing old age pensions in 1922, 70,000 were suffering reductions for this cause. It is curious to note that these pensioners comprised 366,255 men and 663,112 women. The net cost of their pensions for 1922 was £26,009,500. It is estimated that the cost of paying the Old Age Pension to all persons over 70 who are exempt from payment of the Income Tax would be £38,000,000; and the cost of Universal Pensions, £41,000,000. There are at present 64,000 persons over 70 years of age in receipt of Poor Law Relief, 43,000 of whom are in the workhouse. The cost of administering the Old Age Pensions Act is just over a million pounds per annum.

AN INEXPRESSIBLE BOON.

Although the Pension is so small it is difficult to exaggerate what an inexpressible boon it is to most of the recipients. It is true that in urban areas it is difficult for an aged couple to maintain a decent life on the joint income of £1 per week if any considerable proportion of that sum is expended in rent. But there are few old people who do not get some additional assistance from somewhere. They may earn a shilling or two, or receive some little assistance from their children or other relations, or they may receive superannuation from a trade union. Most of the older trade unions have generous superannuation schemes on which the older members can retire when unable to work any more. In the smaller towns and rural areas where rents are very low and it is possible to cultivate a small garden and keep a few fowls, a frugal old couple can just manage on the weekly £1. And where in the old days there used to be bad feeling among the undutiful children of old parents as to who should give them shelter there is now no little competition to get paying guests who can be boarded at a profit, and who are usually able to render many little services that would otherwise have to be paid for.

MASKED BALLS

Successful Tricks in Preserving Incognito

Organizing a 1,000-guest dance, when the dancers are drawn from one world—of the theatre, of art, of Society—is comparatively simple. But when the guests run into 3,000 or 4,000 and anyone may come who cares to pay two or three guineas for a ticket, the undertaking bristles with difficulties.

Expenses may run into £5,000. Everything depends on the chance sale of tickets. It is hard to satisfy everyone in the huge crowd, and harder still to keep people amused from 10 to three.

The fun flags in the vast hall, where few people know one another, and surprise spectacles, midnight punch-bowls, carnival toys, fail to stimulate.

So smaller dances are the order of the night; and as the eternal foxtrot and waltz tend to make too many "straight dances" monotonous, masked fancy dress balls, small and intimate, are having a great and growing vogue.

The peculiar charm of the bal masqué is three-fold; fancy dress is romantic or amusing, masks are intriguing, and then there is the dancing. But half the fun lies in an impenetrable disguise.

At one party in the United States last year the hostess devised a plan for separating husbands and wives, fiances and fiancées, and members of the same house party. The guests scattered to different houses to dress, and the secret of each costume was carefully kept by its owner.

Some people go to extraordinary lengths to achieve a successful incognito. Men and women with easily recognizable hair often wear wigs. Brushing or dressing the hair in an unfamiliar way is another method of preventing recognition. Costumes are padded cunningly to hide noticeable physical characteristics, a neat little imperial disguises a distinctive chin, a beauty spot or expert use of lip-stick alters the appearance of a well-known mouth.

Unfamiliar rings, or bangles, or a borrowed wrist watch, or unusual perfume often deceive a husband as to his wife's identity.

MIXED TYPES AT BROADMOOR

By H. L. Adam

Some recent cases have led to strong criticism of our methods of dealing with prisoners declared to be insane. Quite unfairly some of this criticism has passed over to the Criminal Lunatic Asylum at Broadmoor. I say unfairly because a recent visit has convinced me that the efficiency and humanity with which the institution is conducted are up to an astonishingly high level. The striking varieties of the cases with which the staff has to deal, and with which the public ought to be acquainted were impressed on my mind during a recent visit.

Passing along one of the corridors, I was attracted by the figure of a tall young fellow, whom I was sure I recognized as one of the most discussed cases recently sent to Broadmoor. I naturally became interested in him, and watched him closely as he chatted volubly and pleasantly to an attendant. He was dressed in a fancy woollen vest, light cord trousers, and wore a limp collar, fastened in the front with a safety pin. He had been employed in painting (the whole interior of the place is being repainted), and there were splashes of paint upon his vest. His eyes—large brown eyes—impressed me most, for they were the eyes of a man who had not a care in the world, whose past was unsullied, whose future was bright and promising. Very remarkable, I thought it, and still think it. To the criminologist there is no end to the riddles of the human mind.

The patients usually dine in association in the several blocks at Broadmoor, but on the occasion of my visit there was one notable absentee. He was instead seated in his cubicle living alone, a tall and stately individual. He has a "batman" to attend him. I saw him again later on. I was leaving the building when I saw a detachment of the male inmates moving slowly along the private Broadmoor road, on their way to the farm. What a crowd it was! of all kinds and conditions of men. It moved with a gliding motion, outflanked by uniformed attendants. In the middle of it, towering above it and dominating it, was a lofty, upright figure, almost enveloped in a capacious, black military cloak, striding along in rhythmic, military precision. He is working on the farm. He held his head aloft and himself aloof; he was with his companions, but not of them. Like many others in this grim house of shadows, he was self-absorbed, facing an inscrutable destiny.

Undoubtedly the most painful part of Broadmoor, both on the male and the female side, are the refractory wards, wherein the worst cases are housed. I saw there a red-headed, pale-faced, saturnine-looking youth, apparently oblivious of his surroundings. This was the "juvenile adult" who so cruelly murdered that poor old warder at Borstal with a brush, in an effort to escape.

In another room, seated at a table with a newspaper spread out before him, was a man with a big, heavy-looking face and a spacious, bald head. He was the mad actor who murdered William Terriss many years ago. Strangely enough, I thought I could detect in his voice a note or two of the voice of Irving, as though he were mimicking him.

These are but a few of the many strange and perplexing problems which beset the authorities at Broadmoor. The public that does not know of the difficulties of dealing with men and women of such different types may criticize, but those who know realize the admirable way in which the staff, from the highest to the lowest, conduct one of the most difficult duties in the State.

NEW YEAR POEMS

Translations of Some of the Lyrical Compositions

Each New Year the Emperor of Japan holds a poetry contest, every subject in the Empire being entitled to submit a poem. Japanese poetry differs greatly from that of Europe, consisting more of suggestive allusions than of definitely expressed ideas. All of the poems submitted at the contest are tanka, or a classical form of 31 syllables. We print below a literal translation of some of this year's poems. No attempt has been made to give them poetic form in the English language.

BY THE EMPRESS.

When the dawn of a New Year comes
I pledge myself to follow the teachings of old.

BY THE PRINCE REGENT.

At the advent of each happy New Year
My care for my people's wellbeing grows ever greater.

BY PRINCESS TSUNEKO KIKUMARU.

Overhead arches the bright blue vault;
Beneath comes the happy New Year riding on the Horse of Time.
Great is the delight of the people.

BY PRINCESS TOMOKO KUNI.

Underneath the spreading arms of a pine tree
In the garden of the Palace
A couple of young cranes
Raise a permanent chorus of joy.

BY PRINCESS ITOKO YAMASHINA.

On the eve of the restoration of the capital
To its former state of prosperity,
A happy New Year has come round
To our joy and delight.

BY PRINCE TAKA.

In contemplation at the dawn of a happy New Year
There spreads before us in splendour and glory a prosperous reign.

BY PRINCESS MASAKO TSUNEHISA.

In order to bid welcome to the New Year,
People should turn their minds to the good and beautiful.

BY PRINCESS TOSHIKO.

I have looked on the retreating back of the evils of the Old Year.
I see a smile on the face of the bright New Year coming this way.

BY PRINCESS MASAKO YI.

A happy New Year having come round to the capital,
Blossoming spring is now being eagerly awaited.

BY COUNT HIRATA.

The dark clouds that gather around Mount Fuji.
Are dispersed on the first day of the happy New Year.

BY VISCOUNT MAKINO.

At the dawn of a happy New Year
My heart swells within me for congratulation.

BY MORIMASA TAKEI.

At the recurrence of a happy New Year
I am resolute, though advanced in life,
To give the best that I have for the cause of the State.

BY COUNT OHARA.

The first prayers offered on the morn
Of a happy New Year
Are for the restoration of sound health
To the person of the Emperor.

BY A SHINTO PRIEST.

On the dawn of a Happy New Year,
That comes in place of the Old One,
Burdened with evils,
The blessings of Heaven are my prayer.

A VOLCANO BLOWS OUT

Awe-Inspiring Upheaval in Alaska

Steamship Latouche, viâ St. Paul Island, Jan. 7.

With a roar which shook the Alaska peninsula for hundreds of miles and brought terror to the inhabitants of the little villages far out to the westward, from Seward, Alaska, the southern edge of Pavlof volcano was blown off by a gigantic subterrancan disturbance this morning.

Dense steam and smoke were still observed above the volcano late this afternoon. The eruption was followed by a sharp earthquake lasting seven minutes. Inhabitants of Belkofsky on the Alaskan peninsula, ten miles south, fled from their homes but returned later when the volcano became less threatening.

Pavlof volcano is 120 miles due east of Dutch Harbour and 30 miles west of Unga, western Alsaka. This volcano exploded last fall. It has the reputation of being one of the most violent volcanoes in the world.

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SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SOUTHERN Rhodesia which was inaugurated as the youngest self governing Colony of the British Empire on October 1, 1923, and which had previously for 33 years been ably administered by the British South Africa Company possesses one of the finest climates in the world with long hours of sunshine, breezy temperate days and cool nights. For those who wish to take up farming or ranching in order to make the most they can of their capital, energy and technical knowledge, or for those who wish to retire from strenuous business or professional life and make a home, Rhodesia offers many advantages unequalled elsewhere. The business, social, sporting, educational and medical facilities bear favourable comparison with those of other countries. Native labour is plentiful and when properly managed is cheap and efficient. Taxation is light. Good land in healthy surroundings and amidst fine scenery is plentiful and not expensive.

Full information is obtainable on application to The Secretary, Southern Rhodesia Settlers' Board (attached to the Government of Southern Rhodesia), P. O. Box 372, Salisbury S., Rhodesia.

The giving of advice to prospective settlers will be facilitated if applicants will advise the Board in detail of their circumstances and the amount of capital they would be prepared to invest in a suitable venture.

OUR PARIS LETTERS

Acquittal Verdict in Anarchist Girl's Trial: No Sentimentality this Time

From Our Own Correspondent.

Paris, Dec. 28.

The trial of Germaine Berton, the young anarchist, for the murder of M. Marius Plateau, the Royalist organizer, was so full of politics that it naturally produced a political verdict.

The jury returned a negative answer to all the questions put to them, and the girl was acquitted. The jury may of course have been impressed by the argument that Germaine Berton's loveless youth and the bitterness engendered by being knocked about from pillar to post constituted some excuse, but it is far more likely that the 12 Paris citizens made up their minds to give the Royalists a lesson.

In the course of the trial a good deal was heard about the vigorous methods of the *camelots du roi*, as the militant royalists are called. One witness described their organ the "*Action Francaise*," as the only newspaper in the world that you read with a stout stick in your hand, by which he meant that those who go in actively for ward politics and do not espouse the Royalist cause may look out for trouble.

Nobody denies that Marius Plateau was a gallant soldier, but he was also a moving spirit in an Opposition faction that shows great readiness to stir up trouble whenever an opportunity offers, and he could hardly be expected to excite the sympathies of a Paris jury, especially after the excessive zeal with which his friends pressed the case against Germaine Berton.

As to the justice of the verdict, that is another matter. M. Binet-Valmer, a leading Royalist, sums up the situation as follows: "Mme. Caillaux killed Gaston Calmette and was acquitted. Vaillant killed Jaures and was acquitted. Germaine Berton killed Marius Plateau and was acquitted. Killing is therefore allowable. We make a note of this system, of which we do not propose to be the helpless victims."

DIXMUDE DISASTER.

The disappearance of the great airship Dixmude is one of the most dramatic and tragic events that have occurred since the war. The Dixmude, formerly the L72, one of the Zeppelins surrendered by Germany to France—left her shed at Cuers-Pierrefeu, near Toulon, early in the morning of Tuesday, December 18, for a training cruise southward across the Mediterranean to the confines of the Sahara Desert and back again. The cruise was to last only three days. In addition to her ordinary crew, she carried several staff officers: 50 persons in all.

On the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday she was in communication with the land stations by wireless, but in consequence of the strong northwesterly gale which had sprung up, she was told not to attempt to return to France. This was the first intimation of trouble. An airship that cannot return to its base is doomed, unless there happens to be another suitable base within reach, and this was not the case in the present instance, the only airship shed in Northern Africa, near Algiers, being too small to admit the Dixmude. After the Friday morning no message of any kind was received from the airship. Vague reports came from people who thought they saw her searchlights. The gale continued for a whole week, long before which time it was certain that the Dixmude must have exhausted her petrol supplies and was either drifting about helplessly or had come down.

There was no means of knowing whether she had been driven out to sea or to the sandy wastes of the interior. Yesterday the Ministry of Marine expressed the view that as the airship was not seen over Tunisia, it was much more likely that she had come down in the desert than in the sea. This opinion is supported by a report received last night from Ain Salah, the most southerly point on the route laid down for the Dixmude to follow. According to this report, the airship was seen by natives at 8 a.m. on the 26th, about 120 miles south of Ain Salar, drifting towards the Hoggar mountains in the Sahara desert. It is impossible to say from this report whether the Dixmude still carried her cars or whether the object seen floating across the sky was merely the gas bag. There is still a chance that the passengers and crew got away from the ill-fated vessel and are now in some part of the great desert, perhaps starving. Camel patrols and aeroplanes are searching such portions of the desert as are accessible, but even an airship, big as it is, can be lost quite easily in the immense tracts of the Sahara. The whole country is waiting with bated breath for the *denouement* of the tragedy.

STRUGGLING AGAINST HEAD-WINDS.

When the Dixmude started on the morning of the 18th, the weather was perfectly fine, and an anti-cyclone prevailed over Algeria. On the following day a depression, extending south and west, was reported from Poland, and the Algiers weather bureau announced a change, with rain and northwesterly gales. This forecast was correct, and the unlucky Dixmude, which had started under the most favourable conditions, found herself struggling against head winds. She might perhaps have escaped by going northwest to Colomb Bechar, which was outside the disturbed area, and an attempt was made to convey this information to her by wireless, but apparently she did not receive the message, and, turning northeast from Ain Salar, she got into the track of the storm again.

The National Weather Bureau in Paris says that it saw the storm coming from the north and, if consulted, would have advised the Dixmude to postpone her journey. When great air currents flow from the west, they are seldom known long enough in advance, owing to the lack of properly equipped observation stations in western Spain and on the west coast of Africa; but, when a cyclone travels from north to south, it can be watched from its origin to a considerable distance inside the African continent, and can be predicted days in advance. Possibly the officer responsible for starting the Dixmude on her cruise was so satisfied with the settled appearance of the weather in the south of France and Algeria that he did not think it necessary to solicit the wider purview of the National Weather Bureau in Paris. Two years ago a smaller airship, the A T 16, was very nearly lost through a storm in the Channel which the Weather Bureau had announced the day before. The public would naturally like to know why the meteorological services, which are kept up at the expense of the community, are not utilized to the fullest extent before an airship is sent out on a long journey.

Grock a Boxing Enthusiast: Once Defeated Battling Siki

Jan. 4.

The joys of welcoming the New Year are far from being undiluted. Even if you are a lonely exile you will find that you have an unsuspected circle of "friends" when these festive days come round. They bring you wishes for a *bonne annee* which, according to custom, you will pay for, meekly and without protest; and when you have crossed their palm with imitation gilt coins or greasy batik notes they pass out of your life for another year. There is the postman, two of him; one for letters and the other for printed matter; the telegraph boy, though you may receive no telegrams, the young person who brings your morning paper; the man who says he sweeps your street and the chiffonnier who make a living by sorting the contents of your garbage box; the gas man, the electric light man and the water man.

Just as you are trying to conjure up a philosophic smile, there is another ring at the bell, and, wondering how much it will cost you, you open the door. It is a postman. 'What, again? You've been here already" you growl. 'No, I'm not that one," he explains. 'I'm the one who clears the box where you post your letters." In addition to all this you have the most important personage of the lot—your concierge, who can influence your life for good or evil according to the view she may take of your New Year offering. Much experience is needed to hit on just the right amount: enough to meet her expectations and avoid future action based on the principle that a fool and his money are soon parted.

PRISON NUN'S DEVOTION.

Sister Léonide, a nun who, in the course of many years' service at St. Lazare Prison, has been brought into contact with many notorious female criminals, has been given the cross of the Legion of Honour, on her retirement, in recognition of her long and unselfish devotion to duty. The first celebrity who came under her care was Gabrielle Bompard, who helped her lover, Marius Eyraud, to kill an attorney named Gouffé and pack his body in a trunk. Eyraud was guillotined, but the woman's death sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life. She was eventually released, and died a few years ago.

Sister Léonide also had to look after the celebrated Thérèse Humbert, that remarkably persuasive person who invented the story of the Crawford inheritance and fooled her dupes for years with a big safe containing nothing; Mme. Caillaux, who shot M. Gaston Calmette, editor of the "*Figaro*," and was acquitted just before the war broke out; Mata Hiri the dancer and spy, whom she accompanied on the journey to the execution ground at Vincennes; Mme. Bessarabo, who murdered her husband and sent his body in a trunk to Nancy; and finally Germaine Berton, who was acquitted the other day of murdering M. Marius Plateau, the Royalist organizer. Sister Léonide is now 72.

ONCE VICTORIOUS TWICE SHY.

Grock, the musical clown and international fun-maker, has knocked out Battling Siki in the first round. This would make a fine boxing sensation if it were true without qualification; but it happened in 1912, when the Senegalese boxer gave up dish-washing to fight his way towards notoriety and big purses.

It seems that Grock was appearing at the Folies Bergère at the time, and he and a few friends, including Adrien Hogan, Siki and Maurice Chevauier, the French comedian, who is a fine amateur boxer, used to meet regularly for practice with the gloves. Siki, though strong as a bull, was inexperienced, and he soon succumbed to Grock, who has been an enthusiast in boxing and other sports since his early youth and never misses a big fight. It was suggested to him the other day that he might like to try his hand with Siki again. "No, thank you" was his reply; "I'm quite satisfied with one victory."

THE DIXMUDE—LATEST THEORIES.

The discovery of the dead body of the Dixmude's commander, floating in the sea off the south coast of Sicily, was the first clue to the fate of the unlucky airship. Of the fabric itself, nothing has been found except an aluminium tank, damaged by fire, and a few scraps of silk. There is now very little doubt that the Dixmude was caught in an eddy of the gale, swept northwards at great speed, and struck by lightning while between the coasts of Tunis and Sicily. She must have caught fire and fallen into the heaving sea, so that there was not the slightest chance of escape for anyone in the gondolas. Perhaps these gallant men will not have died in vain if the lesson of the catastrophe is remembered.

The Dixmude was asked to do too much. An airship cannot be expected to make a voyage of three days unless one can be sure of three days' fine weather, or unless there is some place of refuge available. The Dixmude was sent across the Mediterranean with the knowledge that there was no shed big enough to shelter her in case she was prevented from returning. She might have been directed to a quiet atmospheric area, but, assuming that the information was sent to her, she either did not receive it, owing to the breakdown of her wireless apparatus, or her petrol supplies had fallen so low that she could not make the place indicated. After this disastrous experience, it is to be hoped that the naval and military authorities, and also the public, will realize the limitations of the airship.

BUILT TO BOMBARD ENGLAND.

The newspapers publish a statement attributed to Capt. du Plessis de Grenédan, commander of the ill-fated airship, made shortly after he went to Germany three years ago to take over the Dixmude, then the L 72. Discussing the question of the probable usefulness of the airship to France, he said: "There is no need to make elaborate calculations. She will only do that for which she was designed. On paper, she can make a journey of 1,000 miles at the rate of 35 miles an hour. She can be depicted as flying to America with a large number of passengers and of cruising in distant seas, but in reality she can do nothing of the kind, because she was never meant for such duties. She was designed about three years ago for special war purposes which might not occur again. She was designed to fly at a great height and bombard places in England. She was to start in the middle of the afternoon, pass over the enemy's coast in the darkness, and, after the bombardment was over, to return to her base, flying at an altitude of about 20,000 ft. In other words she was built for a journey of not more than 20 hours." He added general criticisms to the effect that the airship was undoubtedly fragile and unable to withstand any great strain.

AGONY "ADS."

The Vogue of the Personal Column: For Star-crossed Lovers and Self-seekers

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Jan. 10.

The agony ad. is growing in popularity because it is carefully cultivated. Every self-respecting paper has an agony ad-writer. He also presides at the counter where they take them in and when the supply is short or the quality low he contributes a few himself, just to show the amateur "how it should be done".

The ads. even existed to some extent in the war and thereby hangs a well known tale, since I can guarantee its accuracy. This medium of communication was undoubtedly used by German spies initially and so every ad was watched and doubtless they helped our Government quite as much as our enemies. But some people were not satisfied. One famous cipher writer was convinced that a series daily appearing were the work of treacherous minds—in fact he worked out their purport himself and the Admiralty made inquiries. They found that the ad. chiefly complained of—in the alleged translation it purported to give the news of a pending British attack on Zeebrugge—was a dummy ad. written by the office expert. The amazing part of the whole matter was that the translation was so far right in that the attack *was* pending. So the authorities sent for the writer and were proceeding to take the gravest view of the matter because they knew nothing about the "dummy ad." system when one member of the Commission of Inquiry, the late Mr. Kennedy Jones, M.P., who was a journalist himself, laughed the whole thing out of court. He said to his fellow members "Let me write a dummy ad. and ask the cipher expert what it means. Then you'll soon get some idea of what is happening." So he wrote a dummy ad. of "Meet me in the Park" type and signed it "Johnny." The next day the cipher expert turned up with a complete translation of this effort showing that it conveyed information to the enemy of the most important nature. The Commission told the enthusiast to go home and take some cooling medicine and not to come worrying round again.

Nowadays there are three types of dummy ads. There is the personal ad. of undoubted genuineness—I take "The Times" of this week—of the "Write me, I have much to tell type." Then there is the dummy ad. of the paper a little too ornate to be guaranteed authentic—"Will the lady who dropped her musk-scented handkerchief in the tube station at Leicester Square communicate with Box R2345. (This of course is a type only, but not an unfair one) Then finally there is the trade agony ad. of the type "C. B. had an excellent game of golf yesterday and with a mustard bath afterwards felt in the pink. A D."

All sorts of commodities are being advertised at double the rates for genuine heartoutpourings—in one issue I notice mustard, cyder, whiskey, Welsh mutton and dressmakers' shops, etc. I need only add that the man who can evolve an agony ad. out of Welsh mutton deserves all the worldly prosperity he can get.

Cipher ads. are rare. People have not the time or inclination to worry about evolving them and they know that when they do resort to this means of communication, it always sets going the armies of individuals who seem never so happy as when they have something in the cryptogram or acrostic line to unravel. Yet nobody scorns these humble means of imparting information. I notice that Lady Lugard employs it to announce to all and sundry that she is retailing vegetables while there are plenty of "titled persons" giving cheap advertisements to aged retainers whom they wish to load off on to others to avoid the *noblesse oblige* obligation of having to pension them off themselves.

If you are a masseuse you have to be discretion itself and allude to "doctors" references or someone may suggest you are not all you might be, as if anybody was. Only one or two London papers, including the "Daily Telegraph," admit the ads. of money lenders. Few papers will take any personal ads. offering to adopt or bring up children. You never know the snags waiting for you till you apply.

Yet they say these personal columns while being very lucrative to the papers concerned are the best read of any by the public. I believe it. The age of romance is not dead and half those who peruse this part of the paper do so to discover some element of romance which they follow from afar off with amusement and even interest—especially the series type between the jilted lover and the fickle damsel. The other half who read the columns do so from pure curiosity to see who are the crafty individuals who advertise "grand pianos for sale; owner going abroad" and to wonder when the race of Mugs will be really extinct.

MAD BULL AMONG MILL GIRLS

Four Hours' Struggle In Factory Yard

A scene reminiscent of a Spanish bull-fight took place in a mill yard at Blackburn recently, to the great alarm of a crowd of mill girls.

A runaway bull became infuriated and was chased by a number of men for half an hour. The animal then plunged into the mill yard and the gates were promptly locked.

It was the dinner hour, and as the canteen was on the other side of the yard the girls were unable to cross to get their lunch.

Meanwhile, the bull was plunging about the yard, a number of men trying to secure it with lassoes. The bull foiled all their efforts, however, and charged furiously at the men.

One man seized a pickaxe and tried to brain the animal on the spot, but he was driven to take hasty cover behind a motor lorry.

The fight went on for four hours until someone hit upon the idea of turning some cows into the yard. This was done and the bull at once cooled down and proved an easy prey. He was slaughtered on the spot.

The mill girls had to get food from neighbouring houses.

WARSAW, Feb. 16. The Diet Foreign Affairs Commission has unanimously ratified the Polono-Japanese Trade and Navigation Treaty. Reuter.

seldom been questioned and who has had some little time in which to view China's political troubles in perspective, said after no little thought and hesitation: "By understanding." He then proceeded to explain that if the Western Governments really knew what was the matter with China and what was going forward in China all would be well. An educated foreign opinion, he thought, would guarantee China's salvation. An hour or more later one of Marshal Tuan's retainers, who has had the reputation of being one of the cleverest officials in China and one who has never been guilty of so much as an evasion in his business dealings with foreigners, said: "It is always flattering to us Chinese to find a foreigner who is genuinely interested in our political affairs; but it always makes me nervous because I have never yet met one who did not, with the best possible intentions, make a mess of things when he meddled with Chinese politics."

WHAT WE DO NOT SEE.

Such remarks sound platitudinous and are usually credited to unfathomable Chinese conceit, but they are essentially true. Neither our Home Governments, nor our people at home who are supposed to endorse Government policy, nor those of us who are supposed to convey clear impressions of conditions in China for the guidance of those at home have consistently shown a clear understanding of China's difficulties. We not only fail to convey to the Occident a clear impression of what is going on in China but we refuse to come to a clear understanding ourselves about conditions here. We refuse to admit among ourselves that, lacking some sort of check from above or below, all officialdom in China must develop into a predatory class and that in our dealings with this class if we are anything but disciplinary we cannot but foster conditions which make trade impossible and life precarious. We will not admit to one another the obvious truth that what we call Governments in one quarter of China or another are simply predatory cliques, inevitably eliminating all sense of loyalty, obligation, responsibility and everything else which makes a Government a Government; nor will we admit that the comparatively decent persons within these cliques must either descend to the general level or be eliminated. We will not recognize that the official of to-day is the rebel of to-morrow, the soldier of to-day the bandit of to-morrow and that it is therefore impossible to support what we are pleased to call to-day's order without helping to foment what we shall be pleased to regard as the next day's disorder. I help Wu Pei-fu because I like him and fondly believe that when he has beaten his way to the top he will help me to do business. You help Chang Tso-lin for the same short-sighted reason. Jones helps Sun Yat-sen, Brown flatters Chi Hsieh-yuan and Smith pats Tang Chi-yao on the back. A little later one or the other or all of these is letting his soldiers pot at our relatives, laughing at our treaties, looting our Chinese traders and doing it all with a lighter heart because of the help and "face" that we have given them. We unite to recognize whatever clique happens to make its way into Peking and deal coldly and distantly with the cliques that have failed to break into the capital with the single obvious result that the one is in a position to defy us impertinently and chatter about sovereign rights when it has broken a bargain or violated a treaty, while we are free to threaten the others with gunboats and call them bandits and outlaws.

Foreign diplomacy in China has for years been a simpering acquiescence in make-believe, querulously but timidly accompanied by dirges hummed over the wasted corpses of our treaties. We vie with one another to sing pæans to burlesque administrations with bemedalled bandits at their heads and only contrive to strike a harmony when our diplomatic pagliacci agree to sing some clown's lament about ruffled feelings.

CUT-THROAT BUSINESS.

Business in China is bad at the moment and we all feel it, but the persons who pay most calls at the Legations telling how bad it is and who write the longest screeds home about disorder in China are the merchant diplomats in Peking who in the past have promoted trade by selling their Chinese pals thousands of dollars worth of destructive playthings after advancing millions of dollars earmarked and devoted to the discomfiture of domestic and foreign commerce. Nine out of ten of these worthies are at this moment using every medium of communication to persuade the diplomats or the Home Governments that the way to bring back the "good old days" is to renew credit in Peking or Canton or some other administrative sponge so that there will be a livelier market for more destructive playthings. They want to put the likin or the octroi or the wine and tobacco collectorate under foreign control to improve Peking's credit so that Peking can buy more high explosives to turn over to provincial armies to turn over to rebels and tufei, so that the latter can with more ease and assurance blast foreign trade into the welkin. They want surtaxes imposed for a funding loan which will pay for all past shipments of murderous toys lately used upon foreigners and which will thereby revive Chinese credit and provide for the negotiation of new loans, more toys, bigger armies, fatter Tuchuns, bolder bandits, more spectacular outrages, glibber and more insulting Chinese foreign ministers, and more miserable Chinese farmers and merchants; less peace, less production and less trade.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

For nearly a generation much of the big and particularly lucrative business in China, both in finance and commerce, has been "trading with the enemy" in that it has catered more to the interests of the predatory class than to those of the productive classes. It has helped in countless cases to foster the strength, courage and independence of the governing classes upon whom rigid checks were essential and has done little to foster the strength of those who should exercise the checks.

If foreigners are now to join in any systematic search after peace in China, their first task must of necessity be that of uniting among themselves to adopt a fixed policy and then to pursue it with good will, in good faith and with rigid consistency. There is no use writing to your Foreign Office, or your Minister, or your Mission Board or your business chiefs at home to tell them that anti-foreign feeling is growing in China, that foreign prestige is on the wane and that something should be done and then to expect intelligent action, unless you are ready to give an intelligent explanation. You must explain that the Chinese attitude towards foreigners has always been and always will be purely a matter of discipline and that a liking for us and our ways has never had much of anything to do with it. The struggle for wealth, position and power among all classes of unbridled Chinese officials has broken down all discipline from the top of the old administrative machine to the bottom. At the very top it is worst of all because under the precious Republic those who are boldest and most ingenious in evading or defying discipline are the ones who reach the top. And anti-foreign feeling is growing while foreign prestige is waning because those at the very top are boldest in breaking treaties, defaulting on promises and repudiating bargains in their dealings with foreigners. The soldier in the railway train and the bandit in the mountains feels less bound to behave in a deferential way towards the Occidental barbarian, for whom he has an innate contempt, because the highest of his responsible superiors habitually flaunt their contempt for the foreigner in his face and coolly violate bargains with him, call themselves Governments and are recognized by him, wheedle money out of him, squander it and go back to him for more, shoot his ammunition at him and then get more with loans to pay for it, play those with axes to grind against one another and all the while talk louder and louder of sovereign rights and sacred privileges.

THE FATAL CIRCLE.

There is no use talking about anti-foreign feeling in China or of writing Home about it or of expecting anything either from the Chinese or our own authorities to better relations until we are ready to admit that foreign diplomatic, financial and commercial tactics of the concession-hunting, axe-grinding variety have never failed to cultivate in the Chinese mind a growing contempt for us, blossoming into open hostility in due course, culminating in violent anti-foreign demonstrations and finally in punitive wars.

The end is inevitable and heretofore the reaction has been inevitable. The difference between the present and the past is that with the stage fully set for it, with diplomacy, finance and commerce as ready as ever to carry on in the good old way right up to the day of the explosion, the conventional punitive war is not in sight. In the old days, because punitive wars were so frequent and their advent so inevitable, the foreigner in China was always in an aggressive position. Now, because the punitive war is nowhere in sight but the demand for it which we have helped so much to create, so urgent, the foreigner in China is actually on the defensive and the need for common defence measures is pressing and vital.

If we are going to re-establish a position of some strength and dignity in China and at the same time contribute towards the restoration of order or make it possible for the Chinese to re-establish discipline among themselves, the closest possible co-operation between all nationalities and all classes of foreigners is essential.

THE LACK OF COMMON ACTION.

The first step in any campaign is to recognize the enemy. The second in a modern struggle is to cut off every source of supplies which we can possibly control. We have first to understand that the unchecked, undisciplined, predatory official class in China is essentially the enemy of both the Chinese producer and the foreign merchant. We must understand that we cannot expect the Chinese people to believe in our sympathy for them or in our desire to help them until we have made a frank declaration of war upon the common enemy, until we have passed a sort of international "trading with the enemy act" to which we are prepared to hold ourselves rigidly bound. The very first step in the inauguration of a new helpful policy in China must of necessity be a real embargo upon money, arms and "face"—particularly face.

In diplomatic circles in Peking co-operation in good faith to any end seems just as much a subject for despair as intervention. There is no good reason why it should be. Intervention is blocked by big financial and military problems, by popular disapproval in many countries; and there are sentimental if not moral objections to it which would require much propaganda to override. Co-operation in China now depends entirely upon a recognition of mutual interests in China. In other parts of the world it may be profitable for this or that nation to work at cross purposes with the rest, but with China in her present condition and with the prospect of improvement so dark, there are no conflicting interests here which are so important as the mutual interests at stake. When the Legations were under actual siege in 1900 the fact that the Powers represented in Peking had many conflicting interests not only in China but all over the world was not taken seriously into consideration when the time came for planning a common defence. While there is no reason for suggesting that the Legation Quarter in Peking will ever again be subjected to similar assault, it is not an exaggeration to say that foreign rights and prerogatives, not to mention foreign persons and properties, are in as precarious a position throughout China now as the persons of the Ministers in Peking were in 1900. There is, therefore, as good reason now for all of us to appreciate that we are on the defensive, that whatever we have to squabble about in Europe or any other part of the world has no bearing upon the question of our common security; and to subordinate every other interest, real or imaginary, to the business of helping China evolve some sort of a sane, responsible and respectable government by putting every possible disciplinary check upon the predatory official classes.

THE ARMS EMBARGO USELESS.

An arms embargo we have, dating from the early spring of 1919, which is ineffectual for the sole reason that we cannot work together in good faith. It has been broken in both letter and spirit by many Powers, to the knowledge of Ministers in Peking. The document signed in 1919 certainly needs to be rewritten so that it will cover a much wider field and so that the foreign authorities in China will have more authority to make it binding and hold one another accountable for breaches.

But it is much more important that the foreign communities in China should realize clearly that every trade transaction which puts arms, money or credit at the disposal of a Chinese official is literally trading with the enemy because no possible guarantee can be given by any Chinese official that such arms, money or credits will not be used in the work of harassing the Chinese people and reducing their productive power, in the obstruction of trade and industry, or that they will not be turned against the foreigner in someone's hand. No exceptions can possibly be made with China in her present condition.

If you believe in Wu Pei-fu and sell him a hundred guns because you think he is fit to have and handle them and refuse to sell to Chang Tso-lin or Sun Yat-sen because you do not believe in them, you are establishing a precedent which gives someone else the moral right to sell arms to Chang Tso-lin or Sun Yat-sen because he does believe in them. If you sell Wu Pei-fu arms, moreover, you are putting the strongest possible pressure upon his rivals to secure similar arms by hook or by crook, at whatever the cost to the Chinese rank and file whom they exploit. Under existing conditions you cannot sell to your favourite without stimulating his rivals and you cannot sell to anyone without helping the bandits and putting fresh burdens on the people. The Manchurian Hunghutze are all armed with Chang Tso-lin's weapons. The Szechuanese still fire on foreign steamers with ammunition sold by foreigners to Chang Chin-yao in 1919 and 1920, obtained subsequently from Wang Chan-yuan in exchange for opium. Sun Mei-yao's robbers of Lincheng fame had many foreign rifles and no little imported ammunition. Lao Yang-jen was equipped and armed by Wu Pei-fu. During the past year much equipment has been sold by foreigners in Peking dealing directly with bandit agents. These truths are so patent that the Legations are bored with the recital of them and they have been reviewed at endless length in despatches to the Occident.

OUTLAW THE CULPRITS.

What is needed to make an embargo effective now is not more information nor more despatches but organized opinion in China outlawing the whole trade in every article having to do with warfare which a Chinese official might care to buy. Public opinion should put just as strict an embargo upon the sale of aeroplanes, arsenal machinery, armoured cars and such like, and upon the employment of foreign military officers, engineers, arsenal workmen and aeroplane or wireless experts, as upon the sale of big guns or little ones. Teaching a Tuchun and his men how to make war is no more a neutral act than selling him the munitions of war. Supplying him with money is much the same as giving him the guns which money will buy. These are truths which are vaguely realized by many but admitted by few. They need to be clearly realized and admitted by all of us in China if we want peace and the opinions which they engender need to be focused upon the Legations and our Home Governments through organization.

(To be Continued)

THE LATEST DEVICE IN STRIKING

The Stay-in Weapon at London Docks: The Split Among the Unions

To-day's report of the dockers' dispute indicates two features of particular interest. The first is the split in the ranks of the strikers, and the determination of the National Stevedores' and Lightermen's Union to pursue its own policy as distinct from that of the Transport Workers' Union. Interal dissension of this character is becoming a common feature of trade union disputes, and the explanation is perhaps to be found in the curious fact that while the number of trade unions has immensely increased of late years, there have been enormous decreases in the membership of individual unions. Following upon the tendency to disavow agreements entered into by their representatives, the more unruly elements in the various unions have broken away from the parent body and formed new organizations, being suspicious of their leaders, impatient of control, and filled with belligerent ideas of direct action as against the constitutional method of negotiation. The Stevedores' Union is apparently one such body of extremists led by an ultra-rebel against the authority of the principal union.

The "stay-in" strike, as the telegram reports, is a novelty in labour disputes and its precise nature can only be matter of conjecture for the moment. Judging from the speech of Mr. Ruart, reported in our telegrams, the scheme has been invented for the purpose of disorganizing the London dock service and at the same time securing wages for the virtual strikers and saving the Union from having to hand out strike pay. This being so, it clearly would be tantamount to obtaining wages by false pretence, the pretence being that of carrying on an ordinary day's work. For, as we see, Mr. Ruart openly boasts that the "stay-in" strike, the "ca' canny," "wait-and-see" workmanship, would quickly reduce the dock system to chaos, the intention obviously being to do as little as possible in the most perfunctory way. The situation of the employers is thus an extremely difficult one. Either they must submit to being "held up" in this dishonest fashion, or declare a lock-out, since a strike is sufficiently expensive without having to pay strikers for carrying on with it.

A VALENTINE

Into a little wayside shrine
I turned from off the weary street,
Awesome and dark in grove of pine,
But redolent with blossoms sweet.

A plum tree, lo! in fullest flower!
And underneath its canopy
Of drifting petals, like the bower
O'er Shinto priest in *matsuri*,
Behold my priestess stood!
With upturned face you stood and smiled
Through mossy blossoms at the sky,
And murmured, "When a little child,
I often dreamed, with Springtime nigh
That Heaven must be a place like this!"—
(Oh, as for me, what need to climb
The magic steps, I cannot miss
Heaven here with you in blossom time!)

And then you wrote a little song
(You did not know, I lingered long)
Of lovely verse without compare,
And hung it on the branches there.

Now dare I take my song and tie
Just o'er the one that you have hung,
O'er all the rest that folk have sung,
And will you come,—and look so so high?—
Oh, if you only would!

CLARA LYFORD SMITH, in the "Peking Leader."

SPECIAL ARTICLES

JUSTICE, FORTITUDE, SACRIFICE

Sermon Preached by the Rev. A. N. Rowland on Sunday, Feb. 10, 1924, at the Unveiling of the Memorial Windows in Union Church, Shanghai.

"He shall not fail nor be discouraged until He has set Justice (E. V. Judgment) in the earth." Isaiah, Chap. 42, v. 4.

I.

Mr. Galsworthy has written a telling drama called "Justice," which he identifies with the working of penal law, and describes as "a machine that when once it is started rolls on of itself." That is not of Justice Messiah will establish on the earth, but almost its antithesis. The Justice He inspires by no means rolls on of itself. It cannot come into existence without the effort and sacrifice of men of vision and of valour. For Justice may be described as the consummation of love to our neighbour in the sharing of rights, according to the measure and power of God. This greatest of human problems is indeed a task worthy of Messiah, who "will not fail or be discouraged till He have set justice in the earth." Now we are called into partnership with God for this supreme achievement of His Spirit among children of men. And there are three chief phases in the long campaign. (1) There is the struggle for *Liberty* against the rule of oppression and the ways of violence. It was under the sanction of this banner that our young men went forth from Church, school and home, nearly 10 years ago. This was the thought that fired and sustained them. For this cause they suffered the toilsome march, the muddy discomfort, the bitter tension, the freezing terror, the hellish sounds and devilish scenes —that make up modern war. There "in fields of mashy mud and trampled leaves" they came to grip with the last enemy. They fell for liberty. And their examples reach far through all years.

THE MIRAGE OF PEACE.

Beyond the battlefield was the vision of Peace. But when the exhausted nations struggled through to the other side they found it was a *mirage*: in reality it was a new battlefield in the long campaign for justice—the fight for *equality* had begun. Equality among the nations, opportunity for the smaller peoples. In this field we pay our tribute to the late President Wilson, the founder of the League of Nations —that organ for International Justice which recognizes the equal weight of all nations that compose it, whatever be their size. The great President whose voice resounded so far five years ago, was twice foiled, first at Versailles and then at Washington. Then he was stricken by a disease to which a long name has been given. But the simple fact of the matter is that he died of a broken heart. And when men die for a cause they win a new life. "In the eyes of the foolish they seem to have died, but their hope is full of immortality." He lives again in the quickened conscience of mankind concerning weaker nations. And how can we forget that already Athens and Jerusalem small in size but great in genius have conquered Christendom, and in the day of Justice we shall see that the dignity of a nation consists not of material things but of things that are spiritual.

THE CLIMAX OF JUSTICE.

(3) But there is a third phase of the age-long conflict for Justice. When you have won Liberty and Equality you have still to win *Fraternity*. The heavenly justice is not fulfilled. With Love, with the disarming not merely of the soldier and the ship but of the politicians and the Press and the ordinary, ignorant, prejudiced crowd. There must be a riddance of bitter, vengeful, and contemptuous feelings, there must be a dethronement of that national egotism, that has no concept of its own failings and no imagination of another's point of view. The attempt to gain this higher standard is the mission of Love and the issue is Fraternity. We may indeed sit down with our successes and victory, and call ideals Utopian, but I call on every Christian to be sure that the Redeemer of the world will not be content with the denial of Equality and Fraternity; He will not fail nor be discouraged until He have set Justice in the earth.

II.

The second point to notice is that this goal cannot be reached without courage—the moral courage that belongs to the spirit of a man. We call it *Fortitude*, and it is more than the physical courage which mounts with the moment and dies with the mood, it can stand the wear and tear of time. It can repel not only the stings and arrows of outrageous fortune but the weary siege of adverse circumstances.

BOTTICELLI'S FORTITUDE.

The Italian artist Botticelli once designed a strange figure of Fortitude, and this is how Ruskin describes it. "Everybody else's Fortitude stands firm astride on his legs and is confidently ready for all comers. But Pottcelli's Fortitude is no match, it may be for any that are coming. Worn somewhat, and not a little weary, . . . she is sitting apparently in reverie, her fingers playing restlessly—nay I think even nervously —about the hilt of her sword. For her battle is not to begin today; nor did it begin yesterday. She is thinking about the manner of the end, and would fain let her sword if it might be, and yet how swiftly and gladly will her fingers close upon it, when the far off trumpet blows."

Is not that a picture of the kind of courage that was needed to last the war, and to outlast its failures and discouragements? In the long war for justice certainly God's men must not fail or be discouraged.

THE COURAGE THAT SERVES.

We need the grace of Fortitude that makes a man undertake hard things without fret or fuss, not because they are applauded but because they are appointed, not shirking the labour nor shifting the responsibility, ready to excuse another, but slow to excuse oneself, laying aside all airs of consequence and putting a cheerful courage on. John Milton has grand lines upon this point in Samson Agonistes where he contrasts the courage that excels with the courage that only serves.

"O how comely it is and how reviving
To the spirits of just men long oppressed.
When God into the hands of their deliverer
Puts invincible might,
To quell the mighty of the earth, the oppressor,
The brute and boisterous force of violent men.
But patience is more oft the exercise
Of saints, the trial of their fortitude,
Making them each his *own* deliverer,
And victor over all
That tyranny or fortune can inflict."

It is for us to know and believe in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, that by our fortitude in the appointed things of every day we are permitted to share the service of Him who will not fail or be discouraged until He have set justice in the earth.

III.

Our last thought must be given to a brief search for the secret of this fortitude. Why should a man submit to this discipline all the days of this warfare? Why not surrender to the prizes of the world? Why not give way to discouragement? Why not return to the fleshpots of Egypt? Why not let sword sleep in our hand?

THE INSPIRATION OF SACRIFICE.

Fortitude is courage that is transformed by faith and hope, sure of the co-operation of the Eternal, the unfailing Purpose, sustained by the remembrance of Christ, the perfect *sacrifice*. Mr. Gladstone was a great warrior in this cause and never feared the risk if he could forward Justice. His biographer John Morley says he had "the sovereign quality of courage," and the secret of that courage he has himself half disclosed in eloquent words. "Walking in the light of justice we cannot err. Guided by that light, that divine light we are safe. Every step that we take upon our road is a step that brings us nearer to the goal, and every obstacle, even although for the moment it may seem insurmountable, commonly for a little while retard, and never can defeat the final triumph." There lies the secret of his fortitude, in an invincible hope that

"Fierce though the fiends may fight
And long though the angels hide,
We know that Truth and Right
Have the universe on their side."

And where do we get that hope but by reading and accepting the cross of Christ in the light of faith, by believing that there and then, in the obscurity and cruelty of Calvary's hour, "the Lord stooped down to save us because He loves us so." By that sign we conquer, by that interpretation of the fortitude of Christ that it was the sacrifice of God, and if God be for us who can be against us? The self-sacrifice of Christ is the inspiration of that fortitude by which alone justice can be established and the will of God be done on earth as it is in heaven. And those who live for Justice now are one with those who died for it awhile ago, one "in foretaste of the dawn," one in the hope of being "for ever with the Lord."

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION.

"Lord God Almighty whose glory shines in all things fair and wonderful, we praise Thee for the revelation of Thy greater glory in the humility, love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord, Who gave Himself to death for our sakes and for the redemption of the world.

In the shadow of the sacrifice of those our brothers, and of all who in defence of their cause have counted not their lives unto them, we magnify Thy name; and we pray that their memory may inspire us to patience and fortitude in all the issues of this troubled life and be a perpetual light to all who shall worship in this sanctuary. So we would give ourselves afresh to the fulfilment of Thy perfect Will through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

LINES TO THE OLD LADY

From a Candid Correspondent

Then opening ceremony of the "North-China Daily News" new building has inspired one of our foreign readers to poetry. We thank him for his kind thoughts and happy expression of them.

To the Editor I must tender
A line of congratulation
For the words he deigned to utter
On our collaboration.
His spirit is enthralling
It makes one feel progressive
'Tis the "last word" in his calling.
Impartial not aggressive.
I listened to Sir Ronald speaking
'Twas a notable effusion
A climax in epoch-making.
Sound sense and no delusion.
He reviewed the "North China's" mission,
Discoursed on the trend of treaties,
Referred to writers of fiction,
And dwelt on the journalist's duties.
And the words by Sir Ronald spoken.
Rang so true, they needs must linger
In long memory unbroken.
Years to come, perhaps for ever.
Some "ists" were quite forgotten,
Such as those who verses scatter,
By a wayward muse begotten,
But, of course, that does not matter!
And, forsooth, the lady writer,
Had not e'en a trifling mention!
With her page not rare shine brighter
Nor her comments on the Fashion!
And the music Critic's raving
May this harmony o'er glitter,
From Olympian heights now falling
Raise at least a graceful titter!
But here is still consolation
If your columns will but cherish
This spontaneous creation
Lest my humble muse should perish.
Anon the dog days will soon teach us
When some service we may render,
Nothing serious then to teach us,
Duty must to Mirth surrender.

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So here's long life to the Paper!
May it never be torn asunder.
Ever Green may it remain! Sir!
Strong and steadfast ne'er go under.

J. M. T.

CHINA'S SEARCH FOR PEACE

Some Thoughts on How Both Foreigner and Chinese Can Help: Facts We Must All Face

From Rodney Gilbert.

When the writer set out some weeks ago to discuss the prospects of peace in China from various angles it was simply with the idea of stimulating thought on what must appeal to everyone in the Orient as a vital subject and it did not appear to matter very much whether the opinion expressed were right or wrong. The only purpose was to get a number of opinions before the Chinese and foreign public which the readers would be induced to endorse, correct and reject. But after the appearance of each article many persons have either written or buttonholed the writer to tell him that they were looking forward to the publication of his "plan" or to exhort him not to make a fool of himself by airing some silly political theory of his own. Such unexpected attentions make one self-conscious and have forced the writer to take this conclusion seriously and to devote much more thought, time and space to it than he had intended.

In an effort, therefore, to close the subject and at the same time to satisfy critics by dealing cautiously with the possibilities that the future holds for China, the writer has already spent many hours at the feet of local pundits and has already written and torn up enough manuscript to fill pages of newsprint. He now enters upon the following discussion of the possible ways in which foreigners and Chinese can help towards the restoration of order and a permanent Government, with the reservation that opinions which sound positive are to be accepted by the reader as suggestions subject to such amendments as time will indicate and not as dogmatic articles of faith.

A PROBLEM REALLY SIMPLE.

As the writer has said earlier in this series of articles the problem of restoring order is, in China, most particularly one of discouraging disorder. All old residents of this country have observed that the Chinese people are not aggressive trouble makers, that the less government the better, that their attitude towards the political machinery of the country and towards its political problems is passive rather than active, and that they do not require so much to be ruled as to be protected. The members of all Chinese communities are very ingenious in establishing a *modus vivendi* among themselves if someone over them exercises just enough force to keep a check upon the aggressive trouble-maker. The shepherd who has the means at hand to beat off the wolves always has more than enough force at hand to rule the flock. There are some communities in the world in which the one temperamentally peaceful, industrious person has to be protected by some sort of Government against nine lazy and quarrelsome ones. In China, when times are normal, 99 harmless and indefatigable workers have to be protected against one troublesome drone. The problem of Government in China is therefore a comparatively simple one. A very small percentage of any community has either to be ruled or be driven to work. The promotion of industry and trade requires little more than an effective check upon the fractional proportion of the population which has graduated into the exploiting class. If the one drone can be pounded into something like quiescence the ninety-nine workers will contrive to get along somehow without much instruction and produce a huge surplus above their needs. In few other countries does the temper of the people make the economic and political problems so simple. There are very few countries in which a light check upon a relatively small trouble-making class would solve economic and commercial problems so easily; very few parts of the world in which a simple police system would give play to so much creative physical and mental energy. The devising of remedies for China's ills is therefore very largely a matter of finding ways of embarrassing the fathers of disorder.

THE WOLF CLASS

These fathers of disorder in China are particularly conspicuous and easy to indicate. Under the pseudo-democracy which our Home Governments recognize the yamên divides the man who promotes and profits by disorder from the would-be producer and chronic victim, almost as certainly as litmus paper turns red under acid and blue under alkali. Those inside the yamên, China and the world have to check and render uncomfortable and those outside have to be protected. Under the Republic, Government in China has come to mean the exploiting of those who scarcely need to be ruled at all by an unchecked predatory class who constitute the small fraction of the population upon whom a strict check is essential. With the collapse of the Empire the wolves have all got into shepherd's clothes and have been having a grand time for some years eating up the flock. To restore order China must exterminate them, make things so uncomfortable for them that they will frankly shed their hypocrisy and take to the wilderness, or put such checks upon them that they will turn good shepherds.

HOW TO HELP THE SHEEP.

To drop figurative speech, the restoration of order in China depends almost entirely upon putting an effective check upon an official caste which profits from disorder and which is constantly recruiting from what ought to be the productive mass of the Chinese population.

If we believe that the Chinese people can at one time or another re-establish some sort of a check upon their new official caste with foreign sympathy and encouragement but without active foreign intervention and control, the restoration of order is one problem. If we believe that the restoration of order upon Chinese initiative is now utterly impossible and that everything here depends upon such conditions abroad as will permit the Occidental Powers to cooperate in giving the Chinese militarists and politicians a frightful drubbing and in giving the whole of China or separate fragments of China good government, the problem is an entirely different one. The two schools of peace advocates have absolutely nothing in common and must always carry on their discussions under separate porches. The writer is addressing the former school only, because he believes that if the Powers confine themselves to protecting their own interests consistently and limit their aggressive movements in China to aggressively sympathetic demonstrations against the trouble-making elements, if they cannot be absolutely neutral, the Chinese will solve their own problems some time before the Powers are themselves prepared for effective intervention.

The writer does not believe that the Chinese people can work out their own salvation, can restore order, put effective checks upon their official classes and evolve good Government under any and all possible conditions within a reasonable time. But he does believe that if the foreign attitude could be absolutely neutral the Chinese could work out their own salvation and further that, lacking theoretical and practically impossible neutrality, a clear understanding of China's difficulties and a sincerely helpful attitude would shorten and relieve the birth pangs of a decent Government. The Chinese say that this is the worst period in their history since the Five Dynasties and that there is less hope of a happy outcome because there now exists a "Foreign Affairs" problem which they did not have to take into account a thousand years ago. When the writer last summer interviewed Marshal Tuan Chi jui and asked how the foreigner could best help China back to order and sanity this old gentleman, who has a great official career behind him whose personal good faith has

THE WOMAN'S PAGE

LOW-BROW LITERATURE

Confessions of a Secret Reader

By Elizabeth Pepys

Locked away from public view in a more or less curiosity-proof closet we all have a skeleton. Sometimes the skeleton drinks, or swears, or goes crazy. Ours, we blush to say, reads low-brow literature. By one Peeping Tom who applied his eye to the key-hole he was once even seen to chuckle over a story in the "Saturday Evening Post." In writing this we do not mean to point the finger of scorn at the millions who take an honest pleasure in the S.E.P. Far be it from us!

Popular literature indeed is an excellent thing, one touch of W. J. Locke makes the whole world kin. We own to a liking for Frances Hodgson Burnett's convincingly impossible whimsies just as we admit to liking chocolate creams. We are often embarrassed by not being enough of a literary democrat to enjoy Harold Bell Wright or Ethel Dell.

LOW TASTES.

But the reason that the skeleton rattles his bones and clanks his grisly chain in our closet is because we have a sneaking fondness for the sentimentalities of a highly popular author who shall be nameless; and we are ashamed to admit it. Striving as we do to keep up with our high-brow friends we endeavour to suppress this craving. We will not read him—at least in public. We are obliged to admit his mawkishness—and yet, there is something about him that we cannot help enjoying, no matter how many times we take the Ridicule Cure.

We were reading him the other day in the public tram, feeling confident that none of our friends would patronize that popular conveyance, when alas, one entered. We flinched. We closed our volume and carried it wrong side up. We felt far more put about than if we had been detected in reading "Ulysses" or any other book which while banned by the censor is impeccably artistic. We fear that if we take this book out in public again we shall have to make it a paper cover and write "Marius the Epicurean" upon it lest our skeleton be disclosed to public Jeers.

DRESSING ON A SMALL INCOME

Thought, Not Money, Secret of Smartness

Since the war, many of the smartest women in France have been obliged to dress on a very moderate allowance. Their natural taste combined with necessity has enabled them to achieve an amazing and unique success. Vogue is offering a list of the wardrobe and the exquisite plan of campaign employed by one of these clever Frenchwomen as a proof of how practically and perfectly it may be done by the woman who spends most of her time in town, with an occasional sojourn in the country. The ten commandments adopted by this particular Frenchwoman are:

1. Never buy in a hurry.

2. Form a year-to-year plan of campaign. Never deviate from it except to improve upon it.

3. Buy only what can be worn the year round, or, in other words, nothing that is strictly of one season.

4. Select the most becoming colour. Try to choose a practical one and wear only shades of this single colour, with the exception, of course, of black.

5. Always give black a place in your wardrobe, especially if your means are limited.

6. Remember that clothes in themselves are only half the battle in the contest for a smart appearance. Neatness and care of the smallest details are equally important. This is achieved by the intelligent use of time—not money.

7. Select, when it is possible, clothes that may be washed; this saves cleaning bills.

8. Use only good materials. Cheap clothes are expensive.

9. Never select exaggerated models.

10. Understand your type, and —stick to it.

The first commandment, this lovely lady says, is that you must never buy in a hurry. Frenchwomen dare to go into a shop, look at everything, and then go away and consider for two days. After that, they return and, with a more critical eye, try on whatever they expect to choose before making a final selection.

In regard to the second commandment; it is not hard to have a good yearly plan of action, but it is far more difficult to stick to it, for the average woman is apt to be lured away. The Frenchwoman insists that it is the courage of one's convictions, no matter what the income, that accounts for the well-dressed woman. As for the third rule—buying only what can be worn all the year around—, it should be noted that either the felt hat or the satin one may be worn in town or country at any season of the year. In deciding on the one colour to employ, one has difficulties. It requires real courage not to be led, against one's better judgment, into buying some lovely

SIMPLE YET EFFECTIVE USE OF FUR

shade, smart or particularly attractive at the moment. The Frenchwoman whose story we are telling has chestnut hair and brown eyes, so that her difficulties are not great. She is able to choose brown without a tremor. Brown is unquestionably the wisest colour. However, if it is not becoming, some other shade should be selected. But brown through beige to tan, dark brown, and tête de nègre, all of the different shades of this one colour will harmonize perfectly.

The fact that the woman of limited income must wear black a considerable part of the time is very fortunate just now, because there is nothing smarter than than black for the daytime. For the evening this winter, many of the smartest New York women wear black, always distinguished; but they wear a brilliant black—not the dull crêpes and marocains of two or three years ago. There is no more important lesson to learn from the smart Frenchwoman than that it is not what you wear, but how you wear it, that counts!

The woman whose rules we quote proves her sagacity in her exquisite appearance. No detail is left unnoticed. Once a week, she washes her hair. As she says, a couple of cakes of pure soap are not expensive. She melts this soap into a liquid with which she washes her hair thoroughly, thus keeping it glossy, silky, and beautiful. The woman in question has that double advantage of having a slight natural wave. Less fortunate women must depend on an *ondulation* or on the permanent wave. But neither of these is of any avail unless the hair is in beautiful condition. She insists that it may be expensive to buy the most elaborate of ball gowns, but it is only a question of sense how you dress your hair. Here is arranged in the newest fashion, pulled snugly down and done in the smallest and softest roll at the base of her neck. Two moderate-sized tortoise-shell hairpins hold it in place. She manicures her nails twice a week and keeps them as brilliant as jewels.

Many people do not know that a considerable number of fabrics may be washed even more successfully than they may be cleaned. It is not unpleasant to wash and iron one's delicate blouses, nice lingerie, or silk stockings. Nothing will save one's clothes more effectively than this personal attention.

The idea prevalent in America that, unless a woman is wealthy, she can not afford the best mater-

A BECOMING MODEL

ials is not true. If one buys as little as the woman whose yearly wardrobe we are describing, one can certainly afford the best materials, which are always the cheapest in the end. Again, however tempting some model exclusively of one season may be, it is well to remember that, the following year, nothing will give it novelty—not even the most engaging ideas for remaking it.

This Frenchwoman, in attempting to understand her type, never tries to fool herself and is, therefore, more easily able to fool other people. She accentuates her best points and obliterates, as far as possible, those that are less good. Her eyes and eyebrows are her loveliest features; the latter she combs as carefully as she does her hair. She uses a very pale, almost unnoticeable rouge, so that her cheeks and lips offer no competition to her eyes, the important note of her face. Very subtly under her soft hair, she gives just a touch of rouge to either lobe of her ear.

And last—not even an unlimited bank account will give a woman a true understanding of her type; only brave experiment, taste, and discretion will accompplish this.

RUTH MUSKRAT AT WASHINGTON

Many Shanghai people will remember that at the time of the meeting of the World's Student Christian Conference in Peking during the spring of 1922, Miss Ruth Muskrat, a Cherokee-Irish girl, representing the boys and girls of the U.S. Indian Schools, spoke at several gatherings here.

We now learn that at the recent meeting in Washington of the Committee of One Hundred, ap-

MISS RUTH MUSKRAT.

pointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to advise with him on Indian affairs, during a meeting at the White House where the Hundred had been invited to meet the President, Miss Muskrat, who is now a student at Mt. Holyoke College, appeared, dressed in skins and her head with a bead bound with a bead fillet, holding a volume bead and skin bedecked in her hand, which she offered to the "Great White Father" with a prettily delivered speech.

WOMEN AND SERMONS

The End of the Chapter

"People will no longer listen to long sermons" said a West End vicar the other day. "Even women nowadays will stand no more than ten minutes."

What women have suffered at the hands of the long sermon makes a fascinating little chapter in social history. Often chastisement in the form of the long sermon has been hurled at the head of one particular miscreant woman to such an extent in the eighteenth Century that when the Ladies' Almanack was published one of the first laws to be laid down in it was that ministers were "to chastise the sinner, but to make mention of no names." Most of the chastisement was incurred, as might be expected, for love of finery, though it is not only the frivolous woman to whom finery appeals. St. Edith, daughter of King Edgar, brought up in a convent at Wilton and looking forward eagerly to the holy life, loved to array herself. St. Ethelwold reproached her for it. "I trow," she rapped out, "as clean a soul may be under my clothes that are arrayed with gold as under thy slight fur-skins." St. Bernard's sister was not so bold. "Know you not," he said to her, "how you displease God and His angels in adorning with such pomp and pride your body, which is carrion?" "And then the ladye wept, and sold away her clothes and lived a holy life."

Not always was the effect of preaching so lasting. A wander-

FLUFFY FURS BREAK THE STRAIGHT OUTLINE

ing friar attacked the steeple headdresses with such fervour that in the very middle of his sermon the ladies threw their steeples at the foot of the pulpit and made a bonfire of them while the friar smiled at their labours through the smoke. But when he had gone the steeples reared themselves higher than ever.

PEREMPTORY PIETY.

In the reign of James I. Hall, Bishop of Exeter, often gave the ladies of the court an extremely uncomforable half-hour. "Hear this, ye popinjays of our time, hear this, ye plaster-faced Jezebels, God will one day wash your faces with fire and brimstone." But sermons like that, which could not but raise anxiety, were preferable to the dull and endless sermons which were preached in France.

Louis XIV. at his greatest laxity of morals was adamant in the matter of attendance at church, and no one listened to more sermons than Madame de Montespan. One Sunday when, as usual, the ladies in the royal chapel had lighted their candles, not to be able to read their prayer-books but so that their presence should not be missed by the King, an official stepped into the tribune and cried, "Guards of the King, retire; the King is not coming." It was not only the Guards who retired. When, presently, the King arrived there were no candles and no ladies. If he laughed at the practical joke Louis did not forget to admonish.

Queen Caroline, wife of George II., was partial to the company of learned men, and invited the renowned Whiston, scientist and divine, to come once a week to acquaint her with the progress of science. One night the Queen, a little bored, turned the subject by requesting Whiston to tell her of her faults. "Your irreverent behaviour at sermon-time in church, ma'am," came the unflinching answer. A few weeks later she repeated her question. "Madam, I have laid it down as a maxim never to tell any person of more than one fault at a time and never to mention a second until the first is mended."

BANKERS AS SHY BIRDS.

No woman loved a long sermon so much as Hannah More. Her favourite preacher was Mr. Newton, famous for his marital philosophy that "if my wife is willing to deliver the reins when I ask for them I shall always be willing to let her drive." But it was no use Hannah going to Mr. Newton on Sunday mornings, for then he was very short indeed. There were several bankers in his congregation, and, in his own words, "the fowler must go cautiously to meet shy birds."

So perhaps if women had been bankers the tale of the long sermon would have had a more speedy ending. Short of that, no weapon has been more effectual than the high pew, and no one has known better how to wield this weapon than Jane Welsh Carlyle. "I turned the depth of the pew to good account," she writes to her husband after good manners as a guest had taken her to an afternoon service. "When the sermon began I made myself, at the bottom of it, a sort of Persian couch out of the praying cushions, laid off my bonnet, and stretched myself out very much at my ease, I seemed to have been thus only one drowsy minute when a slight rustling and the words 'Now to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost' warned me to put on my bonnet quick and made me aware that I had been fast asleep."

But the greatest sufferers under the long sermon have been children. Walking home from the sermon of which she had heard never a word. Mrs. Carlyle inquired what part the portly man waving a stick five feet long in the gallery had been playing. He was there, she was told, "to beat bad children." "And are the children here so bad they need such a functionary?" she asked. "Ah, they will be doing mischief in the church," was the reply. "It's a-wearisome for the poor, little things and the rod keeps them in fear."—G. M. A. "Manchester Guardian."

"EVERYBODY'S WEARING THEM AT HOME"

The Prettiest of the Season's Novelties

You know what fun it is to gather round while your friend just back from Home unpacks her trunk and discloses the very latest thing to your envious eyes. In the case of the Trunk from Home, one's envy need not go unsatisfied, for there is opportunity for those who appreciate the charm of the novel to secure the "different," dress that marks its owner as being a little ahead of the mode.

The Trunk from Home has within its capacious trays some jaunty jumpers of camel's hair and brushed wool, or silk and Shetland wool in the heather mixtures. There are knitted and jersey dresses, a fetching costume of tricolette, a marvellous creation of Peking blue duvetyn with a fetching bead cabuchon, and the most stylish of three-piece suits, a wrap around skirt, a blouse of chenille and georgette combined in the chicest way, and a nobby sack coat tying on the side.

The tea-dance and evening frocks are the most alluring of the collection, however, and it seems ridiculous to state that the simplest models may be had for only $50. There is one "Love-Apple" model (this being the new name for tomato) with one long sleeve, one excuse for a sleeve, and a trailing hip train. There are the freshest and most winsome dancing gowns of mauve over yellow, or pink, some fascinating petunia shades, a sea-weed silk, brocaded cerise chiffon made up with black satin, a stunning green crepe, trimmed with brilliants riveted in, and there are all manner of new devices, new ribbons, new uses for pearls—in short the gowns simply demand to be seen and you will find them on view in Room 48, the Astor House.

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

A revised and "adapted" version of Mr. Galsworthy's "Strife" has been produced on the Communist stage in Russia. A new ending has been specially written for the Bolshevist version, whereby the fall of the curtain sees the workers continuing to put up a valiant fight against capital. "This ending," says the dramatic critic of the Moscow "*Isvestia*," "is, of course, much better than Galsworthy's."

∴

Mr. Liam O'Flaherty, the author of that successful first novel, "Thy Neighbour's Wife," has had romantic career. He was born on one of the wild and lonely Aran Isles, off the coast of Galway. After the war, in which he served with the Irish Guards, the author signed on as a trimmer aboard a tramp steamer bound for Brazil, and for some time he tramped and worked all over the United States.

∴

One of John Morley's most intimate friends, a man always in his literary counsels, can be quoted for the statement that he left no writings for publication, and that he left very little, either in the way of personal letters or diaries. He took the view that a writing and public man's life told its own story, either in the books he wrote or in the work he did. This was really why he inserted in his will a clause to the effect that there should be no authorized biography of him.

∴

Pathos always attaches to a posthumous book, and a volume of verse which has attracted attention this autumn is posthumous. It is "A Devonshire Garden," by Mr. R. H. Forster, who himself brought the manuscript to Mr. Jonathan Cape. He died before it could be put into print, and so never saw an ambition realized. He wrote because he had to write, and he did not think of publishing his verses until he was pressed to do so by his friends.

∴

Mr. A. S. M. Hutchinson has written an extremely interesting preface to a popular edition of "This Freedom" in which he explains the idea of the novel and incidentally refers to the relations that exist between him and the characters that he creates. It will be remembered that in "If Winter Comes" Mark Sabre would have avoided all subsequent trouble if he had obtained furnished lodgings for the unfortunate young woman whom he befriended instead of taking her into his own house. Many critics have asked why on earth Sabre did not adopt this obvious common-sensical procedure? Mr. Hutchinson answers that "Mark Sabre never thought of it," and he adds: "All my characters in all my books never do think or act as, critically judged, they ought to have thought or acted. They do as they do, right or wrong, because they are what they are and can be no other.

∴

This is all very well, but a critic is perfectly justified in suggesting that the character would not have acted as Mr. Hutchinson makes him act or, as has occurred to many people in the case of Mark Sabre; if he did act in Mr. Hutchinson's way, that he would is a fool. Mr. Hutchinson, as a matter of fact, takes very high ground when he says:—"When I am writing I inhabit these people or they inhabit me. I do not know how these things happen, nor profess to know anything about the art of writing whatsoever and they tell me it is that that is troubling them and I just put it down. Do you, when a man is come to you for sympathy, stop him and tell him what he ought to have done; or when a woman, similarly beset, comes to you with a confession and with what her confession means, stop her and desire her to tell you what it does not mean? I think you do not: and I, when I am writing, do not. You listen. I transcribe."

AN AUSTRALIAN AT HOME

THE ENGLISH. 1909-1922. By Frank Fox. John Murray. 9/- net.

Mr. Fox is an Australian and, therefore, prejudiced. The task he sets out to perform is impossible, for him, of complete accomplishment. It is as if a man should sit down to write an impartial criticism of his mother. Even apart from the inhibition such a circumstance must set up, there is the matter of the common outstanding trait of critic and criticized. This common trait, for want of a more comprehensive word, must be called sentimentalism. A more comprehensive word is needed, a word that shall include a genius for deceiving themselves, for closing the eyes to the realities of life. A worthy criticism of the English can only be written by a citizen of a country whose people have not this genius, as, for instance, one of the two nearest neighbours of England. At this date of history it must be generally acknowledged that the Irish and the French are the least sentimental of all Western peoples. As such they should be competent critics of the English, who, with the possible exception of the Americans, must be the most sentimental people in the world.

It may be a subconscious realization of his too great sympathy with his subject, for his avowed purpose that makes Mr. Fox's "criticism" a matter (for the most part) of rather mild observation of the superficial attributes of the English people.

In truth there is too much admiration for impartial judgment, and, where the generalities, which seem sound, though biassed, give way to individuals Mr. Fox seems to go astray somewhat. These criticisms of individuals are inconsistent in places with the general axioms which he ennunciates. One instance is where he talks of the English public services and says, surely truly:—

> "It is the option which faces us all, I suspect, in old as well as new communities, to be good-tempered, easy going and popular, or to do things and arouse antagonism."

Yet his criticism of Mr. Churchill shows that he does not believe in the universal application of that aphorism.

If it does not go deep enough, or as deep as its title leads one to expect, it is, nevertheless, an interesting book. We have the reputation, probably deserved, of indifference to the opinions of other people. But the opinions in this book are certainly worthy of our consideration. And whether we learn anything from them or not they make good reading.

J. L.

A PHILOSOPHER ON THE LINKS

ITS MORAL BEAUTY. By A Divotee. Mills & Boon. 3/6 net.

Some years ago Arnold Bennett visited the United States for the first time. He wrote a book of his first impressions of that country called respectively in its English and American publications "Those United States" and "Your United States." It did not pretend to be more than a record of first impressions and there were, inevitably, several criticisms which we, who had a longer acquaintance with the country, felt Mr. Bennett would wish to revise when he had the same advantage. One especially struck the present reviewer, and the antagonism aroused by it is revived by the little book under review. Speaking of the conduct of business, the luxurious office setting, the whole-hearted devotion to business, of the New Yorkers, Mr. Bennett finished up a glowing eulogy with some such words as the following:—

> "One felt that these people had a religion, and it was not golf."

The rage of all true believers who read that sentence has probably by now turned to pity. For it is rumoured that much of Mr. Arnold Bennett's leisure is taken up with jazzing. Whether "A Divotee" (it is a pity he did not write his real name) read the heathenish line is unknown. Though it certainly might have inspired the excellent work "Its Moral Beauty," it is probable that the poisonous profanity missed him. For he writes in his first chapter:—

> "It occurred to me as we zigzagged towards the eighth green that if one could show mankind in simple language and by persuasive arguments which owed nothing to casuistry that golf, apart altogether from its obvious influence on the liver, has a moral beauty which is of eminent importance to the soul, one might take up one's stance in the future, if not with the reckless confidence of a Tolley or the calm conviction of a Joyce Wethered, at least without the intolerable and paralyzing feeling that one knows nothing at all about this incomparable but wholly incomprehensible game."

Having read the book, one can but declare that the author has earned the right to take up his stance in the future with the confidence of Walter Hagen. For he has supplied the world's great need. Almost he might persuade Arnold Bennett. If that poor man could but be captured in an interval of his dervish rites and his twinkling feet (one had almost said cloven hoofs) be bound to a chair while "A Divotee" read to him the enlightening words, he too would bow his head and declare his faith that if the soul of America can be saved the miracle is more like to be performed upon the fairways of Van Cortlandt than in the palace-offices of Wall Street.

Golf has no better book.

JOHN LOFTING.

CHINESE CEREMONIALS

"CHINESE BIRTHDAYS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS." By Annie Cormack (Mrs. J. G.). The Commercial Press, $3.00.

The second and enlarged edition of this handy volume dealing with the most vital customs of the Chinese, especially those of the official and wealthy families living in Peking, merits as cordial a reception as the first booklet received. The author has endeavoured to gather her information at first hand and to answer the questions which spring to the lips of the mystified foreigner curious to understand the significance of the strange rites of which he catches glimpses. The chapter headings—The Chinese almanac, Births and Birthdays, Betrothal, Marriage, Funerals, New Years, Festivals, The Twenty-Four Solar Terms, and Special Days—give a good idea of the scope of the informing little volume. Numerous illustrations add to its interest, but unfortunately there is no index.

E.P.

A PROSE ANTHOLOGY

THE CHOSHAM BOOK OF ENGLISH PROSE. By Stephen Coleridge. Mills & Boon.

This is a very interesting anthology of English prose from the time of translation of the Bible to the present day, with descriptive and biographical comment by Stephen Coleridge. It is a very personal anthology and in no sense comprehensive. Such little known and seldom read writers as Lyly, Ascham, Clarendon, Southey, H. N. Coleridge and Robert Hall are quoted, while Poe, Pater, Washington Irvine, Wilde and other stylists are ignored. But the volume is none the less interesting for that, and can be recommended as an excellent "bedside-book." It would be still more enjoyable if the author had refrained from taking the opportunity to air, in one or two places, his prejudices on unliterary matters, such as vivisection.

W.J.D.

Mr. MAIS SURPASSES HIMSELF

BY ACHILLES.

"Prunello" (Grant Richards: 7/6) is incontestably the masterpiece of the schoolmaster-journalist, Mr. S. P. B. Mais; in fact it appears to be one of the chief of the best-sellers of the winter season, and quite deserves to be. It is the tale of a man whose family has been caught by the dangerous drift of *laissez-faire*, and has sunk into a hopeless state of depravity bordering on savagery. Father, mother, brothers and sister, living on the Derbyshire moor, have become worse than beasts, except for one of the brothers, Colin Entwhistle, dramatic critic, clever and energetic, whose regular salary is derived from the office of the "Sun," on the staff of which newspaper he acts as a caption-writer.

The father, a doctor, got into the way of saying to his wife: "I shall not shave to-day: it is too cold," and she to him "I cannot wash to-day, or I shall freeze" —and so they left everything for the morrow, and collapsed into a state of utter chaos, and misery.

Colin falls in love with a dramatic author's sister and as she is of the *nouveau pauvre* aristocracy, refuses to allow himself to marry her until she sees what his own people are like. He overdoes this act of sacrifice, and rubs it in to the lovable Olwen that he himself must possess lazy, shiftless traits like his Derbyshire next-of-kin and makes her visit them, so that she witnesses a condition which would shame for filthy disreputability any caricature of a poor man's dilapidated cottage. One can hardly believe such a wretched condition could exist in an erstwhile respectable family, and when we are told that the father is a doctor for the district we feel it is going a little too far. That one entirely without vitality, whose fingers were stained with nicotine, and whose nails were choked with grime, who was dirty all over, wore a gravy-stained tie and waist-coat, and trousers the ends of which were stuffed into coarse army socks, and who had to be reminded to blow his nose, could be a medical practitioner holding lives in his hands, is hard to credit.

The sixth chapter in the book, entitled "This Working Day World," is one of the best that can have been written in fiction for some time. It is a description of work in the "Sun" office, and of Colin's boarding-house and visits to London night clubs.

Crammed in his office, the caption-writer hears, behind partitions, the gabbling of proof-readers, stenographers, and others. One typist argues all day in loud tones with an artist as to whether God exists. Telephone calls come down from Sub-Editors to 'kill Hobbs,' 'kill half-column Oval,' 'kill Lady Rachel Cavendish' "(like a Russian newspaper)" and to 'cut' carefully-written reviews, and the continual din of mingled voices, if noted on paper, would have read approximately thus:—

> "I am the man in the barrel he said shoot me if you will I shall not scream My God you are brave as you are beautiful remember what Voltaire said if there be no God it would be necessary for marmalade in two-pound jars 1/11 all jams Box 3075 knickers with initials kiss you My God the revolver—"

A girl and man friend in the boarding-house persuade Colin to go the round of London cabarets. The women of pleasure in these *palais de danse* provide him with an object lesson on the beautiful influence of work, as they have no saving grace whatever. When Penelope, the boarding-house girl, says she will have a dance with an attractive stranger, Colin, disgusted, gives a questioning look to the first girl he sees, and has one dance with her in silence, taking her back to where he found her. He prepares to dash back for Penelope when: "Anything for the partner, please, kind gentleman? I can't afford to dance for nothing, kind sir, she said, kind sir, she said. A sovereign would help me a lot," muttered the maiden. She gets it and "You ought to be a head-waiter in your next incarnation" from Colin. This sounds an expensive form of brief and silent exercise!

There are many thoughtful sentences and epigrams throughout the book, which delight the reader. Colin had four great pleasures: beer, the open air, pretty women and books. He loved life.

A FAMOUS CHINESE BEAUTY

YANG KUEI-FEI, the most famous beauty of China, by "Shu Chiung" (Mrs. Wu Lien-teh). Published by the Commercial Press. Illustrated. $3.

This is the first book on this fascinating subject to appear in the English language, by a Chinese lady, and we say without hesitation that it has been written in a most delightful style.

Mrs. Wu Lien-teh (Shu Chiung), the authoress, is the helpmeet of the world-renowned Chinese doctor who for many years has devoted his time and his energy to stamping out plague in the homeland of his ancestors. She has given much time to the study of Chinese, especially Chinese classics, history, and civilization, and she is among the best informed women on these subjects.

The story of Yang Kuei-fei is one which no writer of Chinese history can overlook, and is familiar to the whole people. She was the most beautiful and accomplished of all Chinese concubines, and without a rival. The last two words of her name indicate the title of Second Rank Imperial Concubine, she being a concubine of Emperor Hsuan Tsung (A.D. 738).

The daughter of an official, in the Tang Dynasty, Yang Yu-han (her personal name) was said to have been born at night when her parents saw a strange vision, *viz.*, a brilliant meteor gliding slowly from the heavens, amidst magnificent rainbow lights which shone around the bed on which the child was lying, finally striking the earth with a great noise. This was taken to be a good omen, and the father remarked that the girl would one day become Empress of the land.

In later years she was told of this occurrence, and received special training which would prepare her for the day when she was to be the first lady of the land. Her talent developed with age and the best education possible was accorded her. Ambitious girl that she was, Yang Kuei-fei mastered the Five Classics and the history of China at the age of 16, and her exceptional alertness and activity of mind, combined with her unusual skill and love for music, enabled her to surpass her sisters. She took special interest in singing, dancing and musical instruments and was adept in composing verses.

As a stepping stone towards her great aspiration to become Empress, Yang Kuei-fei was married to Prince Shou, the son of Ming Huang, who, however, was not in line of direct succession. She was therefore not content with this alliance, and the story shows how subtly her personal influence was used in the achievement of royal patronage.

During 20 years in the Emperor's harem, where she alone reigned, she caused the infatuated monarch almost to ruin his kingdom by licentiousness and extravagance. Though not cruel she was the cause of much cruelty, and finally when insurrection arose, the Emperor strangled her in order to pacify an outraged people. Thus tragically died Yang Kuei-fei, during her life beauty unsurpassed, whose talents were unexcelled, alone and unmourned.

On the whole, Mrs. Wu Lien-teh has produced an excellent work. It is to be hoped that Mrs. Wu will soon present to the public sketches of the lives of other women famous in Chinese history. We would especially like to have translations of the stories of Ta Chee, Tiao Chan, Hsi Shih and Chao Chun.

Mr. Wu Shih-ying's able and beautiful illustrations add to the interest of an extremely pleasant book.

W.H.C.

The North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE

WEEKLY EDITION OF THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

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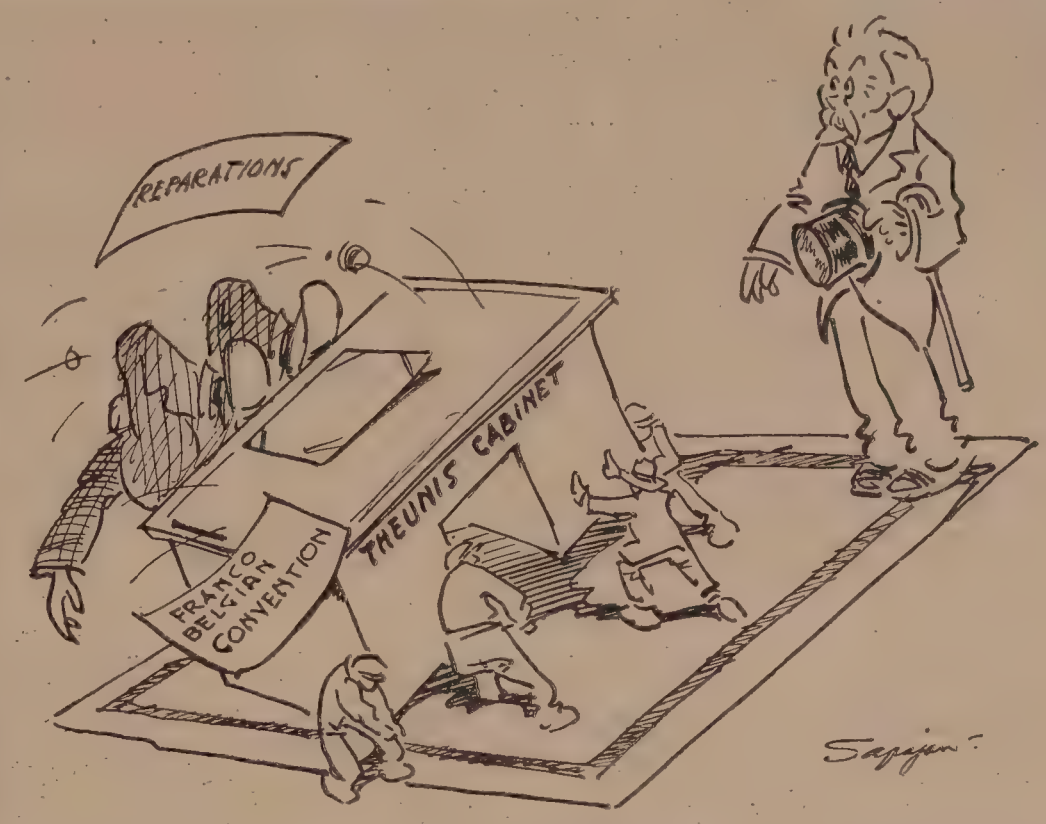

The fall of the Belgian Cabinet under the assaults of Socialists, Democrats and the Press has caused consternation in France

THE TRADEMARKS LAW CONTROVERSY

Diplomatic Body Trying to Extract Concessions: Waichiaopu Only Returning Evasive Replies

Peking, Feb. 27.

The Diplomatic Body have not yet received a reply to their Note stating the conditions on which the Powers are prepared to recognize the Trademarks Law. It appears that the Powers on december 1 sent a Note to the Waichiaopu requesting a general assurance that the new law would not operate in a way detrimental to foreign treaty rights. No reply to this Note had been received when the aforesaid Note was sent, but later the Waichiaopu replied giving an undertaking that the priority of trade-marks registered with the Chinese Maritime Customs would be guaranteed. This was not what the Diplomatic Body wanted as they were satisfied with the provision in the Trademarks Law which recognizes priority usage even though the mark is not registered with the Customs. In a further Note, therefore, the Diplomatic Body removed Chinese misapprehension in that connexion and now there does not seem to be any serious obstacle in the way of a final settlement.

Without casting doubt on the good intentions of the Chinese Government the Diplomatic Body point out that it is obvious that the Chinese Government will meet with serious difficulties in applying their law unless foreign expert assistance is employed. It has been hinted that the cost of such assistance will be considerable, but this is a small consideration in view of the amount of revenue China will receive immediately the Powers recognize the law. But if the Government invite the assistance of a Commissioner of Customs familiar with the registration of trademarks, that will probably be found satisfactory as a preliminary measure and will be taken as proof of the Government's desire to make progress in this important matter.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND CANTON

Marshal Wu's Recommendation of Control by Force: The Canton-Hankow Railway

Peking, Feb. 20.

According to unofficial Chinese reports Premier Sun Pao-chi, at the Cabinet meeting yesterday, brought up for discussion recommendations made by Marshal Wu Pei-fu regarding Canton. These were referred to the Military Council and other organizations concerned for consideration and report.

These reports state that Marshal Wu Pei-fu is of opinion that the time has come to bring Canton under the control of Peking by force, an enterprise for which the Central Government should set about preparing the necessary funds. While Marshal Wu is not reported to have made any reference to Chêkiang, it is said that Premier Sun is somewhat disturbed as to the possibility of this policy being extended to his native province. It is expected that further developments will take place when Admiral Wu Yu-lin returns from Nanking.

Feb. 22.

It is understood that Marshal Wu Pei-fu has telegraphed to the Minister of Communications saying that, as Gen. Chao Heng-ti, Commander-in-Chief in Hunan, has agreed to hand over the administration of the Hunan section of the Canton-Hankow Railway to the Central Government, he wishes the sanction of the Central Government to the appointment of Mr. Tan Tao-jen as Acting Director of that section of the railway. Mr. Tan is already carrying on the duties of that post pending approval of the Ministry of Communications. Marshal Wu further suggests that $50,000 a month should be allotted to maintenance of the forces at Yochow from the revenues of the railway.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PARLIAMENT IN MILDER MOOD

The Fight for Vice-Presidency

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Feb. 21.

Parliament has been exceptionally tame since Chinese New Year and seems to have forgotten all about the high explosives which it threatened to set off under the administration just before the holidays.

Mr. Lo Chi-han, the most aggressive leader in anti-government demonstrations, died some days ago of a ruptured blood vessel in the brain when mapping out a fresh campaign against Mr. Wang Keh-min and it is suggested that the noisy element in Parliament is quiet now because it lacks a leader. It would appear, however, that Mr. Wang Yu-chih, the power behind the presidential throne, has adopted a conciliatory attitude.

There is much talk in palace circles of abandoning the suggested parliamentary elections and of recognizing the claim of the legislators to sit for ever if no successors are elected. The talk of electing a vice-president also has a soothing effect because another election would hold out the promise of more money.

Wu Pei-fu's friends and correspondents in Peking insist that he has not the slightest intention of soliciting or accepting the vice-presidency, but that he really hopes to see Lu Yung-hsiang accept this office as a step towards reunification. Chi Shieh-yuan is also mentioned as a candidate with Sun Hung-yi as campaign manager. Such gossip is of immediate interest to the legislators as prospective electors.

THE CIGARETTE TAX

Chekiang's Violation of the 1922 Agreement

Peking, Feb. 25.

Telegrams from foreign sources report that the Chêkiang authorities are renewing their activities with regard to the stamp duties on cigarettes. On February 23 they seized a houseboat, belonging to the Tobacco Products Corporation, conveying cigarettes from Ningpo to Fenghua. The boat is still being held.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING'S FINANCE COMMISSION

Review of the Work Since the Commission's Inception: Substantial Results

EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF REVENUE NEEDED

Peking, Feb. 22.

The Commission for the Readjustment of Finance had a meeting at 11 o'clock this (Friday) morning, with Dr. W. W. Yen in the chair, when a general report on the present financial situation was laid before the members. This general report was accompanied by a number of supplementary reports dealing with the public revenue, administrative expenses, secured and unsecured foreign and domestic loans, etc. These reports were carefully examined and discussed.

Practically all the members of the Commission were present, including Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo, Dr. C. T. Wang, Mr. Chang Chia-ao, Gen. Huang Fu, Mr. Chang Chi-tau, Mr. Fu Tseng-hsiang, Mr. Hsu Fu-su, Mr. Chao Chun-nien, Sir Francis Aglen, Sir Ernest Wilton and Mr. M. G. Padoux. The Minister of Finance was absent on account of illness, but was represented by the Vice-Minister. Admiral Wu Yu-lin was out of town, but was represented by Mr. Lo Meng-hsiung, Senior Counsellor of the Ministry of Communications.

Dr. W. W. Yen made a brief review of the work of the Commission since its inception. He said that so far the Commission had been chiefly engaged in collecting data from various sources, comparing their figures and adjusting their differences, and that, owing to the complicated nature of the subject, more time had been taken than was at first expected. But, in the meantime, substantial results had been accomplished, as evidenced by the many carefully drawn up reports which he was now able to present to his colleagues.

It was the general sense of the Commission that for the solution of the present difficulties there must be an increase of revenue as well as an effective control over the revenues belonging to the Central Government, and that to make this control effective the Government must be backed up by an intelligent public opinion. On account of the scope and importance of the problem, it was decided that the subject should be given further study, and discussion thereof continued at a later meeting.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE FRICTION IN THE CHINESE NAVY

Peking, Feb. 19.

Admiral Wu Yu-lin did not leave Peking last evening as expected, but he will do so this evening or to-morrow at latest. Admiral Wu had an interview with the President this morning. According to Chinese unofficial reports, Admiral Wu's mission is ostensibly to inform Admiral Tu Hsi-kuai that the Tsingtao Squadron must remain under his control, but more particularly to remove recent friction between Marshals Wu Pei-fu and Chi Hsieh-yuan over the report that Marshal Wu had promised to secure the Vice-Presidency for Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang, Governor-General of Chêkiang, if the latter would join the Chihli Party.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

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PASSENGERS

INWARD.

Per str. Luenyi, February 15. From River Ports. Mrs. L. J. Knudsen, Misses Knudsen (2), Mrs. S. H. Dixon and child.

Per str. Nagasaki Maru, February 15. From Japan. Mrs. C. E. Patton, Messrs. Herguet, Forgue, Bellet, J. H. Vogel, C. Goetz, E. Carr and H. Misrahi.

Per str. Kiangwah, February 16. From River Ports. Mr. Porter.

Per str. Chungking, February 16. From Tientsin. Mr. and Mrs. Cornish and Mr. P. Grain.

Per str. Suiwo, February 16. From River Ports. Messrs. R. E. Sassoon, J. A. Lowder and H. I. Poy.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, February 16. From Ningpo. Dr. Y. S. Grant, Miss Cogdall, Mr. L. Hekking.

Per str. Chusan, February 16. From Hongkong. Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Dowie. **From Swatow.** Mr. P. C. Inglis, Dr. Huntley.

Per str. Shengking, February 17. From Ningpo. Misses Murray, Irene, Mrs. Fitzsimmons.

Per str. Changsha, February 17. From River Ports. Miss Marlow, Messrs. Y. Abbot, Duncan and Tipkoosky.

Per str. Tuckwo, February 17. From River Ports. Messrs. Mackenzie, R. Herbertz, J. Campbell, R. G. Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hurtman and child.

Per str. Tatung, February 18. From River Ports. Mr. Wallace.

Per str. Szechuen, February 18. From Hongkong.—Mrs. P. R. Purslow, Messrs. W. Reid and P. R. Crickley.

Per G.L.S. Pembrokeshire, February 18. From London. Mr. L. B. King.

Per str. Kiangan, February 19. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. Warner.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, February 19. From Ningpo. Dr. E. M. Poteat.

Per str. Wenchow, February 20. From River Ports. Mr. Smythe.

Per str. Hsin Ningshao, February 20. From Ningpo. Mr. H. B. Duff.

Per str. Shengking, February 20. From Ningpo. Rev. J. Stucton.

Per str. Tungchow, February 20. From Tientsin. Mr. and Mrs. G. I. Allen, Rev. F. F. Frederic, Miss L. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Doherty, Master Lodahsa.

Per str Kutwo, February 20. From River Ports. M. Reid, Miss E. S. Avery, Mrs J. H. Gould, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, Miss Owen, Messrs. A. C. Coppin, J. Warry, S. R. Owen and J. S. Lee.

Per B.F.S. Teiresias, February 20. From Liverpool. Mr. H. B. Bates, Mrs. M. Bates, Messrs. A. D. Box, H. H. Brown, Mrs. A. J. Brown, Mr. W. C. Grant, Mrs. M. S. Johnson, Master L. T. Johnson, Mr. J. S. Kerling, Mrs. E. M. Law, Messrs. J. R. C. Law, S. H. Lewis, M. M. Macfarlane, W. Macaulay, Miss A. M. M. Park, Messrs. T. S. Powell, G. F. Rayden, T. T. Swanwick, A. Whiteley. **From Singapore.** Messrs. A. E. Savage and Frazer. **From Hongkong.** Mr. J. Law, Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, Miss E. Mitchell.

Per R.V.F.S. Sishan, February 19 From Vladivostok. Messrs. M. A. Kopenkowa, Kobe Gan, B. A. Gerchik Romanchuk, M. J. Standt, I. G. Lushin, K. I. Lunewskaia, T. A. Pashkova and two Children, Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Kuzmin, Mr. and Mrs. Kutneskaia.

Per str. Loongwo, February 21. From River Ports. Mrs. J. L. Miff, One Nurse, Rev. Mrs. L. L. Seliaim.

Per str. Hsiniung, February 21. From Wenchow. Mr. G. Wedderspoon, Mrs. E. Jessop and Miss Gardiner, Mrs. D. Thomas and child.

Per str. Shengking, February 22. From Ningpo. M. Hoskyns Perry.

Per str. Hsin Ningshao, February 22. From Ningpo. Mr. Gray.

Per str. Fengtien, February 22 From Chefoo. Mrs. Lucas and Mrs. Moores.

Per str. Hasan, February 22. From Foochow. Mr. Cowper, Misses Soper and Lockhart.

OUTWARD.

Per str. Shengking, February 15.—For Ningpo—Bishop P. M. Reynard, Miss F. Honey, Miss M. Cressy.

Per P. & O. S. Soudan, February 15.—For Singapore.—Messrs. H. S. Cross, H. John, Dr. A. Raslag. **For Hongkong.**—Mrs. G. M. C. d'Aguiar, Mr. A. L. d'Aguiar, Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Kunkle.

Per M.M.S. Corditlere, February 15.—For Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. Mayboa and child, Mr. J. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Maingon, Mr. G. Couturon, Dr. Bellet, Captain Forgues, Mr. and Mrs. G. Parker, Mrs. M. Stoitoh, Mr. and Mrs. C. Brix, Mrs. Laurent, Mrs. A. Slaboshewitch, Messrs. N. N. MacGill, Herroguet, Damour, T. H. Krukowsky, Le Roux, P. Joffre, E. Baptistin, M. Linga, H. Moret, E. Volaine, C. Deymonaz, J. Antoine. **For Port Said,**—Mrs. R. G. Lykiardopoulou, Messrs. D. Abramovitch, V. Antonievitch. **For Colombo.**—Mr. A. M. T. Woodward. **For Singapore.**—Miss J. J. Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. I. T. Mann, Miss A. Mann, Mr. J. C. Clapp. **For Saigon,**—Messrs M. Schenberg, R. Provort, H. Geneaux, L. Gaurand and A. Fragassin. **For Hongkong.**—Messrs. C. H. Glase, J. Durand, G. W. Groff, Phillips, A. Numa and Chaperon.

Per str. Chengtu, February 16.—For Tientsin—Mrs. L. J. Knudsen, Misses Knudsen (2).

Per str. Luenyi, February 16.—For River Ports.—Messrs. W. Wordley, V. Mogg, H. I. Clark, Edmonson, F. Dixon, J. J. Weale, A. W. Heath, A. Fraser and G. Hess.

Per str. Sinkiang, February 17.—For Hongkong.—Messrs A. Dryver and H. W. Lapsley.

Per str. City of Canterbury, February 17.—For London.—Mrs. T. Meodie and two children, Master R. F. Andrews, Miss M. S. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. W. McDonald, Mrs. R. A. P. Hill and three children, Miss M. Hill, Mrs. H. F. Lawson, Mrs. P. D. Sullivan and two children, Mr. G. Butchart, Mrs. E. M. Hynd and two children, Mrs. J. H. Warden and two children, Mr. H. P. Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. H. Edwards and child. **For Marseilles**—Mr. L. Trantwein. **For Hongkong.**—Messrs R. A. P. Hill, A. V. Rooth, J. E. Harvey and H. Arthur.

Per str. Wuhu, February 18.—For Canton.—Mr. G. Baangarten.

Per str. Shengking, February 18.—For Ningpo.—Mrs. G. High, Mrs. J. W. Decker and two children, Mr. Handley Derry.

Per str. Changsha, February 19.—For River Ports.—Mr. F. L. Gregory.

Per str. Szechuen, February 19.—For Tsingtro.—Mr. A. R. Russell.

Per P. & O. S. Morea, February 19.—For Hongkong.—Mrs. M. Barber, Miss F. Caig, Mr. G. Heaphy, Mrs. P. N. Karanjia, Master and Miss P. W. Karanjia, Mrs. P. F. Lavers, Mrs. M. Myers, Master I. Murray, Mr. R. R. Roxburgh, Miss A. Relbouf, Mr. H. Ellis. **For Singapore.**—Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Crnuna, Mr. and Mrs. K. Kamada, Messrs. J. A. H. Brown, D. McColl. **For Colombo.**—Mr. R. C. Weinberg, **For Bombay.**—Messrs. D. E. Ebrahim, O. Janni, P. N. Karanjia, Misses S. M. Hudson, K. E. Pond, Mr. S. H. Valzerwatia, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wilson, Messrs. C. F. Lawson, S. Kunimatsu, M. T. Mirchandani. **For Marseilles.**—Rev. and Mrs. H. Dixon and child, Mr. S. F. Dockray, Mrs. E. M. Geesie, Miss L. K. Haass, Mr., Mrs. L. W. C. and Miss D. Lorden, Miss Loeslie, Dr. and Mrs. E. L. Marsh, Misses H. and R. Marsh, Mrs. P. W. Massey, Miss Massey, Messrs. H. H. Robson, J. K. Turnbull, Mrs. S. Howard. **For London.**—Mrs. J. T. W. Brooke, Miss E. N. and Master J. R. P. Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bough, Misses H., M. and L. Bough, Mr. R. N. Bryson, Miss M. Bearder, Messrs. W. L. Bloodworth, G. H. Charlton, W. Davies, C. G. Fry, Misses G. A. Grills, F. D. Joyce, Mrs F. S. and Master R. Joyce, Master J. Lewis, Mr. H. Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Mills, Mr. and Mrs H. F. Marsh, Misses J. E. and J. L. Marsh Mr. C. J. S. Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. C. Mills, Miss B. Mills, Mr. L. G. Murray Kidd, Mrs. H. W. P. McMeekin and child, Master P. D. H. McMeekin, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Ryton, Misses D. and R. Ryton, Messrs. A. M. Robson, W. J. Turrell, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Toop, Misses M. Toop (2), Masters J. and W. Toop, Mrs. H. P. Sharp, Mr. R. A. Watt, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. P. Wood and two children, Mr. T. Webster, Mr. and Mrs R. Thompson, Rev. J. Campbell, Miss M. R. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs J. R. Lyness and child, Master L. Lyness.

Per str. Chusan, February 20.—For Chefoo.—Mrs. N. Lewis, Mrs. Stonehake.

Per str. Tatung, February 20.—For River Ports.—Mrs. Townsend, Messrs. F. T. Swanwick, Guard Goetz, Fisher, G. H. McLachlan and W. Wallace.

Per str. Shengking, February 22.—For Ningpo.—Mr. A. H. Hopkyn Rees.

Per str. Liangchow, February 22. For Amoy.—Messrs. W. M. Myse, E. H. C. Lamb.

Per str. Shuntien, February 22. For Chefoo.—Mr. Moores and Child. **For Tientsin.**—Captain and Mrs. H. H. Brown, Messrs. C. Kay-Robinson, J. H. Lucas, Mrs. W. H. T. Poate.

Per str. Shantung, February 23. For Swatow.—Mr. C. P. Lane.

BIRTHS

ENCARNACAO.—On February 16, 1924, at No. 29 Darroch Road, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Encarnacao, a daughter.

FENTON.—On February 19, 1924, at 102 Route Ferguson, Shanghai, the wife of Sydney G. Fenton of a daughter.

WHITELOCK.—On February 19, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. W. Whitelock, 14 Wayside Road, a daughter.

XAVIER.—On February 19, 1924, at St. Marie's Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Xavier, a daughter.

MARRIAGES

ALLAN—HARVEY.—On Saturday, February 16, 1924, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Very Rev. Dean Symons, James Robert Angus, only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Allan, of Shanghai, to Elsie Mitchell, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Gourlay Harvey, of Rockfort, Helensburgh, Scotland.

ANDERSON — GOUGET. — On February 16, 1924, at H.B.M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, before Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., Norman Walter Anderson, of Liverpool, England, to Therese Gouget, only daughter of Monsieur and Madame Ernest Gouget, of Shanghai.

HENRY-KAHLER.—On February 20, 1924, at H.B.M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, before Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral by the Very Rev. Dean Symons, Francis Henry, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Henry, of Exeter, England, to Thyra Joyce Kahler, daughter of Mrs. W. F. Kahler, of Shanghai. Tientsin papers please copy.

MAHOOD.—On February 19, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Mahood, C. M. Customs, a daughter.

PEACH.—On February 21, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Peach, a daughter.

DEATHS

BERSOUZA.—On February 16, 1924, at Q173, Chengtu Road, Shanghai, Alberto Bersouza, aged 42 years. Tientsin papers please copy.

BOWERN. — On January 13, 1924, at Boston, Lincolnshire, England, Ellen Bowern, in her 78th year, the beloved mother of Thomas William Bowern, of Shanghai. Deeply regretted.

CLARKE.—On Sunday, December 23, 1923, at the Rowans, Blatchington Road, Tunbridge Wells, England, Charles Cecil Clarke, late Cofmissioner in the Chinese Maritime Customs Service, aged 69 years.

DE SOUSA.—On February 14, 1924, at Berkeley, California, Mr. A. M. de Sousa, late of Chinese Maritime Customs, the dearly beloved father of Mrs. R. Dreysse (née de Souza). (By cable). Hongkong papers please copy.

LANGLEY-SMITH.—On Tuesday, February 19, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, Nelson Humphries Langley-Smith, son of William Langley-Smith, of Wotton Hill House, Gloucester, England, aged 32 years.

RIDDLE.—On February 13, 1924, at Birmingham, England, William George Langhorne Riddle, of Innis & Riddle (China), Ltd. (By cable.)

ROSS.—On Sunday, February 17, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, John Ross, Detective Sub Inspector, Shanghai Municipal Police, from appendicitis.

SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month	Barometer 9 A.M.	Barometer Att'ed Therm	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Feb. 15	30.28	46.8	N N W	2	39.6	35.6	40.8	34.2	
,, 16	30.44	45.3	W N W	2	34.7	29.0	46.1	24.0	B.
,, 17	30.33	46.2	S	1	38.2	34.4	52.3	29.1	B.
,, 18	30.05	46.2	S E	1	44.8	43.0	56.1	32.0	O.
,, 19	30.10	48.9	N N E	2	42.2	41.4	50.0	40.5	O.
,, 20	30.15	49.3	S S E	1	43.7	41.7	58.1	32.5	O. D. R.
,, 21	30.09	50.0	N E	2	45.5	43.3	56.1	36.2	R.
									O.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date	Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Rainfall Inches 1923
Feb. 15	31.0	44.4	44.0	52.0	Nil.	0.41
,, 16	28.0	37.2	44.8	45.0	Nil.	Nil.
,, 17	33.4	34.6	49.8	48.0	Nil.	Nil.
,, 18	38.0	42.0	54.0	48.0	0.08	1.17
,, 19	41.0	40.2	48.2	47.0	0.66	0.07
,, 20	37.0	36.0	56.0	41.0	Nil.	0.02
,, 21	39.0	33.4	52.8	41.8	Nil.	Nil.

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THE H. & S. BANK MEETING

Feb. 25.

THE chairman's speech at the annual meeting of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank is always awaited with eagerness. It is probably the weightiest expression of British business thought and policy that we hear during the year, and it is one to which no Government can afford not to listen. No disparagement of any other organization or financial institution need be looked for in this statement: for not only are the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank's interests in China in excess of other establishments', but it is alone among banks in having its policy wholly directed in the Far East, inspired by the acutest perception of the inseparable nature of British and Chinese interests, by the knowledge that nothing can be done to benefit the one which does not consider the welfare of the other.

The speech delivered by Mr. Lang on Saturday is important in proportion to the deplorable conditions in China and it was more than usually plain-spoken. His summary of those conditions needs no underlining and he is to be complimented on his denunciation of "the policy conceived in the artificial atmosphere of Washington" as having "ceased to have any relation to facts." The only criticism here possible is that such a relation has not ceased; it never existed. No one will question the description of the proposed 2½ per cent. surtax as "of minor importance beside the vast and complex problem now calling for solution" "a useless tax on trade unless accompanied by measures of fiscal and administrative reform." But the corollary to this assertion appears less acceptable. For the financial and conjoined problems, the chairman says, "a 2½ per cent. surtax is now utterly inadequate," and

> It is difficult to see how anything short of the full 7½ per cent. surtax proposed by the Mackay Treaty will meet the case, accompanied by provisions for a just apportionment of the revenue to the provinces in return for the abolition of all internal taxation on trade and their relinquishment to the Central Government of what may properly be classed as national revenues. The price to be paid may seem at first sight large, but it is insignificant compared with the gain in foreign trade resulting from a restoration of peaceful conditions and good government throughout the country, which must be the indispensable guarantee demanded.

The proviso in the last sentence must certainly be given due weight. But how is this indispensable guarantee to be obtained? Further, how shall the Powers secure "a just apportionment of the revenue to the provinces," their relinquishment of internal taxation and payment to the Government of the revenues it ought to have? On a smaller scale just such an apportionment was tried between Peking and Chêkiang in respect of the special tax submitted to by the tobacco companies in 1922 in order to free themselves from further taxation in transit; and the arbitrary imposition of a twenty per cent. tax in Chêkiang caused consternation last year chiefly because it so obviously destroyed all confidence in the similar arrangements for the sharing out of a Customs surtax between capital and provinces which were the whole basis of the Washington Conference's consent to that surtax. There is no limit to what Chinese officials would promise for a 7½ per cent. surtax. But the Powers would not be able to hold them to those promises for one moment longer than the officials wished without a scheme of foreign control virtually amounting to intervention, which would probably be impracticable in China's present temper, and to which the Powers would certainly never agree. The only result of the larger surtax would be to waste five per cent. more money, to put a still larger useless burden on trade.

The recommendation touching the disposition of the actual Customs surplus—namely that it should be withheld "from all contestants to accumulate in reserve until they had composed their differences"—points to the only efficacious way of dealing alike with this question and that of the projected surtax. A year ago the "North-China Daily News" urged very strongly that, if the time-clause in respect of the 2½ per cent. surtax really meant nothing, as contended by some people (now less positive in the matter), and if that surtax must indeed be imposed forthwith, then at least its proceeds should not be surrendered to any group of Chinese officials to play with nor used for addition of new, or consolidation of old, loans, but that it should be banked, as Mr. Lang said on Saturday, to accumulate until there was a Government to which it could safely be handed. Because two things are absolutely certain today: first, that there is no Government which can be trusted with money or security for money; secondly that the Powers cannot buy a good Government in China by any device which oriental duplicity would not outwit. Neither the financial nor any other problems of China can even be approached until she produces a Government worthy of the name. Therefore, the suggestion of temporarily withholding all surpluses, which are now a cause of bitter feeling among some Chinese politicians against the Powers—witness Dr. Sun Yat-sen's ceaseless contention that the latter enable Peking to collect revenues from Kuangtung for the purpose of warring on her—is wholeheartedly to be supported and pressed upon the Powers by every possible means.

For such a policy of rigid abstention from any direct or indirect interference in China's affairs, there is a further important argument. Chinese tell us frequently that the presence of foreigners among them prevents their adjusting their quarrels as would have been done in the past. In point of fact, it would repay the Chinese business community a hundred fold to insist on the sanctity of treaties, by which they themselves must be advantaged far more than the foreigners. But while the latter can hardly be expected to withdraw themselves and their belongings from China, they can practise a diplomatic withdrawal. We are accused of being unneutral: we can effectually silence that accusation by taking the course which Mr. Lang suggests and by refraining from diplomatic and financial patronage of any political faction which to-day is and to-morrow is cast into the oven In so doing we should confer upon Chinese public opinion, upon the unmistakable nationalistic spirit of which Mr. Rodney Gilbert writes to-day, a sense of freedom and responsibility to which it could not fail to respond.

IDENTICAL INTERESTS

Feb. 26.

THOSE of our readers who have glanced over the copy of the first issue of the "North-China Herald" with which we presented them on the occasion of the opening of our new building must have observed that the leader—the first ever written by an English journalist in China—was on a "Consideration of our present and future relations with China." That was seventy-four years ago and it is almost terrifying to think how much ink has been spilled and how many reams of paper utilized since the first newspaper saw the light in Shanghi in the further "consideration" of this perennial topic. How much heat has been generated and how many futile expletives discharged in the course of the discussion only the recording angel could tell.

What the Chinese have said on the subject of China's relation to the foreign community is not so well known to us, but the discussion must have been, at least, as interesting and as irritating to them as to our forebears seventy years ago and to our correspondents now. For the influx of foreigners into China, uninvited and unwanted, has had much the same effect as the intrusion of the irritant inside the shell of the oyster which is inevitably a continual worry to the mollusc, however satisfactory the result may be to the vendor of cultured pearls.

We seem to the Chinese to be for ever wanting something. We want roads and railways and wireless telegraphy. We "want the moon to play with, and the stars to run away with," and this constant restlessness is very annoying to those who are content with things as they are. Maugre these cross purposes, we believe there is one principle which if acted upon would, like a master key, open every lock and reduce to a minimum the friction which we all find so unpleasant. This is the frank recognition of the fact that our interests, as sojourners, and the interests of the owners of the land we live in, are essentially identical. Whatever is good for us is good also for the Chinese people. We might well test every concession or reform we ask for by this simple principle. Will it benefit the Chinese as much as ourselves? If so let us press for it by all reasonable means and if not let us be content to live without it.

A little thought will show that this principle covers every legitimate concession that we have any right to request. Take, for instance, the suppression of brigands. Foreign trade would certainly benefit if the country were rid of the bandit pest, but the benefit reaped by foreigners would be infinitesimal compared to the vast relief it would be to the Chinese. We were all moved by the story of two ladies who were carried off by brigands in the province of Honan. We read with alternate indignation and pity how they were dragged over mountains and through rivers. But the brigands had carried off some three thousand Chinese captives who were treated with infinitely less consideration than the foreign ladies. These captives were called "Ch'ien p'iao-tze," "cash tickets." And when one failed to be redeemed he was shot and this was called "sze-liao ch'ien p'iao-tze," "tearing up the cash ticket." Even when the brigands were scattered and the ladies set free, the Chinese captives had still to purchase their freedom, only the "cash tickets" had to be redeemed from the soldiers instead of from the brigands. We see that in this one case the elimination of brigands would have benefited the Chinese as against foreigners in the proportion of 3,000 to two.

Or take the abolition of likin, a reform that has been persistently asked for, often promised and never granted. The abolition of likin would benefit foreign trade considerably but more by getting rid of vexatious delays and annoyances than by the actual remission of the money value of the tax. The benefit to Chinese trade would be easily a hundredfold that secured by the foreigner. Beside the fact that even the tax on foreign goods falls ultimately on the Chinese consumer—this is as sure as death and as inevitable as mathematics—the native trader suffers a hundred times more from the iniquities of the tax collector than does the foreign merchant. Its abolition would be to him a relief unspeakable and the government that granted the boon would be in danger of incurring the woe denounced on those of whom all men speak well.

SOME SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Feb. 27.

SOME of the most interesting pictures that we have seen are those that the Carlton Theatre has lately been showing of Marshal Chang Tso-lin's army. That army, as readers of an article we published a fortnight ago may remember, is estimated at a strength of 200,000 and forty foreign instructors are said to be engaged in the training of it. But no article can convey an idea of the Manchurian troops' efficiency such as we get from the cinema. We see these troops drilling and in field manœuvres. The trenches they dig, their management of the guns, the camouflage they practise could hardly be improved upon anywhere. The air force is an important arm: one picture shows the sky full of Marshal Chang's aeroplanes. Then comes the grand inspection, a march past of cavalry, foot and artillery of all descriptions, precise, smart and perfect in detail and in mass. It is truly an awe-inspiring sight.

Now on the opposite page today one of our correspondents describes his visit to the camps of General Feng Yu-hsiang. There are no pictures available here to help the written word, but this is certainly vivid enough to make the reader pause. In equipment General Feng's troops may fall short of Marshal Chang's, for want of money, although one gathers that they have aeroplanes: and we hear nothing of foreign instructors. But in physical fitness, in drill and in devotion to their officers (who appear fully worthy of it) they are clearly inferior to none. And further they are possessed of that religious fervour which would seem invariably to produce the most terrible soldiers. Let such men be inspired with the belief that their country needs them and it will go hard with any troops whom they encounter.

General Feng Yu-hsiang is on the same side of the political hedge or at any rate *vis-à-vis* of Manchuria, as Marshal Wu Pei-fu. The latter's troops have long enjoyed the reputation of being the best trained and best led in China. It is recognized now that the victory over Chang Tso-lin's army in 1922, which gave them the best of their prestige, was not quite a fair test. But if they are as good as the other two forces mentioned above, they must be fairly formidable. It needs no great perception to see that Marshal Wu Pei-fu is doing all that he can to consolidate his power in Honan. His reach extends from the Navy at Tsingtao, for which he is endeavouring to make the Tsingtao-Tsinanfu railway pay, to the rich province of Szechuan, over which his lieutenant General Yang Sen appears at last to have gained control. He makes friends with the salt merchants of Shantung; he transfers the civil power from Kaifeng to Loyang; southwards, he is firmly supported by Tuchun Hsiao Yao-nan in Hupeh. What can all this mean but strenuous preparation for the possibility of another struggle with Chang Tso-lin?

This article is not risking prophecy; it seeks only to underline certain signs of the times which ought not to be overlooked. Here is one more of a different stamp. Last Saturday a Chinese lady opened in Shanghai a school for Chinese girl law students, of whom she has over a hundred, either in the school or taking instruction by correspondence. All over China, girls, for whom but twenty years ago education of any kind would have been considered quite unnecessary, are now giving themselves ardently to every branch of learning; and when a vote comes to mean anything at all, we may safely anticipate that women will exercise it equally with men. While the peasantry go on as they have done for centuries—a phenomenon not at all peculiar to China—through the classes just above there is an intellectual ferment at work which can neither be stilled nor ignored. Its immediate manifestations may appear silly and wrongheaded.

WU PEI-FU AND THE TSINGTAO NAVY

A Back-stairs Assault on Party Round President Tsao: The Struggle for Shantung

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Feb. 19.

Admiral Wu Yu-lin, Minister of Communications, has just set out on what is advertised as a tour of inspection of the railways. Since the first objective in his itinerary is Loyang, and since the Minister of Communications is an elderly gentleman who loves his ease, the local press and all local officials are busily speculating upon the real purpose of this journey, assuming that it must have to do with political matters of great moment.

The general assumption is that the Admiral is travelling on behalf of President Tsao to relieve the serious strain within the Chihli party resulting from Wu Pei-fu's latest manœuvres. The Loyang Marshal has evidently appointed himself high controller of the retrieved Southern navy with the initial purpose of making trouble for the Chinese companies which have officially been designated as China's heirs to returned German holdings in Shantung. The ships recently shifted from Canton to Tsingtao, after much trouble with barnacles, were not moved against Chang Tso-lin as so many persons assumed, but against the present administration of Shantung which Wu Pei-fu would like to eliminate, thereby crippling the group behind the throne in Peking.

It is very widely advertised that the actual authority in Peking is divided between Wang Yu-chih and Li An-ching. Wang Yu-chih, better known as Wang Lan-t'ing, who is now chief secretary in the Presidential Palace, was originally a company scribe in the Peiyang army, formerly attached to Tsao Kun's 3rd Division, who became closely attached to Tsao Kun in Szechuan in 1916 when an illiterate aide was made a staff officer and had to have a writer as colleague to help him with his clerical work. Li An-ching, now palace treasurer, was until recently President Tsao's number one boy. While it is generally reported that these two worthies are the high directors of policy in Peking, it is not so generally known that they take their advice from Chang Chih-t'an who was a cabinet minister under Chin Yun-peng and who is still on the closest possible terms with Chin Yun-peng and Pan Fu. Chang Chih-t'an lives in Peking, holding no office, but sees Wang Yu-chih at night whenever the latter is faced with a serious political problem and wants advice. It is this organization that Wu Pei-fu is attacking indirectly through Shantung.

THE SHANTUNG CONCESSIONS.

It will be remembered that the Sino-Japanese agreements relative to the retrocession of German concessions in Shantung provided for the designation of Chinese companies to take over these concessions together with Japanese firms and the designated companies were, as everyone anticipated, those controlled by Chin Yun-peng, Pan Yu and Wang Chan-yuan. Wu Pei-fu, in attacking the Peking advisorate to the President, has taken the usual Chinese round about course of storming Chang Chih-t'an's friends in Shantung Chin Yun-peng and Pan Fu, through Chang Chih-t'an, influence policy in Peking. They are the principal concessionaires in Shantung, operating under the patronage of Civil Governor Hsiung Ping-chi, until recently Tsao Kun's chief of staff, so Loyang undermines their influence in Peking by assailing Hsiung Ping-chi, by bringing a fleet into Tsingtao, by taxing the Kiao-Tsi railway for its upkeep and by denouncing the companies which control the salt area near Tsingtao and the coal mines on the railway. If Wu Pei-fu can upset the present administration of Shantung he can so seriously incommode the men now in control in Peking through Wang Yu-chih, Li An-ching and Chang Chih-t'an that they will crumple before a frontal attack. This campaign is much more exciting in local political circles than the Chihli-Fengtien situation.

While the Kiangsu Military Governor, General Chi Hsieh-yuan, has much reason to complain of Wang Yu-chih's monopoly upon influence and would derive much satisfaction from his removal, it is assumed in Peking that he will be led to co-operate with the present administration in Shantung in opposition to Wu Pei-fu because of other grudges which he has against Loyang. General Chi Hsieh-yuan is now allied with Admiral Tu Shih-kuei, who has deserted Wu Pei-fu's camp and with General Sun Chuan-fang, who is no longer taking Wu Pei-fu's orders. General Chi of course wants to be absolute master of the lower Yangtze so that he can step into President Tsao Kun's place when the latter steps out. To this end he would like to remove Tsai Cheng-hsun from Kiangsi and Lu Yung-hsiang from Chêkiang. Wu Pei-fu insists upon retaining General Tsai in Nanchangfu and, through negotiations with Marshal Tuan and General Lu Yung-hsiang, is showing a strong disposition to make his peace with the Anfu party and use them to limit Chi Hsieh-yuan's expansion.

FUKIEN'S DESIGNS ON CHEKIANG.

Sun Chuan-fang meanwhile is in a desperate position in Fukien. His troops are unpaid and he has no real control over Wang Yung-chuan and the other northern commanders who evicted Li Hou-chi and retain the actual control of the province. Sun's greatest ambition now is to get out of Fukien and to get control of either Kiangsi or Chêkiang. Chi Hsieh-yuan is not in a position to make war upon Wu Pei-fu in Kiangsi or upon Lu Yung-hsiang in Chêkiang, but he would be delighted to see Sun Chuan-fang undertake a campaign in either province as his ally. It is generally believed here that Sun Chuan-fang is now desperate enough to attack Chêkiang and the Chinese press is giving circumstantial reports of troop movements which appear to confirm this belief. According to telegrams published here the 2nd Division and the 10th Mixed Brigade are moving against Chêkiang from P'uch'eng under Meng Chao-yueh, while the 12th Division under K'ung Chao-t'ung is advancing from Ch'ung-an.

If Wu Pei-fu can be successfully resisted in Shantung and if Chi Hsieh-yuan becomes the leader of a coalition at the mouth of the Yangtze, with his own men in Anhui, Chêkiang and Kiangsi and with the Shantung officials as allies, he will exert much more influence upon Peking's policies than Wu Pei-fu, and the Chihli party is likely to become a league of militarists which will be solidly opposed to Wu Pei-fu and which will force him either to take orders or to play the rôle of an insurgent. The Tientsin and Paoting factions have just had a reunion in Tientsin which seems to indicate that Wu Ching-lien, Tsao Jui and Pien Shou-ching are again to exert some influence in Peking and there can be no doubt that they will unite to defend Hsiung Ping-chi and his subordinates in Shantung against Wu Pei-fu if the latter proves himself determined to rule his native province from Loyang.

It is said here that Admiral Wu Yu-lin's tour is undertaken on the President's behalf to pour oil on all these troubled waters and particularly to forestall an open breach between Chi Hsieh-yuan and Wu Pei-fu which would split the Chihli party beyond chance of healing and inevitably weaken Peking through the loss of one or the other of them.

CHINESE CONVICTS

Amnesties and Reduction of Sentences Forecast

Peking, Feb. 27.

The Ministry of Justice has issued an order to the Courts throughout China, in pursuance of the Presidential mandate on January 1, for inquiry and report with regard to prisoners (1) under sentence but not yet sent to gaol and (2) those who have been in prison for long periods.

With regard to the first list the Courts are required to ascertain what circumstances, if any, may be put forward in mitigation of the sentence, while the conduct in gaol of those in the second class will form the basis for reduction of sentence.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NAVAL ARMAMENTS

Misleading Message as to China's Non-Acceptance of Restrictions

Peking, Feb. 27.

Questioned regarding the message from Rome that China, among other nations, had declined to accept limitation of naval armaments, a representative of the Waichiaopu this evening said that he considered that the message, stripped of all explanation, was misleading, adding that China was always peace loving and she had never hesitated to lend her support, albeit meagre, to any project tending to eliminate warfare, but she possessed only a few cruisers with an aggregate displacement of about 15,000 tons, which was comparable with only one medium-sized dreadnought. It was therefore evident, he said, that China's naval forces were far from sufficient for defensive purposes.

Considering the extent of her coastal line, which was nearly 2,800 miles, she had a right to a much larger fleet and limitation at all in her case would practically mean no navy.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CANTON'S WAR CHEST AND CIVIC BILL

Proceeds of Confiscation and House Taxes Not Counting Gambling Revenue

Canton, Feb. 22.

According to an announcement made by Mr. Sun Ke, Mayor of Canton and son of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, at the committee-meeting of the executive of Canton, the revenue of the Canton Municipality, from March to December last year inclusive, amounted to $8,500,000,

This included $6,000,000 raised by selling public property, $1,500,000 from house-taxes and house-surtaxes, and $1,000,000 of miscellaneous income.

Of the above total, $6,000,000 was expended as military funds and $2,500,000 went to expenses in connexion with the municipal administration.

In view of the fact that the greater part of the military funds expended by Dr. Sun's troops since the beginning of last year has been raised in Canton and that, besides the above income, a vast amount has been raised in gambling taxes arbitrarily by various Government offices and troops, the actual revenue of Canton must have aggregated much more than the figures outlined.

The Merchants' Self-protecting Corps of Canton has of late greatly increased its influence, every time that Canton has undergone military disturbances, and is showing remarkable efficiency in the maintenance of peace and order in the city. During last year more than 1,000 men joined the Corps and up to the present its membership has reached about 3,200. If only more arms and ammunition can be obtained, three or four thousand men will, it is believed, be easily enlisted, thereby creating a formidable influence in the near future.—Eastern News Agency.

GEN. FENG'S NEW POST

Gilded Banishment to North-west Frontier

Peking, Feb. 28.

The Cabinet this morning voted $60,000 to be set aside for the expenses of the headquarters of the Tupan of Northwest Frontier Affairs, General Feng Yu-hsiang.

The Cabinet also considered a report from Dr. C. T. Wang regarding developments in Sino-Russian affairs.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING DAY BY DAY

Six Bills Before the Senate: Headquarters at Yochow for Northern Army

Peking, Feb. 18.

Six bills were on the agenda for this afternoon's meeting of the Senate which was attended by 542 members. Mr. Ku Chai-yan presided.

The first three bills were similar in nature. They related to the organization of a special commission to adjudicate upon charges laid against Cabinet Ministers. After a brief discussion, all three were referred to a committee of investigation.

The fourth bill embodied a request to the Government to submit to the House the nomination for Chief Judge of the Supreme Court in accord with the new constitution.

That the Government be requested to order that all bills dealing with legal matters prepared by Government organizations be submitted to the House for approval, was the purpose of the fifth bill.

The sixth bill called upon the Government to take steps to have the dispute between China and Great Britain on the subject of Tibetan Boundaries quickly settled.

All three bills were passed.

Feb. 19.

There was a small attendance at the Cabinet meeting this morning. Gen. Lu Chin (Minister of War), Mr. Cheng Keh (Minister of Justice), and Mr. Wang Ko-ming (Minister of Finance) were absent, as were also Admiral Wu Yu-lin (Minister of Communications) and Mr. Chang Kuo-kan (Minister of Education), but they were represented by the Vice-Ministers. The official announcement of the meeting says that it was decided that Mr. Tso Pen-chang, acting Taoyin of Yuchang (Kiangsi), should be given substantive rank. It is understood that the gold franc question was again discussed.

Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan, Inspecting-General of Hunan and Hupeh, has telegraphed to the Government recommending the appointment of Gen. Chang Kou-yung, formerly in command of the 26th Division, as Chief of Staff to the Inspecting-General of Hunan and Hupeh.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Feb. 23.

All the Cabinet was represented at a meeting this morning, over which the Premier presided, the Vice-Ministers of Communications, Justice and Education attending. Mr. Wang Ko-ming had not fully recovered from his illness, but he was present. The gold franc question and the Government's financial policy were the principal subjects discussed.

The Cabinet referred to the Ministry of Education for consideration and report the request of the Academy of National Literature of Kiangsu Province for financial assistance.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Parliament's Vacation

Peking, Feb. 24.

A joint informal meeting of the Members of both Houses of Parliament took place yesterday afternoon at the House of Representatives under the chairmanship of Mr. Ku Chia-yin and was attended by 154 Members of both Houses. The supporters of Mr. Wu Ching-lien were in favour of Parliament going into recess for one week, while the Constitutional party advocated the adjournment of Parliament *sine die*, a proposition which was warmly opposed by the supporters of Mr. Wu. On the other hand, the neutrals urged that Parliament should be suspended for one month on the understanding that, if important business transpired, the Houses could be convened immediately and function, provided there was a one-third majority. None of the three propositions advanced was approved and the meeting was adjourned until Monday. In view of the prevailing apathy in Parliamentary circles, it is not anticipated that any result will be achieved.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Commission for Communications: Further Overtures to Gen. Chang Tso-lin

Peking, Feb. 25.

Following the example of the Waichiaopu, which appointed a commission to deal with foreign affairs in relation to the Constitution, the Chihtungpu has appointed a commission to deal with communications in respect to the Constitution, consisting of 15 members of the Ministry of Communications. It is believed that Mr. Sun To-yu, the Vice-Minister, will be appointed Chairman of the commission.

Mr. Chen Chieh, the retired Superintendent of Customs at Hankow and Provincial Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, is expected here in a day or two. It is understood that he will be placed on the waiting list of ministers abroad and may be given a post by the Waichiaopu in the near future.

Gen. Lu Chin, Minister of War, has despatched Major-General Chen Tao-sheng to Mukden to endeavour to induce Gen. Chang Tso-lin to fall into line with the plans for national reunification.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Commissions on Departmental Affairs: Soviet Commissioner and Japanese Minister

Peking, Feb. 25.

Mr. Yoshizawa, Japanese Minister, had an unofficial talk with Mr. Karakhan yesterday at which views were exchanged regarding recent questions between Russia and Japan.

The various Ministries are appointing special commissions to draw up the details of departmental affairs required for the enforcement of the Constitution. Following the lead of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Finance has appointed its Vice-Minister as Chairman of its commission. The members will be selected from the Counsellors, Chancellors and heads of departments.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Row in the Cabinet: The Naval Squabble: New Descent upon Kuangtung

Peking, Feb. 26.

The Cabinet this morning decided to appoint Mr. Tsao Jui Tupan of Government mining enterprises in Chihli province.

Vernacular newspapers indicate that friction has arisen between the Premier and the Minister of Finance.

Rumours of the impending resignation of both are circulating.

Mr. Wu Yu-lin telegraphed to the Government yesterday that Marshal Chi Hsueh-yuan has expressed readiness to carry out Presidential instructions in every way. Marshal Chi added that he would call on Admiral Tu Hsi-kuei to impress upon him the necessity for peaceful co-operation between the latter's men and those of Admiral Wen Shou-teh.

General Shen Hun-ying, the former influential military leader under General Lu Yung-ting at Canton, who has recently been assembling his former troops with the object of launching an attack on Canton in the interests of General Wu Pei-fu, has despatched a delegate to Loyang for funds to carry on his enterprise.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINA AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Claim to a Seat on the Council

London, Feb. 27.

In an article in the "Nineteenth Century" on Asia and the League of Nations, Mr. Chu Chao-hsin, the Chinese Minister and China's delegate to the Assembly, urges China's claims to a seat on the Council of the League. He emphasizes the Chinese keenness for the principles of the League and points out that the failure to observe the geographical basis of Council representation may prejudice the future of the League.

If the League ever ceases to be a world-wide concern, the result will be that nations situated in the American continent will establish their own League and the nations of Asia will follow suit.—Reuter.

justice and of what would happen if extraterritoriality were to be abolished within the next twenty years or until, after a substantial period of time, the Chinese have shown that they have some conception of what the administration of justice means. In November, 1922, that is more than five months before the new Law was promulgated, a Russian subject was convicted under Clause 243 of the Chinese Provisional Criminal Code by a local Chinese Court in Manchuria of fraudulently imitating the goods of a well-known British firm (The instance is well known as the Harbin Case). This was a case of an ordinary criminal prosecution for imitation of a trademark—what is commonly known as a passing off case—and the question as to whether the mark was registered or not did not affect the case at all. As a matter of fact the mark at that time could not have been registered as there was no provision for trademark registration in China, because filing a mark with the Provisional Trademark Bureau established at the Customs, as is well-known and is stated on the receipt, affords no legal protection.

In October, 1923, the prisoner appealed against the conviction and the High Court of Manchuria held that although the appellant had been rightly convicted, yet as the new Chinese Trademark Law was now in force and the British firm in question had not registered under it. they had no exclusive rights under it and the conviction was quashed.

What can we expect if our rights and property are entrusted to Chinese officials in the face of such gross injustice and disregard of all principles of law and equity as is displayed in that case?

Although we mentioned that we did not intend to consider the Act in its host of imperfections of detail, we may be forgiven if we allude very briefly to two or three of the most oustanding of the minor points. In the first place there is no provision that the trademark register shall be open to the inspection of the public as is the case under English and Hongkong law, and the power of the Bureau to keep anything on the register secret is obviously liable to be abused. Again, under Article 16, British subjects whose marks are registered in the United Kingdom are at a distinct disadvantage in comparison with Chinese and possibly other nationals, for under that section a trademark already registered in a foreign country can only be registered for the period allowed in that country. In the United Kingdom that period is 14 years, so that such British subject could only register in China for fourteen years whereas Chinese can register for twenty. It is true that application may be made for renewal, but even here the Chinese Law only gives the registered proprietor the right to apply for renewal and not a definite right to renewal as should be the case.

Another important objection to the new law is the excessive rate of the fees charged by the Bureau. The fee for registration or renewal of a trademark under the new law is $40 which is roughly four times the fee chargeable in England or Hongkong, while the fee for transfer on sale of a registered trademark is $20 or roughly double the English or Hongkong fees. An applicant for registration of a single mark under the Chinese Law will have to pay at least $46 in fees alone, and as apparently there is no provision for foreign lawyers appearing before the Trademark Bureau or before any of the Tribunals, no one can possibly foretell how much in addition applicants may be obliged to expend upon Chinese legal assistance. Further in view of what must be the complete ignorance of practically all Chinese lawyers of trademarks or trademark law, it is impossible to say of what value this Chinese legal assistance will be.

The latter points are only a few among many imperfections. It has above all to be emphasized that the one fundamental and vital objection is that we dare not at the present time trust our interests to Chinese officialdom unless we have the safeguard of foreign supervision and representation.

At their last conference the British Chambers of Commerce passed the following resolution:—

3.—Trademarks. — "That this Conference earnestly requests His Majesty's Minister to use every possible endeavour to ensure that the rights and property of British subjects are not jeopardized by the recognition or acceptance of the New Trademark Law by His Majesty's Government, without such modifications as will provide for adequate foreign representation in the Trademarks Bureau, and on every Tribunal which may be called upon to give any decision affecting foreign interests in connexion with Trademarks."

It may be suggested that even that was not forcible enough. It is not merely our rights under the Mackay Treaty that we are seeking to protect and that we must protect at all costs, but our general extra-territorial right, and we suggest that if there is any fear whatever of the Act being passed in its present form, or without numerous amendments, to some of which only we have referred, a mass meeting of merchants should be called or a petition widely circulated to the effect that the foreign community of merchants view with the utmost alarm the proposal to allow any Chinese Trademark Law to come into operation unless and until foreigners have the protection of adequate foreign representation in the Trademark Bureau and on every Tribunal which may be called upon to give a decision affecting foreign interests in connexion with trademarks and until several minor amendments have been made (some of which have been indicated above).

MR. T. INUMARU, manager of the Imperial Hotel, has been decorated with a membership in the Order of the British Empire by King George in recognition of "valuable service rendered the British Embassy and British subjects during the earthquake in September." In addition to giving the staff of the British Embassy free quarters to replace the embassy building, which was severely shaken by the quake, Mr. Inumaru worked ceaselessly day and night in efforts to supply every possible comfort to foreigners who had sought refuge in the hotel.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

French Taxation

It is highly satisfactory to see that the passage of M. Poincaré's new scheme of taxation and other financial measures has been followed by recovery of the franc to below the 100 point. No better proof than that could be given of the restoration of confidence. In this connexion we regret that last Thursday's leader gave pain to one of our French readers, especially that part in which French peasants were said to be turning their cash into something tangible. Our correspondent says that the French peasant has no head for speculations in dollars and sterling. With all deference to our correspondent's naturally greater knowledge of his countrymen, it is not a question of speculation but of buying gold; and the French peasant, who is at all times remarkably shrewd, has learnt a good deal about foreign currencies during and since the war. Not, however, to add to our offence, we would say that Thursday's article was certainly not meant to hurt any feelings, but rather to find the best explanation of an unpleasant phenomenon. And it is surely preferable to be able to believe that peasants are momentarily frightened about their savings, than to have to say that the Ruhr occupation is not meeting its cost, that French factories are idle or that the French paper currency is being inflated—any of which is untrue. The recovery of the franc by six points in three days and the new taxation will, we trust, ensure still further improvement.

Mr. Widler Still a Prisoner

We are able to-day to publish a further account of Mr. Elly Widler's experiences as a prisoner in the hands of the Szechuan leader General Yang Sen, and the case is one to which attention should be given by all foreigners. The charge against Mr. Widler is that of smuggling arms—apparently to the Southern Generals in Szechuan because he has been arrested by one of the Northern ones—and the Chinese keep him in prison and take jurisdiction over him because of a legal technicality which prevents him proving Swiss citizenship. The position is that Mr. Widler was born in China long before there was any adequate Swiss representation here, and it will readily occur to readers that anybody so circumstanced might have equal difficulty in proving his nationality. Therefore, in such a case, he is at the mercy either of a Chinese civil court or a court martial. Mr. Widler protests his innocence of the offence charged and desires nothing better than an opportunity to clear himself before such a tribunal as the Mixed Court in Shanghai, but no such chance, has come his way and he remains at Wanhsien, six months after his arrest, still awaiting a proper trial. Neither at this nor any other stage of the case is it for us to express an opinion on the guilt or innocence of the accused man, but we can most strongly protest against a procedure which keeps a man in gaol six months without any reasonable effort to dispose of the case against him. Where the present matter will end nobody can say, but all must have a very good idea of what will happen if this sort of procedure is allowed to become more common than it is at present. It will not be the subjects of one or two nationalities only who are kept in prison with no proper chance to clear themselves, but it will extend to members of all the nations. That interesting section of the community which no longer desires the protection of extraterritoriality might well take note.

China Awakening

While most observers of China are taken up with her bandits and disruption, a contributor to the "Contemporary Review" for January, the Rev. A.M. Chirgwin, draws an arresting picture of the extent to which her people are awakening.

"No land (he writes) has been more deeply disturbed by the impact of modern civilization on an unprepared people than China. In less than one generation China has passed from the candle to the electric age, from the wheelbarrow to the motor-lorry, from the bullock-cart to the aeroplane."

For a sign of the times Mr. Chirgwin mentions that one of the towers of the Great Wall, built to keep out the barbarian, is now used as a receiving and broadcasting station. But most significant, he says, is the intellectual renascence; and he quotes the experience of a Western-trained Chinese returning to his home after 10 years.

The outward changes which he found were few as compared with those of an immaterial and spiritual character. Everywhere was a new kind of invisible power and atmosphere which found expression in the tone of public opinion, the attitude of ordinary citizens, and the topics discussed in the newspapers. Dr. Lew spent an evening roaming round bookshops and newspaper-stalls, and gathered some 50 different kinds of magazines and journals. He found on investigation that there were more up-to-date matters discussed and a wider range of opinions expressed in those magazines than any combination of 50 magazines picked up from American bookstalls would contain.

And the conclusion Mr. Chirgwin comes to is that

The twentieth century will be China's century, just as the outstanding feature of the nineteenth century was the unprecedented development of America.

It may indeed be so, though we do not care to prophesy. But in many respects Mr. Chirgwin is undoubtedly right. Only to-day we print an account of the opening of a law school for Chinese girls. All over the country there are similar examples of the new mental ferment which in turn is responsible for the new nationalistic spirit, spoken of in these columns yesterday. As yet the visible effects on China's political life are nil and Mr. Chirgwin does not give enough weight to the fact to prevent his article from being misleading to Western readers. But of the ultimate outcome of the struggle between new and old there appears no doubt.

Sovietism in Egypt

The attempt of the Egyptian textile-workers at Alexandria to bring into being a mild form of Sovietism has not so far proved highly successful. Whoever instigated it seems to have failed to take into account the fate which overcame the Italian workers who shortly after the Armistice flew the red flag over factories, barricaded themselves in and put up a fight for Communistic management and a Communist government. The troops had to be called out on that occasion, in fact artillery had to be used, and the Soviet followers were finally forced to capitulate. Their Egyptian imitators have not waited so long, but very wisely evacuated their positions when news arrived that soldiers were on their way to expel them They had, in any case, absolutely no occasion for risking an encounter with an armed force, for it is tolerably certain that although the quarrel with the employers was theirs, the Soviet method of going about work was not. It is only four years ago that it was found how schoolboys were leading the lower orders in the country in riot and revolt, and observers have noted that the inhabitants of Egypt, Arabs or whatever be their precise race, are among the most easily excited people in the world and thereafter, while the influence of the demagogue lasts, the most easily led. Taking this into consideration the reports of political intrigue at the back of the Alexandria movement are practically certain to be true. and the only way to deal with the case is a firm hand and force.

The Tea Duty

Mr. Snowden, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, is credited with the intention to lighten the duty on tea if his budgeting for the next financial year permits. With the Labour Party this is a matter of broad principle, that standard articles of consumption by the working classes should be as free from taxation as possible, and in the circumstances it can hardly be considered as certain that the Government will pay any special attention to the present preferential duty against non-British teas. It would, however, be a good stroke of business if they decided to sweep it away. This duty, an additional twopence on tea grown outside the Empire, was imposed as a sop to the Imperial Preferentialists who were led to believe that it was the beginning of a great scheme of Preference. Nothing of the kind happened, and this duty remains as the sole remnant, and a bad one, of that policy. It has been reduced to just over a penny-halfpenny, and of course brings in a small revenue, although nothing in comparison with the amount of irritation it has caused in the past to Chinese and others in the tea trade. This, of course, attained full measure when a couple of years after its imposition the tea trade fell temporarily on evil days. In view of the indication given in the Home Press regarding Mr. Snowden's policy we may be certain that the China tea interests at Home, as well as Java and Japan, will be hard at work just now in an endeavour to influence the Government for its abolition, and it would be a comparatively easy task. The Cabinet would have the full support of the Labour and Liberal Parties in such a measure and a majority would be assured.

Tuchuns and Traffic

There are people malicious enough to be highly delighted at the offence committed by General Feng Yu-hsiang against the Legation Quarter's traffic rules and the luckless police who so bravely enforced them. For so, they say, will the august residents of that Quarter have got a real idea at last of what Tuchunism means. What it does mean as applied to traffic, is shown in a characteristic article by Mr. Rodney Gilbert on page 349. The contrast between Peking in camel-and-wheelbarrow days and Peking flooded with motor-cars, is rather like China under a monarchy and under a Republic. There were rules which everyone understood and obeyed; now, if there are any rules, nobody understands them and certainly does not dream of obeying them. The only fixed rule, it seems, is that the official is always in the right and must on no account be interfered with. It was, apparently, quite beyond General Feng Yu-hsiang's comprehension that a common policeman should be entitled to question his procedure and the said policeman suffered accordingly. Now, of most Chinese generals one would expect nothing else. Of General Feng, by all one has heard of him, one had hoped something better. A policeman is in himself nobody particular: it is what he represents, law and order, the welfare of society at large, that counts; and that, General Feng, with his reputation for discipline and drill, might have been expected to appreciate. Apparently, however, his sense of discipline only works in one direction.

TWO contingents of Chinese, numbering respectively 16 and 111, have left Hongkong to represent the Colony at the Empire Exhibition, Wembley. The first group included Sir Robert Ho Tung (one of Hongkong's Associate Commissioners at the Exhibition), Lady Ho Tung, Mr. Ip Lan-chuen (Secretary of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce), Mr. Ma Wing-ching (Secretary of the Canton Nan-yang Brothers Tobacco Co.) and Miss Siu Wai-sheung. The latter, who has studied in England, will represent her father who is a prominent local merchant and an exhibitor at Wembley. Mr. Ip Lan-chuen is to act as a general helper at the exhibition to the Chinese representatives. The larger contingent, numbering 111, including women, embarked in the afternoon by the Blue Funnel str. Agapenor. They comprise skilled workmen to be used for the display of local processes of various branches of handicraft and industry.

The processes of all fermentation are naturally heady. The point to remember is that they are changing China, producing something within her as yet incalculable but which is bound to mould her future destinies.

Here then are the main ingredients of a most absorbing problem: great armies equipped and prepared as no Chinese army ever was before: and a great moral force of equal novelty, as yet incoherent, deprived of the means for its perfecting that it should have, but none the less alive and growing. On the face of it, that force should be antagonistic to the armies, at least when they display their strength in civil war. But as China is, it is quite possible that one of these military overlords might swallow up the other and then be clever enough to turn the intellectuals and the dawning sense of national patriotism that they represent to his own purpose. Which way is it to be? One can only guess. But as one surveys the signs of the times in China, the conviction grows that the much-looked-for new cycle is likely to bring startling changes.

EXPERIMENTS IN DEMOCRACY

Feb. 28.

IT will be a hopeful advance in China when her students and merchants take larger and more intelligent views of the history and politics of other countries. As indicating a step in this direction is the statement we published a few days ago, that the recent fall of the Conservative Government in Great Britain and the advent of a Labour Cabinet has aroused considerable interest in Shanghai, a leading silk merchant going so far as to express the opinion: "My look see. English Kung Boo (government) makee spoilum: just now all coolie take care:" We may not agree with this pessimistic conclusion but it is gratifying to know that the law-abiding, industrious classes are beginning to watch the course of events abroad, especially if it is done with the hopes of finding the solution of some of their own political difficulties.

For this purpose the Chinese can hardly do better than study the present course of English politics, for though the differences between the two countries are many and great, yet they have much in common. Each has a long past of which it is very proud, and the peoples are very conservative concerning their institutions and customs. Notwithstanding this conservatism in each there has been a revolution: in England in 1649, and in China in 1911, with the overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of an entirely new system of government: in each the high hopes entertained by the revolutionists of a better and happier state ended in disappointment: each country is now making a great democratic experiment and has the same problems connected with poverty and unemployment

Of course in the political experiments that are being tried, England has great advantages. For her political history for centuries past, apart from the one sudden and sharp revolution, has been one of steady progress, broadening slowly down from precedent to precedent, the people gradually becoming accustomed to the necessary changes. Moreover, the Cromwellian revolution is now so far off that its aims and methods and the results which followed can be accurately appraised and judged impartially. There was much that was good in it but the country was divided and the Puritans had to win and maintain their power by the sword, and during the short period of the Commonwealth they never succeeded in winning the wholehearted support of a majority of the people. It was the genius of Cromwell alone which enabled the Commonwealth to last as long as it did, and when he died there was a quick return to the monarchy and apparently to the old ways. Yet the influence of the revolution lasted on and it was educative: In the words of T. H. Green, the radical philosopher of Oxford, the movement had to die in order that it might rise again and make more thoroughly its own the forces and interest which had conquered it. Since then other influences have wrought changes in the political system and have made it possible, as the result of this slow education, for a Labour Government to come into power. There should be little fear of sharp, radical changes. The latest experiment in democracy is being tried in very favourable circumstances as the Labour party is opposed by two parties each more conservative and almost as strong as itself, and these in combination can easily prevent changes being made which are inimical to the vital interests of the country.

In China the revolution of 1911 was too sudden and violent; the people were totally unprepared for it. And as the new form of government has little or no connexion with the old, it is utterly alien to all, high and low, and misgovernment on the part of the officials and lawlessness on the part of the people are inevitable. Hence the fundamental political need of China to-day is the establishment of a government—it is not for foreigners to decide what its form should be—which shall be in harmony with the spirit or ethos of the Chinese people and with all that is good in their customs and traditions, a living, active government. Until it is established there can be no restoration of law and order, no guarantee for the prosperity and progress of the nation. If the Chinese would abandon their paper schemes of government and in the light of the struggles of other peoples for good and stable government, carefully study the history of their own people and the present national needs, they would soon evolve a government that would command the respect and loyalty of all classes of the people and respond to their growing patriotism.

THE recent fall of the Conservative Government in Great Britain and the advent of a Labour Cabinet has created no small amount of interest in local Chinese circles. One of the leading silk merchants in the place has thus described the transition to a foreign friend:—"My look see English Kung Boo makee spoilum. Just now all coolie take care."

THE Nantao Cigarette Dealers' Association has decided that, in the event of Yu Ya-ching's attempt at mediation proving to be a failure, all the cigarette dealers' shops in Chinese territory shall be closed to business so that the special tax can not be enforced. A circular has been sent out, warning all cigarette dealers to reduce their orders.

THE CHINESE TRADE MARK LAW

Feb. 29.

AT a time when China has never given the least evidence of her ability to govern herself or her willingness to protect the interests of foreigners—as shown in the speech of the Chairman of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank—we, or rather the foreign merchants and traders in China are, if the report appearing in the "North-China Daily News" of January 26 last is true, the agonized but impotent witnesses of what may easily prove one of the greatest tragedies in the history of foreign commerce in the Far East—the recognition of the new Chinese Trademark Law.

An air of mystery surrounds the parentage and birth of this Law. It was published in a Chinese newspaper on May 4, and the first intimation that any foreign, or at any rate any British, firm received even of its existence was when some members of the Chamber of Commerce received circular letters dated August 10 last from the office of the Trademark Registration Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture & Commerce at Shanghai. Any foreigner who chooses to examine in detail this abortion which has been produced can well understand the desire of its parents or its sponsors to shun all publicity. Although it has been considered by certain Chambers of Commerce and of course by the Diplomatic Body, the general public have remained practically unconscious of its existence and absolutely ignorant of its details and of the menace which it presents to foreign commerce. With regard to the action which the Diplomatic Body has taken, we do not know the personnel of the committee (or other body) which presumably advised them or whether that committee was fully alive to the dangers of any form of recognition in the present form of this Law. With a view to preventing an irreparable disaster the fullest possible publicity must be given to the Act and its consequences in the hope of strengthening the hands of the Diplomatic Body and of arousing the whole community of foreign merchants to take concerted action, and if they can accomplish nothing in China at any rate to persuade others who are interested at Home to some form of Parliamentary action.

To turn now to the Act itself, what are the objects for which it was passed? We are forced to conclude that it is not a genuine attempt to devise a Trademark Law in the interests of those who up to the present time must have by far the largest vested interests in trademarks (we refer, of course, to the foreign merchants), but it is a subtle and insidious attempt on the part of the Ministry of Agriculture & Commerce to obtain by legislation what they cannot secure by treaty. It is, in effect, a partial abolition of extraterritoriality, or in other words an alteration of treaty obligations. Its chief objects may be summarized as follows:—

(1) To make the first breach into extraterritorial rights, and thereby to prepare the ground for future and larger breaches until total abolition is achieved.

(2) To provide probably lucrative posts for Chinese officials with unlimited opportunities for squeeze.

(3) To provide revenue for the State.

(4) To give Chinese in respect of trademarks many advantages over foreigners.

Certainly not the least serious is the first object, and it is difficult to think that this point has been fully realized by those in whose charge our interests are placed. It is idle to consider the details of this Law at the present time or indeed until the fundamental objections have been removed and the proper procedure has been followed, *i.e.* a proposed draft Law duly published and subjected to criticism and then subject to amendments approved by foreign countries. Every Bill in England affecting even the smallest rights is printed and the public have an opportunity of considering how it affects their interests and, if it does so adversely, of instituting an agitation in the Press, of exercising pressure on members of Parliament, of sending deputations to the Government or Department in custody of the Bill and of preparing if necessary monster petitions. Instead of that, we have in this case an act of spoliation which infringes treaty rights, which is ludicrously imperfect and incomplete, coming upon an unsuspecting foreign business community like a thief in the night.

Two Reuter telegrams must here be quoted in view of the arguments to be put forward:—

Peking, Jan. 29.

It is understood that the Diplomatic Body will shortly send a Note to the Waichiaopu containing the considerations on which they would be prepared to recommend their Governments to recognize the Chinese Trade Marks Law, the two main conditions being extension of the time limit for registration and employment of foreigners in the Registry Office so as to facilitate dealing with complicated questions which are bound to arise.

As already pointed out, the said law is a *fait accompli* except for foreign recognition. Some Japanese and German firms have already registered. The Diplomatic Body have recently been giving the matter their most careful attention and are doing their best in the interests of foreign merchants. It appears likely that the Chinese will agree to extension of the time limit, but employment of foreigners, who will be employees and not advisers, is more likely to meet with objection.

Peking, Feb. 1.

The Diplomatic Body sent a note to the Chinese Government on Wednesday afternoon containing three "considerations and one essential condition" on which the Powers are prepared to recognize the Chinese Trademarks law:—

Firstly, objecting to Article Ten of the Chinese Law giving the Trademarks Bureau the right to apply for change of the firm's representative applying for registration, which the notes characterizes as arbitrary and useless and should be abolished;

Secondly, suggests foreign expert assistance in the Bureau so as to facilitate dealing with complicated questions; and,

Thirdly, asking for assurance that the Trademarks Gazette will publish fully and expeditiously all registrations and details connected with them, adding that the value of this will be greatly enhanced if accompanied by an English translation.

The fourth article of the Note contains three essential conditions:—

Firstly, requests extension to six months for registration from the date on which the law is formally recognized by the Powers;

Secondly, asks a guarantee of priority in accordance with the Treaties of trademarks provisionally registered with the Customs; and,

Thirdly, that facilities for registration should be afforded to Shanghai and Tientsin in accordance with the Treaties as well as Peking where the Trademarks Bureau will be established.

This Note is receiving the attention of the Governments and if the latter accepts it, the Diplomatic Body is empowered to recognize the Chinese law.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Let us consider some of the results if the report of the action of the Diplomatic Body as stated above is correct and the Law is passed. As we mentioned above, the great fundamental objection is the one which strikes at our extraterritorial rights and underlies the whole principle of the Law. That is the fact that the Act provides for no foreign representation on or supervision of the Bureau of Trademarks or the various tribunals to which appeals can be made from the Bureau's decisions. If the Law were accepted in its present state, we should be putting our trademarks, the value of which it is impossible to estimate, but which must amount to several millions sterling, at the complete mercy of Chinese officials. The constitution of the Bureau is not mentioned in the law, but its personnel is purely and exclusively Chinese. This is a direct breach of the Mackay Treaty, which by providing that the office where foreign trademarks may be registered should be under the control of the Maritime Customs, protects the treaty rights of foreigners in China. Apart, however, from this direct breach of the Mackay Treaty, it must be plain that it also constitutes a direct breach of our general extraterritorial rights. If the Law as it now stands is accepted, questions as to whether a mark for which application for registration is made is an infringement of another mark already on the register will be decided by the Trademark Bureau or the Courts of Appeal to which we shall refer later, that is by Chinese alone. Under existing treaties such a question would be tried either in our Supreme or Consular Courts or in Chinese Courts, with foreign representatives, according as to whether the plaintiff or defendant was British or Chinese. In the event of dissatisfaction with a decision of the Bureau an appeal may be made to three Trademark Judges who are to be appointed by the Director of the Bureau. Of what value to foreigners is such a right which merely provides for an appeal to three nominees of the person whose decision has been questioned? If the appellant is dissatisfied he can appeal to the Ministry of Agriculture & Commerce and from there to the Administrative Court.

It will thus be seen that the whole system of registration and the whole jurisdiction with regard to trademarks is placed exclusively in the hands of Chinese. We can well imagine that if any foreigner were sufficiently adventurous and dogged to proceed with an appeal against Chinese interests through all these courses he would be a considerably older and very much poorer man by the time he received a final judgment.

The suggestion that foreign advice or that foreign expert assistants on the Bureau would be sufficient is farcical. We must have our existing treaty rights in their entirety. In 1922 we had a striking illustration of the Chinese conception of the administration of

ADMIRAL WEN'S NAVY TO QUIT TSINGTAO?

Presence Unpopular in Port: Opposition to Japanese Salt Monopoly

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Feb. 17.

Regarding the exportation of Tsingtao salt, Mr. Yoshizawa, the Japanese Minister, has persistently tried to carry to a successful end the negotiations with the Chinese Government, presenting the following demands for particular privileges for the Japanese.

(1) A free selection of salt fields from which the Japanese may obtain their requirements;
(2) Price should be quoted according to market conditions;
(3) The export duty to be not more than 2 cents a picul, with no other form of taxation;
(4) Five or six Japanese should be allowed to enter into the exportation side of the business.

The Chinese Government argued, and apparently not without reason, that the business of exploiting the salt fields should be in the hands of Chinese merchants. It is said that the Government has already granted a monopoly to a salt merchant trading under the style of the Ting Ching Chen Co. During the course of the Sino-Japanese negotiations, the Government agreed not to levy more than an ordinary export duty, of three cents instead of two cents a picul as wanted by the Japanese.

SALT MONOPOLY.

Over this question of the salt monopoly, there has been no end of agitation on the part of the smaller salt dealers who claim that the Government should not have granted a monopoly to any one particular party, but should have given the smaller merchants a chance to have a finger in the pie. And in order to coerce the Government into falling in line with this argument, they have deluged Marshal Wu Pei-fu with telegraphic despatches and voluminous correspondence, seeking his powerful assistance.

Marshal Wu consequently has assured the smaller salt merchants whose number is large that he will strongly advise the Government to abolish the monopoly system. Now, in regard to the price which the present holder of monopoly privileges has paid to the Government—namely, $200,000 per annum—the Marshal suggests its refund to the former.

In connexion with the proposed opening of towns on the Kiao-tsi Railway under the Washington Treaty, the people of this province have craved the assistance of the Marshal in getting the Government to postpone it, and have succeeded in obtaining his support.

In various other matters, he has encountered strong opposition from the very same people who do not hesitate to ask for his assistance. There has been such a strong agitation against the presence of the squadron here that it has been decided to move it to Lungkou. Then, too, the same people who have deluged him with telegraphic dispatches have likewise deluged Peking in opposing the Marshal's plan to raise money of to the Railway.

Of late, Marshal Wu Pei-fu has shown considerable anxiety over the conditions prevailing in Shantung Province. He has stated on several occasions his determination to improve the lot of the people here. Seeing the number of men without employment in Shantung, the worthy Marshal has decided to open recruiting offices at several places to raise an army for the protection of the province.

The Marshal has interesting projects these days, amongst them the following:

(1) Opening of mining districts along the Kiao-tsi Railway;
(2) Increasing of number of express trains between Tsingtao and Tsinan;
(3) Erection of a Railway Hotel in Tsingtao;
(4) Establishment of a Telegraph School;
(5) Encouragement of forestry development along the Railway.

For the last two months the Managing Director of the Kiao-tsi Railway has been travelling to and from Peking for the purpose of discussing the problem of supporting the squadron in port.

NAVY ASKS FOR MORE.

The Admiral of the squadron is now getting a bit bolder in his demands. He thinks the fleet could do very well with a monthly contribution of $150,000 from the Railway instead of the original $50,000 asked for. The same people who have not hesitated to seek the Marshal's assistance have bombarded Peking with protests against supplying funds to the squadron out of the earnings of the Railway, pointing out that should the Railway be made to support the squadron there will be no money left with which to purchase additional cars and locomotives to meet the growing traffic, to repair the bridges, Then, it is argued, the line would fall into the position of another Kin Han Railway.

CHAIRMAN'S VIGOROUS SPEECH AT THE H. & S. BANK MEETING

Piracy and Breakdown of Government: Uselessness of Customs Surtax Until China Achieves Unity: Withholding of Customs Surplus Recommended

Hongkong, Feb. 23.

In his address at the annual meeting of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to-day the Chairman said:—

"There have been many cases of successful piratical attacks in neighbouring waters on vessels flying the British flag. The efforts of our Navy and of the local police seem powerless to put a stop to them without the co-operation of the Chinese authorities on the mainland, which, so far, has not been forthcoming in any efficient form. It is very humiliating to have to undergo this flouting of the British flag and I am sure that our Government must agree with me and will use its utmost endeavours to devise means for dealing properly with the situation, which is becoming intolerable.

ANARCHY AND INTRIGUE.

"The record of events in China during 1923 continues to be one of anarchy and political intrigue in which one searches in vain for any sign of the dawn of better things. On the contrary, the condition of the country politically, financially and economically has grown appreciably worse. With the exception of the provinces of Shansi and Chêkiang, brigandage has become firmly established throughout the country. The Tuchuns ruling the infested provinces, with more than ample military forces at their command, look on with indifference. Their one concern and preoccupation is to obtain funds with which to carry on the struggle for military supremacy. The railways have been robbed of all accessible revenues and, owing to the lack of funds for maintenance and to the wanton destruction by troops, have in several cases deteriorated to an extent which renders traffic dangerous at anything but the slowest speed. This gradual destruction of the country's greatest potential asset, created by foreign capital, is a symptom of the general process of disintegration that is going on.

SPOILATION ALL ROUND.

"While the spoliation of railways happens to be particularly conspicuous by the results, it is but a part of the wholesale appropriation by rival military leaders of national revenues such as the salt, wine and tobacco taxes, which should go to support the administration of the Central Government. The latter has, in fact, become little more than an expression and the groups of officials who function in Peking under the name of the Chinese Government maintain that position mainly by virtue of the recognition by foreign Powers, while their sole monetary resource is the precarious residue of the salt revenue after the demands of the militarists and of clamorous creditors have been satisfied.

"Amid such conditions of political chaos and the absence of a real central authority discussion of schemes for debt consolidation, industrial development and the like can have no concrete results. The first essential for giving effect to such schemes, namely, adequate security under the control of the Central Government, is wanting and must continue wanting until there is a stable Central Government able to assert its authority over the provinces. Such a stable Government cannot be created or maintained until there have been disbandment of independent military forces and a complete readjustment of national and provincial finances.

THE PROPOSED SURTAX.

"The policy of the Powers towards China conceived in the artificial atmosphere of Washington has ceased to have any relation to facts. The scope of the tariff conference, whenever it meets, cannot now be limited to the mere consideration of the 2½ per cent. Customs surtax, which is of minor importance beside the vast and complex problem now calling for solution. It would be a useless tax on trade unless accompanied by measures of fiscal and administrative reform. The financial problem, which is a direct outcome of the prevailing military tyranny, and which, in the minds of foreign creditors, overshadows everything else, cannot effectively be dealt with except in conjunction with other reforms, and a Customs surtax of 2½ per cent. is now utterly inadequate for that purpose. It is difficult to see how anything short of the full 7½ per cent. surtax proposed by the Mackay Treaty will meet the case, accompanied by provisions for a just apportionment of the revenue to the provinces in return for the abolition of all internal taxation on trade and their relinquishment to the Central Government of what may properly be classed as national revenues. The price to be paid may seem at first sight large, but it is insignificant compared with the gain in foreign trade resulting from a restoration of peaceful conditions and good government throughout the country, which must be the indispensable guarantee demanded.

"Amidst the prevailing internal dissension and civil strife the Maritime Customs still stands out as a symbol of honest and efficient administration, the bulwark of foreign trade relations with China and her hope of financial salvation in the future as it has been the foundation of her credit in the past.

WITHHOLD SURPLUS FROM ALL.

"Any measure which by recognizing the claims of seceding provinces to a division of the Customs revenue after international obligations secured upon it have been satisfied would be a retrograde step in the direction of further disunion.

"As long as the Peking Government continues to be recognized by the Treaty Powers as *de facto* Government of the country, it must be held to be entitled to receive the whole Customs revenue. But, if its claim to do so is challenged by provincial secessionists and pressed by them to a point endangering the present administration of the Customs service as defined by international agreements and the prescriptive sanction of 60 years, then the remedy would appear to lie in withholding the Customs surplus from all the contestants to accumulate in reserve until they had composed their differences and military operations in all parts of the country had ceased.

"Such a step would, I believe, have the approval of all who sincerely desire to see the end of the civil strife now disrupting and ruining a great country which, with no external enemies but almost limitless potential resources, should be one of the most prosperous countries in the world."—Reuter's Pacific Service.

M. OSTROUMOFF AND THE C. E. R.

General Manager Staying at Wish of Russ-Asiatic Bank: No Bed of Roses

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 12.

It appears that Mr. Ostroumoff, general manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway, whose contract expires in February, will continue his functions in response to the wish of the Russo-Asiatic Bank who made the appointment. It is generally understood that Mr. Ostroumoff has no particular wish to continue, principally on account of the opposition he receives from official Chinese circles. On the other hand the Russo-Asiatic Bank have apparently found no suitable successor for the post, which is no sinecure and demands the services of a first-class railway engineer, as undoubtedly Mr. Ostroumoff is. Owing to the political situation of the C.E.R. it is only natural that leading Russian engineers now living abroad should be unwilling to accept the position, though it is a lucrative one. From a Russian point of view it is an extremely risky post to accept at the present time owing to the political aspects. Mr. Rendre, the new general manager of the Russo-Asiatic Bank whose headquarters are in Peking, is at the present moment in Harbin, and it appears has told Mr. Ostroumoff that the Bank is perfectly satisfied with the manner in which he has carried out his work and wishes that he shall continue for a further term.

According to the railway programme for the current year there is to be a cut of the estimated expenditure during the year of over $1,000,000. This will mean that the staffs and employees of different departments will be reduced considerably, and that some of the projected new work will either not take place or the magnitude will be reduced considerably.

The economical Department of the C.E.R. are shortly to issue a book entitled "Northern Manchuria," which will be published in English and will contain the fullest information of all kinds about the resources and industries of this territory. It will be 600 pages in all and have numerous illustrations, diagrams, tables etc., so that it will be of special value for those who interest themselves in Northern Manchuria, much care having been taken in its compilation. It is stated that the first edition will consist of 6,000 copies and that the price is to be $6 American currency per volume.

The well-known local magnate Mr. S. Skidelsky has received the necessary permission from the Governor of Kirin Province to exploit coal mines at Nishan and Moulin on the eastern section of the railway. He has formed a new company for the special purpose of developing this region, which is stated to contain big resources of coal of an excellent quality. The company will be known as the Russian-Chinese Co., Ld., the shares being taken up by Russians and Chinese. The capital of the company is given as $6,000,000, of which sum already $1,000,000 has been allotted for the organization of the company and a further $300,000 placed in the Bank of Kirin for exploitation work. The term of the concession is for 30 years after which period it must be given over to the Chinese Government.

RESIGNATION DEMANDED BY CHINESE MOB.

Feb. 20.

A so-called "popular" demonstration against M. Basil Oustroumoff, General Manager of the Chinese Eastern Railway, who has just consented to renew his agreement with the company, took place here yesterday, outside the offices of the Railway Administration.

Learning of the leaders plans on the day previously the Railway Administration applied to the Chinese authorities for protection but were told by them that the demonstration was to be of a most peaceful nature. They nevertheless said they would accord to the railway officials full protection—a promise which was not carried out. The result was that work was interrupted at the Railway Administration offices and railway employees were obliged to seek shelter in their offices after working hours, the Chinese authorities remaining the whole time oblivious to the noisy gathering in the street outside.

Shortly after noon a procession formed up at Fuchiatien, consisting of 150 to 200 persons. It being the last day of the Chinese New Year holidays an ever-increasing crowd of loiterers followed in its wake. According to banners carried, the demonstration had been organized by the Chinese Labour Union. Small flags carried by the marchers bore inscriptions demanding the removal of Mr. Ostroumoff from office for insulting Chinese society by the production at the Railway Club of two pieces, "A Mandarin's Son" and "The Geisha."

Outside the building occupied by the board of directors, the Chinese demanded to see Dr. C. C. Wang, who was not there. After a short consultation it was decided to move on to the Railway Administration, where the demonstrators arrived shortly after 3 o'clock. The mob filled the square. Finding the doors of the building locked, the crowd surged to the side doors and round to the back of the building, but here again they were unable to obtain admission. At attempt to force open the front doors was also unavailing.

LEADERS' AMAZING EFFRONTERY.

The situation grew worse and eventually three spokesmen were allowed to enter the building. They were conducted to Gen. Afanasieff's office. Here they explained that the various organizations, including the "Patriotic Society for Saving China," complained of insults to the Chinese through the productions of "The Geisha" and "A Mandarin's son" at the Railway Theatre and demanded the resignation of the General Manager. Mr. Oustroumoff was to appear before the crowd, promise to resign and give the date of so doing. He naturally refused to do so and 40 minutes later, in response to telephone calls, the police arrived to disperse the crowd.

MANAGER'S WONDERFEL RECORD OF SERVICE.

Mr. Ostroumoff has shown untiring energy, and accomplished much for the fortunes of the railway, since his appointment as general manager in 1920.

When he arrived at Harbin he found the railway in a very bad way, for during the year 1920 the total expenditure amounted to 46 million roubles, whilst the total freight was only 102,286,613 poods.

His first step was to lower the freight rates and cut down expenditure.

Under Mr. Oustroumoff's direction of the company's affairs, the freight returns increased in 1921 to 126,149,536 and in 1922, 151,605 464 whilst expenses were reduced by 32 million Rbs. in 1921 and to 28,380,000 Rbs. in 1922.

Figures which are now to hand for the past year show that there is again a considerable increase in freight returns on the previous year, about 170 million poods in all, whilst expenses have been further reduced to Rls. 26 million. The nett profit for the past year, after deducting over five million roubles for the maintenance of the railway guards and monetary assistance to different Chinese official institutions, is somewhere round five million, according to the figures furnished by the accounting department of the railway. Those who knew the Chinese Eastern Railway in 1920 and the way it was run, would hardly recognize it to-day, since it now compares favourably not only with any railway in Asia, but also with many in Europe.

GEN. FENG'S FAUX PAS

Legation Police Commended

Peking, Feb. 23.

Mr. H. H. Fox, Chairman of the Administrative Commission of the Diplomatic Quarter at the request of the Diplomatic Body, to-day expressed to the policemen concerned the appreciation of the Diplomatic Body of their conduct last Friday epening, when they were suddenly confronted with a difficult situation, and informed the policemen that small rewards would be given to them in recognition of their devotion to duty.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

WU PEI-FU AND CIVIL POWER

Honan Completely Under Military Sway with Transference of Civil Power to Loyang

Kaifeng, Ho., Feb. 20.

Kaifeng official and business circles have gone into mourning. One great source of official prestige and business profit has passed from our local environment to swell the court dignity of the great Marshal at Loyang.

From all accounts that come from the present provincial capital in the west, Marshal Wu Pei-fu not has only his seemingly effective camp, but holds regular court as well.

The former Governor, Chang Feng-tai, had held office in Honan for a goodly number of years, not because he was preeminently fitted for office, but because he was one that was agreeable to the plans of the military overlord, whoever he might be at the time. He was here through most of the ex-Tuchun's reign. He was left in office during the short tuchunship of Gen. Feng Yu-hsiang, and after the present Tuchun, Chang Fu-lai came, at Marshal Wu's command, Chang remained here for some time likewise.

Honan is a very good example of pure militarism. Civil functions must continue, for there are the people, who are not only to be kept in order, but must provide as far as possible the sinews of war.

But in Honan the Civil officers must take all orders from the military commanders, and if they happen to have very pronounced views of their own, why so much the worse for them, unless they are really anxious to return to private life. The ex-Civil Governor seemed to have been one that was ever willing to remain quietly in office, and permit his stronger co-Governor to do the dictating.

Unfortunately though, years pass on, and even the most pliant civil executive will grow old. The ex-Civil-Governor Chang is not young any longer. He has passed out of our local environment to the quiet of his home at Changtefu. Report has it however that to make the passing more easy for him the Marshal is recommended to the President for the post of Director-General of the Chinese interests in Honan's great anthracite coalfields at Chiaotsoa. Incidentally the present incumbent of that office, who has been doing as much as the office demanded, has not yet been advised that he must be retired, because the chief military power in the province says so.

THE NEW CIVIL GOVERNOR.

Well, the present military Tuli of the province, Chang Fu-lai, who seems to be a very good-natured man, and one who is really willing to be reasonable in the discharge of both military and civil duties, was perhaps too complaisant to the non-military interests, and perhaps too obdurate in the discharge of his more military duties. It was not very long after coming into office in the province that he was informed that he would be assisted in the discharge of these duties by a Tupan. This Tupan was Mr. Li Chi-chen, who came from the Marshal at Loyang to act also in the capacity of Chang Tuli's chief of staff.

The Tupan did his work very well indeed from the standpoint of the overlord. For example, the mistake that had been made when the railway engineers and the missionaries were released by granting Lao Yang-jen and his men their demand to be enrolled in the Honan army was not repeated in the case of Fan, who took Misses Darroch and Sharp into custody with similar hopes and ambitions. It was so in other cases as well—those who knew felt that the power was still at Loyang, as administered through the Tupan, and not through the Tuli.

Perhaps the Marshal felt that he himself had to have a somewhat closer hold on the civil authority than he was yet able to maintain, and thus it came about that the ageing Chang Feng-tai must be retired to a First-class Advisership and the Directorate of the Fu-Chung Corporation and the Honan Tupan, Li Chi-chen, made Civil Governor of Honan.

Those who know much more than your correspondent about these affairs say that this step was taken without consulting the Cabinet in Peking. If this is true that little mistake seems to have been rectified, for Li Chi-chen is now confirmed in his new position by mandate.

Li Chi-chen, however, is not Civil Governor in Kaifeng, perhaps because his old colleague, whose Yamên remains in Kaifeng, did not seem to be too happy at this change of relationship. It is rumoured that congratulatory messages failed to reach Loyang with sufficient speed, when it became known that the Tupan had become the Civil Governor. Not only was the Military Governor remiss in this but it seems that many of the chief officials of the province were likewise remiss. Be that as it may, what seems to be more likely is that Marshal Wu wants the civil power nearer himself. The Civil Governor's Yamên has been removed to Loyang, and with him has gone those departments that carry most weight in civil affairs, and—Kaifeng is left lamenting.

ATTACK ON BATANG

Naka Lama and Bandits on the Szechuan Border

Peking, Feb. 20.

An official despatch received in Peking reports that the Naka Lama, assisted by a number of bandits, made two attacks on Batang, but was on each occasion driven off by the local defenders. Tired of being left at the mercy of the bandit hordes, the people of Batang asked the Markham Teji of Chiance, Tibet, to annex Batang and protect them from further attacks. The Chinese authorities at Likiang then decided to send 500 troops to Batang for the protection of the township.

The Naka Lama showed a disposition to enter into peaceful relations with Batang, but the bandits with him declined to enter into any agreement and refused to withdraw until their attacks had been beaten off. The Naka Lama informed the Batang people that they had nothing to fear if he made another attack.

The American missionaries of Batang went to Talifu, where they intended to remain until the situation cleared up.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ITALIAN MUNITIONS

Large Consignment Moved From Tientsin to Near Peking

Tientsin, Feb. 23.

Italian arms, which were stored in a godown in the Italian Concession, are being moved out of Tientsin, it is reported, to a point on the Peking-Hankow line within 40 miles of Peking.

Visiting the railway-yard in the early hours of this morning, Reuter's correspondent saw a train of over 20 cars being loaded with cases of rifles, equipment and gun-limbers, no less than 80 of the gun-limbers being counted. Italian marines were supervising the work.

It is reported that the arms have been purchased by President Tsao Kun's representative for $5,500,000.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Feb. 24.

According to Chinese reports 13 car-loads of Italian ammunition were transported from Tangku to the Government depot at Sanchiatien on February 22.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Denmark and Norway have reached an agreement about Greenland's sovereignty. They are just in time to prevent the airship Shenandoah from claiming Greenland's icy mountains as a source for America's icecream.

YUNNAN'S MOST NOTORIOUS BRIGAND CHIEF EXECUTED

Trial and Death of Gen. Pu, First of Bandits, Kidnapper of Foreigners and Maker of Revolutions

From Our Own Correspondent.

Yunnanfu, Feb. 1.

After a great deal of speculation on the part of the people and a great deal of deliberation on the part of the government, it is a relief to realize that the latter has not lacked the courage to execute one of the most notorious of the brigand chiefs that ever disturbed the peace of Yunnan.

As I mentioned in a former article, rumour has been rife and many people have been speculating on the chances of Gen. Pu Siao-hung being eventually set at liberty. A great shock however, was in store for them for the Government had made up its mind as to its course of action, and in spite of the fact that many of the ex-brigand's friends busied themselves in his behalf, and that a few foreign missionaries—it is reported—tried to obtain a reprieve, the only concession the Government was willing to grant was that the trial should be as public and as impartial as possible.

As a matter of fact it was attended by most of the leading members of the gentry here while some who had been known as friends of the accused were also compulsorily requested to witness the impartiality of the court. The trial which lasted for several days resulted in a unanimous verdict of guilty on all the charges that were brought against the accused.

RECENT CRIMES ONLY.

It should be stated emphatically that the government did not rake up anything that the ex-brigand had been guilty of prior to his pardon in the beginning of 1922, when it will be remembered that he effectively brought the present *règime* back to power, it rested its case entirely on charges in relation to crimes committed very recently. Gen. Pu's life during the past two years has been a double one, and in spite of the fact that he was in government service and in receipt of government pay, it appears that he has been feathering his nest out of the proceeds of the depredations of his former associates whom he has secretly been encouraging. And again, although he never hesitated to enrich himself at the expense of his enemy, he seems to have been living an ostensible life of charity and benevolence, as many of the aged and the poor of Yunnanfu who have been the glad recipients of his bounty can bear witness.

It is not surprising, therefore, that he had attained a certain amount of popularity among the poorer classes of Yunnanfu, though it is claimed by his enemies that his motives were entirely selfish and that he was only preparing for a favourable opportunity for initiating a revolt against the present *règime*.

A POPULAR DRAMA.

It will be remembered that the crime that led to his arrest was the murder of a military officer who had been successful in capturing one of his former associates, and Pu's answer to that charge was that the officer had been guilty of murdering his nephew during his bandit days, and that he was not aware that the officer—who also had been a bandit—had been taken into government service. But the excuse was not sufficient to justify him either in the eyes of the law or the military government, hence the man in the street was not surprised when a proclamation was published giving a summary of the trial and announcing to all and sundry that Gen. Pu Siao-hung had been condemned to expiate his crime on the execution ground at two o'clock p.m. Saturday, January 12.

This proclamation was posted up in different parts of the city about two hours before the execution was timed to take place, making it evident that it had been decided to give the incident as much publicity as possible, the general rule in such cases being to post the proclamation after the criminal has been executed. The news of course spread like wildfire and long before the hour the streets were thronged with a multitude, while the execution ground was crowded with people anxious to secure a favourable position for viewing the ghastly proceeding, and along the route of death all traffic had to be suspended while armed guards were stationed as a warning to any of Pu's friends who might have the temerity to interfere with the course of justice. It should be stated here that the brother-in-law of the ex-brigand had been condemned with him, his crime being the receiving and storing some of the loot that had been aquired by Pu's associates.

THE RIDE TO TYBURN.

About half an hour before the time of the execution the two criminals were brought out of their cells and compelled to pose for their photographs, which show Gen. Pu standing nonchalantly and smiling as though he were about to set out on his honeymoon, though his companion looks rather gloomy and dyspeptic. These photos are now being sold and exhibited in the principal picture shops of the city. The men were then ordered to enter their sedan chairs, for these had been provided by the authorities, and their last journey was about to commence when Pu appealed to the military officer in charge of the escort and firing party not to take them the shortest route as was intended, but to make a wider *détour* to include several streets that he mentioned by name. He desired, he said, to apologize to the spirits and to the families of two generals whom he brutally murdered in 1922 and who had the misfortune to fall into his hands when he was fighting to restore the present *règime*. His appeal was granted and as the procession passed the residences of these two general Pu shouted that at last they had their revenge and would now be able to sleep peacefully in their graves while he was about to receive a just reward.

This change of route led many people to think that the authorities had developed cold feet and had decided either to postpone the execution or had accomplished it secretly, but after a delay of about half an hour the blast of the bugles and the beating of the drums announced the approach of the procession, and ere long Gen. Pu, smiling and nodding at all and sundry came into view borne aloft on the shoulders of two hapless coolies loudly bemoaning their ill-fated joss that had kept them in the coolie shop until the soldiers came along and commandeered them for the purpose.

THE RED MAT.

The ex-brigand seemed to have a good word for everybody and begged the soldiers not to be too hard on the people who were blocking the way, saying—"let them have a good look, it is not every day that such as I am executed, and it is worth dying to have so many people attend the funeral."

On arrival at the execution ground he was assisted out of his chair and told to sit down on the red mat that had been provided for him by the authorities as a mark of respect for his military rank, when he asked and obtained one minute's respite, and turning to the crowd he waved his hands wishing them good-bye and thanking them for their attendance. He assured them that he had repented of his crimes and declared that the sentence about to be carried out was perfectly just, then turning to his brother-in-law he held out his hand saying "Goodbye old chap, this is the last time we shall see each other in this life, let us hope that we shall have a better time in the next."

The two hapless creatures then sat down on the mats and the sentence of death was carried out with great precision and without any sign of brutality on the part of the soldiers or excessive hilarity on the part of the bystanders. Photographs were also taken of the two bodies lying side by side and are now being exhibited and sold side by side with those taken in the prison courtyard.

A KIDNAPPER OF FOREIGNERS.

Thus ends the career of one of the most notorious brigands Yunnan has ever been cursed with, and one who was responsible for many unnamable crimes, as well as for many offences committed against the person and property of many foreigners, for it is safe to say that he had kidnapped more foreigners than perhaps any other one brigand in China. His last escapade was the kidnapping of Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor, and though the latter was released immediately, the former was held in durance vile for many weeks and not liberated until a change of government gave the pardon and recognition demanded and which Dr. Taylor's captivity was intended to purchase.

It is difficult to say what effect Pu's execution will have on the general situation, but there are plenty of pessimists who forecast a terrible time in the outlying districts for the hapless people who might have the misfortune to be living in the zone of the operations of his associates, who of course are vowing vengeance on the general who was responsible for the arrest and eventual execution of their late leader. But general Long seems determined to risk everything in his work of exterminating these bands who have terrorized Yunnan for many years now. He realizes that he is risking his life, his reputation, his property, and his family by carrying out his determination, but being one of the few military officers who think only of the well-being of his native soil, he seems determined that neither threat from the bandits nor the criticisms of the local authorities shall deter him from accomplishing his purpose.

SOLDIER'S REVENGE

Shocking Incident at Anking: Shopman Murdered: Another Seriously Wounded

From Our Own Correspondent.

Anking, An., Feb. 22.

The barbaric proclivities of local soldiery were displayed in a small riot which took place in the west suburb the night before last, which resulted in the death of one innocent shop keeper and the serious wounding of another, who is now lying in the mission hospital.

The day previously a soldier belonging to Tuli Ma's band of ruffians tried to buy a piece of roast duck for less than the price asked and was about to assert his 'superior rights" by carrying off the whole duck will-nilly, when a policeman turned up to settle the matter. The latter reported to his chief who in turn made the affair known to the military. As a result the soldier was severely reprimanded and by way of emphasis was given 40 strokes with the bamboo.

Bent upon revenge the soldier collected some 30 or 40 of his comrades. Returning to the shop at about eight in the evening he proceed systematically to carry out his designs. He stationed men at the head of all the streets leading to the shop, then approaching the place with a few picked assassins sought the keeper of the roast duck stall. This man not being visible they attacked others in the shop behind, stabbing indiscriminately with long knives which they had concealed under their uniforms. Apparently satisfied with their bloody work they made off just before the police arrived on the scene.

RIVALS IN FUKIEN

Peking, Feb. 28.

General Sun Chuan-fang with his staff left Foochow on February 27 for Yenping where he will establish his headquarters, apparently having found himself undermined at Foochow by General Wang Yung-chuan.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A RIVER JOURNEY THROUGH SZECHUAN

Rival Armies' Running Fights: Suiling Looted: Safe Conduct Through Bandit Territory

From our Mienchow correspondent.

Suiling to Tongchuan, Jan. 19-28.

At Suiling we had to remain from the 16th to the 19th. The official advised us to await his advice before going on. Meanwhile the 2nd Army came up and the official fled. We were therefore freed from waiting for his advice and judging the future from the past we went on hoping for the best.

The night before we left was very disturbed. We thought the firing was due to the entry of the 2nd Army, but in the morning discovered that it was due to the 1st Army looting the city before they finally left it! It is a city of troubled people. They are as sheep having no shepherds; and they that should be their shepherds flee at the first note of alarm.

The district between Sining and Taihochen, a distance of about 100 *li* by road, has the reputation of being infested with bandits. Each night we had the benefit of help from the local militia; and there is no doubt that the presence of so many soldiers has for the time put an end to banditry on the road and river.

On the first day we did about 50 *li* by road, to a place called Tangkiatien. The next day was difficult going and we only did 15 *li*. Abort midday we passed cinnamon garden, Kuei-hua-uen. At Renchuhee, where we spent the second night we heard that some big coal junks had been boarded by thieves in the rapids just below. From here onward for 35 *li* the river is continuously shallow. and full of rapids to Liushuitich.

TROUBLE WITH TRACKERS.

On the 22nd we reached the place most infested by bandits. Just as we were passing the spot a large body of soldiers passed on their way to Taihochen. We should have reached this place had we not been detained 10 *li* down by the soldiers. When the trackers heard that we were to wait, all except the permanent hands decided to leave the boat. They clamoured to the *laopan* to pay them their due and let them go. "We shall be pressed by soldiers! We shall perhaps be shot! Several trackers have been hit, and we want to leave!" The *laopan* was unwilling, but they would not be persuaded; and at last—"If you go, I'll dock your pay," said he; and proceeded to pay them all with a reduction that, of course, caused a lot of clamour. The coolies were throwing their bedding on to the bank when a soldier came and appropriated one of the bundles; the owner, however, clung to it, and there was a great struggle. The soldier beat his victim badly, but he would not relinquish his burden and at last our boat putting off the soldier who wanted to board it to cross the river hurried down without getting his booty. The fact that public opinion was all against him doubtless weakened his hand.

We spent the 23rd, 24th and 25th at Taihochen. There was a good deal of fighting on the morning of the 23rd and the balance was very even, but in the evening the 1st Army broke their way in again and there was a great stampede. For hours past midnight the night was resonant with the cries of pursuers and pursued. Stragglers came to the side of the river, and called for small boats to help them over. At a further distance rifles cracked, and in the moonlight banners and torches could be distinguished. The contrast between the upward march of the day before, and the backward flight seemed immense; but I have come since to believe that this was a feint attack on the part of the 2nd Army to attract attention from their movements further north.

The town was deserted, and here and there a dead soldier could be seen. It is said that many civilians were also killed.

We left Taihochen on the 26th but owing to bad weather made but little way. On the 27th, however, we made a splendid journey. At Siehong we were delayed by soldiers who detained our boat for two hours. This city looked even more stagnant than Taiho. Not even an egg can be bought; or a pewterer found to mend a kettle. The soldiers were appropriating much rice from the boats for which they were paying in the absurd paper dollar, which no one will honour.

GEN. YANG SEN'S MOVEMENT.

We reached Yangkiapa by night. This place is 35 *li* from Tongchuan. There was a large contingent of 1st Army men here: and we went to see the Brigadier-General commanding to avoid if possible being delayed the next day. He said he would let us know in the morning. When morning came he and his men were all well on their way to Siehong. The 2nd Army seem to have been playing a deep game. To our astonishment we discovered here that they had got as far north as Yenting. While part of them have been deploying at Taihochen a large body went north; and bore down upon Tongchuan; where Hsiong Keh-wu had a large force. A traveller from that city told us that all night of the 27th and 28th there was a great fight with the result that early in the morning the 1st Army evacuated in various directions: much of its heavy artillery being left behind. We passed many of them as we came up to Tongchuan yesterday, 28th. To our surprise we heard that Gen. Yang Seng is in Tongchuan. We were fortunate in getting permission for the pontoon to be opened so that we might pass up to Mienchow in the morning. But I must reserve that story.

WHAT WILL GEN. YANG SEN DO?

Sudden Halt near Chengtu after Victorious Advance: Looking for Southern Leader?

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chêngtu, Feb. 1.

To-day the four city gates were closed until 10 a.m. It was reported that Ten Chi-heo's Third Division was within 60 *li* of the city. He is Yang's advance guard. Orders had come through from Gen. Hsiong Keh-wu, who so narrowly escaped capture in Tungchuang, to sacrifice the capital if need be, but to hold the Arsenal at all costs.

Chang Tsung with the 2nd Mixed Brigade was put in charge of the arsenal. He has dug trenches in all directions, and strongly fortified the whole area.

Military critics point out that the danger to Yang Sen is the length and vulnerability of his line of communications, with Lai astride the main road, but the theory of attackers in Szechuan in the past has been—get into Chêngtu and capture the arsenal and you need no other communications.

Gen. Yang Sen, however, seems in no particular hurry to get into Chêngtu. He has swept to within 50 *li* with incredible force and speed and now seems to be casting about for Hsiong. If he can catch Hsiong that is his best guarantee for comparative safety in the Capital, but that wily genius is not caught and does not intend to be. His men and colleagues are extremely loyal to him. He has the brains for leadership and the money to keep going. Hsiong is about the only one of all the military leaders that does not change. He is consistently Southern and will have no dealings with the North.

On the other hand Gen. Yang Sen got within 50 *li* of the capital last year, on the Longchuannie Hills and was then turned back. He has left the hills severely alone this time and come in from the north without serious opposition. Even yet one cannot predict what will happen. It seems an easy thing for Yang Sen to break into the capital after his triumphant advance, but there is Chang Tsung who has been called the "Napoleon" of Szechuan; he is only a young man, but physically strong, a good leader, loyal to Hsiong, and knows no fear. His men are a hard, dangerous lot who have borne the brunt of the fighting at Chunking for a year and more. They are loyal to Chang. After resting for two weeks in Chêngtu, they are now back in the line at the Arsenal, determined to keep Yang out and give no quarter.

RICSHA COOLIES' LIGHTNING STRIKE

Soochow Ricsha Hongs' Inhuman Attempt to Extort More Money from Coolies

From Our Own Correspondent.

Soochow, Feb. 25.

Soochow seems to be in the hands of strikers. With the exception of carriages outside the city, and donkeys, chairs and boats inside the city, those who do not own private ricshas, must walk. The ricsha coolies went on a strike yesterday.

The strike continues to-day, and for how many more days, no one knows. When last year the licence for both outside and inside the city ricshas was made the same, the daily rent on ricshas was reduced to 45 cents (small money) or about 40 cents per day (big money). Last autumn this was raised by the ricsha hongs to 60 cents (small money). On Saturday the ricsha hongs tried to increase the charge to 85 cents per day (small money). This was more than the coolies would stand. For two coolies to pay out 44½ cents (small money) per day in ricsha rent means that they cannot make enough to keep soul and body together. Hence the strike. Something like three dozen ricshas have been smashed up by the striking coolies, and the few strike-breakers among them have had very rough handling.

The ricsha hong owners seem to be almost as high-handed robbers as the military and civil officials of the land, and as *robbers* that is rating them quite highly.

The best figures that I can get on the situation are as follows. Soochow's average public ricsha costs about $60. The vehicles last for about four years. We will call it three years, however, and place $20 as the sum for annual depreciation. The average upkeep calls for another $20. The licence cost $2 per month, or $24 per year. A grand total of $64 per year. Last year the ricsha hongs were charging 60 cents (small money) a day per ricsha. This totals about $190.80 (big money) per year. $190 interest on $64 is a rather large gain. With this increase to 85 cents (small money) the hongs would clear $270 on each ricsha, with an annual outlay of only $64.

Why does not everyone open a ricsha hong? Only 1,000 licences are issued. No more. Some say it costs a ricsha hong $100 as a small tip (to the powers-that-be) to secure a licence. Others estimate this little lubricating gift at $200. Still others say this gentle squeeze is $300 per licence, while some put it as high as $500. To operate one of these golden egg-laying geese, a Soochow public ricsha, however, costs one quite a little sum.

There is one other small item. The ricsha coolies can use at night only the lanterns furnished by the ricsha hongs, and the police (having had their eyesight financially improved) see to it that the coolies use no other lanterns. These small lanterns burn two coppers worth of oil a night. The nightly rent is seven coppers, a small gain of five coppers a night. A gain of almost $1 a month, and about $10 a year on a lantern which originally cost about 20 cents. This gain might also be placed under the head of highway robbery!

STRIKE SETTLED.

Feb. 26.

Yesterday afternoon the ricshas strike outside the city on the "Horse Road" came to an end, the ricsha hongs meeting the coolies demands, and reducing their price to the original daily rent.

The ricsha hongs within the walls reduced their prices from 80 cents (small money) to 60 cents (small money), the price under which the ricshas operated last autumn; but the coolies still continue their strike demanding that the price be reduced to 40 cents and five coppers, the daily rent of a year ago. This afternoon the representative of the coolies went before the Commissioner of Police, and the coolies made an offer of 40 cents and 10 coppers as a compromise. Some think the settlement will be reached to-morrow.

The strike of the cigarette and cigar dealers was rather half-hearted, and it is reported that they are yieding to the tax.

The Shanghai-Nanking Railway is widening the roadway in front of the station's main entrance. The filling in is now complete, the new fence is being erected, and the paving will soon be finished. This will double the width of this roadway, relieving the congestion of carriages, ricshas, chairs, donkeys, baggage coolies, and passengers. The future passengers will find this a great improvement.

LABOUR CONFERENCE AND JAPAN

Japanese Labour's Claims to Representation: Unions Now Recognized

Tokio, Feb. 19.

Japanese Labour may at last be represented at the International Labour Conference this year by one of its own specially elected delegates, if the plan set forth by the Cabinet within the last day or two is put into effect.

Hitherto in the selection of the Labour delegates from this country the Government has played a prominent part, so much so that time after time the Japanese Labour organizations have lodged complaints that they were not properly represented, have boyotted the Conference itself, and have even attempted to interfere with the departure of the delegates chosen to go and speak on their behalf.

One of the obstacles so far to the adequate representation of Japanese labour at such conferences has been the absence of any recognition of labour unions here and of any right to vote.

These unions, having complied with certain preliminary conditions dealing with the information about themselves that must be submitted to the authorities before the polling day, March 25, are empowered to recommend one delegate and two advisors to that delegate as representatives at the International Conference.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES.

The Government will select three candidates and six advisors from among those recommended by the different unions, by counting the number of votes recorded for each at the rate of one vote for every thousand members of the union entitled to vote. And from these three the final choice of delegate and advisors will be made in accordance with the agenda prepared for the Conference.

The method of selecting representatives of the employers to attend the Geneva Conference will be that previously adopted, namely, that the six leading Chambers of Commerce should, after conferring with all the Chambers of Commerce throughout the country, recommend three candidates with the requisite number of advisors, and that the Government should make the final selection.

There are said to be 15 labour unions that under the new proposal will have the power to vote, and these unions represent a total of about 100,000 workers. The largest of these is the Japanese Federation of Labour, which under the Presidency of Mr. Bunji Suzuki wields the greatest influence.

It is considered likely that Mr. Suzuki himself will be the first Labour deputy from Japan at the International Conference.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

It is reported that the body of a Mr. McCarron was found in his room in a Shantung village, where he had formerly been district manager for the B.A.T. Co. Members of that firm in Shanghai state that deceased was a man of pleasant appearance and approach and had proved an excellent tobacco salesman. It is understood that deceased was buried in the vicinity.

THE NEW YEAR IN CHANGSHA

The Moon's Eclipse and the Heavenly Dog

From Our Own Correspondent.

Changsha, Feb. 21.

The New Year seems to have been observed with considerable zest. Of course all shops were shut for some days. Dragon lanterns parading the streets and toy lanterns for the use of children were even more prominent than they have been for the past few years.

The total eclipse of the moon came as a grand finale to the *"rehlao"* (as we pronounce Giles's *"jo-nao"*) which means something different from the mere "bustle" of the dictionary—it is the phrase for such a festivity as we have just been reading in the latest papers that have reached us about the opening ceremonies of last Friday at "No. 17 the Bund." It was a cloudless night and the phenomenon was watched by crowds of Chinese. By ten o'clock, the *"reh-lao"* began. Gongs, tin trays, wooden boards and I know not what else were being banged incessantly; almost as incessantly, fire crackers were exploding in all directions. At long intervals there would be a short pause in the hammering at some particular gong, when either the beater was refreshing himself with a drink of tea or was handing over his stick to another. From the flat roof of my house, the din was enough to appal any "heavenly dog." I left my neighbours at it some time after the totality had happened, *i.e.*, about midnight—and being a good sleeper, I know not when the noise ceased. But certainly for two hours, I detected nothing that could be called an abatement of the urgency of the "straffing" of the "heavenly dog"—which, I suppose, not one of the "straffers" feared any more than we boys, who used to swarm in the streets on the night of November 5, feared the Pope of Rome with whom our *"reh-lao"* had some historic connexion.

JAPAN'S PLANS FOR OLYMPIC GAMES

Shortage of Money Overcome by Subsidy and Subscriptions: Interest in Athletics

Tokio, Feb. 22.

Whether Japan will be represented at the Olympic Games in Paris this spring or not is largely a question of money. Moreover, the question of money would not have arisen, had it not been for the disaster of last September.

The Home Department had agreed to make a substantial subsidy towards the cost of sending Japanese athletic representatives to Europe to participate in the games, but the curtailments imposed upon it by the demand for reconstruction costs have compelled it to reconsider its offer.

The Japanese Amateur athletic Association, with which rests the selection of the representatives and all other matters connected with the games, has determined, however, not to abandon hope, and is organizing a campaign to collect funds from those who are interested in sports.

In view of the growing interest of all classes of people in every form of athletics, the raising of the necessary fund is not considered a matter of serious difficulty. It is reported, that the Navy Department has already pledged a contribution of Y.20,000.

Meantime the Association is proceeding with its plans, and will hold its concluding trials in the early part of April, after which the representatives for Paris will be chosen.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Another valuable piece of Hongkong property has passed into Chinese hands. Section D of Inland Lot 339, 5,486 sq. ft., which was formerly occupied by the China Specie Bank, was sold last week to Mr. Wong Kwong-tin, the price being $225,000.

THE WAR IN SZECHUAN

Further Details of Capture of Chengtu: Escape of Gen. Hsiong Keh-wu

We are privileged to publish the following message to Shanghai from Mr. G. M. Franch, sub-agent of the British & Foreign Bible Society, at Chêngtu:—

Chêngtu, Sze., Feb. 7.

The war is at our gates now, and all the city gates have been shut up since the 3rd (Sunday).

Yang Sen's advance guard is outside the north gate and we hear that the main army is not far off. This advance has followed on a severe defeat suffered by Hsiong Keh-wu at Tungchuan, where he himself had a very narrow escape from being captured.

The firing on the north side of the city is at times quite brisk and again dies down to almost nothing. I hope that this state of affairs may not last very long. Margaret (Mr. Franck's daughter) has not been able to get out of the city to school this week, and the other city children must likewise remain within the walls."

Peking, Feb. 19.

Further foreign telegrams from Chêngtu report that Gen. Hsiong Keh-wu escaped on the 9th instant and fled in the direction of Sintsinghsien. One of the northern columns very quickly started after him and his men.

Some shells fell in the Japanese Consulate-General, but did no harm. In the city, however, many injuries were inflicted upon the people. The Northern troops at Chêngtu, as at Chungking, seem to have behaved in an orderly manner after the fall of the city.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Wu Pei-fu Ready to Apportion the Spoils of Victory

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Feb. 21.

According to the local Chinese papers, Wu Pei-fu is now sufficiently sure that his subordinates can hold Szechuan to consider apportioning the spoils of the campaign. It is said that he has already telegraphed his list of candidates to high offices and that mandates complying with his suggestions will shortly be issued.

Liu Tsen-hou is to be the military ruler and Teng Hsi-hou civil governor. Tien Sung-yao will be assistant to the military governor, Liu Hsiang commander in chief on the Tibetan border, Yang Sen Ch'uantung defence commissioner and Yuan Tsu-ming commander in chief on the Kueichow border.

A PEKING SURPRISE

From a Correspondent.

Visitors to Peking meet with many thrills and surprises. This was mine last month.

It was a dark, bleak night and the snow had just stopped falling. In a busy, dimly lighted thoroughfare the ricsha pullers with freezing hands struggled through frozen slush, and everybody but the street hawkers seemed to be hurrying to some warmer corner. Above the roll of the traffic and the peanut seller's calls, came with the wintry gusts more rhythmic sounds that as we drew nearer seemed familiar and decidedly strange in the environment of the celestial din. There was a drum—two perhaps—a cornet and something else, and the melody took one back to Old England a generation ago.

We had heard it in the Mile End road among the Coster's barrows,

"Owh yer must be a lover of the Lord
Or yer won't go to 'eaven when ye die.
No ye'r won't, no ye'r won't!!!
No yer won't!

It brought back memories of Ilfracombe beach, when the song was sung in better English. And a visit to that unique edifice the Clapton Congress Hall when a Hallelujah lassie in a poke bonnet demanded a silver coin for admittance on a Sunday night and the great brass band thrilled the thousands present with similar strains.

And here bound by the same magic spell under the same coloured flag stood on this inclement night round a lantern, half a dozen or more happy looking Chinese men, uniformed and tightly buttoned up, reproducing in tone, action and manner, in everything except the language, the wooing Evangel of General William Booth. And there around them the dirty faced, smelly crowd eagerly listening just as crowds listen to Salvationists the wide world over. And passing up Mission Street the magnificent Headquarters of the Army indicate that in many parts of China the crowds are gathering round the drum and flag and "penitent form" proving the universality of the Salvation Army methods.

DEATH SENTENCE ON KORNILOFF UPHELD

Appeal Fails in High Court, Harbin: Must Be Carried to Peking Senate

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 20.

The High Court on Monday was a scene of bustling activity, with police armed with carbines on hand everywhere. Korniloff's appeal against the sentence of death recently passed upon him was down for hearing.

The notorious bandit's lawyer, Mr. A. A. Widder, was an early arrival and awaited his client in the court-room, which would have been crowded had it not been previously ordained that the public would be refused admission.

An immense crowd awaited the arrival of the prison van, a Black Maria drawn by two black horses, which was escorted by a troop of mounted police. When the door of the vehicle was opened, a couple of armed warders descended, followed by the prisoner, chained and manacled, other warders behind. He was hurried as fast as his fetters would permit him into the Court where he was placed in the dock.

Examined by the presiding judge, Korniloff was asked a number of questions which he answered in a quiet, calm voice, as if he considered carefully what he said. He related the story of his escape and how he lived whilst at liberty. It was exactly the same story as he told the lower court. He still insisted that he had killed no one, and that his accomplice, Lomkovsy, was responsible for the murders.

In an impassioned speech on behalf of the prisoner, Mr. Widder pointed out that although the death sentence could not be imposed on foreigners not enjoying extraterritorial rights it nevertheless could not apply in Korniloff's case. Even in Soviet Russia the death sentence was not imposed save in case of high treason. According to the new Chinese ordinance also, the death penalty could not be imposed on foreigners not enjoying extraterritorial rights in whose countries the extreme penalty had been abolished.

Mr. Widder went on to say that there were no witnesses who could prove that Korniloff had murdered any of the persons who met their death after his escape. The Court could not regard crimes committed by the prisoner before his escape, he having already been sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour for these offences.

The Judges retired to consider their verdict. On resuming their seat 15 minutes later they announced that they had dismissed the appeal, at the same time informing the prisoner's advocate that he was at liberty to lodge a further appeal to the Peking Senate within 10 days.

Korniloff remained unmoved on hearing that the appeal had been dismissed. He was hurried back by his guards to the prison van, where a large crowd had been waiting to hear the verdict.

The Cabinet Office at Peking was a hungry place at noon on Monday when the threats of the cook that unless he be paid, there would be no food, were carried out. Because of this state, quietness reigned throughout the morning.

SOVIET AND JAPAN IN DISPUTE

Russian Journalist Declines to Promise Not to Practise Propaganda in Japan

Peking, Feb. 21.

Interviewed this morning with regard to the report that the Japanese correspondents at Moscow had been given notice by the Bolshevik authorities to leave Russia, the Japanese Legation stated that as the result of the Dairen Conference in May, 1921, it was agreed between the Japanese and the Russians that a Rosta correspondent should be allowed to proceed to Tokio and remain there as the representative of his agency on condition that he gave an assurance that he would abstain from propaganda, while Japanese correspondents should be permitted to proceed to Moscow. Mr. Osnedenski, the correspondent nominated by the Rosta Agency, gave the required assurances and went to Tokio, and Japanese correspondents went to Moscow.

Some three weeks ago Mr. Slepak, Rosta correspondent at Peking, applied at the Japanese Legation for a visé to go to Tokio to succeed Mr. Osnedenski. This application was supported by Mr. Karakhan. The Japanese Government made no objection then or since, but drew attention to the necessity for Mr. Slepak to give similar assurance regarding propaganda.

The Japanese Legation last night received a communication from Mr. Slepak saying that he was unable to comply as regards the assurance because the Japanese Government did not exact similar assurances from correspondents of other nationalities. It was intimated that this reply was in accordance with instructions from the headquarters of the Rosta Agency at Moscow.

THE VLADIVOSTOK CONSULATE.

The Japanese Legation has had no notice of the action reported to have been taken towards the Japanese correspondents by the Moscow Foreign Office, which has thus seen fit to deal arbitrarily with a question and cause the facts to be misrepresented. Mr. Slepak was not denied permission to enter Japan any more than Mr. Osnedenski, who has been there for some years.

Recently the Japanese Consul at Vladivostok was given notice by the Bolshevik authorities there that he could not continue to exercise the functions of Consul, as Russia had attempted to open negotiations with Japan on several subjects, such as recognition and fishing rights, but Japan had given no response. In this respect pecular misapprehension was also displayed, for Japan had suggested the appointment of a Soviet representative in Japan who would carry on the duties of consul. To this communication the Soviet Government did not reply.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MAIL CONTROVERSY SETTLED.

The *"Asahi"* learns that the mail controversy has been settled, the Vladivostok Post Office accepting Japanese commercial mail after censorship by the Russian Trade Bureau.

Note: The Japanese Post Office was informed a few days ago that transportation of mails to Siberia would not be continued.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Threat of Suspension of Mail Matter at Vladivostok

Tokio, Feb. 19.

The unofficial notice sent by the Postmaster in Vladivostok to the Postmaster in Tsuruga that the former would no longer accept mail matter from Japan, alleging instructions given him to that effect by his superior officials, has created considerable stir both here and in Vladivostok.

Officials here state that until official notification of the suspension of mail reaches them, letters and other communications will go forward as usual.

Should the bags be held up by the Russian authorities, an attempt will be made to maintain connexions with Japanese residents in Siberia through the Chinese post office. Meantime the various Departments concerned are discussing what steps should be taken to preserve their communications.

In Vladivostok, on the other hand, Japanese have jointly resolved to appeal to the Russian authorities for the maintenance of the postal service to and from Japan, stating that it is in their opinion one of the best methods of facilitating the resumption of full relations between the two countries.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL ARRESTED IN VLADIVOSTOK.

Tokio, Feb. 27.

Semi-official Foreign Office advices confirm a news despatch from Vladivostok reporting the arrest of Captain Matsui, a member of the General Staff. The Russian authorities are reported to, have searched Captain Matsui's residence yesterday and to have arrested him without explanation. They are also stated to have arrested two interpreters, Messrs. Hirai and Mita.

The War Office reports that it has not been advised of the incident.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BABY-STEALERS NOW EXECUTED

Leader Whose Refusal to Part with $1 Cost Him His Life

From Our Own Correspondent.

Haichow, Ku., Feb. 13.

An interesting sequel can now be written to the statement published in your issue of January 16, regarding the arrest of a Custom House official on the charge of kidnapping children. This sequel might well be headed "Six Lives for a Dollar" and brings into prominence the characteristic of Chinese criminals to blurt out suddenly and unexpectedly the whole truth.

A man was arrested on suspicion and thinking he could easily secure his liberty wrote a letter to the small official above alluded to, stating his difficulty and asking the latter's aid in effecting his release. He also hired a special messenger to carry the letter, promising the carrier that the official would give him a dollar for the trip.

The letter was duly delivered to the official who tore it into bits, dismissed the bearer curtly with the remark that he would have nothing to do with thieves and refused to pay the dollar. Whether he was afraid that action on behalf of the prisoner might incriminate him or whether he was glad to see a possible witness against him put out of the way, he made the greatest mistake of his life is not paying the dollar.

The bearer returned to the prisoner reviling the meanness of the official and faithfully reporting to the prisoner the accusation of thief. The prisoner's anger flamed and he declared with fury that he had appealed to this official as head of his band, and he went further and implicated others. On this evidence proceedings were instituted and events moved speedily: a merchant in the neighbouring city and this custom official were found guilty of the charge of directing the movements of a band of kidnappers, four of whom were caught. All six were executed a few days ago. Many efforts were made by powerful gentry to get them out on bail but in the face of their established guilt Gen. Bei Bao-san was inexorable. The only comment heard is on the stinginess of the man who for the sake of a dollar lost his own life and that of five others.

We have just heard of the death of "Big Nosed Hsu," the chief of the robbers that have made life miserable for the officials along the border of Shantung and Kiangsu. He was reported as wounded in the leg in a fight with Gen. Bei's men in December and was supposed to have gone south to nurse his wounds. We hear that he was captured in southern Shantung and beheaded. Gen. Bei said that Hsu had 700 men in his band when the December fight occurred. An important factor for disorder is thus eliminated.

A TSINGTAO DISGRACE

Incoming Ships Invaded by Advertising Touts of Disorderly Houses

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Feb. 20.

One of the abuses which the foreign community here considers the inmates of foreign brothels do away with is the practice of the inmates of foreign brothels in boarding incoming ships for the purpose of distributing the cards of their establishments. It is considered here that this practice is degrading to the prestige of the white race.

The community considers it necessary that the various steamship companies should request their captains to forbid their ships being boarded by this class of people. It is felt that if brothels run by foreigners must exist, then they should be conducted in an unostentatious manner.

One unpleasant side of this brothel business is that girls are lured away from their homes in Harbin and brought here for the alleged purpose of serving in cafés as "dancing partners." Upon their arrival, they receive a rude awakening. They invariably discover that dancing is not the only thing demanded of them. They then assuage their sorrows in cocaine.

If any should want to quit, a bill for travelling expenses is forthwith presented, together with a demand for compensation for breach of contract.

The position of the girls is hopeless. They can get no satisfaction from the Chinese authorities. The brothel keepers seem to have quite a pull. Some official somewhere must be making money out of the whole business.

AN EARTHQUAKE AT TSINGTAO

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Feb. 20.

Guests at the Grand Hotel and residents throughout the city were chased out of their beds last night by an earthquake that was felt with varying intensity throughout Tsingtao. According to Mr. T. Irumata, the chief of the observatory here, the shock began at 11.07 o'clock and lasted for three minutes and two seconds according to the seismograph, but the average person felt is for only 40 seconds. Chandeliers shook and light-weight goods fell off the shelves in several shops. The centre of the earthquake is not yet ascertainable but according to Mr. Irumata it was not in Japan. It is reported that the shock was particularly severe in the Laoshan district.

It is seldom that Tsingtao is visited by an earthquake, the last one occurring some three years ago.

Superstitious Chinese attach considerable importance to it.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE BISHOP POZZONI

An Imposing Ceremony and a Striking Tribute

Hongkong, Feb. 22.

The funeral of Bishop Pozzoni was a very striking tribute and was attended by large numbers of people, including representatives of the Governor, Sir Reginald Stubbs, the General Officer Commanding, Major-General Sir John Fowler, and the Commodore, Captain Henry E. Grace, the Anglican Bishop of Victoria, the Anglican Cathedral Chaplain, the Colonial Secretary, Executive and Legislative Councillors, Members of the Consular Corps, naval and military officers, and other notabilities and members of the Irish, French, American, Spanish and Portuguese missions. The hearse was drawn by a detachment from the Italian gunboat Calabria.

Thousands of students from the Catholic schools and convents and boy-scouts were present and the Chinese congregation were strongly represented. The service at the grave-side, at which the Bishop of Macao officiated, was a most impressive ceremony.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPANESE LOAN A "NATIONAL SHAME"

Flotation Another Excuse to Attack Govt.: Storm of Protest throughout Japan

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Feb. 14.

The storm that has burst from financial and commercial circles throughout the country and from the Press, with regard to the loan for Yen 550,000,000 just negotiated by Japan's financial commissioners in London and New York, has been of an unprecedented nature. No pains are being taken by those dissatisfied with the terms of the flotation to censure the authorities or to disguise their disgust with the manner in which the Japanese Government pitted the financial strength of this Empire against the capitalists of Lombard Street and Wall Street.

The purposes for which the loan were floated were two-fold. One was to obtain funds for reconstruction and the other was to redeem the pound sterling loan which matures next year and at the same time to regulate the exchange rate. Although the sum raised is Yen 550,000,000—namely Gold $150,000,000 in America and £25,000,000 in London—no less than Yen 350,000,000 must be set aside for the conversion of loans in pounds sterling which matures in 1925. The rate of interest of this pound sterling loan is 4 per cent. and financiers here are naturally asking why the authorities floated a loan bearing interest of from 6 to 7 per cent. for the purpose.

UNITED IN CONDEMNATION.

The Press is unanimous in condemning the loan, declaring that the conditions attached are such that Japan's financial prestige has been gravely affected and she is now regarded in the world's money markets as a third-rate country.

The first loan Japan ever made, after she emerged from her almost hermetically-sealed isolation, it is interesting to recall, was 55 years ago, Great Britain accommodating the new fledgling into the comity of nations with the necessary money. The rate of interest was 9 per cent. and this was gradually brought down to 4 per cent. at the time of the Japan-China war. When Japan and Russia came to grips, the rate rose to 6 per cent. but went down again to between 4 and 4½ per cent.

When the interest that Japan will have to pay British and American financiers is totalled, it will be seen that this country is paying so much as 13 per cent., a rate that evokes no surprise when the Japanese papers call it a "national shame."

REASONS FOR HIGH RATES.

What was the cause of the exorbitant rates of interest that Japan was forced to concede? Mr. Shoda, Minister of Finance, attributes the disadvantages in the conditions to the drop in the quotation of Japanese bonds which resulted after the September disaster, to the apprehension caused by the severe seismic shocks that rocked the main island again on January 15 (during which time informal conversations were proceeding between the Japanese commercial commissioners in New York and London and the financiers of Wall Street and Lombard Street), and to the report that another destructive earthquake would paralyze the land again. The Press refuses to accept this explanation, citing the fact that the stability of Japan's national finance and the financial footing she retains in the international money market would more than counter-effect the rumours that are said to have terrified foreign investors. The unpopularity of the present Cabinet, and the growing bitterness that has been recently manifested by the rank and file of the nation towards the privileged classes, they maintain, are the real cause that have made fatal the flotation of the loans, thereby injecting domestic political wranglings into the question, and coupling this with a request that the Cabinet shall resign.

The total amount necessary for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the devastated regions has been fixed at Yen 1,300,000,000, to be floated over a period of six years. Japan's outstanding foreign debts total Yen 1,320,000,000, all of which bear interest rates ranging from 4 to 4½ per cent., none bearing interest higher than this.

Just after the Russo-Japanese war, when Japan was less prosperous than she is to-day, foreign loans were raised at a much lower rate of interest. The Bank of Japan now has reserve funds to the amount of Yen 1,050,000,000, besides Yen 445,000,000 reserved abroad. If the specie owned by the Government is added to this amount, the total comes to Yen 1,650,000,000. Such being the financial standing of the country, the papers conclude that the loan business has been badly bungled.

FALSE NATIONAL PRIDE.

The fact that the Netherlands Government was able to float an East India loan last November, in the New York market, with interest at 6½ per cent., and the Argentine a loan this year with interest of 6.3/10 per cent., both more favourable than the terms accorded Japan, is the reason why the Press and financiers in this country declare that Japan is "being disdained by foreign investors" and that "she is regarded now as a third-class power so far as her financial standing is concerned."

It is admitted on all hands that Japan might have floated loans to the extent she has already done, or even to a larger figure, at much more advantageous rates if she had offered some form of security, for instance, the profits arising from the tobacco monopoly. That false national pride, a sentiment that has to be reckoned with very much in Japan, that will not admit a wound although it is patent, prevented the authorities from offering security. In avoiding this "shame," the country has had to pay the high interest rates that foreign capitalists have demanded.

"PREFERRED FLOWER TO FOOD."

How the capitalists of Japan view the loans is best illustrated by a conversation which I had with Mr. K. Seshita, manager of the Mitsubishi Bank, one of the largest financial organizations in the Empire, and with Mr. Y. Ono, Governor of the Hypothec Bank of Japan, the latter a semi-official institution.

"Burdens akin to those that result from usury have been heaped on the nation through the blundering tactics of the Government," he said as he paced his magnificently furnished office, puffing viciously at a cigarette. "I feel like hauling down the flag of my firm and retiring. The terms are absolutely disgraceful. A second-rate power could have done far better. The Government refused to give securities and is now paying heavily for it. What they have done is to prefer a flower to food when in hunger."

THE REAL PROBLEM.

Mr. Ono, being head of a semi-official institution, was more discreet, but it was evident that his private financial conscience was warring with his official loyalty "Of course," he said, "one must realize the difficulty the Government has had in floating the loans owing to the unstable financial conditions throughout the world as the result of the war, but, yet, 7 per cent. is a terrible burden to saddle the nation with at this time. The loans will, directly and indirectly, increase Japan's financial status and alleviate the domestic money market for a time, but the real problem confronting us to-day is to get rid of the large influx of foreign imports. I do not see how the loan can effectively aid in solving this aspect of our financial ills."

The foreign investor in Japanese bonds has really secured an excellent investment. Japan's credit is unquestioned, and her bonds are secure as those of any other nation. The security is splendid and the interest rates more than the most sanguine perhaps expected. This is proved by the rapid manner in which the loans were accorded a ready reception both in London and in New York.

How Japan will use the present loan will make all the difference to her future financial prospects. If the money is "spent" those in the know point out, then her condition afterwards, perhaps before the close of the year, will be worse than it is to-day. If it is directed into channels of productivity, the loan, despite the admitted flaws in the terms, will yet prove to be a blessing to the Empire struggling to retrieve itself from the ashes of ruin.

CUPID IN NINGPO

Famous Beauty to Wed Warrior's Son

From a Correspondent.

Ningpo, Feb. 20.

The announcement which it is my pleasant duty to make has already afforded the keenest delight to the foreign community of Ningpo, and will come, I can confidently predict, as a most welcome surprise to many in all parts of China. I have to proclaim the forthcoming wedlock of Mr. Algernon Reginald Worples, fifth son of Colonel Worples, who recently commanded the West River Cycle Corps, and now resides at The Myrtles, Streatham, and Miss Janet Chete, of Bison, Ill. Mr. Chete is, of course, famous to all as the senior partner in the great Commission Agency, Chete, Chete, Chete, and Welsh, while Mrs. Chete is the genial Chairman of the Chekiang Needlework Guild. The exact date of the ceremony has not as yet been published, but there is a rumour abroad that the Twenty-ninth of this month will be ultimately selected, it being hinted indeed that perhaps Miss Janet has been slightly more instrumental in the engineering of this happy event than her future spouse. However this may be, the affair has aroused keenest interest as the young couple are universally known and esteemed, and for over 30 years have done much to enliven the various social and athletic activities, by means of which we seek from time to time to chase away dull care. Anyhow, bully for them and the best of good luck. (Bosnian papers please copy).

WHO SAID ARMADILLO?

Writing as I am from Ningpo, let me also take this opportunity of exploding once and for all a fallacy which a correspondent has recently sought to promulgate through the medium of these columns. I refer to the foolish, in fact puerile, controversy on the subject of armadilloes. I was myself a near witness of the incident described, and was able without difficulty and beyond all question of doubt to identify the animal as a White-tufted Terrapin, (turtur albuminoid), more common perhaps in the Tahu Lake district, but a sufficiently frequent visitor to these parts as to render "Nature Lover's" mistake inexcusable. I think and hope that this will terminate the whole discussion, as with my long experience of zoology, I may without boasting claim for my testimony on such subjects an indisputable authenticity. With regard to "Nature Lover," it will, I think, be more charitable to suspect him of a facetious insincerity than to credit him with such crass ignorance.

A QUIET CORNER IN HONAN

Lao Yang-jen's Former Stronghold Brigand-free

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kueichow, Ho., Feb. 21.

Whilst most parts of China seem to be in such shocking state of unrest, it is a pleasure to be able to write from one place where the prospects for a quiet year are better than they were a year ago. Twelve months ago Gen. Wang's troops had not been long in the district and they were taking some time in settling down. Robbers were very active in the country and burnings and kidnappings near the city were of nightly occurrence. To crown all Lao Yang-jen and his scoundrels had just been appointed to this section and people's hearts were full of fear. Now he has come and gone the robber bands have been dispersed or have given up their arms and we can sleep at nights without the constant firing of guns in the neighbouring villages to disturb our rest. The troops, moreover, seem to be better behaved, so people are able to take fresh heart again.

The chief brigand left in this district after the departure of Lao Yang-jen was a worthy of the name of Wang Mao. After several engagements with the troops in the neighbourhood of Chechang, he decided that he had had enough for the time being so he accepted terms and gave up his arms. If only the ability and nerve he showed as a brigand can be turned to good use he might become an asset to the country yet.

We had a good rain two weeks ago which was badly needed. It was enough to save the winter crops, but more is still needed. The dollar now changes for 202 coppers which is not making it easy for workers who are paid in coppers. The ricsha fare from the railway station to the city, for instance, is still 50 coppers, as it was when the dollar changed for 170 coppers.

We are glad to say, by the way, that this fine road of three miles in length, built by the Famine Committee, is being kept in very good shape entirely by the Chinese themselves. When so many things are not very satisfactory it is certainly encouraging to see them using their time and money to this good purpose and we are informed that Gen. Wang Wu-wei, our present military commander, subscribed $°,000 to this work and has taken interest in having it carried on. We must confess that when we were helping in the building of this good metal road we had considerable misgivings as to how it would fare in a short time. It is very pleasing to be able to report that, owing to the care expended on it, it is as good to-day as when it was built two years ago in spite of no small amount of heavy traffic.

FREEBOOTERS ON KIANGSI BORDER

Prospects of Further Spoliation and Then Fighting Again

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kanchow, Ki., Feb., 15.

The new year has come and gone. It was a rather sad one for many, as, for some unexplained reason, the Northern soldiers were impressing coolies right up to the last day of the festival. It is difficult to understand why.

Two kinds of press gangs were at work, one accompanied by a policeman was the real one; when they put their hand on you there was no way out, you had to go. The other was an unwarranted gang impressing all and sundry, especially those who looked not at all like carriers. This gang were after money, and a few dollars ever sufficient to obtain a man's release.

Since the New year troops have been sent to the border, where there are now quite a number of "scrap" units, though nothing worthy of repelling an attack if made in earnest by the South.

The "Robin Hood" of the border, to wit Brig.-Gen. Kao, late of the 3rd. Brigade, is now engaged in harassing the towns and villages near the border. A few days ago he made a raid on a market called Peitou and collected as much money as could be found.

News from Lungnanhsien says that they are expecting a visit from the Brigadier. Thus the people near the border live in hourly dread of a visit from these unwelcome friends, though they are daily being bled by their protectors.

Numerous of merchants are looking to this year's trade to put them on their feet again, as many have not recovered from the losses caused by the Southerners' visit two years ago, but if they will refrain from again visiting this city for during 1924 many will feel obliged. But the amount of warlike preparation going on lately almost forbids anticipation of a peaceful year. Boats are still kept in readiness for any emergency, and the boat population as well as the merchants feel this very much. On the whole the outlook is not favourable.

PRESIDENT Tsao Kun and his present Cabinet are understood to be proposing the establishment of an office in Shanghai, the main work of which will be to endeavour to bring about internal peace in China.

YANG SEN VICTOR OF SZECHUAN

Personal Impressions of a New Force: Athlete Pianist and Humourist

By a Chungking Correspondent.

Gen. Yang Sen, the lieutenant in Szechuan of Marshal Wu Pei-fu, is again reported to have captured the provincial capital, Chêngtu, which, if true, means that practically the whole of Szechuan comes once more under the control of the North. It is reported also that Yang Sen has received the personal surrender of Hsiong Keh-wu and his henchman Tan Mow-hsing. This seems too good to be true. Hsiong and Tan are the stormy petrels of Szechuan. Their movements have always presaged the coming storm. If they have surrendered unconditionally their plight must have been a bad one indeed and the backbone of Szechuanese independence is broken. It seems probable, however, that behind their surrender lies another dark brood of plots and intrigue which will be reared all too soon to wreck again the hopes of the peace party in China's richest and most distressful province. How is the observer of Yang's victory to say what are the chances of the future, knowing the possibility that Hsiong and Tan did not surrender at discretion? He is likely to go far astray unless he is acquainted with the personality of Yang Sen himself and it will be interesting to recall some of the traits which foreigners have observed in this rising *protégé* of Wu Pei-fu.

IN CORPORE SANO.

Yang Sen has the aspect and bearing of a dapper Japanese Colonel of Infantry. He has the poise of a proved leader of men and his manners are good without being in any way effusive. His glance can be direct and even piercing at times but in general it suffers from that suspicion of shiftiness which seems inevitable in all China's leading men of action. His age is about 35 and he looks even younger. He usually affects a kind of Norfolk jacket, undress uniform of dark brown which matches his dark eyes. He keeps himself in the pink of condition and possesses that quality which is indispensable in a successful leader of men, physical courage. He neither smokes nor drinks and his private morals are unexceptional. He once remarked to the writer on the deterioration of the fibre and driving power of his rival, Hsiong, a heavy drinker and *bon viveur*, and referred with pride and I may add an unusual lapse of his usual modesty to his own personal habits.

HUMOUR AND THE PIANO.

Up to two years ago Yang Sen was living in comparative obscurity at Luchow and came under the influence of local missionaries who made some impression on his character. He seems to be at ease in the company of foreigners and to enjoy any opportunity of mental activity. He loves to spend hours in the International Institute's museum at Chungking playing like a boy with mechanical toys and models of modern engineering works. One of his accomplishments is playing hymn tunes on the piano, with childlike absorption and ingenuousness. "Nearer my God to Thee!" is his favourite—it appeals to his soldier heart and reminds him of the perils of his calling. At a Committee meeting of a public institution in Chungking some time ago, he suddenly got bored with the length of the proceedings and betook himself to his missionary host's piano and broke into "A few more years shall roll." The Committee took the hint and cut their business short. Encouraged by this success Yang Sen rubbed it in with the unsolicited encore "Days and moments quickly flying." There was no flicker of humour on his face, but who shall say his subtle oriental mind did not intend the hint. There is hope for China if her leaders are really not devoid of humour.

GEN. FENG YU-HSIANG'S IRONSIDES

A Visit to Tunghsien and Nanyuan: Soldiers Whom the People Welcome: Military Efficiency and Religious Zeal

From a Correspondent in Chihli

A recent trip to the Capital afforded a long anticipated opportunity for seeing at close quarters the troops of the famous Christian General, Feng Yu-hsiang. One finds in certain quarters, and among superficial observers of the kaleidoscopic changes and regroupings of Chinese political factions at the present time, a tendency to doubt the sincerity of this powerful military chief, who after a short tenure of the Tuchunate of Honan, was transferred a little over a year ago to the important post which he now occupies. His drastic treatment of a notorious bandit leader and enemy, following the victorious campaign of Wu Pei-fu in 1922, caused an estrangement between him and his superior, which, according to popular report, has only been healed within the past few months. Fierce, and in the opinion of many, justifiable criticism was aroused by his share last June in the political *coup* which resulted in the expulsion of Li Yuan-hung from the Presidential Palace. It will be remembered that on this occasion vigorous protests against his conduct were despatched to General Feng from the Christians of his native province, Anhui, and from prominent Christian leaders in other centres. These are said to have been much taken to heart by the General, whose strongest line of defence was that as a soldier he had been acting under the orders of his chief, and obviously was not in a position to play a lone hand. But whatever be the facts of the case, it will doubtless be of interest to some readers to hear a first-hand report of things seen in the two big military camps near Peking, where Feng's men have for the past year, been training with extraordinary keenness for the next trial of strength with the Manchurian warlord.

By appointment, the writer travelled down to Tunghsien by rail to visit an old friend, Brigadier General Chang Tzu-chiang, Commander of the 7th Mixed Brigade, encamped in the barracks within the city walls. The camp is built upon the site of the old Imperial Granaries, which fell into decay after the rice tribute fleet from the south discontinued their tortuous journeys north by the Grand Canal, and the grain was conveyed to Tientsin by steamer. As I drove up to the General's quarters we passed a long stretch of "playing fields," where several keenly contested games of football were in progress. The soldiers were clearly in excellent physical condition, with their hearts in the game. There was no aimless kicking of the ball about by mobs of players ignorant of the rules, but the teams were intelligent and efficient. In contrast to the average military camp in China to-day, there was a complete absence of loafers, the sentries were smart, well set-up soldiers, and the buildings were in excellent repair. One striking feature which immediately caught the eye was the profusion of moral maxims, and scriptural quotations, inscribed in large black characters upon every whitewashed wall within the barracks.

PHYSICAL VIGOUR.

General Chang had been out all day at a conference with his chief at Nanyuan, 70 *li* away, and did not arrive in camp until 8 p.m., but in the interval one was entertained by a staff officer, Col. Sung and one of the chaplains of the establishment, who had graduated in theology at Yen Ching University, Peking, last year. It was a bitterly cold night, and one wondered what the condition of the General would be after his ride of nearly 50 miles, and a long day's conference. If he was exhausted by this exposure he did not show any signs of it, in fact he appeared as fresh as paint, and ready for a long evening's talk. We had much to discuss as it was three years since our last interview at the funeral of his father in a village on the Chihli plain. He was then a Colonel, but in the intervening years hard service on many a battlefield and in all kinds of tight corners had left their mark on him, though still a young man in the early forties.

The General was obviously proud of his Brigade, and spoke of the hard training which they were undergoing in long arduous route marches of a hundred *li*, two or three times a week. This is an amazing feat at any time for Chinese soldiers, whose straggling propensities are much in evidence even on the shortest march. But here were men in the depth of a North China winter, exposed to piercing blasts, prepared to face bitter cold and fatigue on iron rations at the call of their trusted leader, so as to keep fit for all emergencies. Similar tests of endurance are the order of the day for the whole of Gen. Feng's Division stationed at Nanyuan, and the discipline among these troops is surely something unique in the military annals of the country. Officers share the hardships and rigorous training of their men, which undoubtedly accounts for the *esprit de corps* which strikes every observer.

SUNDAY SERVICE.

After a shake-down in Gen. Chang's private quarters, where I occupied a room stacked high with enormous quantities of educational literature for the troops, I was awakened soon after six on Sunday morning, and found that the camp was astir with unmistakeable signs of soldiers in neighbouring buildings at their devotional exercises. Subsequently I learned that groups of men were meeting for Bible study all over the camp, a strange phenomenon in any country of the world. Soon after the General led the way to a large hall at the east end of the camp, where a Christian service was to be held. On arrival there we found a packed audience of some 600 officers and N. C. O.s all seated on serried ranks of benches. They sprang to attention as the General entered.

He accompanied the speaker and the chaplain on the platform, and with military promptness gave out the opening hymn. It was "Onward Christian Soldiers," and though one has heard the famous hymn sung by crowded congregations in Christian lands far away, it had surely never been sung with such sincerity and thrilling effect as by those Chinese soldiers. One thought instinctively of the great Protector's doughty heroes singing their psalms in the early dawn and striking terror into the hearts of their Cavalier foes at the outset of many desperate battles.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CONTRAST.

It was an extraordinary experience to look into the faces of those hundreds of clean, alert, well set-up Chinese officers. Hard things have been said of recent years in the foreign Press of China and, in most cases, deservedly, of the make-believe soldiers, "uniformed coolies," who swagger and slouch in the public eye, bully their fellow-countrymen, and who have made their profession a by-word of contempt and loathing to all observers. But here was a miraculous transformation, a veritable apotheosis of the despised grey uniform, disciplined Chinese soldiers, and withal men of real soldierly bearing. They listened with eager attention to half-an-hour's address, and indeed took up the points of the speaker in a fashion that was somewhat disconcerting. After a passage dealing with the depressing condition of China to-day, and the need for strong men of moral courage to stem the tide of corruption which threatens to engulf the whole nation, the speaker asked if it were not the case that what China needed most was men of absolute faith in and allegiance to Jesus Christ as the Saviour of individuals and of society. A spontaneous and shattering response of "Yes" came instantly from the packed congregation with such a volume of sound as to rattle the windows. This happened three times during the address.

After a return to the camp for breakfast I was privileged two hours later to attend another service in the same hall, this time crammed to the doors with over 700 men, all of whom were to be baptized on the following Sunday. Nearly a thousand men, I was told, have been under instruction with a view to baptism during the past year, and the hall was too small to admit all those who wished to be present. Like their officers the men were fine specimens of the Northern type of Chinese, tall, wiry, and obviously as fit as fiddles. Though 90 per cent. of them hailed from village homes in Chihli and Honan, there was nothing of the clumsy vacant-looking yokel about these fellows, who had been transformed by regular habits and a strict military regimen into keen intelligent soldiers.

LIVES OF INDUSTRY.

While wearers of the familiar grey uniform in every other part of China are battening upon the resources of the locality, and making the lives of the people a burden with their cruel exactions and high-handed roguery, the model camps in Nanyuan and Tunghsien present an extraordinary contrast. Here there are no drones, no opium-smoking, commanding officers who regale you with apochryphal stories of their military exploits, no swash-buckling bullies, clothed in a little brief authority, determined to exact the utmost from the subservient and stupid people.

The average Chinese military camp has a depressing effect upon the visitor, but these which guard the ancient capital are hives of industry in which the slacker must have a very uncomfortable time. There are workshops in which the men are taught weaving, carpentry and other useful trades against the day of their discharge from the Army. All the towels used in the camp are made on their own looms, and there is strict economy in all expenditure. There is a thorough education scheme in operation and all are expected to learn to read. It was amusing to hear that education is not only compulsory for the soldiers, but those wives and families, resident in the vicinity of the camps, are all registered and facilities provided for the enlightenment of young and old alike. If an officer's wife and family propose to take up their abode in Tunghsien or Nanyuan, they are given a week in which to settle down in the new quarters, after which every member of the family is supposed to enter upon a course of instruction during each day. If the General's orders are not carried out, the families are packed off home without ceremony.

THE NANYUAN CAMP.

Two days after the visit to Tunghsien I was fortunate in seeing over the great camp at Nanyuan, where Gen. Feng Yu-hsiang and his 30,000 men are lodged. It was, to my great regret, not possible to see the famous Christian leader, who was out of camp, but I was received by the senior chaplain—there are five Chinese chaplains on the establishment—and courteously shown all the interesting features of this model military depôt.

A cold 30 *li* motor drive along a very indifferent earth road brought one to the village of Nanyuan, a prosperous-looking market centre. There were few soldiers in evidence until one approached the exit on the south, where a strong guard of sentries blocked the way to the aviation ground, and a long low line of buildings to the southeast. The Nanyuan camp is on a very big scale, and appeals to the imagination. Crossing the wide stretch of plain to the east of the hangars one saw in the distance on the left the simple white monument presented to Gen. Feng by his troops in memory of his father, who died many years ago before the son became a power in the land. The General demurred to accepting the gift as a tribute to his father, but declared that he would set it up in their camp in memory of their fallen comrades who perished in the Civil War in 1922. Upon the monument are inscribed their names in clear lettering. The simplicity of the memorial is very striking, and the pure white marble stands out vividly from the dull monotonous drab of the plain, at once an inspiration and a challenge to the loyalty of the soldiers.

THE SOLDIERS' BANK.

Gen. Feng's headquarters are about a mile to the south of Nanyuan village. They lie in the centre of a long line of barracks, commodious, solidly built, and extending for quite half a mile both east and west. Immediately opposite the headquarters stands a familiar looking Y.M.C.A. hut that might have been transferred bodily from Picardy. This was my destination, and it did not take long to discover my friend, the chaplain, who started me off at once on a tour of inspection. After meeting several members of the staff, we visited in turn the military prison and the Camp Bank. As was to be expected there were few men undergoing incarceration. They are kept so busily employed in every hour of the day that there is little or no time for mischief, and they can work off their superfluous spirits on the football field or in the fine open-air gymnasium. It was interesting to hear the chaplain contrast the conditions of life for the villagers of Nanyuan under the benevolent rule of Feng Yu-hsiang, and that of his predecessor Chang Tso-lin, whose Manchurian braves had given the natives of the country-side a bitter taste of military despotism and arrogant power. A critic may suggest that this was a bit of subtle propaganda for the foreigner, but the record of Feng's troops, and their unfailing consideration for the welfare of the people in Hunan and Honan before their arrival in the Capital heightened the effect of a statement that whereas the people in other days were harassed and oppressed by all kinds of petty exactions—"stealing the shoes from the peasants" was the expression used—they can now pass their days and nights in peace and contentment. Formerly doors had to be kept securely barred against foraging intruders, and even then nothing was safe, whereas now the population can sleep o'nights with open doors—a phrase reminiscent of the golden age in Chinese history. Needless to say all brothels and gambling dens have been swept clean from the environs of the camp, and the strictest discipline is enforced after dark.

The military bank is a striking feature of Gen. Feng's domain. Every soldier has an account and is expected to deposit therein his monthly pay retaining only $1 per month for personal expenses. There are facilities for despatching savings as desired to home addresses in all the northern provinces, and the regular arrival of such proofs of filial piety and consideration for the old folks evokes grateful astonishment in villages all over the plain. That a soldier should be able to forward remittances with unfailing regularity to his native village is a phenomenon that gives rise to universal praise among the thrifty farming population who have been accustomed to regard themselves as the natural prey of the devastating hordes in grey uniform.

PREPARING FOR CIVIL LIFE.

But perhaps the most impressive sight to the visitor at Nanyuan is the enormous area under cultivation by the industrious troops under Gen. Feng's wise and far-seeing rule. No one knows better than he, who has himself risen from the ranks, the tremendous problem of China's disbanded soldiery. Bandits or useful respectable citizens are the twin alternatives and the splendid achievements of the General in establishing workshops and industrial schools, as well as the wide stretches of neat allotments bordering the camp at Nanyuan are a remarkable testimony to a keen, constructive, patriotic mind brought to bear upon one of the desperate diseases of the social fabric to-day. In conclusion, at Nanyuan as in Tunghsien, but perhaps to a greater degree, the eye is rivetted by the stirring exhortations in gigantic characters fully six feet high which are emblazoned upon the long whitewashed walls of the camp. These reveal with irresistible force the spirit of the distinguished leader, whose rise to power is a significant portent amid the welter of Chinese political life since the establishment of the republic.

With military brevity, like the pistol shots of clear ringing words of command on parade, the soldiers are ceaselessly reminded as they march in and out of barracks of the need to "be watchful," "Be prepared," "Rouse yourselves," "Exert your strength to the utmost," and "Fight for the Republic."

NO WORK NO FOOD.

But the motto that will live longest in the memory is the warning significantly inscribed on a wall to the left of the road soon after one enters the camp. "Pu Kung, pu shih." (No work, no food). Here is the panacea for China's hordes of parasitic braves, who from Tuchun to private are sucking the life blood of the nation. And may it not be that we have in Gen. Feng Yu-hsiang the man of destiny, the incorruptible leader, for whom the nation waits with wistful expectation?

A. G. B.

LADY MISSIONARY WOUNDED

Bayonet Thrust from Szechuan Soldier-Bandit: Second Outrage on River

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chengtu, Feb. 1.

Local newspapers report that during the looting of Chuhsien by Gen. Chen Fu-min's troops Miss Allibone, of the China Inland Mission, received a bayonet wound in the leg from a soldier. Some days previously several lady members of the Canadian Methodist Mission, proceeding by steamer from Luchow to Chungking, were carried off by bandits. They paid $400 to their captives and were released.

The troops at Chuhsien attacked the C.I.M. church and ladies' residence, looking for silver and other valuables. Miss Allibone the lady missionary in charge was attacked by a soldier with a bayonet and wounded in the leg because she seemed to the brigands a little tardy in revealing the hiding place of the valuables.

Thus the situation in the province is daily becoming more serious, and increasing evidence is revealing that the Lincheng incident shows the fall in foreign prestige, and that it is going to be repeated many times again in various forms. This province was never worse for brigandage than at the present time. The secret societies are stronger than ever, and are in such power that they control the magistrates and law courts in most places.

The Canadian Methodist Mission ladies were journeying by steamer to Luchow from Chungking for conference when they were attacked by bandits. The Captain was compelled to pay $200 to effect their release. Nearing a rapid, the Captain found the vessel so heavily loaded (rumour says with ammunition) that he was forced to ask the passengers, foreign and Chinese, to get out and walk round the rapid. While doing this they were accosted by a second band of armed ruffians who decided to march the whole party into the hills and hold them for ransom. Fortunately for the ladies they shortly encountered the first party that held them up, and being larger than the second gang, attacked and drove them off and released the ladies for a further consideration of $400, which they were glad to pay.

Still the preparations go on apace for Chinese New Year, and the poor distracted people still hope for a quiet time to celebrate. The business men are in dire straits. The paper dollar issued by Hsiong Keh-wu has gone down to 20 cents on the dollar.

ROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT

Peking, Feb. 25.

In connexion with the projected round the world flight, which is being organized by the U. S. War Department, Lieutenant Lawton is being expected to arrive in Peking from Manila on March 15 to make such arrangements as are necessary in connexion with the flight.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SHANGHAI NEWS

JUDGE LOBINGIER'S DEPARTURE

10 Years of the U. S. Court for China: First Judge to Complete Full Term

The approaching departure of his Honour Judge Lobingier is an event which the American community in Shanghai will regret as well as mark as being important, in view of the admirable service he has rendered during his 10 years' service in the U.S. Court for China. For the time being, the business of the court practically remains in abeyance, his Honour's judicial period expiring strictly according to the date of the Presidential Commission—a position which most observers may describe as unsatisfactory, in view of the possibility of cases piling up until the arrival of the new Judge. In point of fact, Judge Lobingier's work is all "up-to-date," and there are few outstanding cases of any importance waiting to be dealt with. We understand Judge Lobinier, upon handing over office to his successor, proposes first to visit the United States and give some attention to his estate in Missouri, and when these and various other private matters have been dealt with, possibly he may return to Shanghai. For the moment, however, his plans in this respect are indefinite.

BLAZING A TRAIL.

An interesting point about his Honour's work in China is that he is the first judge of the U.S. Court to complete the appointed term of 10 years, the first two Judges here resigning before their terms were half over. From the first, he recognized the difficulty of the task before him, and this perhaps more than anything else determined him upon setting a useful precedent. He has succeeded, but this we may look upon as the least of his successes, his Honour having accomplished much extremely valuable work in building up the court. In an interesting account of Judge Lobingier's work here, Mr. W.W. Blume, Dean of the Comparative Law School, pays tribute to his Honour for having blazed a trail through the entanglement of cases and statutes which make up the laws of the United States, making a pathway to be followed by Americans in China and setting up sign posts which all his successors must follow.

The first 10 years of Judge Lobingier's legal career were spent in the practice of law at Omaha, he then being appointed Supreme Court Commissioner of Nebraska, writing many important opinions which still stand. Under the Administration of President Roosevelt, he was appointed a member of the Philippine judiciary, taking a very prominent part in the extremely difficult work of the early American judges in the islands. It was during this period that he gained the experience used to such excellent advantage in China. Example of this is shown in his two volumes of Extraterritorial Cases, these containing full reports of the decisions of the court from its beginning, and their preparation involving immense labour. The volumes are now an indispensable guide to the American Bar, and to American business men in China. Another important piece of constructive work, in part completed, is the Extraterritorial Remedial Code, designed for use by lawyers practising before the U.S. Court for China, in which the latest methods of procedure have been incorporated.

THE BAR ASSOCIATION.

Another of Judge Lobingier's achievements was the organization of the Far Eastern American Bar Association which has published a number of valuable bulletins, chief among them two entitled "American Courts in China," and "Extraterritorial Corporation Manual," prepared by Judge Lobingier himself. Another achievement greatly appreciated by members of the Bar has been Judge Lobingier's success in building up the Court library. Upon his arrival it consisted of a few text books, the Federal Decisions (in part) and reports of a very few cases. By careful use of a limited appropriation, Judge Lobingier secured the full reports of each of the 50 courts of last resort in the United States and of some of the lower courts, so that it is now possible for members of the Bar using the library to prepare briefs on almost any subject in American law.

All this has been accomplished in the small leisure available from the increasingly arduous demands of the court. It was a small institution when the Judge assumed his post, only 375 cases, most of them of minor character, having been filed in the preceding eight years of its existence. The number has been increased by more than 2,000 during the past 10 years, and many have involved enormous sums of money and legal questions of far reaching importance.

OVER 100 LAW TREATIES.

How completely Judge Lobingier has applied himself to his judicial work may be gathered from the fact that a bibliography of his legal literature would include over one hundred treatises on a wide range of legal subjects. Of the longer works, perhaps the best known are "The People's Law," and "The Evolution of Roman Law" (a new edition of which was recently published), "Philippine Practice," and "Extraterritorial Cases," while all of the shorter treatises have appeared in the leading law magazines and encyclopædias. This is a record of achievement and service of which his Honour's fellow-countrymen no less than himself may well be proud. It is quite certain that his name must ever hold a prominent place in the annals of the U.S. Court for China.

A HONGKEW MYSTERY

Corpse Found in Suspicious Circumstances

About 8 p.m. on Sunday a startling discovery was made by detectives on patrol in the neighbourhood of Tiendong and Wuchang Roads. In an unfrequented alleyway—one of a network in the vicinity—they found the dead body of a well dressed Chinese, and examination revealed two wounds—probably caused by a revolver—one just above the right eye and one in the side. Death appeared to have but recently taken place. Upon inquiries being made, it was found that the deceased—a young man named Lin—was an employee at the Isis Theatre. He had lately been absent from business and was believed to be sick and confined to his room, and at present very little is known of his recent movements.

Up to the present no light has been thrown on the matter. The deceased was found to have received a bullet wound in the left cheek, and by his side were three empty cartridge cases fitting a .32 calibre automatic pistol. People in the neighbourhood say they heard a report shortly before the body was discovered, but thought that crackers were being discharged and so took no particular notice. The deceased, who lives with his wife and children in Jukong Road, Chapei, left home only some 20 minutes before his death took place.

Dr. and Mrs. George L. Davis of Peking are in Shanghai this week on their way to America *viâ* Suez and Europe. Dr. Davis is a delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is the son of Dr. George Davis, one of the pioneers of mission work in North China, and has long been one of the leaders of mission work in the capital city. He is also well-known as a member of the International Famine Relief Committee.

THE RITZ AS ARRANGED FOR THE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY BALL: THE CEILING IS PAINTED BY RIBEIRA, THE NOTED SPANISH PORTRAIT PAINTER.

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT WASHINGTON BALL IN NOVEL SURROUNDINGS

Last Friday's Brilliant Spectacle at the Ritz: Over 1,500 Guests: Beauty of Building's Decorations

The Washington Ball last Friday at the Ritz was the biggest and best in the history of the American community of Shanghai. Following the reception of official guests at 9.30, the revelries continued far into the night. At the time of going to press during the small hours it appeared that sunrise would still find guests disporting themselves to the strains of the two orchestras.

The building was packed from top to bottom. Over 1,500 ate, drank, danced and made merry throughout a programme of 24 dances and numerous extras which were generously supplied by the hard working musicians.

As the first guests arrived they were greeted by a bower of potted palms which flanked the walls of the temporary matshed, built with an imitation brick facing. Strung overhead were chains of red, white and blue incandescent lamps, which extended through the main corridor to the inner entrance. Here the glance fell upon the American flag draped over the door. Still further along above was a marine emblem, and near by the seal of the State of Washington, on which was painted a portrait of the Father of the Country.

The general scheme of decorations by the Committee was simple in itself, though the Ritz interior of course is elaborately decorated. In several of the rooms judicious use of flags and drapery added a national tinge to the *ensemble* which appealed to citizens and visitors alike.

The single decoration in the lower ball-room was an immense American flag hung behind the musicians, while in the upper dancing area two smaller flags combined to form the background.

In the official visitors' room photographs of Washington and Coolidge fronted each other draped in red, white and blue.

With the exception of an immense woven rug in this room there were no floor coverings anywhere, the hardwood itself being of a sufficiently decorative description. The broken outlines of squares forming the motive of the upper ball-room floor is indeed a pleasing bit of work. The star, too, in the centre of the finely polished floor below created much favourable comment.

The reception line was ready for the first guests and as they began to arrive at about 9.30 the committee were kept busy for the prescribed period. The following received the visitors:—Mr. Edwin S. Cunningham, U.S. Consul-General, and Mrs. Cunningham, Judge and Mrs. Charles S. Lobingier, Major S. A. Ransom, S.V.C., Captain V. Olsen, S.V.C. and Lt. and Mrs. E. L. McCloskey.

The earliest arrivals, upon meeting the reception committee were conducted to the upper ball-room, where one orchestra dispensed music while the reception was still in progress. On the conclusion of the usual formalities both rooms presented a brilliant spectacle.

Even though the major portion of the night was spent in one of the two main rooms, there were still two others that had a worthy patronage—the dining buffet and the buffet just above the former where liquid refreshments were frequently inquired after.

As early as 11.30 supper was ready. Caterers of the American Club, assisted by 120 boys, produced prodigious quantities of cold meats—York ham, roast beef, corned beef, corned tongue, roast capon, and roast side saddle—salads, potato, beet, Russia and many pies—apple, lemon and pumpkin and a generous helping of coffee and tea.

The cocktail tree with its countless maraschino cherries also helped to divert the company. The plucking process, each taking his or her own cherry for the drink, was novel indeed.

The large committee which has worked so hard for the past week in preparing the building deserves every commendation, while the sailors from the American naval ships in port who attended to the decorations must feel that their labours have been much appreciated.

Some statistics compiled by Vong Yui-ziang (Jumbo), caterer to the American Club, who furnished the food at the Washington Ball are extremely interesting. Over a ton of food was eaten—850 lb. of turkey, 400 lb. of silver dish ham, 150 lb. roast beef, 70 lb. mutton, 50 lb. beef, 30 pieces of corned tongue, 120 apple pies, 60 lemon pies, 70 pumpkin pies, 200 lb. potato salad, 150 lb. beet salad, 50 lb. Russian salad and 500 "Hot dogs," and 190 loaves of Bake Rite bread. In addition 40 gallons of Washington cocktails, 60 of Hock cup, 30 of lemon squash and 50 of loganberry punch. Authentic reports indicate that the party was still in progress at 5.55 a.m. No one seems to know when the last guest departed.

MILITARY ACTIVITY AT CANTON

Transfer of Troops On East and North Rivers: People Suffer Always

From Our Own Correspondent.

Canton, Feb. 19.

There has been much activity amongst the military in and around Canton recently. It is expected that shortly another attempt will be made to clear up the East River situation. With this in view the Hunanese troops under Gen. T'am Yan-hoi are all being transferred from the North River districts to the East where they are relieving the Yunnanese who will be transferred to the North. There are estimated to be about 30,000 of the Hunanese in all, in five armies. The 5th and 4th and part of the 3rd have already been transferred and the 1st and 2nd are expected shortly.

The transfer of this large body of troops has not been without incidents. Early last week about 5,000 men arrived at the village of Saichuen, and after detraining they entered the village to find quarters, and turned the inhabitants out of their houses and took their places. The losses of the villager were considerable. There has since then been considerable difficulty in finding accommodation in Canton for all the troops passing through and considerable inconvenience has been suffered by the inhabitants, whose houses have been commandeered indiscriminately by the soldiers. Gen. T'am Yan-hoi has issued orders to try and prevent this state of affairs, but so far without much effect. It is hoped, however, that the transfer of troops will have been completed within the next few weeks.

WAR A HEAVY DRAIN.

It is impossible to forecast the result of the coming operations in the East River districts, but it is to be hoped that this will prove to be the decisive campaign, as the province is suffering considerably from this continued strife. Prices are very high and the continuous exactions of the military are causing a very serious drain on the resources of the people.

The issue of short term notes with which the troops were paid at the Chinese New Year and which caused a good deal of trouble in the city was withdrawn from the troops and handed over to the Police and Merchants Volunteers for collection. They go round from shop to shop and collect various sums of money according to the size of the firm in return for notes. The sums to be taken up by each firm vary from $500 to $5. Since this system was started it is said that $40,000 have been collected.

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO LENIN.

The formation of the new Reconstruction Government which was decided on at the National Conference of the Kuomintang, held here recently is held up for the East River situation to be settled and for the finances of the province to be centralized, a process which is likely to take some time yet. The new Commissioner of Finance is Mr. Chang Hung-nien. The Kuomintang are to hold a memorial service for Lenin on the 24th. of this month at the First Public Garden.

The successor of Mr. Liu Chung-oi as Civil Governor of Kuangtung, Mr. Yang Shiu-kam, has not yet taken up his appointment, as the Civil Governor's yamên was occupied by some units of the Yunanese troops. They have now been persuaded to move and the Yamen is being put into order again and it is expected that Mr. Yang will take up his post shortly.

RAILWAY CHIEF IN TROUBLE.

The managing director of the Canton-Kowloon Railway, Mr. Wen Teh-chang, was dismissed from his post by the Generalissimo, Dr. Sun [illegible] and Mr. Chen Hing-hai the managing director of the Canton-Samshui Railway was appointed to his place. Mr. Wen was taken to Police Headquarters and questioned as to his reasons for doing several things which were considered as being inimical to the present Govern-

ment, but he was able to explain [illegible] of Mr. Boothby, the British Chief Engineer, and he was afterwards released and has left for Hongkong.

DEATH OF MRS. WHITEWRIGHT OF TSINAN

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsinanfu, Feb. 20.

News of the death in England on January 11 of Mrs. Whitewright has saddened the foreign community here.

Mrs. Whitewright came to China over 40 years ago, and during that period had ably seconded her husband, the Rev. J. S. Whitewright, in his great work at the Tsinan Institute and Museum.

Mrs. Whitewright was the senior lady member of the English Baptist Mission and will be much missed in Tsinan, where she was a splendid hostess and a busy worker among the wives of the Chinese gentry.

JAPAN'S EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUNDS

Public Charity Hospital to be Erected from Surplus U. S. Red Cross Subscriptions

Tokio, Feb. 19.

In order to perpetuate the goodwill and sympathy extended to Japan by America at the time of the great earthquake last September, a decision has been reached to devote a portion of the surplus funds received from the American Red Cross to the establishment of a public charity hospital.

A strong administrative body will be named, which will, it is proposed, include one of the Imperial Princes as President, and a prominent businessman (the name of Viscount Shibusawa is suggested) as Vice-President. It is further understood that on the directorate will be included a representative of American interests here.

The amount of money to be spent on this project is estimated at Y.6,000,000, half of which sum represents the cost of erection, while the other half will be for the maintenance of the institution.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

EARTHQUAKE CLAIMS IN JAPAN

Payment of Sympathy Money: Government Assistance for Weaker Companies

Tokio, Feb. 19.

While the larger Tokio companies are prepared to pay 10 per cent. "sympathy" on insurance claims, in connexion with the earthquake last September, the Government to-day decided to assist the weaker companies to pay the same percentage to the extent of Y.80,000,000, which will be lent to them at four per cent., the loan to be redeemable in 50 years. Small policy-holders are to be accorded preferential treatment.—Reuter.

PEKING EDITOR AND AN ERRONEOUS REPORT

Peking, Feb. 23.

It appears that the *"Chou Pao,"* a Peking newspaper, recently published a report stating that the Japanese Prince Regent had been assassinated. According to Chinese reports, the Japanese Minister brought the matter to the attention of the Waichiaoru and the Metropolitan Police were instructed to inquire into the matter. Mr. Kuan Yi-hsien, editor of the *"Chou Pao,"* was called to the Metropolitan Police Office to give an explanation. Mr. Kuan stated that he had culled the item from a paper at another port and published it in all good faith. His statement was taken down and this morning he was called upon to appear at the Police Office for further examination.

The result of the investigation is not yet known.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

WHY THE WINTER HAS BEEN SO MILD

Shantung Pushed 500 Miles South by Earthquake

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsinanfu, Feb. 20.

The New Year holiday and Lantern festival are over and everything has been quiet, except for the fire crackers which have been more in evidence this year than for several years. This shows that last year's harvests were above the average.

Shantung seems to have experienced a mild winter, the cold not being severe enough to freeze the Yellow River. The river boatmen have a proverb which says that when the river does not freeze one might as well sell one's wife—there being very hard times in store.

As to the mildness of the winter, a most ingenious explanation has been put forward in some quarters. The Japanese earthquake is being held responsible. It seems that the quake in its struggles pushed Shantung over 500 miles nearer the Equator which of course would quite account for the warmth!

The local fortune-tellers were in the dumps because the New Year began with dull weather. Instead of snowing as it ought to have done it rained on the second and third days. These are the two days that govern the fortunes of dogs and pigs; but fortunately the seventh day—man's birthday, was bright and sunny, so perhaps we shall manage to get throught the year somehow.

JAPAN'S EDUCATIONAL WORK IN CHINA

Proposed Public Library and Laboratories: Scholarships for Chinese

Tokio, Feb. 19.

Among the measures to be submitted to the first session of the Diet that will be held after the General Elections next May is reported to be one that provides for the establishment in Peking of a public library and a scientific laboratory, and a similar laboratory in Shanghai.

These three projects are stated to be the recommendations of the special Committee set up by the Foreign Office to decide on the expenditure of money allocated by the Government for educational work in China.

It is further understood that the Government has under consideration a plan of establishing 250 yearly scholarships for the benefit of Chinese students now studying in Japanese higher schools and colleges.

The value of each scholarship approximates Y.85 a month. Reuter's Pacific Service.

PREMIER'S ENVOY IN HANGCHOW

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hangchow, Feb. 20.

Mr. Tze-chang, of railway fame, is here, sent by Mr. Sun Pao-chi, the Premier, to get Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang's aid in bringing about "National Unity," for which all true patriots are working, and our General among them.

The Civil Governor returns to-morrow.

FATHER VAN PRAET SAFE AT SUIYUAN

Peking, Feb. 27.

The Government has received a telegram stating that Father Van Praet, the Belgian priest who was recently rescued from bandits, safely arrived at Suiyuan on February 23.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHARGES OF LOOTING DURING JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE

Tokio, Feb. 21.

Seventeen persons were to-day charged with violently looting Japanese and foreigners' houses at Negishi and Yokohama after the earthquake and were committed for trial.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL MARRIAGE

Tokio, Feb. 22.

The Regent and the Crown Princess left for Kioto this morning, where they will announce their marriage at the Imperial shrines of Ise, Unebi and Momoyama. They will stay over-night at Numadzu, where late last night there was great excitement owing to a serious fire, which burned down more than 200 houses in the neighbourhood of the Palace, which is safe.

In view of the recent attempts at train-wrecking, the track is being heavily policed.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ALLEGED COMMUNIST PLOT IN JAPAN

Twenty-nine Socialists Sent for Trial: Attempt to Establish Soviet Rule

Tokio, Feb. 19.

Some nine months ago the police of Tokio made an extensive round-up of Socialists in the capital on the suspicion that they were implicated in a Communist plot against the State. Twenty-nine persons were held under arrest for some time, being afterwards released on bail, but the result of the preliminary examination into the affair has only just been concluded, with the result that these Socialists have been committed for trial early in April.

According to the statement issued by the Preliminary Court, these men aimed at the establishment of Soviet rule in Japan by the abolition of capitalism and the transfer of all political and economic power to the proletariat.

The details of the plot, which the authorities claim to have unearthed by their inspection of seized documents and the examination of the accused, show that a secret Communistic Society was organized in December, 1922, as a branch of the International Communists, that very careful efforts were made to spread, and at the same time to protect, their principles throughout the country, and that such success attended their early efforts that in March, 1923, one of their members was sent to Russia to exchange views with the Soviet authorities.

SEIZURE OF CORRESPONDENCE.

The first suspicions of the police were aroused in Waseda University. A domiliciary search of the residences of the leaders in the trouble took place, when certain correspondence between one of the professors of the University and certain Russian Communists was discovered. Further documents were later seized in the house of a certain miner, who in an unguarded moment had given expression to his political views in the hearing of a police officer, and these led to the arrest of the accused, as well as to the flight from the country of other leaders, who had previously been notified that their plot had become known.

PLANS FOR A SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

It appears, according to the report of the affair published by one paper, that these men had planned a complete Government strictly along Soviet lines, and definitely fixed the personnel of the new "Government," by assigning to each of the leaders some portfolio of importance.

This report says that the plot was revealed to the police by one of the original conspirators, who seceded after having been accused of embezzling part of the money received from Russia to promote their campaign. The total amount they got from Russia for this purpose is alleged to have been Y.70,000.

DOCUMENTS IN CODE.

The police, the report goes on, experienced considerable difficulty in deciphering many of the confiscated documents, which happened to be in code and contained many "watchwords."

So much so that insufficient evidence is forthcoming to enable a graver charge of crime against the State to be preferred, and the men are now to be tried because they attempted to form a secret party.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A SWISS CITIZEN IN DURANCE

Mr. Elly Widler Still Held as Prisoner by Chinese in Szechuan

So many outrages upon foreigners in the interior of China have occurred during the past few months, that it is not unlikely that the case of a Swiss citizen, Mr. Elly Widler, imprisoned by the Chinese military authorities in Szechuan, has latterly escaped the attention of the public. Mr. Widler, when a resident of Chungking, was arrested by order of General Yang Sen as far back as September 10, details being published in the "North-China Daily News" a few weeks later. The charge against him was of arms smuggling, and to start with a ransom of $200,000 was asked. This has not been paid, and Mr. Widler still remains a prisoner.

The following summary of his experiences has been compiled from letters received by his relatives in Shanghai. Whether Mr. Widler was innocent or guilty we neither know nor is it the point of the story, which is dealt with in a Note and Comment.

BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE.

On September 10 armed soldiers rushed into the Cosmos Club owned and managed by Mr. Widler at Chungking and at the point of loaded rifles captured Mr. Widler, bound him and took him to the Magistrate's yamên in the city of Chungking. Following his capture a raid was made on the Cosmos Club by officials of the Chungking Foreign Office, and all movable valuables and money were taken to the Foreign Office Headquarters in Chungking City. Later in the day Mr. Widler's private residence situated on the hill behind the Customs quarters was completely looted of its contents. In their raid on the Cosmos Club—on the pretence of looking for arms—the Chinese found three sporting rifles and two pistols, property which Mr. Widler had owned for years and used for self-protection and game shooting on his numerous trips in the interior and in Tibet.

After a week's detainment as prisoner in the yamên of the Magistrate he was brought on trial before the Magistrate and an official of the Chungking Foreign Office. It was a mock trial. He was threatened with being bambooed and killed. The Magistrate of Chungking asking him in open court whether he would feel the pain or not when bambooed, adding, "I can bamboo you and have you shot, do you understand?" At this trial the Magistrate compelled Mr. Widler to give up the keys of his safe and personal boxes. This he did. Mr. Widler was accused of selling arms to the Southern leaders. Then followed weeks of imprisonment, Mr. Widler being marched through the streets of Chungking, bound and heavily guarded, from one yamên to the other.

Then came the advance of the Southern Generals and Yang Sen prepared for retreat. All things looted and taken from the Cosmos Club, including more than $3,000 in money, hundreds of clocks and watches, curios and merchandise were handed over to General Yang Sen. It was General Yang Sen who had ordered the arrest of Mr. Widler who was also handed over. Later Mr. Widler was asked to buy his release, and $200,000 was asked, otherwise he was informed that he would be shot. Then came the day of defeat and Yang Sen had to evacuate Chungking. On November 16, after spending weeks in a dirty military gaol, he was forced out, cruelly bound, and made to march with Yang Sen's retreating army all the way from Chungking to Wanhsien—a 10 days' tramp. He was laughed at, mocked at and illtreated by the soldiers and numerous ex-bandits in General Yang Sen's army.

At Wan Hsien he was put into a filthy public gaol, and there he still remains.

CORRESPONDENCE

BRITAIN'S AERIAL DEFENCE.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—I have read with considerable interest your leader of to-day's date, entitled "Britain's Aerial Defence" and whilst, with all due respect, I submit that you have put your finger on a weak spot when you complain of the weakness of our Air Force, the references to France are most certainly open to criticism.

Those who have followed aviation since its infancy know well enough that the position of aviation in England to-day has nothing to do with France. It is due to loose thinking, a failure to envisage the problems of the future clearly and the apathy of naval and army authorities. We know, but always fail to realize, that our army or navy without the air would be hopelessly outmatched. Yet it was only about three months ago that the R.A.F. came into its own, every leader of the late Government, the Admiralty Board and the War Office were moved to make the Air Force an auxiliary service, instead of it being a separate service as it is to-day.

The Admiralty and Army had no clear visualization of the respective rôles in the future of sea, land and air forces, or more particularly, of how they will interact one with the other, and how they can be welded into one great striking machine rather than blunder along separately, each in its own compartment. There has been an almost total lack of any grasp of what the great air strategy of the future may imply. The Navy and Army seemed utterly incapable of realizing that what the conquest of the air has brought about is not the addition of another arm—a long range gun, as it were, for the use of the existing services, but a completely new factor in the greater problems of offence and defence—a factor which has an even more important bearing upon those problems than the discovery of steam navigation. We shall get nowhere until the full realization of what the air and air power mean has been grasped by those who direct the policy of the Government, or who share in the moulding of that public opinion, without which even governments cannot act.

As you have said, Sir, when it comes to this question of aerial defence, the Labour Government shows no more originality of thought than any of its predecessors. One might also add, neither do naval or army officials. Even the newspapers have had restricted vision, which has prevented them seeing further ahead than to-morrow, air casualties have been magnified beyond all proportion, and it is these conditions which are at the back of the matter—this and the quite understandable desire of a few senior officers of the older services to squash the aspirations of one that is new.

In 1920 the Government was urged that unless it could make up its mind to formulate a real aerial policy—such policy only just being materialized in the creation of the R.A.F. as a separate service—and to carry it out with promptness and despatch, the lead in the air with which we ended the war would disappear and we should see other countries going ahead of us.

It is, unfortunately, only too true that the Government has maintained its attitude of supineness, and now what airmen have prophesied has come to pass. Shall we blame France?

Since the day of the armistice France has realized that the first line of offence and defence is the air. To state that such an air force is being built to bomb London is as ridiculous as to state we shall have war. As an island Power, and particularly in view of the far-flung character of the Empire, naval supremacy has hitherto been the beginning and end of our safety. Once the trident passed from our hands to those of another Power we could only look forward to existence by sufference of the leading naval power. This remains as true as ever it has been, but the question which is now being debated is whether or not the standard of comparison has completely changed. If it has not, and the capital ship remains the unit of comparison, then the supremacy of the French Air Force or any other country does not matter.

The Italian view concerning the world's air supremacy is drawing the long bow, and cannot be substantiated in view of the above facts. One might just as well state that, when the French volunteer force here obtain their aeroplanes, these volunteers will direct their efforts to capture the International Settlement, just because we in the S.V.C. do not consider that our standard of defence must be drastically revised to meet the importation of over 500 aeroplanes in China.

Outside the Government it is only too well recognized whither our present policy is leading us. Yet we look in vain for any signs of clear appreciation of the fundamental factor in air policy—that it is only by the direct encouragement of aerial traffic on the commercial side that a nation can build up the margin of air power which will render it immune from hostile attack. France recognizes it, and we know the measures she is taking to ensure a lead in commercial flying. Germany also recognizes it, and we have been told a good deal about "her plans for the future." America is well to the front and is encouraging aviation by all and every means. Only in Great Britain is there an apparent failure to grasp the facts, and we still have NO AIR POLICY!

I am, etc.,
V. J. Hollani.

Shanghai, Feb. 22, 1924.

THE MEMORIAL TO THE LATE MR. MONK.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—Lord Knutsford has shown me the very kind letter he has received from you with reference to my brother's death. I wish I knew how to adequately express my thanks and appreciation for all the tokens of sympathy which have been shown by his many friends. I can assure you his relatives, and I personally, are grateful to all his friends. It will always be a comfort to know that he had so many friends round him.

I am, etc.,
Beatrice Monk.

London Hospital,
Whitechapel, E.
Jan. 17, 1924.

*** The total amount contributed by the late Mr. A. V. Monk's friends, which we had the pleasure of sending Home was £336 18s. 3d.—Ed.

THE CASE OF MR. WIDLER.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—With reference to the article which appeared in your paper this morning under the heading of "A Swiss Citizen in Durance," I have the honour to inform you that the Federal Government have refused to recognize Mr. Elly Widler as a Swiss citizen on the grounds that he was unable to establish his claim to Swiss citizenship.

I shall feel obliged if you will cause this letter to be published in to-morrow's issue of the "North-China Daily News."

I am, etc.,
J. L. Isler
Swiss Consul General.

Shanghai, Feb. 27, 1924.

CHICHOW GIRLS' HOME.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—May I ask you to print, with this summary of accounts for 1923, the adjoined list of subscriptions received with much gratitude since my appeal of of November 20 last?

The Chichow Girls' Home averaged 38 inmates for 1923, the cost of their care averaging as the account would show, something under $4.40 a month. The receipts shown do not include what the Matron has been able to sell direct of their work, and that sum should be added to the actual cost of upkeep; it supplemented the remittances which passed through my hands, and reduced the figure which would otherwise have been reported for the clothing bill. I regret that I have not the details of this Work Account to show. The girls' own self-supporting work is a point which we hope will be more and more stressed in spite of the difficulties mentioned in my late appeal. I hope it may be possible to rearrange my accounts with the institution this year, so as to show the total cost, and the total of what the girls do towards their own support.

The recent instruction in grass cloth work, which I reported in November, shows promise of increased orders and better results this year. Orders may be sent to the Matron, addressed to my care.

The balance of $103.70, with the December bank interest, two subscriptions received from England this year, and the last of the five acknowledged below, also received since December, leave us with $458.32 to carry on with as from January 1. Many thanks are due to the subscribers named and anonymous, whose help is recorded below. We would beg to ask for all possible fresh support.

I am, etc.,
P. M. Scott,
Hon. Treas.

Church of England Mission,
Peking, Feb. 21, 1924.

Chichow Home Accounts, 1923.

Receipts.	
Subscriptions recd. in China	$549.17
Ditto from England	443.18
Grant from N. China Diocesan Relief fund	650.00
Sales of Grass Cloth Work in Peking	56.15
Bank Interest, June	1.16
1922 Balance	189.04
	$2,188.70
Expenditure.	
Kitchen	$1,176.13
Clothing	328.06
Salaries	192.00
Wages	109.65
Rent (nominal)	16.07
Furniture & Utensils	26.56
Repairs	10.92
Travelling	30.20
Books	23.89
Miscellaneous	83.52
Grass Cloth bought per Treasurer	85.00
	$2,085.00
Balace for'd., Dec. 1923	103.70
	$2,188.70

Subscriptions, Nov. 1923—Feb. 1924.

Miss Van Someren	$5.00
G. Crofts, Esq., £5	
Genera Munthé	100.00
W. K. Chow, Esq.	10.00
E. W. Fitchford, Esq.	25.00
Y. T. Woo, Esq.	5.00
Miss J. F. Moule	12.00
Dr. W. S. T. Neville	10.00
Six Friends	30.00
Mrs. Graves	10.00
Teas at British Women's Bazaar	170.50
Anon. (Rec. no. 95)	25.00
Anon. (Rec. no. 96)	15.00
Lady Aglen	30.00
Miss Gedge	5.00
Bishop C. P. Scott	50.00
Chimin Chu-fu, Esq.	20.00
Rev. and Mrs. F. E. A. Shepherd	40.00
Anon. (Rec. no. 102)	100.00
Hochien Parishh Xmas Offertories	13.50
ex British Legation Offertories, 1923	100.00

THE OLD BRITISH CEMETERY.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—In the course of a number of exploration trips which I have been making into out-of-the-way spots around the Settlement I visited to-day the old British military cemetery, the entrance to which lies in Chinese territory opposite the junction of Rue Hue with the Boulevard des Deux Républiques.

This quiet spot, with its four long rows of graves where some hundreds of British soldiers await the reveille, is, I venture to say, quite unknown to the larger part of the British residents of Shanghai. The land, although in Chinese territory, is, I believe, under the control of the Municipal Council of the International Settlement, and while the Chinese caretaker seems to be doing his duty by keeping the place tolerably clean, I noticed that the grave mounds, while still distinguishable, have almost disappeared, and that the lettering of the few tablets and monuments remaining is badly in need of repointing.

The officers and men of both Home and Indian units who lie here died in Shanghai during the last years of the Taipings, (1860-64), and it was due to their presence and to that of their fellows that the Settlement became the secure haven that it was during those stormy days when the foundation of its present greatness was laid. These men served with Gordon.

It is sad to think that 60 years hence the places where lie our gallant comrades of 1914-18 will be as forgotten as this little spot "which is for ever England" in Shanghai.

Could not these graves be reheaped and properly sodded, the crumbling lettering of the tablets renewed, and, as in the great cemeteries of France and elsewhere, a small mast be planted where the Flag under which they served will fly always over their graves?

Lastly, there is absolutely no external mark at the entrance to the cemetery to indicate that it is a sacred spot. A simple brass plate on the gate would serve.

I am, etc.,
Sixtieth.

Shanghai, Feb. 21, 1924.

BREEZY NINGPO.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—Can you please spare me a little space in your interesting newspaper, in which to say how pained I was to read of the unkind remarks made by a Mr. C. I. Smithson-Jones about my very dear friend Mr. Squeers.

I have looked in my 1918 copy of the Hong List and though I counted 17 Joneses and one Smithson I am quite sure I could not find Mr. Smithson-Jones. Is it possible that the printer has made a mistake? Or perhaps Mr. Smith-Jones has only come to China since that dreadful war.

I know Mr. Squeers quite well. I still remember the last time he paid a visit to our little community. How, one night, on our way back from the meeting, he suddenly said "Stand still! Stand quite still!" I was so frightened but I could not see the thing he was pointing at, However, there was something there, because next morning he told us that he had discovered a specimen of that rare reptile Humfrisianus Nocturnus (such a long name). I believe it is sometimes called the Inarticulated Asp of Central China. I cannot remember now whether it had purple spots and green eyes, or green spots and purple eyes, but, perhaps, you read about it in the "Scientific Lett."

I am afraid I am taking up so much of your valuable space but I did want to tell you that I am qute sure Mr. Smithson-Jones has made a mistake as Mr. Squeers is such a dear friend of mine.

Yours very sincerely,
(Miss) Agatha Boadge.

Chow Hang, Chê. Feb. 22, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir.—One detects, to say the least, a certain insincerity in the Rev. Smithson-Jones' letter, to which you were lenient enough to accord a space that he abused in your correspondence columns to-day. One is forced to the conclusion that it is his boasted sense of humour which leads him to pour forth such a volley of scurrilous invective and ill-simulated indignation at the article entitled "Breezy Ningpo" published in your issue of the 15th instant, for it is impossible to believe that any sane (and sober) man could read more—or less—into that article than an honest civic patriotism engendering a desire to extol a famous old Treaty Port.

But no doubt you, Sir, are all too familiar with these epistolary-cranks who, mentally too inept to "scramble into print" on their own merits, are yet so avid of publicity that they let slip no opportunity of winning a little cheap applause from the gallery, by way of the correspondence columns of our long-suffering newspapers.

If Mr. Smithson-Jones is really the missionary he, judging from his unpleasant effusion, purports to be (and one doubts the genuineness of his cloth at least as strongly as he does the actuality of so old and well-known a China hand as Mr. Alf Squeers), one can only sympathize with those unfortunate Chinese who in all innocence look to such a mountebank as their spiritual father.

Enclosing my card,

I am, etc.,
The Author,
"Breezy Ningpo."

Ningpo, Feb. 22, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—I am all for freedom of speech and the freedom of the Press, and your "Correspondence" column is usually a shining example of the proper application of those principles. But when a correspondent uses that column as a vehicle for a splenetic personal attack on two old friends of mine—an attack as malignant as it is unprovoked, as scurrilous as its substance is baseless—it is high time, Sir, to exercise a proper censorship. Never in all my born days have I read such a disgustingly vindictive stream of abuse, such foul and coarse vituperation as Mr. Smithson-Jones pours out in his letter that sullied your columns yesterday—the gutter or dustbin would have been a fitter place to throw such garbage. One hesitates to suggest that he was the worse for liquor when he perpetrated this outrage on public decency, but his well-nigh incoherent ravings can only emanate from the mental depths of an habitual drunkard or a criminal lunatic.

Who is Mr. Smithson-Jones, anyway, that he should talk so familiarly about Ningpo? I have lived here many a long year, yet can remember no resident of that name—but no doubt like all such curs he is hiding behind a pseudonym. At any rate he displays a lamentable lack of knowledge of local conditions together with an utter disregard for the truth.

In the first case, as many of your readers will be aware, there are other churches in Ningpo besides the Parish church—St. Luke's with its adjacent Memorial Hospital is a prominent landmark on the Bund. Secondly, Mr. Smithson-Jones has the amazing impudence to suggest that Mr. Alf. Squeers is a fictitious personality! That, Sir, is going a bit too far, and it alone gives one serious doubts of Mr. Smithson-Jones's sanity. Mr. Alf. Squeers and the talented author of the article "Breezy Ningpo" have been friends of mine for more years than I care to name. There are no better known figures on the China coast, and no more patriotic citizens of Ningpo. My friend, the author, is incapable of writing in other than a sincere and appreciative way about the port he has loved so long, and Mr. Smithson-Jones' insinuations that his article is "writ sarcastic" are as preposterous as they are unfair. I have read the article in question myself and consider it an honest and deservedly laudatory tribute to an historic city—and capital literature to boot.

But the most extraordinary thing about Mr. Smithson-Jones' colossal piece of effrontery is its apparent lack of motive. It is quite evident that he conceals a violent antagonism to Mr. Squeers and the author of the article, thinly-veiled under a pretence of standing up for a place to which he is, fortunately, an obvious stranger. But *why* this maniacal hatred?

That, Sir, Mr. Smithson-Jones alone can explain.

Enclosing my card,

I am, etc.,
Benjamin Quilp, M. D.

Ningpo, Feb. 23, 1923.

THE SALVING OF THE RHEINLAND

Fine Work Done by Sampson and St Dominic in Ice and Snow and Winter Gales

A remarkable feat of salvage has just been completed by Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co.'s rescue and salvage tugs St. Sampson and St. Dominic, which pulled the str. Rheinland off the sandy beach west of Chefoo. Local residents familiar with the vicinity may recall the situation and the long stretch of sand around the jutting point.

The Rheinland went on to the sands on February 7, in the midst of the violent storms which at that time caused so much trouble to shipping in this part of the world; the Persia, Edmore and several smaller boats coming to grief during the same 24 hours. It was impossible for the local tugs to proceed to the spot at once as they were busy bringing in the Persia and so the Dairen Maru, a small tug of 700 h.p., was brought over from Dairen, but her efforts came to naught, so further calls were received for the Shanghai ships. The St. Dominic was despatched on February 13 at midnight and arrived 60 hours later. The St. Sampson, urged to leave, got under way on the 19th.

The Rheinland had evidently been driven by the terrific gale and surging waves, with her normal speed, head on to the beach,, but the storms had swung her round broadside and the tugs found her in this position on arrival. Lightering was attempted but was found impossible owing to climatic conditions, so tugging was the only resource that remained. Neither of the tugs could work effectively at less than 1200 feet distance: at a closer range the violent waters bounced them on to the sandy bottom and then up again. The closest that they ever got was 800 feet, but they could not remain here at all, so they went out to a workable distance. Two immense lines were run out on buoys and joined fast. The layman can hardly imagine a six-inch steel line and a 12-inch Manila rope, but that is what was used by each tug (125 fathoms of each). Fastened together the lines formed a massive link with the ship, unbreakable even in the terrible weather that prevailed.

The 4,000 h.p. motive power was applied time and again, with no seeming success. On two occasions the waves reached such proportions that the tugs dragged their anchors. The snow and ice made operations most miserable. Finally after gigantic efforts for three days, three hours and 30 minutes the combined efforts of the tugs proved successful and the Rheinland with her nose pointing outward, having had it manipulated from the broadside position, slid off into her depth—February 24, 12.30 p.m.

It is impossible to tell the exact amount of damage done, but it is certain that both anchors were left by the vessel on the Chefoo beach. Yesterday she went into Tsingtao under her own steam and is expected to arrive in Shanghai to-morrow.

The Rheinland (Hamburg-America Line, Agents) is 449 ft. over all, has gross tonnage 6,552, displacement 11,000, and is equipped with Diesel engines.

During the absence of Mr. H. von Heidenstam, who left on Monday for Sweden by the R.M.S. Empress of Australia, Dr. H Chatley will be acting Engineer-in-Chief to the Whangpoo Conservancy Board.

Messrs. W. and T.E. Poignand were sued in H. M. Supreme Court on Monday for Tls. 920, balance of account for a Daimler motor truck purchased from the plaintiff, Mr. Jacques Azadian. Mr. R. C. Faithfull appeared for defendants and Mr. J. G. Priest-Wood for plaintiff, the latter stating that the truck had been seized and disposed of in connexion with another claim against the defendants — His Honour Judge Grain gave judgment for the amount claimed with costs.

WEDDINGS

New—Zee

A very pretty wedding, attended by a host of both foreign and Chinese friends of the bride and groom, took place on Saturday afternoon, when Dr. W. S. New, the well-known local physician, was married to Miss Y. T. Zee. The ceremony was performed at the new Shantung Road Chapel by the Rev. Ernest Box, assisted by Pastor Lee Seok kang. Mr. B. Hou acted as best man and Miss S. Y. Ting was bridesmaid. The flower girls were the Misses Lee and Yang, while Master Koo acted as page. Following the ceremony a banquet, attended by 200 guests, was held at the Great Eastern Hotel. The bride and groom will spend their honeymoon in Peking, returning here in about a month's time to make their residence.

Chassels—Martin

A very pretty wedding ceremony was celebrated on Thursday afternoon in Union Church when Miss Margaret Muir Martin, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Martin, of Springpark, Uddington, Scotland, was married to Mr. Thomas Rae Chassels, son of the late Mr. James Chassels, of Glasgow.

The Rev. A. N. Rowland, M.A., officiated and Mr. Donald Macdonald presided at the organ. The bride, who was given away by Mr. W. A. Willis, wore a charming dress of white charmeuse, trimmed with a silver lace bertha, the skirt gracefully draped and finished at the waist with pleatings and flowers. Mrs. W. A. Willis acted as matron of honour, wearing cornflower blue crêpe de chine and a black picture hat, while Miss Mary R. John, the bridesmaid, wore a tan costume trimmed with grey and a matching hat. The bridegroom was accompanied by Mr. Linn Fernie as best man and Messrs. W. N. Scott, William Buchanan, and W. Fergus Johnston acted as ushers.

A reception was held following the ceremony at the house of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Willis, 106 Route Ferguson, after which Mr. and Mrs. Chassels left for Hangchow, the bride wearing a mole gabardine hand-embroidered with a taffeta silk hat with embroidered georgette brim.

OBITUARY

Capt. A. Palmer

Capt. A Palmer, master of the Jensien Transportation Co's str. Yuentah, died at the Shanghai General Hospital on Saturday morning, after a short illness. Capt. Palmer, who was a native of Australia, is understood to have arrived on the China Coast about 18 months ago and has been in command of the Yuentah for the last 15 months. He was 63 years of age, and leaves a widow in Shanghai, for whom the deepest sympathy will be felt.

Mrs. R. S. Hykes

Word has just been received of the death of Mrs. Rebe S. Hykes at Chengchow, Honan, where she was living with her son Mr. Edgar R. Hykes. This will come as a shock to a large number of friends, as Mrs. Hykes, as well as her late husband, were well known in Shanghai. She and her husband will long be remembered for their open-handed hospitality, and the generous help quietly given to numbers of needy men and women in this country. Mrs. Hykes had been in failing health for a few months, and latterly was confined to her room. It was her intention to proceed to the United States this month: but owing to her illness the passages had to be cancelled. She leaves four sons to mourn her loss.

On the initiative of several returned students from America and France, agricultural stations are to be established along the Hangchow-Shanghai and the Shanghai-Nanking railway lines. In stations, it is said, cattle and fowl will be raised.

THOS. HANBURY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The Prize-giving: Choruses and Drill and an Address by Mrs. E. M. Gull

Prize-giving at the Thomas Hanbury School for Girls, which took place on Wednesday, afforded a very interesting afternoon and it is only to be regretted that space was inadequate to permit a larger number of visitors to hear the well rendered choruses and to see the excellent drill. Not even parents or all the girls themselves can be present on such occasions, which seems distressing when one realizes the natural desire of children to have their parents and playmates with them when honours are conferred.

Miss E. H. Mayhew, the headmistress, presided and introduced Mrs. E. M. Gull, who presented the prizes, saying in introduction, "I will not preach a sermon, but will only remind you school-girls that many of us older people spend a great deal of our time in wishing that we had not missed so many opportunities in the days of our youth. Fine opportunities in many directions will be coming to you now. Try not to miss them. . . . I am not talking of opportunities for personal enjoyment or for money-making. I speak rather of opportunities for being good citizens and for being of real use in your generation, for taking a hand in the great game of life. . .

"You have all the advantage of being educated in a school where honour and high ideals are held to be of great importance. Don't forget that when you are away from school; apply your high ideals and remember that each one of you is just as responsible for the well-being and good behaviour of the place you live in as is the Consul-General, the Judge or your own head-mistress. Remember that you girls are beginning where we leave off in the general scheme of life and that you will have greater freedom to play your part than most of us have had. . . . Guided by a singularly broad-minded and human head-mistress, the excellent education you are receiving in this school should prepare you to use your own judgment, to have the courage of your own convictions *because* you take an intelligent interest in things going on around you."

"LA BELLE AVENTURE"

Delightful Play at the Cercle Sportif Francais

The production of "La Belle Aventure" at the Cercle Sportif Français on Tuesday was attended by a highly satisfied audience, if one may judge by the hearty responses given to the witty sallies by the leading characters of the play. There was a general atmosphere of real joy and hearty approval of the timely bits of by-play between André and Hélène the secretly married happy couple who eloped on the morning of Hélène's wedding day with Valentin.

The first act is devoted to the gathering of friends and relatives to witness the ceremony and their consternation at the absence of the bride, while the next revolves round the visit of the 80-year old grandmother of the bride. The young couple are afraid to tell her of their marriage. André retires to the couch in the parlour, while Hélène goes to her room. The fatal hour of midnight brings the old lady into the parlour and she literally throws them into each other's arms. Valentin, the former fiancé, arrives in the morning, angry, but he is and must be satisfied with the marriage and the proffer of friendship by Helene.

The tall, debonair Henry Dreyfus, plays the captivating rôle of André to a nicety and his clever modulations of voice on delicate play of words reveal to the audience his Parisian training. He is to remain in Shanghai for some time. Dominating the part of Hélène, Madame Fano is charming in her ingenuous harmony with the complicating situations that arise, meeting the crisis with Mme Wilden, in the grandmother rôle, as smoothly as the more experienced matron of many years of married life could reasonably be expected to do. Mme. Wilden has charming lines, which she brings over well to the audience and adds life and go to the action. René Mazet as Valentin has a difficult part to play, especially in the last scenes but he is fully equal to the occasion. Marthé Labansat as the Comtesse and Marcel Lambert as the Comte d'Eguzon mother and father and aunt and uncle of Hélène and André come on in the last and handle their lines with a delicate touch. Jeane Beudin as Jeantine, the servant, is a perfect portrayal of the part.

A word must be given to the work of Mr. J. Schlisler who as director has brought out the whole in a wonderful manner. His is the part that remains unseen yet most truly appreciated.

MR. VYVYAN DENT'S PORTRAITURE

The New Style in Photography

Most of us possess, somewhere tucked away, an album of old family portraits. Which, at rare intervals, we turn over, marvelling at the stiff unnatural positions of the ladies in pork-pie hats and crinolines gazing into a pier glass; at the gentlemen with peg-top trousers and bushy whiskers; at the prim self-conscious children, digging in unnatural sands against obviously "property" cliffs and sea.

Yet in a way these earlier efforts of the camera were more genuinely photographic than the pretentious style which came later, when photographers appeared anxious to get as far as possible from the mechanical side of their craft and to insist on their title to be called artists. Photographs of every sort were worked up with pencil and brush into something as unlike the original as could well be imagined. In portraiture it seemed that every subject had to be made beautiful and while the result was undoubtedly gratifying to the originals, it could hardly have been acceptable to their friends as a real reminder of them. Every sort of fake was permissible and many beautiful effects were certainly obtained. But to call them photography was paltering with terms.

The brush-and-fuzzy school are not yet so lacking in followers that these remarks may not expose us to violent rebuke. But more and more it is evident that "straight photography" is coming into its own again; that the work of the camera, if properly managed, has a beauty and truthfulness of its own which subsequent doctoring by hand of plate and print cannot improve and may easily mar: and that just as photographers have learnt that nothing in development can cure a negative which has been wrongly exposed, so the real work of manipulating light and composing the picture must be done before it is taken.

Nowhere have the effects of this perception been more successfully shown than in portraiture, the type which young Mr. Vyvyan Dent is now doing. After having been an enthusiastic photographer all his life, especially interested in human studies, Mr. Dent has recently spent some time in a studio in California, with a view to taking up photography professionally, learning all the latest devices, particularly as regards the control of lighting, in which respect electricity has put an enormous power in the hands of the modern photographer. With its aid retouching has ceased to be necessary. The lines of a face are what chiefly give the character and the only reason for touching them out is that the lens has a tendency to exaggerate them. By subduing the light, however, this defect can be overcome. Artificial light is, of course, indispensable, daylight being far too uncertain and Mr. Dent has a fine equipment in his house in Avenue du Roi Albert, for obtaining the exact kind of lighting that he requires and even to focus it on one particular point and reduce it at another. The process sounds complicated and it certainly needs skill in management. But from the sitter's point of view it is all easy and un-terrifying, and the result is a portrait at once truthful, instinct with character and pleasing. Among other people whom Mr. Dent has taken, he made some particularly fine studies of Sir Ronald Macleay, when the latter was last in Shanghai.

Tientsin will benefit by the departure from Shanghai last Tuesday of a very popular and widely known resident in the Settlement — Mr. A. Mildner. For the past 17 years he has been connected with the Kalee Hotel, amongst the patrons of which he was extremely popular, for as manager he made it an extremely comfortable place. Mr. Mildner now is taking up the position of manager of the Imperial Hotel in Tientsin, which some years ago was managed by another of Shanghai's most popular hotel people, the late Mr. Marsh.

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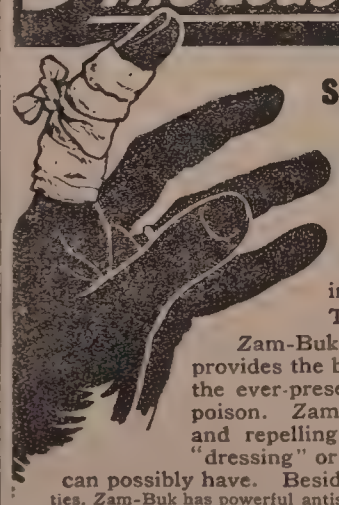

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MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

Water Supply.

Letter from the Waterworks Company in continuation of the correspondence published in the Gazette of January 24:—

Shanghai, February 22, 1924.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 18 on the subject of the proposed purchase of the Company by the Municipality.

My Directors note that it is the Council's intention, subject to confirmation at the next meeting of Ratepayers, to purchase the Company's business and undertaking and all the land, buildings, plant, machinery and effects belonging to the Company. They regret, however, that they are quite unable to agree that the price to be paid should be arrived at on the basis of 15.3846 years' purchase of the profits earned during the year 1922.

The extracts from a joint opinion from the Hon. Sir Malcolm McNaghten, K.C., and Mr. S. B. J. Merlin set forth by you are noted, but my Directors are unable to find therein any authority for fixing a price based upon the net maintainable income on one year only.

The negotiations that have taken place since 1918 with the view to modification of the Agreement of July 1905 may be taken as an admission on the part of the Municipal Council that modification has been called for. While these negotiations were taking place and during the subsequent period when the question of purchase has been under discussion, the policy of my Directors has been to spare no expense in keeping up and enhancing the efficiency of the undertaking in the interests of the Community and beyond what is strictly called for in the Agreement of 1905, basing their trust on the assurances and the fairmindedness of succeeding Councils that the Company would receive such treatment as would compensate shareholders for the protracted delay in the negotiations. Yet the Council now proposes to take advantage of this by seeking to base the purchase price on the year in which the return on capital expenditure was at its lowest. Nor is any allowance made for expenditure on new works, etc., in recent years that is as yet not fully remunerative.

Messrs. Gibson Harris, Gardiner & Co., a firm of Chartered Accountants in London, consulted by the Company in their report say that it must be borne in mind that the Company's profits have been limited by its agreement with the Council so as to prevent the Company recouping itself for its capital expenditure in addition to a reasonable rate of interest on such capital expenditure and that it is obviously inequitable for a community which has itself fixed a limit to the profits that the Company can make, to take the amount of such profits as a measure of the value of the Company's undertaking.

Since addressing you on the 12th ultimo, my Directors have received a joint opinion from the Right Hon. Sir John Simon, K.C., M.P., probably the foremost counsel at the bar in England at the present time and Mr. G. J. Talbot, K.C. —now Mr. Justice Talbot—a counsel with wide experience in Waterworks matters. The following extract from their opinion is given:—

"We understand that it is suggested that in the event of Arbitration being required to fix the sum to be paid by the Municipal Council of Shanghai to the Shanghai Waterworks Company on the purchase of the Company's business and undertaking and other property, the Arbitrator would be bound to arrive at the figure he awards by reference to the 'Maintainable net income of the Company.' We are most decidedly of opinion that the Arbitrator is not called upon to do anything of the kind. The Arbitrator's duty is to fix a sum which in his opinion fairly corresponds to the value of what is purchased and it is obvious that since the right to purchase arises at any time after March 18, 1911 and the charges made by the Company are strictly limited by Clause 5 of the Agreement, the income in fact received by the Company from what may have been and may still be a very valuable and expensive installation is not necessarily a measure of the fair price of the installation at all. The supposed necessity of adopting the maintainable income basis appears to be derived from the analogy of cases in which local authorities have obtained power from Parliament to purchase by compulsion the undertaking of Gas or Water Companies. But there is really no analogy; for, in the present case, the position of the Shanghai Waterworks Company is that of a Company which has entered into a voluntary Agreement with the Council as the result of negotiations and the effect of the purchase clause is merely to confer upon the Company the right to be paid such a sum as might be arrived at by agreement between the parties if the negotiations were conducted fairly with a view to arriving at the fair value of what is purchased.

Failing such agreement, the Arbitrator is to fix the amount; but the Arbitrator's duty is himself to fix the sum which fair negotiations between a purchaser who wishes to buy and a Company that is not unwilling to sell might have been expected to arrive at. There is therefore no obligation to proceed by way of capitalising the maintainable net income; and indeed (having regard to the fact that there has been a large outlay by the Company in the provision of an installation to which the Municipality now succeeds) there seems much good sense in the view that the Arbitrator might be disposed to assess the figure on present day values. If the Municipality was not able by exercising its option under this Agreement to acquire the Company's business and installation, they would have to make one of their own, and the Arbitrator would appear to us to be acting quite reasonably and certainly well within his rights if he fixed the sum awarded by reference to those considerations."

Counsel from whose opinion you quote state further that the debenture or mortgage debt of the Company may or may not be taken over by the Council, that if it is taken over by the Council, then the annual interest, which has been payable upon that debt hitherto, would have to be deducted from the net maintainable trading profit for the purpose of fixing the price.

In your letter under reply you state that the actual amount of the purchase price cannot be definitely ascertained at the present stage as it will depend very largely on the question as to whether or not the Council is prepared to take over the debenture obligations of the Company.

If the taking over of these obligation is to be at the expense of the Company, it is obvious that it can be countered by voluntary liquidation prior to sale with consequent redemption of debentures.

Mr G. J. Talbot, K.C., in his opinion states in regard to debentures: "It cannot, I conceive, matter to the Council, as the obligation whether it is continued or discharged by payment, must go equally in reduction of the purchase money."

Further arguments might be adduced but sufficient have been put forward, in the opinion of my Directors, to confirm their stand for the present value basis, supported as it is by such eminent counsel as the Right Hon. Sir John Simon, K.C., M.P. and Mr. G. J. Talbot, K.C. If the Council persists in adhering to the maintainable income basis my Directors see no recourse but to appeal to arbitration as the divergence in price based on these two methods is so wide. The price on the present value basis (as at December 31, 1922) is as stated in my letter of April 13, 1923, Tls. 14,947,780 while the price on the maintainable income basis as proposed in your letter under reply is less than Tls. 8,000,000. (The debenture issues of the Company are included in these figures).

It may be pointed out that if once the Council should give one year's notice to the Company to purchase under Clause 9 of the Agreement of 1905, the Council would be bound to purchase whatever the result of an arbitration might be.

In order that there may be no misunderstanding on the matter hereafter, my Directors think it well to state that the Council's letter under reply—if it is intended to be—cannot be accepted by my Directors as the notice of intention to purchase referred to in the Agreement of July 1, 1905.

In view of the reluctance of the Council and of my Directors to incur the heavy expenses involved by arbitration, my Directors, in order to evince their desire of meeting the Council's views as much as lies in their power while safeguarding the interests of the shareholders to whom they are responsible, are prepared to propose to the Council as an alternative to purchase, some compromise that might be arrived at on the basis of a profit-sharing arrangement whereby the Municipal Council should participate in the profits earned after paying interest at an agreed rate upon the capital cost of the concern, the Company in return being authorized to base its charges for water upon a meter tariff. By this means the Municipal Council would avoid the necessity of paying the present value of the undertaking (and of raising the amounts that will be required for future extensions) and of charging higher water rates to obtain a return thereon than would be the case if a compromise, as is now suggested, be decided upon, while it will at the same time greatly increase its financial interest in the Company and by some form of representation on the Board, its measure of control. Should an arrangement on these lines commend itself to the Council my Directors will be pleased to submit a scheme in detail.

My Directors would request the Council to give this letter early publication in the Municipal Gazette as they consider it a subject of considerable interest to the Ratepayers who should be in a position to consider the subject some time before the Annual Meeting.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
F. B. Pitcairn,
Engineer-in-Chief & Manager,
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.

E. S. B. Rowe, Esq.,
Acting Secretary,
Municipal Council.

Notification of Communicable Diseases.

With a view to securing assistance in obtaining early notification of communicable diseases amongst the Japanese Community, the following letter has been addressed to the Consul-General for Japan:—

Council Chamber,
Shanghai, February 13, 1924.

Sir,—I have the honour to draw your attention to the difficulty experienced by the Council in securing prompt notification of communicable diseases from Japanese medical practitioners residing in the Settlement, and, having regard to the paramount importance of this measure as a means of safe-guarding the public health, I have the honour to request your valued co-operation.

In this connexion, I have the honour to inform you that, in April last, a letter was addressed to every Japanese doctor whose name appeared on the list so kindly furnished by you, requesting him to notify promptly to the Health Department any case of certain specified diseases occurring amongst his patients, and a similar request has been communicated during the current year. Nevertheless, cases of death amongst Japanese patients from the specified diseases have been reported from time to time, which have not been notified after diagnosis of the complaint. The following recent cases are quoted for your information:—

Minoru Matsuoka, Pd.-77 Haining Road (Dr. K. Akita) Smallpox.

Keuchi Baba, 1136 Woosung Road (Dr. K. Kurahara) Smallpox.

Both of these patients were admitted to the Shinozaki Hospital, 66 Boone Road, instead of the Municipal Isolation Hospital. Another case of smallpox which was recently reported, but was not notified by the doctor, was:—

R. Tumura, Kashing Road (number unknown)—Dr. Satomi. This case was admitted to Dr. Satomi's private hospital, 6 Miller Road.

In bringing this matter, which is regarded in a serious light as prejudicing the preservation of public health, to your attention, I have the honour to request that you will impress upon all Japanese medical practitioners, firstly, the importance of prompt notification, and secondly, the undesirability of treating acute communicable disease in private hospitals. In the latter connexion, I also have the honour to request that you will be so good as to remind the Japanese doctors concerned of the facilities afforded by the Municipal Isolation Hospital (as published in the Municipal Regulations), where patients may be attended by their own doctor, and where a trained Japanese nurse is in attendance specially for Japanese cases.

In conclusion, I have the honour to convey to you an expression of the Council's appreciation, in advance, of your valued co-operation.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. S. B. Rowe,
Acting Secretary.

S. Yada, Esq.,
Consul-General for Japan.

Mixed Court Report for January.

Communication from Outside Bodies.—While the hearing of what is commonly known as the Ningpo Road Robbery Case was *sub judice*, a communication was received from the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce requesting that the accused be handed to the Arsenal Authorities. The Court characterized writings of this description as a criminal attempt to interfere with the free and impartial administration of justice. More especially was it so in this case when it was remembered that the case against four of the ten accused was withdrawn by the prosecution and the charge against two of the remainder was dismissed. In view of the fact that this custom appeared to be tolerated by certain other Chinese Courts in spite of the theoretically independent status of the modern Courts in China, and as assurances had been given by the offenders that this practice would cease, no further proceedings would be taken on this occasion, but any similar offence in future would form the subject matter of a criminal charge.

Unrepresented Foreigners.—Of the thirty foreigners charged, two were found guilty of shoplifting and sentenced to three and six months' imprisonment, respectively, to be followed by expulsion in both instances. The only other serious charge was one of lareeny for which the Court imposed a sentence of one month. The remaining 27 were charged with minor offences which were met with short terms of imprisonment, small fines or cautions.

Precedents.—On several occasions during the hearing of Chinese civil actions, lawyers in their arguments referred to Court decisions and orders rendered prior to the case at issue and tried to insist that these earlier decisions must be upheld. In one case the Bench found it necessary to point out that such earlier decisions might hamper the exercise of justice and that consequently the Court was in no way bound to look upon earlier decisions as precedents. It would only take into consideration the facts of each particular case and would be guided by law and equity.

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SPORTS AND PASTIMES

THE LAY OF THE LAST HUNT

The way was long, and the wind was cold,
The General felt he was growing old,
As his pony stopped on the dreadful brink,
And letting him fall, it watched him sink,
With never a tremor and never a blink,
And turning, it trotted home!

The water was cold and the mud was black,
And poor old Teesdale had lost his hat.
He uttered a curse and he damned his bones,
For the hunt had galloped off after Jones,
And nothing was left for him but groans,
And vain regret!

There were two tired loafers who'd lost their pip,
And they came up together to Potter's Dip;
The one got over, the other remained,
The one went on and the other was pained,
He cried that his comrade's escutcheon was stained,
At leaving him all alone.

PAPER HUNT CLUB'S LAST OUTING

The last hunt of the season took place on Saturday afternoon starting at 3.30 at the Gun Club on Hungjao Road. It had been originally intended to hold an additional handicap at Kiangwan on that afternoon, but it was decided to cancel the handicap and have an ordinary hunt instead. About a hundred riders participated in the hunt, which was laid by Mr. N. L. Sparke for Messrs. J. G. Lyon and V. D. K. Craddock, light and heavy-weight winners of the previous event. The hunt was despatched by the Master, Mr G. Grayrigge, and riders immediately galloped off towards Marah. The going was found to be rather on the heavy side, as was only to be expected after the recent rains, but the run was a very enjoyable one although the wind was piercingly cold.

From Marah the paper lay in a clear and broad trail on the dark earth to the Slough of Despond, where the real business of the day began. A few of the leaders reached it and got over without mishap, but once trouble started, it led to further trouble and the air became blue with ejaculations. Messrs. Martin Little and G. Buyers found themselves in water up to the waist, while over and round on every side riders jumped or pushed and scrambled through the Slough.

The trail had doubled back at once through Panama and round by the back of Marah and across Hungjao Road, towards Benbow's Finish, and now came the nine-foot waterjump, laid in this [illegible] the hunters. The jumping on the [illegible] usually is found to be towards the close of the season, but there [illegible] refusals.

The hunt now found themselves in the Wilderness and a brief check took place while the knowing ones ranged west looking for the new trail, which they soon found. So away raced the hunt, still strung out in an immense long line, as the check had been too short to bring the riders together. The trail led straight [illegible] creek and then on to Forth, and away to a crossing of the Rubicon Creek near its junction with the Siccawei Creek. After a brief run in the trans-Rubicon country riders duly negotiated the Twins, [illegible] hunt [illegible] Seyka, Quartermaster W. G. [illegible] long jump northwards towards Miss Johnstone's line.

Mr M O Springfield now led the hunt on a smart dash homeward past Mrs Leader's bungalow down Miss Johnstone's line, where on the low ground lies the deep cleft full of water, laid by Mr Sparke two years ago, and now laid again. The leaders cleared it but General Macnaghten lost his pony, as also Mr. J. H. Teesdale, who unfortunately got very wet and lost all his chance of a win this season.

The survivors now scented home and Mr. Springfield made the going again at a terrific pace, closely followed by Dr. Davis, Mr. H. W. Lester and Mr. P. Stanglund. They darted through the Rubicon Creek where the last named went clean under, but Mr. Botelho took his place and with the rest of the hunt after them in full cry, they dashed down Hungjao Road, and into the country again for Dallas Grave and the Clearwater Jump.

At Clearwater Mr. Springfield had shot his bolt and presently his over-tired pony tripped and fell and Dr. Davis took the lead and held it to the finish. He was challenged on the Westward Ho line by Mr. A. J. P. Heard on the crack Letchfield, but the effort cost Mr. Heard his mount, so he was out of it. A cloud of lightweights followed Dr. Davis, for the pace and the absence of checks killed off the heavy and medium-weights and the order of finishing at Port Said is as shown on the card, details attached:—

1. Dr. Noel Davis on Sherwood
2. Mr. W. Hu on Huntsman.
3. Mr. P. Stanglund on Spade Guinea.
4. Mr. W. G. Johns on Torrid.
5. Mr. G. Pollock on Liability.
6. Mr. C. G. Acker on Accelerator.

GUNNERS' POINT-TO-POINT RACE

Fair weather and good going favoured the Field Artillery Battery on Sunday when the postponed individual point-to-point race was run in the home country. The start was at the corner of Warren and Hungjao Roads in French country, thence to Forth, Family Creek Wade, Drop and Crawl, the Barrier Platform and down the Bee Line to the finish.

Both battery ponies and those privately owned compete. Riders are handicapped on weight and ponies on reputation, and the [illegible] the result that few competitors have ever been on their mount [illegible]

At 10.15 Lieut. Barnes started the heavier gunner on the oldest pony, the scratch man following four minutes after. Fate soon overtook Gnr. Arnovick on "The Quail" and then Gnr. Wilson parted company with his mount in Family Creek Wade. By this time Gnr. A. Ferguson, half-a-minute from scratch, had established a lead, which he maintained over Drop and Crawl to [illegible] began to tell on some of the four [illegible] one amble. Each of [illegible] of the country at Barrier Creek [illegible] to [illegible] to [illegible] the hunt [illegible] Mr. Mercer leading [illegible] Bee Line and [illegible] for becoming [illegible] and rider came down and failed [illegible] again.

The Bee Line jumps proved too [illegible] for most of the ponies, and nearing the finish about half-a-dozen swerved to the path at the side of the creek causing a mêlée of casualties at a small stone bridge. Of the few who cleared were Gnrs. A. Ferguson, McCann, and Sgt. McIntyre, who passed the flags in that order, with Gnr. Nahon's pony second.

The fastest time, Gnr. Ferguson's, was 17 minutes, the slowest about half-an-hour, the tail end of the ride coming in at a trot. A sergeant, sad to say, would have been last but was saved by the gentlemanly instincts of a gunner just ahead who checked his pace saying "After you, sergeant, if one of us has to be last let it be me."

LAWN TENNIS

Tilden Defeated by Alonso

Buffalo, Feb. 25.

Senor Manuel Alonso, the Spanish player, beat Mr. William T. Tilden, 6/4, 1/6, 6/1, 3/6, 6/4, in the final of the Men's Singles Indoor Lawn Tennis Tournament.

Mr. Tilden was erratic throughout, especially at the net, where he frequently netted seemingly easy chances. Senor Alonso covered the court in a sensational manner. His driving was brilliant and his backhand play unbeatable.—Reuter's American Service.

The Davis Cup

Tokio, Feb. 26.

Japan has challenged for the Davis Cup. The probable team will be Messrs. Shimidzu, M. Fukuda and T. Herada. The lastnamed is a Keio University player.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

Scotland Defeats Ireland by 13 to 8: France Loses to England 7—19

Edinburgh, Feb. 23.

Scotland beat Ireland by 13 points to 8 in glorious weather before 20,000 spectators here to-day.

Scotland scored after seven minutes through Waddell, Drysdale converting. Ireland up the attack and the Scottish goal had two narrow escapes. It was a fast, open game, the play going quickly from 25 to 25. A great Scottish forward rush ended in Bertram running across, Drysdale converting. Ireland made very strenuous efforts to reduce the lead. A fierce forward dash overcame the Scottish defence and G. Stephenson scored a try, which he himself converted. At the interval the score was Scotland 10 Ireland 5.

On the resumption an Irish forward rush resulted in G. Stephenson scoring again, but the try was not converted. The play was very keen and the Scottish defence withstood prolonged hammering. From a scramble near the Irish line Waddell scored, but the kick failed. Scotland thus won by 13 points to 8.—Reuter.

England *v.* France

London, Feb. 23.

The international rugby football match between England and France was played to-day at Twickenham in fine weather before a crowd of 25,000, including the King. The ground was in excellent condition.

England won by 19 points to 7.

At the outset the play was fairly even with England getting more of the ball. A forward rush took the game into the French twenty-five, where a splendid bout of passing by the English backs ended in Jacob scoring a try, which was not converted. Shortly afterwards as a result of more excellent work by the English backs Jacob ran over again, but again the try was not converted. England was now outplaying her opponents, although the latter got their share of the ball in the scrums. Near the interval in a passing movement Catcheside received the ball and, with the French full-back going for his legs, made a four-foot jump over him and scored an unconverted try. At half-time England led by 9 points to 0.

The game re-opened with England attacking. The French tackled well. After a quarter of an hour Behoteguy, the French three-quarter, dropped a fine goal. Then the English backs raced away and Jacob went over again, Conway converting. Towards the end Young scored and Conway converted. Then in the last minute after good handling Ballarin, the French three-quarter, scored an unconverted try, reducing England's lead to 19 points to 7.—Reuter.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Results in Brief

FIRST LEAGUE

Football Club 4; Police 1.
Engineers 4; Public School 3.
Recreation Club a walkover, St. Xavier's scratched.

SECOND LEAGUE

Football Club 2nd 1; Customs 1
Navy 3, Jewish R. C. 0.
Portuguese S. A. 6; Maritime Co. 2.
St. Xavier's 2nd a walk over; Police 2nd scratched.
Hanbury School 2nd *v.* Public School 2nd cancelled.

THE NEW

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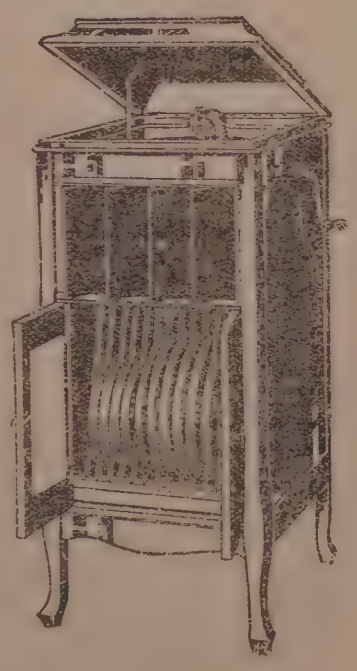

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"I feel that you have in this invention easily placed the Grafonola several years in advance of any other known gramophone."

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Mr. HAMILTON HARTY

(*Conductor, Halle Orchestra*)

"Your instrument, by comparison, makes every other gramophone old fashioned and untrue."

ROBINSON PIANO CO./LD.

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Feb. 29.

Bank's demand selling rate for G.$100 at 313/4 - Tls. 6.13 at 71.3 = $8.60

Bank's demand selling rate for G.$100 at 70¼ = Tls. 142.35 at 71.3 = $199.65

Mex. Dollars, market rate	71.5375
Native Interest	11
Copper Cash	256,600
Bar Silver	33 5/16
Bank rate of Discount	4%
Paris on London	Frs. 104.10
New York on London	G.$4.29 7/8

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/3
Demand	3/3⅛
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	70
Demand	70¼
PARIS—	
Demand	1663
INDIA—	
Demand	233¾
HONGKONG—	
Demand	72
JAPAN—	
Demand	64½
BATAVIA—	
Demand	194
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	72¼

BANK'S OPENING BUYING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/3¾
4 m/s. Credits	3/5
4 m/s. Docs.	3/5½
6 m/s. Credits	3/5½
6 m/s. Docs.	3/6
NEW YORK—	
Demand	71½
4 m/s. Credits	73½
4 m/s. Docs.	74
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1740
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/3½
New York T.T.	70½

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR FEBRUARY.

Hk. Tls. 5.40 at 3/3⅞	£1
" 1 at 1505½	Frs. 16.77
" 1.27 at 70⅜	Gold $1
" 1 at 64⅜	Yen 1.72
" 1 at 228¾	Rupees 2.55
" 1 @ 1.50	Mex. $1.50
" 1 at 16.15	It. Lire 17.99
Marks and Roubles no quotation	

Week s Exchange Notes

Mar. 1.

At the close of business on the 28th instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 25,355,000 and $40,610,000.

These figures include Tls. 7,060,000 and $28,150,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 955 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—
703 bars from America

Shipments were:—
10 bars to Hongkong

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—
Tls. 200,000 Mex. Dollars and Small coins to be melted

Shipments were:—
Tls. 190,000 to Foochow

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—

$770,000	from	River Ports
510,000	"	Cotton districts
300,000	"	Nanking
80,000	"	Wenchow
50,000	"	Hangchow
$1,710,000		

Shipments were:—
$100,000 to Harbin

SILVER.

The London price is ⅛d. lower for ready and 1/16d. lower for forward than a week ago. China has been a consistent seller on a small scale. India has been on the whole more of a buyer than a seller. Locally it does not look as if China in the near future is likely to give much support to the market. There is very little doing in exports and few bills offering; on the other hand, spot cargo is finding a ready market and clearances are good. The price of dollars is still Tow—71.5375. The price of silver in New York on Thursday was 64 7/16 cents, buyers bidding at quoted price, sellers asking higher price, firm, very little offering. The New York/London cross rate was 430¼.

EXCHANGE.

There has been very little genuine trade exchange business doing during the week, most operations reported being on account of speculators or inter-bank. The closing rate last week was T.T. selling 3/3d. but the market opened on Saturday at T.T. selling 3/3⅛d. On Monday the rate remained unchanged at opening but in the afternoon there was a rise to T.T. 3/3⅜d. The advance, however, was short lived, in fact a matter of minutes, when there was a drop to the opening rate T.T. 3/3⅛d. and on Tuesday a further decline at opening to T.T. 3/3⅛d. In the course of the forenoon a further collapse took place to T.T. 3/3d. the present level, at which the market is quietly steady with small sellers at about 1/16d. over the rate for March, 3/3⅛d. April, 3/3 1/16d. May. G.$ T.T. 70 ready and forward to June is the quoted rate, but T.T. 70⅛ is offered from some quarters. For Bills 4 m/s. are quoted 3/4d. February/March, 3/3⅞d. April, 3/3⅝d. May/June, and 4 m/s. L/C G.$ 72 ready and forward.

LONDON BULLION

Samuel Montagu & Co.'s Report

Under date London, January 16, Messrs Samuel Montagu & Co. report as follows on the bullion market:—

The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue on the 9th instant amounted to £126,234,595, as compared with £126,233,095 on the previous Wednesday.

Indian and Continental demand being on a small scale, the larger proportion of the moderate amount of gold available this week will probably be despatched to New York.

The United Kingdom imports anl exports of gold during the month of December, 1923, were as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
Sweden	£ —	£ 306
Netherlands	2,862	277,684
Belgium	—	3,568
France	—	63,957
Switzerland	—	49,420
Spain and Canaries	678	—
Egypt	—	255,000
West Africa	31,875	—
United States of America	—	1,937,471
Rhodesia	186,424	—
Transvaal	2,245,528	—
British India	—	304,321
Straits Settlements	—	11,440
Other Countries	817	37,745
Total	£2,468,180	£2,940,912

The Transvaal gold output for December, 1923, amounted to 778,849 fine ounces, as compared with 780,639 fine ounces for November, 1923, and 790,712 fine ounces for December, 1922.

The political situation at home and abroad has not failed to affect the silver as well as other markets by creating temporary paralysis. Although it is generally considered that the price of silver is high, there is no disposition to open bear speculative positions. One deterrent is the fact that recent attempts to do so have been far from satisfactory, for, as usual in times of political perplexity, the tendency of the peoples in the Far East is to acquire precious metals, the possession of which gives them confidence in times of unrest.

The high appreciation of the U. S. dollar is rather a discouragement to American sales here, though U.S. dealers are now more inclined to sell, even though by so doing they do not obtain so good a dollar outturn as they have obtained during the greater part of last year. A clearing up of even one of the political difficulties to which we have alluded would probably tend to bring about easier silver prices in this market.

Indian buying orders have been small, and China has both bought and sold.

The following article from the "North-China Herald" dated December 1, 1923 throws considerable light upon the remarkable consumption of silver by China:—

"All reports on the financial and commercial position of Shanghai during the past three weeks have made reference to the steadily decreasing amount of silver available here. Silver seems to have begun to disappear in dead earnest, when Japan came into the market as a heavy purchaser of China cotton and, to pay the farmers for the crop, several millions of dollars had to leave the vaults here. Then the mints set to work really hard and called for a considerable amount of sycee, but notwithstanding that they are turning out large quantities of dollars, these do not seem to return to Shanghai to replace the lost silver. The result of it all is that a condition of unusually severe financial stringency provails in the port, and the detrimental effect it has upon business is very great. The Chinese dealers who buy goods from foreign merchants are unable to get their customary accommodation from the native banks except at ruinous interest, and even although the rates demanded are between 30 and 40 per cent. per annum, in several cases the banks have to refuse business on these terms, having no more money to lend. The popular view of the case is that as the result of military and other requisitions in the interior, merchants will no longer trust their money to their native banks but prefer to bury it in the ground. One can by no means blame them, but the effect upon trade is extremely grave and likely to be more so."

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Uncertain Position of Yarn Following Drop in Cotton Prices: A Waiting Attitude

Mar. 1.

The yarn section of the local markets has probably provided the greatest amount of interest during the past week. Following the recent downward tendency of cotton, yarn prices have been quoted in Chinese circles as lower, but at the rates mentioned no business has transpired.

Lower prices for piece goods have been the rule at the auctions, some heavy drops having been experienced. A small indent business is believed to be taking place.

The prices ruling for produce coupled with the scarcity of stocks in some branches have restricted export business.

PIECE GOODS.

While certain firms are reported to have placed orders at Home for moderate quantities since China New Year, the interest in piece goods centres almost entirely on the auctions. As against last week all the auctions have shown a drop in quotations, but this is regarded as a temporary phase, as clearances continue good and a certain amount of steadiness is shown in the local market apart from this. Offers to Manchester from Shanghai are generally from 5 to 10 per cent. below Home demands, but it is understood that in some cases a small business has been possible during the week.

In woollen goods the market has been steady, the offtake being good. The Home market continues firm, and very little new business can be put through at present prices. The outlook, however, appears to be healthy.

As far as the auctions are concerned, expectations were entertained in various quarters of a better market this week, but these were not fulfilled. The position seems to be that fictitious prices were generally established a week ago by speculators who had cargo to clear. Having successfully done so, they are but little interested in prices to-day, and have offered no support. At the same time stocks purchased prior to the settlement are still in process of consumption, and pending their absorption no further demand is likely to eventuate from the interior. In the case of Black Italians, especially, the fall that has been seen is more or less natural, and in view of the high level of prices at which dealers have been working, lower rates may continue during the Spring and even into summer.

COTTON AND YARN.

China Cotton—The beginning of the week was characterized by a heavy drop in the price of all varieties of cotton, this being started by American. Indian and Chinese followed suit, Shensi losing about Tls. 4. During the past two days cotton has become firmer again. When the fall in price took place it appeared as if Indian would rapidly be on a parity with Chinese cotton, but this is no longer the case owing to the fall in Chinese. Some of the mills have bought on each succeeding weakness, but there has been too much uncertainty in the market to bring out any great volume of business. Thursday and Friday were delivery days on the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange and the last quotations available are those of Wednesday which are as follows:—March 42.45; April 42.15; May 42; June 41.95; July 40.85. Chinese cotton spot quotations:—Tungchow 44; Shanghai 42; Shensi 42; Hankow 41.

Local Yarn—The drop in cotton at the beginning of the week naturally affected the yarn position, and prices fell heavily. The uncertainty of the position has practically brought business to a standstill, and it is reported that with a view to giving some stability to the market Chinese millowners met and decided not to sell yarn under the following figures:—20's Tls. 192; 16's Tls. 178; 10's Tls. 164. It was hoped that this would stop the downward tendency of prices but apparently it has not had the desired effect, and the following quotations current on the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange show how values have receded:—February 14—March 180.20; February 27—March 167.10. Since the last date the March quotation has risen to 171.60. Szechuan merchants are apparently holding off hoping to find the bottom of the market, but if prices stiffen as it is now thought more likely they are expected to come in shortly as within a couple of weeks the bigger steamers will be running to Chungking, and if, as is reported, freight on yarn is being reduced by Tls. 10 a bale, it may induce business on their part. Stocks are apparently very low in the interior, and once buying sets in there ought to be heavy movements of cargo. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the rates for yarn on the 27th were:—March 168.60; April 166.80; May 165.70; June 165.10; July 164.50. In sympathy with yarn cloth has come down, though not to the same extent. Newchwang is again in the market after the winter closing.

PRODUCE.

Sesamum Seed—No change. Home buyers' ideas remain considerably below the parity of local prices. Business in this line is therefore dead.

Groundnuts—A slight revival of interest is shown from Europe and as the Tsingtao market has declined owing to the accumulation of stocks there and in the interior, prospects of a resumption of business seem more hopeful.

Tobacco—Supplies of all qualities are scarce, and both local and European prices are firmer.

Wool—Very little business is reported as dealers are asking higher prices for the few lots at present available. American buyers are in consequence looking elsewhere for their supplies.

Feathers—A few inquiries have been received but the ruling high prices prohibit business in any volume.

Egg Products—New season's cargo is now on offer, but practically no transactions have been concluded on account of the abnormally high asking prices. American buyers in particular are holding off, insisting that lower prices will prevail later.

Goatskins—Are firm and in short supply. Arrivals here are reported to be taken up steadily at prices rather higher than current values in the U.S.A.

SILK.

During the week a few transactions were booked in middle and lower grades of steam filatures for the Lyons market, and the Indian markets have taken a fair quantity of the usual native sorts. America keeps out of the market altogether, as our prices are still found too high. The market closes very unsettled, at a further decline.

Yokohama Specie Bank

It is announced that new branches of the Yokohama Specie Bank have been established at Canton and Samarang.

NEW MANCHURIA BANK

Substantial Japanese Backing

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 16.

The Bank of Manchuria, the new Japanese concern which is to operate exclusively in Manchuria and assist Japanese interests in this territory, having an adequate liquid capital at its disposal and in which the Bank of Chosen and other Japanese financial undertakings are shareholders, has begun operations in South Manchuria. The bank will no doubt before long open branches in North Manchuria. In order to make room for this new Bank, the Chosen Bank has already closed branches at Port Arthur, Liaoyang, Kirin and Chenchitun. The latter town, which is on the Ssepingkai-Toanan Railway, is just being developed, and has great prospects of becoming a most prosperous trade centre for beans and other produce grown in the Petuna region and valleys of the upper Sungari and lower Nonni.

It is reported that the Three Eastern Provinces Eastern Bank, the capital of which is $4,000,000 and which has its head office at Harbin, had a remarkably successful year in 1923 and that its profit amounted to $1,300,000.

STOCKHOLM FREE PORT'S SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Sign of Renewal in Trade

Stockholm, Feb. 3.

The Stockholm Free-Port, which is administered by a semi-private company, reports a good financial result after a couple of magre initial years. After paying the city about 230,000 instead of 98,000 kroner for 1922, the company pays a dividend of seven per cent. to the shareholders with 350,000 kroner.

These important harbour works, conceived in great part as a transit port for the Russian and Baltic trade, have had to struggle against the troubles incident on the decline in shipping and trade generally, which set in shortly after its completion. It is a good sign of revival in trade that the business transacted last year has been up to the full capacity of the port, even calling for extension in the quay space and warehouse facilities, of which a part has already been carried out.—Reuter.

JAPAN'S SILK TRADE

Special Bureau Suggested

Tokio, Feb. 22.

The establishment of a special silk bureau as a Government organization designed to conserve and concentrate the policy and activities of the various organs that deal with the silk trade is the object of a petition to the Government on behalf of the silk interests in Yokohama. The opinion is expressed that, if the new Department of Agriculture comes into being, a special bureau will be set up to deal with all matters relating to silk production, manufacture, and exports.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

An Argentine Loan

New York, Feb. 23.

Only a half of the Argentine Six Per Cent. Loan of $40,000,000 was subscribed here recently owing to the greater attractions of the Japanese Loan. The underwriters have taken up the balance.—Reuter's American Service.

Sale of Swedish Steamers

Stockholm, Feb. 3.

The Transatlantic Shipping Co. of Gothenburg, which recently disposed of five of its large sailing ships abroad, has now sold two of its older steamers, the strs. Kratos and Alstern to Japan, while the sailing ship Vinga goes to Italy. The Line has of recent years acquired a number of Diesel vessels, and it is the intention gradually to dispose of all the steamers in favour of motor ships.—Reuter.

Rise in Sugar Prices

London, Feb. 22.

The Clyde crushed sugar market to-day advanced the prices of all classes of sugar by 3d. to 6d. per cwt.—Reuter.

COMPANY MEETING

NEW AMHERST RUBBER ESTATE, LD.

Annual General Meeting

The seventh annual general meeting of shareholders of the above named company was held at the offices of the general managers (Messrs. J. A. Wattie & Co., Ld.), No. 10 Canton Road, on Thursday afternoon. Mr. G. Crayrigge presided and was supported by Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie, C. J. L. Stewart and Mr. R. N. Swann (Directors), and Mr. G. Copley, representing the secretaries and general managers, the total attendance representing in all 33,975 shares.

The notice convening the meeting, and the auditors' report, having been read, the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen,—Since I last had the privilege of addressing you, affairs in the rubber world have considerably improved, due to British restriction, and would be very much better if the benefit of restriction in British areas was not offset by the huge increase of export from the Dutch East Indies, which are apparently out to profit themselves without regard to the ethics of the situation. It is to be hoped that the Dutch in due course may come into line with the British and play the game of supporting and preserving this great rubber plantation industry. As I told you last year, restriction does not function in South Burma, but even if it did, Amherst, under the scale, could claim a much bigger output than the estate is at present making.

Our total planted area remains unchanged, but the tapping area is now 436 acres, an increase of 112 acres on last year. This year I expect to see a further 170 acres in bearing. The average yield per tree and acre per annum is rather a disappointing one and points to Southern Burma as being a low yielding region. The estimated crop for the year was not reached, the deficit being some 9,538 lb. Excessive rains and alternate monthly tapping are the attributable causes. The estimated yield for the current year is 90,751 lb.

IMPROVED PRICE OF RUBBER.

The net price realized for rubber sold was 12.64d. for all grades as against the wretched figure of sixpence the preceding year. For this improved price we have to thank restriction. It is the intention of the Board to go in for smoked sheet and the manager has been instructed to pay a visit to the F.M.S. to inspect smoke house designs and methods of manufacture. One advantage of smoked sheet is that it packs 200 lb. per case as against crêpe 140 lb., and the more we pack into a given space the lower the transport expense will be.

Labour conditions, owing to the completion of the railway, have eased up somewhat and perhaps further anxiety in this respect need not be felt. The estate is in good condition.

During the year the manager, Mr. Palmgren, had a well-earned six months' furlough and has returned, full of vigour I hope, to face the task of adapting his organization to the financial position of the Company. I have no doubt he will be successful in instituting the economies called for and at the same time keeping the property in an adequate state of cultivation.

Great keenness is being shewn by all concerned with the property and I desire to thank Messrs. Stuart Smith & Allan, of Rangoon, Mr. Fenoulhet our visiting agent, and Mr. Palmgren, our manager, for their good work. With such keen interest as evinced, I feel sure that if Southern Burma can ever be classed on a competitive footing as a profitable rubber-growing country, New Amherst has every chance of being one of its best estates.

I think it is fitting here that I should refer to the retirement from the East of Mr. R. N. Truman, erstwhile general manager and a Director of this Company for many years. We thank him for his excellent administration in the past and we wish him long life and good health in his well earned retirement.

I would now ask you to look at the Balance Sheet. Debentures to the extent of Tls. 44,650 were issued during the year, bringing the total up to Tls. 254,361.

THE DEBENTURE ISSUE

The need of keeping this debenture issue down to as small a figure as possible is quite apparent. Except for a few petty amounts in cash, interest is satisfied by a fresh issue half-yearly and it is just a matter of calculation as to the time of exhaustion of the total sum authorized. I am hoping that long before that period could overtake us, the estate may be in full bearing, paying its way and leaving something over not only for debenture holders, but for ordinary shareholders as well. The Company is deeply indebted to Mr. E. S. Kadoorie for his continued financial support. We hope the estate may prove to be worthy of the amount of financial backing he so determinedly puts up.

The accounts have been made up on the same lines as in past years, that is to say, no Profit & Loss Account has been opened, the net profit on rubber sales less all charges is simply deducted from the development account.

The Title Deeds for our property are now issued and are deposited with the Trustees for the Debenture Holders.

The formal resolution were then duly passed.

CLUB AND SOCIETIES

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

President's Review of the Year's Work: Large Donations in Charity

The annual meeting of St. George's Society was held at the General Chamber of Commerce Rooms on Thursdaf. Sir Skinner Turner (the retiring President), was in the chair, supported by Mr. A. Brooke-Smith, Sir Edward Pearce, the Very Rev. Dean Symons, Dr. R. S. Ivy, Major Hilton Johnson, Mr. A. C. Clear and Mr. E. L. Allen.

Proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, the Chairman said:

It is now my duty and pleasure to move the adoption of the report and accounts of St. George's Society for the past year. They have been in your hands for some time and I do not need to read them to you. The report presents no new features, but I venture to think we can congratulate ourselves on the very satisfactory state of affairs shown by the accounts and on the activities the society has shown during the year under review.

The accounts are presented to you in the same form as last year and we stand in the fortunate position, thanks to the generosity of our members, of having an ample balance at the bank while our investments have been investments by the purchase of Tls. 4,500 Municipal Debentures. But our expenses, alas, are always with us and the need for the help of the society still continues and shows no signs of any decrease. Our thanks are specially due to our hon. treasurer for the work he does for us in this matter: I know it is no light job.

You will see that our charitable disbursements have increased from $5,581.56 to $7,633.79, and I assure you that all the cases that come to us receive the most careful, as well as sympathetic, consideration at the hands of our Almoners and the Charity Sub-Committee. To them all we owe a debt of gratitude for the work they have done. It is again most satisfactory to note that we are able to record the repayment of loans to the amount of $535.12.

EDUCATION, GOLF AND WALKING.

Your Committee has decided to give further assistance in the matter of education and an examination will shortly be held for two scholarships, one for boys and one for girls, the children of Englishmen.

Our membership has again increased: and this year by no fewer than 181 new members and 32 Life Members. Here I should like to mention the services of Capt. Rolfe and Mr. Holmes who were instrumental in introducing no less than 12 Life members: thus carrying out the suggestion made by your Vice-President at the last annual meeting.

Turning to the other activities of the society, it is gratifying to have on the table here the Cup kindly presented by Mr. Prentice for competition between St. Andrew's Society and ourselves. (Applause) the team had an excellent day's golf. Long may be friendly rivalry continue between them and long may the Cup remain with us. Our congratulations to the team. Then it was most gratifying to know that the team for England in the International Walking Race was composed of members of our Society and won handsomely: our congratulations to them as well.

The two dances held were most successful and added handsome amounts to our charitable funds: I do not think I am putting it too high when I say that, thanks to the Dance Committees, the ball on St. George's Day at the Carlton was one of the most successful functions of the year in Shanghai.

Your Committee have met regularly and after the due transaction of business have lunched together—at the expense of each other. (Laughter). We have had the pleasure of entertaining Col. Marr Johnson and Mr. Slowe before their departure from Shanghai, as well as Col. Gordon and Admiral Leveson.

A FAREWELL AND WELCOME.

Gentlemen, it has been a matter of great pride for me to have been President of St. George's Society during the past year. I know the need of this society in Shanghai, and I believe in the value of our national societies. This society naturally fosters our love for England and all that she stands for in the world. It is a worthy ambition for any Englishman to be chosen as your President. In conclusion I have to thank you all, Committee and members, for the honour you did me in electing me last year, for the support you have given me during the year and for the forbearance which you have extended to my failings.

As chairman of the charity committee, Mr. Trenchard Davis mentioned, in seconding the motion, that in addition to those cases referred to in the report, the society had been instrumental in raising $4,000 to assist an Englishwoman and her two sons to go to Australia. It had not only been possible to pay her passage, but to provide her with £15 per month for 12 months after their arrival. The society had also helped two other Englishmen.

The Chairman expressed their thanks to Dean Symons, who, he said, had done so much in connexion with the society's charitable activities.

The report and accounts were adopted.

OFFICERS FOR 1924.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. Proposed by Dr. R. S. Ivy, and seconded by Sir Edward Pearce, Mr. W. H. Trenchard Davis was elected President for the ensuing year. No one save those like himself, said Dr. Ivy, could possibly realize the amount of work Mr. Trenchard Davis had done on the Committee of the society.

Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. A. Brooke-Smith, Mr. A. C. Clear was elected Vice-President.

The following were elected to serve on the Committee:—

Mr. Trenchard Davis, President, Mr. A. C. Clear Vice-President, Dr. R. S. Ivy, Sir Edward Pearce, Sir Skinner Turner, Mr. A. E. Baker, Capt. E. I. M. Barrett, C.I.E., Mr. A. W. Brankston, Mr. A. Brooke-Smith, Capt. A. W. Dixon, Mr. E. F. Goodale, Mr. O. M. Green, Mr. C. Harpur, Major Hilton Johnson, Mr. R. F. C. Master, Mr. P. H. Nye, Mr. R. C. Phillippo, Mr. E. L. Allen (hon. secretary), Mr. W. Nation, (hon. treasurer) and the Very Rev. C. J. F. Symons, M.A., Almoner.

CELEBRATING ST. GEORGE'S DAY.

It was suggested, said the Chairman, that St. George's Day should be celebrated as on previous occasions by a service in the Cathedral during the morning and a ball at night.

As regards Empire Day, Sir Skinner went on, and what could be done for the children on that day, steps had already been taken to get into communication with other national societies, with a view to ascertaining whether it were possible to hold some general demonstration for British children.

The meeting decided to celebrate St. George's Day as last year.

Votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. W. Nation, hon. treasurer, and Mr. E. L. Allen, hon. secretary, to whose untiring efforts the Society owes a very great deal.

On the conclusion of the proceedings the Chairman handed the President's Jewel to his successor in office, and Mr. Reader Harris proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman, which was enthusiastically acclaimed.

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Itched and Burned. Baby Cross. Cuticura Heals.

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The following telegraphic advices have been received:

Singapore, February 28, 1924.

Smoked Sheet	47	cents
Mar./April	47⅜	,,
Apr./June	48¼	,,

Market opened easy but closes steady.

DEBENTURES.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded		Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
	1903	6 to 20	26-9-22	T98½	*b* T490,500	6	June-Dec.
	1904	do.	11-1-23	T98½	*c* 314,500	6	do.
	1905	do.	12-5-22	T96½	*d* 320,000	6	do.
	1907	do.	24-4-22	T94	500,000	6	do.
	1908	do.	6-12-23	T100	650,000	6	do.
	1909	do.	15-3-23	T99	300,000	6	do.
	1910	do.	11-5-23	T99	313,800	6	do.
	1911	10 to 30	8-1-23	T95	350,000	6	do.
	1912	do.	3-1-24	T99	340,000	6	do.
S'hai Municipal Council	1913	do.	3-5-23	T100	756,300	6	do.
		10 to 50	8-5-22	T78	500,000	5½	do.
	1914	10 to 30	8-1-23	T91	900,000	5½	do.
	1915	do.	22-3-23	T91	800,000	5½	do.
	1916	do.	4-12-23	T99½	1,400,000	6	do.
	1918	10	18-10-23	T103	507,300	7	do.
	1919	10	4-12-23	T101	1,753,300	7	do.
	1920	10	1-2-24	T105	2,250,000	7	do.
		10 to 30	20-2-24	£105½	£750,000	6	do.
	1921	do.	18-2-24	$110	$1,000,000	8	do.
	1921	do.	1-2-24	T111½	T5,996,400	8	do.
	1922	do.	25-2-24	T105	T8,000,000	7	do.
	1923	do.	25-2-24	T99	*a*T6,000,000	6	do.
	1911	do.	8-10-23	T96	400,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914	do.	12-2-23	T88	500,000	5½	June-Dec.
French Municipal Council	1915	do.			350,000	5½	do.
	1921	do.	20-11-23	T108½	2,000,000	8	do.
	1923	do.	17-12-23	T95	*a* T360,000	6	May-Nov.
	1921	10 to 30	2-10-23	T112	2,000,000	8	June-Dec.
S'hai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	1922	do.	6-6-22	T108	T500,000	8	do.
S'hai Gas Co., Ltd.	1922	do.	2-10-23	T105	T1,000,000	7	do.
	1909	do.	20-11-23	T94	*e* 800,000	6	do.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded		Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
	1905	5 to 20	31-8-22	T96½	T250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1909	do.	27-3-23	T98	750,000	6	do.
	1911	do.	26-9-22	T92	250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	,,	do.	27-3-23	T98	250,000	6	May-Nov.
	,,	do.			250,000	6	Jan-July
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.	1912	do.	3-4-23	T98	250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1913	do.	3-4-23	T98	250,000	6	April-Oct.
	,,	do.	11-1-24	T94	250,000	6	May-Nov.
		do.			250,000	6	April-Oct.
	1914	do.	22-3-23	T98	250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1916	5 to 25	21-8-22	T90	500,000	5½	do.
	1922	do.	12-2-23	T98	750,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
		do.	10-1-24	T98	500,000	6	May-Nov.
Shanghai Club	1907	20	1-2-24	T93	450,000	6	do.
Country Club	1901	Perpetual			139,000	6	June-Dec.
Lane, Crawford Co., Ltd.	1914	5 to 20			130,000	6	May-Nov.
	1915	do.			110,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ltd.	1906	do.			250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1911	do.	7-6-23	T98	300,000	6	do.
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd.	1923	10 to 20	27-2-23	T95½	270,000	6	do.
S'hai Race Club	1923	25	31-1-24	T100	1,200,000	6½	Mar.-Sept.
Cultv Dairy Co., Ltd.	1915	10			50,000	7	Feb.-Aug.
Hall & Holtz Ltd.	1914	5 to 20	14-10-22	$92	230,000	7	Jan.-July
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	1922	5 to 20	..	..	T500,000	7	Jan.-July

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment.

a—Now Issuing; Redeemed or Unissued:—*b*—Tls.65,100; *c*—Tls.51,100; *d*—Tls.34,100; *e*—Tls.68,500; *f*—Tls.262,400; *g*—Tls.189,800; *h*—Tls.12,300; *i*—$18,90

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	1924: Jan.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
			lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	8.87d.	..	22,000	21,000	25,000	22,000	90,000
Amberst (New)	,, 500,000	Oct.	72,442	80,692	90,751	*8.89d.	..	..	9,784	9,236	8,214	27,234
Anglo-Dutch	£500,000	Dec.	650,000	530,000	600,000	0/6.32d.	..	..	..	..	64,000	64,000
Anglo-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,521,711	183,000	1,550,000	6.95d.	..	..	..	..	184,000	184,000
Ayer Tawah	Tls. 300,000	Sept.	369,447	58,042	360,000	†0.24.41	..	..	..	..	..	..
Batu Anam	,, 400,000	Dec.	258,510	162,742	135,793	0/7.34d.	..	..	..	..	12,500	12,500
Bukit Toh Alang ..	,, 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,615	345,000	7.54d.	139,189	30,893	26,000	26,600	25,500	248,182
Bute	,, 300,000	Dec.	230,067	173,350	159,516	10.11d.	..	..	..	..	17,500	17,500
Chemor United	,, 360,000	Dec.	340,794	246,412	246,192	0/7.15d.	..	..	..	..	27,200	27,200
Chemnedak	£35,000	Oct.	145,788	163,067	..	1/6.42d.	..	..	14,000	16,700	14,000	44,700
Cheng	Tls. 675,000	June	151,923	145,338	..	11.09d.	52,730	18,010	15,574	15,700	16,500	112,514
Consolidated (1914) ..	,, 375,000	Dec.	669,899	633,638	574,660	0/6.58d.	..	..	..	..	53,000	53,000
Dominion	,, 350,000	Dec.	271,150	323,140	306,867	11.04d.	..	..	..	..	28,032	28,032
Gula-Kalumpong	£500,000	Dec.	1,113,000	938,000	1,215,000	1/0 1/2d.	..	..	..	..	88,000	88,000
Java Consolidated	£85,000	Dec.	675,890	620,100	..	7.03d.	..	..	..	..	68,300	68,300
Kapayang	,, 150,000	Dec.	139,239	146,710	..	†26.90	..	..	..	..	10,592	10,592
Karah	,, 250,000	Mar.	114,879	104,783	84,000	8¼d.	41,012	6,623	5,574	6,858	8,146	68,213
Kota Bahroe (1921) ..	,, 390,000	June	138,330	339,970	..	..	78,957	24,885	27,143	29,933	29,156	190,074
Kroewoek	£70,000	Dec.	449,000	549,000	540,000	0/7.24d.	..	..	..	..	59,000	59,000
Langkat	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	842,589	943,000	975,000	Gldс.0.28	..	..	86,800	92,500	92,500	271,800
Padang	Tls. 600,000	April	209,711	220,232	..	10¼d.	66,300	17,200	17,000	20,000	19,700	140,200
Pengkalan (1921) ..	,, 150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,253	176,038	†40.19	..	..	..	..	..	..
Permata	,, 250,000	Oct.	98,303	86,299	..	0/8¼d.	..	..	9,012	8,573	8,080	25,665
Repah	,, 275,000	Dec.	68,584	217,185	240,000	1/3½	..	..	..	..	17,400	17,400
Samegaga	,, 600,000	Sept.	361,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
See Kee (1918)	,, 100,000	June	179,665	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	97,613	..	10,896	12,000	8,500	129,009
Semambu	,, 300,000	Dec.	164,193	245,500	153,264	0/9.37d.	..	..	..	..	13,400	13,400
Senawang (1921)	,, 375,000	Jan.	106,500	272,500	..	**17.35d.	180,800	28,100	23,400	21,700	21,100	275,100
Shanghai Kedah	,, 400,000	Sept.	313,414	246,542	..	8.12d.	..	22,827	21,118	23,680	24,496	92,121
S'hai-Klebang	,, 515,000	Dec.	126,106	109,015	..	0/9.35d.	..	..	..	..	8,700	8,700
S'hai-Malay	,, 600,000	Dec.	373,111	289,156	392,000	..	..	..	..	..	22,782	22,782
S'hai Pahang	,, 200,000	June	208,381	188,016	..	9½d.	52,721	20,420	15,018	12,204	16,432	117,405
S'hai Seremban	,, 325,000	Dec.	173,213	147,034	..	0/8.67d.	..	..	..	..	14,400	14,400
S'hai-Sumatra	,, 600,000	Oct.	561,329	679,710	650,000	Gldс.0.38	..	..	50,239	61,102	61,110	172,451
Sua-Manggis	,, 240,000	Dec.	114,880	27,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sungala	,, 100,000	Mar.	30,279	165,757	..	††.20	6,126	..	..	7,884	8,892	22,902
Sungei Duri	£40,000	June	308,073	296,568	229,000	11.61d.	64,560	23,302	18,774	19,773	23,698	150,107
Taiping (1913)	Tls. 200,000	Dec.	107,011	103,689	99,000	*+30	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanah Merah	,, 750,000	Mar.	415,000	395,900	..	7.92d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,800	21,900	256,800
Tehong	,, 750,000	Jan.	534,590	630,838	717,725	0/7.66d.	450,500	66,500	67,000	72,000	67,000	723,000
Ziangbe	£150,000	Dec.	514,566	523,600	600,000	7.24d.	..	..	..	..	67,500	67,500

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses † Straits $ cents.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	1924: Jan.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
			lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Benawang Rubber Ests. (Ord. Co. (1921), Ltd. (12½% Cum. Pref.	T 1.65											
Shanghai Kedah Plantations, Ltd.	T 1.10											
S'hai Klebang Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T 0.60											
S'hai Malay Rubber Estates, Ltd. .. ord.	T 4½											
,, 8% cum. part. pref.	T 9	9										
S'hai Pahang Rubber Estates, Ltd. ..	T 1											
S'hai Seremban Rubber Estates, Ltd. ..	T 0.80											
S'hai-Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ld	T 90	80										
Sua Manggis Rubber Co., Ld.	T 3½	2½										
Sungala Rubber Estate, Ld.	T 1½											
Sungei Duri Rubber Estate, Ld.	T 7½											
Taiping Rubber Estates (1913), Ld. ..	T 0.70											
Tanah Merah Estates (1916), Ld.	T 0.75											
Tebong Rubber Estate, Ld.	T 1.22½											
Ziangbe Rubber Co., Ld.	T 3½											

COTTONS, ETC.

Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld.	ord.	T	12½	12.30				15)	1,000,000	T5		
	8% cum. pref.	T	113	113½				43)	10,000	T100		
Laou Kung Mow C. S. & W. Co., Ld. ..		T	10						80,000	T10		
Oriental C. S. & W. Co., Ld.	ord.	T										
	pref.	T	5	4½				60)	500,000	T3		
Shanghai Cotton Mfg. Co., Ld. (Shanghai Bosboku K.K.)		T	65 old 40 new	35		42		3)	5,000	T100		
									80,000	T50		

INDUSTRIAL.

British-American Tobacco Co., Ld.	ord.	£		25 3/8	25 3/4			66)	18,000,000	£1		
	5% cum. pref.								4,500,000	£1		
China Im. & Ex. Lumber Co., Ld.		T	350						5,000	T100		
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.		H$	277	276					20,000	H$100		
Green Island Cement Co., Ld.		H$	37			38			400,000	H$7.50		
Maatschappij, &c., In Langkat		T	13						200,000	Gs.10		
Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ld. ..		T	6.85	(comb. T24) 7	(comb T24)	(comb. T			250,000	T5		
S'hai Exploration & Development Co., Ld.		T	13½	(comb. T24) 13½					250,000	T5		
Major Brothers, Ld.		T	5					10)	6,000	T20		
John Richards & Co., Ld.		T	10					11)	25,000	T10		
Shanghai Gas Co., Ld.		T	45	45½					24,000	T50		
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.		T	140	145					50,000	£20		

STORES.

Hall & Holtz, Ld.		$	6.90	7				$16)	28,000	$20		
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ld.		$	30						1,200	$60		
S. Moutrie & Co., Ld.		$	50					17)	10,000	$50		
Weeks & Co., Ld.		$	11	6				$50)	30,000	$20		
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ld.		$	102	104				$)	2,500	$100		

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cultv Dairy Co., Ld.		T	13		13				10,000	T10		
S'hai Electric Construction Co., Ld., "B" London		T £1	170	165 £2:13:9	£2:16:3				40,000	£10		
S'hai Horse Bazaar & Motor Co., Ld. ..		T	50						5,400	T50		
Shanghai Mercury, Ld.		T	25						3 000	T50		
Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. Ld. ..		T	73	72½	73½			$19)	40,000	T50		
Oriental Press (L'Imprimerie Francaise)		$	107						940	$100		

COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

The Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd.—The Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 27 The Bund, Shanghai, on Monday, March 3, 1924, at 11 a.m.

To pay a final dividend of Tls. 10 per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from February 18 to March 3, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Issue of Tls. 800,000 6% Debentures 1924—Tls. 450,000 of the above are being issued at Tls. 98. Interest payable semi-annually on June 30 and December 31. Application forms and further particulars may be obtained at the office of A. R. Burkill & Sons, No. 2 Canton Road, Fourth Floor.

The Ewo Cotton Mills, Ltd—The 3rd Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 27 The Bund, Shanghai, on Tuesday, March 4, 1924, at 11 a.m.

A Dividend at 8% p.a. on Preference Shares and Tls. 0.50 per share on Ordinary Shares.

The Transfer Books will be closed from February 23 to March 4, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Exploration & Development Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of the directors of the Shanghai Exploration and Development Co., Ltd., it was decided to recommend to shareholders at the forthcoming general meeting that the capital of the company be increased to Tls. 3,000,000, that one share to be offered to shareholders at par for each share in the company held by them and that 100,000 shares of Tls. 5 each be offered to the Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ltd., for the sum of Tls. 600,000, in return for valuable financial assistance rendered.

Formal notice of the proposed issue will be forwarded to shareholders in due course. Payment for the new shares will not be required until some time in April.

The Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—The 21st Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 2 French Bund, Shanghai, on Monday, March 10, 1924, at 4.30 p.m.

A dividend of 3½ per cent. on 10,000 Preference shares.

A Final dividend of Tls. 4.50 per share on 20,000 Ord. shares.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 1 to 10, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ltd.—The 5th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 1 The Bund, Shanghai, on Tuesday, March 4, 1924, at 4 p.m.

A dividend of 10 per cent. (Tls. 0.50) per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 1 to 4, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Laou Kung Mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.—The 30th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 1 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, March 6, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 1 to 6, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of the board of directors held on 18th inst. it was decided to recommend (subject to audit) at the annual general meeting the payment of a final dividend of 6 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent. (making 16 per cent. for the year) for the half-year ending December 31, 1923.

The Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ltd.—The 14th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Friday, March 7, 1924, at 4 p.m.

A final dividend of Tls. 1.50 per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 3 to 7, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ltd.—The twenty-second Annual Meeting will be held at No. 1 The Bund, Shanghai, on Tuesday, March 11, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 7 to 11, 1924, both days inclusive.

Share Report for Week Ending February 29, 1924.

No. 24/8

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use A1 Code
A.B.C. 4th, 5th and 6th Editions
B. Broomhall's Imperial Combination Code
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Members of Shanghai Stock Exchange.
Land, Estate & Insurance Agents.
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Buildings,
12 The Bund
Post Office Box No. 214, Shanghai.

There has been more life in the local share market during the past week, with a marked demand for Langkats (Combined), Shanghai Explorations and Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. for both cash and forward delivery. Practically all other shares with the exception of "Rubbers" have continued steady with an upward tendency.

London market quotations with exception of Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. and "Shells" have continued steady and the following are the latest prices added to us this week:—

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	£ 72. 10. 0	(Middle Price)
" " " " " " " " B.II.	70. 0. 0	" ex B.R.I.S.
" " " " " " " " B.III.	67. 10. 0	(Sellers) "
" " " " " " " " B.I.	66. 0. 0	(Buyers) cum "
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. "B"	3. 9. 6	(Middle Price)
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ltd.	1. 11. 6	"
Shanghai Electric Cons. Co., "B"	2 15. 0	"
Shell Transport & Trading Co., "B"	1. 11. 6	"
British-American Tobacco Co., "B"	5 1. 3	"
Singapore Electric Tramways, Ltd.	0. 3. 0	(Sellers)

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to-day is 3/3.

Shanghai, February 29, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:

FEBRUARY	23rd		25th		26th		27th		28th		29th	
	Cash	Mar	Cash	Mar	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	June	Cash	June
RUBBERS												
Bukit Toh Alang R. E., Ld. Tls.	..	..	..	1 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sungei Duri Rub. Est., Ld. .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ziangbe Rub. Co., Ld. .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3½	..	..	..	..
Sua Mangtia Rub. Est., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3¼	..	..
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS												
New Eng. & S. Wks. (Ord.) Tls.	..	5.85	..	7.10	..	32½	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Loan & Invest. Co., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Langkats (combined) .. .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81½	..	..	..	89
S'hai Tug & Lighter Co. (Ord.) "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73	..	73	..	..
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	..
S'hai Exploration & D. Co., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
COTTONS												
DEBENTURES												
S. M. C. 7% 1922 Debs. .. Tls.	..	..	105	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

NO BUSINESS REPORTED

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

March 25, Tuesday. April 29, Tuesday. May 27, Tuesday.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, FEBRUARY 29, 1924.

STOCK	Last business done.		Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Paid-up Value	Reserve, etc.	Financ. year ended	Last Dividend, etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.										
London	£	127½								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Cor.	$	1060	1075		61) 400,000	H $125	(a H $3,350,212	Dec.	Final £3 & Bonus £2 (mkg. £8 1922) less I/T	
Chartered Bank of I., A. & C. ..London	£	19 9/16			600,000	£5	(c] H $65,123,831 (a £222,201 (c £1,500,000	Dec.	Final 7s. & Bonus 6s. 3d. (mkg. £1 0s. 3d.), free of I/T, 1922	5-4-23
INSURANCE.										
Union In. Society of Canton, Ld.	H $	232½			55) 200,000	d £4	(av $437,386 (b £69,500	Dec.	Final 10s. (mkg. 40s.) ex 1921 Work. a/c., Interim 24s. & Bonus to Contributors, 20%, ex 1922 Work a/c.	26-5-23
North-China Insurance Co., Ld.	T	138			10,000	e £5	(c $3,574,054 (av T610,687	Dec.	Final 15s. (mkg. 30s.) ex 1921 Work a/c. and Interim 15s. ex 1922 Works. a/c. .. .	30-5-23
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ld. ..	$	27	26½		21) 250,000	$10	(c T4,782,883 (av $1,021,996 (av $2,408,636	Dec.	$2 (or T1.46) ex 1922 Work. a/c. payable in Taels at Exchg. 73	30-5-23
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ld.	T	22			1) 50,000	T20	(c $1,063,242 (av T518,346 (av T204,093	Dec.	T1.20 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	30-5-23
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.	H $	725		705	10,000	f H $100	(c T9,361 (ar H $2,172,215	Dec.	Final H $22 (mkg. H $40) ex 1921 Work. a/c.,	
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld. ..	H $	550			8,000	g H $50	(c H $6,949,892 (av H $631,693	Dec.	and Interim H $18 ex 1922 Work. a/c. ..	11-5-23
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H $	127	140		20,000	h H $20	(c H $3,370,385 (av H $1,328,926	Dec.	H $32 ex 1921 Working a/c.	28-3-23
Assurance Franco-Asiatique	F	500	375		14,000	F500	(c H $5,523,650 (a F101,368	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/c. ..	20-3-23
SHIPPING.							(c F3,784,330		None, Floated 1918	....
Indo-China S.N. Co., Ld... (ord.	H $	38	38½		2) 120,000	$5	(a	Dec.		
(def. ord. ..	H $	140			2) 120,000	$5	(a $2,167 (c £2,103,182		Prof. 6s. at Exchg — $2/4 London Warrants less I/T a/c., 1922. Def. Ord. Nil	15-6-23
Shell T'sport & Trading (ord.	£		£4:10:0	£4:13:0	50) 30,000,000	£1				
Co., Ld. .. (7% cum. 2nd pref.	£				28) 300,000 67) 10,000,000	£10 £1	(a* £2,029,050	Dec.	Interim 2s., free of I/T, Coupon 42	5-1-24
Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld. (ord.	T	81	82½		20,000	T25	(c £5,000,000	Dec.	(Int. Ord. T2.50 a/c., 1923)..	
(pref.	T	53	53½		10,000	T50	(a T22,356 (c T470,000		(Int. Pref. T1.75 a c., 1923)	9-7-23
DOCKS AND WHARVES.										
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld. ..	T	94	94		47) 55,700	T75	(a T102,535	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
Hongkong & W'poo Dock Co., Ld... ..	H $	167½	169		‡ 60,000	H $50	(c T1,948,000 (a H $583,680	Dec.	Final H $5 & Bon. H $3 (mkg. H $12, 1922) ..	27-3-23
New Eng. and Shipbuilding (ord.	T	5½		6	42) 500,000	T5	(c H $1,971,000		Interim 1923, H $4	29-10-23
Works, Ld. .. .. .. (8% pref.	T	5.20			65) 500,000	T5	(a T2,500 (b T300,000	Dec.	Ord. T0.25, 1923	10-2-24
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ld... ..	T	192½	193		‡31) 40,000	T100	(c T1,041,794 (a H $303,494	Dec.	Pref. T0.40, 1923..	10-2-24
H'kong & K'loon W. & G. Co., Ld. ..	H $	180	185		80,000	H $50	(b H $250,000 (c H $100,000	Dec.	H. $6 & Bonus H. $3 (mkg. H $9, 1922) ..	20-2-23
MINING.										
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld. ..	£	12/-			24) 500,000	G. $10		June	G $0.50, 1920-21	26-7-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Bearer).	T	21½			1204) 2,000,000	£1		June	Final 2½% (Coupon No. 23) free of I/T,	
London	£		£3:8:0	£3:11:0			(c		1922-1923	11-12-23
Rauh Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld. ..	H $	5.10			200,000	£1	(a £22,613 (c £2,37	Mar.	1s. 2d., 1909-10	21-5-10
LANDS AND HOTELS.										
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. ..	T	118	120		‡) 78,000	T50	(a T2,[illegible]	Dec.	(Final T3 & Bonus T2 (mkg. T8, 1922)	23-3-23
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld. ..	H $	114	114½		240,000	H $25	(b T2,[illegible] (c T2,16[illegible]		Interim 1923, T3	20-7-23
(New Reg.)							(a [illegible]	Dec.	Final H $1.50 & Bonus $2 on 200,000 shares	
							(b H $250,000		(mkg. H $5, 1923) H $2.50 on 40,000 new shs.	28-1-24
Humphreys Est. & Finance Co., Ld. ..	H $	24	23½		150,000	H $10	(a H $1,[illegible] (b H $50,000	Dec.	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.80, 1923	9-2-24
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld.	T	6			3,674	T20	(c H $[illegible] (a T2,[illegible]	Dec.	T1.20, 1923	13-3-24
							(c T7,0[illegible]			
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld. ..	T	120	120		‡23) 18,000	T100	(a T7,818 (b T20,000	Feb.	Int. Divid. T3½, 1923-24	21-9-23
							(c T350,000			
Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels, Ld. ..	H $			27½	33‡)1,000,000	H $10	(a H $46,41	Dec.	Final H $0.75 & Bonus H $0.50 on 375,000	
									shares only, H $2 on 5% & H $1.75 (mkgs.,	
							(c H $2,265,828		1923) ..	14-2-24
Carlton, Ld.	T	53			14) 10,000	T50		Mar.	Floated April 1, 1922	
Asia Realty Co., Inc...	G $	100			‡18) 10,000	G $100		Dec.	Incorporated under the laws of Delaware Ord.	
									1922, 7%	4-1-23
Raven Trust Co., Inc. .. .. .. (ord.	G $	19	12½		**100,000	G $10			Pref. 1st gr. 1923, 1½%	4-1-23
(pref.	G $	10	10			G $10				
PLANTATIONS.										
Alma Estates, Ld.	T	6½		6½	70,000	£1 at T9	a T28,940	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23 .. .. — — —	19-12-23
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	0.50			‡62) 500,000	T1		Oct.		
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld. ..	T	2.90			12) 400,000	10s.		Dec.	T0.30, 1919	
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T	6½			4) 500,000	10s.	a T32,505 (c T129,1[illegible]	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c. 1923	7-4-20 14-9-23
							(c T378,570			
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T	23			27) 30,000	T10	(a T16,223 (b T22,000	Sept.	T2.00, 1922-23	28-12-23
							(c T49,590			
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Ests., Ld. ..	T	0.97½			400,000	T1	(a T30,758	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	10-4-20
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T	1.12½	1		500,000	T1	(a T20,102	Mar.	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1916-17)	26-1-17
Bute Plantation (1913), Ld.	T	0.75	0.70		300,000	T1	a (Loss)T13,076	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkg. T0.10, 1916)	29-3-17
Chemor United Rubber Co., Ld.	T	1.07½	1 ..		400,000	T0.90	(a T37,697	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	6-11-23
Chempedak Rub. & G'bier Est., Ld. ..	T	6	4½	39)	36,000	£1	a (Loss)T13,435	Oct.	2nd Interim, T0.50, (mkg. T1, 1916-17) ..	16-10-17
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	1.40			135,000	T5	(a T4,120	June	T0.20, 1916-17	1-11-17
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld..	T	2½	2	25)	500,000	2s.—T0.75	(a T23,192	Dec.	T0.10, 1922	20-4-23
							(c T30,000		Interim T0.06, 1923	15-10-23
Dominion Rubber Co., Ld.	T	2	1.80	19)	350,000	T1	a T13,813	Dec.	T0.40,1919	18-5-20
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T	9½	9	‡48)	750,000	(21;450,000	(a			
						(5s;200,000	(c	Dec.	2s. less I/T at 5s. in £1922, "B" Coupon 20)†† ..	28-3-23
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee, Est. Ld.	T	14		8)	85,000	£1 at 2/3½	(a T54,465	Dec.	Interim, T0.50, 1923	3-9-23
Kali Glidik Coffee Estates, Ld.	T	5	5½		70,000	T5	(c T650,113		Incorporated 1923	
Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ld. ..	T	12		.35)	15,000	T10			(T0.50, 1922	
Karan Rubber Estate Co., Ld.	T	6			25,000	T10	(a T6,957 (c T4,624	Dec.	Interim 1923, T0.50	19-4-23
							(a [illegible]	Mar.	T0.50, 1922-23	17-7-23
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1921), Ltd..	T	1.05			390,000	T1	(b T50,000	June		1-8-23
Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ld.	T	14	13	16	90) 70,000	£1 at T1.80	a (Loss)[illegible]		(T0.60, 1922	
							(a [illegible]		(Int. T0.50 a/c., 1923	17-4-23
Padang Rubber Co., Ld.	T	6½			50,000	T10	(c [illegible]	Dec.	T0.05, 1919-20	7-9-23
							(a [illegible]			

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LAW REPORTS

FUNDS OF ALLEGED REBELS

A Mixed Court Puzzle before the Supreme Court: A Question of Jurisdiction

The case of Wu Zeh-sung v. the Bank of China, Japan and the Russo-Asiatic Bank, Supreme Court, v. Tsz-ching, Yang Ding-ying, Yang Ding-ying, Yang Ding-ying

THE NEW TAXATION IN FRANCE

Government's Scheme Accepted: Additional Revenue of Frs. 7,500,000,000

Paris, Feb. 23.

The Chamber approved by 354 votes to 218 the *ensemble* of the Government's fiscal programme. Taken in conjunction with his victory in the Senate on Thursday by the narrow majority of 16, the final passing of M. Poincaré's taxation proposals, after an all-night sitting of the Chamber lasting till seven o'clock this morning, means that the Premier can confidently look forward to remaining in office at any rate until after the elections.

The latest political developments are already apparently influencing the franc, which yesterday recovered to 99 to £1.

The taxation proposals are expected to produce Frs. 7,500,000,000 additional revenue. Most of this will used for the purpose of balancing the Budget. The so-called recoverable expenditure has hitherto merely been debated to Germany's account.—Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 25.

The first executive act following the passage of the financial proposals is a decree forbidding access by foreigners to stock exchanges except with special permission.—Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 27.

The Produce Exchange, which has been compulsorily closed for the past week, has been permitted to re-open upon the representatives of sugar, oil and rubber interests agreeing upon stringent regulations, like the exclusion of foreigners and the reduction of the periods for the execution of contracts.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 22.

The French franc recovered to-day to 100.50 and the Belgian franc to 113¼.—Reuter.

FRENCH ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

Ex-Premiers' Appeals to Democrats and Socialists: Left Leaders' Policy

Paris, Feb. 25.

M. Briand, speaking at a Radical-Socialist banquet at Carcassonne last night, prophesied certain victory for the Left Parties in the forthcoming elections, provided Republicans made common cause. M. Briand advocated the creation of an atmosphere of peace in which Germany would feel that her neighbours would enable her to achieve a peace that would be real.—Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 25.

M. Briand's speech at Carcassonne last night may be regarded as the opening of the electoral campaign. The ex-Premier appealed to all Democrats and Socialists to unite against the Governmental bloc. A national union, he declared, would bring victory.

The ex-Premier, M. Painlevé, at the same time made a similar appeal at Annecy.

Evidently the Left parties mean to fight the elections on a platform of international solutions through the League of Nations as opposed to the doctrine of force. The Left leaders declare that M. Poincaré's policy of military pressure has failed, that new methods and new men are required, and their policy of close and cordial inter-Allied cooperation, with the extended use of the League of Nations as the arbiter of international disputes, will bring France the reparations and security she has so far failed to obtain.—Reuter.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—A woman who was killed by falling from Westminster Cathedral has been identified as Mrs. Davey, of Hammersmith. Her two daughters were four and eight years of age respectively. The woman is said to have left a note for her husband saying that she was tired of life.—Reuter.

FALL OF BELGIAN CABINET

Anti-Ruhr Policy Attack by Socialists and Democrats: M. Theunis Resigns

Brussels, Feb. 27.

The Chamber to-day rejected by 93 votes to 79 the bill embodying the Franco-Belgian economic convention. The Premier announced that he would resign, as the Government had made the bill a matter of confidence.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 27.

The Franco-Belgian Convention which caused the resignation of the Premier, M. Theunis, is now effective.

It has been two years in negotiation and has been strenuously opposed by the Belgian manufacturers and the press on the ground that it gave France seven times the number of conce sions granted to Belgium.—Reuter.

Later.

The fall of the Belgian Government, which consternated Government circles in Paris, creates an interesting European situation on account of its international implications just when reparations seem to be entering a decisive stage. Opposition came from different quarters and is based on diverse grounds, but the most formidable assault proceeded from a combination of Socialists and Flemish Democrats, who for a long time have decried the occupation of the Ruhr and feared that the Convention would lead to further subservience to France.

The King requested M. Théunis to form a new Coalition. It is understood that M. Théunis declined. It is now anticipated that the King will summon the Socialist, M. Vandervelde, or the Flemish leader, M. Cauwelaert, but the Socialists have recently been advocating dissolution and are preparing an electoral campaign.—Reuter.

LUDENDORFF ON TRIAL

Charge of High Treason in Bavarian Monarchist Movement: All Germany on Tiptoe

London, Feb. 26.

Reparations are momentarily forgotten in Germany. All eyes are turned to Munich where the trial opens to-day of Herren Ludendorff and Hitler and eight others on a charge of high treason in connexion with the Bavarian Monarchist revolt in November last year.

The trial is reviving the keenest political passions. The newspapers are freely venting conflicting opinions. The Bavarian Government has taken very extensive precautions to safeguard order. The law courts where the trial is being held are surrounded by troops. Political meetings are forbidden. Barbed wire has been erected at several points on the frontier while the town itself is crowded with visitors, including hundreds of foreign journalists few of whom, however, can gain admittance to the Courts.—Reuter.

Crowded Court and Friendly Atmosphere

Munich, Feb. 26.

The trial of Gen. von Ludendorff, Herr Hitler and seven of their alleged accomplices, on charges of high treason in connexion with the revolutionary attempt in Bavaria in November, opened to-day at the former Infantry School.

The approaches to the court were blocked with barbed wire, and armed soldiers and police held up everyone, demanding to see their passes, while a detective inside examined those admitted for hidden weapons.

The hall was packed to suffocation with pressmen and witnesses, but the public were very limited.

Gen. von Ludendorff, wearing a blue lounge suit, headed the accused when they entered the court. The reading of the indictment lasted an hour and a half. Then the Prosecutor proposed to exclude the public, and the court adjourned to consider this.

Later.

When the Court resumed; no announcement was made as regards admission of the public. A noticeable feature is the friendly atmosphere in which the proceedings are being conducted. None of the accused appear to take the affair very seriously.

The President of the Court made a statement laying sympathetic stress on Herr Hitler's war career.

Herr Hitler, in a long statement, attributed his action to patriotic motives and denounced the conduct of Dr. von Kahr and Gen. von Lossow, who joined the movement under duress and immediately suppressed it when free.—Reuter.

Unsensational Proceedings and Public Apathy: Monarchist Movement Explained

Munich, Feb. 27.

A slight snowfall this morning sufficed to keep away from the vicinity of the court-house even the few persons who assembled yesterday. It is evident that the citizens of Munich are little interested in the trial, because it is already clear that the case will provide no sensations and will not have any serious consequences for General von Ludendorff and Herr Hitler, a fact of which they are probably aware.

One of the accused, Herr Weber, President of the Nationalist Oberland Bund, made a statement today explaining the aims of the Bund, which, he said, were chiefly to tear up the Versailles Treaty and to create a new German Fatherland. He gave an account of his conversations with Dr. von Kahr, General von Lossow, and the chief of the Bavarian police, Herr von Seisser, showing that all three had approved the revolt.—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S BUILDING OF NAVAL CRUISERS

No Contravention of Washington Naval Treaty: Only Replacement: Some Comparisons

London, Feb. 26.

A score of well-known Liberal Members of Parliament have issued a manifesto urging reconsideration of the project to lay down new cruisers and destroyers as being unnecessary, economically disastrous and morally wrong, and contending that Britain's action would create mistrust abroad and endanger the work of the League of Nations. The manifesto asserts that four new cruisers are already built for the Royal Navy, and points out that Japan has reduced her naval estimates by Y.45,000,000.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 27.

In the House of Commons today at question time, Mr. C. G. Ammon, Parliamentary Secretary Secretary to the Admiralty, said that it was not in the public interest to publish details of the new cruisers, but they would conform with the requirements of the Washington Treaty. The Admiralty expected the cost to be between £1,500,000 and £2,000,000. The effect of their building on the number of the personnel of the Navy must depend on the decisions reached on the replacement programme, which would be the subject of Government investigation. The latest figures in regard to the light-cruiser strength of the British, American, French and Japanese Navies were respectively 48, 29, 16 and 28.

Mr. Ammon added that, had the full programme of the late Government been embodied in the naval estimates for 1924/25, the extra cost involved would have been approximately £3,000,000 and the additional personnel 14,000. He also stated that the increase in the Mediterranean Fleet did not indicate a change of policy on the part of the Government.—Reuter.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Fifty-seven Americans will receive approximately $1,000,000 under the first group of awards arising from the sinking of the Lusitania.—Reuter's American Service.

MILITARY CONTROL IN GERMANY

British Proposal of Revival to be Discussed by Inter-allied Committee

Paris, Feb. 26.

The British plan for the resumption of inter-Allied military control in Germany, outlined in Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's Note to the French Government, demands an inventory of German ammunition depôts.—Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 27.

The Conference of Ambassadors has assembled to discuss the British memorandum on military control in Germany, which proposes to revive the Inter-Allied plan of September, 1922, substituting a committee of guarantees with limited functions for the present Control Commission. The plan had been dropped owing to the occupation of the Ruhr.

Later.

The Ambassadors' Conference has referred the British memorandum to the Inter-Allied Military Committee at Versailles, which is presided over by Marshal Foch.—Reuter.

Berlin, Feb. 27.

A semi-official statement refuses to believe that the British Government would lend a hand to the encroachment on German sovereignty involved by revival of the Guarantees Committee, which, the statement declares, is not provided for in the Treaty of Versailles.—Reuter.

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF RED ARMY

M. Trotsky's Review of the Growth and Development of the Soviet

Rosta News Agency

Moscow, Feb. 21.

In an article written on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Red Army, M. Trotsky, after making an historical survey of its growth and development, writes in part:—

"The international situation we face on this day of the sixth anniversary has changed for the better for us. One state after another recognizes us, or is preparing to do so, '*de jure*,' which means that they recognize that we exist on a 'lawful basis.' The Red Army takes due note of this.

"However, the Red Army has long since learned to look upon the Revolution as the most lawful basis of the Workers' State. The very fact, indeed, that six years were needed for the bourgeois governments—and then only a part of them—to recognize our existence, is the best evidence of the enmity surrounding the first Workers and Peasants' State.

"This is why"—states the People's Commissary of War of the U.S.S.R.—"the Red Army, reduced five times from its former numbers, enters into the third triennial period of its existence with a profound conviction that it is still, as before, wanted by the Socialistic mother country to keep watch on her national independence and progress."

ARMAMENT LIMITATION

Task too Hard for League of Nations: Self-Denial None Will Accept

Rome, Feb. 25.

Little progress has apparently been made by the League of Nations' conference on the limitation of naval armaments. The conference throughout sat privately. A *communiqué* issued last night states that a report has been submitted to the Council of the League and also to the Governments concerned, but it is reliably reported that Spain has withdrawn from the conference and that Argentina, China and Turkey have declined to accept the limitations while Brazil, Chile, Greece and Sweden have made offers conditional upon similar undertakings by Argentina, Turkey and the Baltic Powers. Thus nobody has pledged to definite disarmament.—Reuter.

The Attitude of Spain

Rome, Feb. 26.

It is semi-officially denied that Spain has withdrawn from the Naval Disarmament Committee. It is explained that the members of the Conference are not empowered to take decisions, but merely to frame opinions in the form of reports.

Later.

The Naval Disarmament Conference closed to-day with an official declaration of unanimity, which is difficult to reconcile with the reports of dissension among the delegates. Notwithstanding the semi-official denial, the Spanish delegate has published a statement explaining that he retired because he failed to secure general support for a tonnage of 105,000, instead of the permitted 83,000. Russia uncompromisingly claimed 400,000 tons and also the closure of the Baltic and Dardanelles to all warships.—Reuter.

ITALY'S INCREASING PROSPERITY

Revenue Returns Evidence of Economic Progress under Fascist Government

Rome, Feb. 20.

An indication of the increasing prosperity of Italy is given in the statement of the Minister of Finance, Signor de Stefani, relating to the increased Treasury receipts. The figures for 1923 show an increase of 70,000,000 lire over those for 1922, and this increase has been derived from all the sources of income, viz., 13,000,000 lire from direct taxes, 37,000,000 lire from school taxes and transfers of property, 13,000,000 lire from the indirect taxes on articles of consumption, 2,000,000 lire from industrial monopolies and matches, and 4,000,000 lire from the popular Italian game of lotto. This means that the State income has increased from 1,325,000,000 lire for the period ending August, 1922, to 1,395,000,000 for the corresponding period of 1923.

These figures are the best evidence of the economic progress of Italy under the Fascist Government. New Italy is devoting all her energies to the balancing of the budget, which, of course, cannot be attained without a considerable reduction in expenditure and an increase in taxation. Premier Mussolini has set himself to work along these lines with his usual thoroughness. He has inspired the great mass of the workers with the will to labour. There are no longer labour strikes in Italy. Useless elements in the various departments of administration have been removed. Italy is again the land of tourists, particularly American. Whatever may be said as to the imperialistic aims of Italy, it is evident that the policy of to-day contributes to the maintenance of peace. While the Mussolini Government is ready to defend the honour of the country and to safeguard its interests, it is also ready to make sacrifices in order to prevent Europe being plunged into a war that would bring ruin to the whole continent.

The Pawnshop Test.

Another indication of the growdiminution in the number of articles pawned in the Monti di Pieta. These institutions are very old in Italy. They were founded in 1444 by a popular saint of the Middle Ages, Bernardin of Sienna, who tried by their means to find a remedy for usury. Figures show that the poorer classes who have recourse to these institutions in time of need are now in better circumstances.

Unemployment has decreased. The number of unemployed in Italy is only 240,000, that is to say, about equal to the number of unemployed in the city of London. The proportion would be less if the United States would consent to enlarge the quota of Italian immigrants. Before the war the number of immigrants from Italy to the United States reached and even exceeded one million, but now it is limited to 42,000 per annum. This is the cause of the labour difficulties in Italy at present.—Italian Wireless through Reuter.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

THE DOCKERS' STRIKE SETTLEMENT

Will the Men Accept the New Terms? Hostile Element in the Provinces

London, Feb. 22.

The dockers' conference after further long sittings decided to recommend acceptance of the terms and has adjourned until Monday. The delegates, meanwhile, will proceed to their districts to submit the whole position to the men and will return with a mandate to decide the issue.

Later.

While it is hoped that the strong recommendations of the leaders will convince the majority of the dockers of the wisdom of accepting the terms of settlement, the fact that mass meetings of strikers at Hull, Bristol, Grimsby and Newport to-day resolved to continue the strike unless the full two shillings are granted immediately, shows the strength of the intransigent movement. The resolution adopted by the delegates' conference stresses the "tremendous advance" made towards decasualization and its maintenance by the agreement reached.—Reuter.

Northern Strikers' Acceptance of Employers' Offers

London, Feb. 24.

A mass meeting of dockers at Hull to-day passed a resolution by an overwhelming majority in favour of acceptance of the employers' offer. Newcastle and Bristol strikers also voted for acceptance. A meeting of 5,000 Liverpool dockers enthusiastically agreed to accept the employers' offer. There were only three dissentients and an overflow meeting of 1,500 voted unanimously for acceptance. An overwhelming vote in favour of acceptance was also the result of the meeting of the Glasgow dockers.

Meetings of the members of the Stevedores' Union at Poplar and Canning Town, however, decided to continue the strike pending the settlement of their demand for an increase of 2s 6d. a day and 25 per cent. on piecework rates.

Feb. 25.

Yesterday's mass-meetings of dockers throughout the country without exception decided in favour of resumption, which is thus inevitable to-morrow, except in the case of the stevedores, whose union claims 25,000 members, mostly in London.—Reuter.

Work to be Resumed at Once: A Strike of Railwaymen Narrowly Averted

London, Feb. 25.

The dockers' delegate conference has decided to endorse the settlement and to call off the strike. Work will be resumed at all ports to-morrow morning.

Members of the National Union of Railwaymen at Hull went on strike to-day owing to the dismissal of hundreds of checkers employed at the docks, on the railway and in the warehouses.

The strikers are of opinion that this is a reprisal for the recent strike, but officials say that owing to the dock strike it is impossible to keep the full number of men usually employed at the goods depot.

Up to the present the engine-drivers have not joined the strike

Later.

The Hull strike has ended in view of the conclusion of the dock strike and the railways' withdrawal of dismissal notices.—Reuter.

Stevedores Still Stubborn

London, Feb. 26.

The executive of the Stevedores' Union have unanimously recommended all members to resume work to-morrow under the terms of the National Agreement pending the result of negotiations, the employers having promised that particular grievances will be favourably considered immediately.

Later.

A hitch has occurred in connexion with the resumption of work by the stevedores, as the men have turned down the Executive's recommendation.—Reuter.

Stevedores Resuming Work

London, Feb. 27.

Mass meetings of members of the Stevedores' Union at Poplar, Canning Town and Bermondsey this morning unanimously decided to call off the strike. Work will be resumed to-morrow.—Reuter.

THE BRITISH BUDGET

Little Remission of Taxes in Prospect

London, Feb. 24.

The "Sunday Times" understands that although the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have a surplus when the national accounts are closed next month Mr. Philip Snowden does not expect to be enabled in his first budget to do much taxation remission. Something may be done to reduce the sugar duties and Mr. Snowden will also try to take something off tea. The Government does not mean to spend any more on the Singapore base, according the paper, as the Cabinet has decided not to proceed further with the scheme.—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY

Views of the Home Secretary: Endeavours to Establish a Lasting Peace

London, Feb. 24.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, the Home Secretary, in the course of a by-election speech at Burnley to-day, declared that the Peace Treaties had failed. The Government's task was to arrest demoralization, prevent further economic ruin, establish real peace, restore trade and commerce, and place them on such a firm foundation that never again would civilization be threatened with a similar experience. Therefore the Government must insist on revision of the Treaty of Versailles as soon as possible and a solution of the problem of reparations.

The Prime Minister was trying to create the necessary atmosphere. He was hopeful that steps would be taken through a world conference or the League of Nations, or both, to see whether we could not return to the position taken up by President Wilson and the policy of the Allied statesmen in 1915-17.—Reuter.

Mr. Henderson's Speech on Versailles Treaty Reproved in the Commons

London, Feb. 27.

The Government were again made the target for attack to-day on a motion for adjournment moved by Mr. Ronald McNeill, former Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, calling attention to the question of the Government's responsibility for utterances of Ministers made outside the House. Particular reference was made to the Government's policy in regard to the Versailles Treaty, arising from the speech of the Home Secretary, Mr. Arthur Henderson, in the Burnley by-election campaign on February 23, in which he declared that the Treaty must be revised if further economic ruin was to be prevented.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, replying to his critics, said that Mr. Henderson had apparently been under the impression that as a Minister, he could speak as a private citizen. Of course he was wrong. The Prime Minister declared that the speech was not an expression of the Government's foreign policy, which he had defined in his statement at the opening of Parliament. He pointed out that he was awaiting the reports of the Reparations Committees of Experts before making a complete survey of all the war problems.

Mr. Stanley Baldwin said that in view of the Premier's reassuring statement his party would not press for a division. The motion was accordingly negatived without a division.—Reuter.

PARLIAMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Reduction of Reparations Levy on German Imports

London, Feb. 25.

In reply to questions in the House of Commons to-day, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. William Graham, announced that an agreement had been reached with Germany whereby the rate of the British reparations levy on imports from Germany would be reduced from 26 per cent. to five per cent. from to-morrow. Germany agreed to compensate the German exporter later and to make it a punishable offence to charge any part of the levy to the British importer. Customs receipts respecting imports prior to February 26 will be reimbursed by Germany in gold bonds.

In the House of Commons to-day at question time the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. H. Thomas, stated that after careful consideration the Government had decided, particularly as the imperial Economic Conference was itself not unanimous on the subject, that a standing Economic Committee with general terms of reference would not assist co-operation of the Governments. Therefore the Government was unable to support the adoption of the Imperial Conference's recommendation.

Pressed on the subject, Mr. Thomas said that the Governments of the Dominions had not been consulted, since there had been no time to get in touch with anybody in connexion with this. He added that the matter would come before the House.

Colonial Air Transport.

Replying to Major L. Ropner, Conservative member for Sedgefield, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald said that the Government at present did not intend to subsidize air transport companies in the Colonies or to make grants to Colonial Governments towards the support of Colonial air lines.

Railway Protection in China.

Answering another question, the Prime Minister said that the Chinese Government had assured the foreign representatives in Peking that they regarded the whole matter of railway policing and protection as an urgent problem of China's internal administration and were fully conscious of their responsibility for a practical solution. It was understood that they had already taken steps to reorganize the railway police force.

The China Tea Duty Again.

Dr. W. A. Chapple, Liberal member for Dumfriesshire, has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary group formed to look after Chinese affairs, of which Mr. T. P. O'Connor is Chairman.

The "Manchester Guardian" hears that the dispute with China with regard to trade-marks is in a fair way towards settlement.

The question of preference against China tea will come up in the Budget discussions in the House of Commons. Although the amount involved is not very large, equality of admission, says the journal, is a point of pride with China, and, if the policy of discriminating against China is abandoned, it would probably improve Chinese opinion towards British imports, which declined last year.—Reuter.

HAVANA, Feb. 27.—Battling Siki is seriously ill with bronchial pneumonia.—Reuter.

POOR LAW RELIEF AT POPLAR

Government Action Criticized in Parliament: The Premier's Explanation

London, Feb. 26.

In the House of Commons to-night, the Government successfully withstood the first serious Opposition onslaught in a debate evoked by the action of the Minister of Health, Mr. John Wheatley, in withdrawing the previous Government's order restricting the amount of the poor law relief payable by the Poplar guardians, which the opposition interpreted as a dangerous precedent.

Mr. Asquith moved a vote of mild condemnation which the Unionists sought to strengthen by an amendment. In the course of a long debate, the Prime-Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, gave explanations which mollified the Liberals, and the motion was shelved after the House had defeated the Conservative motion by 295 votes to 228.

Feb. 26.

Mr. F. Briant (Uniorist) moved the Liberal motion in the House of Commons with regard to the action of the Minister of Health, Mr. John Wheatley, in withdrawing the previous Government's order restricting the amount of the poor law relief payable by the Poplar guardians, mentioned earlier. Mr. Asquith supported the motion.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 27.

As a result of yesterday evening's vote, it is not likely that the debate regarding the Poular Guardians will be resumed.

The division revealed differences in the Liberal party. At least a dozen voted with the Conservatives and others abstained as a protest against the Liberal tactics, while a large section voted for the Government. There was no cross voting among the Labour Members and the Conservatives.—Reuter.

NATIONALIST PARTY IN INDIA

Inquiry Into Working Reforms Sanctioned but No Round Table Conference

London, Feb. 25.

A very important statement on India will be made by the Secretary of State, Lord Olivier, in the House of Lords to-morrow in view of the demand of the Swarajists for a round-table conference with the object of achieving immediate self-government.

It is understood that the Government are prepared to sanction an inquiry into working reforms, but in a form different from a round-table conference. The Cabinet are not disposed to depart from the principles embodied in the Government of India Act.—Reuter.

Government Not Prepared to Accept Recommendations for New Constitution

London, Feb. 26.

In a statement on India in the House of Lords to-day, the Secretary of State for India, Lord Olivier, stated that the Government were not prepared to accept or to indicate that they might be prepared to accept on the recommendations of any round-table conference a new scheme for now establishing full and responsible government in India only three years after the institution of the scheme of reform, which had been adopted "because we are convinced that the establishment of full and responsible government would be worse than perilous; it would be big with disaster to the people of India," and when the purposes which that transitional scheme was designed to give had not been availed of.

The Government, having the same ultimate aim for India as the Swarajists, namely, the substitution of a responsible Government for the present admittedly transitional political constitution, earnestly desired to avail themselves of the Swarajists' disposition towards effectual consultation. The Government were open to consider any practical proposals, but were not yet satisfied in regard to what might be the best means of establishing that closer contact and better understanding that was so manifestly desirable, but hoped that after consulting the Government of India they would be able, with the least avoidable delay, to decide the means. Meanwhile the Government, which were unequivocally friendly towards the Indian Constitutional Reforming Party, had appealed to that party for patience, circumspection and co-operation in using the Councils for efficient administration.—Reuter.

Sikh Grievances.

Delhi, Feb. 26.

In the Legislative Assembly to-day a Swarajist motion in favour of the appointment of a committee to inquire into Sikh grievances was carried without a division, after a lengthy discussion in which the Pundit Malaviya bitterly denounced the treatment of Sikhs and "the killing of non-violent Akalis at Jaito." Several members declared that the deposition of the Maharaja of Nabha was a blow against the Sikh organization.

Sir Malcolm Hailey, on behalf of the Government, opposed the establishment of the committee. He denied that the Government of India had done anything to injure Sikh religious aspirations and denied that women had been maltreated or that machine-guns were used at Jaito, where the firing by Government forces had been of a minimum character. Sir Malcolm eulogized the bravery and devotion of the Sikhs and declared that the Government's hand of friendship was still held out to them.—Reuter.

Campaign in Kenya.

Nairobi, Feb. 26

Indians in Kenya have begun an intensive non-co-operation campaign as a protest against alleged political grievances, their initial step being refusal of payment of the poll-tax.

Lengthy lists of summonses have been issued and four Indians at Mombasa have been committed to prison.

The movement has extended to the voters' rolls, in which there are hardly any Indian names.—Reuter.

EGYPTIAN SOVIETS

Grave Action by Textile Workers

Alexandria, Feb. 23.

A strike, lasting three months, in the textile factory "Filature" was settled a fortnight ago by the intervention of the Governor, but the operatives yesterday evening repudiated their agreement. A thousand operatives remained in the factory all night, women bringing them food. The men declare that they will run the works on their own account and have formed a species of Soviet. The operatives at the Egolin cotton-seed factory are behaving similarly.

The situation is causing uneasiness and nationalist intrigues are suspected. Zaglul Pasha, the Prime Minister, has been asked to intervene. A battalion of troops has been sent to the Filature, whose owners insist on a lock-out.—Reuter.

Later.

The operatives at the Filature works have walked out, probably owing to their having heard of the Government's determination to eject them forcibly.—Reuter.

Operatives Resuming Work.

Alexandria, Feb. 25.

The operatives at the Filature textile factory have resumed work. Five of the leaders have been taken back and the workers' lawyer has been recognized on the responsibility of the Government. The owners' repudiation of these men was the direct cause of the outbreak.

The workers have evacuated the Egolin cotton seed cake factory, which is being occupied by police pending negotiations.—Reuter.

RUBBER RESTRICTION IN MALAYA

London, Feb. 25.

In the House of Commons, replying to a question suggesting abandonment of the rubber export restriction policy in British Malaya in view of the increasing supply of rubber from the Dutch East Indies and the diminishing output in Malaya, the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. H. Thomas, said that he did not contemplate reversal of his predecessor's policy in this matter. He was not aware that any substantial body of opinion, either at home or in Malaya, advocated the repeal of the ordinances in question.—Reuter.

BRITAIN AND THE BOXER INDEMNITY

London, Feb. 27.

In the House of Commons today at question time, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Arthur Ponsonby, replied affirmatively to a question whether the Government intended to introduce a Bill enabling them to appoint a committee to deal with the disposal of the Boxer Indemnity, but he said that no inference should be drawn in regard to the likelihood of Boxer Indemnity funds becoming available for defaulted payments on the unsecured debts of the Chinese Government.—Reuter.

THE HOURS OF LABOUR

London, Feb. 27.

In the House of Commons today, in reply to questions, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Thomas Shaw, announced that he proposed shortly to introduce legislation dealing with the Washington Hours of Labour Convention. He added that what had occurred in Germany in contravention of the Convention could not absolve us from keeping our word.—Reuter.

Germany's Capital Exports

Paris, Feb. 22.

The Paris edition of the "New York World" understands that the Second Committee of Experts, of which Mr. McKenna is Chairman, unanimously estimates the amount of German capital exported since the War at $2,000,000,000 or double Mr McKenna's previous estimate.—Reuter.

King of Italy Ill

Rome, Feb. 23.

The King is confined to his room on account of influenza and has postponed his visit to Fiume on the occasion of the proclamation of the annexation of Fiume.—Reuter.

World's Greatest Law Factory

Washington, Feb. 24.

Secretary of State Hughes, speaking at the American Law Institute, decried the multitude of laws passed in "the greatest law factory of the world," namely 48 State Governments and the Federal Government. "The greatest duty of the hour," he added, "is not to make, but to enforce the law, thereby maintaining respect for it."—Reuter's American Service.

Palatinate Elections Prohibited

Berlin, Feb. 24.

According to a telegram from Munich, the French occupation authorities have forbidden the holding of elections on April 6 in the Palatinate for the Bavarian Diet.—Reuter.

U. S. Minister to Belgium

Washington, Feb. 25.

President Coolidge has nominated Under-Secretary of State, Mr. William Phillips, Ambassador to Belgium.—Reuter's America Service.

Austria and the Soviet

Vienna, Feb. 26.

Austria has recognized the Soviet.—Reuter.

Illness of Admiral Sir Percy Scott

London, Feb. 26.

Admiral Sir Percy Scott was landed to-day on a stretcher at the Albert Dock from the liner Mashobra from Malta. Sir Percy, who was seriously ill in Malta with asthma at the beginning of January, but recovered a week later, had been ill on the voyage. He was taken to his home in an ambulance.—Reuter.

British Naval Squadron's Empire Cruise

Fremantle, Feb. 27.

The Special Service Squadron arrived here at daybreak today in glorious weather. Immense crowds gave the Squadron a most enthusiastic reception. Aeroplanes flew over the warships and swarms of gaily decorated rivercraft greeted the visitors.—Reuter.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

IMPERIAL WIRELESS EXTENSION

Post Office Control in Great Britain and State Control Throughout the Empire

London, Feb. 28.

The report of the Imperial Wireless Committee recommends that the Post Office should own and operate all the Empire wireless stations in Britain, or, alternatively, that exception be made in the case of Canada and the existing competition between the Post Office and the Anglo-Canadian wireless be continued, subject to the safeguarding of public interests in any licence granted to the Anglo-Canadian service.

In any licence granted to a private company the State must reserve the right to take possession or to exercise control of stations in an emergency. Leafield Station should be enlarged and the new high-power station now being built at Rugby should be extended to a 16-mast station and a second new station of similar capacity should be erected without delay. Each high-power station should have a world range and be equipped with the latest apparatus. The Post Office should establish an improved business organization.

The present terminal wireless station at Cairo should be removed from the Empire system as soon as the requirements or the Admiralty are met by the other stations and the proposed new high-power stations in India, South Africa and Australia are operating. An expert wireless telegraphy commission should be requested to report on the extent and cost of a wireless system for the Colonies to complete the Empire network of wireless communications Private enterprise should be given facilities to develop wireless communication outside the Empire, subject, in the case of Anglo-Continental services, to the payment of royalties or other dues in view of the competition between wireless and the State-owned cables.

There should be free competition in foreign wireless, subject to the State reserving the right to expropriate, take possession or assume control in case of national emergency.—Reuter.

GERMANY AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

A Question of Terms

Berlin, Feb. 28.

In view of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's recent statement, it is noteworthy that the Foreign Minister, Herr Stresemann, in a speech in the Reichstag, declared that the Government had not rejected in principle the idea of entering the League of Nations, but had not received an invitation from a responsible quarter.

He further stressed the necessity for a guarantee of full and unconditional membership of the League to be extended to Germany, including membership of the Council.—Reuter.

IMMIGRATION INTO AMERICA

Washington, Feb. 28.

The Senate Emigration Committee to-day decided to recommend retention of the census of 1910 as the base of the allocation of immigration quotas, but the Committee is in favour of reducing the percentage to be admitted from three per cent. to two per cent. of the 1910 total.—Reuter's American Service.

PROSPEROUS CANADA

Speech from Throne Foreshadowing Lower Taxation: Tariff Revision

Ottawa, Feb. 28.

The Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Dominion Houses of Parliament dwells on the evidences of increased prosperity and the probability of an early start on debt reduction and relief of taxation.

It forecasts much constructive legislation, notably revision of the tariff in the interests of Western farmers.

Regarding the decisions of the Imperial Conference, the speech merely states that a report of the proceedings will be presented to Parliament.—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. SHIPPING BOARD FLEET FOR SALE

Washington, Feb. 28.

The United States Shipping Board has invited bids, closing on March 14, for its entire fleet of 1,335 vessels, of which approximately 423 are operating. The Board will fix the minimum price after the valuation, instead of the former terms of a minimum of $30 per ton.

The vessels to be sold include the Leviathan and her big sister ships.—Reuter's American Service.

THE LUDENDORFF TRIAL

Munich, Feb. 28.

Except for one hour, the proceedings in Gen. von Ludendorff's and Herr Hitler's trials to-day were held in camera. It is anticipated that there will be very few public sittings.—Reuter.

MARTIAL LAW RELAXED IN GERMANY

Berlin, Feb. 28.

President Ebert has decreed the raising of the military state of emergency and the removal of restrictions on personal liberty and the freedom of the press. Public open air meetings and processions are, however, prohibited.—Reuter.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL SUICIDE

London, Feb. 28.

The inquest on Mrs. Davey and her two daughters of four and eight years, who were killed by falling off the tower of Westminster Cathedral on February 23, resulted in a verdict of suicide.

The administrator of the Cathedral said that the tower would be closed till the balcony had been enclosed so as to make a fall impossible.—Reuter.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN AMERICA

Washington, Feb. 28.

Forty members of the House of Representatives have announced their intention to introduce a Bill next week to legalize the manufacture and sale of beverages of an alcoholic content of 2.75 per cent. by volume.—Reuter's American Service.

BURNLEY BY-ELECTION

London, Feb. 28.

The result of the Burnley by-election is as follows:—

Mr. Arthur Henderson (Lab.), the Home Secretary	24,571
Mr. H. E. J. Camps (Con.)	17,534

—Reuter.

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

NOBODY LOVES ME

The Woes of Football Referees

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Jan. 11.

You probably remember the pathetic little story of the small boy who, when reproved by his parents and being afterwards seen leaving the house, explained:—"Nobody loves me, I'm going into the garden to eat worms."

I was moved to recollection of that little human narrative by reading some cases of the woes of Referees, perhaps the most downtrodden class of men we possess. They have, it is true, formed a Union, but their efforts to substantiate their claim to any sort of consideration except permission—grudgingly given—to breathe the fresh air of Heaven, are a tragic failure. Here is a little type of the sufferings they undergo.

Referees are recommended by some of the authorities to take the name of a player who perpetrates rough play. But it is doubtful whether the official who adopted this course at Newcastle will ever do it again. He took the name of Gibson—the crowd disliked the idea. Whatever happened afterwards—whether a fullback kicked hard or a half missed his kick or a forward ran down the touch line the crowd chanted in chorus:

"TAKE HIS NAME!"

The crowd at these gatherings is no respector of persons and the average referee is vested in its eyes with about as much dignity as a milch cow. The crowd starts out with a critical watchfulness. It regards him as a necessary worm. It examines his attire and if his plus fours are over-striking, the first opportunity is seized of conveying to him without the least delicacy that shopwalkers should leave behind their business trappings when they come to a neighbourhood where that sort of display is regarded as an offence against local decency. It is quite ready to comment on his personal appearance; if Nature has been at all unkind to him, there are thousands who are ready to call very pointed attention to the fact. If he shows by his alacrity and movements that his training is not as good as it might be, the crowd is there waiting to assure him that the time for the exhibition of prize fat cattle is approaching and that he ought to send his name as a certain winner. If he whistles too much, the crowd encourages him to go on with the performance and if he—to their mind—does not whistle enough, they help him. Of course the paternal Football Association is a moral force at his back, but these ebullitions are not easily dealt with either on the spot or in subsequent representations in cold blood to the organization which has commissioned him to be present.

AN UNPOPULAR DECISION.

Then if his decisions are unpopular? When time is drawing to a close, he will do well to keep some wind well in hand so that he may make a sprint to the railway station and jump on the first goods train leaving for no matter where, so long as it does leave. Delay may be fatal. Recently in the West Country the referee's decisions did not meet with the approval of the local spectators, so one enthusiast simply waited for him and laid him out with a blow on the nose. Of course the Football Association simply *had* to do something in this case for the sake of preserving alive the race of referees and it came down with heavy penalties on the offending parties. Indeed in another case it has barred from attending any local matches of a certain club a spectator who seemed, like the dog which bit the postman, to have a "down" on all referees. He clearly regarded them as a set of bold bad men sent from some nefarious clime to mar the harmony which should prevail at these gatherings and he always lay in wait for them as they left the ground.

PERHAPS THEY LIKE IT.

I suppose there are referees who like their job. They do not get well paid for it. No decision they ever give pleases all sections of the crowd and if there is, so far as its utterances are concerned, a more bloodthirsty set of men than the average collection of football "fans" I do not know it. The referee's only hope of peace—there is no enjoyment—for him is that some football player will by some action incur more odium than he himself does. The crowd then lavishes on the unfortunate victim all the caustic criticism which would pierce the hide of a rhinoceros. We are indeed rapidly approaching the time when the referee will have to don chain-armour. The poor chap would have done it long ago but for the difficulty of getting up and down the ground. You can't run like a rabbit in metal sheathing, either on the ground or to the railway station.

HATLESS WOMEN LABOUR M.Ps.

Not A Question of Fashion, But of Headaches: Ceremonial Critic

"The first afternoon of the meeting of the new House is a kind of museum of historical antiquity," said Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., when asked for her impressions of her first day in Parliament.

"I think the first impression of any new member is a very strong one of the historic continuity of the House. The closing of the door against the King's messenger in order to assert our independence; the Speaker being led to the Chair with each wrist firmly grasped by his proposer and seconder; the formal bows of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords—by the way, what infinite practice must be needed to replace a three-cornered hat correctly on top of a full-bottomed wig!—all those details, so often rehearsed, impress the most casual observer with the vast age of the assembly.

"Amidst the infinite calm of these curious archaic proceedings one's mind was occupied with the contrast the House will present a week hence. It was a sort of handshake before the prize fight."

Asked about the action of the three Labour women members in discarding hats in the Chamber and thus setting a new fashion, Miss Lawrence said:—

"It is extremely fatiguing to wear a hat through a long afternoon and evening of work. I personally found it almost unbearable to do so even at the County Council. It was a question of headaches. It is such a bother to wear a hat continuously.

Miss Jewson, another of the Labour M.P.'s, smiled when it was suggested that she had made a departure from custom by wearing a brown dress and a brilliantly hued scarf in the House. She was similarly attired to-day.

"What struck me most yesterday in the House," she said, "was the preponderance of men; and the very small number of women. We hope to increase the number of women at the next election.

"The cremonial and formality which I witnessed yesterday strikes one as a terrible waste of time. There are historical associations. We don't want to break down all these at once, but we do want to get on with the job. We have been waiting since December 6, and feel we could have got something going to meet unemployment.

On the hat question, Miss Jewson said: "We (the Labour women) have decided not to wear hats because it is more convenient not to do so in an overheated chamber like the House of Commons."

ITALIAN ELECTIONS

Signor Mussolini's Plans for Power

Rome, Feb. 19.

The Government list of candidates for Parliament is being made the subject of final revision this week by Premier Mussolini himself. The Fascisti list consists of a big coalition of various parties under Fascisti leadership but the Fascisti candidates are in the minority. The last obstacle to the success of this coalition seems to have been removed last week when Signor Orlando, the former Premier, was persuaded to accept the Fascisti programme and the Fascisti persuaded to accept him. This is most important, as Signor Orlando's personal popularity is very strong in South Italy and Sicily, where the Fascisti have a weak organization and where party programmes count for less than personalities. Having persuaded Signor Orlando to accept the Government's platform is Premier Mussolini's most brilliant political achievement since he split the formidable Popular Party.

The Opposition has been utterly split by Signor Mussolini since he assumed office. It is even uncertain whether any Opposition list will be presented. Three Socialist Parties and the Popular Party are the only ones making any serious gesture of opposition, and their strength is local. Thus Parliament is being virtually elected by one man. This fact arouses resentment in those who are devoted to equalitarian democracy, but the Fascisti insist that it is necessary to get national work done. Premier Mussolini in his relations with Parliament appears to be aiming not so much at a Parliamentary majority in the ordinary sense as at a sort of big executive committee.—Italian Wireless through Reuter.

ITALIAN ELECTION FORECASTS

Strength of the Opposing Parties: Probability of a Large Government Majority

Italian Wireless through Reuter.

Rome, Feb. 23.

Although nearly two months must elapse before the Parliamentary elections occur, it is now possible to outline the character of the coming Chamber of Deputies. The new electoral system, which was voted last summer under the old Parliament, will secure for the Government a total of 356 seats, representing a majority of 177. The remaining 179 seats will be occupied by those whose names are inscribed on the Opposition list, belonging to various non-Fascist Parties. The Government list, which was compiled by a committee of five prominent Fascisti and then approved by Premier Mussolini, embraces 216 Fascists, 43 mutilated combatants in the Great War and gold medal soldiers, 28 Right Wing Liberals, 31 Left Wing Representatives, 10 Catholics who have left Signor Sturzo's party, and 26 non-party men with a reputation for financial, commercial and technical training. All social classes and all professions are represented. There are some 50 lawyers, 30 journalists, 20 capitalists and employers of labour, 20 university professors, 20 workmen and clerks, and 10 members of the aristocracy. Most of the candidates hold important positions and are recognized authorities on their own particular calling or professions.

The Premier's Choice.

Signor Mussolini is a candidate for two districts, in Milan and Naples. He will have to choose in favour of one if he is elected for both. Among the candidates in Tuscany is Signor Benelli, author of "The Jest."

Most of the leading figures of Italian political life have been included in the Fascist ticket, notably, ex-Premier Orlando and Signor Salandra. The chief exceptions are ex-Premier Giolitti, who is in the field in Piedmont on the Liberal ticket, ex-Premier Bonami, who is at the head of the Unitarian Socialists, and Prince Colonna di Cesaro, formerly Minister of Posts and Telegraphs under Premier Mussolini, who is leading the Democratic Liberals. Ex-Premier Nitti will not participate in the elections.

The Opposition is still busily discussing its lists, which must share the 179 seats, but there are no signs of the formation of a bloc against the Government lists.

Extension of Foreign Policy.

The new Italian foreign policy, as carried out by Premier Mussolini, is to be further extended. Although of far-reaching importance to Italy and affecting all Europe, this policy can be expressed in one sentence, namely, completion of treaties with neighbouring nations chiefly for purposes of friendship and trade. The treaties with Spain, Jugo-Slavia and Russia were signed in order to increase Italy's commercial relations. Italy realizes that such things as the defensive and offensive clauses in the Jugo-Slav treaty and certain terms of the Spanish treaty are interpreted abroad in many deeply political ways, such as Italian moves against French domination of Europe. But Premier Mussolini's supporters declare that the chief object of Italy's aspiration is to become a greater [illegible] nation and live at peace with the rest of Europe.

New Treaties.

It is said now in well-informed political circles that the Government's next steps in new policy will be treaties with the following nations in this order: Rumania, Czecho-Slovakia and France.

Ever since Premier Mussolini came into power he has expressed the desire to make a new treaty with France, inasmuch as he believes that all the old treaties are antiquated. But occupation of the Ruhr and concentration of French policy upon England have delayed such a step, and present conditions are regarded as unfavourable for the new pact which Italy believes to be inevitable.

The Rumanian treaty appears to be imminent. In the treaty which Italy needs. In connexion tion would be wheat and oil, which Italy needs. In connection with oil, it is reliably reported that the Sinclair deal with the Italian Government is off. The Government concluded a preliminary agreement with Messrs. Sinclair for boring for oil here, but when the scandal broke Premier Mussoliri immediately gave instructions for the negotiations to be broken off.

The Race for Oil.

Italy is watching the race between Britain and America to corner world oil, but hopes to protect herself by treaties with some countries. After Russia she looks to Rumania. With the latter Italy hopes to enjoy special privileges. Italy believes that a treaty with Rumania would be most valuable for future commerce with Rumania, which last year took a big jump.

In Vatican circles Signor Mussolini's treaty policy is heartily approved. Where the League of Nations failed to bring peace and end chaos, Mussolini's programme of friendship is bringing results which are appreciated by the Pope. In many instances better relations between Italy and other nations have led to better relations with the Vatican.

The Value of the Lira.

The lira, which has freed itself from bondage to reparations, is closely following the oscillations of sterling with respect to the gold dollar. This is comforting, as the lira is the only European currency whose fate is linked with that of the currency of rich, strong England. This is due to the fiscal policy followed since the beginning of the war and to the recent economic policy of discipline and work and restoration of the budget.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—President Coolidge has transmitted to the Senate the nomination of Mr. Charles Beecher Warren, former Ambassador to Japan, as Ambassador to Mexico.—Reuter's American Service.

THE ITALIAN CRUSADE SHIP

Objects of the Cruise to South America

Rome. Feb. 19.

After many days' delay due to bad weather, the "crusade" ship Italia left Spezia on her voyage round Latin-America in order to diffuse commercial and intellectual information and so arrest the influence of the United States in the Latin republics. The Italia carries carefully and artistically arranged samples of every kind of Italian manufacture from electrical appliances to automobiles, specimens of arts and crafts, and quantities of Italian literature. The crusade is under the direction of Signor Giurati, who will lecture on the place of Latin countries in the world and the right to maintain the Latinity of South America.

The ship was recently visited by the King who evinced deep interest and expressed good wishes for the crusade. The Italia will proceed to Rio, Para, Pernambuco, Bahia, Santos, Montevideo, Buenos Ayres, Valparaiso and Panama, returning by way of Trinidad, the Antilles and Gibraltar. The voyage is expected to occupy seven months and it is hoped that the visit of the Italia will revive interest in Latin culture.

The Italia is the liner Konig Albert, formerly belonging to the Nord-Deutscher-Lloyd, sequestered by Italy and renamed Palasciano but now known as the Italia.—Italian Wireless through Reuter.

OBITUARY

Mr. George R. Chester

New York, Feb. 26

Mr. George R. Chester, author of "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford" and other stories, died to-day.

Mr. Chester was born in Ohio in 1869. He left home at an early age and engaged in various occupations. He began his newspaper work as a reporter on the "Detroit News" and later joined the "Cincinnati Enquirer," of which he afterwards became Sunday editor.

Mr. Chester then began writing for a newspaper syndicate and magazines, when his characters "Wallingford" and "Blackie Daw" brought him popularity as a novelist and playwright.—Reuter's American Service

AMERICAN OIL SCANDAL

Funds for the Prosecution

Washington, Feb. 21.

The Senate has adopted the resolution of the House of Representatives, appropriating $100,000 for prosecution in the oil lease case

New York, Feb. 21.

Mr. Harry Sinclair expects to give evidence before the Senate Oil Committee early next week. Mr. Sinclair remarked to interviewers that the present excitement was largely a matter of policy. He drew attention to the fact that there would be two Presidential Conventions this year.—Reuter's American Service.

Attorney-General in a Hostile Camp

Washington, Feb. 22.

Attorney-General Daugherty electrified his foes in the Senate to-day by calmly appearing among them during the ceremony in honour of George Washington's birthday. Mr. Daugherty explained that his attendance was in accordance with a long-standing promise to one of their number to listen to the reading of Washington's farewell address.

Feb. 23.

There was bitter discussion in the Senate to-day on the oil leases scandal. The debate dealt chiefly with Attorney-General Daugherty and was led by Senator Borah, who declared himself willing to lay the foundation of impeachment proceedings.—Reuter's American Service.

Daugherty Declines to Resign

Washington, Feb. 28.

Referring to the demands for his resignation, Mr. Harry M. Daugherty, the Attorney-General, in a statement, says that he does not intend even to consider resigning until there has been a fair hearing of the charges against him.—Reuter's American Service.

AKALI SIKHS AGAIN

Fanatics on the Warpath

Delhi, Feb. 22.

It is reported that 14 Akalis were killed and a number were wounded in an affray in Nabha State between troops and a force of armed Akali fanatics, who raided the State. It is rumoured that a well-known Khalifat leader and a leading Member of Congress were arrested after the fighting. Lately there has been much controversy with regard to the abdication of the Rajah of Nabha which has been enforced by the Government of India.

Later.

Fourteen Akalis were killed, 34 wounded and 100 arrested. Dr. Kitchlew, the well-known Khalifat leader, and Professor Gidwani, a leading Member of Congress, who reached the scene after the firing, were taken into custody.

A force of 500 Akalis, armed with spears and firearms and screened by a force of 6,000 other Akalis, started from Bargari in Faridkot State to raid Jaito in Nabha. They were met by the British Administrator with a small party of Nabha troops. When the Administrator called on them to retire one of the Akalis fired, wounding a villager. The Administrator then ordered his force to fire. The Akalis replied with heavy fire and delivered a determined attack, which was checked by dismounted cavalrymen. Two thousand Akalis then took refuge at a shrine and the remainder broke up.—Reuter.

BRITISH BIRTH-RATE

Decline Compensated for by Fewer Infantile Deaths

London, Feb. 22.

The birth-rate in 1923 in England and Wales was 19.7 per 1,000, the lowest recorded except in the war years, 1917-1919, but it is compensated by the fact that the death-date was 11.6 and infant mortality 69, both the lowest recorded, and the marriage rate 15.2.—Reuter.

TUTANKHAMEN'S TOMB

Now under Egyptian Control

Luxor, Feb. 22.

Representatives of the Egyptian Government took over Tutankhamen's tomb yesteday. The locks affixed by Mr. Howard Carter were sawn off, the interior inspected and measures to prevent damage to the contents taken, after which new locks were affixed to the doors, and the tomb was again closed.

Mr. Howard Carter and his assistants were not present.—Reuter.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND OPIUM TRAFFIC

Medical Requirements Exceeded

Geneva, Feb. 21.

The Health Committee of the League of Nations to-day passed a resolution expressing the opinion that the 600 milligrammes of raw opium per head, adopted by the Mixed Sub-Committee on Opium, considerably exceeds medical and scientific requirements and should be reduced to 450 milligrammes as a maximum and should be only applicable in countries with a highly developed system of medical aid.—Reuter.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—A woman and two young children were killed to-day through falling off the top of the tower of Westminster Cathedral.—Reuter.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND HYGIENE

Epidemic Bureau Recommended

Geneva, Feb. 24.

The Hygiene Committee of the League of Nations after sitting for 10 days has concluded its work. It recommends the creation of an Epidemic Bureau in one of the Far Eastern ports to be chosen by the Governments interested and also transmission to all Far Eastern Governments of the report of the commission of inquiry, containing the draft Sanitary Convention between these countries.

The Committee has decided to institute an inquiry into malaria in Albania, Greece and Persia in accordance with the request of these countries, and also to make inquiries with regard to epidemics of plague and exanthematic typhus in Russia.—Reuter.

THE LATE PRESIDENT HARDING

Tribute from the U. S. Congress

Washington, Feb. 27.

A joint session of Congress was held to-day in honour of the memory of the late President Harding, at which President Coolidge, Mrs. Harding, and members of the Cabinet and the Diplomatic Corps were present. Mr. Hughes, Secretary of State, in an eloquent address, declared that President Harding's death had been due to his exhaustion of himself in the service of his country. He concluded with the charge that the late President's spirit of brotherly understanding must characterize his countrymen if American life were to be worth living.—Reuter's American Service.

THE MEXICAN REVOLT

Vera Cruz, Feb. 25.

General Lopez has defeated the revolutionary command at Paso del Macho. The rebels are reported to have lost 150 killed and wounded. Three chiefs were captured, and executed after court-martial.—Reuter's American Service.

Tampico, Feb. 27.

The Federal forces have occupied Tuxpam without resistance. The rebels evacuated that town on February 25.—Reuter's American Service.

IMPERIAL AIRSHIP SCHEME

London, Feb. 23.

Lieutenant-Commander C. D. Burney, Unionist Member of Parliament for Uxbridge, in a speech at Bedford to-day, said that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald had told him that the Labour Party had not rejected the Imperial airship scheme, which would have their serious consideration.—Reuter.

RUMOUR OF REVOLT IN BULGARIA DENIED

Athens, Feb. 24.

The newspapers publish rumours that a Communist revolution has broken out in Bulgaria. It is reported that a Republic has been established, King Boris has been sent to the country and the Premier and certain other Ministers have been murdered. No confirmation can be obtained from official sources.—Reuter.

Paris, Feb. 24.

The Bulgarian Legation denies the report of a revolution in Bulgaria.—Reuter.

NEW ZEALAND AND FAR EASTERN TRADE

Wellington, N.Z., Feb. 27.

Recent investigation on the possibilities of opening up trade with Eastern countries has resulted in an offer by a Dutch shipping company to provide a regular service, provided New Zealand cancels preferential duties imposed on products from the Dutch Indies. It is stated that the proposal is not likely to be entertained since the Government prefers to make a greater effort to develop Empire trade.—Reuter.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER

Prime Minister to Return in Bad Grace: His Alleged Participation in Britain's Politics: Lord Leverhulme's Visit: "Fondness for Jazz"

Melbourne, Jan. 17.

Information from London shows that the Prime Minister, Mr. S. M. Bruce, is about to return direct to Australia, leaving his colleague, Senator R. V. Wilson, to return *viâ* Canada, and to attempt the arrangement of a reciprocity treaty.

Mrs. Bruce has been in ill-health, and her condition is made the reason for the somewhat abrupt return of the head of the Australian Government. In other quarters, amongst those who decline to accept the official explanation, it is held that the Prime Minister must hurry back to prevent or arrest the steadily growing schisms in his own following, and the criticisms of his Government which are becoming painful and free, even in that section of the press which was so anxious to use him to depose the late Prime Minister, the ex-Labour leader, W. M. Hughes.

Mr. Bruce is expected to arrive on Australian soil by the March 4 but the best that his *locum tenens*, Dr. Earle Page, can say is that possibly parliament will meet before the end of March. This, of course, means that while the last general elections were held in December, 1922, parliament will have only sat for two months and "a bittock," within a period of 15 months.

Dr. Page has expressed the opinion that parliament sits too much, and that two or three months in the year is quite sufficient, but the electors of Australia hold very different views. They pay their members £1,000 a year, and they hold that parliament should at least be "working" for five months in the twelve.

Mr. Bruce is said to have delayed his departure from London because he desired to keep his eye on political eventualities in the United Kingdom, but this argument for delay in meeting parliament does not appeal to the great majority, while the Labour party in this country most certainly resents even the appearance of the Australian Prime Minister taking an active part in British politics.

Unfortunately for Mr. Bruce he will return by no means in triumph. He is believed to have hustled the Conservatives into a disastrous election, which is about to result in Labour gaining office in the old country, even if it does not immediately attain power.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL NAVAL VISIT.

Melbourne has just finished welcoming and entertaining three Japanese men-o'-war which are visiting Australia. There was nothing wanting in the reception given to the Japanese Admiral and seamen—officially. There was an entire absence of popular enthusiasm, but this must be ascribed to a general lack of interest, rather than to wilful ignoring of the visit. As in many cases what did not happen is of greater importance than what did.

The Labour party is particularly insistent that all we require to preserve peace in the Pacific is intercourse and kindly feelings towards the nations bordering that ocean. The leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labour party has more than once insisted that what we require is more talking about peace, and less reference to the possibility of war, but it was assuredly the chance for the great body of organized Labour to show the Japanese visitors in that it was anxious to hold out the glad hand of welcome.

There was an official banquet given by the Commonwealth Government at Federal Parliament House, but, though many leading Labourites were present, the official leader, Mr. Charlton, possibly the next Australian Prime Minister, was not there, and his place was taken by an unofficial member who at the best can be described as a strong Irish Radical with the cleverness of his up-bringing to avoid any complimentary reference to the British Empire.

The Japanese Admiral stressed the point that though the Anglo-Japanese alliance had expired its place had been taken by the four or five power understanding which was the outcome of the Washington Peace or Disarmament Conference. He argued that the lesser pact had been replaced by the greater. He said this in Perth on arrival, but at the more formal gatherings in the Federal capital we do not find this view repeated by any of the representatives of the countries which were and are parties to the so-called pact.

BRITISH CRUISER SQUADRON.

The British cruiser squadron, headed by the world's greatest battleship, the Hood, is expected in Australian waters some time next March. Already quite serious preparations are being made for its reception, and it is not difficult to forecast that the popular enthusiasm—the enthusiasm even of the Labourites with their pacifist tendencies—will be strikingly different from that attending the visit of the Japanese.

Perhaps a striking—even the most striking—event of the short stay of the British squadron in Australian waters will be the formal sinking of the Australian battle cruiser, Australia, which has to be finally disposed off and rendered innocuous in accordance with the terms of the Washington treaty. It is hardly necessary to say that Australians by no means appreciate this premature destruction of their one great warship, even though it may reduce the annual cost of the upkeep of the Royal Australian Navy. The Australia did excellent work in the early part of the war, and it was doubtless due to her activities that the rounding up of German raiders in the Pacific, and the destruction of the Von Spee squadron off the Falklands, was made possible and prompt. It is hoped that the British squadron will be off the coast on April 25, for on that day it is proposed to tow the bulk of the Australia out to sea, about 10 miles from Syancy, and solemnly and with ceremony send her to the bottom. British people are alleged to have no imagination, but it is not difficult to realize how such an event will impress the most callous Australians, even as the burial of the unknown soldier impressed the whole world. It has been suggested that a permanent floating lighter be moored where the Australia is to lie, but such additional details have not yet been finally decided.

THOPE SURPLUSES.

Dr. Earle Page, the Commonwealth Treasurer, has called down upon his head a mixture of faint praise and anathema. Following a habit or an impulse he has delivered a nominally important speech on Australian finance during a casual country tour.

In the course of his speech Dr. Page told us that he had used the cash in hand to redeem so much of the 1918 war loan as he was unable to convert. As the amount was £7,000,000 the sudden diversion of so large a sum would in the ordinary course of criticism call for a fuller explanation. But his announcement has been allowed to pass without question or comment.

He further stated that it was necessary to pay off the public dead war debt, and this was what the present government proposed to do, and he merely hinted that it might see its way to reduce taxation when the dead debts had been liquidated. Dr. Page seems to think that the taxpayers will willingly continue to pay taxes, in order that he may use his surpluses to reduce the public debt. It is true that he also suggests that there should be a large increase of population, with a wider distribution of the debts, and, incidentally, of the incidence of taxation. To all of this the reply of such bodies as the Taxpayers' Association, and such newspapers as the leading city dailies, is that this government which came into existence to economize where Hughes had failed to do so, is no better than the ministry it supplanted.

Thus in the first financial year after the Armistice the ordinary cost of government apart from war services, was £4 18. 4½d. per head, whereas last year it amounted to 15s. a head more. The common every-day services show generally an increase, and comparing the present with the last year under Hughes the saving on an amount of £16,000,000 is only £176,000, a quite negligible amount. It is naturally argued that were this Bruce government seriously to cut down duplications and unnecessary expenditure it would be able to both reduce the capital debt and also the burden of taxation.

INCREASING THE POPULATION.

When the Country Party appealed to the electors in December, 1922, it made a feature of the necessity of expediting immigration. With the elimination of Hughes and the advent to power of Dr. Page, leader of the Country party and author of the demand for speeding up immigration, one might have expected a sudden increase in the migration towards Australia. In actual fact nothing worth "writing home about" has taken place. Only the other day a few Commonwealth and State officials met together to see what could be done in the way of making the path of the arriving immigrant smooth.

Mr. Atkinson, the Minister attending this conference, mentioned that in 1912 the number of nominated and assisted immigrants was 46,000, but in the year just finished the number was only 26,000. When one realizes the position in 1912 and that of 1923 in the old country, and also that in the past year Australia has been hammering away to get migrants from the British Isles, and has been paying to drag to her shores some of the unemployed battalions, the failure to attract newcomers is a matter for great speculation. The Commonwealth authorities in London declare that had they been given larger quotas they could have sent many more migrants, even up to ten times the number, and at this end the Commowealth and State Immigration Departments are admittedly still only half-prepared to accept newcomers. It is hardly a matter of wonder that the mission which recently visited this country on behalf of the British Government to make inquiries on the spot declared that the necessary arrangements at this end were quite insufficient.

The Country Party has little to show for its nine months' work at expediting immigration. There is, however, evidence that in the coming year the number of newcomers may approximate the Hughes ideal of 100,000.

THE ONE BIG UNION.

Probably the most interesting of industrial matters just now, apart from the internecine war amongst the rivals in New South Wales Labour circles, is the curious development of what is known as the O. B. U., which being interpreted means the One Big Union. Of course this is an attempt to bring all the Trades and Political Labour unions under one control, in the expectation that the time and opportunity may arise when a general strike and even a revolutionary upheaval may become possible. But in order to win the great body of the workers to their side the promoters of the O. B. U. seek to legalize their position by getting themselves registered under the Commonwealth Arbitration laws. The necessary application has been made, and at once not only the employers but many trades unions have entered their protests on various grounds against the registration.

The most striking and probably the most important of the objectors is the Federated Seamen's Union, of which one Tom Walsh, married to the once notorious Adela Pankhurst, is the head. Walsh objects to the platform of the O. B. U., because it contains a pious expression of opinion in favour of a White Australia. He declares that his union has many "first-class niggers" in its membership, and the colour bar should not be persisted in. As a matter of fact, there are a good many coloured brethren in the trades unions, but their presence there has been discreetly ignored in the past. Walsh seems to be forcing the issue into the open, and it is quite on the cards that he will either compel the O. B. U. promoters to abandon their revolutionary ideas, or create a new line of cleavage in the Labour ranks on the subject of White Australia.

In Sydney the operative bakers are nominally on strike, against night-baking, but in this case the operatives are by no means determined to bring the masterbakers to their knees, and the bakers' carters are fighting their brother union. The carters declare that day-baking means extra long hours for them—a matter which they hold the operatives utterly ignore. The matter is but one of the many indications that the huge organisation of Labour is more than the leaders can control.

SOAP-MAKER'S POLITICS.

Speaking of Walsh and his coloured labour ideals reminds one that we have at present in our midst Lord Leverhulme; head of the great soapmaking business, which has interests in many of the South Pacific Islands. Lord Leverhulme is said to be merely paying Australia a visit, but appears to be obsessed with the idea that he must make speeches, and generally lay down the law for the misguided people who have settled in Australia. He has explained to us that we should have free-trade, and that increased production of wool and wheat is required to populate the country. He could hardly have chosen two primary industries which employ, each in its own way, fewer people. But he reaches the zenith of inanity when he tells us that the negroes saved the United States, and that we should import negroes to develop our tropical country. All Australia is laughing at Baron Leverhulme's incursions into Australian public questions.

He admits his 72 years, and a fondness for "jazzing." A leading Melbourne morning daily laughs good-naturedly at him, but concludes its comments with this bit of advice:—"A little more jazzing, my lord, and less jawing."

SUPERIORITY OF AUSTRALIAN COTTON.

The wheat harvest is coming off satisfactorily and in many parts of the country the crops are proving well above the average. All the talk about the woes of the fruitgrowers seems to have evaporated. Not so long ago we were told that there was a glut of peaches, yet, to-day, with the season at its height peaches are fetching 8d. to 9d. a pound, equivalent to about twopence each.

Along the sugar districts on the eastern seaboard of Queensland sufficient rains have fallen to practically assure the output for the latter half of this year, and a total production of well over 300,000 tons of sugar, with a value of nearly £9,000,000. The best news, however, comes from the pastoral areas of the northern State where the general drought has at last really broken up. There have been many places where no rain has fallen for three years, and the land was as bare as a planed board. Now rain has fallen in quantities and the future for a long time ahead is assured. In the Darling Down area the large dairying centre south-west of Brisbane, the settlers have had a very bad time. The dairying industry suffered severely, and from being a constant and heavy exporter it was until a few weeks ago expected that Queensland would have to import butter from the other and more fortunate States.

Cotton in Queensland is likely to prove remunerative this year, and at least 100,000 acres will be picked while recent tested samples of cotton grown in New South Wales have reached the Liverpool appraisers and been declared definitely superior to American Middling.

Henry Ford, the motor-car builder, is about to open a factory in Australia. His representative at first regarded Newcastle as a suitable location, but apparently he took fright at the frequency of industrial strife, and has now settled to go to Tasmania, where he can utilise the hydro-electric current, instead of coal.

The New South Wales Government has opened tenders for the building of the great North Shore bridge, to connect Sydney and the northern shores of her harbour. There were six tenders and these came from America, Canada, England, Scotland and Australia. The accepted tender has not yet been announced, but it is known that the estimated cost of the bridge is £5,750,000. The bridge will carry four railway tracks, six vehicular tracks and two 10 ft. footways. The so-called unemployed in Australia have ample work before them during the new year.

A VERY WILD CAT

Characteristics of a Fierce New comer at the Zoo

The Zoo has just added to its collection a fine specimen of the wild cat, the most interesting as well as the most formidable of our native carnivora, and so rare as to be known by name only to most inhabitants of these islands. At present restricted to the wild, mountainous districts of northern Scotland, the wild cat is rarely seen even in places it frequents.

Visitors to Regent's Park will have little difficulty in appreciating the evil reputation possessed by this species, for the flattened ears., bared teeth, and snarling hiss with which all advances are met indicate very plainly the innate fierceness and intractability of this unsociable animal.

This almost maniacal savageness is manifested at a very early age, small kittens in the nest hissing and spitting viciously at anything intruding on their lair, though still too young to leave their cradle.

The title of British tiger which has been bestowed on this cat is thoroughly in keeping with its character, for not only will it attack fearlessly and with almost incredible ferocity any animal which obstructs its path, but its mode of tracking its prey is strongly reminiscent of its larger relative.

In build the wild cat is larger and stouter than the domestic species. Unlike the larger cats—lions, tigers, leopards, etc.—it never loses its fierceness in captivity.

BEAUTY FIRST

["In towns political bitterness strikes sometimes very deep; it becomes an obsession, an emotional poison that makes its mark even upon the faces of the men and women who live there."—A leading article in a London daily.]

Pacing amid the city's hum,
I have from time to time observed
Some mug whereon the potter's thumb
Had very, very plainly swerved;
Some features past excuse or plea,
Some hopelessly disordered dial,
Constructed, so it seemed, to be
Its own (and other people's) trial.

And once I sympathized thereat;
Though frowning under its assault
I never dreamed a face like that
Was possibly its wearer's fault.
But now I search the ugly man
For hidden, self-engendered meanings—
His fearsome countenance I scan
As index of his party leanings.

"Dear me!" I muse; "and is that nose,
With its unmitigated twist,
The curious, outward sign that shows
A true-blue, fixed Protectionist?
Or was it some Free-trader's view
Too fiercely and too firmly harboured
Which slowly sent the thing askew
And fixed its present list to starboard?

"Do other facial freaks reveal
The unrelenting Asquithite;
Is there a brand for those who feel
That all the Wizard does is right?
A massive and portentous beak,
A sullen eye, a jowl so heavy—
I wonder, now, do those bespeak
A passion for Macdonald's levy?"

I cannot say; but this I know,
And know it very hard indeed,
I will not lightly undergo
This risk for any party creed.
Let reckless zealots play with fire,
But I confess without contrition
I haven't got the least desire
To be a fervent politician.

Oh, no, I will not lend an ear
To violent views in speech or print
Lest I acquire a Liberal leer,
A Tory scowl, or Labour squint!
From all extremer zeal resigned
I'll rank amid the lukewarm creatures,
And cultivate the cross-bench mind
Lest I develop cross-grained features.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

Razor-Slashing in Glasgow: The Poetic North: Revival of Bardism

From Our Own Correspondent.

Edinburgh, Jan. 15.

A serious outbreak of what is known as razor-slashing is reported from Glasgow. The growing prevalence of this detestable form of crime points to a regrettable departure, among certain classes of the community, from the manly and humane traditions of the British people. We have always been combative and even quarrelsome, and actual physical assault was probably much commoner among all classes 50 or 60 years ago than it is to-day. But in former days the only persons of our race who ever made deliberate resort to edged weapons were out-and-out criminals of marked homicidal tendency. In ordinary quarrels, however violent, even in the roughest districts, the fist was the natural and instinctive weapon of the true-born Briton, who as a rule was more anxious to vindicate his manhood than to inflict serious damage on his opponent. The use of knives was reckoned a cowardly practice, characteristic of cowardly and low-class aliens, "the lesser breeds without the law," who had not been trained in the manly art of self-defence.

There is not the slightest doubt that this new habit of crime has been brought to Glasgow and several other British ports by disreputable foreign elements in the British Mercantile Marine. Recently it has also made its appearance in several Irish cities, and a demand has been raised that the authorities should look more sharply after some classes of foreigners who have either sought refuge on our soil or have come to follow certain well-defined kinds of trading. The effect of this undesirable foreign invasion is unmistakable. We understand that there are quite a number of young hooligans in Glasgow in whose pockets razors, not intended for toilet purposes, might be found. In most cases this is merely a perverted form of the play-acting instinct, fed by sensational literature of a degraded type, and the youthful possessor of the hoarded razor is as little likely to use it on his companions as Mr. Mantalini was to use his histrionically brandished razor on his own throat. But it is of bad omen if youths of our race derive satisfaction from possessing such weapons; it is almost certain to lead to a degrading form of criminal assault.

"BUNTY" IN THE FAR EAST.

Mr. Graham Moffat, author of "Bunty Pulls the Strings," had some amusing things to say to an interviewer concerning his Eastern travels. By way of prelude he was asked whether, as successful comedies like "Charley's Aunt" and "The Private Secretary" have been played in foreign tongues, he contemplated some day translating "Bunty." "Well," he answered, "I don't think there is an exact equivalent in French or Spanish, or even in Portuguese for "Hoots, mon... for instance, or that the Germans boast an exact transcription for 'Awee, hae still."

At an hotel in Shanghai, where a native Chinese was manager, Mr Moffat had occasion to enquire if two friends of his (European ladies) were at home. Came the reply—Number one, please gone topside, makee washee washee; number two, sucee gelee go outside, makee walkee walkee, which constructed meant that one of the girls was upstairs washing her hair, the other out walking.

LIVING POETRY.

A well-known American poet, Mr Vachel Lindsay, has attained conspicuousness among his fellow-bards by reviving the traditions of the old minstrels and going round the country earning his keep by giving recitations of his own verses. Whether the practice will ever revive throughout Europe is doubtful, but something like it has long been familiar in certain Bohemian cafés in Continental capitals where poets, often of no mean order, recite their own poems or sing their own songs, just as the troubadours and trouveres and minnesingers of the Middle Ages used to do in feudal halls or in market places.

The tradition is a reminder that poetry was originally meant to be spoken or sung. Departure from that tradition, Mr. Masefield pointed out some time ago in an address delivered in Edinburgh, was the main reason for the weakening of the popular hold of poetry and for its consequent decadence. Poetry, he said, is no longer addressed to the living imagination or the human heart, but "to the reflective understanding of those who have leisure to think and buy books." Poetry is a human necessity, and it cannot regain its power until the art and practice of speaking poetry are revived.

Mr. Masefield's address has led to the formation of the Scottish Association for the speaking of Verse, which is to be formally constituted at a meeting in Edinburgh. The association is to be representative of all Scotland, and branch associations are to be formed, with the particular object of promoting the use and appreciation of spoken verse and the teaching of fine speech as a part of education. The association thus appeals both to verse-writers and to educationists, and its aims are in line with the potential capacities of the Scots people as beautiful speakers, and also with the urgent and widely recognized need for a strong movement to guard England against degradation and disintegration.

LAST LINK WITH "CHINESE" GORDON

A Victim of, and Builder to, the Mahdi

With the death of Piemo Agati, at Omdurman, one of the last two surviving Europeans who were with "Chinese" Gordon when he was overwhelmed by the Mahdi at Khartoum has disappeared. There is reason to believe that Father Bonomi, who was captured on the same occasion, is still alive and ruling a missionary station in Abyssinia.

Ninety-one years ago Agati was born at Pisa of a family of builders. When 20 years of age he left Italy and emigrated to Alexandria, where he joined an elder brother in business as a builder. In 1870 he established himself at Khartoum, and when Gordon was appointed Governor-General of the Soudan Agati was entrusted with the construction of many of the principal buildings at Khartoum. He had just decided to return home when the Mahdist revolt broke out, and his retreat was cut off. When Khartoum fell, and Gordon was killed, Agati's life was spared by the Mahdi, who knew his capabilities, and proposed to make use of them. He was compelled after terrible tortures to become a Mohammedan, and was then entrusted with the construction of all the defences of Omdurman. He was also responsible for the construction of the Palace of the Khalifa, the Tomb of the Mahdi, and the principal mosques and residences of the Arab chiefs.

In 1898, when Lord Kitchener crushed the Mahdists and captured Khartoum, Agati fell into the hands of the English. He was sent to Cairo on his way home, but the sight of modern civilization, after many years in the Soudan, so frightened him that he begged to be allowed to return to Omdurman for the remainder of his life.

As result of his early wanderings in Central Africa Agati was able to give valuable aid to many explorers, including Burton, Speke, Rolfe, Piaggio, Gessi, and Matteucci.

Tokio, Feb. 29. The residence of Mr. Chayet, Secretary to the French Embassy, was burnt down this morning. No casualties occurred. Reuter's Pacific Service.

Hongkong, Feb. 29. The late Mr W. G. Worcester's seat on the Stock Exchange has been sold by private treaty for $2,750. Reuter

OUR PARIS LETTER

Catastrophic Collapse of Francs: M. de Lasteyrie's Tirade on Foreign Specu ators

From Our Own Correspondent.

Paris, Jan. 11

Another sudden fall in the exchange value of the franc, which is now less than 3d., has revived the anti-foreign sentiments of a certain section of the French public. Many of the newspapers are telling their readers that there is an organized conspiracy against French credit, that Germany is carrying on a subterranean financial war against France, and so on. It was felt in official circles that something must be done to prevent a panic, and accordingly M. de Lasteyrie, the Minister of Finance, has made a long statement to the effect that there is nothing to justify the depreciation of the national currency, and that the present admittedly difficult financial position is entirely due to the failure of Germany to pay reparations. He announces his intention of clearing out the undesirable foreigners who haunt the Bourse, and restricting purely speculative operations in exchange.

He said that some foreign firms have obtained a virtual monopoly of the rapid communications with foreign centres on which exchange transactions depend, and that one of these firms, for instance, has no less than 63 telephone lines. He also said that on November 6 a meeting of representatives of banks in the occupied regions was held at Frankfort, and that those present were instructed to use all possible means to carry on a campaign against French currency and to sell francs for dollars at every opportunity. Circulars advising French people to sell their French Rentes and buy foreign securities have been sent out broadcast.

THE ROOT OF THE TROUBLE.

M. de Lasteyrie, of course, knows that the perfectly legitimate police measures which he may feel called upon to take cannot have any real effect, because, the value of the franc depends on the opinion of the world and not of France alone. He must also be aware that great numbers of his countrymen are not sufficiently patriotic to refrain from selling French money, which is just as much a commodity as coal or any other merchandise, if they see a chance of making a profit out of the transaction. He himself admits that some exporters took advantage of the comparatively low discount rates to deposit in foreign banks part of the payments they receive abroad for their goods. He says he has made up his mind to stop this kind of thing, and he has begun by causing the Bank of France to raise its rate of discount from 5 to 5½ per cent.

The root of the whole trouble is the great amount of borrowing which the Government is obliged to carry on for the financing of public expenditure and the rebuilding of the devastated regions. Perhaps the general election may place M. Poincaré in a position to insist on a drastic cutting down of expenditure and a large increase in taxation; or perhaps the deliberations of the experts now sitting in Paris may produce some plan of co-operation with Germany which will enable the French to obtain substantial payments in kind. If these hopes are disappointed, it is not easy to see how the exchange value of the franc can be prevented from dwindling further.

THE NEW AMERICAN JOURNALISM.

Senator Paul Dupuy, the managing proprietor of the *"Petit Parisien,"* who has just returned home after a long tour in the United States, has been entertained at luncheon by the American Club of Paris, to whom he described their country in the most glowing colours. He found it, he said, in a period of industrial activity and magnificent prosperity, based on definite principles, such as the desire to help one's neighbour, to make new outlets for enterprise, and to place within the reach of the multitude the advantages hitherto enjoyed only by the few.

President Coolidge, who has been described as cold and taciturn, received M. Dupuy with the utmost cordiality and impressed him as a man of great moral courage and force of character. M. Dupuy was particularly struck by newspaper developments in the United States. A new form of journalism, he said, prevails. Instead of pandering to the tastes of the least educated and most numerous section of the community, the leading journals are cultivating the spirit of personal dignity and are constituting themselves the protectors of their readers. The result has been a great expansion of the power and influence of the Press, which has at the same time became far more prosperous. He mentioned one daily newspaper at St. Louis which never comes out with less than 64 pages, and a New York Sunday edition which recently broke the record with 180 pages.

AMAZING LAWSUIT.

Curious litigation is taking place over the estate of M. René Degas, brother of the great French painter. The latter died in Paris in 1917, leaving a fine collection of paintings, including some of the best of his own works. He left his estate equally to his brother René and the daughter of his deceased sister. The collection was sold by auction and realized about Frs. 10,000,000 gross. After payment of death duties and other expenses, M. René Degas' share came to some Frs. 4,000,000. He died in 1921, leaving his property to his three children, who were all brought up in France.

To their intense surprise, an American lawyer came forward with a statement, supported by documentary evidence, that their father had contracted a marriage in the United States long before he met their mother. This marriage took place at New Orleans in 1869, and, after two children had been born, it ended in a divorce, which was granted before divorce became a legal institution in France (in 1884). It is therefore argued that M. René Degas's second marriage, contracted at a time when divorce was not recognized in France, was illegal, and that his three French children were therefore illegitimate and could not inherit to the exclusion of his lawful progeny by his first marriage. The children of the second union point out that their father's wish, as expressed in his will, was that they should inherit his property, and they propose as a compromise that each of the five children should have one-fifth. This offer has been declined by the American claimants, who bear their mother's name, Musson, and the case is now being fought out in the French courts. Probably there would never have been any trouble but for the misplaced activity of one of those singular products of modern civilization who call themselves genealogists and make a living by opening cupboards in which family skeletons are stowed away. The Mussons never interested themselves in their father's second marriage and ignored his existence until a genealogist revealed the possibilities of the situation to them.

SIR HENRY LUCY'S FIRST JOB

The following article gains added interest from the recent death of the veteran journalist.

"On my leaving school at the age of 12—having won the highest prize, and, as befell Alexander at a stage of his career, there being no fresh world to conquer—an inscrutable Providence found a berth for me in the office of a hide and valonia merchant in Liverpool," writes Sir Henry Lucy in "Chambers's Journal."

"There I remained for seven long years, eating my heart out, but steadily keeping my eyes fixed on the goal of journalism, whither they had long been bent. I taught myself shorthand, read incessantly, wrote the greater part of a three-volume novel, and occasionally, like Mr. Silas Wegg, dropped into poetry, which appeared in the London "Mercury."

"This tendency earned for me in the office the name of 'Poet.' A burly country customer, hearing me thus addressed, scanned my stately 5 ft. 9 in. and exclaimed, 'The Poet! What's his name? Not Longfellow, I'm sure.'

"Not bad for a tanner.

"My contributions to the "Mercury" brought me more than an honourable name among my fellow-labourers in the hide and valonia vineyard. They attracted the attention of the then assistant editor of the "Liverpool Daily Post," and served as an introduction that proved the turning-point of my life. Having more or less mastered the mysteries of shorthand, I went the round of newspaper offices in Liverpool, proffering my services. I was kindly received, but there were no openings. I have a vague impression of encountering, at the "Daily Post" office, someone coming downstairs at exceptional speed. I heard somewhere, or somehow, that Mr. Whitty, the then proprietor, a gentleman subject to excesses of irascibility, had just kicked him down. That was not encouraging for the next caller. My good fortune led me, not into the office of Mr. Whitty, but into that of his assistant, Mr. Edward Russell, who in time became Lord Russell.

"A wide circle of friends knew the sunshine of his kind-heartedness. It instantly beamed on me. He appointed me some slight task, expressed himself gratified with the manner of its accomplishment, promised me succession to the earliest vacancy at the bottom of the reporting staff of the "Daily Post," and, awaiting that, gave me a letter of introduction that secured an opening at Shrewsbury.

"This was my first job on the Press."

CAPTAIN FINDS A NEW ISLAND

Will it Share Fate of Other Mushroom Tracts?

On the morning of November 14 the master of the steamer Chakdina, on a voyage from Akyab and Chittagong, Burma, to Rangoon, was amazed to discover that an island, about 1,000 ft. square and 30ft. high, had suddenly appeared where previously there had been no vestige of rock to break the monotony of the ocean.

Reporting his discovery, the captain said that the island appeared to be of a rocky formation, and was about eight miles due south of Baronga Point, with a spit running out to the north, over which the surf could be seen breaking.

"This is not an unusual happening," said a member of the staff of the Geological Survey and Museum to-day. "There have been many cases reported, and we are convinced many more before records were made and kept."

SUBMARINE VOLCANOES.

"The island would be created as the result of some submarine volcanic disturbance," he added, "all the great volcanic mountains of the world began as submarine volcanoes.

"A crater opens on the floor of the ocean, and the escaping larva is heaped up around the opening until it emerges above the sea surface as an island.

"Iceland is believed to have begun in this way, and it is fairly certain that Hawaii, Vesuvius, Etna, and Santorin also originated as ocean-bed disturbances. In most cases, however, these 'islands' have been quickly demolished and washed away by the action of the waves.

"Sabaina was thrown up in 1811 in the Atlantic Ocean off the Azores, but early the next year it had disappeared. Graham's Island, in the Mediterranean, was thrown up in 1831. It lasted four months, and then retired again beneath the sea.

"Bogosloff Island, in the Behring Sea, is an example that has remained. It suddenly came into existence in 1795.

FABLED CONTINENT AN EXAMPLE.

"There is another side to the picture. Large tracts of country have as suddenly been swallowed up by the sea and lost to human ken. The 'fabled' continent of Atlanta is probably an example. Plato describes this mighty continent, and then says . . . lost afterwards there occurred . . . earthquakes and floods . . . a single day and night it . . . all were swallowed up . . . the sea.

"It may be that this new . . . will share a similar fate."

SPECIAL ARTICLES

MANKIND OR THE MAN? WHICH IS THE CHURCH'S CARE

Notes of a Sermon Preached by the Rev. C. E. Darwent, M.A., in Union Church, Tientsin, on Sunday Evening, January 13

Acts II. 38. "Repent ye; and be baptized, everyone of you."

There are two general views of human society and of human life, and the question is, which is the right one. These are socialism, in its broadest sense, and individualism. These are defined by the best thinker that I know, the late Dr. Martensen, the great Danish theologian and moralist, as follows. "Socialism is that view which places society as the highest and ultimate aim of ethical development; Individualism is that view, which makes the individual the ultimate aim of ethical development." That sounds like that abhorrent thing, a dry sentence, but it is not. It puts the whole question in a nutshell. Is it the main endeavour of God to create a perfect society, or to create perfect individual persons, and leave them to form what type of society they like This is very important, when we come to consider Christianity. Has the main endeavour of the church to be to create a Christian society, to work on mankind in the mass, and try to bring about an ideal Christian state of things in the world, or is it the main work of the Church to save men, to bring the individual to a perfect condition? This would leave him to organize society as he chooses? Is society's salvation first in Christ's idea, or is your's and mine?

I am sure that we all get worried over this question; and there is an immense amount of confusion in the minds of Christian people of all churches about it. A great great deal of the talk of "the failure of the Church" arises from a confused state of mind among us all on this matter. The idea is that we have a right to judge of the success of the Gospel by the condition of society in general at any particular epoch. People say, "Look here; here are slums, and drink, and very rich and very poor, and crime and privileged classes, and phossyjaw, and a big war just ended leaving an awful mess behind it, and senseless luxury and trusts, and all kinds of evils; and yet Christianity has been in the world for nineteen hundred years! What a dreadful failure Jesus and His Gospel are!" I am quite sure that this is the idea of great numbers of people in the church and out of it. The idea is that, if Christianity is all it claims to be, all ministers and all the innumerable secretaries, who run societies with wonderful initials, would be out of their jobs, for want of something to do. As I read the religious press, I read of "Social workers," whereas I used to hear of "Christian workers." An eminent lady comes to this coast as a "social worker." Was Paul a "social worker?" Did he miss his way by not calling himself one? Tabitha, who made garments, was a "social worker." Yet somehow Paul who stuck to preaching the Gospel, that men should repent of their sins and be converted seems to have done a lot more good. Tabitha's garments have long mouldered in the dust, while Paul's Gospel, like "John Brown's body" still goes "marching along." And here is Peter. Was he a "social worker?" What he actually did on this occasion was to fix his eye on the "bad hats," the conceited Pharisees, the liars and worldlings among his audience, and exhort them to "repent, and be baptized, everyone of you" I like that touch: "*everyone of you*"; no being saved in the mass, but "everyone of you:" and then things will brighten up in society. I think Peter's idea was a good one if he could get that bad lot in front of him to repent genuinely, and become one by one, changed, redeemed, new men and women, in Christ Jesus, he would be doing more for the salvation of society than by aiming at them *en bloc*.

A WORLD TO OVERTURN.

I see that Miss Maud Royden, the most eminent of the new women-preachers, now let loose on the church, has been recently discoursing on this subject. She asks, "Can we set the world in order?" That is the idea I am trying to describe; that the first job of the Church is to keep its eye on the effect it is producing on society in general. It needs "setting in order." It does indeed, And her idea is, that somehow the Church ought to be able, almost *instanter*, to take a disobedient, struggling and kicking world by the shoulders like a naughty boy, and straighten it out, make it behave itself as a Christian world. And they say that is the thing all church activities have to aim at; that getting people to repent, and be baptized as an evidence of a determination to live a new life appears to be secondary.

"Can we set the world in order?" That is the question. We might put it in this way, as a statement of the question we are trying to settle; "*Can* we set the world in order, without first setting ourselves in order?" That is the point at issue, before we can decide whether the Gospel is the failure it is supposed to be by some people, who will be glad, if it should turn out to be one.

ALL ABOUT COPEC.

In April there is to be held what is called Copec. In these days we are used to strings of letters. I take my information about it from Dr. R. F. Horton of Hampstead, who is a great enthusiast for Conferences. He says he hopes that Copec will become as widely known as Y.M.C.A. and as W.E.A. I am sorry to say that I don't know what W.E.A. is. We shall soon need to pass exams in these W.E.A's, S.C.F's and the rest, which with D.D.'s and so on put a severe strain on the memory. Copec, it appears, is the Conference for Christian Politics, Economics, and Citizenship, which is to be held in London in April. Bishops, canons, D.D.'s, Presidents, Moderators, Ministers, Churchwardens, Deacons and Elders will all be there. The idea of it is "to set the world in order," as Miss Royden says. Dr. Horton hopes the end of it may be to "transform the world," showing that

> Hope, like the gleaming taper's light,
> Adorns and cheers the way;
> And still, as darker grows the night,
> Emits a brighter ray."

Dr. Horton holds that the "Christian religion involves a social ideal;" that the principles of Christianity, the Fatherhood of God, the law that "whosoever would lose his life for this great cause shall save it," can be used to shape an organization of society that shall be truly Christian. They have got commissions sitting; and they have sent out those trying things, *questionnaires* to really eminent people. None of us have had one, I need hardly say. Thus, as I understand it, it may happen, that all present-day forms of society, of national organization, may be scrapped, and a wholly Christian form of society be set up, if Copec evolves a scheme.

Now, what are we to say about this great scheme intended to "set the world in order?" We wish it well, but we must ask, Is this the idea of our Master and His Gospel? I think it is not. I think that Peter was on the right track, when he got right home to the conscience of the audience before him and darted this at them, "Repent, and be baptized, everyone of you." We need some Copec to take that line. Let us consider Copec and its idea.

AN OLD IDEA NEW DRESSED.

First, suppose Copec does evolve a perfect scheme of a Christian society; suppose the members of this Conference are so wise that they can do what all the nineteen Christian centuries have failed to do, formulate an organization of Society, which embodies all that constitues Christianity, without falling foul of the laws of human nature, which are the laws of God; suppose that the total wisdom of Copec, distilled out of the commissions and questionnaires, does evolve the scheme of a perfect Christian society; how is it going to get the scheme adopted by the nations of the earth? Just think of upsetting the whole framework of society as it is! Oh what an upset and what chaos would ensue! It is terrible to think of even for the adoption of the most Christian scheme. Business, social life, everything would shake, and it would be found impossible to erect a perfect Christian society out of the ruins of the old. It may be said that the promotors of Copec do not imagine any such mad scheme as the setting the world in order at once by any scheme they devise: "They will introduce it gradually." But that gives away the whole case. That is just what is already being done by the Gospel; the kingdom of God is coming; Christ is busy; countless things have improved in my time and yours. Can you not see that? You can. These people are talking as if the setting up of a better state of things were a new idea. It is very old, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever."

THE PEACEFUL PENETRATOR.

So then let us see what is the way Jesus Christ proposed to "set the world in order", and "to transform society". Not any cut and-dried scheme, but by what is called in politics "peaceful penetration". Jesus Christ describes His method in the parable of the leaven. The whole social philosophy of Christ is in that little gem of a parable, to which I hope the Copec Conference will devote all the brains it has. Here it is: "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto leaven, which a woman took and *hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*" It is not such a sensational way, but it does the business: it "gets there. "First there is Christ's Church, which is always busy. Musical Societies usually break up; the Church does not. The Bible is in over five hundred languages. And they tell. They are telling in China. I have never been able to get a Chinese to admit that they used to put unwanted girl babies in "babytowers" to die, yet they did. Christ has made that practice disreputable. China and Japan are not Christian countries, but they have to have the "Red Cross," which is wholly a Christian creation from *His* Cross, on which He died for us. Christ's method is to go on as He began, quietly. He was born in a stable; none of the great ones in church and state knew anything about; only a few shepherds knew it. He glided, as it were, like a sunbeam into human life. And He is born in the hearts of men, and glides into the national life, and no one knows it, till some dark corner in it is full of light and men, surprised say—The Lord is here.

Again, there is the example of Jesus Christ. Christianity began by making no striking change anywhere, that men could see. It was like the leaven. When He was here He accepted life as it was, while at the same time He was saying and doing things that would turn it inside out, and "make all things new." So it is to-day. With all her faults the Church is leavening the world; and the more there are, who "repent and believe" the quicker the world will be leavened.

HERE A LITTLE, THERE A LITTLE.

Christ's Apostles, like wise men, followed their Master's method. They would have been big fools if they had let it be known that they were concocting a scheme to change the whole fabric of Roman society. They would soon have been in a fine peck of trouble. They would have been wiped out. But, instead, they preached "Repent ye; and be baptized everyone of you." They got the units, and in three hundred years captured the Empire. Paul never says the slightest word even to condemn slavery. No. Christianity accepts the world as it is, till it can mend it. We are apt to think we are Christian in a special sense, if we are always howling about the "sins of the world" and deploring this social evil and the other. Can grousers at the Gospel not see, that the *initial presupposition* of Christianity is that the world is very sinful; that evil is a gigantic power; "the imagination of man's heart is evil continually". If evil were just a pimple, a "slight cold" in our morals, we had not needed that the very Son of God should descend to earth and be nailed on the cross to save us. A few pamphlets and moral lectures would have met the need. The glory of the Gospel is just this, that it tackled a job that the wisest men thought absolutely hopeless namely that sin can be put away at all, that a blackhearted sinner, like the thief on the cross, can repent and be delivered utterly from all his sins. That this is possible is the grand hope of the world, and the work of the Church of Jesus Christ.

It is finally, doubtful, indeed, whether there *is* such a thing as a specially Christian form and frame of society. The grandest Christians who have ever lived, lived under the absolutism of Rome. Paul and the Apostles; Augustine and the fathers of the Church too. We rail at the Feudal System. But the idea of it was not bad or particularly unchristian. The king held all the land as representing the people; he let it it out in big parcels to big men on condition that they served the public; they let it out to smaller men on the same conditions and so down. There was a lot of happiness under the Feudal System; and its Christians, like St. Francis, St. Bernard, King Alfred and the like, take our modern democracies, which are supposed by us to be very Christian, all their time to surpass and beat them. The way to get a basket of a hundred fresh eggs is to see to it, that every egg is fresh. "Repent ye; everyone of you." seems to be still the best way to "set the world in order" and "transform society."

DR. LO WEN-KAN, former Minister of Finance, who was thrown into prison for nearly a year on false charges, has been engaged as professor of the Peking National University.

MOSCOW'S STRENUOUS PRESSURE FOR RECOGNITION BY JAPAN

Indispensable Preliminary to Negotiations

On the face of it, the Tokio telegram published below on the subject of Russo-Japanese relations would seem to indicate something in the nature of a "crisis", but much more probably, the message is merely a somewhat obvious piece of diplomatic "wire-pulling."

Undoubtedly, the Soviet government is becoming impatient with the long drawn out negotiations between the two countries and would like to see a settlement speedily arrived at, particularly in view of recognition accorded on the European side, and today's telegram, far from disclosing any real desire to break off negotiations, may cover a certain amount of anxiety for an early settlement, to which recognition must be an essential preliminary. Japan, on the other hand, appears to be in no hurry to accord recognition, being inclined to wait and see how the matter develops as between Russia and China and America.

Ostensibly, the outstanding differences between Japan and Russia are Northern Saghalien and Nicolaievsk. The Japanese demand for compensation for the massacre of Japanese subjects at Nicolaievsk was refused and when, in turn, Russia demanded the withdrawal of Japan from Northern Saghalien, there was an equally firm refusal, Japan agreeing to withdraw only upon condition that the Nicolaievsk compensation is paid. To this, in effect, Russia has responded: "Give us recognition and the money will be paid.

Negotiations have twice broken down at these points, but the fact appears to be that both matters would very easily be settled once Japan agreed to recognize the Soviet Government, in which event the latter may be expected readily to concede a diplomatic point or two if necessary. But recognition is the first and foremost thing, and must precede any arrangement come to.

The Tokio message rightly reports that the Japanese Consul at Vladivostok has been notified that the Soviet no longer recognizes his official position, and possibly there is foundation for the statement that transportation of Japanese mails to Siberia will not be continued, but no step in this direction has yet been taken. The Moscow point of view was expressed in a telegram which we published on Thursday, *viz.*, that in consequence of the rejection of Soviet proposals for the resumption of normal relations between the two countries, the Soviet sees no reason why Japanese officials should remain in the territory of the Union of Soviet Socialistic Republics. It will be interesting to see how Japan responds to this gentle pressure.

Moscow Putting on the Pressure

Tokio, Feb. 21.

That Russia is apparently impatient at the Japanese attitude *vis-à-vis* renewal of negotiations and recognition may be evidenced by a series of minor incidents in the last few days, of which the following are the most important:—

(1) Mr. Watanabe, the Japanese Consul at Vladivostok, has been notified that he is no longer recognized as the official spokesman of his Government and people.

(2) The Japanese Post Office has been informed that transportation of mails to Siberia will not be continued.

(3) Japanese correspondents in Moscow have been ordered to withdraw, according to a report received to-day, and the correspondent of the Rosta News Agency here has announced that he is under orders to leave.

It is understood that the foregoing are the subject of representations officially both in Peking and Vladivostok.

Feb. 22.

Mr. Yoshizawa, the Japanese Minister in Peking, has been instructed informally to discuss with M. Karakhan, the Soviet Envoy, the situation created by the series of minor incidents in the last few days which are said to indicate that Russia is impatient at the Japanese attitude *vis-à-vis* of recognition of the Soviet.

It is believed in official circles here that Russia entertains a false impression of Japan's policies.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE CALL OF THE WEST

I feel the tug of the sunset land
About my beating heart,
I want to cross that rim of sand
Where sky and desert part
I dread the spell of this tropic strand.
I long for the time to start

* * *

I feel the call of the mountain side
That looks across the sea
I want the moors vast and wide
And the pine trees' melody
A strenuous hard day's mountain ride
The uplands high and free

* * *

Oh! I'm weary of these "garlic smells"
And the sun's hard, loveless glare
The "tinny" eastern temple bells
And the roads all baked and bare
I want the freshness of the dells
And the "tang" of the mountain air.

T. J. F.

CHERRY blossom time in Japan will be earlier than usual this year owing to the comparatively warm weather that has prevailed for the greater part of the winter. The "Japan Advertiser" reports that plum trees in the vicinity of Tokio are putting forth their buds and many in Shiba Park, noted for its plum trees, already are blooming. Hibiya Park and the Botanical Garden in Koishikawa are second only to Shiba for their plum blossoms, but the shoddy background of temporary shacks built for earthquake sufferers this year will furnish an incongruous setting for the spring blossoms But the spot best known both for the number and beauty of its plum blossoms is Mito in Ibaraki prefecture. Several trains will be dispatched to this city daily when the trees look their best to accommodate parties of beauty seekers.

OUR CANADIAN LETTER

Vancouver's Huge Grain Export: Growing Importance as Outlet for Canadian Produce

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, Feb. 7.

The port of Vancouver is enjoying a boom in grain traffic. Enormous quantities of wheat from Manitoba and Alberta, which hitherto was shipped abroad *viâ* the Great Lakes in Ontario or Canadian Atlantic ports, are being sent over the shorter westbound route for shipment to Europe *viâ* the Panama canal and to many other parts of the world.

From September 1 to January 31 Vancouver from Canadian Pacific cars alone exported 20,416,103 bushels of grain, comprising 15,488,348 to the United Kingdom, 4,630,103 bushels to the Orient, and 338,183 bushels to South America.

During one day recently no fewer than 49 ships could be seen loading or waiting for grain in Vancouver harbour. Elevator, storage and grain-handling equipment and facilities are being rapidly extended to take care of the ever swelling golden flow from the Canadian prairies.

The city as a whole is feeling the benefit of this development and the spirit of good times and prosperity is strong among the populace.

STATE MARINE INSURANCE.

Of interest to the shipping and mercantile interests of Shanghai and China ports generally is the announcement from Ottawa that the Canadian Government will present legislation at the next session of parliament authorizing the Government to go into marine insurance to overcome unjust discrimination of British underwriters against Canadian ports.

The latest of the many complaints comes from the Shanghai office of the Robert Dollar Co. The company says it was offered at high rate a cargo of tea for Halifax, Nova Scotia, but had to refuse it because underwriters exacted an extra premium if the round-the-world freighter Virginia Dollar put into that port. They said this barred. Halifax as a port of call for their ships. It is the frequency of such complaints that has caused the Government to decide upon introducing legislation to permit a system of state marine insurance. We have not yet, be it observed heard the underwriters' side of the story.

MR. V. BRYDONE-JACK.

Vancouver has lost to Shanghai her champion amateur swimmer in Mr. Vaughan Brydone-Jack, member of a pioneer family in British Columbia. When the Canadian Government str. Canadian Seigneur reaches China from here she will have as one of her passengers Mr. Brydone-Jack. He has been transferred to Shanghai as assistant to Mr. D. E. Rose who left the Vancouver office of the Canadian National lines two years ago and who is now Shanghai manager.

Mr. Brydone-Jack has always occupied a prominent place in Vancouver sporting circles. Last year at Capilano Canyon, a treacherous piece of water near here, he "doubled" for a moving-picture actor. He took the part of a mounted policeman in the play which was being filmed there and made a spectacular high dive into the rapids of the Capilano while dressed in the familiar uniform of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He recently completed a tour of the Canadian National Railway system in order to familiarize himself with the working of the railway.

OPIUM SMUGGLING.

I referred in my last letter to the case of A. Worsefold, second electrician in the Empress of Australia, who smuggled opium ashore here in a specially tailored vest. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment and also fined $200 or two months more in jail.

Worsefold said he did not know it was opium he was smuggling but thought it was Chinese joss.

"You connived at committing an illegal act" said the Magistrate, who added that as Worsefold was a married man he would impose the lightest penalty possible in the circumstances.

CHILDREN'S RECORD JOURNEY.

Canadian and American newspapers have recently published stories with photographs of the three children under 15 years of age who, unaccompanied, travelled 9,000 miles from the state of Florida to Shanghai. Jack Turner, aged 15, Mary, his ten-year-old sister, and Richard, aged four, travelled from Jacksonville (Fla.) to Shanghai with only one change of cars and one change of steamer, making the quickest trip on record between these two points, say the traffic officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway who looked after the children throughout their journey. The officials state that the trio who left Jacksonville on December 21 and arrived at Shanghai on January 12, covered the distance of 9,133 miles in 21 days.

BUDDING RAILWAY BUILDERS.

Six young Chinese, five of whom have taken science and engineering degrees in China, have arrived in Montreal, commissioned by the Chinese Government to study railway construction in the Canadian Pacific Railway's shops at Angus and the Canadian National Railway's shops at St. Charles. The Chinese will be employed in the shops until they have learned the Occidental way of doing things, when they will return to China to apply their knowledge in developing the railway system of that country.

A YALE CAMPAIGN.

Among recent arrivals in British Columbia of interest to the Orient was Dr. E. H. Hume, President for Yale in China for the past 19 years, who has started a campaigning tour of the United States for funds on behalf of the Far Eastern *protégé* of the big American university.

THE SUNSHINE BILL

Mr. Willet's Crusade: First Laughed at, Now Blessed By Practically All

By Our Labour Correspondent.

Manchester, Jan. 15.

It is now nearly 17 years since the late Mr. William Willett first put before the public his suggestion that all the clocks in Great Britain should be put forward 20 minutes on each Sunday in April, and put back again 20 minutes each Sunday in October. It met with a mixed reception. Many conservative old gentlemen in the country looked upon the idea as nothing short of blasphemous. Others predicted railway accidents and general confusion, and a strong minority declared that they would abide by the old times in defiance of any revolutionary tampering with time that was good enough for their grand fathers. Mr. Willett was not dismayed. The benefits of an additional 200 hours of daylight in a year gave him an increasing body of supporters and in 1908 a Bill to save daylight in accordance with his proposals was read in Parliament.

In 1909 a Select Committee was appointed to inquire into the scheme and it was rejected by a majority of one. It was opposed by agriculturalists, by the Committees of the Stock Exchange and the Liverpool Cotton Exchange, and by two of the smaller railway companies. Fruit growers supported it on the plea that it would enable picking to be carried on for a longer day, and the more important railway companies favoured it as a measure that would reduced accidents, most of which took place in darkness. There was also a strong undercurrent of opposition from companies interested in artificial illumination and their shareholders.

The criticisms passed on the original proposal so impressed Mr. William Willett that he altered the scheme from its original from of four 20-minute advances, of 60 minutes in April with a return to normal time in September. His original idea had been that if anyone forgot to make the alteration, 20 minutes would be a much less important error than 60 minutes. The change would also be less perceptible if taken in 20 minute stages, and 200 hours of daylight would be saved instead of about 150. The public, however, preferred to make one cut of it and get the matter over.

BRITAIN'S ONE GAIN BY WAR.

The campaign was pursued with unabated vigour by a growing mass of supporters but although there was a general belief in the many advantages it would confer on the urban community it was difficult to get people to believe that such an innovation would ever be solemnly sanctioned by Parliament. And then the war came and upset all our ideas of what was possible and what was'nt. The factor that compelled Parliament to take the plunge was not a desire for more daylight but the imperative necessity of saving fuel. On Sunday May 21, 1916, all the clocks in Great Britain were put forward one hour by Act of Parliament. The Bill to enforce this alteration was officially called the Summer Time Act, but the popular name for it is the Daylight Saving Bill. Enthusiastic supporters of it, courageously ignoring the vagaries of our fickle climate, sometimes speak of it as the Sunshine Bill." Thousands of people point to it as the solitary benefit Great Britain gained by the war.

Early in 1917 a Select Committee inquired into the results of its operation during 1916. Their Report was overwhelmingly in favour of its continuance, and it was put into operation during 1917 from the 3rd Sunday in April to the 3rd Sunday in September. The Act is now passed every year, and it is curious to note that the length of its operation is varied on nearly every occasion. In 1920 it was from March 28, to October 25. In 1921 from April 3, to October 3. In 1922, from March 26 to October 8. In 1923 from the 3rd Sunday in April, to the 3rd Sunday in October. It is difficult to understand the reason for these variations. The ideal time would be from the first Sunday in April to the first Sunday in October.

FARMERS DEAD AGAINST IT.

Of all the original grounds for opposition to the Bill only one has persisted. The farmers are still against it. They contend that the heavy dew early in the morning interferes with work; that the satisfactory milking of cattle is more difficult; and that they have to pay their workers overtime rates to perform tasks in the late afternoon as a consequence. Workers who commenced their tasks at 6 a.m. used to complain, but the almost general adoption of the 8 hour day, and the 8 a.m. start, has removed that ground of opposition. The only other new objection we have heard came from a man who said that there were farmers in Cheshire who contended that the latest outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was caused by their having to send the cattle out into the fields before they were properly aired. But this traveller's tale might be a nefarious attempt to take advantage of our urban innocence and cannot therefore be relied upon.

That Daylight Saving is not such a boon to farmers and agriculturalists as it is to town dwellers must be admitted. As a result of this the idea has only achieved a limited success in non-industrial countries Spain adopted the scheme a few years ago but abandoned it in 1920. In Canada and America it is in operation in the larger towns while the surrounding agricultural districts maintain the older system.

Apart from teachers and schoolmasters the only class of the community objecting to Daylight Saving in our urban areas are those wealthy idlers who have unlimited leisure themselves, and preserve a serene indifference to the comfort and welfare of other people. The problem that puzzles the rest of us is why we have had to wait so long for such an obvious boon.

HEALTH BENEFITS.

Doctors say that it is highly beneficial to the public health, as it has encouraged people to take more exercise in the open air. Opticians say that it is equally beneficial for the eyes as it lessens the strain caused by artificial light. Economists claim that it saves three million tons of fuel each year. Tramway and bus companies report greatly increased business. It ensures that the hours of sleep are those when there is least daylight. And above all it enormously increases the amenities of life for the workers by ensuring that a greater proportion of their evening leisure is spent out of doors instead of in close rooms lit by artificial light. Crowds of young people can now often be seen playing tennis and other out-door games after 10 p.m. on fine summer nights. The Saturday half-holiday in summer with its 10 hours of daylight is now longer than a winter's day, and immeasurably more pleasant. Sunday is better still. And paying the quarter's gas bill at the end of June and September comes as near being a pleasure as paying a bill is ever likely to be. We are surprised that the gas company troubles to send round for such an insignificant amount. The big town whose citizens sleep in the summer morning's sunshine while others are up and doing is as grotesque a spectacle to-day as a modern girl would be in a hobble skirt.

COMMUNIST AIMS IN ENGLAND

The "Real Offensive"

The following candid statement regarding the plans and expectations of the British Communist Party in connexion with the advent to power of a Socialist Government in this country are, writes the "Morning Post's" Russian Correspondent, made by the London correspondent of the Moscow *"Isvestia"* in a recent issue of that paper:

At the present moment the British Socialist Party is on the eve of taking into its hands the government of England. It is obvious that when this happens both capitalist parties, the Liberals and the Tories, will sooner or later unite in order to attack the workers. In this struggle the Communists will support the Socialist Government, while at the same time not forgetting for a moment that the chief duty and aim of the Communist Party is to carry its activities deep into the ranks of the Socialist movement, urging the workers to develop and strengthen their control over Parliament and lead the masses towards the final aim—the sweeping away of Parliament and the establishment of a real workers' Government on Soviet lines.

The day when the Communist Party finally becomes a part of the Socialist Party will be a historic date in the history of the Socialist movement in England, as only then will the real offensive of the working classes against Capital begin. This day is not far off, and there remains no doubt that our aim will be achieved.

COMPULSORY VOTING

Experience of Belgium and Other Countries

Compulsory voting has been in force in many countries during the past half-century. It was made part of the law in Bulgaria in 1882 (says a writer in the "Political Science Quarterly"); it was passed by the Austrian Empire as a measure upon which the provincial diets might exert "local option," and which had been adopted by some half-dozen of them before the war; it has long existed in a peculiar form in New Zealand; and it was introduced into Baden and Bavaria in 1881. In Bavaria a novel method of penalising the abstainer under certain circumstances was invented. It was laid down that a minimum poll of two-thirds of the total electorate was required; and if this was not obtained the voters who had failed to vote were charged with the expense of a fresh election. The latest converts to the system are Czecho-Slovakia and Holland. Compulsory voting formed part of the important Dutch Electoral Reform Law of 1917; and the negligent or recalcitrant citizen who fails to vote is now brought before the burgomaster and may be subjected to the heavy fine of three florins for the first offence and ten florins for each subsequent offence.

In Czecho-Slovakia compulsory voting became part of the constitutional system of the country from the beginning of its existence as a separate State. It applies to both municipal and general elections; and the penalties range from fines of 20 to 500 Czech crowns, or imprisonment up to a period of one month. It is understood that the number of abstentions has hitherto been so large that it has been impracticable, if not impossible, to enforce the law rigorously. At the last municipal election held in Prague, for example, according to an unofficial but reliable estimate, about 50,000 persons (out of 424,680) did not vote; and the courts could not possibly deal with such an enormous mass of offenders.

The country where compulsory voting has been most fully enforced is, however, Belgium. After a discussion lasting some years, *le vote obligatoire* was introduced into the Constitution in 1893. The results have been remarkably successful. In 1894, at the elections for the popular chamber, the abstentions were only 5.4 per cent. of the electorate, 7.5 per cent. in 1896, 5.3 per cent. in 1898, and 5.9 per cent. in 1900, and this despite a great widening of the franchise. In fact, the proportion of voters to non-voters is normally higher in Belgium than in any country in Europe, perhaps even than anywhere else in the world.

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Parmoor is related by marriage to Mrs. Sidney Webb, the wife of the new Labour President of the Board of Trade. Since the Armistice he has taken a great part in all movements to bring about international reconciliation This has probably influenced the Premier, for it is a policy he is well known to favour.

HOME SECRETARY, MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON.

Mr. Henderson's parents planned to make him a butcher, and it must be confessed that if they misjudged his future temperament, they well envisaged his future appearance, for "Uncle Arthur," as he is affectionately called by this Labour friends, looks the very image of a prosperous family butcher. But they changed their minds and put him instead in an iron works. He took an early interest in trade union work and politics. Starting as a Liberal it was not long before he came over to Labour and he was the first Labour member to receive Cabinet rank. He took the popular side in the war, in which he lost a son. He has a strong sense of personal dignity and he left the Cabinet after Lloyd George kept him waiting on the mat when he returned from the Stockholm Labour and peace conference. He is a Wesleyan lay preacher, and a total abstainer. Between him and the new Scottish recruits of the Labour Party there is bitter enmity. They hate him for a dull, pompous, stodgy ignoramus. He reciprocates the feeling. Their nimbleness of wit frightens him. He thinks that they are hardly respectable. He represents the extreme Right of the Labour movement, but he is not to be bought. English trade unionists think a lot of him. He lost his seat at the General Election and another will have to be found for him.

FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY, LORD CHELMSFORD.

A member of the well known Thesiger family, Lord Chelmsford has hitherto been known as a non party man. He is an old member of the London School Board and an Alderman of the London County Council. He has been Governor of Queensland, where they have long had a Labour Government. He was very popular there. From 1916 to 1921 he was Viceroy of India, and was jointly responsible with Montagu for the "Montagu-Chelmsford Report," on the findings of which the present reformed Government of India is based. His share in this effort to conciliate the ambitious Parsee has no doubt influenced his choice for high office in the first Labour Government. The appointment is very unpopular with Labour's left wing.

COLONEL SECRETARY, MR. J. H. THOMAS.

Mr. Thomas will be very disappointed if his biography is left out of any future compilation like the celebrated "Self Help" of Samuel Smiles, for he began work as an errand boy at the age of nine and wishes everyone to know it. There is in fact, no romance one half so attractive to Thomas as the story of his own rise to power from humble beginnings. From running errands to engine cleaning was a short step. Then he became fireman, and a few years later an engine driver on the G. W. R. Grasping the opportunities there were for ambitious men in the trade union movement he soon pushed his way to General Secretaryship of the National Union of Railwaymen. He became Mayor of Derby, and in 1910 its Parliamentary representative. With great political foresight he saw the pitfalls of office in the Coalition Government and refused a position when it was offered him. He is a prominent member of the extreme Right of the trade union wing of the Labour will never forgive him for backing out of the Triple Alliance during the great miner's strike of 1921. It is popularly though no doubt falsely reported that he would sacrifice the livelihoods of all the other trade unionists in the country if he could get an extra sixpence for his own members. What his qualifications are for the Colonial Secretaryship it would be difficult to say, but if he had not been given an important office in the new Government there would have been trouble from the "Hon. Jimmy" as they call him.

MR. SIDNEY WEBB
President of the Board of Trade

SECRETARY FOR WAR, MR. STEPHEN WALSH.

The member for the Incé division of Lancashire won his seat at the last election by one of the largest majorities achieved by any candidate. He is a typical miner's M.P. In his youth he worked at the coal face. From this he rose to the position of miner's agent. Then he entered Parliament. During the Coalition he held two Ministerial offices. qualifications for the high position he now holds would be hard to find. But he has the stolid virtue of not wishing to butt into affairs that are beyond his grasp, and it is said that the soldiers with whom he will have to work prefer a patriotic trade unionist of this stamp to one of the cranky "highbrows" who might have had the office. There are not wanting cynics who say that this appointment is MacDonald's way of showing what he thinks of both the War Office and the average miner's M.P.

SECRETARY FOR AIR, BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMSON, C.B.E., D.S.O.

This recruit to the Labour Party joined the regular Army in 1897 and served in Mashonaland and South Africa. He was on the War Office Staff from 1911—1914, and soon after the outbreak of war he joined the Staff of the First Army Corps under Sir Douglas Haig. He visited Russia during the war and served in Palestine. He was British Military Representative to the Supreme War Council. In 1919 he resigned his commission to join the Labour Party. He is one of the many recruits to the Labour Party whom the Supreme War Council have made.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, MR. SIDNEY WEBB.

It is often said that the Webbs are the brains of the British Labour Movement but the assertion would want some qualifying. Sidney Webb was privately educated in Germany and spent 13 years in the War, Inland Revenue, and Colonial Offices. He is a barrister and a member of the Senate of the University of London. He started the "New Statesman," and has written several authoritative books on economics and trade union history. His wife, who was Miss Beatrice Potter, is a kindred spirit. Between them they employ an army of secretaries on research work. No one in Great Britain has ever read so many Blue Books. They are the arch apostles of that kind of State Socialism which the British temperament abominates. They envisage a Utopia in which armies of hygienically clad officials will order the lives of millions of workers, all of whom will be scientifically fed, clothed and housed. Wells was an early disciple but he quickly experienced a reaction and mercilessly satirised them in "The New Machiavelli." Their useful function is to supply statistics and "facts" to earnest Labour leaders. Webb is a failure in Parliament. He does not suffer fools gladly, and treats opponents who have not mastered the subjects on which they speak with a testy impatience.

SECRETARY FOR INDIA, SIR SIDNEY OLIVER.

One of the more aristocratic sympathizers with Labour ideals, Governor of Jamaica 1907—1913. Was at one time Secretary of the Fabian Society. Author of several books.

SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND, MR. W. ADAMSON.

Like Stephen Walsh, the Rt. Hon. William Adamson, is a typical Miner's M.P. He went down in the pit to work at 11 years of age, and taking a great interest in trade union work gradually won his way to the secretaryship of a Scottish mining union. His gifts are those that make for success in that sort of office; blunt downright speech, caution, and honesty. He is not a member of the I.L.P., and inclines to the moderate Right wing of the Party. He was its leader in the House from 1918—1921. In that capacity he was a failure and the prestige of the Party sunk to a very low level.

MINISTER OF HEALTH, MR. WHEATLEY.

The most advanced Labour member in the Cabinet. The Scottish contingent of advanced Socialists point to him as their one representative in office. He is an expert on Housing, and as he lived until he was 22 in a one-roomed apartment with a family if eleven he might be expected to hold very strong views on the subject. He is a popular writer for the well known Glasgow Labour weekly "Forward," and a Roman Catholic.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, MR. NOEL BUXTON.

Mr. Noel Buxton is the son of a landowner. He was born in 1869 and entered Parliament in 1905 as a Liberal. He is an expert on Near Eastern problems, and in 1914 he was sent to the Balkans to further Allied interests. In Bucharest he was dangerously wounded in the jaw by a political assassin. He has grown a beard to hide the scars. He joined the Labour Party in 1919 and is an authority on the problems of agricultural labour. He is an active member of the Independent Labour Party, and one of Labour's most valuable acquisitions.

MINISTER OF LABOUR, MR. TOM SHAW.

Starting life as a half-timer in a cotton mill at the age of 10 Mr. Shaw won his way to a responsible position in his trade union and entered Parliament as the Member for Preston in 1918. Interesting himself in the international side of cotton union activities he learnt German and French, which he now speaks fluently. He has travelled a lot, and is the friend of many moderate trade union and Labour leaders on the continent. He was one of the Labour members who visited Russia at the invitation of the Bolsheviks and he brought back an unfavourable report of what he saw there. He is a Free Trade propagandist, and a bitter opponent of "direct action."

EDUCATION MINISTER, MR. C. P. TREVELYAN.

A descendant of Lord Macaulay. He entered Parliament as a Liberal in 1899 and was made Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education. He resigned from the Government on the outbreak of war and associated himself with MacDonald in pacifist propaganda. He strongly opposed conscription. One of the Party's super-intellectuals. Supposed to have a great future before him.

MR. PHILIP SNOWDEN
Chancellor of the Exchequer

POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR. VERNON HARTSHORN.

Ten years ago Vernon was one of the turbulent spirits of the South Wales coal fields. But unlike most of his associates of those days he took the patriotic side in the war and in the responsibilities of office on the Coal Controller's Advisory Committee he shed his predilection for short cuts and hot air. He worked as a lad in the pit and his rise to Parliament followed the usual course for a miner's member. He is a local preacher and a more brilliant speaker than most mining members of Parliament. It would be difficult to say what his qualifications are for the office of Postmaster-General but it was necessary to put several T. U. representatives in the Cabinet somewhere and it may be supposed that MacDonald thought this office might be the lumping ground for one as well as any other.

CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY, COLONEL WEDGWOOD.

One of the few men in the Cabinet who matter, Wedgwood is the son of a master potter and in his early years he was a naval architect and engineer. He was the Captain of an Elswick Battery in the S. A. War. During the European War he saw service on nearly every front. He was Commander of a squadron of armoured cars in Flanders. He fought at Gallipoli, in British East Africa, and Siberia. He used to be an extreme radical, and propagandist for the land tax, which was his pet political scheme for the cure of all our social ills. He has written several books on pottery and politics. At present he is greatly interested in Indian politics, and is performing a useful service to those members of the Labour Party who imagine that the exclusive *rôle* of the British in India is that of "heartless oppressors." After the war he left the Liberal Party for Labour and joined the I.L.P.

FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS, MR. F. W. JOWETT.

Mr. Jowett began work as an half timer in a Bradford cotton mill at the age of eight. He is an active member of the L.L.P., an expert in municipal government, and a Socialist of the old "Merrie England" school. During the war he was a pacifist. This latter circumstance with the known moderation of his views probably explains his presence in the Cabinet.

ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. PATRICK HASTINGS, K.C.

One of the busiest Counsel at the Bar, to which he was called in 1904, Fought in the war. 42 years of age. Labour Member for Wallsend. Moderate Labour man.

SOLICITOR GENERAL, MR. H. H. SLESSER.

Age 43. Legal advisor to the Trade Union Congress and Labour Party. Advisory Counsel to Miners' and Engineers' Unions. Drafted the Nationalization of Mines Bill, which was submitted to the Royal Commission on Mines. Has contested two Parliamentary constituencies without success. A seat will have to be found for him. Moderate Labour man.

THE UNDER SECRETARIES.

MR. ARTHUR PONSONBY.

Mr. Arthur Ponsonby—Among the 18 Under Secretaries and Parliamentary Secretaries who have been appointed the most notable is Mr. Arthur Ponsonby the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He is the son of a Private Secretary to Queen Victoria and for five years was one of Her Late Majesty's pages. He entered the Diplomatic Service, but revolted against Court life and joined the Liberal Party. His action is more understandable to the general public since Lytton Strachey wrote his revealing life of Queen Victoria. Some time ago he joined the I.L.P. and the Labour Party. He is a strong supporter of the Labour Party's foreign policy.

MAJOR ATTLEE, the Under Secretary for War is the son of a President of the Incorporated Law Society. He is a barrister, an earnest member of the Inde-

BRITAIN'S FIRST LABOUR GOVERNMENT

A Happy Surprise to the Nation: Biographical Notes on Its Members with Some Estimates of Their Peculiarities

By Our Labour Correspondent

Manchester, Jan. 25.

On the night when the Conservative Party was defeated in Parliament one of its old True Blue members is said to have unhappily groaned, "The awful thought is creeping over me that Labour may form a very efficient Government." Mr. MacDonald's Cabinet is not likely to do much to console this pessimist, for it contains not a few very able men. Among those who will have most to do with the shaping of Labour's policy are Lord Haldane, Mr. Sidney Webb, Mr. Noel Buxton, Colonel Wedgwood, Brigadier-General Thomson, Philip Snowden, and Mr. Wheatley. The "intellectuals" among the others will have their uses, but the trade union residue, despite their well known names, are only so much ballast. Their selection is a concession to the rank and file of the movement and to the fact that trade unionists pay the best part of Labour's political bill.

The names have come as a sharp surprise to the millions of people who know little more of Labour's political activities in Parliament than the ill bred interjections of that vulgar buffoon, Mr. Jack Jones. These are always well reported by the popular press. Nervous people will be consoled to see that Robert Smillie and George Lansbury are not included. They were offered positions but refused them. Had they accepted the Cabinet would have been faced in a more acute form with a problem that has already caused a difference of opinion. This is the question of Cabinet salaries. Smillie and Lansbury share the opinion of the rank and file of the movement and think that the new Cabinet Ministers should refuse the great Cabinet salaries. Had they entered the Cabinet they would have done so. But most of the present Cabinet have no sympathy with such Quixotry, particularly the trade union element. The argument of the Clydeside Socialists who are pressing this is that thousands of poor Labour enthusiasts deprived themselves of bare necessities to put Labour into power and they have a right to demand that the men they raised from the mines and the mills shall not live like plutocrats. To have acceded to this agitation would have been a wise tactical move on the part of the Cabinet and encouraged its supporters.

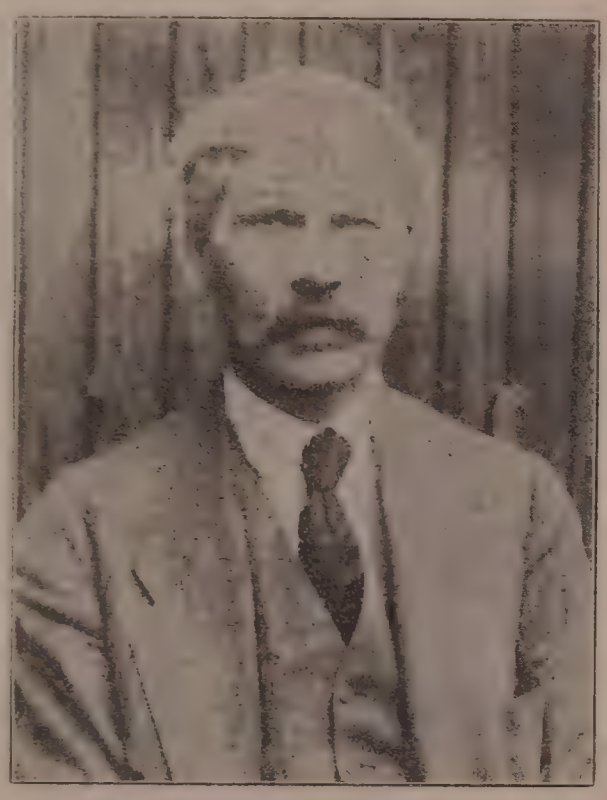
A CINEMA SENSATION MISSED.

The composition of the Cabinet is, of course, of much less importance under the present circumstances than it would be if Labour had a majority in the House over all other parties. It is compelled to limit itself to very modest proposals or be defeated by the withdrawal of Liberal support. The strength of the Opposition will also do a great deal towards binding its warring elements together. Unhappily for the cinema industry there will be little likelihood of Sir Frederick Banbury fulfilling his threat of leading the Coldstream Guards into the House to drive out an insurgent Labour Party. In some respects it is rather a pity, for the spectacle of this crusty, old City member chasing Colonel Wedgwood, D.S.O., Brigadier General Thomson, D.S.O., Major Atlee, Lord Haldane, and Mr. Patrick Hastings, K.C., across Palace Yard would have been not uninteresting.

A careful study of the Cabinet should also do something to disillusion those credulous simpletons who believe the "Daily Mail" assertion that British Labour is controlled by "alien Communists and criminals." Nor do they seem to have that profusion of whisker one would expect in satellites of the *Socialistische Arbeiter Internationale*. Yet in the opinion of Lord Rothermere this body supplies them with the whole of their policy.

THE PACIFIST ELEMENT.

The chief feature of the Cabinet is its pronounced Pacifist complexion. It is much stronger in personalities who take a strong [illegible] abolition of war than in members who are chiefly concerned with the curing of domestic ills, and the bringing about of a social revolution. Eighteen members of it are also members of the Independent Labour Party, Mr. MacDonald's pet organization. This Party has about 30,000 members, publishes a Labour weekly "The New Leader," takes a great interest in foreign affairs, in which its policy is invariably anti-British, and pursues a middle course in social reform. Seven Cabinet seats have been found for recent converts from the Liberal Party. MacDonald always warmly welcomes this kind of recruit and is concerned to make the change over a paying proposition. Out of 44 Ministerial appointments only 17 have been alloted to trade union officials. There would not have been this number only it was necessary to placate the miners. The only member in an important office who holds extreme Socialistic views and could by any stretch of imagination be called a revolutionary is Mr. Wheatley, a typical member of the new Scottish contingent. But there are one or two similar types among the Under Secretaries, notably Mr. Stinwell, a Jewish revolutionary.



Mr. Ramsay MacDonald
Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary

The following are some notes on members of the Cabinet.

PREMIER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD.

Born in 1866 at Lossiemouth, Scotland, the present Prime Minister of Great British was brought up by his grandmother. After a brief schooling he worked in the fields, but the village dominie took an interest in him and urged him to study and become a pupil teacher. At the age of 20 he came to London and found a situation addressing envelopes at 12s. 6d a week. He studied in his spare time, and obtained a post as private secretary to a Liberal M.P. This was the first rung on the ladder of fame. A few years later he threw in his lot with the Socialists, where his talents attracted immediate attention. He unsuccessfully stood for Parliament in the Labour interest in 1895, and 1900, but won a seat in the 1906 election. His wife was the daughter of Dr. Gladstone, and a very gifted and much beloved woman. She took a deep interest in the lives of charwomen and barmaids. She died in 1911, and there is a beautiful memorial to her memory in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

In 1914, MacDonald took up a strong anti-war attitude, and became the most hated man in Great Britain. His pacifist writings and speeches were definitely anti-British if not pro-German. He never deviated from this attitude through the whole course of the war. A trade union crew refused to sail with him on board when he desired to attend a Socialist conference in Russia In the general election of 1918 he was overwhelmingly defeated, and again at a by-election in Woolwich. But as wages went down and schemes for reconstruction were abandoned through the press anti-waste agitation his prestige gradually increased again. A foul attack on him by Bottomley in "John Bull" won him much sympathy from people who disagreed with his political opinions. He entered Parliament in the 1922 election and with the assistance of the Clydeside Labour members won the leadership of the Labour Party from Clynes by a narrow majority. His Parliamentary skill gave the Party new life.

Apart from his unquestioned intellectual gifts the secret of his success lies in his peculiar position. A feature of the Labour Left is its pacifism. Mr. MacDonald is a pacifist but not an extremist in the Socialistic sense. Yet he has no affinity with the trade unionist Right. In the eternal struggle that goes on in the Party between the Right and Left, both about evenly matched, each side is able to find points of agreement with MacDonald. Add to this his brilliant debating power, his intellectual gifts, and his aloofness from the petty intrigues of his followers and the secret of his prestige is revealed. He is respected by his followers but he is not loved, as for instance, Mr Lansbury and Mr. Smillie are. Nor is he popular with the rank and file of the movement. He is a bitter enemy of the Bolshevists. They swept away the Social Democratic Constitution he planned for his friends the Georgians.

LORD PRIVY SEAL AND LEADER IN THE COMMONS, RT. HON. J. R. CLYNES.

There is no more popular Labour leader than Mr. Clynes. His father was an Irish labourer, and at the age of 10 the present Lord Privy Seal of Great Britain was working as a little piecer in an Oldham cotton mill. In his teens he took an active part in organizing the Piecers' Union. Navvies and labourers were his next interest and he did much pioneer work in organizing them. He is the President of the National Union of General Workers.

He entered Parliament in 1906, and joined the first Coalition Government in the Labour interest in 1917. He succeeded Lord Rhondda as Food Controller in 1918. He is an Hon. D.C.L. of Durham and Oxford.

Mr. Clynes' popularity owes its existence to the fact that his moderation does not arise so much from an ambition to "get on," or from a desire to obtain a lucrative Government appointment as from an instinctive distrust of extreme measures and revolutionaries. He once refused a safe Government job at three times his trade union salary. His success in important Government offices arises from a rare ability to refrain from meddling, and the wit to know that the permanent official usually knows his job better than an amateur. He took the patriotic side during the war, has no more brains than the average old-fashioned trade union member, but has a much easier manner. He will have little influence in the Cabinet, but his presence there will please the man in the street and reassure anxious supporters of the older political parties.

The Rt. Hon J. R. Clynes
Lord Privy Seal

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, MR. PHILIP SNOWDEN.

Born in 1864, the son of an operative weaver, Mr. Snowden entered the Civil Service in 1886 and retired seven years later to take up lecturing and journalism for a living. He attributes every evil from which man suffers, from war to venereal disease, to Capitalism. The devil was not more real to the late "General" Booth than Capitalism to Philip, we say "was" advisedly, for Parliament rubbed some of the angularities off this proletarian Savonarola. During the war he was more pro-German than MacDonald. He favours a bureaucratic State Socialism of the most pestilent kind. A bicycle accident in his youth made him a cripple for life, and he can only walk with the aid of two sticks. He entered Parliament in 1906, and returned to it in 1922, when the working classes realized that it was the intention of the Coalition to make them pay for the war. With Philip Snowden as Chancellor of the Exchequer it is consoling to remember that the Liberals can always turn Labour out if it should be so ill-advised as to try any Socialistic experiments.

LORD CHANCELLOR, LORD HALDANE

For more than 20 years Lord-Haldane has been connected with the Fabians but it is only since the war that he has shown definite Labour leanings. The bitter attacks made on him by the Conservatives during the early years of the war, and the very lukewarm defence made by his Liberal colleagues have probably done not a little to disillusion him with the older political parties. He has been in Parliament from 1885 to 1915, and resigned during the Cabinet crisis in May 1915. He introduced the Territorial Force, and was Secretary of State for War from 1906—1912. He is supposed to be an opponent of the Capital Levy but is in sympathy with Labour's desire for more drastic measures of social reform.

The Rt. Hon. J. R. Thomas
Colonial Secretary

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, LORD PARMOOR.

Better known as Sir Arthur Cripps, Vicar General of Canterbury and York, an authority on ecclesiastical law, and a well known Unionist it is difficult to understand why Lord Parmoor has been selected for his present office by Mr. MacDonald. He will be the Party's leader in the House of Lords, and is expected to advise Mr. MacDonald on foreign affairs.

S. V. C. GYMNASIUM

A Fine Hall and Equipment Seldom in Use: Material Not Taken Out of Cases

It is only to be expected that public bodies should experience an almost uninterrupted run of criticism, much of it coming from interested persons or over-enthusiastic idealists, but some of it undoubtedly genuine, purposeful and useful. The Shanghai Municipal Council is by no means an exception to the rule, but nevertheless there are times when the Council accedes to what is said to be a public necessity or desire, makes the necessary arrangements and spends the ratepayers' money, and then finds itself let down. The S.V.C. Gymnasium is a case in point.

As things are at present, the S.V.C. Gymnasium is a colossal failure, but one cannot say that the blame should be laid to the account of the Municipal Councillors, either collectively or individually, except that perhaps, in their capacity as private citizens, they might have made more strenuous efforts to persuade the younger men in their employ, or with whom they associate, to make more use of the Gymnasium. The same charge, however, equally can be made against any resident in Shanghai with such a degree of influence. In the days when the Volunteers shared the Town Hall with flower shows, charity bazaars, choral efforts, prize distributions and Ratepayers' Meetings and when the Municipal Council and those who aid it in doing what everybody else could do much better—but will not attempt—were housed in various widely separated and mostly dilapidated buildings, it was the general argument that it was hopeless to expect the Volunteers to become a really efficient and co-ordinated body until they were given permanent, separate and properly equipped headquarters of their own, these to include club rooms to which Volunteers would be attracted because of the Volunteer atmosphere and associations, and, almost more important than anything, a gymnasium where they could learn those arts of fighting not taught by the drill book and where they could make and keep themselves physically fit. The Councillors made a note of the fact and included all such things in the design of the new Administration Building. The very first part of the building to be opened was the S.V.C. drill hall, and before many of the administrative offices were finished there was also opened, with much flattering and congratulatory talk, the S.V.C. club and gymnasium.

GOOD MONEY WASTED.

It is not the present purpose to say much about the club. It was doubtful from the first whether it was a real necessity, for the Settlement is comfortably supplied with social clubs, but it is a fact that no necessity for additional accommodation as yet has arisen. As to the gymnasium, it is doubtful whether 150 different men have been in it for purposes of exercise since it was opened. It is not a big place, certainly, but it is well designed and it is quite big enough for the purposes of the S.V.C. on the latter's present establishment. The fitting up of the place leaves nothing to be desired. There is all the secondary accommodation one expects to find in a modern gymnasium and there is equipment sufficient for a much larger place.

The equipment is the saddest chapter in the story. In the Settlement's yearly budget a few hundred, or even a few thousand taels will not make a great difference either way, but in these hard times no one cares to see even Tls. 100 spent without any return whatever. When the Municipal Council equipped the Gymnasium they did it thoroughly and every credit is due to whoever was responsible for the selection of the material. And there it lies, very little of it worn or marked by the hands, feet and bodies of healthy young athletes, a few pieces broken because of mismanagement by unskilled people, and the greater part of it mildewed, rusty, or dust-covered. There are long lockers and shelves from the floor to the ceiling packed with every imaginable kind of athletic apparatus and clothing which has not been touched since the day it was first put there. There are stacks of spring-bayonet rifles which have never been handled and many which never have been taken out of their cases. There are dozens of expensive masks and body guards with never a scratch on the leather nor the smallest piece of enamel chipped off them.

AN OPPORTUNITY MISSED.

Some time ago, an attempt was made in these columns to revive the old Fencing Club, and there happen to be in Shanghai two fully qualified Russian officers of high rank and the best testimonials who for a long time have been anxious to start a fencing school—which would be an admirable institution in Shanghai, especially as providing the best exercise for ladies—but they have been unable to get the apparatus. In the S.V.C. Gymnasium there are foils, single-sticks, masks, jackets, gauntlets and everything that is required, but no one to use them.

Shanghai goes in large numbers to watch "Kids," "Babes" and "Terrors" from the Philippines hammer each other in the boxing ring, but when half a dozen enthusiastic Volunteers, noting the fine assortment of gloves, medicine balls, punching balls, etc., provided by the Municipal Council, attempted to form an S.V.C. Boxing Club in the Gymnasium, their effort fell flat and now the club is no more. These statements all are vouched for by a representative of the "North-China Daily News" who has visited the Gymnasium on several occasions to see for himself.

A TINY BAND OF ENTHUSIASTS.

It is quite possible that, had the Municipal Council, besides building a fine gymnasium and equipping it with almost everything in the way of apparatus that could be desired, also engaged a fully qualified instructor and given wide advertisement to the fact, many would have gone along to gaze at a being so rare in Shanghai, and, having seen him on the "ands, dahn," "rahnd the bar, hup," etc., would have stayed that they might learn to do likewise. There was one such in the Settlement, keen to take on such a job, having failed to secure sufficient support for a scheme to establish a gymnastic club on which he had been working for years, but he was allowed to go. However, that is not the only reason for the failure of the Gymnasium.

There is at least one amongst the Volunteers who bears the hall mark of a gymnasium athlete. Anyone who has had experience of gymnasiums could tell him at a glance. For several years he practised in the London Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium and though he has not got an instructor's certificate, that probably is only because he has not tried for it. He may not be qualified, but he is competent to instruct, as can be vouched for by the writer, who has seen him at work. Naturally the S.V.C. Gymnasium attracted him from the start and when he saw how things were going—or, perhaps it ought to be said, were not going—he took it upon himself to pull the thing together. He had the backing of a few men as keen as himself, but lacking in experience, and they have done everything possible by regular attendance themselves and working as a class, and by bringing in their friends as often as they could, to awaken enthusiasm. On Mondays and Thursdays every week they still attend as a class, and they drop in for independent practice as often as they can, but they do not deny that they have failed to interest any others. It is a great pity, for the writer saw five of them and their instructor at work one evening and they performed so well, though of the five there was only one who could not be called a novice, that he cheerfully stayed for over an hour. Had he been under 40 years, or had there been someone there who could use the foils, his own jacket and boots would have come off.

POSSIBLE INSTRUCTORS.

It was the same with the short-lived S.V.C. Boxing Club. They also had at their head a young fellow so clever with the gloves that, despite all the fame of the imported professional "Kids" and "Babes," probably he could dust them round the ring for a while if only they fought for sport and not for dollars. He also had with him half-a-dozen enthusiasts and they tried hard to interest others in the S.V.C., but they also failed. Bayonet fighting and single-stick work never have been tried yet, because no competent instructor has come forward. Yet amongst the Orderly Room staff and the many veterans of the Great War now in Shanghai there must be several who have acquired sufficient knowledge to teach at least the preliminaries, though of course they are not likely to volunteer their services if they are to get no better support than the other two to whom reference has been made. Should there be no competent instructor permanently residing in the Settlement, one could be certain the Senior Naval Officer, with the readiness the officers of H.M. Navy always show in helping any of us when we are at a loss and they have the remedy, would make such arrangements that there always would be available a competent instructor from one or other of the men-o'-war in harbour. If that were done, and the pupils stuck to their work, they could be relied upon to become very efficient swordsmen in a very short while, for there is nothing that will teach guards and parries more quickly than the good beef-fed arm of a British sailorman laying on with a single-stick.

HOW TO EXCITE INTEREST.

The first thing to be done, however, is to arouse interest in the Gymnasium and to secure the regular attendance of sufficient men to justify amateur instructors giving up their time or professionals being paid for the coaching. Before the writer had more intimate knowledge of the actual state of affairs, it was suggested that a grand assault-at-arms should be arranged, to include boxing and gymnastic competitions between units, with the idea that many men not at present attending the gymnasium, but who have sufficient pride in their respective units, would get into practice with a view to evenging defeats or retaining honours. But that cannot be done with six gymnasts and six boxers!

If one could suggest any course of action either the Commandant or the Civil Commandant could take to popularize the Gymnasium undoubtedly they would be more than pleased, for its failure cannot be laid to their account. As the few men who do use the place also have failed to impress their comrades, there is little else to suggest save that there might be a concerted effort by unit commanders and by employers who have an interest in the Corps to persuade young Volunteers that it would be worth their while to spend a little more time in the Gymnasium and a little less at tea dances and mahjong. One such lecture will not be enough: it should be repeated.

WHAT BAYONETS ARE FOR.

The neglect of the Gymnasium inclines one to ask the younger members of the S.V.C. whether they really take their work in the Corps seriously—that is to say, whether they think a defensive force for the Settlement is necessary, whether that was the reason for their enrolling, and whether they consider they now are doing all that is necessary to make themselves competent soldiers for the work they one day may have to do. Bayonets have various uses. Corks are carried on a few of them when the colours are paraded, they give lance-corporals an air of authority when they do orderly duties during camp, and the other fellow's bayonet is a fine thing with which to open a bully-beef tin. No great amount of practice is needed to use the bayonet for these purposes.

One of the principle reasons, however, for which the bayonet was invented was its use as a weapon of offence and defence, particularly the former. It is quite possible that not a few engagements have been won by the mere sight of the bayonet, for a line of wild-eyed, fiercely yelling men bearing down behind a row of bayonets is not a comforting spectacle to those on the pointed side of the argument. To use the bayonet in this way is a harder task.

A LONDON SCOTTISH STORY.

The story has been told before in Shanghai, but it may be repeated. Some years before the war, the London Scottish went out to Wimbledon Common for one of their periodical field days, but before they commenced operations Col. Malcolm rode out in front and told the men that when they got to the stage when they wound up with a spectacular charge upon the old windmill, with pipes sounding and all the rest of it, he did not want to see them perform in the way that had been customary for half a century, that is to say, race up to the grass plot in front of the windmill and then sit down and wait for the battalion travelling canteen to arrive. Instead, they were to charge for all they were worth, cheering themselves hoarse, and when they arrived at the grass plot they were to go through the motions of bayonetting imaginary enemies. When the charge was over there were scarcely 100 men in the whole battalion with breath and strength sufficient to wield a rifle and fixed bayonet. The Colonel rode up again, a grim smile on his face, and simply remarked:—"The gymnasium is open every Tuesday and Friday." The next Tuesday it was scarcely possible to move in the gymnasium. Colonel Malcolm probably felt well satisfied with what subsequently happened at Messines.

It is not easy to use the bayonet as a fighting weapon without a great deal of practice, but it is a very handy arm when used by an expert. Physical fitness is necessary to make a beginning with its use and the S.V.C. Gymnasium offers the opportunity to become fit and keep fit. Practice then is required in the points, parries and guards and there are stacks of spring bayonets in the gymnasium with which these can be practised.

BE FIT.

The foregoing has been mainly an appeal to the soldier to perfect himself as a soldier. There is a joy, however, in feeling physically fit at any time and one may repeat the advice given recently by Sir Skinner Turner, chief Judge of H. M. Supreme Court, when speaking at a school prize distribution:—

"Remember one great maxim—'Be fit.' You cannot do your work in school or in your calling in after life unless you are fit in mind. Fitness of mind and body, coupled together and working together, will lead to that success in life which you will deserve by your efforts to get it."

It cannot said in this case, as it was some while ago with regard to ponies, yachts and sports clubs, that they cost too much for the average young man. There is no expense about the S.V.C. Gymnasium. If these articles persuade any Volunteers to call at the gymnasium some evening in order to see for themselves the facts are as stated, their purpose will have been served, for gymnasium work is to the young as contagious as measles. If a few young Volunteers will go and see the work that is being done by the handful who do use the Gymnasium, it will not be very difficult to persuade them to essay the same.

BRITAIN'S LABOUR CABINET

Mr. Ammon's Fight for Fame

By Sonam.

An important omission from your Labour correspondent's biographical notes on the members of Britain's First Labour Government is Mr. C. G. Ammon. The story of Charlie Ammon's fight for fame is of interest, for it reveals the real reason why "Labour may form a very efficient Government."

For nearly 27 years Mr. Ammon toiled as a letter sorter in a dusty sorting office and, in spite of the constant strain upon eyes and nerves, found sufficient energy to become the driving force of the social reformers who were struggling to improve the standard of living in the Bermondsey slums.

Forty-eight hours a week did he strive to satisfy the demands of supervising officials at the South Eastern District Office, many of whom were only too ready to take advantage of any negligence or lack of energy in the performance of his official duties. Evenings were spent in organizing the local branch of the Independent Labour Party; annual holidays were opportunities for visiting the great centres of industrial welfare work such as Port Sunlight; Sunday's relaxation took the form of holding services and preaching sermons in an obscure mission in South Bermondsey, where he lived.

Other demands upon this apparently inexhaustible source of energy included: the editorship of the "Post," the trade union organ of the Fawcett Association; articles to leading magazines and newspapers; preparation of cases, as a member of deputations of postal employees, to the P.M.G.; active support to the local candidate for Parliament, and so on and on.

A lean, wiry figure of medium height that would not attract attention but for the determined jaw and deep-set luminous eyes which, to an intelligent observer, speak most eloquently and reveal the strength of the Labour Party, —energy and determination. Such is one of Britain's First Labour Government, and of such material, many of the new names.

The period for erecting temporary buildings in the fire stricken areas in Tokio and Kanagawa prefectures which was to have expired at the end of this month has been extended six months by action of the Cabinet Council and will be authorized by Imperial ordinance.

VEGETABLY SPEAKING

As I was walking on Avenue Joffre
I saw the treasures it did offer:
In every barrow, truck, and cart
Were vegetables for the mart.

I turned into the Roi Albert
And there the carrots waved their hair,
And all along Great Western Road
The egg-plants gleamed a purple load.

But when I came to Bubbling Well
'Twas cabbages they tried to sell,
While beans from many an earthy furrow
Trundled the Road of Edinburgh.

From Hongkew Park to Siccawei
The spinach tossed its luscious spray.
I spied the onion and the leek
Upon the banks of Soochow Creek.

I saw both white and sweet potato
Along the street of Lt. Pétiot,
And something very like a chard
In single file on Rue Ratard.

The bamboo shoots on Route Dupleix,
The beets on Burkill seemed to say
From Bund to Jessfield, up and down,
Shanghai's indeed a Growing Town.

Cyclops.

pendent Labour Party and an energetic propagandist against war and secret treaties. He was wounded in the attempt to relieve Kut, and commanded the covering corps at Suvla in the Galipoli expedition. He is a post-war recruit to Labour and is regarded as one of its intellectuals.

Frank Hodges, the Civil Lord of the Admiralty, is a young man of 34. Early in life he worked in the mine, and was later educated at Ruskin College. He was a conspicuous figure in the mining strike of 1921 and is supposed to have a great future before him. Politically he is a Centre man in the Labour Party. A more intellectual type than the average mining M.P.

Mr. Leach, the Under Secretary to the Ministry, is a wealthy Bradford mill owner who has long been a supporter of the Labour Party.

Mr. Rhys Davies, the Under Secretary to the Home Department has been a farm labourer, a miner, a co-operative employee, and a trade union official. He should go far, as he has a command of language surpassing that of Lloyd George, tremendous ambition, and few political scruples.

Mr Arthur Greenwood, Parliamentary Secretary to the Health Ministry was formerly lecturer on economics to the University of Leeds. He is in charge of the Research department at Eccleston Square, the Labour headquarters, and is a very able man.

Miss Margaret Bondfield Parliamentary Secretary to the Labour Ministry, is the recognized leader of the women's trade union movement in Great Britain. She worked for 11 years as a shop assistant and co-operated with Lady Dilke in the difficult task of organizing working [illegible]. Last year she was appointed Chairman to the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress. She has just entered Parliament for Northampton. She is 51 years old and one of the best liked leaders of the Labour movement.

Mr. Ben Spoor, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip, is the son of a manufacturer. He is 35 years old, and has travelled extensively in India and Egypt. He has been a member of the I.L.P. for more than 20 years and is a pacifist.

Mr Morgan Jones, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, was one of the best known conscientious objectors. He spent most of the war years in prison, and was one of the founders of the No-Conscription Fellowship. He was a teacher, and one of the Governors of the University of Wales and is a Baptist lay preacher.

Mr. Shinwell, Parliamentary Secretary for Mines is a Jew, and the son of an East End clothier. He is one of the most brilliant debaters the Labour Party has in Parliament, where his caustic wit soon attracted attention. He is connected with a marine worker's union and is a member of the extreme Glasgow contingent.

Other Under Secretaries, are Mr. Graham an Edinburgh journalist and a moderate. Mr. W. Lunn a working miner and Primitive Methodist preacher. Mr. F. O. Roberts, a compositor [illegible] moderate. Mr. Sidney Arnold an intellectual, and an [illegible] on the Capital Levy [illegible] posals. Mr. A. V. Alexander Co-operative Member who [illegible] the rank of Captain during the war, and Mr. James Stewart a Glasgow hairdesser 60 years of age, an authority on Housing in Scotland, and a member of the Left wing of the Party.

A new Tsar of all the Russias has been secretly crowned. Paris papers state that the coronation of the Grand Duke Cyril, cousin of the late Tsar Nicholas II., took place at St. Cloud last month, where his Highness was living in exile. The ceremony, performed behind the closely shuttered windows of the residence of the Grand Duke's cousin, Grand Duke Boris, was one of the strangest in history. It is said that Russian monarchists generally have pledged their support to Cyril, hoping that he will win back the throne when the Soviet Government falls.

IMPROVED CHINESE COTTON

Results of Mill Tests on Staple Produced by the University of Nanking: Encouraging Features: A Review of the Present Situation

That new and hitherto undreamed of possibilities have been opened up in the growing of cottons of superior quality in China has been made evident by the results of recent spinning tests carried on simultaneously by three of the leading cotton mills in Shanghai on commercial samples of the improved cotton being grown by the University of Nanking. These results are the more interesting in the face of an otherwise most deplorable cotton situation in China. The mills are paying record breaking prices and receiving in return the most inferior product on the world's markets. Bad enough as it is with its short coarse and uneven fibres, yet every bale arrives reeking and often mildewed with moisture and sometimes adulterated with sand, seed, or other objectionable product. The press of late has been filled with somewhat facetious articles bearing upon the cotton situation, some writers taking the stand that a good cotton in China like a good government is non-existent and never will exist.

This hopeless attitude has been partly justified by the many failures to introduce an American cotton without its immediate deterioration and by the seemingly wide breach between the low quality native cottons and the American Middling.

RESULTS AFTER FOUR YEARS.

The Department of Cotton Improvement of the University of Nanking with the support of the Cotton Millowners' Association of China and the Cotton Anti-Adulteration Association, however, has been conducting extensive acclimatization work on two American varieties and selection for improvement of the Chinese plant along lines that have been proved successful in the work of the Department of Agriculture in America. The results of the work after four years of intensive effort have been evident to those who could examine the product in the laboratory or by those who saw the fields and picked the cotton from the open bolls as the members of the Cotton Millowners' Association of China who visited Nanking in early November can bear witness.

It remained, for actual performance throughout the various mill operations to determine the actual worth and possibilities of the improved cottons. Tests were made of each of the three types that have been established; the acclimatized Trice (American), the acclimatized Acala (American), and the new variety of Chinese cotton known as "Million Dollar." A few extracts from each of the reports may be quoted to advantage.

From mill testing the bale of acclimatized Trice American cotton we take the following quotation:

"Herewith the results of the tests and samples of roving yarn, grey cloth and bleached cloth made from the cotton grown at Nanking.

"The Cotton gave splendid working results. Good colour, free from sand, leaf, seed and water. Better than many deliveries of good Middling American."

IMPORTANT FIGURES.

Data taken from the figures on losses in handling through the breaking, opening and scutching operations compared with sample of cotton from America classed as Strict Middling (Liverpool) are as follows:

Waste Loss	200 lb. Samples from America	300 lb samples Trice Cotton from University of Nanking.
Through bale breaker and Creighton opener	5.50 lb.	4.00 lb.
Hopper feed porcupine and opener	7.75	11.93
Scutcher	3.75	4.50
Total	17.00	20.43
Loss per cent.	8.50	6.81

In comparison of tests in strength of yarn of 20's counts made from the Nanking Trice with Good Middling American, Fully Middling American and 50 per cent. American and 50 per cent. Cambodia mixture, the record was as follows:

Counts.	Class of Cotton.	Strength.
20's Warp	G. M. American	75 lb.
20's Warp	F. M. American	70 lb.
20's Warp	50% American	65 lb.
20's Warp	50% Cambodia	65 lb.
20's Warp	Nanking Trice	72 lb.

These results indicate that the American cotton acclimatized at Nanking gave less waste in handling and had strength equivalent to the best grades of cotton imported from America.

THE VERDICT ON TRICE.

The report of the study of the Acala American cotton was even more favourable as this variety is superior to Trice. A few quotations from the elaborate and careful study of this cotton are as follows:

"In carrying out the test for spinning 2/42's yarn we found the cotton to fulfil all the requisite requirements much more than Good Middling. In fact we think it could be used more advantageously for spinning higher counts than 42's.

"Owing to the length and strength of Acala cotton we have been able to widen the gauge of the rollers and to speed up the rollers thus increasing production. Relative productions of Acala and ordinary mixings were as follows:—

Quality	Weight per lea	twist per inch	Strength per lea	Production per 11 hours
	Grains		lbs	oz.
Ordinary mixing	24.4	28.0	34	2.6
Acala	23.6	31.3	36	3.6

"It is easy to see from the above figures that Acala weighed less—using less quantity—required a lower number of twist, had greater strength and greater production which are all in its favour. Besides, having a lower number of twist, the yarn is soft to the touch and more beautiful.

"The results, as above written, show Acala to be a very fine cotton and if all the defects are remedied as no doubt they could be done, we think still better results could be looked for."

"MILLION DOLLAR" COTTON.

The most interesting report of all is the record of the results of the new variety of improved Chinese cotton known as the "Million Dollar." It has been rather universally accepted as a fact that no cotton indigenous to China can compare in respect to length, fineness, strength, colour or value to the American product. Without mixing with superior cottons from India or America it is seldom spun into anything but the coarser counts ranging from 10s. to 16s.

The following extract from the spinning departments report of the mill making this test is therefore significant:

"Herewith report respecting the spinning of sample Chinese cotton.

"In the first instance this cotton supersedes our ordinary Chinese cotton in texture, length, quality, and colour, and was able to spin much finer counts with increased draft. Revolutions of front roller and revolutions of spindles were greatly increased, those predominant factors resulting with such a cotton as the sample in far superior yarns, considerable increase in production, less waste, and less labour required, and we are confident that if it were possible to have this class quality of cotton all through it would reduce the cost of labour 50 per cent.

"Having spun samples of counts, 14's warp and 17's weft for weaving and counts 20's, 28's, 32's, 36's, and 42's, for reeling, we conclude that counts 32's could be spun commercially and profitably and would not recommend finer counts than 32's, being confident that this would hold its own second to none if put on the market."

Sample Chinese Cotton.

Counts	Test in lb.	Turns per inch	Revs. front roller	Revs. of spindle	Dia. of pulley
Warp 14's	96	14.20	180	8,300	11"
Weft 17's	81	15.29	148	7,000	13"
20's	59	16.57	135	7,000	13"
28's	43	20.97	106	7,000	13"
32's	37	22.72	92	7,000	13"
36's	30	25.86	92	7,000	13"
42's	23	29.10	78	7,000	13"

Hankow Cotton.

Warp	14's	68	18.49	110	7,000	13"
Weft	17's	50	21.19	102	7,000	13"

SUPERIOR TO AMERICAN.

The samples delivered from the this last test convey in a manner more vivid than figures or statements the contrasting quality of this new variety with common stocks on account of its extraordinary whiteness, lustre, and smoothness both in the yarn and cloth. In these respects the appearance is manifestly superior even to the American cotton.

The variety of Chinese cotton from which the raw stock was supplied is an absolutely new strain bred at the University of Nanking from a single plant discovered near Woosung in the Autumn of 1919. This was only one, although the best one of over 40,000 selections made in an effort to secure such an improved strain and which as the mill test above demonstrates has been actually accomplished.

From the few seeds saved from first plant, seven plants were grown in 1920, the following year several hundred, and the progeny carefully multiplied again until in 1924 there will be sufficient seed for over 200 mow of this variety, and the year following should see 10 to 20 times that area.

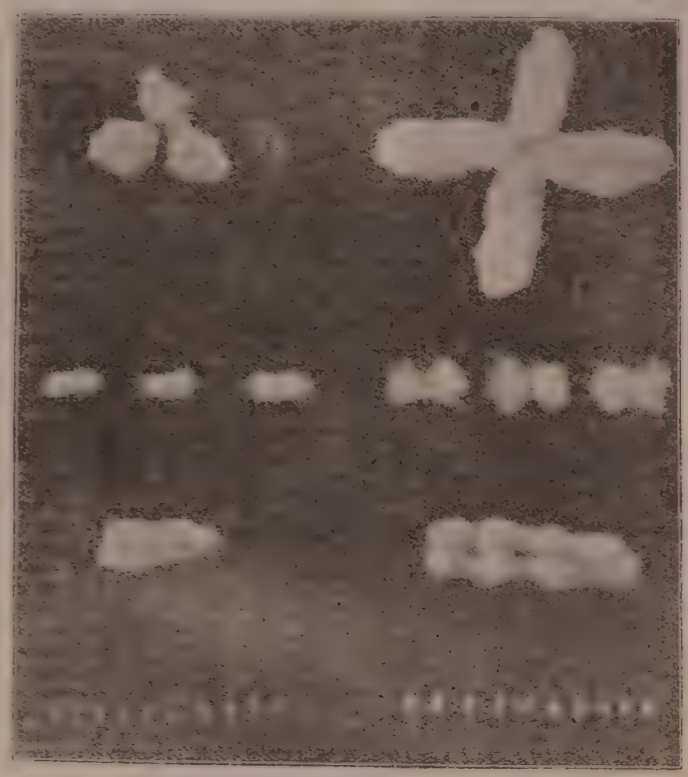
An indigenous cotton of high standard should be of considerable significance for a number of reasons, chief of which is that the American cottons which prove quite adaptable to the interior cannot be grown successfully in the great delta region of Yangtze, which is the most important cotton producing area of China.

DEGENERATION OVERCOME.

The tests of the two varieties of American cotton indicated are from stocks now in the fourth year of their propagation. The fact is thoroughly demonstrated that the problem of degeneration has been overcome through intensive selection and that throughout a large area in China cottons equal to and even superior to the Good Middling Upland of America can be successfully grown.

The rapidity with which these improved cottons will become a commercial factor on the market will depend in a large measure on how carefully these selected seed supplies may be multiplied without loss. To this end an effort is being made to organize pure seed growing communities with co-operating farmers. About 10 tons of seed will be so distributed at the planting time of next Spring.

The complete reports of the three mills making the test contain many more details of interest and serve to verify further the merits of these improved cottons, and can be seen by any one in the office of Mr. R. J. McNicol of the Mill Department of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ld. who is Chairman of the Cotton Millowners' Association.



COMPARISON BETWEEN IMPROVED CHINESE COTTON AND ORDINARY CHINESE COTTON.

Ordinary — Improved

COMPARISON BETWEEN ACCLIMATIZED AMERICAN COTTON AND DETERIORATED AMERICAN COTTON.

Deteriorated — Acclimatized

it clear enough. The new nationalistic spirit will be a tremendous force for reform, putting an effective check upon officialdom, whenever it is focussed upon internal affairs. The Powers can help to turn this force inwards by refusing to accept make-believe, refusing to concur in false appraisements and by insisting upon judging official China strictly upon its merits.

THE PEOPLE THINKING.

Schools, newspapers, such meagre means of communication as exist, chambers of commerce, all manner of societies, secret and public students unions and the like are all teaching great masses of the people to observe and think. Public opinion has not won many triumphs in China but it has won some and it is a growing force, feared more every day by officials of all classes. In its growth public political opinion has run off on many wild tangents and is now such a erratic, uncertain force that it is scarcely worth taking into consideration in most big issues. But its growth is none the less hopeful. A man must think and express himself to learn to think. Wisdom comes largely through mistakes corrected, never through apathy and silence. Public opinion in China as it grows is surging through several main courses. The main tide is in the direction of peace.

It is being officially encouraged through precept into an anti-foreign channel and being driven just as surely through adversity into an anti-official channel. A great part of the banditry in China, uncomfortable as it is for everyone, must be accepted as an expression of popular anti-official opinion, since a great part of it is purely amateur outlawry. There can be no doubt that a great majority of the bandits now in the field are protestants against intolerable conditions who would be good citizens under a good government. When an official has ruined trade, has taxed the people to the limit of their resources and has then allowed his soldiers and the professional brigands to loot what is left, the weak crawl into the ditches and die, while the strong take to the hils with their grass knives and clubs and declare war on authority. By letting this kind of public opinion gather strength and momentum the officials are guaranteeing China peace of a sort through a fundamental upheaval. Those Chinese who want another kind of peace through a more moderate expression of public opinion had better lend their efforts to guiding it.

THE SCHOOLS.

There is no limit to what could be done through the schools nor to what probably will be done through them in the next generation, if not in this, towards inculcating a sane patriotism. It is impossible to run a school in which history is taught without purveying politics, and every Chinese school is bubbling over with political theory. But it is neither well balanced nor sound. The schools have leaped from conservative Confucianism to the most radical extremes. They take great delight in all the new political theories and do mental calisthenics with them; and then, when they are about ready to leave school, they have acquired enough poise to look back upon all their political discussions as so much fireworks and in turning to something practical find that the most practical thing they can do is to become atached to some political clique, become an official and make a quick and easy fortune. They look out over the commercial fields, see how they are limited and shadowed by officialdom and decide that "still the best thing is to be an official," as the writer has heard so many discouraged youngsters say in that identical phrase.

What has to be taught in the schools, if they are to serve the ends of peace and good government within a seasonable time, is that an official in any government worth the name is not a parasite but a servant and a hard worked and very moderately paid servant, and that any other kind of an official is either a highwayman or a sneak thief. The teachers of China are an essentially upright, idealistic lot of men. As a body they are bitterly opposed to China's political trend, but as a body they have flown off to all the wildest "isms" for refuge and have evolved among themselves no sane conception of patriotism. The students follow their lead. There is every evidence, however, that the teachers like all other thinking Chinese, are about to pendulate back to conservatism. They may then swing forward again to a mild radicalism, and then back to a moderate conservatism which is where they belong. When they find their position and know it, they will be ready to go ahead and the students will, as usual, follow their lead. There are, by the way, enough foreigners teaching in China to do some effective propaganda among their colleagues and to set an example.

THE ONE ESSENTIAL.

The form of Government, in the writer's opinion has no great bearing upon the peace problem. The personnel has little more bearing. The one great esential to peace is that some effective control be put upon Government in China. It does not matter so very much whether the supreme authority is vested in an Emperor or in the people at large, so long as the supreme authority enjoys sufficient check upon the high officials, and the little officials, and the soldiers, and the unruly elements among the people which need to be ruled, to reinculcate discipline. The writer has had some hard things to say of Chinese officialdom. He would probably have much harder things to say of the Government of his own country if there were no more effective checks upon its politicians, officials and soldiers than are exercised in this country, because the Anglo-Saxon is a much more violent and dangerous person when he runs amok than the Chinese. A Government is like the engines and shafts of a ship. When everything is bolted in place and all the parts are running tightly in their bearings they drive the ship and all its cargo, crew and passengers, safely over rough seas. But when steering gears do not steer, when rudders break away, when big shafts break adrift and thresh about in the hold, when oil catches fire and boilers explode, the big engines become the most terrible instruments of destruction, endangering not only the ship and all in it, but all other navigation as well. The Chinese Government is an engine out of control. The ruts and bolts are all out of the thing and the officials are loose parts, out of gear, and dangerous in proportion to their weight.

Most of the remedies suggested for China's ills presuppose a Chinese officialdom amenable to discipline. Others, like intervention are not available. Others, like the oft-suggested restoration of a monarchy, are like suggestions to put salt on a bird's tail. They presuppose the existence of an adequate disciplinary force which if it did exist, would not have to worry about the medium of government but could choose what it would.

MULE NOT TIGER.

The writer thinks that those who are trying to bring peace in China by charting the course of the cart of state are wasting much mental energy. The essential task is to catch the wayward, braying mule that has got loose, to bridle him and rehitch him to the cart. Time enough then to talk of drivers and roads. The one comforting thought is that it is not a hungry tiger that has to be caught but really only a silly mule, docile at heart and intoxicated with liberty.

Whether peace in China is going to come through exhaustion or the exercise of force, or whether peace through violence and exhaustion are going to be forestalled by a worked out peace, no one can even guess. The writer can only express the assurance in his own mind that if all the foreign and domestic forces available—meaning moral forces largely—were intelligently focussed upon the one job of limiting, hampering, embarrassig and disciplining Chinese officialdom at every possible turn and from every possible angle, peace could be worked out long before any one would be prepared to fight it out.

The End.

Efforts of Hankow supporters of St. Dunstan's have led to the collection at a cabaret entertainment last week of $1,000.

MOTOR TRAFFIC IN PEKING

Where Might is Right and Tuchuns Laugh at Legations

By Rodney Gilbert

Peking, Feb. 22.

Street traffic in Peking though seldom as congested as the tiffin time traffic in Shanghai's business quarter has been the subject of much discussion among motorists here since General Feng Yu-hsiang's encounter with the Legation Quarter police last Friday night and is now pronounced an utterly hopeless problem in the light of the General's contention that he is above regulations and subject to no control. It has come to be more clearly recognized than ever that official traffic is always in the right and subject to no discipline whatever, while unofficial traffic is always in the wrong. Under such conditions the Peking traffic police exercise a partial control which is more confusing and often more exasperating and dangerous than none at all and in congested traffic they are no more than so many more obstacles to run around.

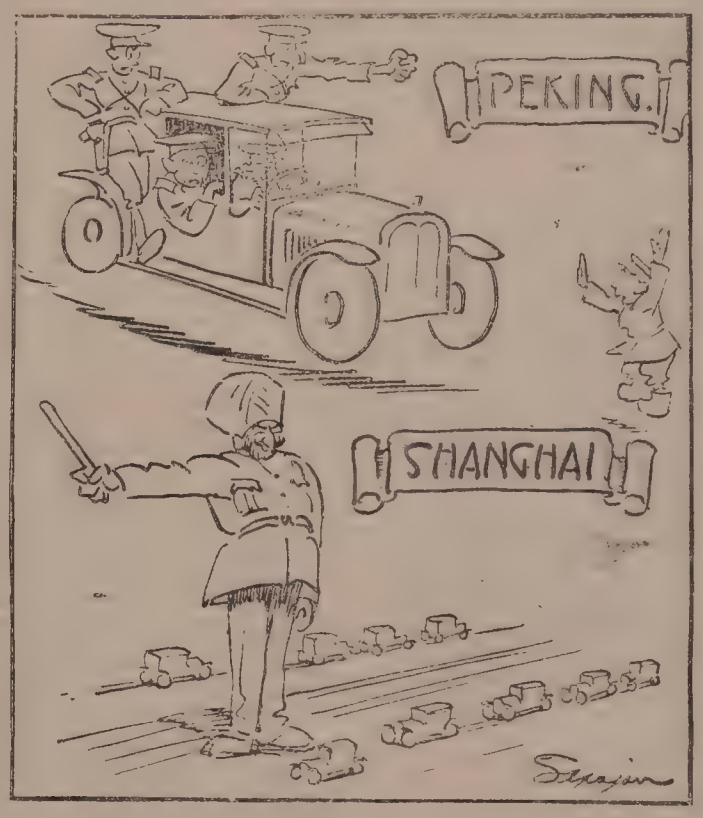
CHINA SAFE FOR AUTOCRACY

General Feng, who was on his way to dine with the American Minister was stopped in the Legation Quarter because his headlights were too bright. What happened in the ensuing scuffle is a matter for controversy in the press still, but the important point is that the Christian General is still grieved and indignant because anyone had the courage to stop his car on any account. It seems wholly beyond his comprehension that anyone, irrespective of office and titles, should be amenable to discipline by a person as insignificant as a policeman. It is this attitude, shared by every high Chinese official, which makes many problems in China so difficult of solution and which renders the traffic problem in Peking utterly hopeless.

There is no rule governing traffic in Peking except the one unwritten rule that the unofficial motorist who hits anything must pay, no matter whose fault it is, while the official never heeds, much less pays, for damage done by his car. In the old days before motor cars there was no traffic regulation but there were rules of the road which effectually regulated such slow moving traffic as there was. Everyone kept to the left. The man carrying a burden had right of way over a pedestrian travelling empty handed. The heavier and more unwieldly burden had the right of way over the lighter, as did the heavier and more unwieldly vehicle over the lighter. Official traffic took precedence over all other, but official traffic was also slow moving and accompanied by a noise and display which fully heralded it and gave everyone ample time to get out of the way.

AN EXAMPLE TO BANDITS.

These simple rules were unwritten, like the constitution in these days, but effective. Peking now has its motor car code as it has its constitution, which no one ever bothers to study and which no one in an official position thinks it worth while to heed. The car with a loud siren, blinding light and armed outriders, which travels at a dangerous speed through narrow streets packed with traffic, ignoring all signals from the police, will get there; while the car which obeys police signals and the common rules of road decency will get nowhere. One would think that the question of safety would dictate certain rules but it does not. The whole question of getting through is one of bluff. When pedestrians and rickshaw men see or hear a car charging through traffic with a show of importance they assume that it is an official car and get out of the way because they know that if they are run over or if their vehicles are smashed they will only be cursed for getting in the way. The policeman moreover makes every effort to hold up more modest traffic and give such a car the right of way because he knows that if there is an accident directly traceable to the official chauffeur's carelessness or ruthlessness, the chauffeur will not be reprimanded and that the humble traffic man who tries to call him to account will suffer in proportion to the energy he displays in enforcing the laws.



The Majesty of the Law and the Majesty of the Tuchun

THE LAW OF THE PISTOL.

Theoretically officials and their cars are subject to precisely the same rules as any other wayfarer. It would be better if they were formally exempted and had their cars marked with some distinctive sign. As it is the police make only the feeblest effort to enforce any rule because they never know whom they can check and who will take pains to have them reprimanded or discharged for daring to interfere. A chief secretary in a petty government bureau travelling in a battered hired car will take more trouble to demonstrate to the unfortunate policeman that he is above the law than a Tuchun. The only way to get anywhere therefore is to barge ahead and bluff. Everyone does it, even the rickshas, so that the traffic policeman is either in a perpetual frenzy and spends all of his time on duty exchanging abuse with carters, coolies, indifferent and absent minded pedestrians and reckless chauffeurs, or he is wholly apathetic and simply stands in the highway, sticking his arm out in any direction that a motor driver indicates, irrespective of what may be blocking the street or coming the other way.

There is no uniformity about lights at night. Those with no lights do not slacken their speed. Scores travel about with one lamp lighted and the other out, so that it is impossible to tell the exact position of the car. Well kept cars are equipped with dazzlingly brilliant lights supplemented by a spot light which the playful chauffeur turns upon approaching cars. Other traffic bugs the kerbs or ventures into the fairway at a decided risk.

Heavily loaded carts are not allowed on paved highways but have side routes assigned to them. This rule the military carts violate with impunity. They travel in long unbroken lines, sometimes fifty or a hundred of them, on the main thoroughfares, ruin the roads and hold up all traffic while they are passing. They stop their teams on crossings to fix harness or buy something from a stand and no traffic man dares order them to move on.

DUMMY POLICEMEN.

The driver's difficulties in Peking are complicated by the fact that the people have not yet adjusted their traffic sense to the new conditions which have arisen with the addition of ten thousand rickshas, several thousand carriages and nearly fifteen hundred motor cars to the old cart and wheelbarrow parade. Very few of the police seem to appreciate that gauging speed has anything to do with traffic control; and their one-arm signals, even when obeyed, are no guarantee of safety. A traffic man stands at a cross-road and, in response to a car coming from the east, points west, he himself facing north. A car coming from the north also wants to go west, sees the policeman's arm out and comes on. The two cars come together, veer off desperately, strike at an angle of forty-five degrees, kill the policeman between them and wreck a little ricsha traffic. The chauffeurs denounce each other vociferously. Other policemen rush up and would arrest them both. A crowd of five hundred people gathers to witness the show and all traffic is blocked. If neither is an official car both chauffeurs are carried off and the cars are left standing in the middle of the road with broken fenders interlocked. If both are official cars, the passengers present their cards, the cars are got home somehow and nothing more is ever heard of the affair.

A LEGATION QUARTER IN NAME.

Officials are so unused to discipline in traffic, as in all other things in China, that they cannot conceive of anyone attempting to enforce regulations against them. This is what happens to be wrong with Feng Yü-hsiang. It is a state of mind for which the diplomats who control the Legation Quarter have no right to make the slightest allowance if they intend to enforce any regulations at all upon anyone. The only cure at their disposal for such a state of mind as the Christian General's is to prohibit him the use of the Quarter and to enforce the prohibition rigourously. The higher the offender's position, the more promptly should such action be taken. Another way of impressing upon men like Feng Yü-hsiang that there are still people who respect discipline is to enforce the regulation which the Chinese now ignore prohibiting Chinese soldiers, whether armed or unarmed, from passing through the Quarter. At this writing literally hundreds of idle uniformed men trail through the Legation Quarter daily, absolutely unchecked. They monopolize the narrow sidewalks, edge pedestrians into the streets and otherwise assert their right to behave there as they do elsewhere. The diplomatic attitude is to ignore such symptoms until they are forced to put up barricades at the entrance and mount guns to prevent armed forces from parading in, just as it is their policy to ignore general conditions in China until they have to ask for gunboats and railway intervention.

CHINA'S SEARCH FOR PEACE

Why Not a Conference of Foreigners to Coerce their Governments? The Rightfulness of Defending Treaties

By Rodney Gilbert.

(Continued from Last Week)

A strict embargo upon money and credit through concerted action is even more important than an embargo upon arms. In all the political cliques which rule one or another part of China to the discomfiture of the Chinese producer and the foreign trader, it is money that makes the wheels go round. A predatory official group "on its uppers" falls to pieces over night and its leaders become pariahs whom anyone is free to stone. Loyalty in Chinese political circles can only be bought with money. The same is true in the army and in Chinese public life generally. Every dollar released directly or indirectly to an official clique prolongs its life and buys somewhere in China considerably more than a dollar's worth of disorder. Peace is dependent upon discipline and if there is anything in which China needs discipline and in which officialdom is badly spoiled it is finance. The money-lender and the liberal creditor are responsible for a very big share of China's troubles.

KILLING THE GOLDEN GOOSE.

China has contrived to put her own embargo upon both foreign and domestic credit by defaulting widely and discrediting her bonds on all markets. She has made it apparent to all past and would-be lenders that a security which cannot be foreclosed upon is no security at all. The time seems to be coming when Chinese officialdom will have to subsist and carry on its depredations on Chinese revenues, which is wholesome because there is a limit to China's possible revenues. If there is a strict foreign and domestic embargo upon loans and if China is at the same time held strictly to her obligations, exhaustion will improve conditions if nothing else does. When officialdom feels the urgent need of more money, and none is coming from without, officialdom trims the popular fleece a little shorter. The Chinese sheep will stand awfully short trimming if he has anything like fair grazing and enjoys a little peace of mind, but if you shave him to the skin and at the same time interrupt his feeding, he will die like any other sheep and cut off the supply of wool and mutton. You cannot promote increasing disorder in China by imposing heavier taxes and exactions without reducing production below the point where taxes are collectable.

THE RAKE'S PROGRESS.

Chinese officialdom is running precisely along this course. Its ranks are already swollen to enormous proportions by those whom it has deprived of other means of livelihood; and everyone whom it attracts to its ranks is a producer less to loot. The bandits and the soldiers, like the officials, increase in direct proportion to their destructiveness. Every increase means a shorter life for the whole organization. This cannot go on very long. Men like Marshal Tuan Chi-jui say that the breaking point is actually within sight. China's resources of energy, patience and underground wealth may be inexhaustible but her available resources are not tremendous. Her industrial equipment is particularly weak and every increase in the rapacious official horde not only exhausts more of her output but strains and breaks down more of the existing machinery.

Peace by exhaustion is not a pleasant solution for the business man in China to contemplate and there may be alternatives to it, but peace of any sort is certainly pleasanter to look forward to than indefinitely protracted chaos. And chaos is certainly protracted and made more chaotic every time the outsider comes into the arena on one side or the other with more arms, money, credit or "face," because under present conditions all of these commodities are available to the enemy only.

THE EVILS OF RECOGNITION.

Recognition of any government in China today is as subversive of order as the lending of money or the sale of arms. The recognition of Peking, Canton or any other administration in China by the Powers is nothing but a blessing upon organized trouble-making, organized exploitation of the people and upon the hypocrisy which veils these high endeavours under a transparent curtain of administrative forms. The return upon such recognition is absolutely nothing but increased official courage and assurance in the repudiation of agreements, the breach of treaties, defaulting on debts and the unatoned outrages which are perpetrated almost daily upon the persons and property of foreigners.

Against the sentiments of the majority of foreigners in China and against the will of the majority of the Chinese people, the representatives of fifteen Powers entered into a most undignified bargain with a new administration in Peking a few months ago. They traded all the "face" which the world has to offer to any official group in China for a signature to a document which the new administration had neither the will nor the power to execute. The results of this huge folly are commenstrate with its size. Since then we have had nearly one hundred outrageous assaults upon foreigners, mostly within Peking's nominal jurisdiction, a stalemate on the Gold Franc question, a flood of unparalleled impertinence from Canton, a treaty brusquely set aside in Shantung and a vastly increased volume of noise about China's sovereign right to boot the foreigner into limbo. How anything else can be expected is beyond the writer's comprehension. We withhold no inducement to good behaviour. We pick out a politico-military group which has been guilty of every possible excess and irregularity; which we know does not want peace unless it means undisputed right of exploitation; which we know regards reunification as nothing but the extension of its predatory field to the geographical limits; we give this organization everything it wants, particularly in the way of "face," including the world's mandate to rule hundreds of millions of people who have had nothing to say about it except to groan under the weight of its hand; and we then profess to be astonished that it does not behave like a representative republican government solicitous for the welfare of its people and for its international obligations. The absurdity of it is beyond words and the danger of it, judging by recent and present omens, is beyond speculation.

AN EMBARGO ON FACE.

The foreigner can have nothing much to say about the restoration of peace and order in China until he has brought his Home Government as well as his diplomatic representatives in China to an understanding of the vital importance of an embargo upon "face." To this end foreign opinion in this country should be organized so that it can tell the Occident what is wrong with China and what can be done in the way of helping China back to order and discipline in a voice so loud that the sleepiest foreign office must sit up and listen. It must be remembered that Legations are usually swamped with routine and are little inclined to take the initiative in new fields of policy because this means energy and thought diverted from routine which promptly begins to pile up like dust in an unswept corner. It must also be remembered that the diplomat who makes radical suggestions to his Government at home before the ground has been paved by an unmistakeable expression of popular feeling elicits much more suspicion than sympathy, so his natural tendency is to write reservedly and advise guardedly so that no one on the other side of the world who relies upon his reports may get the idea that he is rash or erratic.

The way to get action on any measure in China is to ask for it as clearly and persistently as possible and then to seek diplomatic support. A Minister in China is more the pastor of his flock than in Western lands and therefore more its representative. He is not likely to ask his Government for anything which his flock does not seem to want or need, nor is he likely to advise contrary to the clearly expressed will or opinion of the flock. What foreigners need in China to advertise their wants, preserve their rights and put a check upon the predatory Chinese official class is an international organization speaking with one voice and representing all classes.

A FOREIGNERS' CONFERENCE.

There has been much talk of a Chinese peace conference to be called from among those very promotors of trouble who want no brand of peace but their own, which they know they cannot bring away from any sort of a conference. A much more productive conference would be one of all nationalities and classes of foreigners in China, because they do want peace and they do not want any peculiar brand of it but the peace which comes from good Government and enables people to farm, trade, manufacture and travel without fear. Such an organization of opinion is needed to map out a scheme of defence of foreign rights designed to discipline China's unbridled officialdom and a system of such checks upon this same officialdom as would hamper and cramp it in its predatory enterprises. We sometimes get disgusted with the Chinese people and growl because they are so inarticulate and so incapable of organizing in their own defence. We really should have little to say on this score until opinion is organized and articulate with us.

Organized foreign opinion in China could deal with such questions as the embargoes which the writer has discussed. It could insist upon the withdrawal of recognition from Governments which give nothing in return but contempt and could see that recognition was withheld until something was evolved which not only called itself a Government but actually functioned as a Government throughout China.

Organized foreign opinion could insist upon joint diplomatic action in every case where a treaty right or a bargain was violated, making it impossible for this or that Power to hang back and curry favour in the hope of pushing secret special interests.

It could insist upon the postponement of all conferences and investigations by committees such as the proposed surtax conference and the commission which is to study China's judicial system with a view to the abolition of extraterritoriality.

It could take up every obscure case of treaty violation and insist upon proper adjustment, amends and penalties. Nothing weakens foreign prestige and the security of foreign life and property under this pseudo-republicanism which we recognize so much as the gradual, persistent encroachment which the Chinese official is always making upon recognized foreign rights. The Diplomatic Body's heaviest burden of sin is the huge total of its sins of commission—its failures to make a stand on every issue when it was possible to make a stand and its failures to exact reparation or punishment when it was not only possible but when the Chinese expected it. If the foreigner is to maintain any position in China, foreign opinion must learn to express itself in chorus upon every least infringement of rights and to demand action.

WHAT CHINESE RESPECT.

Chinese public opinion is now educated up to a keen resentment of aggression, but anyone who knows the Chinese also knows that the official caste cannot promote an anti-foreign movement against a defence of existing rights, seasoned by time and endorsed by tradition. Every successful act of encroachment is applauded, but resistance to encroachment does not elicit malice. It elicits instead respect, if not admiration. The Chinese farmer who can plough three feet on the wrong side of his neighbour's boundary and "get away with it" applauds his own cleverness and audacity but feels nothing but contempt for the timid or stupid neighbour who does not detect nor resent the trespass. The neighbour who will sally forth upon the slightest encroachment, curse him roundly and hurl him and his plough and his animals back over his own boundary he respects and thinks worth cultivating.

Intervention in China would be bitterly resented but no action, no matter how drastic, in defence of an acknowledged foreign right, would ever move the Chinese people to resentful demonstrations. It will be noted for instance that the display of gunboats recently made in Canton in defence of the integrity of the Customs collectorate brought forth no strikes and no boycotts—nothing but spleen from the Kuomingtang which would be directing an Anglo-American boycott now if it could.

Organized foreign opinion could make short work of the question of the use of the settlements, concessions and leased territories by criminal ex-officials who use them as refuges from justice or as bases for trouble-making enterprise in the hinterland. This is a question which cries out for settlement, which gives Chinese agitators every reason for complaint and which undoubtedly has a direct bearing upon the peace of China.

As the writer said at the opening of this discussion the foreigner's part in the restoration of order must be largely a negative, disciplinary part, but if his part were played intelligently and honestly there is no doubt that he could put many a hobble upon China's refractory official mount which would enable this slow-moving nation to catch up with it and put its own halters on it within a somewhat shorter time. The essence of foreign action must however be cooperation It is a case of united we stand (and perhaps make ourselves useful), while divided we slide and drift, and possibly fall.

THE PEOPLE AWAKENING.

While foreigners in China and their Home Governments if wisely guided may play a fairly big part in bringing form out of chaos in China, the biggest portion of the task must under any conditions devolve upon the Chinese. It would be futile to prophesy how they are going to do it. They are so fond of peace and so resourceful in keeping their social relations within the bounds of propriety, that it is hard to believe that with the outside world sympathetic, they will not work out or fight out something as good if not better than what they lost in 1911. New institutions and new forces are growing up in China which must inevitably work towards peace and order when they get on the right track and know that they are on it. An increased interest in public affairs, largely stimulated by adversity; a growing and more intelligent public opinion founded upon this new interest; a new national spirit, founded largely upon fear of foreign aggression; a new spirit of cooperation within the commercial circle, tending largely to self defence; the growth of the banks, the sanity of the bankers and their influence upon public affairs; the existence and power of even such abused institutions as the students' unions; and finally the general and unanimous yearning for peace and a chance to get back to work echoed in empty phrases by the official caste—all these are developing forces which now seem to be working in no particular direction but which must eventually combine to work towards discipline and peace.

NEW NATIONALISTIC SPIRIT.

The fostering of all of these forces and their guidance into right channels ought to be the task of every sincere Chinese patriot. Peace could be brought much nearer through intelligent propaganda within the circles which now control those forces. One of the most promising of all the potential checks upon Government in China is the new nationalistic spirit which at this moment is the least sanely directed. Because it is new and unformed it is capable of education and direction. Until very recently no element of the Chinese people ever conceived of their country as a nation in the modern Western sense. They have thought of it as the Middle Country, as the civilized nucleus of a vast surrounding web of barbarism. They have thought of it as T'ien Hsia (Under Heaven), meaning thereby all of humanity under the sky that was worth taking into consideration. They have thought of themselves as a family, with the Emperor in the place of the revered ancestor and his appointed officials as his sons and grandsons and themselves as the remote and reverent descendants in various generations.

The official attitude under all dyuasties has been that the land and all that was in it was the Emperor's and the people his chattels with no rights but those which he chose to bestow. Land deeds were perpetual leases, taxes were rents, officials were in no sense representatives of the people but agents of the one supreme source of authority. Since the people had no rights inherent (in theory at any rate) they also had no duties inherent. They paid their rents when they were collected and they joined armies of conquest or defence when they were rounded up and ordered to bear arms. Such conceptions of the individual's rights and the individual's obligations to the state have not been altered over night in any Occidental country and the surprise of it is that they are altering so quickly in China.

MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE.

Under the spur of real or imagined foreign aggression great masses of the Chinese people, including all the intellectals, have come to believe that the country is theirs to protect, if Peking, or the Government, or the President, or whatever has taken the place of the Emperor, will not or cannot protect it. Organization and cooperation for defence is as new, if not a newer idea, in China as a whole than socialism is in the Occident. Most of us who have been in China a few years know how this idea grew under the stimulus of Japan's military diplomacy during the war years. With the radical change in Japanese policy after the Washington conference this particular stimulus was withdrawn but there was no stopping the growth of the idea. From a purely defensive conception of the duty of the individual to the state, the nationalistic movement has been an aggressive movement towards the liberation of the state from real or imaginary foreign shackles.

This new development is born of shame rather than pride. It is the increased knowledge of China's relatively humble position among the nations which is stimulating it. We have all felt the force of this movement and have been annoyed by it because at the moment it is one-sided and unintelligent, but it is not a movement to be discouraged because with increased thought and increased knowledge it is bound to run along new channels and make things very lively for the predatory official.

GOOD BEHAVIOUR THE PRICE.

When the Chinese people finally get it into their heads that a nation's rights are conditional upon good behaviour like the individual's, that a nation's international standing depends just as much upon its discharge of fundamental obligations as the individual's social standing does, that China is humble, is scolded, is patronized and is penalized like the individual who misbehaves because she does not discharge her obligations, the fiery nationalists will begin to conceive of a broader sense of duties towards their country and will realize that since it is theirs it is their right to make it worthy of the rights and courtesies usually extended to independent nations. They will come to realize that they as the owners of a nation are responsible for assaults upon its integrity, its sovereign rights, its prestige, its wealth and its liberties from within as well as from without. The Chinese are proud of China's past, with very good reason. But they are not proud of their country now and by the inevitable rule of contraries they are therefore most insistent that it be respected and granted every privilege.

It has not occurred to many of them yet that this is no fair basis for international relations, but they are going to see the point whenever Occidental policy makes

THE WOMAN'S PAGE

SPRING PREMONITIONS

"The Joyous Book of Spring Lies Open"

By Elizabeth Pepys.

The most ecstatic moment in a play or a concert for many of us comes before the curtain rises or the conductor raises his baton, when the bell rings to announce the beginning of the drama, or twittery tunings-up presage the opening number. Anything may be in store for us then and nothing is too good to be true.

Something of that feeling comes to us as even in mid-winter we begin to outline spring wardrobes and to assemble from the various fashion sheets the hints which will most closely approximate the needs of one's own outfit. Advance news notes are always a bit unsettling. A woman scans the telegrams announcing the high waist line with suspicion. Where did it originate? Is this a genuine demand or something some eccentric designer is trying to "put over?" What do the pictures say?

The pictures. That is the acid test. It may be easy for some mocking arbiter of fashion to fling out a prophecy regarding the length or circumference of skirts which will be cabled round the world, but it is only the greatly daring who will act on such advices unless they are reinforced by illustrations of models posing in creations which fulfil the predictions.

INCOMING FULNESS.

Some of these style tips have looked too far into the future to receive immediate endorsement but they are justified eventually. Take the prognosis that skirts would be full. For a long time we continued to scoffingly reject such a forecast, but little by little the tide of fashion has changed and we see fulness creeping in everywhere.

To be sure this it not done ostentatiously, and the straight and narrow still prevails but for those who read the writing on the walls of the designers' ateliers there is every indication of approaching voluminosity. Dinner gowns still remain slim and dignified, their conservative elegance contrasting with the sprightly frocks originated for dancings which are butterfly-light and graceful.

The vogue of the moment appears to be floating draperies which sway gracefully in the dance. They take the shape of pointed or straight panels, or even of ribbony strips and although their tips may almost touch the floor they are so light and diaphonous that the general effect is one of abreviated fluffiness. Another type of dancing frock which has been very popular is the brocade or embossed velvet made with a circular skirt which bands the hips tightly and flares out at the ankles, a heavy hem of fur around the edge of the skirt giving it a rippling, fluted grace. Marabou is also used to get this effect.

FRILLS AGAIN.

Inserts of sunburst pleating are used in furtherance of this idea by Jean Patou and in one of his models four sunburst panels, trimmed with silver beads, hang over a shorter underskirt and give a bewitching movement. Another way of introducing this fulness is found by Drecoll who runs a finely pleated frill round the skirt of a sheer black lace gown and then up the front to the low waist line, thus compromising with the slender effect and yet securing comfortable width for dancing.

Tulle ruching set on overskirts or tunics is another way of using fulness, for tulle is back again and is being worn in combination with satin. In some of the Chanel frocks long streamers float from the shoulders and the pleated apron or transparent capes also carry out the desired effect of free movement. If this pretty idea wins general recognition over here the Astor and the Carlton dancing floors will look as if filled with rose and cherry petals, swaying to cadenced breezes.

SHANGHAI FAIRY TALE

The Three Wishes in the 1924 Edition

By Elizabeth Pepys.

Once upon a time there was a bright little girl named Peaches. At least that was not her name but that was what she was called and if we could only reproduce her complexion herewith it would be apparent at once that no other appellation could be for one instant moment tolerated.

Because Peaches possessed in addition to her complexion a curious and hospitable mind she not only read all sorts of books listed as the best sellers but all manner of works on deep and abstruse subjects, such as 'In Tune with the Infinite" and "As A Man Thinketh" and "Dream Psychoses" and "Woman—A Vindication" and the like.

On Mondays she went to the Quest Society and on Tuesdays to one or the other of the Women's Associations or both, and on Wednesdays to her little group of earnest thinkers, while on Thursdays she visited the Theosophical Lodge and usually Fridays there

THE SOFTLY FLOATING SKIRT OF THE SEASON.

was a Literary Department or a Musical Tea to keep her busy while Saturdays between the Paper Hunts and the programmes of the China Society of Science and Arts she was rushed to death.

Sometimes of course there was not a single meeting to attend, although to do Shanghai justice, we must admit that this seldom occurred. On such occasions she was driven to attending tea dancings, but preferably with some intellectual companion. Her particular interest was in the Development of the Mind by Concentration, assisted by Affirmation, and by an acquaintance with Coue's methods, she believed that anything might be accomplished.

When the envious asked her the secret of her complexion she smiled sweetly and murmured "I concentrate;" but though all her dearest friends not only concentrated but visited the same Beauty Parlours they did not meet with her success.

When Peaches' rich but stingy aunt Jane came to visit in Shanghai her niece determined to use her as a demonstration of the value of concentration. She sent her thought waves on the beauty of generosity, of the idealism of giving, of the suitability of a certain diamond and platinum watch as a gift for a deserving niece. But aunt Jane was unresponsive.

Since her aged relative was so old-fashioned, Peaches had recourse to direct—very direct—action. "Do you ever wish for things, aunt Jane?" she queried, concentrating meantime on generosity. "No," snapped the aunt in question, "when I want a thing I go after it."

"It must be wonderful to have that ability," sighed Peaches admiringly, "*I* can only affirm the truth."

"What truth?"

Startled, but seizing the opportunity, Peaches responded, "I repeat to myself: Aunt Jane loves me: she is going to give me three wishes."

"For the land's sake, I should call it affirming a lie, part of it any way. But what do you want from me?"

Thinking to win kudos for her moderation Peaches began: "Well, it's been a long hard winter, and goodness knows I need a new hat and—"

But she got no further for aunt Jane broke in: "Want a new hat for one wish do you? Well, I'll give you that."

"O thank you auntie, thank you so much. There's just the sweetest little cloche at Mahriah's."

"O, I've got the hat already. I bought it at a sale to help along the cause, and I don't really need it. It's too young for me anyway and will look much better on you. —Boy bring one piecee new hat this side."

"But aunty," objected Peaches feebly, "I don't believe I could wear a hat you picked out. Of course I'd like the hat very much, but" (brightening) "you see my hair is bobbed."

"O no, Janie, you've got as much hair as I have this very minute, besides, if it's too big you can put a strip of newspaper in, under the lining. Waste not, want not." And she held up before her horrified niece one of those inexcusable bits of millinery which cause one to wonder why they were created in the first place and who could ever wear them in the second.

"But aunt Jane," remonstrated Peaches, "I never could wear that colour in the world. It would make me look like nothing at all."

"Sakes alive, it would look a whole lot better than some of the wild things I see you wearing, so don't say I didn't give you your wish."

"A nice wish," flamed Peaches, casting discretion to the winds, "I wish, I wish I could throw it at your head!"

"Well of all things, if you are not a disgrace to your mother's bringing up! I'll give you that wish, just to see if you're as ill-mannered as you sound."

"It takes more than you to scare me, aunt Jane. I do want to throw it back at you and I won't suppress the desire any longer, so look out for yourself," and the hat went spinning through the air.

"Since that's how you feel about me and my gifts," began aunt Jane grimly, picking up her despised offering and starting to stalk out of the room.

"O aunty, forgive my hateful temper," pleaded Peaches, feeling better after her explosion. But aunt Jane kept on. "Aunty, it was only expressing my volitional personality. Really, it is all the fault of this Freud-Jung psychology stuff. Give me my third wish. I wish you would forgive me."

"Psychology nothing," sniffed the offended yet relenting aunt Jane, "I'll give you your third wish, and then you'll be just like the man who wished for a black pudding and then wished that on his wife's nose and had to take his last wish to wish it off again."

CHAINS

The Arduosness of Freedom

People ask very often and very vocally for liberty. But when, by some strange stroke of luck, they happen to get it, they find themselves more often than not very seriously embarrassed by the acquisition. For freedom is difficult, is arduous; it demands from those who possess it the practice of many virtues. Slavery, on the other hand (provided always that it is not called by its proper name and that it is not too intoleraby harsh), is easy and agreeable and demands from the slave the exercise of no virtue but that of obedience. A slave can be an automaton; but a free man, if he is really to enjoy his liberty, must be an individual human being. The task, as we have said before, is arduous.

Chains, then, are a comfort and almost a necessity. The aim of the social reformer should not be to abolish chains—he could not do is if he tried—, but rather to see that human beings are provided with a pleasing and picturesque variety of fetters. Plenty of chains of different patterns are needed if the world is to remain the interesting and delightful place which, in spite of everything, it has always been.

FASHION'S DELIGHTFUL SLAVERY.

Now, it is precisely this pleasing variety in the patterns of chains that we seem nowadays to be losing. Chains in aur modern world tend to be of standard pattern. Democratic education, rotary printing-machines, fast trains, telegraphy, the camera—these products of human progress are rapidly giving to the universal slavery of man a sameness, an air of uniformity. Consider, for oxample, that delightful slavery which is called Fashion. Ease of communication has brought it about that practically all the men and women in Europe and the two Americas dress exactly alike.

AS SPRINGLIKE AS THE FIRST DAFFODIL.

Local and distinctively national dress has practically vanished from our Western world. The distinctive uniforms of classes and trades are disappearing under the inbuence of democratic ideas.

Where is the English peasant's smock, the capenter's square cap? Labourer and artisan dress in shabby imitation of their richer brothers. There are still countries in Europe where women of the lower classes never wear hats. But, even in France and Italy, the custom is beginning to die, and cheap and tawdry millinery will soon be as common there as it is here. Even the distinguishing uniforms suitable to the different ages of women seem now to be disappearing. There was a time when one could distinguish at a glance and from a distance, by the clothes alone, the grandmother from the mother and the mother from the daughter. Today, we have changed all that; grandmother and granddaughter wear the same sack frock on the same slim figure, the same round hat pulled disguisingly down over the eyes.

STANDARDIZED RECREATION.

But it is not only in the world of fashion that we have arrived at uniformity in slavery. All our conventions of thought, of social habit, of pleasure, are becoming standardized. Gone, for example, are the local dances, the people's songs. The gramophone has imposed on the whole world the same fox-trots, the same American tunes. Past is the time when England was regarded as eccentric in its love of sports. To day, the French, the Germans, the Italians, all the peoples of Europe, play football and golf and tennis, box and run races; sports are everywhere the same, and everybody is equally enthusiastic about them. The cinema gives us all one brand of drama, the penny press one set of ideas. Providentially, we still speak a number of different languages; othewise the whole of Europe would be reading only English literature.

This is a melancholy state of things; the more so since there seems, so far as one can see, no possibility of remedying it. Violent means are wholly unsuccessful. Russia, for example, has certainly got rid of most of the politer European slaveries; but none will envy her the native brand of slavery which she has substituted for them. A consciously cultivated nationalism might do something to variegate our chains; but the dangers of nationalism are to be seen only too clearly in Ireland, or, indeed, in almost any of the smaller new countries of Europe. It is better to have uniform chains than hatreds and wars. No, it looks as though we have got to reconcile ourselves to this uniformity of slavery; we must make the best of our Ford chains. The worst of it is that the world may come to look dreadfully dull to our modern eyes.—"Vogue."

A LITERARY MOTHER GOOSE

By Elizabeth Pepys.

FREE VERSE.

Sing a song of Vers Libre,
A song without a rhyme,
Four-and-twenty poets
Chanting out of time.
When the book was opened
The readers flew away;
Were they not the funny poets
To sing so queer a lay?

EXTRA!

Commotion, Sedition, an extra Edition!
Why this is none too soon.
Hurry the papers for they must
Be on the streets at noon.

BEST SELLERS.

Sex novels hot,
Sex novels old,
Sex novels, what a lot,
Shocking bold!

FINANCIAL SHEET.

Hushaby, Silver, on the tree-top,
When rumours threaten, the market will rock;
When credit fails and exchange has to fall,
Down will come broker and banker and all.

ENOUGH FOR A BEST SELLER.

I had a little thought once,
No bigger than my thumb,
I put it in a novel
Which sold for a large sum.
I had gay paper jackets made
Which more than caught the eye,
And hypnotized the reader
Until he had to buy.
I sent them to reviewers
Who praised it without fail
And royalties come rolling in
By every single mail

WHY WE READ THE PAPER.

Zippety Zowety, my black pen
Writes Sporting News for gentlemen.
Reading Publics look each night
To see what my black pen doth write.

THE RASPBERRY SHEET.

Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,
Snap up scandals, spread them thick.
But be wary, Jack, take care
Lest you fall into the libel snare.

HICKORY DICKORY.

Wu Pei-fu and Chang Tso-lin
What a pickle poor China is in.
Its hard to know
How it will go
With Wu Pei-fu and Chang Tso-lin

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. H. P. Macmillan, the Scottish K. C., has purchased and presented to the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, the original manuscript of Sir Walter Scott's "Redgauntlet." The manuscript, will in due course be transferred to the prospective Scottish National Library.

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A collected edition of John Drinkwater's poems in two volumes has just been published by Sidgwick and Jackson at 21s. net in red buckram, each with a frontispiece. A special edition limited to 200 on handmade paper, each signed by the author, is also published. This is a remarkable testimony to Mr. Drinkwater's work, for he is yet a young man. A third volume containing his Plays will be issued during the year.

∴

Few men know as much about modern books as Mr. Joseph Shaylor, so long associated with Simpkin, Marshall & Co. He is also a lover of literature. His new book on "Sixty Years a Bookman" is to be published by Selwyn & Blount at 6s. Many will be glad to have this volume as a souvenir of one who was long known as "King" of Paternoster Row.

∴

The Right Hon. H. H. Asquith has just published, through Hutchinson & Co., a new volume of "Studies and Sketches" (10s. 6d. net). They consist of addresses and some eesays which now appear for the first time.

∴

Each generation wants its own new books of quotations. The old quotations become too hackneyed and the words cease to inform the mind or inspire the soul. Each age wants its own voice, and yet the older voices which used the universal tongue are always heeded. "Hoyt's Cyclopœdia of Practical Quotations" has been revised and enlarged, and now contains an armoury of over 30,000 phrases covering a wide range of interests. This great volume is published by Funk and Wagnalls, of 14, Salisbury Square, London, E. C. 4.

∴

Of all the thousands of craft employed during the Great War none had so thrilling a life as the Q-ships, commonly known as "Mystery Ships." They carried out the most hazardous service, they had most thrilling experiences, and their fights with enemy submarines are the finest episodes of naval warfare in any age. Lord Jellicoe once remarked that in the mystery ship there had been displayed a spirit of endurance, discipline and courage the like of which the world has never seen before, and added that he did not think the English people realized the wonderful work which these ships had done in the war. In "Q-Ships and Their Story" Mr. E. Keble Chatterton tells for the first time the complete history of these splendid vessels. The book is published by Sidgwick & Jackson at 12s. 6d.

∴

Complete sets of Rudyard Kipling and Thomas Hardy are offered on easy monthly terms of payment by the Globe Publishing Co. (Gloucester House, Charing Cross Road, W. C. 2). A first payment of 10s. secures the sets. They can be had either on thin paper or in a large paper edition at the same price. This is the first time that the copyright works of modern authors have been offered for sale on subscription terms.

∴

Chamber's Encyclopædia is offered to readers from two quarters. The publishers in Edinburgh are putting out the revised edition volume by volume, and it can also be obtained on the instalment system from the Waverley Book Co., 96, Farringdon Street, E. C. 4. The editors of this famous book are Dr. David Patrick and William Geddie, M. A., B. Sc., while the list of contributors contains the names of many famous scholars and specialists. There are 20,000 specially contributed articles and over 200,000 brief articles. There are 10 volumes of 9,000 pages.

THE REWARD OF LABOUR

By Achilles.

"Lonely Furrow." By Maud Diver. (John Murray: 7/6).

"For all your labour you get strength, not fruit," is an apt epigram for Maud Diver to have chosen for her book. Before you have read its 500 pages, the short quotation on the title-page seems rather meaningless: you do not really pay much attention to it: it resembles some of these long dissertations on such subjects as the Comity of Nations, excellent but rather mouldy, hackneyed, call it what you will, wearing whiskers, 'already-said.' But when you realize the theme of the book, and, especially, when you near its conclusion, the purport of the words and their connexion with this volume become apparent.

The hero of "Lonely Furrow," after 19 years of married life, has the good—or is it doubtful?—fortune to meet the nature which exactly complements his own. Nineteen years of domestic misunderstanding and marital 'Sturm und Drang' have been insufficient to make womankind a closed book to this man for the rest of his life. So, when one charming Vanessa, a widow, meets him she refuses to admit that he looks like a married man when pressed. "Frankly—no." How did she detect the symptoms? She did'nt—or else he was very clever at hiding them. Obviously his wife did not play the part of Constant-Companion-Comforter, ready at hand. Her constancy consisted chiefly in remaining consistently at home in England. Six years it had now been since she had seen him last, and always procrastination on her part when he urged her to come East. Her companionship was at a discount, because even when together she would poison it by grumbling at the sphere of the world in which he earned his living. She affected a pose of Nationalism, and thought in the way of the conceited Ignorant that we should not be interfering in India at all. The comfort such a woman could give a husband with a great deal of feeling and soul, which had continually perforce to lie fallow, was infinitesimal. Her letters alone brought a little of it, and they too were tinged with a shade of patronising pity for the spouse who alienated himself in India. Vitally important, they brought to him news of his second daughter Eve who was sacred to the father.

His marriage had been a mistake: these twain who wedded were but mildly attracted to each other when each was in the single state, the attraction being nothing but that healthy and simple kind, usually very faint, often only courteous, which is repeatedly possible between any admirable 'lady's man' and a prepossessing damsel. The meeting of soul with soul bringing great light, bringing 'new depth to shades, new brilliance to colours, vividness to all sensations, and vitality to all thoughts,' is possible only once a life-time ("Beware of imitations") if that.

When it occurred the Colonel was given exquisite joy, part torture: for a fine man of his calibre could not be disloyal to his wife, being above duplicity of thought and defilement of deed, facing facts, above all the fact that adultery (in any form) is an ugly word.

But apart from this quite charming poem of Affinity meeting Affinity, and the delightful description of the father's delight in his little daughter Eve, we are particularly entertained in this book by the phases of Indian life which it opens out for our inspection. There is a perceptible strain of sadness in these assemblies and discussions of Anglo-Indians. We feel their sense of whimsical helplessness at the thought of how the Raj is not respected as before, not supported by the Authorities as of yore. The Chief Commissioner's dinner-party is one of the best bits of the yarn. A journalist of some repute from home is present. What surprises him is that British officials should still be in the saddle with educated India clamouring for their withdrawal. The theoretical champion of the natives cries:—"Well its *their* country, that's my argument." "Which of theirs, should you say?" the Colonel inquires, and treats the journalist to a brief lecture which laughed at the idea that the Raj was going to let himself be squeezed out of the country by a handful of lawyer intellectuals. "We've no right to indulge in an orgy of self-denial at the expense of millions here who need us. We've made deplorable mistakes. But we've done our level best—up to our lights."

The reward of labour was, for the excellent Colonel, strength, consisting of a "Completely fashioned Will," nobility and generosity, in both his great enterprises of life, his work in India with the natives whom he understood and loved, and his sternest task of all, the courageous acknowledgement of the fact that the Seventh Commandment is not to be broken. Still we have Laws we revere. Fruit there was not, except the fruit of mutual satisfaction that they had observed the canons and dictates of Truth, and not debased them.

It is a recommendable book for all who have friends in India, or even in the East, and for those who like a romance, beautifully and at the same time cleverly and calmly told, it will be welcome reading.

FOUNDATIONS

A Policy for the Political Salvation of China

"Modern Democracy in China." By Mingchien. Joshua Bau, Ph. D. pp. 467, pub. by the Commercial Press.

"The proper study of mankind" in China, just now, is the State, and Dr. Bau has made a noteworthy contribution in this well packed book. For 150 pages he reviews modern Chinese history and politics, for the next 200 he discusses the problems of constitutional government, and concludes by printing seven important political documents for reference.

The Manchu dynasty fell in 1911 for its repeated failure to maintain the dignity and security of China. It is the test that has accounted for the changes of government in France during the last 130 years. But the last 13 years in China have provided no government at all, and the Ship of State is drifting helplessly with no one on the bridge that has powers of control. Now the basis of government in China has always been public opinion. "There is no doubt that China has been a great democracy for centuries with the monarchical autocracy superimposed" (p. 115, quoting H. B. Morse). The first problem is to get that public opinion into working order for which the requisities are detailed in chapter 11, namely the education of the people, their fuller political experience, the polarization of parties, the growth of public spirit, the establishment of a citizen soldiery, and a system of communications. From which it is evident that the foundation for a Republic in China has not yet been well and truly laid.

As to the superstructure Dr. Bau has some very useful things to say in a series of chaptchs, constituting Book II where he balances and compares cabinet and presidential systems federal and unitory types of government, and goes on to discuss the composition and powers of the legislature, the election and scope of executive, the status and functions of the judiciary, passing on to questions of local self-government, budget procedure, political parties and so on.

Dr. Bau passes various sound criticism on the Provisional Constitution from which China now suffers. "The tussle for power and the shifting of responsibilities between the President and the Premier make the system neither a cabinet nor a presidential system, but one of dual executive with responsibilities and powers not clearly defined.' Moreover "the two Houses of the Legislature are entirely too numerous and unwieldy." Again "there is no provision for the bringing about of harmony between the executive and the legislature. For the lack of decision China has been in the whirlpool that centres in civil war ever since Yuan Shih-kai and the Kuomintang defied each other. Finally there is no stipulation in the Provisional Constitution defining the relation between the Central Government and the Provinces." (p. 93-103). This testing of the crucial points of government is well supported by instances drawn from the history of the last decade.

But obviously the chief disease in China is the abuse of military powers by the Tuchuns of various provinces, though it would probably be more correct to call it the chief symptom of the sick man of the East. The glaring misappropriation of China's funds and powers with the consequent disunion and disorder is a scandal that must be ended before a constitution can be properly balanced and the political constituency fully educated.

Dr. Bau recommends for an immediate step the appointment of a strong Chief Executive, preferably in the person of the President, gathering into his hands the necessary proportion of the military and financial powers now scattered in the hands of Tuchuns and Super-Tuchuns, disbanding the superfluous troops and creating a national army for defence." (p. 147). How to accomplish his election is the almost insoluble problem of the Chinese constitution.

These extracts will give some idea of the scope of this thoughtful and readable book. In point of style there are mistakes inevitably, the word "yet" being sometimes turned to strange uses (pp. 114, 122, 125) and there are some misprints. The book, however, as a whole, should be a handbook for students and provide watchword for politicians.

A.N.R.

JACKSON OF MUKDEN

"Jackson of Mukden." By Mrs. Dugald Christie. Pp. 155. Price 3/6, pub. by Hodder & Stoughton.

It was on January 25 in the first year of the Chinese Republic that Arthur Jackson died fighting the fatal pneumonic plague at Mukden. It is probably a record without precedent that a man's fame should attain to a biography after only 10 weeks' service; and in fact this book follows another "life" by Dr. Costain. The biographical matter has of course to be spread out thin to make it cover the required size of the "Master Missionary Service," including such giants as Livingstone of Africa and Chalmers of New Guinea.

But for two reasons this chatty biography was worth publishing. First it proves that life is a matter of quality rather than length. This young athlete and accomplished doctor of 26 years old did what he could, he gave his life in its prime, and proved that youth can win its crown as well as age.

Secondly it shows how a life can count for most when it is given away. It was the self-sacrifice that made so deep an impression on colleague and Chinese alike. The Viceroy had been reckoned anti-foreign, but Dr. Jackson's death in trying to save a train-load of coolies moved him to the depths. In his eulogy, delivered in the presence of the notables, he cried out, "O spirit of Dr. Jackson, we pray you intercede for the 20 million people of Manchuria, and ask the Lord of Heaven to take away this pestilence. . . Noble Spirit, who sacrificed your life for us, help us still, and look down in kindness upon us all!" Not content with mere words he gave $5,000 to the Medical College and $10,000 for the use of Dr. Jackson's family, and when his hero's mother desired this sum to be also handed to the College he exclaimed with deep emotion, "What a mother and what a son!" and he doubled his gift.

Such incidents are no bigger than the breaking of the alabaster box, and the whole neighbourhood is filled with the fragrance.

A. N. R.

THRUST UPON HIM!

"The Day's Journey." By W. B. Maxwell. Thornton Butterworth. 7/6 net.

Mr. Maxwell suffers in these days a severe handicap. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle has recently published his opinion that he has "long thought W. B. Maxwell the greatest of British novelists." Now that was not a kind thing to do. For, whether one may have any faith in Sir Arthur's judgment in such matters or not, such a saying is bound to infect the minds of readers of Mr. Maxwell's books either with expectations doomed to certain disappointment or with a prejudice that must mar, if not kill, any enjoyment of his work. For the same reason it was unwise of the publishers to use the foolish saying as an advertisement, at any rate in England. In America it would not matter. There every book which appears is introduced by the publishers as "the greatest" or "the most remarkable" or "the most vital" or some other ridiculous superlative. The American public is used to this kind of fare and knows exactly how much salt to take with it. The American sense of humour does not include a sense of the ridiculous; and Americans love exaggeration and superlatives for their own sake. So much is this a national trait that in order to get an idea into their minds you must go beyond it in expression in the certain knowledge that whatever you say will be salted down before belief. But the English are a simpler folk who are apt to believe that you mean exactly what you say. And so it was not kind to risk making Mr. Maxwell ridiculous in the eyes of his English readers by the use in advertisement of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's superlative nonsense. The word "risk" is written in the hope that the harm done may not be irreparable. This review indeed is intended as an humble effort in the direction of repair. All novels, and in fact all literature, should be criticized (as they should be written and also advertised) *ex-vacuo*. But such is the poison of this plaguy comparison talk, this "greatest" stuff, that it sets even the hardened reviewer to thinking of other novelists instead of concentrating upon the one under review. A vision of Conrad thrusts in for comparison where no comparison is possible. One sees that master's wonderful people and impossible happenings set forth in the magic of their creator's words to appear more true, more alive than one's own family at home. All of it utterly unlike anything one ever saw or heard in daily life. Wrenching the mind back to Mr. Maxwell one sees that his people and their doings are so like what we see around us daily as to rise at times almost to the devastating dreariness of life itself. The futility of comparison! Whereto could it lead? Back to the age-old discussions of such silly labels as "idealism" and "realism" and their comparative values in literary art. For Heaven's sake let us get out of the bog.

No. Greatness in literature is a matter for which we have no certain test except the perspective of time, survival of the years. But it may be interesting to note that no book that could by any stretch of the imagination be called realism has lived, up to date.

It must not be supposed that this is to put Mr. Maxwell's work under that unfortunate label. In so far as there is a tendency to exactly reproduce the actualities of everyday life, he fails. For such exact reproduction is, not bad art, but not art at all. In this novel the work is marred by this tendency and is only saved by this tendency and *idealisation* of the love of the two men, his principal characters. Too much stress is laid upon their all-too-lifelike bickerings, but their love for one another throughout their lives ("the Day's Journey") is shown idealized and with a masterly avoidance of sloppiness. This it is that makes the book as a whole very satisfying, very good reading.

John Lofting

The North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE

WEEKLY EDITION OF THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

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THE FINEST ALL-ROUND SPORT IN CHINA.

CONSOLIDATED LOAN SERVICE

Inspector-General's Report for 1923: Payments Met But Amortization Short

WARNINGS OF LAST YEAR FULLY REALIZED

The Shanghai Bankers' Association send us the following memorandum from Sir Francis Aglen, showing how his prediction of a year ago of a deficiency of funds for the Consolidated Loan Service has been amply justified:—

The year 1923 opened with all obligations to December 31, 1922, either met or fully covered, as was shown in the statement appended to the Inspector-General's Memorandum of January 14, 1923, handed to the Shanghai Bankers' Association. In that Memorandum the Inspector-General also showed that in order fully to meet the Loan Service for the year 1923 a sum of $21,584,531 additional to the balance carried forward from 1922 would have to be found. In estimating the possibility of finding this sum the Inspector-General stated that there was no probability that payments from the Salt Revenue and from the Ministry of Communications, due under the Loan Regulations and amounting to $20,000,000, would be resumed. In consequence the Sinking Fund would have to depend entirely upon the sums available from the Customs revenue surplus. Attention was drawn to the fact that, owing to increased cost of foreign obligations caused chiefly by the drop in exchange and by increased Customs administrative charges, the surplus available for 1923 would be diminished by an amount estimated at $14,524,187. The dollar equivalent of the actual sum absorbed owing to these causes was, in round numbers, $13,900,000.

SURPLUS SHORT OF EXPECTATION.

In venturing to give an estimate of the probable surplus for the year 1923, the Inspector General stated that, making due allowance for the effect of the revised import tariff, the surplus could not be expected to yield more than $17,358,813. The actual surplus was Shanghai Tls. 11,762,083.62, equivalent at average rate of exchange to $16,223,563. Of the above sum $12,291,976.32 were devoted to Consolidated Loan service for 1923, making with $5,436,348.08 carried over from the 1922 surplus a total of $17,728,324.40 from Customs Revenue available for meeting the 1923 liability. The balance of the 1923 revenue surplus has, in accordance with previous practice, been carried over partly to meet foreign loan obligations maturing early in the year 1924 and partly to cover interest coupons of the Consolidated Loans maturing in February and March, 1924, as it is impossible, without invading the priority of foreign loan and Indemnity obligations, to draw on current revenue for the sinking fund of the Consolidated Loans during the first three months of any year.

AMORTIZATION $9,249,611 SHORT.

Two statements are appended to this report, (1) showing the cash transactions during the year 1923 and (2) giving the total liability for the year 1923 and showing how far with the funds available, and after making due provision for foreign and Consolidated loan payments falling due in the first three months of 1924, the Inspector General has been able to meet it. (Owing to want of space these tables have to be omitted, but the upshot of them is shown in the next sentence.—Ed.)

It will be seen that all coupons and drawn bonds due but not yet presented for payment up to the end of 1922 have been covered in full, that all interest payments due in 1923 according to schedule have been met or duly covered in full, and that amortization due in 1923 has fallen into arrears to the extent of $9,249,611.

A PREDICTION FULFILLED.

The warning conveyed in the Inspector General's Memorandum of January, 1923, that, without the support of the Salt and other revenues allocated to the sinking fund, it would be impossible fully to maintain the Consolidated Loan Service is thus seen to have been justified, and, until further loan service funds are released by the extinction of the 3rd Year Loan, amortization of the Consolidated Loans must be expected to lag still farther behind.

Provided, however, that no violent fluctuation in exchange takes place, and that Customs revenue receipts do not fall appreciably below their present level, all interest payments during 1924 are reasonably assured.

F. A. AGLEN,
Inspector General of Customs.
National Consolidated Debt Office.
Peking, Feb. 22, 1924.

EXTRATERRITORIALITY AND SURTAX

International Conferences Said to Have Been Postponed: China's Fault

Peking, Mra. 4.

A telegraphic message from Mr. Chu Chao-hsin, Chinese Chargé d'Affaires to the Court of St. James, received by the Waichiaopu, reports that the British Government has notified the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires that, owing to the chaotic situation in China, the despatch of an international commission of inquiry into China's judicial system, which was agreed upon at the Washington Conference, will be postponed; this, as a result of negotiations among the Powers concerned.

According to another report from the Chinese Minister to France, the French Government has decided not to assent to the international conference on China's tariff, on the ground that China has failed to discharge her treaty obligation with regard to the gold franc question.—Eastern News Agency.

CHINA AND SOVIET RUSSIA

Conditions of Recognition: C.-E. Railway Rights: Control in Mongolia

ABOLITION OF RUSSIAN TREATY RIGHTS

Peking, Mar. 2.

Chinese newspapers report that Dr. C. T. Wang has submitted a report to the Cabinet which will be considered on Tuesday. It is stated to contain a proposed plan to bring about completion of the preliminary negotiations between Russia and China.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, March 3.

The *"Ching Pao"* reports that, following a meeting between Dr. C. T. Wang and M. Karakhan on Saturday, a petition has been submitted to the President recommending recognition of Soviet Russia. The petition will be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at the meeting on Tuesday.

It is stated that the attitude of the Fengtien authorities is favourable and, consequently, it is anticipated that the Sino-Russian negotiations will make rapid progress.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Mar. 3.

In the course of frequent interviews with Dr. C. T. Wang, M. Karakhan, Soviet Envoy in the Far East, while agreeing in principle to the withdrawal of Russian troops from Outer Mongolia, has made several exceptions and reserved his definite announcement as to the exact date for the evacuation. Besides, M. Karakhan is, it is reported, persisting in the continuance of the treaty entered into between the Soviet Government and Mongolia. As for the Chinese Eastern Railway question, M. Karakhan has given up his claim to the management of the railway, but he is still strongly insisting upon many conditions, including one that no White should be employed in the administration of the Railway and another that China should agree to turn over those shares of the Railway which belong to Soviet Russia.

Later.

The Rosta News Agency here to-day reports that with regard to the opening of Sino-Russian negotiations, M. Karakhan, Soviet Envoy in the Far East, will not change his attitude and that whether the proposed negotiations will be held at all or not solely depends upon the determination of China. The same Agency also adds that Soviet Russia will never agree to China's claim to the indemnity and that full particulars of the informal negotiations conducted between Dr. C. T. Wang and M. Karakhan will be published before long.—Eastern News Agency.

Peking, Mar. 4.

It is semi-officially announced that the Sino-Russian negotiations are making good progress.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE CRUX OF RECOGNITION.

Peking, Mar. 5.

Considerable interest is attached locally to the outcome of the negotiations between China and Russia. Foreign circles point out that Sino-Russian official negotiations cannot start until China recognizes the Soviet and recognition, unless expressly qualified in that connexion, would restore Russian exterritorial rights and also give the Soviet the right to take over the Legation, whereupon the question of the Soviet representative's relations with the Diplomatic Body would immediately arise. In view of the fact that many countries represented dip-

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PASSENGERS

INWARD.

Per R.M.S. Empress of Asia February 23. From Vancouver, etc. Mr. J. R. Affleck, Mr. I. Amman, Mr. S. Barker, Mr. R. W. Bennett, Mr. P. B. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Collard and child, Mr. J. Crichton, Mr. D. W. Elliott, Mr. D. J. Gorman, Mr. T. F. Ginson, Mr. C. W. Hopkinson, Miss C. Hecquard, Mr. A. A. Herzekler, Mr. C. A. John, Mrs. M. M. and Master Kent, Mr. A. C. Knight, Mr. S. W. Keith, Mr. F. Lewy, Mr. H. C. Lohmann, Mr. S. E. McGregor, Mr. A. Meuer, Mr. E. C. Mo[illegible] Mrs S. Newmarch, Mr. W. H. Pe[illegible], Mr. M. O. Poizeaunief, Miss N. Ransom, Mr. A. H. Rasmussen, Mr. and Mrs. H. and Miss E. Richardson, Mr. I. W. P. Ross, Mr. A. L. Tarnow, Mr. C. E. Tatlow, Mr. F. Vergault, Mr. H. A. W[illegible], Mr. J. W. W[illegible], Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Westbrooke, Mrs. K. M. Atwood and two children, Mrs. D. Bell, Mr. R. J. Birkey, Miss I. K. Birkey, Mrs. V. Fremont, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. and Master Hemperly, Mr. and Mrs. K. Kitaoka and two children, Mrs. V. MacKenzie, Mr. M. Mahor, Mr and Mrs. P. E. Shultz, Miss T. Serevin, Rev. and Mrs. W. Taylor, Mrs. V. Tatarnikoff, Mr. and Mrs. K. and Misses (2) Vlasoff, Mr. J. D. Wells.

Per str. Kaiping February 23. From Chinwangtao. Mr. Lienart, Mr. F. Simon, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Thonet and child, Mr. Egbert.

Per str. Chengtu, February 24. From Tientsin, Chefoo and Weihaiwei. Mr. Caslin.

Per str. Lucnyi, February 25. From River Ports. Mr. J. D. Crawford.

Per str. Soochow, February 25. From Hongkong. Lady Ho Tung, Miss J. Ho Tung, Mr. R. Ho Tung, Miss M. Mills, Mr. H. Rose.

Per R.M.S. Empress of Australia, February 25. From Hongkong. Mr. K. M. Balfour, Mr. I. Barradas, Mr. J. C. Bauld, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Brand, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Burkill, Mr. J. P. Campos, Mr. A. H. Corveth, Mr. A. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Dalgliesh, Dr. and Mrs. J. Edgar, Mr. M. Fitzhenry, Mr. F. D. Garnewell, Mr. and Mrs. V. D. Gensburger, Miss Gensburger, Miss J. Gensburger, Mr. A. F. Gomes, Mr. C. W. Glass, Maj. C. F. Gordon, Mr. W. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Corrance, Mr. A. Hobson, Mr. E. S. Hine, Mr. E. M. Hewitt, Mr. S. Hamada, Dr. E. Jones, Mr. W. N. Jung, Mr. J. R. Braakman, Mr. Kopp, Mr. K. T. Koan, Mr. A. H. Lumsdaine, Mr E. T. Leiato, Mrs. C. Y. Mark, Mr. J. F. MacGregor, Mr. N. C. MacGregor, Dr. C. Muller, Mr. W. G. Perie, Mr. J. P. Peries, Mr. E. L. Pinguet, Mr. G. P. Remedios, Mr. A. Shearer, Mr. E. H. Tait, Mr. R. E. Toeg, Mr. F. R. Vida, Miss I. Warren, Miss O. Wickere, Mrs I. Williams, Mr. Marcus, Mr. Aliamao, Mr. A. Y. Ellis, Mr. N. B. Maher, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Ray, Miss Ray, Rev. and Mrs. S. E. Stevens, Rev. and Mrs. S. E. Whisenhunt.

Per str. Fausang, February 25. From Tientsin. Mr. V. I. G. Petersen, Mr. J. Ferguson, Mr. D. G. Donald. **From Chefoo.** Lt. Col. F. Hayley Bell, Major H. F. Bush, Mrs. Day and child, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Wilson. **From Weihaiwei.** Miss E. W. White.

Per str. Kiangwah, February 26. From River Ports. Rev. Fathers Hansprei, Bruland, Bonaute.

Per str. Ningshao, February 26. From River Ports. Mrs. G. Amion, Mr. Cuppers.

Per P. & O. S. Karmala, February 27. From Yokohama. Captain R. Tipple, Mr. R. Hall.

Per str. Saiwo, February 27. From River Ports. Rev. E. J. Galnin, Rev. C. Loddan, Mr. C. L. Hansen, Mr. Anderson.

Per str. Suming, February 28. From Hongkong. Mrs. A. J. Natan, and Mr. R. L. Stewart.

Per str. Changsha, February 28. From River Ports. Mrs. Franson and child, Mr. C. F. Taylor.

Per str. Tuckwo, February 28. From River Ports. Mr. C. J. Barnes, Mr. A. B. Bishop, Miss F. T. Wells, Mr. G. U. Mills, Capt. Williamson.

Per P. & O. S. Khyber February 28. From London. Miss M. John, Miss M. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Burns, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Mob[illegible] and child, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hogben and child, Dr. S. J. Golden, Miss R. Proctor, Mr. A. Wood, Mr. A. J. Hall, Mr. J. M. Hadden, Dr. E. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Elder and child, Mr. D. C. Burn, Mr. G. P. Mossley, Mr. J. R. Liley, Mr. F. Wheeler. **From Marseilles.** Mr. and Mrs. Burgess. **From Port Said.** Mr. J. K. Peteat. **From Colombo.** Mr. G. P. Forster, Mr. S. Hudgell, Mr. E. B. McBain. **From Singapore,** Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, Mr. J. Gardener. **From Hongkong.** Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Miss M. P. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Rickard.

OUTWARD.

Per str. Woosung, February 23.—For River Ports—Mr. H. Herbertz, Mr. C. H. Rogge, Mr. L. Moore, Mr. I. Friesse, Mr. J. H. H. Houstoun.

Per str. Tungchow, February 24.—For Chefoo—Master Derval, Mr. W. Hendry. **For Tientsin**—Miss Knight.

Per str. Yingchow, February 24.—For Hongkong—Captain Dewar, Mr. J. S. McGavin. **For Amoy**—Mr. A. Cerrit.

Per str. Hsin Peking, February 25. For Ningpo—Mr. J. H. Arthur.

Per str. Poyang, February 25.—For River Ports—Mr. K. O. Mackenzie, Mr. W. O. Reats, Mr. G. G. Mudie.

Per str. Fengtien, February 25.—For Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Fleischmann, Master J. Fleischmann, Miss M. Embery.

Per R.M.S. Empress of Australia, February 25.—For Vancouver, etc.—Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Austin, Mrs. H. A[illegible], Rev. J. W. Austen, Mr. A. Bigg[illegible], Mr. J. Carson, Mrs. G. W. Prodsham, Mr. R. Farrant, Miss I. B. Lewis, Mr. N. P. Lambert, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mayers, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Macleod, Mr. J. Magret, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. H. Peebles, Captain L. V. Pedersen, Mr. A. R. Robinson, Miss L. Schsun, Miss J. Smith, Mr. J. S. Tyson, Dr. and Mrs. Carl Ton Broeck and child, Master C. Ton Broek, Captain and Mrs. H. von Heidenstam and child, Miss von Heidenstam, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Walter, Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Andersen, Rev. and Mrs. E. P. Asheroft, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Buschman, Miss L. Clarke, Mr. J. J. Dill, Mrs. Dyson, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Gabhart, Mr. Adolf Glaser, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Halvorsen and child, Miss G. Halvorsen, Father C. King, Mr. C. W. Main, Miss A. Polder, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tarabichi, Mr. C. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Warner, Dr. and Mrs. S. I. Woodbridge, Mr. C. E. Weaks.

Per str. Chengtu, February 26.—For Hongkong—Mr. G. M. Hansworth.

Per str. Shengking, February 26.—For River Ports—Mr. J. Middleton.

Per str. Lucnyi, February 27.—For River Ports—Messrs. Thomas Grafton, F. Bargmann and Chaosien Wood.

BIRTHS

BELL.—On February 23, 1924, at Dr. Fearn's Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Bell, of 636 Avenue Joffre, a son. (Tientsin papers please copy).

DANIELS.—On February 23, 1924, at Dr. Fearn's Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. Willem Daniels, a daughter.

FORREST.—On February 28, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. W. G. H. Forrest, a daughter.

HEINTZLEMAN.—On February 24, 1924, at Hankow, to Ida Mary, wife of Mr. P. S. Heintzleman, U. S. Consul General, Hankow, a daughter.

MADAR.—On February 23, 1924, at 283 Dixwell Road, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Madar, a daughter.

RICHARDSON.—On February 25, 1924, at the Maternity Building, St. Marie's Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. George Oliver Richardson, a son, Robert Simmons.

SOLARI.—On February 26, 1924, at the Maternity Building, St. Marie's Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mme. Roger A. Solari, a son, Roger Georges.

ZANE.—On February 23, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Fong Zane, a son.

MARRIAGES

CHASSELS—MARTIN.—On February 28, 1924, at H.B.M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, before Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., and afterwards at the Union Church by the Rev. A. N. Rowland, M.A., Thomas Rae Chassels to Margaret Muir Martin.

EDGAR ALEXANDER.—On February 18, 1924, at Union Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. J. McConachie, James Edgar, D.V.S.M., M.R.C.V.S., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Edgar, Whithone, Wigtownshire, Scotland, to Isabel, eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, Sandown Park, Wavertree, England.

DEATHS

BRINER.—On Sunday morning, February 24, 1924, at No. 77 Scott Road, Shanghai, Robert Paul, dearly beloved youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. U. Briner, aged 14 months.

FARROW.—On January 3, 1924, at Bournemouth, England, Elizabeth Farrow, aged 82 years, late of Shanghai.

HYKES.—On February 27, 1924, at Chengchow, Honan, Mrs. Rebe S. Hykes, widow of the Rev. J. R. Hykes, D.D. Deeply regretted.

MANDEL.—On February 26, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, Harry Mandel, aged 49. Born Cleveland, Ohio.

PALMER.—On February 23, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, Alfred Palmer (Master Mariner, Jensien Transport Co.), aged 63 years.

RICHARDS.—On February 26, 1924, at 112 Chapoo Road, Shanghai, Elizabeth, the beloved wife of J. A. Richards (Yangtsze Pilot), aged 40 years.

SCOTT.—On February 24, 1924, at No. 123 Rue Massenet, Shanghai, Janet Katherine Scott, of acute appendicitis, aged seven years, eight months and 19 days, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Scott.

SMITH.—On January 9, 1924, at Goodmayes, Essex, England, William Smith, Retired Master Mariner, and late of Shanghai, aged 78.

IN MEMORIAM

BELYEA.—In loving memory of Alex. U. Belyea, who departed from this life on February 26, 1923.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SOUTHERN Rhodesia which was inaugurated as the youngest self governing Colony of the British Empire on October 1, 1923, and which had previously for 33 years been ably administered by the British South Africa Company possesses one of the finest climates in the world with long hours of sunshine, breezy temperate days and cool nights. For those who wish to take up farming or ranching in order to make the most they can of their capital, energy and technical knowledge, or for those who wish to retire from strenuous business or professional life and make a home, Rhodesia offers many advantages unequalled elsewhere. The business, social, sporting, educational and medical facilities bear favourable comparison with those of other countries. Native labour is plentiful and when properly managed is cheap and efficient. Taxation is light. Good land in healthy surroundings and amidst fine scenery is plentiful and not expensive.

Full information is obtainable on application to The Secretary, Southern Rhodesia Settlers' Board (attached to the Government of Southern Rhodesia), P. O. Box 372, Salisbury S., Rhodesia.

The giving of advice to prospective settlers will be facilitated if applicants will advise the Board in detail of their circumstances and the amount of capital they would be prepared to invest in a suitable venture.

SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month	Barometer 9 a.m.	Barometer Attched Therm.	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Feb. 22	30.15	49.5	N N E	3	41.9	39.1	43.0	41.2	C. D.
„ 23	30.41	48.2	N N W	1	34.7	30.4	41.7	28.4	B.
„ 24	30.44	47.7	N W	0	34.7	30.8	43.9	24.8	B.
„ 25	30.45	48.2	N W	1	40.8	36.2	52.7	28.2	B.
„ 26	30.29	49.6	E S E	2	47.7	43.7	51.4	34.6	O.
„ 27	30.23	50.2	Calm	0	47.3	47.0	53.1	44.2	O. F.
„ 28	30.40	48.9	N E	3	37.6	36.9	41.9	37.4	O. D. R.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date	Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Inches 1923
Feb. 22	35.2	34.2	48.0	42.2	0.10	Nil.
„ 23	31.0	33.5	42.0	43.8	Nil.	Nil.
„ 24	28.0	35.0	44.0	43.0	Nil.	Nil.
„ 25	31.2	32.0	48.0	41.0	Nil.	Nil.
„ 26	32.0	27.0	50.2	38.0	Nil.	Nil.
„ 27	45.0	27.0	52.0	43.4	0.10	Nil.
„ 28	38.0	32.2	46.2	54.2	0.34	Nil.

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CHARITY AND WORK

Mar. 3.

A WRITER in a recent issue of the "Contemporary Review" has a searching article on the "Financing of Charities" in England. He estimates the amount of capital invested for charitable purposes—apart from the value of house property, offices, alms houses, orphan homes, etc.—at nearly £100,000,000. The annual income of charities from voluntary sources he reckons at £13,000,000. Both sums tend to increase from year to year. These charitable funds belong to societies which issue annual reports and so can be tabulated. They do not include what may be called casual charity, individual gifts of which no record is kept nor the amounts collected by the begging fraternity on the streets or by house to house solicitation. These contributions, though separately small, must, in the aggregate, amount to a vast sum.

Sir James Denham, who was a friend of King Edward VII, tells in his reminiscenses of a crossing sweeper to whom he was in the habit of giving a contribution from time to time during a long course of years. Naturally enough, a friendly word was spoken now and then by the wealthy man to the humble sweeper and one day the latter "took the liberty" of informing Sir James that he was giving up his pitch. "Business was not what it used to be" and he finally asked whether his wealthy patron would honour him by taking dinner with him to mark the end of their acquaintance. Sir James good-humouredly agreed to do so and was rather struck by the fact that the address given was in a wealthy neighbourhood. He found himself knocking at the door of a mansion, was admitted by a footman and entertained to one of the best dinners he had ever eaten. The crossing sweeper was evidently as wealthy as his honoured guest. Now, it is not at all likely that many beggars have the good fortune of the one who entertained the friend of a king. Nor is it at all certain that the whole of the crossing sweeper's wealth was amassed by his labours with the broom. But, making allowance for all these considerations, there is yet enough in the story to lead us to believe that a good beggar is master of one of the best paying professions in existence. He has spells of good and seasons of bad luck but he has no business losses, is never out of work, and must be constitutionally ill-adapted to that station in life to which he was called, if he does not make, at least, a comfortable living at the trade. "And now abideth these three, Faith, Hope and Charity, and the greatest of these is Charity."

But charity is fallen on evil days. She is no longer the chief of the three Graces. A "charity child" or "charity school" are words of sinister significance and processions of unemployed, we believe, usually carried banners with some such motto as "D— your charity; give us justice." And justice as the working man now construes it means that he is entitled to a day's wage whether he works for it or not. At the first blush the claim seems preposterous enough, but do not let us rashly conclude that it is utterly unreasonable. Here stands Tom Jones with strong, willing hands. Through no fault of his own they are idle hands and he asks nothing better of the world than that these idle hands should be filled with work. The day is past when the world might say, "It is no concern of mine. I am not my brother's keeper. If you cannot find work then, go starve." Tom Jones would probably reply, "But a little while ago you had a war. I did not think it was my concern, but you assured me that this was my country and it was up to me to fight for it and die for it—" And so on. And there is a Labour Ministry in England that thinks very much as Tom Jones thinks. The present Government does not propose to let Tom starve nor even to compel him to take too many reefs in his waist belt. His head is to be kept well above water. The wife and family too must be looked after. They may not have roast beef for Sunday dinner, but neither will they have to clem through the hungry days. You may say "lucky Tom" to have escaped being born in the good old days when all these unpleasant things happened to the unfortunate out-o'-work. Yes, but there is a corollary to all this and the corollary is that the government that feeds the unemployed man and his family has also the right to say to that man, "See, here is a pick and a shovel. Go to, earn your living." Free feeding for hungry mouths? Yes, but also compulsory labour for idle hands. Shall we live to see the day when there will be no more wealthy crossing sweepers? No more whining mendicants but work for all and food for all? We do not know but it is worth our while to "wait and see."

RIVER CONSERVANCY IN KUANGTUNG

Mar. 4.

EVEN those who have no first-hand knowledge of Kuangtung and its unequalled network of rivers and waterways may take an interest in the annual reports of the Board of Conservancy Works, of which Major Olivecrona is engineer-in-chief. In reading these reports it is difficult to know whether the more to admire the engineers' pertinacity "carrying on" under the most discouraging conditions; or to condemn the folly of the Chinese authorities, whose political animosities squander money which could be turned to such infinite advantage for the people of Kuangtung. In the latest report, from July 1, 1922, to June 30, 1923, Major Olivecrona strikes an alarming note. During the year the Board received $416,901 from the Commissioner of Customs and only $4,402 from the local Government. (In passing, these figures supply a further reason, if one were needed, for not allowing the Kuangtung authorities to commandeer the Customs revenue.) After paying for the year's work there remained a little over $58,000 which will be spent on the East and North River Works and to support the Board up to the end of the year:

No new undertakings can be begun. If no fresh grant is forthcoming or a monthly support guaranteed for the near future, sufficient to cover the running expenses for upkeep, it will be necessary to dismiss the staff and suspend the functioning of the Board at the termination of this year. Such a measure would mean the breaking up of the continuity of the Board's work and the scattering of valuable records and plans collected during eight years of painstaking effort. It would also include the deterioration of the various flood protective works erected which in order to remain effective need constant supervision and maintenance.

Demise for river conservancy in Kuangtung would indeed be tragic. Not having heard that the Board has actually ceased functioning, we hope that the Customs have again come to the rescue. From other quarters there is little hope.

Of the year's work detailed in the report, perhaps the most visible benefit is that derived from the construction of the Masai floodgate, completion of the Tung On dyke and repair of certain other dykes—all in the East River region. The report says:

Though the entire scheme for flood protection in the East river is far from completion, much land has already been recovered for cultivation, which was formerly lying idle for lack of adequate protection against floods. The country to the northeast of the Masai floodgate now appears like a vast garden of green, so different from the sight of barren sand fields with scanty grass covering before the dyke was built.

Incidentally, the effect of political upheaval is shown here in a further direction, the average cost of earth-work and cognate charges having risen from 19.28 cents per cubic metre in 1920-21 to 23.49 cents in 1922-23. The Lupao control sluice, on the North River (about fourteen miles above Samshui), is another work of great promise. The North River, pouring through the Lupao and other creeks, is mainly to blame for the periodical floods in the Canton River. (In 1915 Shameen and the whole of Canton city were under water for six days.) The Lupao control sluice is designed to keep the overflow from the North River and save the creek from carrying more water than it should. Meanwhile the Board has schemes for the raising and strengthening of dykes on the North River. But this would cost $11,000,000 and where is that to be found?

We find mention in the report of another project on the East River, which, at a cost of $1,500,000, would protect against inundation 600 square kilometres of land. Also an elaborate and much-needed plan for the improvement of the Front Reach of Canton River, estimated cost $9,670,000. But there are no funds. Perhaps the most striking part of the report is the foreword by Mr. K. T. Tong, director general of the Board. He pays a glowing eulogy to the "persistence and loyalty" of the engineering staff. But

Owing to lack of funds I have not been able to follow my inclination to commence new work, but have had to confine my efforts to the completion of work begun by my predecessors. A number of petitions for help to reconstruct broken dykes have lately been filed. It gives me great pain to have to reply in the negative. But the Board's funds are now nearly all exhausted.

And more in a like strain. One gathers that Mr. Tong is not a politician and, against the day when politicians cease to rule the roost deduces comfort from the thought.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH ENTENTE

Mar. 5.

THE correspondence between Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and M. Poincaré is most welcome, both in itself and for the fullness of publicity accorded it. When in private life two friends are divided by mutual grievances, if they truly wish their friendship to continue, the first thing they must do is to say frankly what they have against each other. There is no reason why the same rule should not apply to nations, but it rarely does so. In the case of Great Britain and France there has been a great deal of journalistic pin-pricking on both sides of the Channel, but no effective attempt by Ministers to state the grounds of complaint clearly. Last September Mr. Stanley Baldwin and M. Poincairé met in Paris and after a long conversation issued a *communiqué* to the effect that there was no essential difference of opinion between the two Governments. But possibilities of good result were stultified by Lord Curzon's speech, not long afterwards, at the Imperial Conference, which undoubtedly gave great offence in France, especially to M. Poincaré. In this connexion, it may be said that the proverb about one man being allowed to steal a horse while another may not look over a wall is especially true in France, where individual charms count for much indeed. Lord Curzon and Mr. Lloyd George are detested in France; towards Mr. MacDonald she seems well disposed. And certainly the warm welcome accorded to his letter by the Press of Paris shows that he has managed to say what he wanted to say, on the most delicate subject imaginable, without giving offence.

It would be hard luck indeed if he had done so. He admits, we read, "that the German menace to France is real and the French have some real justification for seeking more tangible safeguards instead of the lapsed Anglo-American joint guarantee. The French are also disappointed with regard to reparations." And with these few words the British Prime Minister epitomizes the whole of the French case. There is no doubt that France was bitterly aggrieved by the failure of the guarantee, which indeed is an episode that neither British nor Americans can think of with much pleasure; and it has seemed to her that every effort has been made by her Allies—not only the British—to get Germany off the payment of reparations, which, in the French view, not only deprives France of her just expectations, but hastens the day when Germany will be able to make another assault upon her. On the other hand, it cannot be ignored that the measures which France has been taking to protect herself and make Germany pay were calculated to excite the suspicion in Britain, where trade is bad and unemployment agonizing, which Mr. Ramsay MacDonald recounts. And while that suspicion, like its counterpart in France, may be erroneous, it colours public opinion to an extent which no Minister of State can leave out of his reckoning. Not least is British feeling ruffled by the French Government's attitude in respect of the war debts due from France to Britain, on which the British taxpayer is actually paying the interest due. There was never any suggestion when these debts were contracted that repayment was conditional on Germany paying her reparations, and the assumption of this condition by the French Government does not make a good impression in Britain, especially when there appears to be plenty of money in France to lend to the Little Entente. M. Poincaré's reply on this particular question does not, it must be confessed, read very convincingly.

The French Prime Minister's letter, as a whole, is as cordial as it would naturally be expected to be, but we cannot honestly think that it shows any departure, or intention of such, from the policy he has repeatedly enunciated. His allusions to the League of Nations, in particular, do not in the least justify the enthusiasm with which its friends have received them: they are no doubt perfectly sincere, but under the present conditions in Europe absolutely academic. The League is no arbiter of Europe while Germany and Russia remain out of it and until the former shows more sincerity in fulfulling her share of the Peace Treaty and the latter gives satisfaction to her claimants abroad, thereby really signifying her desire to re-enter the comity of nations, outside the League they will remain. The fundamental difficulty between Great Britain and France is that Germany should be made to pay. In this respect we do not suppose that the vast majority of the British people feel differently from the French. It is no question of nurturing the angry feelings of war time, of keeping alive old grudges, but simply that Germany agreed, in return for peace, to pay for the damage she did; and that, so far from appearing to make an honest attempt to do so, she seems to have been trying only by every means in her power to prove that she cannot. There is very much in the behaviour of the German Government since the war to support the French contention that there is no difference between it now and what it was in Hohenzollern days.

APATHY OF THE ELECTORATE

Mar. 6.

SOME eight hundred odd out of a total of over two thousand electors participated in this week's Municipal Election. This is not what one would call a representative proportion, and when an analysis of the election is made the facts are worse than ever. On the first day of the poll no more than two hundred and fifty people registered their votes, and only the final hours brought forth the real voting power of the community. Considering how we stand in relation to native China, these figures are not by any means

lomatically in Peking have not yet recognized the Soviet, the last question would be interesting.

Chinese official circles state that China has not yet decided on her course towards Russia while Chinese papers assert that recognition by China is imminent and that negotiations will follow as in the case of some other Powers. It is unofficially pointed out, however, that China's position *vis-à-vis* of Russia differs from most others, inasmuch as China has no pressing claims for settlement, whereas the case is reversed with Russia, who has much to gain by a generous settlement.—Reuter's Pacific Service

THE CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY.

Harbin, Mar. 5.

Dr. C. C. Wang, President of the Chinese-Eastern Railway, has returned from Peking. The situation is now quieter. Mr. J. Raindre, Director of the Russo-Asiatic Bank, has left for Peking. No settlement of the land question has yet been arranged.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Mar. 6.

Contrary to expectation, the Cabinet this morning did not discuss Sino-Russian affairs. The position seems to be that Dr. C. T. Wang has not yet discussed his report with the President, as he will do before the report is sent to the Cabinet.

SOVIET MISSION'S ATTITUDE.

It is semi-officially asserted that the main point at issue remains the question whether recognition will be accorded to be followed by official discussions of the various questions to be settled between the two countries, or whether unofficial negotiations are to reach an agreement in principle on certain important points.

It is understood that the Soviet representative firmly maintains his original demand for recognition as a preliminary measure. It was hinted to-day that no immediate result is likely owing to the uncompromising attitude of the Russian Mission.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

According to a telegram received by the "*Sinwanpao*" from Peking, China will recognize Soviet Russia on three conditions. These are:—

1. Russia to recognize Chinese rights over the Chinese-Eastern Railway, the railway to be used for commercial purposes only. China to redeem the railway from the Russian capitalists, and before this is done a committee of five Chinese and five Russians to be appointed to go into the matter.

2. Russia to recognize Mongolia as part of Chinese territory; and China will put a stop to the activities of the "Whites" in Mongolia; after China has made the necessary preparations for defence, Russia to withdraw from Mongolia.

3. (a) China to assume jurisdiction over Russians in China.

(b) The abolition of all Russian concessions in China.

(c) The cancellation of all Chinese-Russian agreements.

(d) Neither Russia nor China to propagate their doctrines in each other's territories.

(e) Russia to return the Boxer indemnity.

(f) A new Customs tariff to be arranged.

(g) China to restore the property and estates of Russians.

THE TRADEMARK LAW

Diplomatic Body's Protest Still Unanswered and Repeated

Peking, Feb. 29.

The Doyen of the Diplomatic Body has lodged a protest with the Waichiaopu on the ground that the Chinese Government is intending to enforce the Chinese Trademark Act without giving its consideration to the conditions the Diplomatic Body have set forth in their recognition of the proposed Act, and has at the same time requested the Chinese Government to agree to the conditions on the part of the Diplomatic Body.

MR. PALMER'S REPORT ON THE YANGTZE

Possibilities of Conservancy to Improve Channels for Steamers to Hankow: An Enterprise Not Worth the Cost: Question of Flood Prevention

In the autumn of 1921, it will be remembered, an international commission of engineers met in Shanghai to consider the future necessities of the Port. Growing out of this undertaking arose the larger idea of conservancy of the Yangtze and in December of that year Mr. F. Palmer, the British member of the Port of Shanghai Commission, with Mr. Von Heidenstam and Mr. Yang Pao-ling, submitted to Peking certain recommendations. On the strength of these the Chinese Government set up a representative body, presided over by Mr. Kao Ling-wei, to take charge of all questions concerning the improvement of the Yangtze, which, in turn, appointed a technical committee. A Survey Department was organized under the charge of Mr. G. G. Stroebe, an engineer of considerable experience in the P. W. D. of the Philippine Government, to carry out a system of accurate levels between Hankow and Woosung, to make hydrological measurements at suitable controlling points on the river; and to prepare topographical surveys of such places as may, from time, be required.

Finally in September and October last Mr. Palmer returned to the Far East and made an inspection of the Yangtze as far as Wanhsien. His report on this inspection is now available for publication and we give below a summary of its main conclusions.

CHINESE SURVEYORS' GOOD WORK.

The report opens with a warm tribute to "the vast amount of valuable work which has been performed by the Department in such a short space of time—the more praiseworthy because, at its inception, the operations of the Department included the training of men unused to scientific work of this particular nature. The Chinese officers entrusted with the work have shown such zeal and enthusiasm in carrying out their duties, at all times and under all conditions of weather, that they have now reached a degree of competence, which has probably never before been reached in this country, and approaching the best standards of any other place in the world." Helpful and wholehearted cooperation was also received from other bodies specializing in similar work.

Mr. Palmer then proceeds to give a brief description of the course of the Yangtze, taking it under three sections, *i.e.* Ichang to Chungking, Ichang to Hankow, Hankow to Woosung. Of the first no great improvement can be considered even possible, apart from additional marking of channels already contemplated. As regards the Ichang-Hankow stretch Mr. Palmer remarks that "the survey staff engaged has been, and still is, much too small to afford the fullest information in regard to channels." But the value of the trade above Hankow and the manner in which it is actually handled exclude the necessity of any expensive scheme of improvement.

FROM HANKOW TO WOOSUNG.

Remains the reach from Hankow to Woosung and the possibilities of so improving it as to facilitate access to Hankow by vessels of deep draft all the year round. Mr. Palmer begins by giving a minute description of this important waterway, enumerating the points where difficulties occur and paying a tribute to the work of Mr. Carrel and the river inspectors under him in keeping navigators informed as to depths and directions. And he then discusses the three questions: (1) What improvement is possible: (2) What would it cost; (3) Would it pay?

WHEN DOES OBSTRUCTION OCCUR?

He has no difficulty in concluding that to make Hankow accessible all the year round to ocean-going steamers with drafts of 20 to 25 ft. is out of the question. Turning then to river steamers, Mr. Palmer says:—"The diagrams of Restricted Navigation Depths will show that in the years 1917-18, 1918-19, 1919-22 and 1922-23, it was not possible to take to Hankow vessels:—

"(1) Drawing 10 ft. during periods varying from 0 to 54 days, with an average of 23 days.

"(2) Drawing 12 ft. during periods varying from 0 to 91 days, with an average of 54 days, and

"(3) Drawing 15 ft. during periods varying from 0 to 110 days, with an average of 80 days.

"In 1920-21 there was no difficulty for the 10 ft. draft steamers, but for those drawing 12 ft. there were 16 restricted days and for those drawing 15 ft. there were 76 restricted days. In 1918-19, all these drafts were unrestricted."

Improvement being considered desirable, though not perhaps necessary, would the cost of the necessary training works pay?

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND COST.

In 1922 the total value of trade of all Yangtze ports above Shanghai was Hk. Tls. 482,402,000. Revenue derived by the Customs, including payments at Shanghai for up river goods, was about Hk. Tls. 10,900,000: assuming a surtax of five per cent., river traffic would have produced a revenue of Hk. Tls. 545,000. This would allow a capital expenditure of Hk. Tls. 5,450,000.

In the very short time that the Yangtze River Commission has existed, it has obviously been impossible to obtain information enough to get an exact idea of costs. But speaking very generally, Mr. Palmer finds reason to believe "that the sum required to remove one of the obstructions to 15 ft draft navigation, could not be less than three and a half million Hk. Tls. There are today at least eight places between Wuhu and Hankow where such obstructions occur. On the whole it may be assumed that a capital expenditure of probably twenty-five millions Hk. Tls. would have to be faced, to obtain freedom from restrictions to vessels drawing 15 feet."

ATTERNATIVE OF DREDNING.

Training works being obviously out of court, Mr. Palmer considers the possibility of dredging, on which, after enumerating certain necessary factors he concludes:—

"The capital cost might amount to about Hk. Tls. 2,500,000 and the running costs to about Hk. Tls. 350,000 per annum. Fixed charges with interest at 6 per cent., amortization at 4 per cent., would amount to 10 per cent. so that the total annual cost might be in the neighbourhood of Hk. Tls. 600,000. Even this figure is in excess of the possible Revenue from the surtax of 5 per cent. already alluded to, on the 1922 basis trade, and to produce a balanced budget, including say 10 per cent. on the running costs for overhead charges, it would be necessary to increase the surtax to at least 7 per cent. on the Maritime Customs collections derived from the trade of all Yangtze Ports above Shanghai."

TRADE BENEFIT TLS. 168,000.

To what extent, now, would trade actually be benefited? This question involves consideration of the number of months each year when the larger river steamers now coming into use have to lighter in order to reach Hankow. Mr. Palmer says:

"Generally speaking, shipowners reckon upon an average of three months of, more or less, restricted depth, and during this period, charges are increased to cover cost of lightering part of the cargoes, and the higher cost of carrying the other part, which comes about because of the vessels being only partly laden. It is the reduction of winter charges to the level of summer charges, which constitutes the benefits which would accrue to the trade, as the result of the removal of all restrictions for, say, 15 ft draft vessels between Wuhu and Hankow."

Going further into the matter with the shipping companies Mr. Palmer found that "of the quantities of imports and exports between Shanghai and Kiukiang-Hankow, carried during the months of November, December and January, over the past six years, the average total per month amounted to about 250,000 tons. Of this quantity, only a portion had to be lightered, and the balance was carried, at somewhat higher cost, of course, in the lightered steamers. The total amount realized by the increase of charges in the winter months, was said to be Hk. Tls. 168,000 per annum, and this figure agreed remarkably closely with estimates which had been separately prepared by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce and also by the Technical Committee.

"This, then, is the value of the benefits to be obtained by removing restrictions to 15 ft draft vessels, and it follows that if the annual cost of the dredging works amounts to a sum exceeding this figure (Hk. Tls. 168,000), it is not economically possible to carry them out. It has been shown that the annual cost may reach Hk Tls. 600,000 per annum, and, therefore, there can be no commercial justification for providing a minimum depth suitable for 15 ft steamers, throughout the period of restriction."

In a word the game is not worth the candle.

FLOOD PREVENTION.

The report concludes with some extremely interesting remarks on flood prevention. In this respect the Yangtze "is remarkably free from such disastrous floods as those which have frequently occurred in the Yellow River." None the less floods occur and Mr. Palmer touches lightly upon the question of adequate dykes to prevent them. "There appears to be only one method (he says) of obtaining a revenue sufficient to meet the interest and maintenance charges on a work of such magnitude, and that is by the imposition of a small tax upon the protected area. It would amount to only a trifling charge on each mow saved from flooding, but whether such a tax can be imposed and collected, is a matter on which the Government is best able to form an opinion."

Inquiry into the extent of damage by floods would have to take into account the value derived from deposited silt. The whole question opens up a vast field of survey. And the report concludes with these winged words.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS' INTEREST.

"How such a proposal (*i.e.* the requisite survey) could be developed without interfering with Provincial Control, is a matter on which the writer is not competent to offer even a suggestion, but it is selfevident that nothing could be done, no scheme prepared, without the whole-hearted cooperation of the provinces traversed, by the Yangtze. The composition of the commission includes representatives of all the provinces through which the river flows. The Governors of Hupeh, Anhui and Kiangsu, who were good enough to receive the Technical Committee during the recent inspection, were extremely cordial and in sympathy with the possible improvement of the River. The improvement which naturally would appeal most to those responsible for the lives and welfare of the people, would be, not so much the preparation of better navigable channels, but rather the alleviation of these losses of life and property which occur with such frequency, if not indeed year by year—losses which must be a matter of almost continual consideration by the local authorities; and it is felt that no encroachment upon provincial rights would be involved in seeking at least that co-operation which would allow of proposals being formulated. Nothing done in the way of survey work would affect those rights, and, therefore, the time may be ripe to endeavour to obtain the data required for a comprehensive view of the whole situation."

Peking, Feb. 29.—The Chinese Chamber of Commerce at Vladivostok has telegraphed to the Government requesting that Mr. Shou Heng-chun, newly appointed Consul-General at that port, should leave for Vladivostok as soon as possible.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PRESIDENT TSAO'S HEALTH

Absurd Rumour of His Death Denied: Spread by Shanghai Propagandists?

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Mar. 6.

Sensational reports that President Tsao Kun has died are wholly untrue, but it has been verified that he is suffering from a lingering illness. The stories of his demise are denied by Palace guests.

The whole propaganda has most likely emanated from Chinese Banks, which are speculating in bonds. Shanghai bond quotations to-day are remarkably contrary to local indications, which suggest jugglery by Shanghai banks.

CHINESE NAVY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Peking, Mar. 3.

A solution of the naval dispute seems to have been reached by the arrangement under which Admiral Wen Shou-teh's squadron at Chefoo will be placed under the direction, but not under the control, of Admiral Tu Hsi-kuei and that correspondence from the former will pass through Admiral Tu.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TSAO JUI'S POST IN CHIHLI

Peking, Feb. 27.

Mr. Tsao Jui was informed of his appointment as Tupan of Government Mining Enterprises in Chihli yesterday, and informed that he will not be required to go to Mukden on the peace mission. Mr. Yun Chang will take Mr. Tsao's place in the mission.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE SPOILS OF FUKIEN

Peking, Feb. 28.

General Sun Chuan-fang left Foochow with his staff for Yenping on the 27th instant. He will establish his headquarters at Yenping. General Sun seems to have found himself undermined at Foochow by General Wang Yung-chuan, who has pushed out of all the important offices the followers of General Sun and replaced them with his own men. It is not expected that General Sun will remain quietly at Yenping, which is situated a little north of the centre of Fukien Province. General Wang Yung-chuan was stationed at Yenping-fu before he went to Foochow at the invitation of the Central Government.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BRITAIN AND THE BOXER INDEMNITY

Londor, Mar. 5.

In the House of Commons today, asked whether steps had been taken with regard to remission of the Boxer Indemnity and whether, with a view to the promotion of more friendly relations with China, arrangements for utilization of the Indemnity payments could be expedited, Mr. Arthur Ponsonby, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that legislation would be necessary to give effect to the policy of the Government. A bill had been drafted and would be introduced shortly.—Reuter.

A police constable on duty at the S.N.R. station on Monday, chancing to take special interest in some parcels being carted in, found that they contained a useful quantity of opium. This the officer appropriated, as well as the man in charge of it, whence arose turmoil in which the policeman lost a few buttons from his tunic and a piece of finger, bitten off by an assailant. The Chinese press reports that the smuggler and his opium were rescued from official grasp by "a Railway Constable and 20 porters," but this must be doubted. It cannot be that the S.N.R. is taking on contraband as a "side line."

of phrase in which some earnest writers would seem almost to revel; but this has never been done except with the utmost care not to alter or weaken the writer's purpose. In the main, we frankly think that a wise secrecy is a far better course to adopt than the modern shouting from the house-tops, which puts ideas into the heads of young people that they would otherwise never entertain, frequently with results the very last the reformers ever imagined.

POSTAL MATTERS

Mar. 8.

The Administration of the local Post Office has circularized box-holders with a request that "to enable this office to check the work of the staff sorting box-holders' mails and thereby to increase the efficiency of the service . . . a record be kept, say for one week, of all mistakes in sorting, and that the completed record be sent to the Postal Commissioner with such general comments or suggestions as past experience may prompt." This further evidence of the desire of our postal officials to increase the efficiency of the service under their direction is highly commendable, and there is little doubt that the subscribers to the boxes, or the majority of them, will co-operate to the end desired. A matter that is much more important than the sorting of the mail matter when it reaches Shanghai, however, is the question of getting it here at all. For many months the arrivals of mails, from both Europe and Hongkong, have been annoyingly irregular and have caused no little inconvenience. We will take the last week or so, in regard to the Hongkong mails to Shanghai, as an example. We will deal with newspapers, which always are posted promptly at Hongkong, and usually arrive here from three to five days and occasionally two, after publication. On the morning of March 1, there was a local delivery (at the boxes) of the Hongkong morning papers of February 26 and 27 So far as we can trace, the next delivery of Hongkong papers was on the late afternoon of March 6, when those of March 1 were received. At just before noon yesterday those of February 28 and 29 were available. Obviously there is something wrong in regard to this. There was no delivery between March 1 and March 6 and yet on every day in that period boats arrived at Shanghai from Hongkong. There was the Nanchang on the 2nd, the London Maru on the 3rd, the City of Cairo on the 4th, and the Tingsang, the Bengloe and the Derfflinger on the 5th, to mention some; and it appears strange that with all these, and other boats, coming from Hongkong, no steps should have been taken to send mails on some of them, and so avoid a hiatus of practically five days. This, of course, is a matter more affecting the postal authorities at Hongkong than our own local officials; but it seems that if strong representations were made from this end the Hongkong postal people might conceivably do something in regard to the Shanghai mail. As to the mails from Europe, we can at least congratulate ourselves that matters cannot get much worse; no mails now ever appears to be "expected": people apparently just accept them with thankfulness whenever ultimately they arrive.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Keeping a War Going

When the crisis of 1914 let loose on the public a whole host of war critics, economists and specialists in other directions, it was freely stated that no modern war could last for more than three months as by that time the nations would be bankrupt. Lord Kitchener was the first man to dispute this, but when he mentioned that he was preparing for a three-years' war few believed him. The war lasted for over four years, and it was man power and not finance which brought it to an end. To-day we read of the devices which Dr. Sun Yat-sen has to adopt in Canton to keep his armies in the field, and it may be questioned how they will compare with the acts of the great Powers in raising loans. Dr. Sun has introduced something in the nature of a property levy and has increased taxation enormously in order to pay his mercenaries, but in the way of actual loans from outside sources he has had little. The support of over-seas Chinese on which he has relied much hitherto can hardly be sufficient for the financing of a prolonged war, and so his extraneous sources of help must be greatly limited. The question then comes to be, how long can he carry on his war under his present system of taxation? Were it not for the example of the European Powers people would be inclined to suggest that his campaign must collapse at any moment, but although, as we have seen, there is a vast difference in ways of raising money, we must not be too certain. The national bankruptcy notion is an exploded one, and Dr. Sun may prove that the theory of a limit to taxation possibilities is equally fallacious.

Ludendorff's New Role

The spectacle of General von Ludendorff practising the arts of oratory before the tribunal of Munich will prove strange to many who have studied the man through his work at the head of the German armies and by a perusal of his books. A bold and skilful soldier, he impressed one as a man having a very full sense of the terrific responsibilities he had to shoulder during the war, and in his writings he discussed his work in that connexion on the whole dispassionately, though naturally his non-German readers will often be at variance with him both as to the correctness of his facts and conclusions. One thing, however, they could hardly accuse him of, any theatrical pose, although perhaps his later writings may have had a more spectacular tendency. Now, however, he stands up in the Munich court and talks not so much as one addressing a judicial tribunal as an audience, a mob even. In impassioned language he tells of the wrongs done to Bavaria and of the treachery of others in respect of himself, and therein we see a new Ludendorff. All the bitterness of his soul upon this second defeat emerges in his address, and brother soldiers and politicians alike come in for his reprobation. If the view of many Germans is correct, this may be the last phase of Ludendorff, and hence his bitterness. He has still the most ambitious conceptions of what the German Reich may be, but after the toil and turmoil of years added to age, it is doubted whether he is the man to carry them out. The belief is held in many quarters that the work is of a nature to be undertaken only by a younger man, and Germans believe that they know who this man is. Hence the side-stepping of Ludendorff, and his change of poise, coming as a realization of it, in an effort to rally the forces of his nationals to his own banner.

Trademarks and Food

At a time when the agitation over the Chinese Trademark Law is at its height, it has been extraordinarily useful to have had a case in the Mixed Court bearing on the subject in a specially important manner, this because it involved a question of human food. A Chinese grocer has just been fined $50 for an infringement of the trademarks of certain brands of condensed milk, and it transpired in the course of the hearing that one of the parties connected with the sale of the milk knew that the article in question was not good. Yet it subsequently appeared for sale under the label of well-known brands of tinned milk, and no doubt deceived a number of people. We need not expatiate on the danger to health resulting from the use of inferior tinned foodstuffs, but realizing how easy it is in this country to palm off a colourable imitation for the genuine article, a case like this should cause the whole of the foreign communities and not alone the merchants to insist upon the strictest safeguards for the trademarks. In the case of Shanghai there is a very considerable business done in the way of auctioning damaged and bankrupt cargo, and the auctioneer, of course, can give no guarantee as to its condition nor can he dictate as to whom he shall sell it. When cheap lots of goods fall into unscrupulous hands, the ease with which an outwardly presentable article can be faked out of a bad one must stand as a constant temptation, which will be increased if there is any laxity in the administration of the trademark law. Keeping this in view it becomes more than ever necessary that the greatest safeguards should be obtained and no effort should be relaxed until cast-iron guarantees have been obtained. These are only possible along some such lines as the Mackay Treaty has laid down.

The Dynamite Depot

The question of the explosives magazine on which we publish a letter to-day from one of our readers and a further account of the precautions taken as regards the magazine would appear to be one of, "taking time by the fetlock." In other words, the arrangements which were perfectly effective a few years ago are not necessarily so as the harbour becomes more congested and buildings and wharves lengthen out towards Woosung. We have no desire to raise a scare, but we think that Mr. Gundry has done well in calling attention to the matter. Sooner or later it is inevitable that a comprehensive scheme of harbour reorganization will be put into effect and it at least appears unlikely that that would permit an explosives magazine to remain where it now is. Then will come the question of obtaining a suitable site, which will certainly be none the easier if left till the last minute. Such a site should also be big enough to spread the explosive among a number of small magazines instead of storing them all in one building.

From Out of Oblivion

The meeting of the Grand Duke Nicholas and General Wrangel, mentioned in to-day's telegrams, carries the mind back in the first place four years and then several years farther. These were names once on the tip of everybody's tongue, but latterly almost forgotten by all but Russians probably. Now they have emerged out of the past and they recall the struggles against Germans and Austrians and subsequently of White Russian against Bolsheviks. Being on the grand scale the work of Nicholas comes readily to mind, but General Wrangel is hardly in the same category. In 1919 General Denikin was operating against the Bolsheviks from a base on the Black Sea, and General Wrangel was his cavalry leader. Towards the end of the year, while Admiral Koltchak still held the field in Siberia, two wonderful enterprises took place—a dash on Moscow by Denikin and another on Petrograd by Yudenitch. Both just failed of success, though they gave the Bolsheviks a tremendous fright, but with their climax came the decisive turn of the tide. Koltchak's force was soon swept to the eastern confines of Siberia and its leader slain, while Yudenitch and Denikin were hurled back on their respective bases, the latter's army being particularly severely handled by the Red forces. A defeated man, Denikin gave up the game, and Wrangel took his place. The position of his army, now a mere remnant, was parlous in the extreme, having a bare strip of coast line in the Crimea which it could call its own. Wrangel, however, succeeded in bringing order out of chaos, and turning on the Bolsheviks was able to force them back and finally to evacuate his force with success. Since then his army has been domiciled in Jugo-Slavia, but now apparently it is again in an unhappy position, or will be shortly if that country recognizes Russia. It will have to move elsewhere, a yet further tragedy for men who put up a good fight.

Finger Prints

The news that the local Chinese police are at least tentatively considering the adoption of the finger-print system of identification is a hopeful sign, although we must not expect too much. In the annals of criminology in the Far East the Shanghai Municipal Police will always rank high as an efficient preventive and detective agency because at an early state they introduced this system and were instrumental in persuading other ports to adopt it, thus starting a network around the criminal classes who live and work among foreign communities. An offer was made a few years ago to the local Chinese police to train them in the system, but Hsu Kuo-liang, then at head of affairs, intimated that he was interesting himself in a different system, and the matter fell into abeyance. It was much to be regretted that such an attitude was taken, for complete success can only be attained by uniformity throughout the whole of the police forces which may have to deal at different times with the same criminals. Now that the local Chinese police have shown themselves interested in the finger-print system, the position has very much greater possibilities and every effort should be made to ensure that they adopt it in its entirety and carry it out with the scrupulous care which is necessary in dealing with it. If the system can be set working in practicable fashion it will mean a great limitation of the area in which the criminal finds himself free to work, and not only will the Treaty Ports and Peking be linked up but a start made with Chinese territory as a whole. It must be remembered, however, that results will not be seen for some time, and until a full and highly qualified staff is working at it, the tangible results will be small.

Yangtze Conservancy

The greatest interest attaches to Mr. Palmer's report on the possibility of improving the Yangtze, of which we publish a lengthy summary to-day. Our only regret is that we have not space to print it in full. The report is a model of its kind, terse, clear, comprehensive, illuminating in every respect and assisted by excellent maps and diagrams. Briefly, Mr. Palmer's conclusion is that to make the Yangtze accessible all the year round even for the deepest river steamers (ocean-going ships are out of the question) is hardly necessary and certainly would not pay. The extra cost to trade involved by low water seasons is calculated at Tls. 168,000. Against this, the cost of dredging alone would run into Tls. 600,000 annually, which is more than such taxation as the river trade could be expected to bear would yield; while the cost of training works would run into many millions. There remains the possibility of flood prevention, on which Mr. Palmer has something important to say about provincial cooperation. It is a welcome feature of the report that it abounds in testimony to the readiness of all the Chinese authorities to assist in every way. It is to be inferred that they are alive to the desirability of doing something and while the particular project of Yangtze conservancy proves impracticable, there are kindred needs towards which this spirit is of very happy augury.

Britannia's Trident

Some Chinese descriptions of things foreign are at times peculiarly apt, if occasionally unflattering. One such was given at the Hongkong Criminal Sessions last week, when before Mr. Justice Gompertz and a jury, the trial took place of four men who were charged with having been concerned in the recent piracy of the str. Ka-ngo. In the course of evidence, a pig-dealer, who was one of the unfortunate passengers on the vessel, stated that more than $4,000 was taken from him. Some of the money was "man-with-a-pole-in-his-hand dollars." On His Lordship inquiring what such dollars were, the Attorney-General, the Hon. Mr. J. H. Kemp, K.C., replied blandly, "He means Britannia, my Lord." A cheerful way of describing the trident, but probably etymologically sound, for it is almost certain that when Neptune first set up in business he had nothing more ambitious than a sharp pointed branch in his possession with which he worked along the creeks of his particular district. Probably it was not until he could increase the capital of his concern that he was able to employ the village blacksmith (related no doubt to Tubal Cain) to embroider his weapon with the now traditional prongs.

Unfortunate Rumours

The rumours which have been recently in circulation regarding the health of President Tsao Kun are in places having an adverse effect on business. Yesterday certain Chinese business circles in Shanghai had the rumour that he was really ill, and as a result one or two merchants refused to do business, fearing political complications should his condition take a more serious turn. Happily this was not generally the case, and on the whole business went on along its wonted lines. Nevertheless attention must be given to such rumours as these, for they show how greatly the unfortunate political condition of China is affecting legitimate trade. The Chinese merchants know only too well how, if Tsao Kun vacated the Presidential throne, there would be such a reshuffling of the political cards as to create a crisis in the country, and the man holding the strong hand would almost immediately be faced with a combination not only of opponents but of erstwhile partners as well. Tsao Kun may not be, in his adversaries' opinion, an ideal President, but the fact that he is in office preserves the status quo, and in these days that is about the best we can hope for. There is every reason to believe that he is recovering from his recent indisposition, and the class of rumour to which we have referred should be allayed as speedily as possible, Chinese in responsible positions especially doing this work.

Kreisler in China

In the "Strand Magazine" Kreisler has been giving his views on the places he has visited, and he includes China among them. The deplorable condition of the country has certainly impressed him, for he tells his readers of the brigandage which is rampant, and if he exaggerates it is pardonable in a stranger. Mentioning the raids he has heard of he explains that he was lucky not to have been among the 200 foreigners who were carried off the day after he left Peking. Doubtless he is here referring to Lincheng, and although he puts the number of foreign captives altogether too high in this case, he is hardly to be blamed. There were the greater part of half a hundred, and the experiences they went through deserve to make the incident as permanent and striking an example of what misrule has reduced China to as if there had been the number he states. The great thing is that he conveys to people an impression of the state of the country, and although no one here will suggest that his visit here was at all in the nature of an adventure, no opportunity should be lost in keeping the governments of the Powers *au fait* with the situation here. And Kreisler has helped along these lines.

satisfactory: in fact we ought to have been in a position to show that every man and woman possessed of a vote had taken advantage of the occasion to register his or her opinion. Had it been only a one-day poll the results might have been very different, for there was one candidate greatly favoured by a particular section, generally considered the reforming section of the community, and it is fairly certain that his supporters turned out in strength at the earliest possible moment to help his chances at the poll. The fact that they were unsuccessful does not in any way detract from the value of the work they do in a municipal sense for the community, and it should be an indication to the other electors that it is high time that they likewise took an active interest in municipal affairs. After all, it is scandalous that people should content themselves with merely paying rates, and having discharged this duty should not think it worth while going to the poll to vote for the people they would wish to see on the Council. Furthermore it is hardly complimentary to the men who stand for office.

In connexion with this election a note may be made with reference to a system entirely different from that designated by the Land Regulations and distinctly alien from the British idea on which the Shanghai system is apparently based. In Belgium attendance at the polling booth is, we are informed, compulsory, and a fine or imprisonment awaits the elector unable to produce a doctor's certificate or certificate of absence from his electoral area. The elector is not compelled to vote: he may return a blank paper: but the law makes him at least appear to take an interest in the proceedings. This may not be in accordance with Anglo-Saxon ideas but it has obvious advantages. In the case of Shanghai a very great number of people did not vote for no better reason than that they forgot all about the election; and if they did not, they went a good way along a worse path: they assumed that vested interests would carry a preponderance of votes so as to secure a continuance of the present control of affairs, and thus attendance at the poll was slack. There was never a greater mistake, and in view of the first day's figures which we have quoted, it becomes certain that only the last hour voters turned the scale against the unsuccessful candidate. In this event of there having been a smaller poll, Mr. Hughes would quite probably have been elected, and it would have been matter of congratulation on the part of many bodies if he had been. Mr. Hughes was not in any sense nominated by the Ratepayers' Association. But his none the less well known connexion with that body would have been by no means without its utility. It implies no lack of confidence in the Council or of appreciation of its work to say that a certain measure of criticism and even of opposition is a good thing in municipal affairs and Mr. Hughes would have been able to put that point of view as perhaps it is not always realized.

We have quoted the Belgian example in the hope of arousing the thousand odd electors who did not vote to a sense of their duty. We may go further. This year there was no actual election for the French Municipal Council, but the candidates, standing as they did for a programme of economy, asked for the franchises of the residents as a matter of confidence in their policy. Should it not be the same here, and is it not worth while to express confidence in an administration by the casting of a vote? Assuredly it is: and if it is the sentiment of the community that the administration is being carried on along the lines which the public deems best, the only safe way to prevent an alteration is by turning out in force to the polls and voting wholeheartedly. For, it must be remembered, if there is what might be called a reforming section in the community, with candidate to the fore, the members of that section will certainly be at the polling booths in strength, and in Shanghai, probably more than any place else, we have the possibility of seeing a candidate elected by a minority vote. In saying this we would wish to associate ourselves with the Ratepayers Association in an appreciation of the public spirit of Mr. Hughes in offering himself for election. On a slightly smaller poll he would have become a member of the Council, though the majority of the people who took the trouble to vote were against him. Had he been elected, Mr. Hughes would no doubt have made a wholly admirable member of our Council: but the moral to be drawn is that while the present electoral apathy prevails we may find ourselves saddled with members who are not such as that in any sense.

THE DEPOSITION OF THE CALIPH

Mar. 7.

In our day no event has occurred so calculated to disturb religion in the world as the deposition of the Caliph. How far-reaching its consequences will be we cannot foretell, but to say the least the hundreds of millions of followers of the Prophet must to-day be in a state of perturbation if not demoralization. Under the leadership of Mustapha Kemal the Turks have played a bold part since the war, but the assembly at Angora, the new capital of Turkey, has done nothing so bold or rash as this. There is no question as to what the assembly means, for in the most spectacular manner it has deposed the Caliph from his throne in a physical no less than a spiritual sense, and the Caliph has betaken himself to Switzerland. Surely a strange place to find the spiritual head of Islam, and little wonder that one of the leading Indian Mohammedans should describe it as a disaster. From time immemorial Mohammedans have looked on Constantinople with probably even more veneration than followers of the Roman Catholic religion have looked on Rome, and their Caliph has been more sacred than the Pope. Why this should be so will be seen from a glance at the history of Islam, and it will also be seen that the millions to whom we have referred looked up to the reigning sovereign in Constantinople not because he was Sultan of Turkey but that he was the Caliph, the spiritual head of the Moslems, the successor of Mohammed.

In the Arabic the dignitary we know as the Caliph, or occasionally the Caliphah, is Khalifah, meaning "The Successor." Egyptians refer to him as the Khaleefeh. The Sultans of Turkey derive this title of Caliph from the assignment made by the then Abbasid Caliph to Selim I, the second Sultan in succession to Mohammed II, the conqueror of Constantinople. Mohammed, the founder of the Islamic faith, with the object of preserving the integrity of his religious community, had made arrangements by which his authority passed to a successor. His ancestors had long been guardians of the sacred shrine of the Kaaba, from which Mecca derives its sanctity, and of Medina which contains his Mausoleum and which is held in equal veneration. It is believed among all the sects of Islam that these cities can never pass under non-Moslem guardianship without convulsing the Moslem world, and we here get a hint of how revolutionary is the step which Angora has taken. Next in order of veneration come Irak or Mesopotamia where lie buried the holy Imams (priests), and Stamboul (part of Constantinople) sanctified in Moslem eyes by the remains of holy men and champions of the faith who had lived and died there.

Having, as it were, indicated the religious geography of Islam, we must continue upon its history, and at this point it should be mentioned that Islam is divided into two principal sects: the Sunni and the Shiah Mohammedans. There are probably 350,000,000 Mohammedans in the world, but the Shiahs can hardly exceed 30,000,000, and they are mostly in Persia. In connexion with this branch a special note has to be made. The validity of Islam depends on the existence of a representative of the Prophet who is the spiritual head of the Faithful, the latter being designated Imam or Caliph. To-day, however, the Shiahs only have their Caliph spiritually present at the prayers of the Faithful, though originally this was not so. The Shiah Caliphs were descended from Fatima, a daughter of Mohammed, who had married Ali, the Shiah Caliph then reigning. Passing over his immediate descendants we find that the sixth Shiah Caliph, had a special following of his own which when he died broke away from the direct succession and gave adhesion to Ismail, his son, and so the Caliphate of the Shiahs disappeared in a physical sense. The other great sect, the Sunnis, still insist upon the actual physical existence of the Caliph to preside and officiate when possible, and supporters of the Ottoman Caliphate claim that his succession has never been broken. On his deathbed Mohammed had appointed Abu Bekr as his successor, and he in turn nominated Omar who died by the hand of an assassin. Before his death, however, Omar selected an electoral committee who designated Osman, and after him Ali, blood relations of the Prophet.

We need not deal here with the dreams of world conquest which animated the first holders of the Caliphate, and space will only permit a short review of its history. In 756 intense rivalry between two families for the Caliphate existed, the Omayyads and the Abbasids. For a time the Omayyads were in power, but were later overthrown by the Abbasids who thereafter held the position for five hundred years, ruling Islam from Bagdad. For a certain period after 1258 the Caliphate was in abeyance, but in 1261 the Sultan of Egypt was invested with the office. This phase is accounted for by the destruction of Bagdad by a Tartar-Turcoman force, when the Caliph, his son and the principal members of his family perished. As one of the house of Abbas the Sultan of Egypt was invited to take the Caliphate, and his investiture was attended with great pomp and ceremony. The Abbasid Caliphate lasted from 1261 to 1516, when it was transferred to Selim I, Sultan of Turkey, who incorporated Egypt in the Ottoman Empire. It was thus that Constantinople, or we should say Stamboul (the real name of Stamboul is Islambol) became the headquarters of Islam, the name "Islambol" meaning City of Islam. So it has remained until to-day, when we seem to find ourselves on the threshold of a new phase.

It has frequently been argued that the Sultans of Turkey are not the rightful Caliphs, and as this may have an important bearing on the case in the near future the point should receive a certain amount of attention. One of the great Moslem writers of modern times, the Rt. Hon. Syed Ameer Ali, whose name has been mentioned in the telegrams dealing with the matter, writing in the "Contemporary Review" in June, 1915, unhesitatingly stated that the Ottoman Sultans were the rightful Caliphs, but the Moslem schools in India have generally refused to accept this view. This fact will also help to throw some light on the aspects of the case which are bound to be presented in the course of the next few weeks. A further matter of interest is the part which Abdul Hamid, the late Sultan of Turkey and deposed Caliph, has played in bringing about the present state of affairs. In one of the mosques in Constantinople there were sacred books which contained writings stating the qualifications for the Caliphate. Abdul Hamid gave orders for their removal, an act which caused great discontent. One of the Ulema (learned heads of the Moslem religion) is on record as having said: "Does Abdul Hamid consider we are fools, and that we do not know all the extracts by heart? Does he think because they are taken away we shall cease to teach them?" There the matter dropped. Abdul Hamid had also set up a printing press in the Yildiz, his palace at Constantinople, and issued literature of a propagandist character which he circulated in India with the intention of stirring up trouble against Great Britain. Hearing of this the British Ambassador informed the Sultan that this could only be regarded as an unfriendly act and that he must discontinue the practice or take the consequences. The Sultan agreed to stop the work, but immediately afterwards devoted his energies in the same way to Afghanistan. It appeared, however, that the Turkish Caliph had made little impression on the Indian Moslems, and so the British Government did not interfere further with his pastime.

Noting these facts we need not mourn the disappearance of Abdul Hamid, but we must have grave misgivings concerning the disappearance of the Caliphate, which is apparently what the assembly at Angora to-day aims at.

MORAL WELFARE IN SHANGHAI

Mar. 8.

The able, dispassionate and illuminating report by Major Hilton-Johnson in this week's Municipal Gazette must not pass without comment, notwithstanding that distaste for discussing an unsavoury subject in print is increased by the hopelessness of finding any remedy by legislation. Major Hilton-Johnson finds that from a purely police point of view the elimination of brothels has meant less street rowdyism, but the loss of what were once valuable news-centres for the police. The last consideration is, of course, quite unconnected with the moral aspects of the question. In respect of these, it is conclusively shown that the policy forced on the Council by the Moral Welfare League is a failure so far as elimination of loose women and improvement of public morality is concerned; nor, we think, can it at all be contended that suppression of houses has, to use a favourite M. W. L. phrase, driven vice underground or made it less accessible. On the contrary, solicitation has certainly increased; hotels and lodging-houses make a regular income out of a business they once never used; the number of girls in the trade are thought to have increased, because they make more money when working for themselves than for a house-mistress; and their activities have spread all over the Settlement instead of being confined to two or three areas. In respect of public health, the report of the Shanghai Medical Society published in January shows that there is certainly no improvement, if indeed matters are not actually worse.

Most, if not all, of these consequences were anticipated when the Council was committed to the policy of 1920; and the concluding statement in the Acting Secretary's letter, published with Major Hilton-Johnson's report, that the Council cannot carry out the doctors' recommendations, "unless as a result of a further resolution by the ratepayers" reads uncommonly like a hint for the next annual meeting. But can we go back? And if so to what? Before any ratepayer brings forward a resolution, he will have to think carefully what we can and would wish to do. The public feeling is, we think, opposed to a system of licensed and medically supervised houses, such as is practised in some countries; and there appear to be strong arguments for the contention that even in respect of public health this system is ineffective. Yet by no other means that we can see can the girls, once scattered over the town, be trapped and brought back to special areas.

There is a further point on which we would touch. Both doctors and M.W.L. plead for abundant publicity. So far as contagious disease is concerned and if the publication is directed to quarters where it is needed, we agree. But much of the publicity that has been used, the appalling plain-spokenness which is a modern commonplace of books, plays and newspapers, we are convinced does far more harm than good. One of our correspondents kindly accused us the other day of editing letters to suit our own views. We confess to having cut out the grosser nastinesses

NAVIGATION IN THE UPPER YANGTZE

The Salving of the Shutung: New Boats and Low Water: The Cigarette Tax

Ichang, Feb. 22.

Messrs. Butterfield & Swires' Marine Superintendent from Hankow arrived here, and went on to the place where the Shutung was lying disabled. He took up salvage gear with him, and must have put in some very fine work at that out-of-the-way spot, as in about a month's time he had the vessel ready to come down here under her own steam. She arrived here yesterday, and will proceed to Shanghai for her annual overhaul, and also to be thoroughly repaired after her mishap above the Ching Tan.

The navigation of the Upper Yangtze has again been opened, although the water is still very low. The Pakiang left on February 16 for Wanhsien, and has returned after having made a trip in lower water than has ever been attempted before. Much credit is due to Captain Turner and the River Inspector for this trip, especially as they made it without any pilots. The pilots are apparently still receiving threatening letters, and they have become so scared that they refused to take up the Pakiang while the water was still so low. However, they have been given a lesson which shows them that they are not quite so indispensable as they believed.

The new steamer Shuho left for Chungking on February 17 and the Yihsing is preparing to sail, although the water is still below zero.

CIGARETTE DEALERS SCORE A POINT.

The cigarette sellers have apparently won in their fight against the new tax. As a result of the storming of the Tax Office recently by 200 dealers, the man in charge has gone away, and now cigarettes are being sold without the stamps. It is probable that instructions from the Peking Government, following the protest against the tax, have had a good effect.

Gen. Chao Yung-hua, the cashiered commander of the 18th Mixed Brigade, and Commissioner of Defence for Shinan and Ichang, has been able to make his position good with the higher authorities. He has returned here and now holds the office of Provost-Marshal of the Szechuan, Kueichow and Hupeh troops, and has opened his office in the same yamên that he occupied before. It is understood that he has a very small number of troops under him.

Two days ago there was a total eclipse of the moon, which was perfectly visible here. The firing of crackers, beating of gongs, and sounding of "worship bells" was to be heard everywhere until the Heavenly Dog disgorged the moon.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE SOVIET AND THE REFUGEES

Reported Snub for League of Nations' Representative

A curious report comes from Harbin concerning the Soviet attitude towards repatriation of Russian refugees. According to a report published on Tuesday by "New Shanghai Life," Dr. Greig, the League of Nations' representative specially appointed to study the problem of the Russian refugee in China and suggest a solution, met with a rebuff upon his arrival at Harbin. He proposed to call upon the Soviet representative, M. Rakitin, but the latter, it is said, refused to receive him. The official Russian view is said to be that the question of the Russian refugee is exclusively a Russian affair and the Soviet does not intend foreigners to deal with it, particularly a representative of the League of Nations—an institution which Russia has not yet recognized.

BRIGANDAGE IN YUNNAN

Peking, Mar. 1.

Brigandage is rife in Yunnan, and reports from the province state that it is impossible to travel between Talifu and Tengyueh without military escort. At Likiang two American missionary ladies barely escaped capture by brigands in December.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MURDERED RAILWAY OFFICIAL

Kiaochou-Tsinan Rly. Engineer's Assailants Arrested: Leader Former Locomotive Engineer

Tsingtao, Feb. 29.

Three bandits and the wife of the leader of the gang which kidnapped Mr. S. S. Keh, district mechanical engineer of the Kiaochou-Tsinanfu Railway, who was taken from his home at Changtien on December 2, and subsequently murdered, have been apprehended by the police at Tsinan. One of the trio is Kao Liang chen, a former engineer of the railway, who played a prominent part in the affair, which came to a tragic ending when the railroad official's body was found within a stone's throw of the railway station in Tsinan on January 29.

Through the efforts of the police, whose movements were directed by Capt. Le Da-shen, it has been discovered that Mr. Keh, whose whereabouts had been a mystery from the time of his capture until the finding of his body with a bullet through the heart, was kept imprisoned and under armed guard in a little room in the rear of a Japanese shop in in Tsinan. This merchant was to receive one-tenth of the ransom as his share. As the ransom was paid the latter profited to the extent of $1,500.

The leader of the bandit gang, the police have learned, was Li Kuei-woo, a resident of Tsinan who had not been suspected previously of playing the part of brigand chief, but passed for a business man.

The police learned of the bandit rendezvous at Li's residence and suddenly broke into the place, capturing the trio, and their chief's wife although the head of the gang managed to escape by a back exit. Four revolvers and rounds were found in their possession.

REVENGE ALLEGED MOTIVE.

The Keh case probably attracted more attention than the kidnapping of any other Chinese for many years. Revenge was one of the motives, as the former locomotive engineer, who allied himself with the bandits, had been discharged by the murdered official because of careless performance of his duties.

The family of the slain engineer have just been voted compensation by the railway, arrangements having been made to pay to Mrs. Keh and the five children the sum of $305 monthly for the next 15 years, at the termination of which time the eldest son will have attained his majority.

JAPANESE DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

The second seizure of contraband landed from a Japanese vessel, within the past ten days, occurred on Wednesday when the police arrested a Japanese merchant leaving the steamship Yuan Tien with 1,000 ounces of opium in his possession. This merchant, who had his place of business here, had been making frequent trips between here and Japan and the police believe him to have smuggled in large quantities of the forbidden narcotic.

The opium was confiscated by the police and the Japanese was turned over to the Japanese consular authorities and has been lodged in the latter's gaol.

A week ago five Japanese women from Tsingtao's underworld were caught red-handed while trying to land 25 revolvers and 20,000 rounds of ammunition from the Kasuga Maru. They are in gaol awaiting deportation to Japan.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

An earthquake lasting 20 seconds was felt in Wuhu at 3.20 p.m. on Sunday.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Reception in Peking to Mr. Percival Landon, Writer and Traveller

Peking, Feb. 29.

Mr. Percival Landon, well-known writer and traveller, was the guest of honour at the first tiffin held this year under the auspices of the Anglo-American Association. Sir Francis Aglen, Chairman, presided over a large attendance.

Tiffin over, the Chairman read the report of the Secretary and Treasurer for last year, which had not been read at the annual meeting owing to the absence from Peking of Mr. Donald Fraser. The report showed that the membership of the Association numbered 242. The report and the statement of accounts were unanimously approved.

THE ANGLO-SAXON RACE.

Mr. Landon, having been introduced to the gathering by the Chairman, in a few happy remarks, spoke in very charming manner upon the relations between the two Anglo-Saxon races, pointing out that the units of the two nations were apt to mistake the basis of their mutual relations, overlooking the fact that they knew each other too well. They exercised the privileges of brothers to criticize each other severely, but the two races could not afford to get on without each other. It was not a matter of choice. It was a matter of necessity. The future of the two countries lay in a spirit of frankness. No matter how they treated it, their future was bound up together, but it would come more easily if they did not surround it with soft soap.

Referring to the relationship of the United States to the League of Nations, he expressed the belief that the United States could accomplish good work outside the League, and in conclusion declared that there would be no great evil done in the world in future with the consent of the two great nations.

A cordial vote of thanks to the speaker concluded the proceedings.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINESE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Warm Welcome in Washington: Extensive Tour of American Commercial Centres

Washington, Feb. 8.

The Chinese Industrial Commission, which has been visiting Italy, France, Germany and England, is spending February, continuing its investigations, in the United States. Mr. Chang Chien, head of the mission, and Mr. Chungtao T. Chu, its secretary, were accorded a warm welcome to Washington by officials of the American Department of Commerce and by the heads of the various sections of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States on their visit here during the first week in February. The commission, which is composed of eight members, is making an extensive tour of American industrial centres, visiting important manufacturing plants and observing in detail American methods, particularly as to highway construction and the making of automobiles, the making of textile fabrics and textile machinery and the culture of cotton and other agricultural methods.

The members of the commission have visited Boston and New York, where they visited the leading manufacturing plants. Their tour of inspection includes Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, where the Ford manufacturing plant will be visited, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia, sailing from the latter city for home.

The Commission is semi-governmental, being sponsored by the Chinese Chambers of Commerce. An extensive detailed report will be prepared on the mission's tour of Europe and the United States. This will be made in duplicate to the Chinese Chambers of Commerce and to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce of the Chinese Government.—Reuter's American Service.

OPIUM ERADICATION!

Peking, March 3.

The Government has decided to convoke a central conference for opium suppression with the object of deciding on measures to be taken to eradicate the opium evil, which will be carried out by the Provincial authorities in co-operation with the Central Government.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

INSECURITY OF LIFE IN FUKIEN

The Compulsory Opium Growing: Robberies a Chance for Official Pickings

From Our Own Correspondent.

Changchow, Fu., Feb. 18.

Robberies with violence take place nearly every day, mostly committed by soldiers. The roads and villages outside the city are very unsafe. Opium is everywhere being cultivated under compulsion of the military officials, but opium growing is not so profitable as it formerly was especially with the heavy tax collected on it so most of the people object to plant it. To meet this unwillingness on the part of the people to grow it the officials are now taxing the people according to the number of their fields, irrespective of whether they have planted it or not.

There is a general feeling that the situation in Changchow is very insecure and that fighting will take place again ere long. The former bandits in this district are now enrolled as soldiers under the command of Huang Ta-ui, and this general is on bad terms with some of his fellow-commanders. It is not improbable that the bandit section of the troops may stir up trouble, and this will give occasion for Chang Chih-ping of Amoy to come to their aid and involve the whole district in further fighting. In such fighting as we have been having, there is no principle at stake, it is simply a question of personal aggrandisement or of division of the spoils.

The Western New Year's holidays were observed by the officials, public offices were decorated, and there was great interchange of ceremonial visits, but the Chinese old style holidays were observed by the people generally and, up to the last hour of the old year, merchants and shopkeepers were busy getting in all outstanding accounts and the New Year was welcomed with fusillades of crackers.

Until the end of the Chinese New Year we had been having a very dry season. All the canals and ponds were dry, and the farmers were industriously digging out the bottoms of the canals and ponds and spreading the sticky substance over their fields to enrich the soil. Then we had thunderstorms (regarded at this time as portents of disturbed political conditions in the country) and continuous heavy rains which have filled up the canals and ponds to their fullest capacity. The dead dogs which here are thrown into the ponds and canals are now less offensive, but the dead cats which are hung upon the trees are no less disgusting.

HYDRANGEA PIRACY

Home Government Awaiting Hongkong Governor's Report

London, Mar. 3.

In the House of Commons, at question time to-day, the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. H. Thomas, said that he was requesting a detailed report with recommendations from the Governor of Hongkong in regard to the Hydrangea piracy case.—Reuter.

A number of Chinese Bolsheviks in Peking are reported by the Chinese press to have been refused permission by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to erect a statue in the Peking Central Garden in memory of Lenin.

JAPANESE ARRESTED IN VLADIVOSTOK

Officers and Interpreters: Soviet's Plea of Justification

Tokio, Mar. 1.

Despatches from Vladivostok report the arrest of eight Japanese officers and interpreters by the Russian authorities and the searching of the residences of five other Japanese officers. Replying to a protest against the arrest of the officers, the Russian authorities stated that they were free to arrest any foreigner under suspicion.

It is understood that the Government is referring the matter of the arrests to Mr. Yoshizawa, the Japanese Minister in Peking, who will seek an explanation from M. Karakhan, owing to the Russian authorities not recognising Mr. Watanabe, the Japanese Consul at Vladivostok.

CHARGE OF EPIONAGE.

Mar. 2.

A *"Jiji"* special edition details the Russian reasons for the arrest of Japanese at Vladivostok. The Russians assert that the Japanese attempted to investigate the organic system of the Red Guard and the Red Fleet and of the Soviet administration, thus endangering vital secrets bearing on the welfare of Russia. Subsequent search of Japanese homes, they say, revealed evidence warranting the arrests.

The Foreign Office denies the espionage charge and accuses Russia of continuing petty annoyances in the hope of forcing Japan's recognition of the Soviet.

Mr. Shimada left for Peking this morning.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Houses of Officials Searched: Japan's Protest

Peking, March 3.

The Japanese Legation here was officially informed from Vladivostok that on February 26 the residences of three Japanese officials were searched under warrant issued by the Russian authorities. Two of the officials were arrested on the same day and the third, Mr. Gunji, the Vice-Consul, was arrested on the following day. Major Minotsuma, Captain Matsui and 10 Japanese residents were also arrested.

The Japanese Legation on March 1 received the first official report of the arrest of Captain Matsui. Mr. Yoshizawa, the Japanese Minister, then called on M. Karakhan, whom he asked to ascertain the facts and, if as reported, to take immediate steps to secure the release of Captain Matsui.

M. Karakhan replied that he had not received any official report, but promised to ascertain the facts. In the light of the further developments at Vladivostok, Mr. Yoshizawa will interview M. Karakhan to-day.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Mar. 4.

The Japanese Minister, Mr. Yoshizawa, yesterday visited Mr. Karakhan, the Soviet Envoy, and discussed at length the arrests of Japanese at Vladivostok.

Mr. Karakhan expressed the opinion that the arrested men must be tried according to Russian law.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE RUSSIAN POINT OF VIEW.

London, Mar. 5.

According to news from Moscow, the anti-Japanese measures in Vladivostok are due to the non-existence of a Russo-Japanese treaty. The Russian view is that Japanese officials have no right in Vladivostok and that Japanese are only there by courtesy of the Soviet Government.

It is pointed out that the three conferences with a view to resumption of normal relations in the past two years proved abortive owing to alleged Japanese intransigence, and there is also considerable annoyance in Moscow at the obstacles placed in the way of the Soviet mission sent to assist the victims of the earthquake in Japan last September.—Reuter.

Female workers at local silk mills are alarmed at the announcement that several local mills are soon to curtail their output. It is anticipated that some 3,000 workers will be thrown out of employment.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

WU PEI-FU AND CIVIL POWER

Kaifeng's Protests at Removal of Civil Governor to Marshal's Headquarters

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kaifeng, Ho., Feb. 21.

In my last letter I reported the transference of the civil administration from the provincial capital to Loyang. If this move was to retaliate on Kaifeng people for their expressed opposition to the Civil Governor's interference in other than military affairs, Marshal Wu has worked an effective piece of revenge. For we are all very humble in Kaifeng these days, and if we had to do it all over again we would not only send telegrams of congratulation, but would refrain from speaking hastily of anyone. Several delegations have gone to Loyang to beseech the civil officers to return here, but thus far there have been little more than civil promises made to all these petitions.

In the meantime Loyang, or Honanfu by which name many people still think of it, is overcrowded. Business places and residences have gone up enormously in value during the past few months, and rents have soared away out of reach of all but the most opulent. Many new business places have opened their doors and trade has received a great impetus owing to the enhanced importance of the place. A great number of guests find their way to Marshal Wu's headquarters. Every man with hope of an office goes there. To promote some public scheme of betterment for the province and its people, it is quite useless to move unless Marshal Wu is first consulted. If a Cabinet Minister is to be selected it is a very first necessity that the views held in Loyang must be appraised, and if a journalist wishes to sense the political situation of the whole country, not Peking but Loyang is the proper environment from which to draw inspiration.

Thus it happens that Loyang until a year ago almost forgotten by the Chinese world at large, is now the very centre of the those varied interests that one usually attaches to court life. Indeed the candid impression of those who have visited Loyang in recent months is that the real power in China is neither in Peking nor Canton, but in the little western town of Honanfu.

THE TREE-PLANTING.

It is reported that Marshal Wu is anxious to boost afforestation in the province. This constant centre of drought, flood and famine is to be dotted with forests, in every magistracy of the province, and the chief county officials are to be held responsible for this good work.

If this reform can be carried through it will undoubtedly have a very great effect on those causes that lead to local disasters. To do away with the farther causes Marshal Wu will have to influence the powers that be along the upper reaches of the Yellow River. If he could but take a journey to the Whitewright Institute in Tsinan and see visualized the change that might come over this whole Yellow River valley by a complete scheme of afforestation, the Marshal might be influenced to exert his powers as far as Szechuan along these lines.

MR. "WILLOW'S" GOOD WORK.

In connexion with the Forestry Department of this province there have been some changes that have led to sad developments. For several years past Mr. Wu Ih-lu, generally known among his intimates as Mr. "Willow," which word results if his Chinese name is spoken rapidly, was in charge of the department. Mr. "Willow" was educated in Europe and returned to Honan a very cultured man. He was equally versatile in the use of English, German and French, and was usually present at any function to which the foreign community was invited. Since his return to his native land and province he was at the head of this Forestry Department. With what success his work was carried on, I cannot say, though a start was made by establishing experimental stations in various places.

Some time ago Marshal Wu proposed a change for Mr. Willow, whom he evidently wished to favour. Rather against Mr. Willow's choice he was appointed to control the department known here as the Shih Yeh Ting. This should be the Department of Industry, though in this province it seems to have the collection of certain taxes attached to its functions.

Mr. Willow himself sought another post, but it is reported that the Marshal, who knew his father, assured him that the other post held out little promise of enriching him, and that this Shih Yeh-ting post presented a much better prospect of arriving at a speedy competency.

AND TRAGIC END.

It might have been so in other hands, but Mr. Willow seems to have been made of too easy stuff to withstand the many parasites that attach themselves to all such offices. He was in the Department but a few months when the New Year drew on, and with it the inexorable demands for the settlement of all outstanding liabilities. These seem to have been too many for poor Mr. Willow, who sought another way out of his difficulties. He went to a young Chinese medical man from whom he got chloral and advice from his medical books how much to take to put him to rest. He faithfully followed the advice he got, and when the medical friend was called in later to use means for offsetting the poison, he refused to permit any measures that would have saved him.

Later when the China Inland Mission doctors were consulted it was too late to save his life. He passed with the old year, and with the New Year he entered a new sphere.

SIDELIGHTS ON WAR IN SZECHUAN

English Lady Doctor's Anxious Days at Tungchuan

The following extract from a letter just received carries on the story that we printed recently of the looting of the Quaker hospital at Tungchuan, between the retreat of the Szechuan troops and advance of the Northerners.

We have been having a pretty stiff time again; the fighting was not so severe this time, but the former wounded from the military hospital came to us for help on Sunday, January 27, and that evening and the following day, the 21st division entered the city, and during the morning looted rather badly. They came to the men's side of the hospital and began first to steal the wounded soldiers' things, and then the hospital things, bedding, blankets, sheets, clothes, etc. They were quite out of hand, but eventually their officers quelled them, but not before staff and hospital had lost quite a lot. The hospital was chaos itself, for all the wounded of the 1st division who could hobble at all, fled to us for protection. For several days it was pretty bad, but we have got *some* order out of chaos now.—

We have just about 100 of the worst cases in hospital, and others come in daily (whom we said we positively had no room for) to be dressed. We have had well over 300 under our care. Dr. Lo is not back, but probably will be in a few days, and thankful we shall be, for I am nearly at the end of my tether, and the nurses are pretty tired too. At first we did not get finished till after dark each day, but now the bulk of the work gets done in the morning, with a little to finish in the afternoon.

SHANSI'S GOVERNOR AND EDUCATION

What Are Chinese Universities for? Futility of Sending Students Abroad

From Our Own Correspondent.

Taiku, Sha., Feb. 23.

A few days ago a Peking newspaper printed "An Interview With Governor Yen of Shansi Province." The article was headed, "The Root of the Problem." Burrowing through the luxuriant verbiage of the interview one finds that the root of the Pacific Problem has been the failure of Far Eastern countries to develop an educational system leading to self-expression (whatever that means) on the part of the individual student, and their grave mistake in sending their sons and daughters to Western lands to be educated. The whole "interview" is filled with abstruse speculation of a sort that, praises be, Governor Yen has probably never been guilty of in his whole life.

It is well-known that Governor Yen is keenly interested in the promotion of education in Shansi, and it is equally well known that he is not in favour of the use of public funds in the education of students in Western countries. However, as for the first matter he has a very simple, direct and practical programme and is not experimenting with any half-baked educational theories. As to the sending of students abroad, he has had some unfortunate experiences, and it is perhaps not unnatural that his present attitude should be conservative. However, we believe that his reluctance to send Shansi students to Europe or America is rather due to his conviction that the same amount of money invested in education in China will bring greater practical results for the province.

Governor Yen's present position and reputation have been largely achieved through his steadfast determination to keep clear of political broils in Peking and to devote himself assiduously to his one great task, that of governing and developing his native province. Anyone who would attribute to him a wisdom and sagacity, either in political or in educational matters, that he does not actually possess is not only doing the governor no service, but may even be sowing the seeds of future trouble for him. We have our own guess as to the identity of the "interviewer" responsible for the above-mentioned article, and if we are right he is making about as great a success of this class of fiction as he did of his statements as to his nationality during the late European war.

HIGH SPECULATION IN ROUBLES.

In connexion with the forthcoming negotiations between China and the representatives of Soviet Russia in Peking a request has come to Shansi for an estimate of the amount of the losses suffered by Shansi merchants as a result of the Russian Revolution.

Governor Yen has replied that the loss would be in the neighbourhood of $3,000,000.

The greater part of this loss however, is due to speculation in buying roubles. I am acquainted with one family in this district who lost $400,000 in this way. It is difficult to see what basis such people have for their hope that they may be indemnified for a bad guess.

STUDENTS' LONG HOLIDAYS.

The end of the vacation is approaching for the mission schools in the province. During the mid-winter recess the principals of these schools have been attending various conferences one of them in this province, at Shouyang. Others were present at the meeting of the Chihli-Shansi Educational Association in Peking. The government schools have yet some days of holiday.

In connexion with the vacation given the schools in Taiyuanfu, I was given some interesting information. It seems the Educational Commissioner of the province, in consultation with the heads of the teaching staffs, fixed upon certain dates for the beginning and end of the winter recess. The usual vacation of 40 days was decided upon. Thereupon Young China asserted himself. A deputation of students from the University visited the other schools and incited the students to fix their own dates for the holidays, which was done. It is hardly necessary to state that considerably more time was taken than the authorities had planned. These schools are taking a recess of at least two months, in some cases more than that.

THE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL.

We are now about at the end of the New Year merry-making in the towns and villages. The observance of the season has been in every way reminiscent of the pre-Republican days. No attention at all was paid to the "foreign" New Year in the villages, and in the district cities there was only a perfunctory putting up of red paper mottoes and display of flags. The "tuei tzu" pasted up were without the usual borders of gilt paper. However, all this was atoned for when what the Chinese call "our own" New Year arrived. There was no dearth of red and gilt paper, flags, lanterns and firecrackers then. This is one feature of Chinese life that probably will never change.

Just at Chinese New Year and following it there was a general precipitation of snow over the province. This is taken to be a happy sign and to indicate that a fruitful and prosperous year may be excepted. We have had several days of severe winter winter weather this month, with biting northwest winds.

In reading the native newspapers one occasionally comes across a surprising bit of "information." The other day a Taiyuanfu paper, speaking of a recent illness suffered by President Tsao, solemnly told us that His Excellency's temperature rose to "more than 120 degrees!" One wonders what would have happened if the gentleman's blood had reached the boiling point!

BRIGANDAGE IN MANCHURIA

Despite Huge Military Establishment: Revolting Crime in Changchun

We are indebted to the British & Foreign Bible Society for the following:—Notwithstanding the great military forces accumulated by the Governor of Manchuria, brigandage seems to be hardly less prevalent there than throughout China generally.

The British & Foreign Bible Society, which employs 35 Chinese colporteurs in the Three North-Eastern Provinces, finds that "perils of robbers" is the condition reported by them all. At Changchun, the junction of the South Manchuria Railway and the Chinese Eastern Railway, the Bible Society's Depôt, situated near the station in a populous part of the city, was recently raided in the early evening. The Chinese depôt-keeper was struck on the head with an axe, and shortly afterwards died. The perpetrators of the crime got away before any alarm could be given and have not been traced. It may be remembered that Mr. Gillespie, of the Presbyterian Mission, was similarly murdered by robbers in the same city a few years ago.

The terrible conditions test severely the grit of the travelling Bible-sellers but sometimes also give them exceptional opportunities. In one town which was threatened by an approaching band of brigands, the merchant guild chose the Christian colporteur to go out as their spokesman and negotiate terms to escape being despoiled. So successful was the messenger that he was afterwards publicly honoured for his services.

The circulation of the Scriptures in Manchuria continues steadily to advance. During 1923, 261,490 books were sold, consisting entirely of Bibles, New Testaments, or single books of the Bible. This was an increase of more than 60,000 over the sales of the previous year. The greater part of these books are in Chinese, but Scriptures in Russian, Japanese, Korean, English, etc., are included in the total.

SOLDIERS' MUTINY IN HONAN

More Recruits for the Brigands: Anxiety Caused by Long Drought

From Our Own Correspondent.

Huaiking, Hon., Feb. 20.

A few days ago 100 government soldiers at Chinghua became dissatisfied with their conditions, so they rather suddenly attacked and killed their officer and made off to the hills with their rifles, side arms and ammunition. It is said that their greatest grievance was continued promises instead of hard cash as monthly pay.

At the present time these discontented and hungry well armed men are at large somewhere in the hills near by. They cannot be called bandits but they have a very good opportunity to practice the rather lucrative art, so well known to many disbanded and unpaid soldiers south of the Yellow river in Honan, and unless effective and speedy steps are taken by the responsible authorities the bandit menace may be said to be upon this comsunity.

DROUGHT CAUSING UNEASINESS.

Six months have passed without rain to moisten the earth Twice a little rain and twice a very light snow, but at no time enough to settle the dust on the highways or wet the roots of the winter wheat. During the first month of the present Chinese New Year great crowds have attended the temples and prayed for rain and immense crowds have joined the processions going up to the Ke Ta Poa and other hill temples. The writer asked an old man and his wife why they were willing to suffer so much weariness and cold in making the long journey of 400 li to worship at the hill temple, and the answer comes "It has not rained for many months and we have no other plan."

NO GOVERNMENT BRIDGES.

For many generations, at least no one living now knows from when it began, the Chin and Hau rivers Huaiking have had government bridges for the public use at least eight months in the year but this year for some reason or other no government bridges have been constructed. The summer floods always wash the bridges away. For to secure a crossing during the time of the autumn harvest the villagers provide temporary structures and these have never been replaced this year. The traffic at the Chin river is often held up for hours at a time because the bridge is so narrow that two vehicles cannot pass, often a whole line of heavy carts have to wait for one wheelbarrow to be slowly pushed across from the opposite side. No wonder the old men sit by the river bank and declare that there is nothing now to compare with the good old times that they and their fathers have known.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS CLOSED.

During the past two years many country goverment schools have been closed down, a few days ago I saw a notice up stating that the "district Kao Teng school is not to be opened," there is no money to carry on these schools, and there is no money to construct bridges for the public use, and yet the people are being taxed more heavily each year. It is always said that the military need more money. New levies are constantly being extracted from the civil authorities, and yet the soldiers go unpaid and enforced to turn bandit. Increasing taxation, more and more unpaid and undisciplined soldiery, banditry and lawlessness and the long continued drought are effecting most seriously the peace and prosperity of the people.

Peking, Feb. 29.—In furtherance of the departmental necessities of the Constitution, the Ministries of the Interior and Agriculture and Commerce have appointed Commissions to draft the required regulations for their departments. Mr. Wang Sung-yu, Vice-Minister, has been appointed Chairman of the former Commission, and Dr. Hawkling Yen Chairman of the latter.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

KUANGTUNG'S HOST OF MERCENARIES

More Hunanese Now Than Yunnan Troops: Food Alone Costing Some $36,000 a Day

Canton, Feb. 23.

The numbers of Hunanese mercenaries in Canton have now outgrown those of the Yunnanese. The Hunanese claim that they have five corps, which would mean a strength of 181,440, if Dr. Sun Yat-sen's records are not merely on paper. The sphere of influence of the Hunanese, under General Tan Yen-kai, and of the Yunnanese, under General Yang Hsi-min is the North River district. In addition to an extra charge of from 20 to 30 per cent. on freight and passenger tariffs in the Kuangtung section of the Canton-Hankow Railroad, which are collected solely for the support of these troops, they have applied to Dr. Sun for an additional levy of one dollar on every bag of salt and 2½ per cent. on the general value of goods entering the North River district. Apart from the Hunanese and the Yunnanese, there are other mercenaries in Canton requiring support. The feeding of the troops alone costs some $36,000 a day.

General Chiang Chuan-kuei has been appointed the new Commissary-General to Dr. Sun's Army.

The expected conflict between Dr. Sun Yat-sen and General Chen Chiung-ming on the eastern front has not occurred yet, one of the causes of delay being rain during the last fortnight.

The Canton police have been instructed to arrest all persons spreading reports of an impending conflict between the Hunanese and the Yunnanese.

By order of the Generalissimo, the Yunnanese troops in Canton will not be allowed to "inspect the arms" of the Canton Volunteers or to collect an "inspection fee" of $5 for each weapon.

THE STRIKE SITUATION.

Pending arbitration the strike of employees in the rice shops has been called off, and trade has been resumed since February 21. During the strike only retail shops were opened and the price of rice of the finer grade has risen to $12 per picul.

Shoe-makers and pork-butchers are still on strike. The shoemakers are opposed to the extra tax on rubber soles. The pork shop employers refuse to grant the employees' demands for a larger bonus.

The Kung Yee Medical College, a Chinese Institution with many foreign physicians on the faculty, celebrated its 15th anniversary on February 22.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MUNICIPAL FINANCES.

The numerous wars and excursions to which Canton has been subjected during the past year appears to have been rather disastrous to the finances of the Municipality. Speaking at the Municipal Executive meeting, Mayor Sun Fo said, reports the "Canton Gazette":—

Owing to the unsettled state of affairs and the numerous battles fought last year, the revenues of the Municipality were somewhat deficient, but fortunately the sum of six million dollars was collected from the sale of Government lands, so that all expenses in connexion with the Municipality for last year were met. The total revenue collected from March to December amounted to eight and a half million dollars. Six millions went to the General Headquarters, one and a half millions to the Police Department, and one million for Public Heath, Education, Public Works, Public Utilities and other administrative expenses. With the centralization of revenue collections, the Municipality this year is relieved of the responsibility of caring for the expenses of the army, so that the stoppage of funds from the sale of Government lands will not affect the financial situation at all.

THE retirement of Mr. T. Petrie from the Editorship of the "South China Morning Post," after 23 years' journalistic work in the Colony, was marked by the presentation to him of a beautiful. Chinese rose bowl, a silver cigar and cigarette box, and a gold and silver cigarette case by his journalistic contemporaries of all the newspapers in Hongkong.

OBITUARY

Miss Grace Evelyn Burnham

Our Nanking correspondent writes on March 1:—The foreign community has been saddened by the death of Miss Grace Evelyn Burnham, who had been in the employ of the International Export Company. She was a bright and popular girl 25 years of age, and since she was taken ill seven weeks ago, the whole community has watched her brave fight for life. She was under the best of care in the Foreign Memorial Hospital and the Company spared no expense in securing the best medical advice from Shanghai, but no means availed to stay the disease, and she died early yesterday morning. The burial took place on Saturday afternoon in the foreign cemetery and was attended by a large company of friends. Miss Burnham was from Aylesbury, England, and was the eldest member of a large family of children, her parents both living. She came to China 18 months ago.

A REAL "FATHER AND MOTHER" OF THE PEOPLE

Kiangchow Loses its Friend and Magistrate: Homely Old-time Official's Promotion

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kiangchow, Sha., Feb. 24.

Not within the memory of the oldest inhabitant and probably rarely in the annals of Shansi has such a "send off" been given to an official as was recently accorded to Mr. Ki on his leaving the city of Taiping on promotion to Taichow, north Shansi.

The road for 10 *li* outside the city was densely packed with people of all ranks and circumstances, sincerely mourning the loss of a friend who for six years had unremittingly laboured for the common weal and had without prejudice, fear or favour endeavoured to dispense justice to all.

A plain homely, genial old gentleman, he had little of the appearance of the conventional "mandarin." In his attic chamber in the Yamên, from which on arrival he had cleared out the fairy fox and other venerated relics, Mr. Ki sat with his long old-fashioned pipe at the beck and call of his people. Official documents were dealt with, pipe in hand, amongst his clerks promptly but with little show or ceremony. Mr. Ki was always ready to write some scrolls for a trades man, rush out in the street to help a farmer find his lost purse on market day, or go with a murderer to see what evidence the grave of his victim could produce for or against the accusation.

HIS GOOD WORKS.

He spent time each day strolling round unaccompanied, rousing sleepy shopkeepers by rapping on the shutters to ask what sort of a Republic China would become if merchants were not ready for work by sunrise, giving advice about sweeping shop fronts or about buying goods.

On the judgment seat his genial good humour and sound advice attracted crowds and he has a wonderful gift for arriving at facts by short cuts to the consternation of evil-doers and the satisfaction of the oppressed. Stories of his good deeds will be told for many years to come, and it is to be hoped that many of the institutions, schools and public buildings, which his instrumentally created, may be continued.

But there is great variety among the present-day officials, in age, style, ability and the good instituted by one is often overthrown by his successor.

RUSSIAN ADVENTURES.

At present a large number of officials are being changed in Shansi, and there has been a noticeable laxity in restraining public gambling at New Year's holiday and carrying out similar laws.

Cattle disease is very rampart. Diseased beef is being sold publicly.

A party of Russians are in this city, selling Russian cloth and rugs. They speak very little Chinese and less English and having no interpreters or servants have a difficult task to sell their wares.

RUSSIA'S CURRENCY REFORM

Federal Notes on a Gold Basis: Silver and Copper to be Again Minted

Our Chita correspondent sends us translations of some interesting publications on the reform of Russia's currency and gradual elimination of paper, as under.

REFORMS IN OUR MONETARY SYSTEM

Decree of the Central Executive Committee and Soviet of People's Comissars of S.S.S.R.

Moscow, 5.—It has been decreed by the Central Executive Committee and the Soviet of People's Commissars to issue Federal Treasury Notes having a value of 1,3 and 5 Roubles gold.

The quantity of such notes to be issued will be determined on the first day of each month, but will not exceed half the quantity of Chervontsi already in circulation.

The total amount issued to be published on the first day of each month.

In a conversation with the representative of "*Rosta*" Comrade Tumanov, member of the Ministry of Finance, stated that the question of making reforms in our monetary system has already been decided by all the higher official organs of S.S.S.R. and that the publication of the Decree regarding the issue of Federal Treasury Notes is but the first step towards putting these reforms into practice.

The issue of these notes will be limited to not more than one half of the total sum of Chervontsi at present in circulation. In this manner the limited sum of Federal Treasury Notes in circulation in the country will equal at any moment one third of the entire value of all the monetary paper, etc., in circulation. This proportion in general and upon the whole, undoubtedly, will correspond to the requirements of trade in small monetary denominations and will serve as a guarantee to stabilize the exchange rate of the new Federal notes.

The issue of these notes will be carried out by the Ministry of Finance gradually—in proportion to the demands for same made by the trading class of the country. Therefore, the Soviet paper currency for the meantime will continue to exist together with the Chervontsi and new Federal notes as legal tender.

SILVER AND COPPER COINS.

In order to remove complications in the monetary circulation of the country the Soviet paper currency will be purchased by the Government at a time rate and in their stead silver and copper coins will be issued. The extent of these issues will depend upon the capacity of our mint, the production of which cannot supply the requirements of silver and copper coins, but the Ministry of Finance is taking steps to increase the production by adapting certain works for the purpose of minting these silver and copper coins. It is very possible, also, that after the purchase of the Soviet paper currency there will be felt a certain temporary shortage in small money. In order to satisfy the turn-over it is proposed to issue temporary paper bons having a value of from 1 to 5 copecks gold and the Ministry of Finance undertakes to exchange them for coin during the present year. The Federal Notes will be acceptd by all the Credit institutions of the country on the following basis: One 10-rouble Federal note equals one chervonets. In accordance with this the chervontsi will be freely exchanged by all banks and financial organizations for Federal notes.

PEKING, Feb. 29.—The Waichiaopu has appointed Mr. Pao Chun-kao Vice-Consul at San Francisco, and Mr. Wang Hsiao-tsung, Consular Student at the same Consulate-General.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE ON LEE PIRACY

Arrested Passengers Released

According to the Hongkong papers all the passengers detained in connexion with the attempted piracy of the str. On Lee, in Hongkong waters, have been released. A certain amount of disappointment is felt in the Colony, not, of course, at the release of innocent people but rather that the efforts of the authoritics to capture and punish the perpetrators of these piracies should once again have failed. This was the first time the police had made arrests on so large a scale after these events and it was hoped that an example could be made of the offenders. There appears, however, to have been some controversy in the Colony as to whether there really was a piracy in this case at all, many believing it to have been a practical joke on the part of the passengers, and the passengers were released through lack of evidence.

ECHO OF SIBERIAN INTERVENTION EXPEDITION

Allies to Foot Bills for Troop Transportation on C. E. R.

From Our Own Correspondent

Harbin, Feb. 16.

Local newspapers reliably learn that Entente Powers who took part in the Siberian Intervention Expedition and who are still indebted to the Chinese Eastern Railway for troop transportation, are shortly to liquidate their debts in full.

The chief debtor is France who agreed to pay for the Czecho-Slovaks. She owes just over 7 million roubles. England owes 42,000 gold roubles; Italy 20,000; U.S.A. 132,000; France 203,221; Czecho-Slovakia 6,944,787; Poland 188,887; Serbia 40,905; Rumania 177,848; Latvia 26,964.

Japan still must pay about 600,000 gold roubles and the Chinese Government about seven millions.

CHINESE COLONIZERS IN MANCHURIA.

The Chinese authorities at Mukden have decided to bring into Manchuria during 1924 some 180,000 new emigrants to colonize virgin lands. A new office is to be specially established which will allot land and look after the proper settling of the new arrivals. According to the plans, some 50,000 persons will be brought into Fengtien Province where 10 million mow have been allotted them and a further 16 million mow will still be available. In Kirin province along the border districts adjoining to Russian and Mongolian territory another 50,000 emigrants will be directed to where they are expected to break-up 15 million mow of the 68 million which is available.

Some $4,000,000 has been assigned to this colonization scheme and each of the three Eastern Provinces are to contribute their quota.

According to information received from Chita, the Soviet Government have allotted 3½ million gold roubles for Habour improvements at Vladivostok, Posiet Bay and Nikolaievsk-on-Amur. Undoubtedly this money would be very well spent seeing that it will attract the export produce from Manchuria which is becoming greater and greater in North Manchuria, and no doubt in time will divert the greater part of the cargo which at present is being exported *viâ* Dairen.

CANTON RIVER STEAMER IN AN ACCIDENT

Hongkon, Mar. 1.

The steamer Heungshan yesterday at dawn in a dense fog struck Junk Rock and subsequently beached 12 miles from Canton. Over 700 passengers, mostly Chinese and including several American men and women, were transferred to the steamers, Kwangsai and Tinsang, and were safely landed at Canton. The stern of the Heungshan is partly submerged.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

KIAOCHOU-TSINAN RAILWAY

Navy's Extortionate Demands: Bridge-building Scheme: Revision of Freights

Tsingtao, Feb. 26.

The Kiaochou-Tsinan Railway finds itself at the present moment in an anomalous and possibly untenable position, forced as it is to combat the Central Government to keep its finances intact and protect its funds from seizure. A prominent official, who wishes to remain *incognito*, told Reuter's correspondent to-day that the railroad officials almost daily receive threatening telegrams from Peking, insisting that the line shall turn over a part of its earnings to the naval squadron stationed here to the amount of $50,000 monthly.

The railroad, which already has turned over $100,000, according to unofficial reports, to the fleet commanded by admiral Wen, has stoutly declared, through its finance department, its intention of presenting the squadron with no further "bequests." The Managing-Director, Mr. Liu Kuen, who has spent a large part of his time in Loyang of late conferring with Marshal Wu-Pei-fu, alone appears to favour the railroad's supporting the six war-vessels and their commissioned and enlisted personnel.

The under-officials are unanimous in their opposition to what they term "Gifts to the navy," citing the fact that the railroad badly needs all its revenue and just now is confronted by the necessity of increasing its receipts.

THE INDEBTEDNESS TO JAPAN.

The Japanese cashier of the line, who is protecting Japanese interests, has declared positively that, if another cheque is drawn up payable to Admiral Wen, Japan will step in and demand its non-payment. Japan, naturally, looks with strong disfavour on ary squandering of railway funds, inasmuch as China still owes her the purchase price of $40,000,000 and has less than four years remaining to make full payment.

If the railroad is expected by China to pay for itself, there is not the ghost of a chance that Japan will receive payment in full on the date the mortgage expires in January 1928. The line has been able to meet only the interest of six per cent. and has not paid a penny on the principal.

BRIDGE-BUILDING PROGRAMME.

Ways and means of increasing the revenue so as to finance a big bridge-building programme are now being considered by the railway. The railroad finds itself at present with a surplus on hand of a trifle over $700,000. The cost of 40 new bridges will exceed $3,000,000. This will be spread over three years.

There is an urgent need of the bridges, as some of the present ones are none too safe and too long have received only temporary repairs. The new bridges will be of steel construction and are expected to last for a long time.

REVISION OF FREIGHTS.

The railroad does not look with favour on a general upward revision of freight tariffs, but proposes to put the burden on the commodities that can best stand it.

Coal to the amount of 2 million tons annually is transported over the line and the rates are abnormally low, the officials believe. All coal shippers, accordingly, may be compelled to pay a higher tariff, This is true particularly of the Lu Ta Corporation, a Sino-Japanese concern, which has been benefiting by a low rate in operation since the Japanese administration of the railroad.

More than 600,000 tons yearly is shipped by this company alone and at an approximate charge of $2.40 per ton. The officials propose raising this rate to about $4.50 per ton, or to a similar charge to that paid by smaller shippers.

This item alone would give the railroad increased revenue of about $1,200,000, annually.

Besides its bridge-building programme which it hopes to finance, the railroad is badly in need of new rolling equipment, some of which has seen more than a score of years' service.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A RIVER JOURNEY THROUGH SZECHUAN

Remnants of Hsiong Keh-Wu's Army: Plenty of Firing But no Fighting

From Our Mienchow Correspondent.

Tongchuan to Mienchow,
Sze., Jan. 29-31.

As I mentioned in May last letter we arrived at Tongchuan on the 28th. This was a trying day in some ways, although it ended very fortunately. Our first difficulty was in getting away from Yangkiapa. All of the retreating 1st Army men had left during the night and many more passed through in the early morning. There were, however, a few stragglers left behind who turned out to be great nuisance to us. Twice we essayed to cross the river, and twice these soldiery called us back. After this second attempt I went down, and managed to persuade them to let us go on. This third attempt was made without crossing the river, and we came along anxiously wondering whether we should be recalled again. Groups of irresponsible new-comers retreating from Tongchuan, sore with defeat, hunger and weariness, or ready to interfere with anybody can make themselves very troublesome. There was no real danger but the air was pregnant with alarms.

We got along unmolested for five *li*; the last of which was long drawn out by a rapid. We were then startled by people from the bank calling out that robbers were about, and had another doubtful five minutes till from the medley of excited shoutings we managed to gather that the brigands were really two or three soldiers who had taken a man's bundle and his dollars. The local militia however, managed to make them restore them.

After this we got along without event until we came to within eight *li* of Tongchuan. Here we got on to the bank and walked to the environs of the city. As we drew near we heard firing and wondered whether there was more fighting. We were also informed of the pontoon which caused us much concern. When we went to seek our on-coming boat we found it had been ordered across the river by soldiers. After some delay the boat was permitted to come on, and we anchored just close to our bug-bear, the pontoon. Chang, of course, came to the rescue and undertook to go to the military headquarters, and ask for a "permit" to go through the bridge. I did not dare leave the boat myself because of the fear that soldiers might come and take the coolies.

After a long time Chang came back having begun to cause us uneasiness by his delay. He came in radiant, armed with a "Permit." Within half an hour we were through the bridge to our great delight. The city was in a great tumult. The 2nd Army had just got in, and Gen. Hsiong had been forced to leave, and leave all his possessions, military and otherwise, behind.

TONGCHUAN REACHED.

Tongchuan is a city of considerable importance, and next to Chungking may be said to rank first of those on the River Fuh. Under the Empire it enjoyed the status of a *fu* city. It owes its influence then to its traditions as well as to its geographical and commercial adventages. It stands at the point where another river flows into the Fuh from the city of Chongkiang. At this point the Fuh bends sharply round to the northwest, and the character of the country begins to change somewhat.

Tongchuan is an important outlet for the silk trade. Twenty *li* on from Tongchuan is a village called Sinchang on the left (north) bank of the river. From Sinchang the river winds through pretty scenery to Tsingpitsui, a distance of 30 *li*. This is not much more than a halting place for the night.

On January 30 we got off by 7 a.m. and have travelled well; but the river winds to such an extent that we did not do more than 19 miles by road. Fuhluchi is 30 *li* from Tsingpitsui (10 miles) and we took nine hours to get there! The river from Tungchuan on becomes much prettier, but nothing equal to the wonderful beauties near its source. It winds to such an extent that the 140 *li* by road between Tongchuan and Mienchow more than 200 by river. Fuhluchi is a sub-hsien in rank, and in the old days generally had an official of fair capacity. It has a busy market but no special produce.

The next day (the 31st) we reached Fengkutsing at 10.30 a.m. a distance a 30 *li*. Fengkutsing has a considerable salt industry and is a flourishing market. We did the next 35 li (by road) in eight hours; arriving at Mienchow by 6.30 p.m.

Mienchow under the Empire was a departmental city, governing five *hsien*, *viz.*, Mienchow, Tehying, Lokiang, Tsitong and Anhsien. For a time under the Republic its name was changed to Mienyang; but it seems now to have been changed back to its original name. Like all Chinese cities, it has a history, which contains a good deal of interesting, and doubtless much legendary matter. It goes back for more than 2,000 years. There are one or two interesting landmarks: for instance, on the cliff not far from the C. M. S. Boys' Boarding School is a tablet dating from the Sung Dynasty. The famous Tang poet Li Poh is said to have taken a delight in fishing in the neighbourhood. When we remember how full his poetry is of allusions to fishing, we can well believe that at any rate he was fond of the sport. As he was born not far away perhaps this tradition is true. About four miles from the city there is a temple dedicated to him, and his contemporary Tu Fu. There are also traditions connecting the heroes of the "Three Kingdom" novel with the district. The city is chiefly famous for the product of meitung, a kind of root which the Chinese use as medicine. Sir Alexander Hosie gave *Japonica liorpe* as its botanical name.

At the present time the city is filled with a nondescript type of soldier. All is quiet, but there have been recent disturbances. A Chinese gentleman said the other day there are bandits (soldiers) inside the city as well as out: My account of the river journey ends here. We were 32 days on the way and met with many adventures, but so far as we know were not in any real danger at any time.

JAPANESE CAPITAL AND CHINA

Industrial Information Under Sino-Japanese Auspices

Tokio, Feb. 26.

The Government is reported to have under consideration the establishment of a Sino-Japanese Industrial Investigation Bureau, which, as its name implies, would examine the possibility of opening up industries both in China and in Japan through the employment of joint capital and labour.

The idea behind this proposal is that by such joint undertakings the problems of finance for China and of emigration for Japan may be more easily solved. In other words, China's rich natural resources would be available to Japan's capital and labour. In this way it is thought both countries would greatly benefit and their economic relations be more closely knit together.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Peking, Mar. 1.

At the annual general meeting of the Peking British Chamber of Commerce held on Thursday, February 28, the following were elected to serve on the Committee for the ensuing year:—Messrs. A. C. Henning, R. C. Allen, S. Fripp, G. W. Frodsham, W. H. R. Thomas, D. R. Mackenzie and J. F. Black.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

HONGKONG, Feb. 29.—The Canton-Macao Steamboat Company's steamer Heungshan is ashore in Canton River. H.M.S. Foxglove is standing by and a salvage tug is proceeding to render assistance.—Reuter.

WHEN THE BIRDS GO NORTH AGAIN

The Coolies Return to Work in Manchuria from Holiday-making in Shantung

Tientsin News Service.

Tientsin, Feb. 29

A vast amount of inconvenience, not unleavened with a little compensatory humour, is being caused the railway authorities here by the annual migration of coolie labour from Shantung to Manchuria. Every 12th month of the Chinese year, almost since the railroads opened many years ago, sees the remarkable southward migration of thousands of Shantung coolies, returning from their farming and other pursuits in Manchuria to spend the Chinese New Year in their homes. The southward trek, if such a railroad journey can so be called, begins from the first day of the Chinese 12th month and continues until a few days before the New Year. The northward migration begins about the 12th day of the New Year and continues unabated for three of four weeks.

The number of transient humanity has swelled from year to year until at present there are no fewer than 100,000 making the annual journey. Two days ago the Peking-Mukden Railway shipped forward 25 carloads, containing about 3000 coolies, yesterday another 15 cars went forward, and practically every day sees from 10 to 25 carloads shipped through to the north. This strain on the railway traffic will continue for another two weeks. The Pukow brings them in its goods cars to the Tientsin Central Station, where the Peking-Mukden line trans-ships them into its own cars. Both lines are taxed to the utmost to accommodate the migration. The coolies by sheer weight of numbers actually sweep everything before them. They scramble on the cars by the hundreds, each man with his roll of bedding, some pots and pans and even in some cases his wife and children. Only goods cars can be allocated for their use, and they jamb into the seatless trucks with unseemly haste, knowing that the first to get in are able to obtain the most advantageous corners and situations wherein to find the most comfortable resting places through the bleak winter nights of traveling. The art of traveling in box cars, it seems, involves a technique and discrimination almost equal to that of traveling in coupé cars.

Two days ago, when the Pukow line deposited 3,000 coolies at the Central station, there was a stampede across the station footbridge to the waiting Shanhaikuan train. The bridge has two narrow walks leading down to the platform in opposite directions. Up these two inclines the speeding coolies ran in a solid mass. The vanguards met at the top, the impact ruining the clothes and restricting the wind capacity of the impactees in no small degree. Several were bowled over and trampled on, amid loud expressions of resentment. Railway traffic officials, approaching with stern demeanour to wave them back, might just as well have attempted to wave back a northwest gale. The officials were found later much the worse for wear and in a state of mind bordering upon homicide. It was not so much that they resented being pushed and jostled but more a natural aversion to the peculiar odours garlic and one thing and another, which seem to be inseparable from this type of tourist. The railway officials have adopted the sound precaution of handling this traffic from windward, but accidents sometimes happen.

ATTAR OF ROSES.

Sometimes it becomes necessary, owing to exigencies of traffic control, to permit those perfumed travellers the privilege of sitting along the sides of car-sheds and platorms after debarcation at junctions, while trains are being made up. However, after departure a plentiful supply of chloride is sprinkled wherever they rested.

At Shanhaikuan, where they must purchase tickets for the journey outside the wall, on the "Chang Tso-lin line," they frequently camp in the vicinity of the Railway Hotel, much to the discomfiture of the guests, who have mads more than one protest.

It may seem unusual that wage-earners of this species can regularly afford the expenses incident to migration, but upon inquiry we learn that the average coolie saves up about $200 during the year and that the through fare by a special box-car rate does not amount to much more than eighteen or twenty dollars. Supposing the round trip costs them $40 they have ample left to spend upon those staccato celebrations and still have something left over with which to buy garlic and other luxuries.

Labouring in Manchuria must be remunerative.

BANDITS DISGUISED AS BEGGARS

Inhuman Horde's Attack on Wealthy Shaohsing Family

From Our Own Correspondent.

Shaohsing, Chê., Mar. 4.

The bandit situation in Chenghsien though greatly improved, is still a menace, as the following incident shows.

Towards the end of January beggars began to appear in unusual numbers in a town 15 *li* from Shaohsing city. Being strangers in the place they attracted attention. Questions were asked as to who they might be and what they wanted. These questions were answered in an unpleasant manner when a band of eight bandits appeared on the night of February 1.

Going direct to the home of a widow, with whose place they had familiarized themselves in their disguise as beggars, they made an entrance. The woman servant who remonstrated was silenced by a gun held at her head.

After a short search the older of the two sons, a boy of 13, was siezed and bound, right arm to right leg and left arm to left leg. A carrying pole was inserted and the gang started for their rendezvous in the Chenghsien mountains.

When the servant again spoke out and asked if terms could not be reached for the boy's release she was stabbed in the leg. A letter was left behind stating that the boy could be had upon payment of a ransom of $50,000 within two weeks. Failing to receive the required amount within two weeks the boy's dead body would be returned to the mother.

Added pathos is given to the story by the fact that the bandits in their raid secured the basket in which the widow's title deeds to her property and tax receipts had been placed so that she could save them in case of a fire at the New Year.

RECOVERY AHEAD.

A recent journey through the district most seriously devastated by the floods of 1922 shows the innate power of the Chinese to recover from a serious calamity. Dikes, bridges and roads that had been destroyed wholly, or in part, have been rebuilt, in each instance more substantially than before. Funds have been raised by popular subscription, the work done by local labourers and superintended by public-spirited citizens.

Considerable interest is shown in popular education in the villages. Temples and ancestral halls are being converted into schools. Unfortunately it is very difficult to secure good teachers. Too frequently the men engaged are of the old type, with little knowledge of modern methods and questionable morality. The villagers recognize the need of better teachers, but are powerless to secure them with the limited funds at their disposal.

WHILE letter mails leaving Shanghai on Monday night connect with the express leaving Harbin the following Friday, arriving at Chita on Sunday and at Moscow on the following Sunday, mails containing newspapers, printed matter and the like cannot be afforded the same rapid transmission owing to lack of space on the express trains. Such mails will therefore in transit.

KIAO-TSI RAILWAY FUNDS

Reported Japanese Attempt to Stop Appropriations for Admiral Wen's Navy

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Feb. 28.

Mr. Liu Kun, the Managing Director of the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway, has now returned from his latest trip to Loyang, where he consulted the Marshal Wu Pei-fu with regard to the upkeep of the squadron under Rear-Admiral Wen.

According to reports, which would seem to be fairly accurate, the Japanese chief cashier of the Railway has been instructed by his authorities not to sign any cheques in payment of accounts not directly connected with the Railway's operations.

In this respect, it is worthy of note that the Japanese have the backing of the majority of the junior officials who are in the main returned students and know a good thing when they see it. On the other hand, Mr. Liu, the Railway's Managing Director, has the support of an influential minority.

It is said that a Presidential Mandate, ordering the Railway to hand over a fixed sum monthly to the Navy, will be issued unless the Japanese can be brought to change their present policy of opposition. That the Japanese are prepared for eventualities would seem to be the case, for in Japanese circles it is freely stated that the Government in Tokio will instruct Mr. Yoshizawa to lodge strong representations in the event of further sums being made use of for the support of Admiral Wen's squadron.

Mr. Liu's position is not to be envied. He has promised Marshal Wu Pei-fu a fixed sum monthly for the maintenance of the squadron, never expecting for a moment that the Japanese would set up an opposition in view of the fact that the earnings of the Kiao-tsi line are sufficient to meet the monthly interest of $200,000 due to the Japanese Government on the capital of $40 millions which China has pledged to refund Japan at the end of five years from the time of the retrocession.

The Kiao-Tsi Railway bids fair to be the subject of a Sino-Japanese dispute in the near future unless the attempts to drain its resources are given up, and it is noteworthy also that in this particular instance the Japanese have the backing of the Chinese business community.

$6,000 Monthly Now Wanted to Support Universities

Mar. 1.

Surprise is evinced here over a new scheme to drain the resources of the Kiao-tsi Railway.

It appears that the Ministry of Communications has ordered the Kiao-tsi Railway to allot $6,000 monthly as a contribution to the Nanyang University and the Chiao Tung University, both of which are controlled by the Communications Department. This enforced contribution represents the not insignificant sum of $72,000 annually and is considered to be quite a drain on the resources of the Kiao-tsi Railway.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE

Tokio, Mar. 4.

The Finance Department announces, that for the month of February, Japan's foreign trade amounted to about Y.110,000,000 in exports and about Y.290,000,000 in imports, the balance being approximately Y.180,000,000 in favour of imports.—Eastern News Agency.

THE marriage took place in New York on February 2 of Miss Caroline Huie Kin, formerly of the Y. W. C. A. in China and daughter of the Rev. Huie Kin, to the Rev. Y. P. Tsu, M.A., B.D., PH.D., formerly of St. John's University, Shanghai, and now of New York.

THE NEW H. & S. BANK IN TIENTSIN

Another Magnificent Building: Foundation Stone To Be Laid by Lady Macleay

Tientsin News Service

Tientsin, March 3, 1924.

The foundation stone of the new building of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, on Victoria Road, will be laid on Saturday in the presence of foreign and Chinese officials and merchants of the port, by Lady Macleay, wife of the British Minister to China.

Excavations were commenced in the summer of 1922 and most of the foundations laid before the frost set in last December. Occupying one of the most central and valuable sites in Tientsin, at the corner of Victoria and Consular Roads, the new and imposing structure will consist of the bank's office with office space to let on the upper floors and quarters for the necessary Chinese staff in the rear. The main building will be a three-storied edifice consisting of ground, mezzanine and first floors, the entire ground and mezzanine floors being occupied by the bank. It will be faced externally with Tsingtao granite. The main entrance will be in the middle of the Victoria Road frontage, taking the form of a lofty portico, approached by a flight of easy steps, 30 feet wide. It will have wide, bronze sliding doors with plate-glass inner swing doors leading to an elliptical vestibule and through this to the main banking hall.

RICH INTERIOR DECORATIONS.

The banking hall will be a cross-shaped room, 103 ft. by 60 ft. with two transepts, 9 ft. by 30 ft., with a total height of 32 ft., this being the full height of the ground and mezzanine floors. The hall will be lighted from the top and by four large semi-circular light groups, one on each side. To keep the building cool in Summer large air spaces will be arranged between the inner and outer windows and roof lights. For ventilation a large fan will force washed and moistened air into the hall through inlets around the counter. In winter this air will be heated. Extractor fans will draw vitiated air out through suitable openings near the ceiling, thus ensuring a complete change of air every few minutes. The hall will be finished with rich Italian marble, detached columns on black marble bases supporting half-vaults, which will form cantilever supports for the glazed ceiling, thus doing away with obstructions in the middle of the hall. The walls will be lined with a marble dado of lighter red Italian marble, which substance will also form the counter. The latter will be finished with the bronze grille. The public floor space will be paved with Florentine mosaic and the working floor space with cork tiles.

SPECIAL DISPOSITIONS.

The private offices for the agent, accountant, waiting rooms, typist's office and the like, will be situated on the south, or Consular Road, side and will be panelled in teakwood and floored with oakwood parquet. The north side will contain a spare office leading into safe-deposit vault, where space may be rented for the safe storage of valuables. In the rear of the main banking room will be the Chinese banking department with a separate entrance from the Consular Road side, giving easy access to the private offices of the Compradore. A separate entrance for messengers will be provided on the north side, together with suitable waiting room accommodation for chit-coolies. The sycee entrance will be on the West, or rear side, within the compound, so that trucks may be loaded without obstructing the public thoroughfares. A shoot and bullion lift will connect this entrance with the main treasury in the basement.

Foreign staff, Chinese staff and coolie lavatories will be placed in convenient positions on the North side, while separate lavatories will adjoin each private office. A private stair will lead to the mezzanine floor, where the files, records, stationery and a spare office will be situated. A separate entrance on the north side, will be provided for the first floor offices, for convenience of their lessees.

THE GENERAL STYLE.

Regarding the architecture, the elevations are solid and dignified, the Grecian-Ionic order being used in composition of road frontages. The main feature of the Victoria Road façade will be a pedimented portico of four columns forming the main entrance. A similar portico will occupy the central portion of the Consular Road elevation, while the side features will consist of recessed verandahs containing two columns, thus protecting this sunny side from the hot rays of the sun in Summer.

The building was designed by Mr. B.O.G. Burnett, of Atkinson & Dallas, Ld., the general contractor being Hsieh Shun, with Messrs. D'Angelo and Garibaldi supplying and erecting the imported marble and granite. Steel windows will be used throughout and the construction generally will be made of fire-resisting materials. The main building will cover a floor space of 23,000 square feet and will be set back from the Consular Road side, thereby providing a stand for broker's vehicles between the building and the road. This will prevent obstructing public traffic on that roadway.

Certain minor alterations have been made in the interior arrangement of office accommodation, but will not affect the principal features mentioned.

Work has been recommenced and, providing no untoward occurrences intervene, the building should be ready for occupation by the Summer of 1925.

POPPY CULTIVATION IN KIRIN

Public and Private Planting: Military Protection and Taxation

Peking, Mar. 3.

The following petition was sent by a Chinese Society in Kirin to the Opium Suppression Commission of the Ministry of Interior, and is circulated by the International Anti-Opium Association:—

"We, the public, have learned recently from the press that the Ministry of Interior has formed an Opium Suppression Commitee, and that resolutions were passed by the Committee strictly to enforce opium suppression in every province. To help your Committee, we beg to report the general opium conditions in Kirin. There are two kinds of opium cultivation, the cultivation under military protection, and private planting. The districts such as Ningan, Wangchin, Holung, Tungning, Muding, Fuchin, Mishan and the districts along the Russian borders, are all under the Forest Artillery protection. Each "*shang*" of poppy field can be managed by six persons during the harvesting time with three poppy knives, and each knife has to pay 25 oz. to the Artillery as tax. The districts such as Huatien, Vengkiang, Tunhua, Anturg and Tunghua, under Fongtien, Ehnu, Shulan, Wuchang and Tunglao yiehling are privately cultivated with poppy.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS.

Opium is both planted in the fields owned by the Government, and those owned by the people. If laws are carried out to confiscate the fields planted with poppy, we think it will be difficult to deal with the fields owned by the Government. For this reason we beg to suggest that an Anti-Opium Association and Poppy Uprooting Society should be established in each district to co-operate with the local police and military officers. Also "curing houses" should be established in each district, otherwise smuggling and secret dealing cannot be stopped. We therefore ask you to consider means for dealing with the following conditions:—

(1) Smugglers; (2) smokers; (3) fields owned by the people; (4) planters; (5) fields owned by the Government.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PRISON REFORM IN CHINA

What Has Been Accomplished in Anhui: Convicts Kept Clean: Educated Too

From Our Own Correspondent.

Yingchowfu, Au., Feb. 28

There are many contrasts in this vast country to-day, but none could be more marked than the "old-time prison house" and the "new time prison house" here. The latter has just been built and there are only five in the province, four at present being in running order.

Thrown into prison is a term full of meaning when the Chinese gaol bird comes within the clutches of the law. After a severe beating by the magistrate's orders the convict is led away to his home between the bars. What a tale these have to tell. Given two small bowls of gruel and two small Chinese loaves of bread this is their sole daily diet unless some relative comes and passes something more substantial through a barred door, paying something to the keepers for the privilege.

At night time the prisoners are kept in separate houses in groups. One group must be indoors by a certain time and not only must they be inside the house where they pass the night, but they must all file in to a huge wooden cage at one end and lie down touching one another, and keep in that position till morning when they leave their inner cage and go through the long hours of each day just "loafing." Women prisoners, too, are kept under almost similar conditions.

In prisons we have seen men indulging freely in the smoking of tobacco and of opium. What a commentary on the inefficiency of the official class generally to try to raise the moral conduct of these great numbers of men, who at this time are incarcerated in every town throughout the Republic.

But in this city it is different. China is changing, if slowly; the day will surely come when greater interest will be taken to try to stem the impulse to greater criminalty.

Just outside the confines of the city a piece of vacant ground was acquired a few years ago and a start was made to close it in by a high brick wall. One main door leads into a courtyard where are the administrative offices. A superintendent and his staff are in charge. A large visitors' room has pictures hung on the walls showing on one side the ground plans of all the local provincial new industrial prisons, of which this is one of the five. Photographs also show convicts at work.

Going farther in you come to the inner door, and here a gaoler with rifle and bayonet fixed stands at attention as you pass through the door that ushers you into a round hallway.

On entering the hallway, five corridors come into immediate view radiating from the hall like the spokes of a wheel. Each corridor has an iron gate and this is swung open to let you pass in. On either side of the corridor there are rooms. In some corridors the rooms are for solitary confinement, in the night time at any rate, while in other cells convicts may reside. Each is provided with a bed and good wadded coverlet. Should the convicts be in their cells when you are being shown round, each will stand to attention beside his bed.

The rooms are very airy and high. A through draught passes throughout all the cells and plenty of sunlight, everything here being in almost direct contrast to what is seen in the other prisons. One room has washstands and basins and every inducement is offered to the convicts to keep clean.

WELL FED.

Passing down to the other end of the corridor another set of iron doors are swung open to allow you to pass through and you now enter a workshop. Each corridor is similarly constructed. Each workshop has a certain number of prisoners and all must work. One shop has five flour grinding mills. Wheat, beans and other cereals are here ground—the convicts being made to push these round, and thus what they consume is ground and consumed by themselves. The grain is of the best.

A carpenter's shop presents a busy appearance. Here the sound of hammer and chisel is heard all day long. Tables, chairs and other articles of household furniture are made. Bamboo chair work has lately been added to the routine work of the convicts and they seem to take kindly to it all. Weaving looms in another shop are running all day and many useful things in the way of cloths, towels and waistbands are turned out by these unskilled convicts. Thread weaving is also undertaken.

GARDEN AND SCHOOL.

Passing out of the general centre where the convicts spend most of their time you go through the garden land. Here vegetables grow for home consumption and there is a drill ground for them too. They have made brick paths to make it easier to walk over in wet weather. In one corner you come to a small building which is seen to be the convict's school room. Here the men are taught to read and write. The walls are covered with moral maxims.

During the winter the convicts have each a wadded suit of clothes and as all seem plump and well fed, one cannot but wonder when the "death by slow process" of the other prisons will become a thing of the past and only be recorded in history as "bygone punishments."

The present superintendent takes a pride in his work and it argues well for the future of this great land when you see the crying needs in this direction being met by the establishment of such places.

KASHING LETTER

Electric Light in Chekiang Country Towns

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kashing, Chê., Mar. 5.

Protracted holiday at Chinese New Year seems to have done more to demoralize local business circles than usual. Some goods and building materials are offered cheap to start up regular trade. Likin stations are alert, even Chinese complain that exports from Chêkiang covered by Customs pass are having annonyance.

SCHOOLS.—The one bright side of Chinese life is the interest in education. Schools of all sorts are crowded. More schools wanted. Chinese lady graduate teachers are demanding and obtain good salaries. Teaching at so much per hour is the vogue.

LIGHTING. — Electric light dynamos made in Shanghai are found in the smaller market towns running only 150 lamps at a profit. What will happen when the Chinese make all the machinery they want?

CAMPHOR. — An interprising Chinese firm have agents all through the country districts buying camphor trees allowing them to grow until needed.

HARD WOOD.—There is a tree, for the lack of a better name called the "Yellow Elm" found in northeast Chêkiang that is highly valued for tables and furniture. The market value approximates one dollar per year of growth. The long wait for returns is a reason for not seeing more of it planted.

SOCIETY. — The "get together society" had an annual banquet served in foreign style with scholars, merchants and everybody else on hand. Invitations have been sent out for the Presbyterian Five-Province Synod at Hangchow on April 24, and also for the Chêkiang Federation Council of all denominations at Ningpo on April 25.

POLITICS.—The ship of state seems drifting, sailors gambling for coin while the passengers watch the weather.

EARTHQUAKE IN PHILIPPINES

Manila, Feb. 29.

An earthquake of intensity 4 was felt at Baguio between 5 and 10 p.m. last night. It was also registered at Manila. Ashes and dust, supposed to have come from a volcano in the Loochoo Islands, fell on Batanes Island yesterday.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TSINGTAO ADMINISTRATION SCANDAL

Huge Alleged Defalcations by Finance Department: $100,000 Loan Still Unpaid

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Feb. 29.

A sensation has been caused here by a report that in view of irregularities in the Finance Department of the Administration, a full investigation will formally be ordered by the President at the instance of Marshal Wu Pei-fu, who has of late received several telegraphic protests from local public bodies.

It is alleged that the Finance Department has made fictitious payments against fictitious vouchers, as a result of which a huge sum has disappeared. It is further alleged that other departments have resorted to the same practice of compiling fictitious accounts. One department is charged with having compiled its expenditure as $270,000 against actual payments aggregating $130,000, a "squeeze" exceeding 100 per cent.

The Chinese here are surprised over the refusal of the Administration to refund the money borrowed from local merchants by Dr. C. T. Wang on the retrocession of the former leased territory to China.

At that time, Dr. Wang found it necessary to raise $100,000 for administrative expenses. Unable to obtain the money from the Central Government, he approached the Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce here for temporary assistance. Through the intermediary of the Chamber, the money was duly advanced to him, on the understanding that it would be refunded as soon as possible after the Administration had been put in good running order.

The Chamber of Commerce has on several occasions approached the Administration for the refund of the $100,000 but to no avail. They have now retaliated by coming to an arrangement by which, instead of paying taxes to the Administration they will deposit the moneys in four banks until such time as the sum of $100,000 is accumulated. They will then reimburse themselves with the money, "forgetting" the question of interest.

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF SUIHEISHA

Japanese Government Urged to Recognize the Soviet: Boy Orator's Eloquence

Tokio, Mar. 4.

The annual national convention of the Suiheisha (the organization of the despised "Eta" people, of whom over 1,000,000 are scattered throughout Japan) is being held in the Kioto Public Hall. Thousands of members attended and also a number of Socialists and Anarchists.

A motion was introduced to send a congratulatory message to Mr. Ghandi, who was recently released from prison, but after an excited debate the motion was shelved.

Another motion to urge the Japanese Government to recognize Soviet Russia was adopted by a great majority. One boy orator swayed the audience by his eloquence in the debate.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

YIHYANG MARU CAPTIVES

Demands for Ransom Decreasing

Peking, Mar. 3.

The two Japanese officers in the hands of the Szechuan forces have been taken from place to place as the Szechuan force has found it necessary to move in evasion of the Northern forces. The Szechuanese have considerably lowered their demands for ransom. They are now asking $150,000 instead of the original amount of $1,000,000.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A BANK FAILURE IN CHEFOO

Rumour Busy over the Supposed Methods of Payment: Rheinland Captain's Bad Luck

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chefoo, Feb. 25.

The business of Chefoo has been suffering from the unavoidable relapse which comes with the Chinese New Year holidays. Practically no business has been done by foreign houses for two or three weeks past and even now the holidays are over the various markets are only opening very slowly. There is no noticeable demand for any particular commodity at the time of writing.

Since my last letter the Weihaiwei Agricultural Savings Bank has closed its doors to business, causing no little trouble in the town. The closure took place just prior to the holidays which is of course the most serious time of the year for all Chinese as debts and accounts have then to be settled. Crowds assembled round the bank premises and for a time things did not look at all promising. After pressure, however, the directors of the bank advised the public that they would, as a commencement, pay 40 per cent. on all notes presented to them. Payment to this extent was eventually made. This semi-failure has has of course affected great numbers, some seriously.

Rumour has it that the police and soldiery were paid in full and, if this is the case, very serious trouble lies in the path of the directors. Apart from the payment of the 40 per cent. mentioned the bank have made no apparent effort to meet their obligations and, strange to say, the Chinese authorities appear to have taken no action. Foreigners have of course been involved and have suffered losses as a result of the failure and the Chambers of Commerce and Consular Body have, as a result of the apparent inactivity of the officials, taken up the matter with a view to obtaining a true statement of affairs. It would certainly seem to be the thing, if the bank is insolvent, to wind up its affairs and, if the failure is found to be the result of corruption, as is in some circles suspected, to bring those responsible to justice. There will no doubt be further developments in time but up to the present there is nothing else to report.

THE STORY OF THE RHEINLAND.

On the 7th instant, we had a very heavy snowstorm and this was the cause of a temporary disaster to the Hamburg-Amerika motor-ship Rheinland. In trying to enter the harbour here the captain apparently mistook the northwest point of the Bluff for the islands which lie off Chefoo and the result was that he found himself, in a very short time, ashore about 10 miles northwest of Chefoo, just at the mouth of the Freshwater River.

Luckily for all concerned the vessel ran ashore on a sandy beach. The most unfortunate circumstance in connexion with the standing was that the vessel went ashore at high water and on an exceptionally high tide. The China Navigation Company's steamer Tungchow went to her assistance and attempted, in conjunction with a salvage tug which came from Dairen, to tow the vessel into deep water but, owing to the very boisterous weather which followed for several days after the incident, both vessels were unable to approach within sufficient distance of the Rheinland to enable them to make fast a tow line. It was not for several days that any communication with the ship could be effected. Meanwhile, she remained high and dry, resting on an even keel, and undamaged. The vessel was eventually refloated yesterday, after 17 days ashore, by the Japanese tug and the Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company's salvage boats St. Samson and St. Dominic. The accident will no doubt prove a very expensive one for the owning Company. It is particularly unfortunate for the Captain who, until this voyage, had a perfectly clean record of, I understand, over 25 years, as a result of which he was, just prior to sailing from Europe, presented with a certificate and the compliments of Lloyds.

During the period during which the Rheinland was ashore a Chinese-owned vessel the Yatung was also ashore on the sandspit running off Kungkungtao island, to the east of Chefoo. As in the case of the Rheinland, this vessel was refloated undamaged.

TROUBLE OVER THE HAI CHI.

The Chinese man-of-war Hai Chi arrived here about 10 days ago bringing with her about 400 men for the East Fort. I understand that these men were to take over and replace those then in occupation. There was some difficulty in effecting the transfer and I believe a little trouble. Details have already appeared in the Shanghai papers and, although I am on the spot, I am quite unable to obtain any accurate information. The matter has been kept very quiet locally and has in no way affected the peace and good order of Chefoo. The Hai Chi is still anchored in the bay.

THE TIENTSIN GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chairman's Review at Annual Meeting: "Sovereign Rights" but No "Sovereign Obligations:" The Fraudulent Repudiation of Cotton Contracts

Tientsin News Service

Tientsin, Feb. 28.

The Tientsin General Chamber of Commerce held its annual general meeting yesterday in the Gordon Hall, Mr. E. C. Peters in the chair. The meeting was confined to hearing the Chairman's report for the past year and a short discussion on the suggestion to dissolve the Chamber in favour of a Committee of Chambers.

Mr. Peters, among other things in a lengthy report, said: "Politics interest this Chamber only in so far as they affect the business interests of its members. Unfortunately the state of chaos and disorder in many parts of China, and the want of authority on the part of the Central Government have shown the most serious effects on all branches of business. The most serious result of want of confidence is naturally immediately shown in the finances of the country." Stressing the irresponsibility of military and bandit elements the chairman went on to say that, "It is of almost daily occurrence that both foreign and native staffs (of the railways) are interfered with by the military, which culminated in the Fengtai outrage, where Mr. Bessell was grievously injured, and the culprit is still at large." Mr. Peters added that "the finances of the railways are as is only to be expected, in a parlous state, many of the lines being practically bankrupt."

IMPROVEMENT OF THE HAIHO.

Dealing with the improvement of the Haiho channels by the Haiho River Conservancy, the Chairman said that the "signalled depth of the Taku Bar increased from 8'3" to 10' Taku Datum during the past year. This is by far the greatest depth recorded and. . . it may safely be assumed that at spring tides in the months of July-August-September this year there will be from 19'6" to 20' signalled on the bar; 18' will be normal and it will be only on rare occasions that vessels drawing 16 feet cannot cross the bar."

On the subject of the Chambers' anxious inquiries in 1914 of the Government as to when the Taku Wireless station would be completed, the Chairman inferred there was as yet no reply. He said "This is one more example of Sovereign Rights with no regard to Sovereign Obligations. At present, in order to communicate with ships nearing the Bar it is necessary to telegraph to Dairen or Chefoo to wireless from there."

THE PIECEGOODS CRISIS.

The Chairman dealt at length with the repudiation, last autumn, by dealers and Tsans, of forward contracts for raw cotton. 285,000 piculs were contracted for, 145,000 by foreign firms, 100,000 by Japanese and 45,000 by local mills, at prices ranging between Tls. 27 and Tls. 28 a picul. Shortly after the earthquake in Japan, Japanese began buying frantically to replace destroyed goods, especially for quilts and clothing. This, and the bad crop reports in America, drove the prices up to Tls. 48. "This temptation," declared the Chairman, "was too much for the greed of the unscrupulous dealers and Tsans. Cotton destined for foreign firms, who had, in good faith, bought and sold, was diverted to Japanese buyers." During October the Committee of the Chamber approached the Consular body, asking them to bring the seriousness of the matter to the attention of the Civil Governor.

"In the meantime," said Mr. Peters, "the cotton dealers tried by every means, such as using false chops, exchanging and destroying transit passes at the last customs barrier, to keep the cotton away from the legitimate buyers."

The Committee had many meetings with the Civil Governor and the Police Administrator, General Yang I-teh, and although they appeared to be giving very active assistance, affairs remained at a deadlock right up to the middle of December. "When you remember," the Chairman went on, "that contracts mostly called for October-Novemeber-December shipment you can imagine the great loss suffered by exporters." Eventually Yang I-teh obtained a promise from the Tsans to deliver up to 50 per cent. of the contracts, either in cash or in cargo, the balance to be subject to negotiations. In this connexion Yang I-teh suggested a levy of five mace per picul should be made on all cotton coming into Tientsin thereby to create a fund which would be used to reimburse losses on defaulted contracts. "A special committee of this Chamber," said the Chairman, "drew up a scheme which was passed at an Extraordinary Meeting, on December 21, 1923, and duly transmitted to the Senior Consul. It was, however, not supported by the whole trading community and was dropped."

NEW MACHINERY IN VIEW.

In connexion with this matter Mr. Peters said, "Negotiations with the dealers were made more difficult by the extraordinary attitude taken by the Civil Governor in stating that forward contracts were illegal, as they constituted a gamble. This statement of his could not be allowed to pass and the Committee made representations to the Consular Body. There are several of the large Tsans, who could easily fulfil their contractual obligations, but there is no machinery to force them to do so. The matter is still under discussion, but with no solution in sight."

Later in his report, Mr. Peters said, "I think the cotton crisis proved that this Chamber does not represent all various national interests in the Port and later on I shall bring forward a proposal that this Chamber be dissolved and replaced by a Committee of Chambers."

THE OUTLOOK GLOOMY.

Referring to prospects of trade in 1924: "I am afraid I must strike a pessimistic note. The disorders and banditry throughout the country, coupled with fear of civil strife, are causing nervousness among Chinese merchants, which is reflected in the very bad state of the import trade. It is the hope of all foreign merchants, and I am sure also of our Chinese friends, that a strong man may arise and give the Central Government the requisite authority throughout the country, to enable it to put it's house in order." This ended the Chairman's report.

The meeting then discussed the proposal to dissolve the Chamber and the formation in its stead of a Committee of the Associated Chambers of Commerce. It was decided, in view of the pending negotiation with the Cotton Tsans and other matters not yet cleared up, to postpone consideration of the proposal for six months.

The meeting then elected, as committee for the coming year, Messrs. E. C. Peters, H. F. Dyott, E. K. Lowry, Marcel Wolfers, G. Colmet and J. Lange.

THE NEW TAYEH

Great Ironworks again at Full Blast: A Centre of Industrial China

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tayeh, Hup., Feb. 22.

To those who pass up and down river on steamers and to many others Tayeh means a certain port on the right bank of the Yangtze half way between Hankow and Kiukiang. They see, if they are coming up river, first a full ironworks plant belching forth smoke by day and brilliantly lighted up at night. They see a railway of which this is the riverside terminus. They perhaps hear a blast and see a huge piece of rock fall down a hundred or more feet to be afterwards used in bunding. They see neat rows of foreign-looking houses and further on many more houses not so neat. They see more tall chimneys of a factory and an aerial railway conveying bags of cement a distance of half a mile to a riverside wharf. They also see scattered about a good many lime-kilns. These last existed before the other things named and give the name to the place, Shih-huei-yao (lime kilns).

We who live at the real Tayeh, which is the county town 50 *li* inland, are rather jealous of this newer place being so often called Tayeh. It is all the Tayeh some people know about and yet its only claim to be called such is that it is in the county of Tayeh. On an average we get a letter a day delivered at our house at Tayeh which we have to re-address to Shih-huei-yao. Granted that Tayeh is easier to write and pronounce. Then let Shih-huei-yao be called Tayeh port. This would be on the analogy of Yochow and distinction would be made.

Into the internal affairs of the great Han Yeh-ping Co. we do not profess to be able to probe. A little while ago they were so deeply involved in debt that it looked as if their Japanese creditors would have to take the concern over. The mine at Iron Mountain, some 50 *li* from the river, was closed and the one a few miles away on a branch line alone was worked. Other economies were effected, not the least of which was the closing of the blast furnaces at Hanyang. Now, however, they seem to be looking up again, for both mines are in full work and the one blast furnace at Shih-huei-yao—people who don't know will call it "Tayeh"—is producing pig iron at the rate of 200,000 tons a year. Next year they say another furnace will be ready so that in 1925, 400,000 tons may be expected.

FOREIGNERS DISCHARGED.

We cannot think that they have bettered them themselves by dismissal of all foreigners. The Cement Works also, which before the war had a German and then took a Dane instead and after him another German, have lately made things so unpleasant for the latter that he has left. In these cases we expect to find gradual deterioration of plant and by and by some big accident that will bring things to a standstill. Then another foreign manager will be needed.

Such an important place as this Tayeh port has become makes it a crying need that at least one of the steamer companies should make it a stopping place. We thought the Japanese company would be the most likely to do so because of the Japanese interests there. There are a few Japanese gentlemen living there with their families in large foreign houses and frequently there are Japanese business visitors. This is mainly on account of the ore from the Iron Mountain which is all the time being shipped to Japan as part of the Boxer Indemnity. So we asked the Nisshin Kisen Kaisha if they did not think it would be to their advantage to stop their steamers here. They replied that they would gladly do so but the Chinese authorities would not allow them to. Why? We wonder.

The consequence is that we have to go another 10 *li* to Huang-shih-kang to get a big steamer. If we go by water it is generally slow progress because of the swift current and the nature of the bank which precludes tracking. If by road then our reflexions on the ineptness of the Chinese are far from flattering to them. How they can be content to go on year after year slipping and stumbling along that devious though much traversed route passes our comprehension. There ought years ago to have been a hard and straight, if not wide, road along which bicycles and rickshas at least could run.

NEGLECTED RAILWAY.

Before we get into Huang-shih-kang we pass the rail-head of the Tupeh Government Mining Railway by which ore is brought from the iron mine at the Elephant and Nose Mountain. This line of only four years' existence is in a shocking condition as regards its road bed. The sleepers are rotting away all the time and the gang of platelayers is all too inadequate for fitting in new timber where needed. Many sleepers are missing and others are in the last stage of corruption. We are told that the timber is of a non-durable, soft quality and creosote has not been used to keep out the moisture. It is the usual penny wise and pound foolish policy.

Let us finish by recording one creditable piece of Chinese enterprise. Some 90 *li* higher up the Yangtze is a small river which flows down from the husy town of Kinniu. It used to be a vast lake every summer from its mouth to the Yangtze, a distance of 90 *li* and a steamer used to ply on it for six months. In the winter with the fall of the big river the lake disappeared and a network of streams with reeds and rushes took its place. A dam and sluice have recently been constructed at the Yangtze end and now the high water of summer does not get in to flood the land and the winter does not bring about a stream so shallow as to be unnavigable. The bed of the lake that was can now be tilled. Already we have seen Chinese surveyors at work re-mapping the area. (The authorities have fresh taxation in view.) Steamers can now run, and do run, the double distance all the year round on a stream which remains always at practically one level. May not this be counted to the Chinese for righteousness?

HANKOW MILITARISTS SEEKING FUNDS

Only $500,000 Needed

Hankow, Mar. 1.

Owing to the shortage of military funds, Gen. Hsiao Yao-nan, Tuchun of Hupeh, last night asked the Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the President of the Chinese Bankers' Association here for the accommodation of half-a-million loan until the middle of March. It appears, however, that the money-market of Hankow is not in a position to accommodate such a large sum of money at the present time.

Rumour has it that there are not a few among the financial circles here who are opposed to the proposal on the ground that the sum thus raised will without doubt be utilized as military funds of the northern expeditionary forces against Szechuan.—Eastern News Agency.

A. P. C. GODOWN IN PEKING DESTROYED BY FIRE

Good Work by Chinese Firemen.

Peking, Feb. 27.

A fire broke out on the Asiatic Petroleum Company's godown premises outside the Hatamen yesterday morning at 4 o'clock. The godown and a small shed were completely destroyed. Fortunately the tank was not injured. Chinese living on the premises state that the place was locked up as usual on Monday night and they heard an explosion at 4 o'clock next morning. No one had entered the premises meanwhile.

A Chinese fire brigade soon appeared on the scene and did excellent work in restricting the area of the fire. There is said to be little doubt that the Standard Oil Company's godown next door would have been destroyed, but for the work of the Chinese firemen.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE NEW SPIRIT VISIBLE IN JAPAN

An Age of Upheaval: Loyalty to the Throne Unquestioned but Dissatisfaction with Government

By Our Tokio Correspondent.

The recent dastardly attempt on the life of Prince Hirohito, Heir to the Japanese Throne; the frequent invasions of the homes of high statesmen by commoners who committed acts of vandalism there and terrified Cabinet ministers; the loud cries heard on all sides that a class war in Japan is definitely on; the antipathy expressed towards the Kiyoura Cabinet on the ground that it is a Ministry of the privileged classes; the lamentably boorish scenes created on the floor of the Japanese Diet necessitating dissolution of the legislative chambers; and, now, the disclosure of a plot by Toshihiko Sakai and other syndicalists and communists to establish a Soviet Republic in Japan—all these things are raising in the minds of people the question as to whether grave political possibilities, involving even revolution, are looming on Japan's horizon.

Premier Kiyoura, on more than one occasion, deplored what he called the "drifting of the nation towards flippancy, extravagance and radicalism," and has just called on all the religious leaders in the country—Christian, Shinto and Buddhist alike—to arrest the progress of radicalism and extreme ideas prevalent in the country and to uplift the nation spiritually, which, according to him, is the only way to foster the welfare and prosperity of the Empire.

Viscount Takahashi, at one time Premier and to-day leader of the largest political party in the Japanese Lower House, has also often voiced his fears that revolutionary dangers were looming in a distant horizon true, but still a horizon that is not so distant that the far-seeing cannot vision it.

IMPERIAL FAMILY RESPECTED.

In the allegiance that the Japanese people unswervingly, unstintingly and unquestioningly have accorded the Imperial Family on the wane as the result of the flood of new thought that rushed in since the war? I sought a reply to this very ticklish subject—for Japan—from people in various walks of life, from peers and commoners, from clerks and educationists, from avowed conservatives and blatant radicals. The consensus of opinion was that such was not the case, that the affection and esteem in which the nation holds the Reigning House has not weakened one jot or tittle, but that, with the spread of education and the broadening of the minds of the present generation, especially in the larger cities, there is no longer the desire or the feeling to look upon the Imperial Family as divine. In fact, one man of confessed Communist tendencies told me that the greatest difficulty the socialists, anarchists and radicals in Japan were confronted with in spreading their doctrines was the intense affection with which the general public alluded to the Reigning House and the obvious love with which the Imperial House is regarded.

Conservatives, the privileged classes and the captains of industry and finance simply scoff at the idea that a mental change in the attitude of the people towards the Imperial Family exists. One of these, the Director of the Mitsubishi Bank, said that it was absolutely absurd even to imagine such a probability. None the less, he admitted that there is more discontent in the country to-day than there has ever been—than there was even during the Satsuma rebellion—and that this discontent is all the more disconcerting because it is accompanied with a wave of flippancy and recklessness, but declared that no dissatisfaction whatever was felt towards the Reigning House. The Imperial House is the bed-rock on which is reared Japan's social, political and national structure and herein lies the importance of the Imperial Family to the nation.

Japan is not likely to go extremist—whether this extremism take the form of either Socialism, Republicanism or Bolshevism—so long as the present harmonious relations between the Ruling House and the nation in general continues, and there is not the slightest sign of the bond of affection welding the Throne and the people weakening.

The Japanese have always insisted that, whatever the causes of conflict or friction between the governing classes and the governed, the Imperial House should be meticulously guarded from being embroiled in any political or social clash. This has always been closely and scrupulously followed and accounts for why a howling, fighting bedlam, such as the Lower House of the Japanese Diet was on the last day of January this year, simply froze into silence and attention when the Premier announced that he had a message to be delivered to the Solons from the Prince Regent. The message was an order of dissolution.

PRINCE REGENT'S ATTACKER.

It has been conclusively proved, in the course of the preliminary examinations, that Namba, the 24-year-old man who attempted to assassinate the Prince Regent on December 27 when His Imperial Highness was proceeding to the Diet, was not connected with any secret society or radical organization. Questioned as to why he made the murderous attempt, he replied that it was because he was dissatisfied with life, and thought such action the best means of attracting attention. The desire to bask in the reflected glory of regicide was irresistible. Namba, medical opinion states, is of unsound mind, has been smitten for years with an incurable disease and is known to have been of an innately morbid disposition for some years past as a consequence.

It is not irrelevant here to touch briefly on Japanese psychology when it deals with murder and suicide. The murderer or suicide—especially the latter—in Japan always desires to have a companion in shuffling off this mortal coil. This accounts for the large number of double suicides and double murders in the country. Namba, according to a voluntary confession made by him, had determined to bid adieu to life. He found it a very cold and cheerless world, especially after the earthquake. Desiring some one to accompany him to the Valley Beyond, he hit upon the grandiose scheme of taking along with him the highest in the land and at the same time carving for himself a niche in history.

Much speculation is being indulged in now as to whether Imperial clemency will commute the death sentence that is sure to be pronounced on Namba by the Supreme Court—for Japanese law demands the lives of those who endanger the lives of members of the Reigning House. The people generally do not think a reprieve should be granted and many of those with whom I have talked expressed the opinion that mercy in this case would be an error of judgment.

THE PEOPLE EVER CONSERVATIVE.

An incident which occurred during the September earthquake gives an insight into the feelings of the lower classes with regard to whether they favour a change in the present social system. It occurred in Honjo, a section of Tokio where are the slums, and where the poorest of the people live, where, it is not unreasonable to presume, the radical has a more fruitful field in reviling the capitalist and inciting the poor against the rich. As the fires were sweeping the area, a young man, hardly beyond man's estate, waved his hands joyfully exclaiming: "The day has come at last. The capitalists are being punished. Rejoice, for this is Heaven's vengeance!" He was literally torn hand and limb and the mangled body thrown into the gutter. That is the general attitude of the people towards those who attempt to tamper with the present social fabric. Equality by universal wretchedness, the Japanese do not want. The stark brutality and loathesomeness of what had occurred in Russia is not absent from the mind of the average Japanese.

JAPAN'S GREATEST DANGER.

"The Japanese have become a spoilt race," one of the directors of a banking house that has branches all over the world was telling me as we sat sipping weak tea and discussing the trend of thoughts of the people. "I cannot expect much from the present generation. Fifty years ago, Japan was a *terra incognita;* today she is a world power. The thrift and industry of the Meiji era did that. The present generation has lost all thought of honest and steady effort. The whole nation, from top to bottom, is pervaded with a spirit of morbid laziness. Instead of saving by hard toil and arduous work, every one is dreaming of making easy money in one stroke. The Japanese have acquired the habit of get-rich-quick-and-anyhow. They are out-Ponzing Ponzi. It can't be done."

He spoke in short quick sentences, biting his cigarette. "Our exports will dwindle. More loans will become necessary. One day there will be refusal to accommodate us with funds and, at the same time, we shall be called to account. Then only, perhaps, will the Japanese people awake."

The money Japan made during the war he set down as the "curse which has enslaved the nation in flippancy and make-believe luxury. Young men, trained only to drive pens, are finding it difficult to earn a living. Recently, we wanted 10 clerks. We received more than 300 applications. These others cannot do manual labour. What can they do? Japan's greatest danger lies within herself, not without."

HONGKONG SWEEP DISPUTE

Missing Derby Sweep Ticket Found in Losing Claimants' House

A remarkable situation arises in Hongkong in consequence of the discovery of the missing ticket (No. 3066) which won the Hongkong Chinese Club Derby Sweep on the 1923 Derby. The ticket was lost when the race was over, and two claimants came forward for the prize, though neither could produce the ticket. Mr. Chik Soong-ling, of Shanghai, was one claimant and Mrs. Violet Chan, of Hongkong, was the other.

An arbitration was held at the Chinese Club, presided over by members of the committee, and both counsel and solicitors were engaged to argue the claims. Mr. Chik Soong-ling alleged that on the day of the race Mr. Sydney Ng Quinn, brother of Mrs. Violet Chan, obtained the winning ticket from him by a pretext when they were both in Shanghai. On the other hand, Mrs. Chan alleged that her brother sold the ticket to her at their house in Arbuthnot Road, Hongkong. Then, she said, they moved from that house to Robinson Road and it was during the removal that the ticket was lost.

In their award the Arbitrators "substantially accepted" Chik Soong-ling's story and "entirely rejected" the evidence offered by Mrs. Violet Chan. The money was therefore awarded to Chik Soong-ling and Sydney Ng Quinn was expelled from the Club inasmuch as he was suspected of underhand dealings in this matter.

Now comes the bombshell. Mrs. Chan's former house at Arbuthnot Road has been overhauled, and the missing ticket has accidentally come to light, torn and crumpled but with the number and everything complete. It appears to have been used as packing by a female servant of the house, who failed to realize its value.

Mrs. Chan is renewing her claim to the prize and Mr. Sydney Ng Quinn is applying for reinstatement at the Club. According to the "South China Morning Post" proceedings for libel are to be renewed against the successful claimant by his formerly unsuccessful opponents.

The dispute aroused considerable interest in Hongkong, for a number of well known foreigners were involved. Amongst other witnesses were Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton and Mr. C. A. Russ (of Hongkong) and Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Shanghai).

HARBIN RUSSIANS ALARMED

Antagonism of Local Chinese: Fresh Demands for M. Ostroumoff's Resignation

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin Feb. 25.

Excitement created in the local Russian press concerning the possibilities of further hostile demonstrations by the Chinese against Russians in Harbin is subsiding.

Russians, however, feel that the demonstration at the Railway Offices was only the beginning of more serious outbursts against them, especially as the Fuchiatien newspapers have been carrying on what is termed by Russians an anti-Russian campaign for some months past.

The chief of the Information Bureau of the Administrator's Office has issued a statement which says that it was known to the authorities that Chinese public organizations were about to demonstrate against Mr. Ostroumoff, on account on an insult they considered they had suffered by the production of "The Mandarin's Son." Mr. Ostroumoff, it is said, refused to apologize to the Chinese present at the performance.

As to taking due precautions, the authorities, anxious to avoid a repetitions of what has taken place in Peking, resolved not to employ force until it was absolutely necessary. The crowd was nearly 5,000 strong when they left Fuchiatien, but as a strong police detachment in plain clothes accompanied the demonstrators no trouble was expected.

Gen. Chu has issued a proclamation saying that Russians need not be alarmed in any way. He will not permit any hostile demonstrations against them and instructions have been issued to the police to this effect. Orders have also been received from Marshal Chang Tso-lin forbidding such disorderly scenes.

There are numerous Russians in Harbin who have no love for Mr. Ostroumoff, but they have stood beside him in this instance because they firmly believe that the Chinese also entertain a hostile feeling against all Russians. The Chinese insist that it is Ostroumoff and his supporters who are trying to foment conspiracies among the railwaymen. He is, accused of stirring up racial prejudice, in order to secure support from all Russians.

It is thought unlikely that any more demonstrations of a similar sort will take place, for the authorities see that the object of the first not only failed to hit the mark, but has also considerably alarmed all Russians. Other tactics will no doubt be resorted to and pressure brought to bear in certain quarters, as Ostroumoff's agreement with the railway has expired. No doubt the matter will be settled in Mukden, to which place Mr. Rendre, head of the Russo-Asiatic Bank (which engaged Mr. Ostroumoff) is leaving in a few days and where Dr. C. C. Wong, President of the Railway, is expected to arrive from Peking on his way to Harbin about the same time.

THE ATHLETIC YOUNG WOMEN OF JAPAN

First Women's National Tennis Championship Announced

Tokio, Feb. 26.

Announcement is made to-day of the leading tennis tournaments in Japan for the coming season, and it is significant of the growing interest in sport among Japanese of both sexes that a competition, entitled the National Women's Tennis Championship, should be for the first time arranged for women players.

Girl students have already taken part in several local tennis tournaments, and also in the Far Eastern Olympic Tennis games last spring, and some of these have shown distinct promise.

The women's tournament takes place in Tokio, about the middle of May, while the corresponding national championship for men is

SHENSI MAGISTRATE TAKEN TO TASK

Revolt of People against Intolerable Extortions by His Uncle's Nephew

From Our Own Correspondent.

Sianfu, Shen., Feb. 15.

It is sometimes a very great advantage to have a friend in the place of power and the Weinan magistrate has this advantage, for his uncle is a General in the district. This being the chief qualification for the position, he is, as may be expected, very unpopular and although the people have made the proper protestations against his depredations these have failed to bring them any redress.

It is said that even a worm will turn and recently the people of Weinan struck terror into the heart of this youth, who would be well advised if he saw fit to seek a less responsible post. The people have been taxed, and taxed beyond endurance, but with the last demand of 700 cash a mow, the people came to the city to "Chiao Lung." This is an extreme measure, a sort of general strike, when every house sends its man with an agricultural implement of one sort or another, demonstrating the fact that it is impossible to till the land under the imposed conditions and that they wish to hand over their tools to their traditional father but actual oppressor.

Such occasions are often attended by bloodshed nor was this an exception. The soldiers closed the city gates and thereby averted a calamity, but the deputy of the official was beaten to death when he tried to represent the cause of the magistrate; two other lives also were taken. The magistrate tried to escape but failing in this it is said he humbled himself to the dust, wept before the people, knocked his head on the ground to them and promised to do better in the future.

It is said that his uncle, the General, has given him a very severe scolding, but the unfortunate thing is that he has not yet been sent home out of hand.

TYPICAL DISHONESTY.

With the prospect of the railway soon reaching Shanchou in Honan, a series of bridges has been partially constructed between that city and Tungkuan with the intention of extending the motor road from Sian to the railhead, but alas! while this work has been proceeding the fleet of cars in possession of the company has been deteriorating with such rapidity, that now out of more than 20 cars, only one is able to run, hence the whole system has been almost suspended. There may be a car a week, there may be none. It is a very great pity that these lamentable conditions should exist solely for want of any one who has any practical knowledge of how such a business should be managed.

It is a fact that on the stretch of road between Sian and Tungkuan not a single man was employed in road repairing, while there were numbers of officials sitting at headquarters drawing pay for what I cannot tell, whereas a few men employed here and there on the road would have prevented much damage to the cars and maintained the service at a fraction of the loss entailed by the disablement of the cars.

QUOTING Virgil in the House of Commons, Sir Philip Lloyd Greame was met with cries of "What's that?" and promptly translated *Non tali auxilio nec defensoribus istic* into "We decline to be under the red flag or to sail under the Jolly Roger." That was quite amusing, though hardly helpful to Glasgow M.P.'s, athirst for the wisdom of the ages, remarks the "Observer." But it is evident that this is going to be the least Horatian of all Parliaments. The news of the Address was wisely withheld from the public lest it bring tears to their eyes.

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dewe for [illegible] on August [illegible] and the following days, also in Tokio.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

GLIMPSE INTO JAPAN'S POLITICAL UNDERWORLD

The Chief Actors in the Alleged Communist Plot against the State: Leader Who Inspired the Modern Radical Movement: Personnel of Prospective "Soviet" Cabinet

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Feb. 16.

In connexion with the arrest of the 29 Socialists who stand committed for trial for alleged participation in a Communist plot against the State, it is now learned that they were rushed out of their beds one early morning, prior to the earthquake, packed into Black Marias and at once placed in strict confinement. They were then put through the third degree and the evidence extorted.

Such evidence is regarded as perfectly legal in Japan and proved, so the police aver, that the danger of a revolution was very real, and that Japan's Communists had been in active association with Soviet emissaries from whom they had received, mostly viâ Shanghai, considerable sums of money for propaganda purposes, a good amount of explosives and trunks full of pamphlets dealing with the "Utopia" Japan would become once the present social system were overturned and Japan's radicals were directing the destinies of this Empire.

Then came the heaving of the so-called *terra firma*, and the conflagrations that followed the seismic upheavals. Prisons took fire and convicts had to be released. The lack of space in the penitentiaries compelled the authorities to put several of these into one large room, instead of keeping them in isolated and segregated cells as had been done up to the time of the quakes. The confusion that resulted and the fact that these conspirators were able to talk freely with each other made subsequent examinations by the police useless.

"PRESIDENT OF JAPAN SOVIET."

Toshihiko Sakai, one of the most notorious of Japan's radical thinkers, had been proclaimed the head thhe "Soviet Republic of Japan" when that had been formed. Sakai is said to be a man of considerable talent and initiative for it was only after he threatened to have nothing to do with the movement unless he were appointed "Supreme Executive," that he was named as the first "President" of the "Soviet Republic of Japan."

Sakai and Ohsugi (who was murdered by a captain of gendarmerie in the confusion that followed the September earthquake) were the fountain head and inspiration of the Socialist and radical movement in Japan. Both of them were thorns in the side of the police and there is no doubt that the latter breathed a long sigh of relief when Ohsugi's career was tragically cut short on September 16 last year by Capt. Amakasu. Sakai, at the time, was in gaol, awaiting trial for the plot which the police have only now disclosed.

DAUGHTER A RADICAL, TOO.

Toshihiko Sakai first came into the limelight of notoriety when he flaunted a Red Flag in the face of a policeman during a labour demonstration held in the Uyeno Park. This was some 20 years ago, so that it can be seen that the radical movement in Japan is not an off-shoot of the Russian revolution, though there is no doubt that the crude attempt at a form of democracy made by the Russians has left a strong mark on the labour and socialist movement in Japan.

The daughter of the ephemeral President of the Japan Soviet is one of the most radically inclined women of this country. She has been put behind the stone walls of prisons and the iron bars of police cells several times, chiefly for assaulting policemen, and it used to be one of her bombastic claims to distinction that she was the most imprisoned woman in Japan. I recall a rather comic episode of a couple of years ago when I heard Miss Magara Sakai —that is the name of the daughter of the man who had been proclaimed the guiding spirit of post-revolution Japan lecturing on the "injustice of the present social system." As she stepped on the high pedal and commenced pouring vitriol on everything and sundry, except, of course, the saintly radical thinkers, a policeman stepped up closer to the soap-box orator. She then levelled broadside after broadside on the "stupidity" and "cowardly nature" of the police whom she dubbed the "parasites and serfs of the privileged classes." Stepping side she caught the diminutive limb of the law—Miss Sakai is a rather well-developed virago—a clout on his head with the red parasol that she always carries. Of course, she was soon over powered and taken to prison. But that was, perhaps, what she was hankering after.

SAKAI'S "CABINET."

It was soon after Toshihiko Sakai introduced the Red Flag into Japan by pushing it against the nose of a policeman—and getting a gaol sentence for impeding officers of the law in the execution of their duties—that the notorious Kotoku Shusui affair was unearthed, when Kotoku and several of his associates were proved to have conspired against the life of the Emperor Meiji, to assassinate high officials and peers wholesale, and precipitate revolution and anarchy in the land. Kotoku and 12 of his fellow-criminals were hanged, reports difficult to authenticate declaring that they were hanged together in a row on a specially constructed scaffold and that their death agonies lasted no less than a half-hour.

Associated with Toshihiko Sakai, "the Supreme Dictator"—on paper—were the following who were to form the Cabinet of the "Soviet Republic of Japan":—

Secretary to the "Chief Executive"	Genza Nakasone.
Foreign Minister	Professor Gaku Sano.
Home Minister	Tokio Hashiuse.
War Minister	Yoshi Ichikawa.
Minister of Labour	Watanabe.
Minister of Education	Professor Tsunao Inomata.
Minister of Agriculture	Takeo Urata.

A split over the manner in which money received from Moscow had been expended furnished the police with the most useful clue in unearthing the conspiracy. The amount directly involved was comparatively trivial, amounting to Y.6,000. This sum of money was entrusted to one Hebei Takao —a radical who was afterwards shot and killed by a member of an anti-Bolshevist association—and, at a meeting of Japan's political underworld, Takao was taxed with having misappropriated Y.2,000 of the sum. His defence was that he was not the only one who had performed such feats, and, in a bitterly ironic speech streaked with sarcasm, the accused man charged everyone of the Communist party with having also misappropriated funds. The breach widened and the police managed to get enough of information to warrant a raid. The raid was made in May last year and valuable documents relating to various phases of activity, letters confirming the receipt of money from Moscow and a sum of cash was seized by the authorities.

The clever manner in which the conspirators communicated with each other proved to be the most difficult nut for the police to crack, but, the disunion in the ranks of the champions of the "proletariat" enabled the police to secure the *noms-de-plumes* under which the agitators masqueraded and even to decipher the secret codes which the police seized at the time of the raids.

"WHO'S WHO" AMONG CONSPIRATORS.

The man appointed to be the secretary to Toshihiko Sakai, who was to be made another Lenin and be clothed with all the pomp, power and autocratic authority of a dictator, was a close friend of Sakai. The others who were given portfolios in the ephemeral Soviet Republic of Japan were regarded by Communist circles here as being specially adapted for the particular lines of activity they were to head.

Prof. Gaku Sano, who was to be Foreign Minister, was till very recently a member, the faculty of Waseda University, and has a close grasp on the world of the international movement. His whereabouts are not known to the authorities. Some report that he is in Shanghai; other that he was seen in Harbin in the company of profusely-bearded Russians; while yet others declare that he is in Moscow. Miss Joffe, daughter of Comrade Adolph Joffe, is said to have brought from Professor Sano a letter to his fellow-Communists here.

Prof. Tsunao Inomata, who was to take the portfolio of Education, also belonged to the faculty of Waseda University. Here he is said to have delved into the mysteries of Socialism, fell in love with a Russia young lady attending the same university, and married her. It is strange that Waseda University, founded by the late Marquis Okuma, a conservative of conservatives, has furnished two of the principal leaders in the futile attempt to subvert the established authority and social system of the Empire.

PRINCE MATSUKATA'S ILLNESSS

A Last Hour Recovery

Tokio, Mar. 2.

Prince Matsukata and Mark Twain have much in common. The death of the former was also greatly exaggerated.

By what medical men pronounce a miraculous recovery, the Prince, yesterday reported dead, is still living, with a bare chance of recovery.

Yesterday morning at 11.15 Prince Matsukata was pronounced to be dead. Respiration of the heart had stopped, but shortly after that he showed signs of recovery, which were faint till the afternoon, when he acknowledged the hand pressure of Viscount Makino, the Emperor's Messenger. This morning the Prince took nourishment and is now asleep.

All the Tokio papers but two carried stories of the aged statesman's death.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Note:—Prince Matsukata, "An Elder Statesman," was born in 1840 at Kagoshima. He was connected with the Treasury soon after the advent of Meiji and in 1881 became Minister of Finance, continuing as such for more than 10 years. In 1891 Prince Matsukata formed a Cabinet and had to assume the portfolio of Finance on the occasion of the Japan-China War. His second Ministry from 1896 to 1897 is memorable for the establishment of the gold standard and also for the conclusion of an entente with the Progressives, which later came to an abrupt end, causing the collapse of the Cabinet. Prince Matsukata was Finance Minister in the Yamagata Ministry which followed his own. He was created a Privy Councillor in July, 1903, and Lord Keeper of the Seals in 1917, resigning in 1922. In 1902 he travelled through Europe and America. He was President of the Japan Red Cross Society from 1903 to 1912.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DIPLOMACY AT HARBIN

Consuls' Caution in C. E. Railway Dispute

A Harbin report quoted on Tuesday by "New Shanghai Life" states that the foreign Consuls in that city have received instructions from the Diplomatic Body in Peking concerning their attitude towards the Chinese demonstration recently held. They have been advised in every way to support the present status of the Chinese Eastern Railway, and warned that a wrong decision on this question may be fraught with consequences seriously affecting international interests in China, and particularly in Manchuria.

EARTHQUAKE CLAIMS CONTROVERSY

Japanese Government's Loan to Insurance Companies for "Sympathetic" Payments

Tokio, Feb. 26.

The announcement of the Cabinet's offer of the 50-year term loan of 80 million yen at the low rate of interest of four per cent. is hailed by the Press this morning as putting an end to a long-drawn-out controversy. It has been a controversy which has taken on many aspects and been variously reported since the last Cabinet began urging the insurance companies to pay "sympathy" money to the policy holders and offered to assist in these payments.

The question seemed to have been settled by the late Government, until the Diet refused even to discuss the proposals that were put forward.

When the subject was reopened by the present Cabinet, the discussions on terms revealed considerable differences of opinion between the Departments concerned, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce urging as low a rate as 3½ per cent., while the Department of Finance declared that in view of the rate at which a domestic loan could be floated the figure suggested was absurd.

Again, the insurance companies themselves have all along been divided on the question of payment or non-payment, the Osaka firms in particular, adopting a stubborn attitude towards the Government's policy.

Even now, some critics maintain that the Cabinet's present decision does not mean a final settlement, because the Government has still to negotiate with the companies as to their financial standing and the amount of assistance to which each is entitled.

The latest reports, however, seem to indicate that the 26 Tokio companies that will be benefited by the decision, have agreed to accept the offer, and are taking steps to persuade their colleagues in Osaka to fall into line with them so as to end the controversy once and for all.

PATIENCE EXHAUSTED.

It will be obvious that the slow progress made in the settlement of this question has gradually worn out the patience of the policy holders, who have all through been led to expect some sort of settlement of their claims by the insurance companies. For several days past they have made a public display of their grievances, besieging the offices of the Insurance Association, and the Government Departments concerned, and even threatening to camp out round the Premier's and the Agriculture Minister's official residences until the Government announced its intentions.

The offer, as it now stands, means that of the Tokio companies those financially able to do so will pay up to 10 per cent. of the claims arising out of the earthquake and fire, while those whose existence would be threatened by such a payment will be able to borrow from the Government on particularly easy terms.

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

It is further stated that preferential treatment is to be accorded to the holders of smaller policies, who will benefit to the full extent of 10 per cent., while a downward sliding scale will be applied in the case of those who were insured for comparatively larger amounts.

What effect this decision is likely to have on some of the other reconstruction schemes of the Government has yet to be seen. It is, however, already suggested that the monetary advance to the insurance companies must inevitably lead to the abandonment of the proposal to supply assistance towards the rehabilitation of industrial business, which has long been under consideration, and was at one time reported to have been determined.

Feb. 29.

The Government's insurance plan has received an unexpected set-back owing to the attitude of the Privy Council, to whom the plan is being submitted. The latter contend that the proposals should not be promulgated by Imperial Ordinance before the approval of the Diet has been secured, because the previous plan has already been vetoed. The Premier is trying to reconcile the views of the Cabinet and the Council.

Meanwhile the companies who do not require support are preparing to pay ten per cent. to the policy-holders on March 1.—

Mar. 6.

The Privy Council is unwilling to accept the Government's proposal to accept the Government's proposal to assist the weaker insurance companies to pay the 10 per cent. "sympathy" on insurance claims to the extent of Y.80,000,000, which will be lent to them at 4 per cent., the loan to be redeemable in 50 years.

It is understood that the Government has decided to pay the subsidy on its own responsibility, obtaining the sanction of the Diet afterwards.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPANESE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Bitter Opponents Allied to Fight "Cabinet of Peers"

Tokio, Feb. 26

Though the real campaign, preliminary to the General Elections next May, is still some weeks ahead, a beginning has already been made with the announcement of platforms and the selection of candidates.

It will be remembered that shortly before the re-assembling of the Diet last month, the three chief political parties, Seiyukai, Kenseikai, and Kakushin Club, agreed to sink all their differences in order to combine and oust the common foe—the "Cabinet of the Peers." Their efforts at that time failing through the sudden dissolution of the Diet, they are still persisting in their purpose, and have just drawn up their platform for presentation to the electorate.

On this platform the principal planks are universal suffrage with the removal of all property qualifications, and reform of the House of Peers.

GROTESQUE ALLIANCES.

The intense opposition of party politicians to the Kiyoura government has made strange bedfellows and it is curious to find the more or less conservative Seiyukai in company with their bitter opponents, but both planks are popular battle-cries at present and are calculated to catch votes. Whatever the results of the election may be it is difficult to believe the much-advertized combination will survive the heat of the election battle, and it is considered likely that the old differences will appear again, unless, as is indeed quite probable between now and May, there may be an entirely new alignment of political factions.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BUSINESS IN KOREA AND MANCHURIA

Bank President's Optimism

Tokio, Feb. 26

The extension of lines of communication both in Korea and Manchuria has promoted the steady economic growth of both countries, said Mr. Nonaka, President of the Bank of Korea, in his review of conditions at the annual meeting of the bank's shareholders yesterday.

Both countries, he said, felt the effects of the disaster in Japan last September, but their recovery has been fairly rapid, and to-day conditions are almost back to normal.

Mr. Nonaka also attributed the progress made by Korea during the last 12 months to the development of cereal crops and to other staple products.

As regards Manchuria, the bank president did not speak so hopefully, though he foresaw increasing opportunities for spinning factories and steel works.

He warned those interested in industrial ventures in both countries against the possible effect of the economic situation in China, which he declared was hopelessly bad owing to the political instability in that country.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SHANGHAI NEWS

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Mr. Mackay at the Head of the Poll: Mr. A. J. Hughes Again Unsuccessful

The Municipal Elections concluded at three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, and by six o'clock the scrutineers, Messrs. A. D. Bell and L. G. Westcott, had completed their work. The unlucky candidate—there being 10 nominations for nine seats, was Mr. A. J. Hughes, the Ratepayers' Association nominee. He was defeated by Mr. A. E. Baker, who polled 375 votes to his 288. Mr. E. F. Mackay topped the poll with 676. Mr. S. Sakuragi come a good second with 651. The total number of votes returned was 801, there being 16 irregular papers. Messrs. P. W. Massey (387) and A. E. Baker (375) each received less than half the total number of votes. The voting was as follows:—

Mackay, E. F.	676
Sakuragi, S.	651
Lambe, W. P.	509
Fessenden, S.	506
Knight, P. L.	477
Wilson, G. N.	447
Lyman, V. G.	432
Massey, P. W.	387
Baker, A. E.	375

A SHANGHAI FIRM'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Celebrations on Messrs. Caldbeck Macgregor's Sixtieth Anniversary

When last month "the Old Lady of The Bund" and other members of the family celebrated various coincident jubilees, it was a pleasure to acknowledge the assistance rendered by another ancient house—that of Messrs. Caldbeck, Macgregor & Co., Ld., and it was a greater pleasure on Monday evening to assist in the celebration of that firm's diamond jubilee. The firm is one of the oldest in the Far East and is as virile to-day as ever. The celebration took place in the Yih Ping Shan Hotel, the whole of which was taken over for the occasion. The front was brilliantly illuminated, prominent decorations being the British and Chinese colours, the hong flag and the hong name in Chinese characters. Inside the hotel was transformed with a very tasteful decorative scheme into which the American colours also were freely introduced, besides a number of Chinese congratulatory tablets.

The guests, of whom there were over 300, including the foreign members of the staff and Chinese agents and dealers, were welcomed by Messrs. J. F. and N. C. Macgregor (the governing directors), J. J. Sheridan (manager) and F. W. S. Evans (secretary) and passed on to an excellent entertainment provided by a very clever Chinese troupe of jugglers and musicians, who performed appropriately enough to an uninterrupted refrain from hidden artists on the Chinese fiddle and flute, whose masked music came quite near to being mistaken for "Grigor's Lament" or during moments of particular inspiration even for Rob Roy's particular fighting pibroch.

There followed an excellent dinner at which several congratulatory speeches were made, the climax being reached when a venerable Chinese rose and in one of the flowery periods of which his countrymen are such masters called upon the company to drink to the health of "the wine and spirit kings of the Far East." The phrase evidently had even more meaning for the Chinese than the translation did for the foreigners, for it was greeted with rounds of applause. Suitable responses were made and a very pleasant time was spent by all.

ANALYSIS OF NANKING MINT DOLLARS

Tests in the Presence of Well Known Local Bankers and Merchants

We are indebted to the Secretary of the General Chamber of Commerce of Shanghai for the following interesting report on an analysis of dollars, minted at Nanking, held at the Chamber on Monday in the presence of delegates of public bodies.

Report on the results of the analysis of portions of four dollars certified by the Nanking Mint to have been previously analyzed by Professor Mabee of the Shanghai College and also of a representative sample taken from twenty dollars which were drawn by Mr. W. G. Hollyer and Mr. Tsiang Zing-ching, representing the Foreign Exchange Banks and the Native Bankers' Guild respectively.

SILVER BAR CERTIFIED FINENESS 999 SPECIALLY SELECTED AS BASIS OF STANDARD.

Results of analysis of dollars previously analyzed by Mr. Mabee:—

No. 1	889.8
No. 2	883.9
No. 3	887.4
No. 4	889.4

Results of analysis of dollars brought by Mr. Hollyer and Mr. Tsiang:—

No. 5	890.7

STANDARD OF NANKING MINT, FINENESS 998.6 USED AS STANDARD.

Results of analysis of dollars previously analysed by Mr. Mabee:—

No. 1	889.9
No. 2	889.0
No. 3	887.5
No. 4	889.5
No. 5	890.8

The last figure represents the result of the analysis of dollars brought by Mr. Hollyer and Mr. Tsiang.

We, John Dalton, R. Bachrach, and W. S. Sung, representing respectively the Native Bankers' Guild, the Shanghai Bankers' Association, and the General Chamber of Commerce of Shanghai, hereby declare that we, at the request of the above-mentioned organizations, attended a meeting of delegates from public bodies held at the General Chamber of Commerce of Shanghai on Monday, March 3, 1924, and conducted the analysis of the abovementioned samples; and we hereby certify that the results obtained therefrom are in conformity with the standard laid down by the Government of the Republic of China.

J. DALTON, A.I.C.
DR. W. S. SUNG, M.D., D.S.
R. BACHRACH, A.R.G.S., A.I.C.

Shanghai, March 3, 1924.

We certify that we collaborated in the analysis and that the methods employed and the results obtained are correct.

TSE YE-CHOW
PAUL H. HEU
CHETAI YU

Shanghai, March 3, 1924.

We hereby declare that as representatives of the Shanghai Foreign Exchange Bankers' Association and the Native Bankers' Guild have witnessed the carrying out of the analysis above mentioned and that we are satisfied that the work has been conducted in a very careful and conscientious manner.

Z. C. ZING
W. G. HOLLYER

SEC. S. F. E. B'KERS' ASSCON.

THE following changes in staff positions of the Canadian Pacific Steamship's Oriental offices are announced:—Hongkong, Mr. E. F. L. Sturdee acting general passenger agent for the Orient in place of Mr. P. D. Sutherland who is on home leave; Mr. G. E. Costello is appointed General Agent. Passenger Department northern district excepting North China; Mr. E. Hospes, passenger agent at Kobe and Mr. J. M. Henderson at Tokio. In Shanghai Mr. E. Stone has been appointed general passenger agent, succeeding Mr. A. H. Tessier, and Mr. A. M. Parker passenger agent.

DYNAMITE DEPOT IN SHANGHAI

The Magazine on the Lower Huangpu and Safeguards Against Explosion

In our correspondence columns to-day will be found a letter from Mr. George Gundry on the subject of the Chinese Maritime Customs' depôt for the storage of explosives on the Pootung side of the river. The writer is of the opinion that the existence of this depôt so near to the Settlement constitutes a very serious danger, and he suggests startling consequences in the unhappy event of an explosion occurring, especially in view of the fact that the A. P. C. petrol depôt is within the vicinity of the powder magazine. Mr. Gundry concludes his letter with this warning:

"That this silent danger should be allowed to remain in its present primitive state with no effort to remedy it is needlessly exposing the Port of Shanghai with all its immense vested interests. It is a glaring case of how familiarity breeds contempt."

It may be said at once that the Harbour authorities are by no means indifferent to the importance of the matter, and having but lately produced an elaborate set of new regulations governing the storage and transport of dangerous materials, it is scarcely likely that they have overlooked the safety of the Customs' explosives depôt.

THE SITUATION.

This magazine is situated at Maluchiao, on the Pootung side of the river some six miles from the Garden Bridge, following the course of the river, and about five miles direct. It was established there 17 years ago and is still under the control of the foreigner first appointed there. During this time no mishap of any kind has occurred, and this at any rate shows that whatever criticism, if any, the place may be open to, supervision in the past has been careful. The depôt itself is some 600 ft. from the river bank, and a little over half a mile from the A.P.C. oil stores, as to the proximity of which our correspondent is so apprehensive.

We understand that at present there are 125 tons (measurement) of explosive in the stores, consisting of dynamite, gelatine, cordite and naval ammunition, with detonators stored in a separate building. The magazine is surrounded by a high and substantial embankment, designed to divert the force of an explosion upward, should an accident unfortunately occur, the roof being made of special light material for the same reason. Only the foreigner in charge has free access to the magazine, the exterior of which is constantly under the guard of selected Sikh watchmen. There is a special cooling apparatus for securing the correct dry temperature in summer. British gunboats docking at Shanghai leave their ammunition at this depôt, and this would seem to show that our naval authorities have confidence in its safety.

IF EXPLOSION OCCURRED.

An expert in munitions on Wednesday consulted by a representative of the "Nirth-China Daily News," did not share the view that an explosion would be so disastrous to the Settlement as Mr. Gundry suggests. He pointed out that the risk of explosion is of course inevitable wherever explosives may be stored, and it would be just as reasonable to declare that all the men-of-war anchoring off the Bund are a danger to the Settlement, since they carry a considerable quantity of high explosives. Everything depends upon supervision, and immunity from accident at the Customs magazine indicates that so far supervision has been adequate. The risk cannot be entirely eliminated, but it may be reduced to a mimimum by the keeping of exact records and the making of periodical tests, coupled with all other ordinary precautions. Where the Maluchiao magazine differs from depôts of this kind at Home is that the whole of the explosives are stored in one building, whereas it is usual to have a number of small ones set out at intervals over an extensive area, in many cases a good square mile or more of land. It is correct also, as Mr. Gundry points out, that the residence of the superintendent is close to the magazine; also that there is no telephonic communication with Shanghai. In the past, communication has been established by launch, in touch with the depôt almost every hour of the day.

If the situation is one involving any special danger, the fact has not escaped the attention of those responsible, and it may be pointed out that quite recently various improvements have been made. On the other hand, the time may well have arrived for changing the location of the magazine, whatever its margin of safety, the situation no longer being the completely isolated one it was when the depôt was established 17 years ago.

WEDDINGS

Phillips—Burtenshaw

A very pretty wedding took place on Saturday afternoon in Holy Trinity Cathedral when Miss Evelyn Marie Burtenshaw, daughter of the late Mr. Arthur Reaves Burtenshaw and Mrs. Burtenshaw of Taunton, was married to Mr. Thomas Phillips, son of the late Mr. Thomas Truslow Phillips, the Very Reverend Dean Symons performing the ceremony. The bride, who was given away by Mr. Herbert J. Andrews, wore a handsome gown of white French charmeuse with an overskirt of exquisite silver lace. The bodice and narrow cape sleeves were trimmed with rhinestones and pearls in graduated lines and the long girdle of charmeuse was caught up with a rhinestone star. The long tulle veil was held in place by a coronet of orange blossoms and the bridal bouquet was of lilies of the valley The matron of honour, Mrs. W. F. Corneck, wore old gold marrocain crêpe and carried sweet peas. Miss Constance Corneck, the bridesmaid, and Miss Joyce Andrews, the flower girl, wore shell pink crêpe satin, and carried respectively pink roses and a basket of rose petals. Master Kenneth Corneck acted as page. In the absence of the bride's mother, who is in England, Mrs. Roots, wife of Bishop L. H. Roots of Hankow, attended the service and assisted at the reception as the oldest friend of the bride's parents. Mr. T. Mason was best man and Messrs. W. Houston, P. W. V. Corneck and H. T. Andrews acted as ushers.

A very pleasant reception was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Warrington H. Corneck, 9a Chaufoong Road, at which many handsome and artistic gifts were displayed. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a beautiful diamond pendant. Other gifts of special significance were a silver frame from the nurses of the Victoria Nursing Home, a pair of silver vases from Admiral Lew and Admiral Kwong, a silver tea set and tray from the Chinese staff, as well as beautiful individual presents from the foreign staff of the Kiangnan Dock and Engineering Works.

After the reception Mr. and Mrs. Phillips left for Hangchow, the bride wearing a charming costume of the new deer shade cloth with fur collar, with a blouse oof tangerine crêpe de chine, braided in deer, navy and green.

Friedman—Raymond

Another pretty wedding was solemnized on Sunday afternoon in the Ohel Rachel Synagogue when Miss Kate Raymond, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Raymond, of Hongkong, and Mr. Max Friedman, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. S. Friedman, were married. The elaborate floral decorations were furnished by the Lewis Nurseries. The bride, who was given away by her brother-in-law, Mr. J. H. Solomon, wore an effective gown of white marrocain, skilfully draped, with a side panel forming a train, caught at the side with a handsome buckle. The lace veil was embroidered with silver and the bridal bouquet was of white roses and ferns. The bridesmaids, Misses Mabel Solomon, Esther Sternberg, Naomi Joseph, Hannah Solomon, Florence Solomon and the flower girl, Miss Hilda Solomon, all wore taffeta and silver lace gowns in pastel shades of pink, lavender, pale blue and eau-de-nil and carried sweet peas and carnations. The matron of honour, Mrs. J. H. Solomon, sister of the bride, wore an original creation of pink and silver lace made over a green satin slip and carried pink carnations.

Mr. Max Sternberg was best man. The bride's gift to the bridegroom was a gold cigaretts case and gold match box while the bridegroom's gift to the bride was a diamond pendant and to the bridesmaids onyx rings set with a diamond. The reception, which was attended by hosts of friends, was held in the New Carlton Café, especially decorated for the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Friedman received their friends under a double floral bell. The bride's going away gown was of white brocaded silk, worn with a silver hat. After the honeymoon, which will be spent in Hangchow, the newly married pair will make their home in Saigon, where Mr. Friedman is manager and chief engineer of a large rice mill.

THE FINGER PRINT SYSTEM

Preliminary Steps for Its Introduction by the Local Native Constabulary

The interesting announcement was made on Tuesday that the Chinese constabulary of Shanghai and Woosung are about to establish the finger print system of identification, but the report was not quite correct in suggesting that a full working arrangement has been entered into with the Municipal Police. All that has happened is that a representative of the Chinese police who apparently has some knowledge of the system has approached the Commissioner of Police with a view to obtaining details of the very fine system which has gradually been built up, and presumably he will make the attempt to organize a similar department on the Chinese side.

The information asked for is very readily being given, the Municipal Police being anxious to assist the Chinese in the matter since, obviously, the working of an efficient finger print identification system on the Chinese side would be of very great value. For some years now the system has been applied by the Municipal and French Police and excellent results have been attained by the exchange of many thousands of prints. This same co-operation would be essential if the Chinese department is to be a success, and it is to be hoped that they will send a group of selected men for training and also take advantage of the experience of the Municipal Police in founding and building up their system, it being of the utmost importance that the work be done with care and precision.

Shanghai was the first city in China to adopt the system of identification by finger prints, an infallible means of identification, since no two prints have ever been found alike. Hongkong, Tientsin, and Hankow followed Shanghai's lead, and their participation tends to make the work of each more valuable. The Peking gendarmerie sent some of their men down to Shanghai for instruction in the system, but little is known as to the use they are making of it, no exchanges having been received from them. There can be no doubt but that a co-operative working arrangement between the Chinese and foreign police in this special department would be of immense advantage in the detection of criminals, and it to be hoped that the Shanghai Constabulary will get to work on a really efficient organization.

A TELEGRAM has been received stating that Mr. E. W. Noel has successfully undergone an operation in London and was on Saturday able to leave the nursing home where it was performed. Mr. Noel, according to this advice, was in excellent spirits, his health being much improved.

THE WAR IN SZECHUAN

Chengtu in a State of Siege: Gen. Hsiong's Escape: A Hospital Looted

Chêngtu, Feb. 7.

Gen. Hsiong Ke-wu, having escaped from Tongchuan, fled to Chêngtu, where he has held conference with Generals Lai Hsin-hui and Liu Yu-chiu and the other commanders. The decision is said to have been made to hold the city at all costs.

Gen. Yang Sen's men looted the Friends' Hospital in Tongchuan in the course of their search for Gen. Hsiong Ke-wu, who is reported actually to have been hiding in the offices of the Salt Gabelle. No news is coming through from that quarter.

The city (Chêngtu) has been closed and in a state of siege since February 3 and mails and provisions have to be brought in over the wall. The former are very erratic and it is not known here (outside the city) whether mail is being sent down river. Several skirmishes have taken place and much rifle, machine-gun and heavy gun fire directed into the city. A sortie by Gen. Hsiong Ke-wu's troops was routed by Gen. Yang Sen's troops this afternoon.

Unless Generals Liu Yu-chiu and Lai Hsin-hui have a secret agreement with Gen. Yang Sen and are awaiting a suitable opportunity to betray Gen. Hsiong, heavy fighting will take place within the next few days.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DIVISION OF SPOILS.

Peking, Feb. 29.

The Cabinet yesterday resolved on the following Szechuan appointments: General Liu Tsen-hou to be Tuli; General Teng Shi-hou to be Civil Governor; General Liu Hsiang to be Director of Tibetan Frontier Affairs; General Yuan Tsu-ming to be Director of Kweichow Frontier Affairs; General Yang Sen to be High Military Commissioner for Eastern Szechuan; General Tien Sung-yao to be Assistant Director of Provincial Military Affairs.

General Wang We-cheng will take over command of General Wang Chen-ping's 23rd Division and General Chen Chia-mou will take over Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan's 25th Division as the duties of General Wang Chen-ping and Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan prevent further personal control of these divisions.

Surprise is expressed at the comparatively unimportant post given to General Yang Sen, but it is pointed out that the latter will now be available to carry on any further movements which Marshal Wu Pei-fu considers necessary.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

How the City Was Captured

Chêngtu, Feb. 9.

Generals Liu Hsiang and Yang Sen captured Chêngtu yesday but Generals Hsiong Ke-wu, Tan Mou-hsin and Lai Hsin-hui were allowed to leave the city unmolested.

Gen. Liu I-chiu remains in the city.

Feb. 11.

Details of the fighting round Chêngtu show that the Northern army was assisted by two bands of robbers, who took the lead and captured the Arsenal.

These two bands were led, one by a woman "Mrs. Lan," known as "Big Feet," and one by a man named "Ch'en," known as "Ta Mei Mao" or "Big Eyebrows."

Firing was very heavy for a [illegible] civilian casualties. Many of the foreign residences were hit, chief amongst them being the French Consulate, but fortunately there were no foreign casualties.

After the rout at T'ungch'uan and subsequent disorderly retreat, [illegible] when the Northern troops scaled [illegible] where the guards had left their posts.

THE PUNISHMENT FOR LOOTING.

There has been a good deal of [illegible] soldiers on both sides, [illegible] headless bodies lying about the streets show how Generals Liu Hsiang and Yang Sen make an example of looters and indicate that they intend to repress disorder before it has a chance to grow.

Ex-Governor Liu I-chiu is now reported to have left the city. At any rate the yamên is closed and his house has now been looted.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A Political Murder

Peking, Feb. 29.

A telegram from Chungking says that the Chinese papers report that General Tang Chi-yu, General Tang Chi-yao's brother, who ruled Kueichow, has been assassinated in Szechuan.

The papers hint that the assassination was the work of General Liu Shen-shi's agent, but go on to explain that General Tang wanted to send reinforcements to assist General Hsiong Keh-wu, to which the Kueichow leaders objected. Thereupon General Tang Chi-yu shot and killed a Kueichow officer and was subsequently murdered. Corroboration cannot be obtained in Peking.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Time for Separation Not Yet Arrived: President's Faith in Governor-General

Washington, Mar. 3

The House of Representatives Insular Affairs Committee have decided to report on the bill providing for the independence of the Philippine Islands

The Chairman of the Committee explained that some members did not believe in the independence of the Philippines at present, but voted the report in order to give the House of Representatives an opportunity to discuss the proposal.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Mar. 5.

President Coolidge has informed the Philippine Independence Mission that in his opinion the time has not yet come to separate the Philippine Islands from the United States.

In a letter to the Chairman of the Mission, the President declares that the United States is fully confident in the ability, good intentions, fairness and sincerity of Governor-General Wood. In the present state of world relationship America owes an obligation to continue to extend a protecting arm to the people of these Islands.—Reuter's American Service

POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT TSINGTAO

The Governor's Sudden Arrival

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Feb. 29.

Governor Hsiung Ping-chi's sudden arrival in Tsingtao yesterday has caused quite a sensation. It is the custom of officials of his position to notify their arrival at least a week in advance. Naturally enough rumours are rife as to the real cause of his sudden coming.

Some attribute it to the alleged irregularities on the part of the Finance Department, but others believe that he brings with him special instructions from President Tsao Kun in connexion with the activities of Wu Pei-fu in the former leased territory.

The Deputy Governor has invited a large number of foreign officials, business men and journalists to a dinner to-morrow night at the Governor's official residence. What is the purpose of the dinner is not yet known.

It is predicted here that from now on there will be no end of political activities and intrigues.

One bright feature, however, is the absence of bandits in this city and their scarcity in the vicinity. It is perhaps safe to say that there are fewer bandits in the former leased territory than [illegible]

APPALLING FIRE NEAR TSINANFU

A Village Destroyed and 300 Lives Lost: Thousands of People Homeless

Tsingtao, Mar. 4.

Three hundred persons lost their lives when Choutsun, near Tsinan, was destroyed on Friday by fire. Advices just received here state that four hundred persons received burns and other injuries.

An overturned lantern was the cause of the fire, which spread rapidly. Many persons were roasted in their homes, and there was a wild panic in the narrow streets. Scores were trampled under foot.

The glare attracted bandits, who robbed the bodies.

Corpses strew the streets. Thousands are homeless. The injured are dying through lack of attention. The Governor, General Hsiung Ping-chi, is organizing relief measures. The suffering from hunger is intense. One-eighth of the population has been killed or injured. The loss of property is estimated at $1,000,000. Two hundred shops and houses were destroyed.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

RECONSTRUCTION WORK IN TOKIO

Tokio, Mar. 5.

A preliminary contract has been arranged between the Mitsui Company and the American builders, Messrs. James Stewart & Co. of New York, for the construction of the new building of the Mitsui Bank, which will be the first important building in Tokio since the earthquake. It is believed that the building will be five-storeyed and will cost approximately Y.15,000,000. Construction will begin as soon as the Government post-earthquake building regulations are decided upon.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE Shipping Department of the Mitsubishi Co. and the Coastal Service Department of the N.Y.K. were amalgamated a few months ago. Of late the new corporation has been employing Chinese seamen, which is regarded as a precaution against the recurrence of the dispute respecting the decrease of allowance to the company's crews by 50 per cent. last year, the term of which expires in April. The Japan Seamen's Union is considering means to meet the situation.

TSINGTAO'S BEACH

Coolies and Soldiers to Be Eliminated this Year

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Feb. 28.

To ascertain the needs of the foreign community and of foreign visitors to this port during the coming summer season, Mr. Tsou Wen-wei, Director of General Affairs, received foreign journalists here yesterday. He asked them to interrogate him fully, as well as to offer suggestions which, if found practicable, the Administration would be anxious to carry out.

Mr. Tsou was asked whether the Administration had any intention to reserve the various stretches of the beach this coming summer for the benefit of the visitors, eliminating the presence of coolies and soldiers who, either directly or indirectly, are usually the cause of resentment on the part of the foreigners—both visitors and residents seeking to enjoy the waters of the bay.

Mr. Tsou replied that he was determined to keep all undesirable people away from the waterfront during the season. He admitted that in the past some portions of the beach were rendered unpleasant for foreigners through the presence of coolies and soldiers, who flocked there more for the sake of curiosity than for anything else.

The foreign journalists then suggested the removal of the marines at present occupying quarters on Pacific Road in the vicinity of local hotels and residences, to a more suitable district. They pointed out that there have been many complaints over that, to the average foreigner, seemed to be the unnecessary blowing of bugles and beating of drums, which would frequently commence at six in the morning and not come to an end till late in the evening.

Mr. Tsou said the idea of removing the marines was a good one and the authorities would see to it that they are transferred at a very early date to one of the barracks on the hills formerly occupied by Japanese soldiers.

The Director of General Affairs stated that he fully realized the necessity of making things pleasant for the foreigners but pressure of work since the time of the retrocession has caused the Administration to overlook several matters. He hoped that this coming summer would see many foreign visitors to Tsingtao, some of whom, he trusted, would look over the business possibilities here and eventually seek, both by capital and energy, to develop some particular industry or line of trade.

SEA-CAPTAIN'S EXPERIENCE

Proves Great Healing Value of Zam-Buk in Heat Rash, Sores and Mosquito Bites

Another striking tribute to the marvellous all-round healing capacity of Zam-Buk comes from Captain F. R. Harrie, a well-known personality amongst the merchantmen and traders of the Mediterranean and African Ports. In a recent letter from his home at Bembridge, Isle of Wight, England, Capt. Harrie says:—

"For a long time my African coastal trips used to be signalized by recurring attacks of a fiery itching skin disease which first appeared as a blood-red rash about the groins and arm-pits. The least attempt to scratch or rub causes the scales or eruptive skin to come off, and as the raw surfaces dry the pain and irritation increase almost beyond endurance.

"One time or another, I must have tried scores of different ointments recommended by friends, but it was not until my skin had the benefit of Zam-Buk that the eczema gave signs of disappearing. Persistent application of this powerful herbal balm soothed and purified my skin most thoroughly. It ended the trouble once and for all.

"Zam-Buk has the same wonderful efficacy in soothing and healing prickly heat, and for removing poison, swelling and inflammation out of the bites of mosquitos and other insect pests. I used to carry on board quite an outfit of special skin preparations for use in hot climates; but Zam-Buk practically fulfils the purposes of the lot, whilst its pure herbal character and freedom from animal fats make it particularly and peculiarly suitable for use in tropical and semi-tropical climates. I never put to sea now without a stock of Zam-Buk in the medicine chest. Nothing can compare with it for all-round efficacy in skin troubles."

Zam-Buk, unequalled for its soothing and curative power in all manner of skin diseases and injuries, is obtainable of chemists and dispensaries everywhere. Direct from agents: Messrs. Wakefield & Co. (China), Ltd., S. Y. Sheng Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

During February, 50 per cent. Discount for each while they last!

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"MRS. DOT"

FARCE BY SOMERSET MAUGHAM.

Praduction at the Lyceum by B. W. A. Dramatic Section

CAST.

James Blenkinsop ...Mr. H. McMurray.
Gerald Halstane .....Mr. C. C. King.
Freddie Perkins .....Mr. H. J. Collar.
Charles (Butler) ...Mr. E. R. Morrison.
Mr. Rixon (Solicitor) ...Mr. A. E. Seddon.
Mason (Maid) .....Mrs. M. Jaffee.
Mr. Wright (Tailor) .....Mr. J. H. Johnstone.
George (Footman) .....Mr. A. E. Seddon.
Lady Sellenger .....Mrs. Alister Campbell.
Nellie Sellenger .....Miss Aline Noble.
Miss Eliza MacGregor ...Mrs. A. Michael.
Mrs. Worthley .....Mrs. H. York Irwine.

Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Jack Raynes.

Scenery kindly lent by the A.D.C.
Stage Manager: Mrs. K. E. Newman.
Treasurer: Mrs. A. Michael.
Produced by Mrs. Henry Jory.

The production of farce is no easy thing for amateurs, especially when the line between it and comedy is often very finely drawn—for example "Mrs. Dot's" part is farcical, Gerald Halstane's is not—and where the whole play appears to have been written with an eye to one reigning artist of the comedy stage. And in the circumstances the B.W.A. Dramatic Section are to be congratulated on their production. They have done nothing more, if so, ambitious and the programme shows that they have owed nothing to anyone but themselves—except the scenery kindly lent by the A.D.C. The performance was in some respects a little raw, lines were forgotten and there was occasionally a feeling of noise without conviction. The first act too, it must be confessed, was dull, the speakers were not always audible and did not seem to have warmed up to their work. These are the common faults of a first night. Tht second act was better, brightened by an excellent little scene between Mr. Collar and Miss Noble, which everybody thoroughly enjoyed. And in the third act the cast generally had got over its initial nerves and played with all necessary abandon. Applause and laughter were frequent and the audience went away feeling that it had had an amusing evening.

As Mrs. Dot, Mrs. Irwine has a tremendous part which for the most part she played most capably. She suffered a little from the prevailing depression of the first act, after having made a very effective entrance. But in the second and third she handled the part buoyantly and enlisted everybody's sympathy. Mr. King made a big leap from the only other part he has appeared in before—from naval cadet to man of the world—and he is certainly to be complimented on his manner of doing so. He inclines to be too jerky; gets up and sets down with unnecessary frequency and sometimes seems to find his hands rather troublesome. As a whole, it is a good and sympathetic piece of work: he portrays the conflict of feeling between love for Mrs. Dot and duty to Nellie convincingly and his curtain (the handing back of the cushion) was particularly effective. Mr. Collar is certainly a welcome addition to local amateur theatricals. He looked the part of Freddie and played it delightfully. Very good too is Miss Aline Noble. These two played up together with excellent spirit and effect. There is nothing but praise for them. Mrs. Alister Campbell made a good entrance and seemed more at home in the first act than anybody else. Her horror at the running away of her daughter might have been a little more animated without disgracing her essentially lady-like deportment. She looked the part to perfection.. Mr. McMurray as Blenkinsop had a fine opportunity in the third act of which he took good advantage. Mr. Merrison was the conventionally pompous butler and the minor parts were adequately filled. The play was prettily staged and on her share of the work Mrs. Kenneth Newman is much to be complimented. Most of the weaknesses we have mentioned belong to "first night" feelings and should disappear with the second performance, which readers may well be advised to see, especially in these days when orthodox theatricals appear to be few and far between.

FAREWELL DINNER TO MR. W. A. H. MOULE

Hearty and Well-deserved Tributes from Cricket Club Confreres

Mr. W. A. H. Moule, one of Shanghai's most prominent sportsmen, particularly as regards cricket, was the guest of honour at a dinner at the Shanghai Club last Friday, arranged by his fellow-members of the Shanghai Cricket Club in order to give him a fitting farewell on the eve of his departure for home, on his retirement from the headmastership of the Anglo-Chinese School and from the cricket fields of Shanghai, on which he has played so prominent a part during the past 33 years.

Mr. F. W. Potter presided, with Mr. Moule at his right hand, and was supported by members of the Shanghai Cricket Club's committee, as well as such well-known Interport cricketers as the brothers Tom and Sam Wallace.

In proposing the toast of the evening, Mr. F. W. Potter said that there was a very representative gathering to pay a deserved tribute to Mr. Moule. Some people came to Shanghai to amass wealth and retire when their object was attained. Mr. Moule came to China with quite a different idea. He came to teach the Chinese what he knew. His life in Shanghai was the emblem of a true sportsman and a true gentleman. After referring to Mr. Moule's proficiency on the cricket field, and recalling the days when he topped the averages at Blackheath, as well as mentioning his prowess in both Rugger and Soccer football, Mr. Potter asked Mr. Moule to accept a silver loving cup as a token of esteem from the members of the Shanghai Cricket Club. The Cup bore the inscription:—"Presented to W. A. H. Moule, Esq., on February 29, 1924, at Shanghai, by his friends of the Shanghai Cricket Club, on the occasion of his leaving China, in token of their affection for him as a friend, and their admiration for him as a cricketer. He was a member of the Club for 35 years, from 1888 to 1923, and in that time scored 100 runs or more on the following occasions: (15 scores of 100 runs or more are inscribed).

In reply, and thanking the members of the Cricket Club for the beautiful souvenir of their friendship, Mr. Moule said that it would be a constant reminder of the many happy days spent on the S. C. C. ground. It was 36 years since he landed in Shanghai and joined the Shanghai Cricket Club. Amongst other players in those days he recalled the names of Arthur Anderson, J. L. Scott and A. P. Wood, all of whom were at one time or another Presidents of the Club. Then there was Bruce Robertson, a splendid captain and excellent wicket-keeper, Alec Stewart, Tom and Sam Wallace, the four brothers Lanning, two McEuens. Walter Wilson and Harry Ollerdessen. Then there was Potter too, with his wonderful length in bowling and strong batting, and Billings, with his fine bowling record, and many others too numerous to mention.

In conclusion, Mr. Moule said that he had spent many of the happiest days of his life on the Shanghai Cricket Club's ground and he could never forget the Club and his many friends in it. It was the memory of these that would always be with him.

Other speeches were made by Capt. Barrett, Dr. O'Hara and Mr. R. C. Farbridge, and Mr. G. M. Billings, in each of which mention was made of the high esteem in which Mr. Moule is held by all with whom he comes in contact on the cricket field, and the evening's entertainment was completed with an enjoyable musical programme, with songs by Messrs. H. E. Muriel, D. J. Donne, G. F. Dumbarton, and N. G. Maitland.

CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS

Annual Reunion Dinner: Lessons of the War to Practise in Peace

The second reunion dinner was held on Thursday evening, February 28, at the S.V.C. Club.

Lieut. Colonel M. H. Logan was in the chair and 33 ex-members of the Corps of Royal Engineers sat down to dinner. The table was tastefully arranged, and decorated with the colours of the Corps and with models of bridges, sand bag revetments and other engineering features. Mr. Jack Raynes' orchestra played during dinner.

The President, addressing the members after dinner, remarked on the excellent attendance, and said that he appreciated very much the warm interest that was taken in old associations as was evidenced by the number of ex-members there that night. He said he felt sure the lessons of the war would not be forgotten, and that the ex-members of this distinguished Corps would carry on in civil life the traditions they had acquired whilst wearing the King's uniform, and he hoped that next year he might see an even larger attendance. He said he thought it would be better to hold the annual dinner in the autumn, when it appeared likely there would be more members in Shanghai than is usually the case in spring, owing to home leave and visits of inspection taking many members out of Shanghai at that time. He referred to the excellent work done by the Committee in arranging this dinner, and the trouble which they had taken in carrying out the scheme of decoration, and he specially instanced Messrs. Molyneux, Cheale, Maguire, Harvey and Oswald; he said he felt they owed all of them a debt of gratitude. A hearty vote of thanks to the Committee for their services was then passed. Mr. Molyneux' name being specially mentioned, and he having suitably replied, the remainder of a very enjoyable evening was taken up by a musical entertainment, to which Messrs. Butt, Eva, Manners and Maugher motably contributed.

OBITUARY

Mr. J. W. Skains

The death occurred at the Isolation Hospital on Tuesday last, of Mr. James Williams Skains, of the Shanghai staff of the Texas Company.

Mr. Skains was born at Bryan, Texas, on December 18, 1892, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Skains, now of Houston. He has been connected with the oil business during the greater part of his business life, 11 years of which have been spent in the service of the Texas Company. He entered the service of the China Department in March, 1921, at Mukden, where he remained until November last, when he was transferred to the Shanghai office. He was an enthusiastic worker and made many friends both in Mukden and Shanghai.

Mr. Skains became ill on Friday of last week and was taken to the General Hospital during the night. Drs. Ransom and Gardiner were called to attend him and on Saturday evening he was removed to the observation ward in the Isolation Hospital. On Sunday it developed that the disease was haemorrhagic smallpox and he died at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday. He was rational in mind until a short time before the end.

Mr. Skains leaves a father and mother and several brothers and sisters at home, and a brother, Mr. Robert Skains, in the employ of Messrs. Anderson, Meyer & Co. at Mukden.

Mr. Arthur Dabelstein

The funeral of Mr. Arthur Dabelstein took place at Bubbling Well cemetery on Thursday afternoon and was largely attended, the deceased having for many years been a very popular figure in the social and business life of the Settlement. Among the many friends who attended were Mr. W. L. Merriman, Major C. P. Holcomb, Captain Anderson, Mr. R. C. K. Johnson, Mr. A. Allen, Mr. R.C. Phillipo, Mr. W. Turner, Mr. H. Herlofsen, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce, Mr. S. Wall, Mr. A. E. S. Thompson, and Mr. Richard Neumann. The deceased's sons, Lionel and Kenneth, were the chief mourners. The service held in the chapel, preceding cremation, was conducted by Pastor Muller.

Very many beautiful wreaths were sent.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE SOCIETY

Triple Extension Scheme

This well-known institution has an honourable history of 36 years of unselfish labour for the enlightenment of the Chinese people. It's work goes to the roots of character which is basal to all other kind of effort in China. It has had a distinguished line of General Secretaries, Dr. Alexander Williamson, Dr. Timothy Richard, Dr. W. Hopkyn Rees, and wonderful results have followed. Its production of literature has lately greatly increased, and the circulation has in the last five years risen 400 per cent. The directors have decided that it is desirable to obtain more capital for a further forward movement in order more adequately to cope with the demands of China's New Day. A fund of Tls. 100,000 is needed to cover the new expenditure of the next five years in the directions—producing literature, printing literature, and circulating literature. Hence the scheme is compendiously known as the C.L.S. Triple Extension Scheme.

The Christian Literature Society acknowledges with thanks the following contributions:—

	Tls.
President of China	1,000.00
John Prentice	600.00
Brooke Smith	250.00
Burkill & Sons	250.00
MacKenzie & Co.	250.00
Liddell Bros.	150.00
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E. When	500.00
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A. G. Mossop	10.00
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Mrs. Cumming-Brown	4,435.00
H. E. Chang Ying hua	500.00
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Edmund Cockshutt	1,873.35
H. Middleton	25.00
M. Macdonald	5.00
Clara Bell Smith	10.00
J. M. B. Gill	5.00
M. Chaplin	5.00
J. G. G. Bompas	5.00
Emory W. Luccock	10.00
Mrs. Ethel Richard	181.27
J. Frank Bucher	5.00
Mrs. W. H. Lunt	10.00
W. E. Hoy	25.00
W. H. Hudspeth	2.52
S. B. Keers	10.00
A. C. Clear	25.00
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I. Tuxford	5.0
N. L. Han	10.00
G. S. Aveyard	25.00
Sir Skinner Turner	20.00
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Duncan & Co.	25.00
Judge Grain	50.00
Sidney Barton	50.00
G. MacKinnon	123.91

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY

Presentation to Mr. K. Begdon

At the usual monthly tiffin of the Committee of the above Society held on the 4th instant, the opportunity was taken of presenting to Mr. K. Begdon, official Piper of the Society, a handsome silver cigar box to mark his forthcoming marriage to Miss M. Dixon. Mr. Beytagh, president of the Society, in making the presentation, expressed the gratitude of the Committee for Mr. Begdon's past services, as well as pleasure at the fact that the happy event will not prevent him from attending the ball on St. Patrick's Day in the capacity of Piper, and concluded by wishing a full measure of happiness to Mr. Begdon and his future wife.

A suitable reply from Mr. Begdon brought a pleasant function to a close.

AMERICAN WOMAN'S CLUB

Farewell Reception and Presentation to Mrs. C. S. Lobingier

Mrs. Charles Sumner Lobingier, who is leaving shortly for an extended visit to the United States, was the guest of honour at a reception tendered her by the American Woman's Club in its rooms on Tuesday afternoon. A musical and literary programme arranged by Mrs. Squires, Chairman of the Social Department, and the usual tea made pleasant additions to the afternoon. Mr. Clisby Du Bose sang "The Great Adventure" by Fletcher and "Three For Jack" by Squire, in excellent voice; Miss Ellen Jansen gave a delightful violin solo, Minuet, Porpora-Kreisler; Mrs. Stroebe sang two charming lyrics, "Wake Up" by Montague Philipps and "To a Hill Top" by Ralph Cox; Mr. Rodd Moffat sang two very appealing selections, "Jean" by Stanton and "Duna" by McGill, and Miss Ethel Lacy recited with great feeling and sympathy a dramatic story by Gilbert Parker.

In presenting to Mrs. Lobingier a large silver bowl on a blackwood stand, Dr. Anne Walter Fearn, President of the Club, in closing her remarks, which happily blended humour and feeling, said that she had always regarded Mrs. Lobingier as the backbone of the Club and that she would be genuinely missed. She asked Mrs. Lobingier to accept the bowl as a souvenir from the Club, full of living thoughts, and best wishes for every day in the year, "self-pertetuating wishes which would last as long as she lived."

SOME REMINISCENCES.

In responding Mrs. Lobingier modestly disclaimed the honours heaped upon her, saying, however, that it was not necessary to believe all the pleasant things said about one in order to enjoy hearing them, and that the 10 years of Club activity had been years of pleasure and not of work. She then gave some interesting reminiscences, comparing the varied experiences to a "delectable club sandwich" and closed with the story of the Los Angeles man who said at a funeral of a stranger, when no one had responded to the invitation to pay a tribute to the deceased: "Well, if no one wishes to speak about our brother who has passed on, I should like to say a few words about Los Angeles." Like the enthusiastic Californian, Mrs. Lobingier said she should seize every opportunity to say a good word for the hospitality and kindness of the the Club.

Upon motion of Mrs. W. H. Lunt it was unanimously voted to make Mrs. Lobingier a Life Member of the Club.

SHANGHAI WAR MEMORIAL

Full Amount Raised

The full amount has now been subscribed to the War Memorial Fund. Final subscription list:—

	Tls.
Previously acknowledged	33,511.13
Du Pac de Marsoulies	25.00
Société Froncière et Immobilière de Chine	100.00
E. Wegelin	50.00
A. Wilden	100.00
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Banque de l'Indo Chine	1,000.00
Banque Industrielle de Chine	100.00
Chapeaux Frères	50.00
Goyet and Boissezon	100.00
International Savings Society	500.00
Madier Frères et Cie.	250.00
"E. G."	20.00
Tls.	35,956.13

	$
Previously acknowledged	58,629.23
Maison Parisienne	25.00
Members of the Shanghai Stock Exchange	20.00
	$58,674.23

E. F. GOODALE,
Hon. Treasurer.

March 4, 1924.

THE Bureau for the Collection of the Special Cigarette Tax has issued a notice stating that cigars and cigarettes not bearing the stamps of the Bureau showing payment of the special tax will be seized and confiscated. Already one shipment of 70,000 cigarettes has been thus treated.

RETIREMENT OF SUPT. MELLOWS

From Bombardment of Alexandria to Russo-Japanese War and Pursuit of Pirates on the Huangpu

Dating from March 1, Superintendent T. Mellows, of the [illegible] leave for six months and at the end of that period he will be permitted to retire on the full pension to which he is entitled. Though 59 years of age, Superintendent Mellows is more physically fit than many a young man of 29 and he cheerfully would have carried on with his work, but unfortunately he has been having trouble lately over his eyesight and feels compelled to retire. He cannot tell the stories of the long ago times of the Settlement's early days such as occasionally can be extracted from Mr. Brodie Clarke, but all the same his yarns are most exciting. Mr. Mellows belongs to what one might call the middle period with the end of which most of the old romance of China passed away. There is plenty of excitement even now, but it is not quite the same.

14 YEARS IN THE NAVY.

Mr. Mellows is a native of Nottingham, but at an early age he found himself in Greenwich and evidently the associations of that ancient place with the sea had an effect on him, for though a mere boy he joined Her Majesty's Navy. There followed for a long period the usual life of a sailor, which was rather more exciting in those days of sailing and auxiliary steam vessels than it is now. He served 14 years in the Navy, sailing to all parts of the world and taking a hand in innumerable jobs which now he passes over as trifling affairs. A big event in which he took part was the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882, when he was in H.M.S. Superb, and for that action he received a medal and the Khedive's Star. He had an extended period of service in H.M.S. Raleigh, commanded by Captain "Tug" Wilson (Admiral Sir A. K. Wilson, V.C.). The Raleigh, an auxiliary steam vessel, was one of the smartest ships of the day and her commander was of the old school who had more faith in sails than steam. She could do 22 knots at her best and Captain Wilson saw that she did not miss many opportunities of doing it, for with him it was "down smokestacks and up screw" whenever there was a breeze and the Raleigh would be adorned with a most amazing collection of canvas. On one occasion, after a long trip, she sent off a cutter in answer to signals of distress flown by a clipper and found that she was aiding a certain unit of that romantic tea fleet which had the title of "the fastest ship on the sea" and which had left port three days before the Raleigh had done and had followed a very much shorter route.

Mr. Mellows was in the Alacrity on the China Station and took his discharge there to join the Shanghai Municipal Police in January, 1892. Though in that force for only two years, the handy man was able to gain at least one distinction there, for it was he who first taught the prisoners to earn money. He taught them mat-making, their first task being the covering of the floors and staircases of the newly erected Central Police Station. Mat-making survives to-day as one of the principal occupations of prisoners.

IN THE SINO-JAPANESE WAR.

In 1894 there commenced one of the most exciting periods of Mr. Mellows's career. He left the Municipal Police and joined the Chinese Navy, being posted as a gunner on the staff and attached to the flagship Tingyuen. The war with Japan gave him plenty of work to do and material enough for a novel. One night he went as a volunteer in a [illegible] up an attempt to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Mar. 7.

Bank's demand selling rate for £1 at 3/3⅜=Tls. 6.13 at 7135=$8.59

Bank's demand selling rate for G.$100 at 70=Tls. 142.86 at 7135=$200.22

Mex. Dollars, market rate	71,625
Native Interest	03
Copper Cash	257,500
Bar Silver	33 9/16
Bank rate of Discount	4%
Paris on London	Frs. 106.40
New York on London	G.$4.29¾

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/3
Demand	3/3⅛
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	69¾
Demand	70
PARIS—	
Demand	1765
INDIA—	
Demand	233¾
HONGKONG—	
Demand	72
JAPAN—	
Demand	64
BATAVIA—	
Demand	194
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	72¼

BANK'S OPENING BUYING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/3⅝
4 m/s. credits	3/5
4 m/s. Docs.	3/5½
6 m/s. credits	3/5½
6 m/s. Docs.	3/6
NEW YORK—	
Demand	71
4 m/s. credits	73¼
4 m/s. Docs.	73¾
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1840
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/3⅜
New York T.T.	70⅝

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR MARCH.

Hk. Tls. 5.44 at 3/3⅝	£1
„ 1 at 1595½	Frs. 17.77
„ 1.26 at 71	Gold $1
„ 1 at 64½	Yen 1.73
„ 1 at 231½	Rupees 2.58
„ 1 at 1.50	Mex. $1.50
„ 1 at 16.275	It. Lire 18.13
Marks and Roubles	no quotation

Sino-Italian Bank Quotations

Selling Rates, Mar. 7.

It. Lire 16.15	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 4.00	Tl. 1
It. Lire 10.25	Y. 1

Week's Exchange Notes

Mar. 8.

At the close of business on the 6th instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 25,643,000 and $41,810,000.

These figures include Tls. 7,690,000 and $28,509,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 943 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—
Nil.

Shipments were:—
12 bars to Hongkong.

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—
Tls. 150,000 chopped dollars from Hongkong.
300,000 Mex. Dollars & Small coins to be melted.

Tls. 450,000

Shipments were:—
Nil.

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—
$650,000 from River Ports.
550,000 „ Soochow, Wusih, Kashing and Tungchow.
200,000 „ Nanking.
200,000 „ Ningpo.

$1,600,000

Shipments were:—
$400,000 sent to melt.

SILVER.

The price yesterday was 33 9/16d. spot and 33 11/16d. forward, showing a rise on last week's price of ¼d. both ready and forward. India has been buying and China sold a small amount. Exports are still very dull and it does not look as if the silver market is to get much support from China in the near future.

Stocks of sycee and dollars have increased by Tls. 2 lakhs and $8 lakhs respectively during the week. Bars in stock, 1,653.

EXCHANGE.

The official rate closed last week at T.T. 3/3d. where it remained until Monday when it went up to 3/3¼d. On Wednesday it dropped back to 3/3d. where it has since remained.

The difference between near and forward quotations is getting smaller. Banks are offering to sell T.T. 3/3 5/16d. March, 3/3⅛d. April/May, 3/3 3/16d. June and 3/3d. December. Buying rates 4 m/s. L/C 3/4d. March/April, 3/3⅜d. May forward and G.$72 ready and forward.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Heavy Decline in Certain Lines at Piece Goods Auctions: Conditions Otherwise Quiet

Mar. 8.

The local markets this week have contiued quiet and dull, and no volume of business is reported in any direction.

A stagnancy prevails in exports, the values here being generally too high to allow of business on the part of Europe or America.

Piece goods have been inactive, and following the recent high prices attained auction values have shown a heavy decline in some lines.

PIECE GOODS.

As far as piece goods are concerned the week opened rather better than its predecessor, and Tientsin and the north generally showed a considerable interest in fancies and spring goods. Although clearances of cargo were good, the position is not satisfactory in view of the numbers of new merchants and dealers who have recently entered the business, persuaded thereto by the profits which Chinese firms made last year. The danger of overtrading is again presenting itself to those who have experienced past vicissitudes. Meanwhile it is stated that several dealers have conceded as much as Tls. 0.25 on medium and best White Shirtings in order to maintain continuity of sales and to avoid an accumulation of stocks when the March/April shipments come to hand.

In woollens the market is on the quiet side. Deliveries, however, are good, but with a very steady market at Home no new business has taken place.

In certain respects the auctions were on a much sounder basis than those of last week, a greater proportion of orders for certain qualities of goods being in the hands of dealers. At the same time, except in one or two instances, prices showed an easier tendency, and at the concluding auction medium and high qualities of Italians sustained a heavy drop, amounting to a tael or more, although the lower qualities did not suffer in the same degree. It is readily understood why this particular movement in prices should have taken place at this juncture. After a period of rising values extending practically over nine months dealers have recently been paying what would be called fancy prices. So long as they had cargo on their hands it was to their interest to maintain values, but now that their stocks have been disposed of they are no longer concerned with the maintenance of prices. In the circumstances it does not matter to them whether prices sag, and the withdrawal of their suport has caused the present drop. Last year the bottom price for Italians was touched in April, but to-day the statistical position is much stronger, stocks in hand being only about a third of what was held last year, and there is a possibility of this downward movement accordingly being of very short duration.

COTTON AND YARN.

Chinese Cotton—Following the trend of American cotton, the China staple has this week shown a firmer tendency, but little business has taken place. If yarn prices improve as is anticipated, considerable buying orders are expected shortly to be on hand. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange a bullish tone is reported, the quotations current there being as follows:—March 43.65; April 43.30; May 42.90; June 42.45; July 42.10; August 41.30. Spot quotations are as follows:—Tungchow 42/46; Shanghai 42.50; Shensi 43/44½; Hankow 41½.

Yarn—Yarn is steadier in price, but no large amount of business is taking place. Between 2,000 and 3,000 bales are reported to have been booked by mills during the week, and it is of interest to note that certain Chinese concerns appear to have contracted at prices below what the Chinese millowners fixed a week ago as their lowest figure. Apparently the movement to fix minimum prices was only partial. The Szechuan merchants do not yet seem to have come into the market, although the firmer tendency now shown may suggest to them that the bottom has been reached and if so purchases by them may be expected in the course of the next week or two. Clearances of local cloth have been good, but new business is difficult as dealers are everywhere trying to cut prices. The following are the yarn quotations on the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange:—March 173; April 169.90; May 168.10; June 167; July 166.40; August 165.20.

SILK.

There is a small demand for silk, but it is impossible to do any business with Lyons on account of the rapidly declining franc rate. A little more demand is in evidence from New York, but at very low prices. The market shows prices very irregular in Shanghai.

PRODUCE.

The Home markets continue very dull and business is almost impossible owing to the scarcity of local supplies and the consequently exaggerated high tael prices of most commodities.

WHOLESALE PRICES IN SHANGHAI

Bureau of Markets' Index Number

The index number of wholesale prices at Shanghai for February has now been compiled by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Markets which announces them as follows:—

The totad index number for February is 159.6 being 1.8 per cent. higher than the previous month and 1.3 per cent. higher than the corresponding month of last year. In comparing it with that of June, 1920, the highest point ever reached by this index, it is less by 0.2 per cent. only. Thus in the past 44 months, the present month has the highest index number. It is less probably due to the fact that business is gradually developing since the complementary sales after China New Year.

Certain groups have advanced in their prices, while many others show marked falls. For instance, among the eight groups in our table the averages of fuels, building materials, industrial materials all show declines.

Our monthly figures since February, 1923, are given below:—

		Cereals	Other food products	Textiles	Metals	Fuels	Miscellaneous: Building materials	Industrial materials	Sundries	Average	Total Average
Feb.	1913	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100 0	100 0
Feb.	1923	153.5	150.2	160.6	153.0	185.5	164.7	197.5	153 6	170.3	157.5
Mar.	„	149.2	156.2	155.7	162.5	178.5	166 1	199.3	155.5	170.1	153 7
April	„	150.1	156.3	154.1	160.3	177.0	168 4	189.7	155.1	167.6	157.7
May	„	154.1	159.8	154.9	162.4	169.5	162.5	177.7	151.3	160.6	153.4
June	„	153.7	152.6	155.8	157.8	167.7	159 1	172.5	126.0	156.3	155.2
July	„	152.8	154.4	155.9	155.8	168.1	160.9	170.3	132 8	158.1	155.4
Aug.	„	150.0	148.5	153.8	156.8	164.2	160.4	162.9	152.4	155.5	153.1
Sept.	„	153.2	150.3	154.8	166.9	165.2	165.7	173.0	151.7	158.9	156 3
Oct.	„	146.1	152.9	160.0	160.8	166.0	166.3	180.6	129.5	160.6	156.1
Nov.	„	141 5	157.4	165.8	157.9	166.4	167.2	193.0	120.7	161.1	157 3
Dec.	„	141.2	155.8	165.7	161.0	172.2	169 9	189.6	129.7	163 6	157 5
Jan.	1924	139.1	154.9	165.7	162.4	169.9	165.3	183.5	128.3	161.5	156.7
Feb.	„	146.1	159.8	167.9	166.6	159.5	160.5	179.6	130.5	157.4	159 1

CHEKIANG INDUSTRIAL BANK LD.

Annual Report

The report to be presented to the 16th annual general meeting of shareholders of the Chêkiang Industrial Bank Ld. has now been issued. In presenting it the directors make the following announcement:—

Our friends will observe that from our last annual report some changes have taken place in the organization of this bank. This institution was at first semi-officially organized in 1908 with a capital of one million dollars, in which the Provincial Government of Chêkiang had an interest of $300,000. On this account, the bank nominally had to maintain its head office at Hangchow, the capital of Chêkiang.

It has been, however, the policy of its management always to endeavour to concentrate its main business in Shanghai, which is the commercial and industrial metropolis of the Far East. During the last few years, business of the Shanghai office has grown to such extent that in the interest of efficient management and control, it was deemed absolutely necessary to negotiate with the Provincial Government to buy out their share, in order to enable the bank to remove its head office to Shanghai. On March 23, 1923 the Governmental interest was taken over by a group of prominent private financiers at a high premium of about 70 per cent. thus making the Bank a purely private financial institution.

With a view for further expansion and public convenience, the bank acquired and built a commodious home to house its ever increasing activities and removed its head office from Hangchow to Shanghai at the corner of Hankow and Kiangse Roads, Roads, known as the Chêkiang Industrial Bank Building. With augmented resources now under its control, the bank is better than ever prepared to afford adequate banking service.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

The statement of accounts as at December 31, 1923, is as follows:—

	$
Gross Profit for the Year	1,832,278.04
From which to be deducted general expenditure, interest, commission and amount written-off on Premises, etc.	1,505,012.87
Net profit for the year	327,265.17
Balance of profit brought forward from last account	21,263.11
	$348,528.28

The Directors recommended the disposal of the above as follows:

	$
To be added to reserve fund (thus raising the reserve account to $500,000.00)	50,000.00
To dividends at rate of 12 per cent. per annum	199,562.24
To bonus for directors, auditors, officers and staffs	58,993.62
Balance to be carried forward to 1924	9,972.42
	$348,528.28

SHANGHAI GAS COMPANY

At a meeting of directors of the Shanghai Gas Co., Ld. held on Thursday it was decided to recommend to the shareholders, at the forthcoming annual general meeting, the payment of a dividend for 1923 of Tls. 4 per share, being at the rate of 8 per cent., on the paid up capital, and that Tls. 121,671.55 be written off for depreciation of plant and buildings, etc., Tls. 5,000 be placed to bad and doubtful debts account and Tls. 21,324.84 be carried forward to new account.

THE TEXAS OIL CO.

Gasoline Distribution in England

The Texas Company, producers of Texaco Petroleum Products, have just added an important link to their chain of gasoline distribution in Europe. The company, through its English subsidiary, the Texas Oil Co., Ld., London, has closed a contract with the National Fuel Oil Company, whereby the latter organization will distribute Texaco Gasoline through its extensive facilities in England.

Deliveries will be made to the Port of Thames Haven, England, in The Texas Company's own tank steamers.

ANGLO-DUTCH (JAVA) PLANTATIONS

Dividend for 1923

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld., held on Thursday it was decided to recommend to shareholders at the forthcoming annual general meeting to be held on March 31, that a dividend of 20 candareens per share for the year 1923, be paid.

HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO.

Proposed Increase of Capital

Hongkong, Mar. 3.

At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Hongkong Electric Company the Chairman announced that plans were being prepared for extension of the plant to 28,000 kilowatts, for which fresh capital was required. It was proposed to increase the capital to $10,000,000 early in 1925. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

SHANGHAI TRAMWAYS

The following is the traffic return of the Shanghai Tramways (Foreign Settlement) for the month of February and for two months ended February 29, with figures for the corresponding periods last year:—

	Feb., 1924.	Feb., 1923.
Gross receipts	$334,392.16	$275,907.27
Loss by currency depreciation	147,500.81	107,732.60
Effective receipts	166,891.35	167,774.67
Percentage of loss by currency depreciation	45.39	40.92
Car miles run	469,759	443,184
Passengers carried	9,391.151	9,511,407
	2 months ended Feb., 29 1924.	2 months ended Feb., 28 1923.
Gross receipts	$675,463.96	$582,416.21
Loss by currency depreciation	293,916.40	230,085.01
Effective receipts	381,547.56	352,331.20
Percentage of loss by currency depreciation	44.80	41.27
Car miles run	972,921	945,667
Passenger carried	20,532,072	20,223,970

* * *

The following is the traffic return of the Shanghai Tramways (Foreign Settlement) for the week ended March 5, 1924, with figures for the corresponding week last year:—

	1924.	1923.
Gross receipts	$83,533.91	$74,163.55
Loss by currency depreciation	37,111.42	30,933.43
Effective receipts	$46,422.49	$43,230.12
Percentage of loss by currency depreciation	45.60	43.29
Car miles run	116,695	113,796
Passengers carried	2,365,612	2,555,075

Coal Output

The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending February 23 amounted to 44,091 tons and the sales during the same period to 65,383 tons.

Messrs. George McBain have received a telegram from the manager of the Mentoukou Mine stating that the output of coal for the month of February was [illegible] tons.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE TRADEMARK LAW.

To the Editor of the
"North China Daily News."

Sir,—I read with great interest your leaders of February 29 and March 1 and they must have come as a revelation to many others like myself, who until comparatively recently were entirely ignorant of the existence of such a law or of the possibility of its recognition by the foreign Powers.

There is probably at the present time no other country in the world where the Press, and particularly independent organs such as yours, can accomplish relatively so much as in China; and in connexion with the publicity which you have given to the new Chinese Trademark Law you have discharged a real and possibly incalculable public service.

There is, however, one point and it appears to me to be a strong point which has apparently escaped your attention and the attention of others. Under the Mackay Treaty the offices for the Registration of Foreign Trademarks were to be under the control of the Customs. That being so, is not the only obvious course to see what happens in the case of disputes in connexion with the imposition of Customs duties? Did our ancestors allow Chinese officials and Chinese officials alone to decide these as is proposed in the Chinese Trademark Law? They did not: and I am not aware of even any proposal by their weak-kneed successors along these lines.

The procedure is as follows,—if the importer is dissatisfied, he files a protest in writing with the Commissioner of Customs, and I need not remind your readers that the Commissioner of Customs is not a Chinese. After the filing of the protest the Commissioner of Customs reviews his own decision and if the protest is not sustained the case is referred to a board of arbitrators composed as follows:

(1)—An official of the Customs.

(2)—A merchant selected by the Consul of the importer.

(3)—A merchant of a different nationality from the importer, selected by the Senior Consul.

We see, therefore, that in cases of Customs disputes foreign interest have not yet been betrayed; for the decision is practically entirely in the hands of foreigners.

Now decisions in connexion with trademarks are at least as, and probably very much more, difficult and important than decisions in connexion with import duties.

It seems to me therefore that when you hint that we have been "let down," (to use a mild word) either by the diplomatic body or by the authorities at Home, you and others also are not entirely free from blame in this respect when you merely suggest adequate foreign representation on the Trademark Bureau and the Tribunals.

Surely what all the foreign Powers should insist on is similar procedure and representation to that at present in force in the case of Customs disputes; and surely that is what we are entitled to by treaty.

Until the whole Law or any new Bill is thoroughly thrashed out, subjected to devastating criticism from all sides, and altered out of recognition in many respects, it should never be treated seriously.

There is an old saying "In vain in the sight of the bird is the net of the fowler displayed." Can it be that the Diplomatic bird is an exception to the rule?—or is the explanation, as we must all devoutly hope, that the reports of the action of the Diplomatic Body are inaccurate and imperfect. To any person who has lived in China, who has seen existing conditions and is capable of forming an opinion as to what these conditions are likely to be for some years to come, it is almost inconceivable that foreign Government, with their eyes open, will agree to recognize the Trademark Law without the amendments to which you have referred to in your leading articles.

I do not know how many deluded people or firms there have so far wasted their money on registration under the new Law, but surely it is high time that all foreigners were notified by their Legations and by their Press not to register until a proper Trademark Law has been recognized by the foreign Powers and they have been advised by them and the Press to register.

I am, etc.,

S.M.B.D.A.A.C.

Shanghai March 2, 1924.

RENDER UNTO CÆSAR.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—In the matter of the salving of the Rheinand, an account of which appears in your issue of to-day, all praise and credit are due to the Captains and crews of the Shanghai Tug & Lighter Coa., tugs St. Dominic and St. Sampson.

Anyone acquainted with the inhospitable and stormy nature of the Gulf during the winter months needs no stretch of imagination to realize the hardships and discomfort which the crews of these tugs must have experienced while carrying out this big undertaking.

In the absence of special agreement the crew of a salving vessel are entitled by Law to a large slice of the salvage award. To avoid this payment some steamship companies insert a clause in the ship's articles of agreement binding and limiting the crew to one month's pay in the event of their vessel being engaged on salvage work, a practice that has always been considered as taking a mean advantage as it is usually incommensurate with the service rendered.

I am, etc.,

Nautic

Shanghai, Feb. 28, 1924

THE BREEZES OF NINGPO.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—May I be permitted to congratulate you or your talented correspondents (or correspondent) from Ningpo: the letters that were published in your issues of the 25th and 27th combine such wealth of phrase, such variety of expression, such happy choice of wording, such brilliant flashes of piquant humour, and above all such unsimulated sincerity, that it would be hard to find their equal in almost any "penny dreadful."

At first I was at a loss to know to what this "capital literature" might be attributed. I have to thank Miss Agatha Boadge for a clue. It must be that Mr. Alf. Squeers is not the only man in Ningpo to see things with purple spots and green eyes when returning home at night from meetings."

I am, etc.

C. J. Smithson-Jones.

Anhui, Feb. 29, 1924.

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me to occupy a small portion of your most valuable paper?

Have any of your readers recently travelled viâ the Trans-Siberian Railway?

Contemplating a voyage to England viâ that route, I shall be grateful for any hints or advice that are given as to its methods of booking, costs, etc.

I am, etc.,

Inquirer.

Shanghai, March 1, 1924.

*** If any reader can assist, we shall be grateful. Some months ago we had an article on the journey from home out, but the westwards trip might well be explained. On behalf of one reader we recently tried to get some information but could not learn that any booking could be done in Shanghai.—Ed.

CHINA'S NEW STAMPS.

To the Editor of the
"North China Daily News."

Sir, It may be recalled that on the first issue of the Junk design of postal stamps issued by the Republic of China it was pointed out that the junk depicted thereon appeared to have set out for a voyage on choppy waters, symbolical of the inauguration of a Republic in China. How much of this forecast has come true will be apparent to anyone who has been a resident during this time.

Perhaps it will also be seen that the new issue of stamps may be prophetic in its silent picture of a Junk on placid waters gliding along more erect with a faint outline of a more stable bridge span, a sign of stability missing from the earlier issues.

With the disappearance of the etching at the sides and on the top of the stamp, the seven beads are now plain, perhaps meaning the ultimate dropping of mistaken ideas and in the new design the seven beads appear to be crushed out, almost flattened in the centre, to be merged from seven divisions into one united China—serene and placid.

May the design adopted be the forerunner of stability and Progress.

I am, etc.,

Tasnr.

Shanghai, March 2, 1924.

THE CASE OF MR. WIDLER.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—I am extremely sorry not to know Mr. W. Bruce Lockhart personally, but certainly he is the man "to knock the nail right on the head." I have read "My Morning Tea" with deep interest, but I was sorry to see "Phantasmagoria" as an adjunct to the title of his article. To my knowledge it should have been instead: "Ghastly Facts."

I am sure, all the foreigners in China are profoundly sorry for Mr. Elly Widler, especially myself, having known him few years ago in Yunranfu. Nominally, it is true that the Swiss Republic is not in a state of war with China, but in reality, China is in a state of frightfulness with all the Foreign Powers. I believe (the word "hope" is not in my Dictionary), Mr. W. B. L. having written in a such clear manner, has not forgotten to send a copy of the "North-China Daily News" to the Minister (or Ministers) in Peking, with a special blue mark on his article to attract their notice. Will it? It ought be time to make a move, before a repetition of 1900.

I am, etc.,

D. B.

Shanghai, March 1, 1924.

T.T'S.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—Please publish the following in your esteemed paper. At a pussyfoot meeting in the U.S.A. the mover for prohibition based most of his arguments on the Bible. At the close of the meeting an old, venerable-looking man stood up and asked to be allowed to say a few words and he said:

The last speaker has based practically all his arguments on the Bible. Allow me to tell you that I have also studied the Good Book. I have thereby come to the result, that though the Bible does not perhaps encourage drinking alcoholic beverages, yet it does not prohibit the drinking of same. Practically the first thing Noah did on landing was to build a Vineyard—in Solomon's Proverbs Chapter 31 verse 6-7 we read: Give strong drinks to him who is perishing and wine to those who are sick at heart, that they may forget their poverty and their misery. And turning to the New Testament we read, that our Lord at yon memorable wedding turned water into wine. And in St. Paul's letter to Timothy Chapter 5 verse 23 we read: Do not take water but take a little wine for thy stomach and thy illnesses. With one word if you read through the whole of the Bible you will find only one instance of a man asking for water and he was in hell, and even a single drop was refused him.

Cheered by the audience the pussyfoot quickly left the auditorium.

I am, etc.,

J. E. E. Rye

THE NANKING MINT.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—The Shanghai Industrial Research Laboratory has again secured samples of the four coins which were analyzed some weeks ago and I am personally making an analysis, the results of which will be reported when complete.

Both originally and in the present instance, the samples were submitted under specified conditions, and the laboratory has not been free to make other use of such samples.

Whether or not the original analysis was in error, it is not correct to charge that there has been unwillingness to participate with representatives of the Nanking Mint in a joint analysis.

Thanking you for giving publicity to the above,

I am, etc.,

Fred C. Magee.

Shanghai, March 3, 1924.

THE KAJAO DYNAMITE STORE.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—The recent fatal explosion in New Jersey, U.S.A., brings me to mind of a very potent darger existing almost next door to the Settlement itself, and unless some step be taken to look into this matter, we may suffer a similar fate, but on a larger scale.

Situated on the Pootung bark of the Huangpu river a little above the Kajao Creek, is a depôt in which dynamite and other high explosives are stored; while in close neighbourhood, not many thousand yards away, is the A.P.C. petrol storage shed. It was not so long ago that this same shed took fire, the flames reaching to within 600 yards of the magazine jetty. One lighter broke adrift and floated close by, burning fiercely. Had it exploded in the immediate vicinity of the magazine and some of the masses of burning oil been hurled on to it, a serious catastrophe would have occurred. The city would be very seriously damaged, and crippled to such an extent that years would be required to retrieve the loss done in the few seconds. It is within the bounds of possibility that the bed of the river in the neighbourhood would be so disturbed as to cause serious interference with navigation if not the imprisonment of the ships in the harbour for months to come.

The residence of the foreign official in charge is built too closely to the magazine for safety; this certainly would not be allowed in other ports. There are no means of direct communication with Shanghai or the Harbour authorities in cases of urgency or necessity either by telephone or water. Some consideration should at least be extended in this respect to the official and his family.

That this silent danger should be allowed to remain in its present primitive state with no effort to remedy it is needlessly exposing the port of Shanghai with all its immense vested interests. It is a glaring case of how familiarity breeds contempt.

I am, etc.,

Geo. Gundry.

Shanghai, March 4, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—In your article on the above subject you state "That in the past communication has been established by launch in touch with the depôt almost every hour." This is true only in the abstract.

A ferry launch service operated by Chinese runs between Shanghai and Kajow Creek, and is in no way connected with the Customs Service or the magazine, and they run just as it suits them. If there are passengers and the weather is fine, these launches run to a semblance of time, but should the weather be bad, they leave when they think fit, and after 5 p.m. there is no more communication either way, so that the officer in charge of the magazines is absolutely isolated after that time, as this ferry launch is the only means he has of getting in touch with Shanghai.

I have often wondered what he would do if one of his family were suddenly taken ill during the night, I do not mean just petty sickness, but (as I have no doubt that after his 17 years' residence in that isolated spot he is fully capable of taking charge in such emergencies) I mean if something really serious arose, by the time he had managed to get into communication with a medical man, it is probable that it would be too late to be of any use to the suffering one.

In the article appearing a few days ago, on the retirement of Supt. Mellows, mention was made of how a contemplated raid by the rebels was frustrated through the timely warning given by the officer in charge of the magazines. Had the officer in charge not sent a man three miles by road and then by native ferry to Shanghai it is probable that he and his family would all have been murdered, as it is well known that he had sworn not to allow his magazines to fall into the hands of irresponsible people as long as he was alive to defend it. As there was not then, and is not now, any reliable means of communication with the magazines, it appears to me a clear case of neglect and "Leave it to the magazine keeper, he will manage it all right" sort of way, and should in my opinion be remedied with the least possible delay. Personally I do not envy the magazine keeper and would not live, as he does, practically on top of a magazine, for $1000 per month.

I am, etc.,

C. G. P.

Shanghai, March 6, 1924.

BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—In your issue of yesterday under the list of contributions to the Shanghai War Memorial appears the following entry "Banque Industrielle de Chine Tls. 100."

In view of the fact that this Bank suspended payment in 1921 and has not paid its creditors a single cent, I should like to ask

1.—What were the funds out of which this contribution was made and who authorized the payment?

2.—Is it legal for the funds of the Bank to be utilized in this way as long as it has not paid in full, all its creditors?

I wish it to be understood that I am in no way criticizing the use to which the sum in question was put, it is solely the question of the principle involved.

I am, etc.,

Creditor.

Shanghai, March 6, 1924.

*** A misunderstanding has arisen through the use in the subscription list of a shortened title, as the donation should be in the name of the Societe Francaise de Gerance de la Banque Industrielle de Chine. This is a distinct and separate company, formed with the approval of the French Government, with its own capital and board of directors, to manage the affairs of the Banque. It is to receive a percentage of the profits, if any, out of which it will recoup itself for its own expenditure. The subscription has nothing to do with the Banque funds, but was paid by the new company out of its own money.—Ed.

THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE EAST

QUALITY FIRST WAC PAINT

Varnishes, Enamels, etc.

Large Stocks Kept in China

Wilkinson, Heywood & Clark

SHANGHAI—HONGKONG

The following telegraphic advices have been received:—
Singapore, March 5, 1924.

Spot or March	44⅜ cents
Apr./June	46¼ „
Market firm.	

DEBENTURES.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable	LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
	1903	6 to 20	26-9-22	T98½	b T490,500	6	June-Dec.		1905	5 to 20	31-8-22	T96½	T250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1904	do.	11-1-23	T98½	c 214,500	6	do.		1909	do.	27-3-23	T98	750,000	6	do.
	1905	do.	12-5-22	T96½	d 320,000	6	do.		1911	do.	26-9-22	T92	250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	1907	do.	24-1-22	T94	500,000	6	do.		„	do.	27-3-23	T98	250,000	6	May-Nov.
	1908	do.	6-12-23	T100	650,000	6	do.			do.			250,000	6	Jan.-July
	1909	do.	15-5-23	T89	500,000	6	do.	Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.	1912	do.	3-4-23	T98	250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1910	do.	11-5-23	T99	343,800	6	do.		1913	do.	3-4-23	T98	250,000	6	April-Oct.
	1911	10 to 30	8-1-23	T95	350,000	6	do.		„	do.	11-1-24	T95	250,000	6	May-Nov.
	1912	do.	3-1-24	T99	340,000	6	do.			do.			250,000	6	April-Oct.
Shai Municipal Council	1913	do.	3-5-23	T100	756,300	6	do.		1914	do.	22-3-23	T98	250 000	6	June-Dec.
	„	10 to 50	8-5-22	T78	500,000	5½	do.		1916	5 to 25	21-8-22	T90	500,000	5½	do.
	1914	10 to 30	3-1-23	T91	900,000	5½	do.		1922	do.	12-2-23	T95	750,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	1915	do.	22-9-23	T91	800,000	5½	do.		1922	do.	10-1-24	T88	500,000	6	May-Nov.
	1916	do.	4-12-23	T99½	1,400,000	6	do.	Shanghai Club	1907	20	1-2-24	T95	450,000	6	do.
	1918	10	18-10-23	T103	507 300	7	do.	Country Club	1901	Perpetual			130,000	6	June-Dec.
	1919	10	4-12-23	T104	1,793,300	7	do.	Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd.	1914	5 to 20			130,000	6	May-Nov.
	1920	10	1-2-24	T105	2,240,000	7	do.		1915	do.			110,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	„	10 to 30	20-2-24	£105½	£750,000	6	do.	Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ltd.	1900	do.			250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1921	do.	18-2-24	$110	$1,000,000	8	do.		1911	do.	7-6-23	T98	300,000	6	do.
	1921	do.	1-2-24	T111½	T5,096,100	8	do.								
	1922	do.	23-2-24	T105	T8,000,000	7	do.								
	1923	do.	5-3-24	T99	a16,000,000	6	do.	Shai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd.	1923	10 to 20	27-2-23	T95½	h 270,000	6	do.
	1911	do.	8-10-23	T96	400,000	6	May-Nov.	Shai Race Club	1923	25	31-1-24	T100	1,200,000	6½	Mar.-Sept.
French Municipal Council	1914	do.	12-2-23	T88	500,000	5½	June-Dec.								
	1915	do.	5-3-24	T90	350,000	5½	do.	Culty Dairy Co., Ltd.	1915	10			50,000	7	Feb.-Aug.
	1921	do.	20-11-23	T108½	2,000,000	8	do.	Hall & Holtz Ltd.	1914	5 to 20	14-10-22	$92	230,000	7	Jan.-July
	1923	do.	17-12-23	T95	a T800,000	6	May-Nov.	Asia Realty Co., Inc.	1922	5 to 20	..	..	T500,000	7	Jan.-July
	1921	10 to 30	2-10-23	T112	2,000,000	8	June-Dec.								
Shai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	1922	do.	6-6-22	T108	T500,000	8	do.								
Shai Gas Co. Ltd.	1922	do.	2-10-23	T105	T1,000,000	7	do.								
	1909	do.	29-11-23	T94	c 800,000	6	do.								

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment.

a—Now Issuing; Redeemed or Unissued:—*b*—Tls.65,100; *c*—Tls.51,100; *d*—Tls.34,100; *e*—Tls.68,500; *f*—Tls.262,400; *g*—Tls.139,800; *h*—Tls.12,200; *i*—$13,80

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923 Oct.	1923 Nov.	1923 Dec.	1924 Jan.	1924 Feb.	Total output this fin.yr. to date
			lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	240,648	8.87d.	..	22,000	21,000	25,000	22,000	..	90,000
Amberst (New)	„ 500,000	Oct.	72,412	80,092	90,751	*4.89d.	..	..	9,784	9,236	8,214	8,475	35,709
Anglo-Dutch	£200,000	Dec.	650,000	535,100	600,000	0/6.92d.	..	..	..	..	61,000	50,000	111,000
Anglo-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,521,711	183,060	1,550,000	6.95d.	..	..	..	..	184,000	164,103	348,100
Ayer Tawah	Tls. 300,000	Sept.	369,447	58,042	360,000	†0.24.41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Batu Anam	„ 400,000	Dec.	258,510	162,742	185,793	0/7.34d.	..	..	..	..	12,500	..	12,500
Bukit Toh Alang	„ 600,000	Mar.	309,254	305,645	315,000	7.54d.	139,189	30,893	26,000	26,600	25,500	..	248,182
Bute	„ 300,000	Dec.	230,067	171,350	159,516	10.11d.	..	..	..	..	17,500	16,600	34,100
Chemor United	„ 360,000	Dec.	340,794	246,412	216,192	0/7.15d.	..	..	..	..	27,200	..	27,200
Chempedek	£35,000	Oct.	145,769	163,063	..	1/5.72d.	..	..	14,000	16,700	14,000	..	44,700
Chenz	Tls. 675,000	June	151,923	143,338	..	11.05d.	52,730	18,010	13,574	15,700	16,500	..	112,514
Consolidated (1914) ..	„ 375,000	Dec.	669,899	673,688	574,660	0/6.58d.	..	..	..	..	53,000	56,779	101,779
Dominion	„ 350,000	Dec.	271,150	323,140	306,867	11.04d.	..	..	..	..	28,022	27,654	55,676
Gula-Kalumpong	£500,000	Dec.	1,115,000	930,000	1,215,000	1/0.7d.	..	..	..	..	88,000	78,000	166,000
Java Consolidated ..	£85,000	Dec.	675,800	630,100	..	7.05d.	..	..	..	..	68,300	60,900	129,200
Kapayang	„ 150,000	Dec.	189,239	146,710	..	†26.90	..	..	..	..	10,592	8,315	18,907
Karan	„ 250,000	Mar.	114,879	101,783	84,000	84d.	41,012	6,623	5,574	6,858	8,146	6,448	74,664
Kota Bahroe (1921) ..	„ 390,000	June	178,130	339,970	..	..	78,957	24,885	27,143	29,933	29,156	26,949	216,922
Kroewoek	£70,000	Dec.	449,000	584,881	540,000	0/7.24d.	..	..	..	..	59,000	55,000	114,000
Langkat	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	842,539	943,650	975,000	Gls6.0.23	..	..	86,806	92,500	92,500	71,500	343,306
Padang	Tls. 500,000	April	209,711	229,242	..	10.4d.	66,300	17,205	17,000	20,000	19,700	14,100	151,300
Pengkalan (1921)	„ 150,000	Mar.	172,022	137,253	176,068	†40.19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Permata	„ 250,000	Oct.	98,303	86,299	..	0/8.4d.	..	..	9,012	8,573	8,080	..	25,665
Repah	„ 275,000	Dec.	64,584	217,185	£40.000	1/3†	..	..	..	..	17,400	..	17,400
Samagaga	„ 600,000	Sept.	351,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
See Kee (1918)	„ 100,000	June	179,665	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	97,613	..	10,896	12,000	8,500	..	129,009
Semambu	„ 300,000	Dec.	164,155	245,593	158,264	0/9.36d.	..	..	..	..	13,400	..	13,400
Senawang (1921)	„ 375,000	Jan.	272,800	275,190	..	*17.35d.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shanghai Kedah	„ 400,000	Sept.	313,111	216,542	..	8.12d.	..	22,827	21,115	23,640	21,196	17,259	109,380
Shai-Klebang	„ 515,000	Dec.	126,105	109,015	..	0/9.35d.	..	..	..	..	3,700	..	3,700
Shai-Malay	„ 600,000	Dec.	373,111	289,156	392,000	..	..	..	..	..	22,782	21,174	44,956
Shai Pahang	„ 200,000	June	209,881	188,016	..	9½d.	52,721	20,170	15,618	12,204	10,432	11,157	121,880
Shai Serembun	„ 325,000	Dec.	173,213	147,031	..	0/8.67d.	..	..	..	..	11,400	..	11,400
Shai-Sumatra	„ 600,000	Oct.	661,339	679,710	650,000	Gls8.0.38	..	..	..	50,239	61,162	61,110	51,170	223,621
Sua-Manggis	„ 230,000	Dec.	114,889	27,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sungala	„ 100,000	Mar.	30,279	165,757	..	17.20	6,126	..	..	..	7,854	5,502	22,002
Sungei Duri	£10,000	June	208,073	298,568	228,000	11.61d.	64,360	23,302	18,774	19,773	23,698	22,272	172,379
Taiping (1913)	Tls. 200,000	Dec.	107,011	103,689	99,000	*†30	..	..	..	..	8,184	..	8,184
Tanah Merah	„ 750,000	Mar.	415,000	395,900	..	7.92d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,800	21,900	22,200	279,000
Tebong	„ 750,000	Jan.	630,838	723,000	717,725	0/7.66d.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Zangbe	£150,000	Dec.	514,566	523,000	600,000	7.24d.	..	..	..	..	67,500	58,200	125,700

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses † Straits $ cents.

Senawang Rubber Ests. (ord. Co. (1921), Ltd. (12 % Cum. Pref.	T	1.05					63)	300,000		T1			
Shanghai Kedah Plant (Hong), Ltd.	T						63)	100,000		T1			
Shai Klobang Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T	1.10	0.90				84)	400,000		T1			
Shai Malay Rubber Estates, Ltd. .. ord.	T	0.60	0.55				134	315,000		T1	a	T1,183	Sept
„ 8 % cum. part. pref.	T	4½	4½					50,000		T10	a	T7,112	Dec.
	T	9	9				22	22,000		T10	a	T19,124	Dec.
Shai Pahang Rubber Estates, Ltd. ..	T	1						200,000		T1			
Shai Serombun Rubber Estates, Ltd. ..	T	0.30	0.60					325,000		T1		(Loss) T1,213	June
Shai-Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ltd	T	90					7)	30,000		T10	a	(Loss) T247	Dec.
											a	(Loss) 230,794	
Sua Manggis Rubber Co., Ltd.	T	3½					30)	56,000		T5	c	T312,270	Oct.
											a	T6,055	
Sungala Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T	1½	1				25)	100,000		T1	c	T25,000	Dec.
											a	T4,625	
Sungei Duri Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T	73						40,000	£1 at T8.50		c	T10,000	Mar.
Taiping Rubber Estates (1913), Ltd. ..	T	0.70	0.55					200,000		T1	a	T22,760	June
Tanah Merah Estates (1916), Ltd.	T	0.75	0.65				32)	750,000		T1	a	(Loss) T5,801	Dec.
											a	T31,551	
Tebong Rubber Estate, Ltd.	T	1.22½	1.10				54)	750,000		T1	c	T5,737	Mar.
Zlangbe Rubber Co., Ltd.		3½		3½			6)	300,000		10s.	a	(Loss)T13,874	Jan.
											a	T38,757	
											c	T5,239	Dec.
COTTONS, ETC.													
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ltd. (ord.	T	11.95	12.05				15)	1,000,000		T5			
„ (8 % cum. pref.	T	105	106				43)	10 000		T100	a	T3,257	
											b	T1,400,000	Dec.
Laou Kung Mow C. S. & W. Co., Ltd. ..	T	10						80,000		T10	c	T2,862,926	
											a	(Loss)T56,357	
Oriental C. S. & W. Co., Ltd. .. .. ord.	T	5					60)	500,000		T3	b	T120,000	Dec.
pref.	T						3)	5,000		T100	c	T7,512	
											a	(Loss) T94,320	
Shanghai Cotton Mfg. Co., Ltd. (Shanghai Boshoku K.K.)	T	65 old 40 new						80,000		T50	b	T200,000	
											c	T2,551,760	Dec.
INDUSTRIAL.											a	T50,375	
British-American Tobacco (ord.	£		35/6	£5 0/			66)	18,000,000		£1	c	T1,270,000	June
Co., Ltd. .. .. (5 % cum. pref.								4,500,000		£1			
China Im. & Ex. Lumber Co., Ltd.	T	350						5,000		T100	a	T161,333	
											b	T300,000	Feb.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.	H $	276						20,000		H $100	c	T2,100,000	
											a	H $2,762	
Green Island Cement Co., Ltd.	H $	37				37½		400,000		H $7.50	b	H $470,000	Dec.
Maatschappij, &c., In Langkat	T	12	12					200,000		Gs.10	c	H $879,732	
											a	H $28,834	
											c	H $1,000,000	Dec.
											a(Loss)T220,594		Oct.
Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ltd. ..	T	7½ (comb. T33)	(comb T33½)		7.35 (comb T36)w			250,000		T5	c	T103,438	
											a	T35,695	
Shai Exploration & Development Co., Ltd.	T	13½	14.60	14.90				250,000		T5	c	T300,000	Dec.
Major Brothers, Ltd.	T	5					10,	6,000		T20		Dec.	
John Richards & Co., Ltd.	T	10					11)	25,000		T10	a (Loss) T13,341		
											a	T9,016	
											c	T70,000	Dec
Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd.	T	45	47½				1)	24,000		T50	a	T4,130	
											c	T30,000	
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	T	140					19)	50,000		£20	a	T23,791	Dec.
											b	T50,000	
STORES.											c	T660,894	
											a	T29,595	Dec.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.	$	6.90									b	T75,000	
											c	T1,680,295	
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd.	$	30					(16)	28 000	$20		a		
											b	$116,937	Feb.
S. Moutrie & Co., Ltd.	$	50						1,200	$60		c		
											a	$10,697	Dec.
Weeks & Co., Ltd.	$	11	0					1,200	$60		c	$20,000	
							17)	10,000	$50		a	$20,282	Mar.
											c	$323,195	
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd.	$	102	104				(50)	30,000	$20		a	$37,633	Feb.
											c	$210,000	
MISCELLANEOUS.											a	$5,539	
											b	$20,000	
Culty Dairy Co., Ltd.	$	13		12				10,000	T10		c	$250 000	
											a	Loss)T26,956	Oct.
S'hai Electric Construction Co., Ltd., "B"	T	17	162								c	T119,293	
London	£1		$22:12:0	£2:14:6				40,000	£1		a	£17,022	
S'hai Horse Bazaar & Motor Co., Ltd. ..	T	50											Dec.
								5,400	T50		c	£114,315	
Shanghai Mercury, Ltd.	T	25						3 000	T50		a	T18,543	Dec.
Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. Ld. ..	T	73	72	73							c	T215,257	
							(10,	40,000	T50		a	T10,285	Apr.
Oriental Press (L'Imprimerie Francaise)	$	100						940	$100		b	T70,000	Mar.
											c	T920,016	
											a	$109,513	
											b	$9,000	Mar.
											c	$21,101	

Final 1922, 20s. at Exchg., 3/2½	Dec.				
(Interim T0.05, 1923					30-10-23
	Dec.				
	Jan.				
T0.05, 1919					
Ord. T0.60 for 9 months ended 31/12/18 ..					24-2-20
Pref. T0.40, for 6 months ended 31/12/22 ..					2-5-17
					31-10-23
Final T0.09 (mkg. T0.10, 1916-17)					
T0.04 for 10 months, ended 31/12/23					12-10-17
					31-3-17
T2, 1918-19					
					1-4-20
T0.25, 1919					
					20-4-20
T0.10, 1916-17					
T0.58, 1922-23					12-7-17
T0.80, 1919					12-10-23
					20-3-20
Interim T0.05 1916-17 (Final, Nil)					7-12-17
T0.50, 1919					28-4-20
Ord. T0.55, 1923					
Pref. T8, 1923					5-3-24
					5-3-24
Final T2, (mkg. T4, 1921)					
					8-3-22
Final T0.50 (mkg. T1.50, 1921)					25-3-22
T3.50 1922-23					
					24-8-23
Final Ord. 1923 20/- 9 /- (mkg. 25 /- free of I/T					
					11-1-24
T8, 1922-23					
					31-5-23
H $10, 1922					
					27-3-23
(Final H $1.50 (mkg. H $2, 1922)					
(Interim H $0.50 a c., 1923					24-2-23
T0.50, 1918-19					18-9-23
					30-3-23
T0.50, 1922					
					5-3-24
10%, 1921					
					24-8-22
T3.50, 1922					
					13-4-23
(Final 1922, 20s. at Exchg., 3/2½					
(Interim 1923, 10s. at Exchg., 3/0½					6-4-24
					31-7-23
$2, 1917-18					
					1-5-18
$6, 1922					
					12-9-23
(Final $2 & Bonus $4 (mkg. $9, 1922-23) ..					
(Int. 6%, 1923-24					2-6-23
$1.60, 1922-22					30-11-23
					30-5-22
$8, 1922-23					
					24-5-23
(1st Int. 1923, 12s./- (Coupon 23)					
(2nd Int. 1923, 12s./- (Coupns 24) both less					1-10-23
1/7 at 4/7 in £					1-2-24
Final T0.50 (mkg. T1.50, 1921)					20-4-23
T1 50 1923-14					
					31-3-15
T4.50, 1922-23					
					31-5-23
$10, 1922-23..					
					5-7-23

For all Dollar shares quoted on the Shanghai Stock Exchange the Exchange rate is fixed at 73.

a Carried forward at last Ann. Genl. Meeting.
b Dividend Equalization Reserve.
c General and Other Reserves.
d Uncalled liability £6 per sh.
e „ „ 410 „
f „ „ H $2190 „
g „ „ H $2200 „
h „ „ H $ 81 „
w Working Account 1922
x Working Account 1921
y Working Account 1920
z Working Account 1919
s Working Account 1919 and former years:
t Registered: or Bearer (idem. "B").
** Issued Capital: 7% Cum. Pref. 24,461 shar.s. Ordinary, 16,270 shares.

‡ Debentures Issues also.
‡‡ Subject to Estate Managers' Commissions
* Subject to E. P. D. and Comm. Tax.
* Contingent liability for Interest on 12% Cum. Pref. Shares of Tls. 5,080

REFERENCES.

1—14,000 sh' unls'd.	9—16,170 sh. unls'd.	26—60,000 sh' unls'd	47—500 sh; unls'd;
2—70,411 „	10—500 „	27—8,121 „	48—5,000 „
3—5,000 „	11—15,250 „	28—130,000 „	49—5,644 „
4—4,000 „	12—50,000 „	29—4,884 „	50—8,476 „
5—19,182 „	13—1,287 „	30—2,000 „	54—40,000 „
6—50,000 „	14—3,063 „	31—4,000 „	55—800 „
7—10,761 „	15—100,000 „	32—50,000 „	56—10,634,8[illegible] C
8—10,000 „	16—1,662 „	33—625,000 „	57—4,000,000 „
	17—3,822 „	(issued 77,000 lbs pending)	60—16,000 „
	18—5,580 „	34—102,570 shs unls'd.	61—240,000 „
	19—184,668 „	35—200 „	62—400,955 „
	20—15,000 „	36—180 000 „	63—15,000 „
	21—100,000 „	39—7,695 „	64—600 000 „
	22—10,000 „	42—200,000 „	65—200 000 „
	23—5,000 „	43—1,000 „	66—1,955 910 „
	24—70,810 „	(Not to be issued for less than 950 ea.)	67—66,05[illegible] „
	25—125,000 „		

In order to ensure accuracy of the above details, Agents and Secretaries of Companies are requested to notify Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of any alterations, errors or omissions;

COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

The Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Issue of Tls. 800,000 6% Debentures 1924—Tls. 450,000 of the above are being issued at Tls. 98. Interest payable semi-annually on June 30 and December 31. Application forms and further particulars may be obtained at the office of A. R. Burkill & Sons, No. 2 Canton Road, Fourth Floor.

The Shanghai Exploration & Development Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of the directors of the Shanghai Exploration and Development Co., Ltd., it was decided to recommend to shareholders at the forthcoming general meeting that the capital of the company be increased to Tls. 3,000,000, that one share to be offered to shareholders at par for each share in the company held by them, and that 100,000 shares of Tls. 5 each be offered to the Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ltd., for the sum of Tls. 600,000, in return for valuable financial assistance rendered.

Formal notice of the proposed issue will be forwarded to shareholders in due course. Payment for the new shares will not be required until some time in April.

The Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—The 21st Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 2 French Bund, Shanghai, on Monday, March 10, 1924, at 4.30 p.m.

A dividend of 3½ per cent. on 10,000 Preference shares.

A Final dividend of Tls. 4.50 per share on 20,000 Ord. shares.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 1 to 10, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of the board of directors held on 18th inst. it was decided to recommend (subject to audit) at the annual general meeting the payment of a final dividend of 6 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent. (making 13 per cent. for the year) for the half-year ending December 31, 1923.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 28 Jinkee Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, March 20, 1924, at 11.30 a.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 12 to 20, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ltd. The twenty-second Annual Meeting will be held at No. 1 The Bund, Shanghai, on Tuesday, March 11, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 7 to 11, 1924, both days inclusive.

Naamlooze Vennootschap Maatschappij Tot Mijn-Bosch-En Landbouw Exploitatie In Langkat.—The Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 1 The Bund, Shanghai, Friday, March 28, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 21 to 28, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels, Ltd.—The Ordinary Yearly Meeting will be held at The Hongkong Hotel, Peddler Street, Hongkong, on Saturday, March 22, 1924, at 11.30 a.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 14 to 22, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of directors held on 6th inst. it was decided to recommend at the forthcoming annual general meeting, the peyment of a dividend for 1923 of Tls. 4 per share, being at the rate of 8% on the paid-up capital.

The Anglo-Dutch Plantations, Ltd.—At a meeting of directors held on 6th inst. it was decided to recommend at the forthcoming annual general meeting to be held on March 31, that a dividend of 20 candareens per share for the year 1923, be paid.

Share Report for Week Ending March 7, 1924.

No. 24/9

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use Al Code
A.B.C. 4th, 5th and 6th Editions
B. Broomhall's Imperial Combination Code
Bentley's Complete Phrase Code.
Telephone Cent. 171 & 174

Members of Shanghai Stock Exchange.
Land, Estate & Insurance Agents.
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building,
12 The Bund
Post Office Box No. 241, Shanghai.

With the exception of "Rubbers" and "Coys" the general tone of the share market during the past week has been a little firmer with increased business. Several lines have been in keen demand and close with buyers at Tls. 91. Lots of stock are also wanted and are a shade firmer. Cotton shares are neglected. The market closes quiet and unchanged. [illegible] London market quotations show little change and the following are the latest prices cabled [illegible]:

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	£ 72. 10. 0	(Middle Price)
" " " " " " " R.I.	69. 10. 0	" ex II R.I.S.
" " " " " " " R.I.	67. 10. 0	" cum "
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. "B"	3. 10. 0	"
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ltd.	1. 11. 6	"
Shanghai Electric Cons. Co., "B"	2. 15. 0	"
Singapore Electric Tramways, Ltd.	0. 2.11½	(sellers)
General Electric Co., Ord.	1. 2. 0	"
Pahang Consolidated Rubber Co.	0. 13. 0	(Middle Price)

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to-day is 3/3.

Shanghai, March 7, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:—

MARCH /	1st		3rd		4th		5th		6th		7th	
	Cash	Mar	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.
RUBBERS												
Kali Gildik Coffee Est., Ld. Tls.	..	..	6½	*6½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anglo-Java Est., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.6	..
Bukit Toh Alang R. E., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10..
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS												
Chinese 5% Reorg. Loan 1913 B.I. £	73	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Dock & Eng. Co., Ld. Tls	..	..	95	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Langkats (combined) "	..	..	35½	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd. "	..	..	..	73	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Loan & Invest. Co., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	7 ½sd	..	..	..	..	..	..
H. & S. Bank .. .. .. $	..	..	..	..	..	1100	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Land Invest. Co., Ld. Tls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121	..	..	..	..
Chinese 5% Reorg. Loan 1913 R. I. £	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66	..	..	..	..
S'hai Exploration & D. Co., Ld. Tls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1½
COTTONS												
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. (Ord.) .. Tls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.20
DEBENTURES												
S. M. C. 8% 1923 Debs. .. .. Tls.	..	..	99	..	..	..	99	..	..	..	..	..
" 5½% " " .. .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90	..	..	..	..

*June Settlement

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

March 25, Tuesday. April 29, Tuesday. May 27, Tuesday.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, MARCH 7, 1924.

STOCK	Last business done.	Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Paid-up Value	Reserve, etc.	Finan. year ended	Last Dividend etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.									
London	£ 127½								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Cor.	$ 1100	1090		61; 400,000	H $125	(a H $3,350,212	Dec.	Final $3 & Bonus $2 (mkg. $3 1922) less I/T	25-2-24
						(c H $65,123,831			
Chartered Bank of I., A. & C. ..London	£ 19			600,000	£5	(a £222,201	Dec.	Final 7s. & Bonus 6s. 3d. (mkg. £1 0s. 3d.),	
						(c £3,800,000		free of I/T, 1932	5-4-23
INSURANCE.									
Union In. Society of Canton, Ld.	H $ 2.3½			55) 200,000 d	£4	(ax £437,386		Final 16s. (mkg. 40s.) ex 1921 Work. a/c.,	
						(b £69,500	Dec.	Interim 24s. & Bonus to Contributors, 20%,	
North-China Insurance Co., Ld.	T 138			10,000 e	£5	(c £3,574,054		ex 1922 Work a/c	26-5-23
						(ax T610,687	Dec.	Final 15s. (mkg. 35s.) ex 1921 Work a/c. and	
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ld. ..	$ 27	10?		21) 250,000	$10	(c T1,752,885		Interim 15s. ex 1922 Works. a/c.	30-6-23
						(ax $1,921,930			
						(ax $2,108,935	Dec.	$2 (or T1.46) ex 1922 Work. a/c. payable in	
						(c $1,063,242		Taels at Exchg. 73	30-5-23
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ld.	T 22			1) 50,000	T20	(ax T515,346			
						(aw T294,993	Dec.	T1.20 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	30-5-23
						(c T9,361			
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.	H $ 725	710		10,000 f	H $100	(aw H $2,172,575	Dec.	Final H $22 (mkg. H $40) ex 1921 Work. a/c.,	
						(c H $6,649,592		and Interim H $18 ex 1922 Work. a/c. ..	11-5-23
						(ax H $631,093	Dec.	H $32 ex 1921 Working a/c.	28-4-24
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H $ 127	140		20,000 h	H $20	(c H $3,870,385			
						(ax H $1,328,026	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/c. ..	26-5-23
Assurance Franco-Asiatique	F 500	375		14,000	F500	(c H $5,323,050			
						(a F101,368	Dec.	None, Floated 1918	....
						(c F3,784,330			
SHIPPING.									
Indo-China S.N. Co., Ld... (6% cum. pref.	H $ 38	38½		2) 12,000	£5				
def. ord. ..	H $ 140			2) 120,000	£5	(a £2,167	Dec.	Pref. 6s. at Exchg. - $2/4 London Warrants	
Shell T'sport & Trading Co., Ld. .. (ord.	"B"			56) 30,000,000	£1	(c £2,103,182		less I.T at 5s. 1922. Def. Ord. Nil	15-6-23
(5% cum. pref.	£	£4:16:0	£4:13:0	28) 300,000	£10				
(7% cum. 2nd pref.	£			57) 10,000,000	£1	(a* £2,029,050	Dec.	Interim 2s., less of 14f, Coupon 42	5-1-24
Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld. (ord.	T 90	91		20,000	T25	(cj £5,000,000			
(pref.	T 53	55½		10,000	T50	(a T22,350	Dec.	(Int. Ord. T2.50 a/c., 1923)..	
						(c T470,000		(Int. Pref. T1.75 a/c., 1923)	9-7-23
DOCKS AND WHARVES.									
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld. ..	T 75			47) 55,700	T75	(a T102,535	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
						(c T1,943,099			
Hongkong & W'pao Dock Co., Ld... ..	H $ 167		168	‡ 60,000	H $50	(a H $583,850	Dec.	Final H $3 & 10% Bon. H $3 (mkg. H $12, 1922) ..	27-3-24
						(c H $4,067,938		Interim 1923, H $4	24-10-23
New Eng. and Shipbuilding Works, Ld. .. .. .. (ord	T 4	4½	5	42) 500,000	T5	(a T39,500		Ord. T0.25, 1923	10-2-24
(8% pref.	T 4	5.05		65) 500,000	T5	(b T300,000	Dec.	Pref. T0.40, 1923	10-2-24
						(c T1,311,046			
Shanghai & H'kow Wharf Co., Ld... ..	T 182½			(31) 40,000	T100	(a T5,180			
						(b T200,000			
						(c T1,019,264	Dec.	Final T10 (mkg. T19, 1923)	4-3-24
H'kong & K'loon W. & G. Co., Ld. ..	H $ 130		165	80,000	H $50	(a H $305,464			
						(b H $220,000	Dec.	H. $6 & Bonus H. $3 (mkg. H $9, 1922) ..	20-2-23
						(c H $100,000			
MINING.									
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld. ..	£ 127/-			24) 500,000	£ $10		June	£ $0.50, 1920-21	26-7-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Bearer).	T 214	21		††64) 2,000,000	£1		June	Final 4s. (Coupon No. 24) free of I/T	
London	£	£3 10:0	£3 11:0			(a T172,000		1922-1923	11-12-23
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld. ..	H $ 3.10			200,000	£1	(a £24,713	Mar.	1s. 2d., 1909-10	21-5-10
						(c £4,873			
LANDS AND HOTELS.									
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld. ..	T 121	120		‡) 73,000	T50	(a T25,559	Dec.	(Final T3 & Bonus T2 (mkg. T8, 1922)	23-3-23
						(b T250,000		(Interim 1923, T3	26-7-23
						(c T2,165,553			
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld. ..	H $ 114		119½	240,000	H $25	(a H $1,[illegible]	Dec.	Final H $1.50 & Bonus $2 on 200,000 Shares	
(New Reg.)						(b H $250,000		(mkg. H $5, 1923) H $2.50 on 40,000 new shs.	28-1-24
						(a H $[illegible],290			
Dumphrey's Est. & Finance Co., Ld. ..	H $ 24½	23?		150,000	H $10	(b H $500,000	Dec.	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.80, 1923	9-2-24
						(c H $121,[illegible]			
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld.	T 6			2,674	T20	(a T2,[illegible]	Dec.	T1.20, 1923	13-2-24
						(c T7,000			
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld. ..	T 120	120		‡23) 18,000	T100	(a T1,848	Feb.	Int. Divid. T3½, 1923-24	21-9-23
						(b T20,000			
						(c T350,000			
Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels, Ld. ..	H $			33‡) 1,000,000	H $10	(a H $40,448	Dec.	Final H $0.75 & Bonus H $0.50 on 375,000	
		27						shares (mkg. H $2 (old) & H $1.75 (new),	
Carlton, Ld.	T 53							1923)	14-2-24
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	G $ 100			14) 10,000	T50	(c H $2,265,828	Mar.	Floated April 1, 1922	
				118) 10,000	G $100		Dec.	Incorporated under the laws of Delaware Ord.	
Raven Trust Co., Inc. .. .. .. (ord.	G $ 10	12½		**100,000	G $10			1922, 7%	4-1-23
(pref.	G $ 10	10			G $10			Pref. 1st gr. 1923, 1½%	4-1-23
PLANTATIONS.									
Alma Estates, Ld.	T 6.05		6½	70,000	£1 at T9	a T28,940	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23	19-12-23
							Oct.	....	
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld.	T 0.50	0.20	0.40	‡62) 500,000	T1		Dec.	T0.30, 1919	....
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld. ..	T 2.90		2.70	12) 400,000	10s.	a T32,565	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c. 1923	7-1-20
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T 6½	6	6¾	4) 500,000	10s.	(a T129,151	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c. 1923	14-9-23
						(c T378,570			
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T 23			27) 30,000	T10	(a T10,223			
						(b T22,000	Sept.	T2.00, 1922-23	28-12-23
						(c T69,960			
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Ests., Ld. ..	T 0.97½	0.85	0.90	400,000	T1	a T30,738	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	16-4-20
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Ests., Ld. ..	T 1.12½	1.05	1.07½	500,000	T1	a T20,402	Mar.	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1916-17)	26-7-17
Bute Plantation (1913), Ld.	T 0.75			300,000	T1	a (Loss) T13,076	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkg. T0.10, 1916)	26-7-17
Chemor United Rubber Co., Ld.	T 1.07½	1	1.05	400,000	T0.90	a T37,697	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	29-6-17
Chempedak Rub. & G'bier Est., Ld. ..	T 6	5		39) 35,000	£1	a (Loss) T13,435	Oct.	2nd Interim, T0.50, (mkg. T1, 1916-17)	6-11-23
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T 1.40			135,000	T5	a T4,120	June	T0.20, 1916-17	16-10-1
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld..	T 2½	2¾		25) 500,000	2s.—T0.75	a T23,102	Dec.	T0.25, 1923	1-11-1
						(c T30,000		Interim T0.06, 1923	20-4-23
Dominion Rubber Co., Ld.	T 2			19) 350,000	T1	a T13,813	Dec.	T0.40, 1919	15-10-23
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Ests., Ld.. ..	T 9½			††81) 750,000	(21;450,000				18-5-20
					(58;200,000	(a ..	Dec.	2s. less I/T at 5s. in 21922, "B" Coupon 20)†† ..	28-3-23
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee, Est. Ld.	T 14			8) 82,000	£1 at 2/3½	(c T54,465	Dec.	Interim, T0.50, 1923	
Kali Gildik Coffee Estates, Ld.	T 6½			70,000	T5	c T650,113	....	Incorporated 1923	3-9-23
Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ld. ..	T 12			35) 15,000	T10			T0.50, 1922	
						(a T6,977	Dec.	(Interim 1923, T0.50	19-4-23
Karun Rubber Estate Co., Ld.	T 6	4		25,000	T10	(c T4,023			17-7-23
						(a T3,000			
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1921), Ld..	T 1.05			330,000	T1	(b T30,000	Mar.	T0.60, 1922-23	1-6-23
Kroewook Java Plantations, Ld.	T 11			20) 70,000	£1 at T8.60	a (Loss) T38,200	June	....	....
						(a T1,[illegible]			
Padang Rubber Co., Ld.	T 6½	5½		50,000	T10	(c T62,797	Dec.	T1 (mkg. T1.50, 1923)	4-1-24
						(a T[illegible]			
Pangkalan Durian Estates (1921), Ld. ..	[illegible]			[illegible]		(c T[illegible]	Apr.	T0.05, 1919-20	[illegible]

by post and telegram, orders from small investors, and this was the original object of the company. Never before in Shanghai has the small man had the chance of investing on an equal footing with the big man. We received an order the other day from Wuhu from a client who had instructed the Bank of China to hand us the sum of $40 with which to purchase New Engineering preference shares and to put the balance of the money into one or two sound rubber companies. We purchased for him five New Engineering preference shares and returned him the balance in cash. It must be remembered that the people who are now able to put in only Tls. 50 may, in the future, be able to put in large amounts, and it is to be thought that, if we give them good attention for Tls. 50 we shall receive their orders when they are buying on a large scale.

THE OLD POLICY CONTINUED.

We now have working for us five foreign brokers who, we think, cover most of the people who deal in shares in Shanghai. We have daily communication, almost hourly, with Hongkong, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking, and we can report that in all these agencies we are doing an ever increasing business. The new company is carrying out exactly the policy of the old, and our chief object is to employ the company's capital in buying for cash and selling forward to sound clients. We could do a very much larger business than we are doing, if we cared to take the risk of selling indiscriminately.

Speaking generally as to the market, there are a few shares which could be called high in price, and it is the policy of the company if, in their opinion, they consider any stocks too high, not to deal in same except on a cash basis.

It is our intention to try and develop the outport business. We are advertising extensively now, and we feel that there is a lot of money lying idle in outports which could be profitably employed and we are making efforts to get outport residents to invest their money in sound stocks, debentures, preference shares, etc.

Our position is not to take a large interest in any one stock or share, especially if it is of a speculative nature. There is no need for us to do this, as we can buy and sell on the market daily. We are open at any time to buy large holdings of debentures and other safe stock of this nature. We may say that in our first two months we have done a very large business indeed in debentures.

On the whole, gentlemen, it would seem that the prospects for this new company are extremely bright, as long as we adhere to the company's present policy.

There was no discussion and the several resolutions were carried.

CHENG RUBBER ESTATES LD.

Reduction of Capital

A meeting of shareholders in the Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld., was held on Thursday afternoon, Dr. R. S. Ivy presided and was supported by Messrs. A. K. Craddock and A. J. Welch, directors, and Mr. C. J. L. Stewart representing Messrs. J. A. Wattie & Co., the secretaries.

There were 38,711 shares represented.

In addressing the meeting the Chairman said:—

At the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders held on January 4 this year, a reduction of the company's issued capital was approved unanimously and the resolution then passed was duly confirmed and passed as a special resolution at an extraordinary general meeting on January 21.

This reduction of capital involves also a scheme of arrangement between the company and the shareholders, under which certain shares are to be surrendered for re-issue and to such scheme the sanction of His Britannic Majesty's Supreme Court for China at Shanghai under Section 121 of the Companies Ordinances (Hongkong 1911, has to be obtained. Under the instructions of the Court, this extraordinary meeting has been called to consider and, if thought fit to approve, with or without modification the scheme of arrangement referred to.

The scheme was fully explained in a circular dated December 21, 1923, addressed to all members of the company and further details and explanations were given at the extraordinary general meeting held on January 4, 1924.

A report of this meeting was duly posted to all shareholders appearing on the register. I do not think it is necessary for me to make any further comments on the scheme which has been before you for consideration since December 21 last.

The scheme of arrangement to be presented to the Court for its sanction reads as follows:—

1. The special Resolution passed and confirmed on January 4 and 21, 1924, respectively for the reduction of the issued capital of the company and for the sub-division of its shares and for the surrender of certain of the shares resulting from such sub-division, and for other matters, shall be binding on the company and its members and shall be carried into effect accordingly.

2. The members shall accept the provisions made by the said special resolution in satisfaction of their existing rights.

3. Unless the said special resolution is confirmed by the Court on or before June 30, 1924, this Scheme shall on that day become void.

The resolution which I have to ask you to pass is proposed by myself and seconded by Mr. A. K. Craddock and is as follows:—That the Scheme of Arrangement submitted to this meeting be and the same is hereby approved and agreed to.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously

THE LAOU KUNG MOW C. S. & W. CO., LD.

A Year of Many Troubles

Sir Edward Pearce, the Chairman, presided at the thirtieth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Laou Kung Mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ld., held at the offices of Messrs. Ilbert & Co., Ld., the general managers, on Thursday, and there were also present Messrs. A. Howard, R. W. Wells, K. Otani, Yu Pao-san (directors) and other shareholders, a total holding of 71,490 shares being represented.

The Chairman—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some few days, we will, with your approval, adopt our usual procedure and take them as read.

It is with great regret that your board have to lay before you today a report showing such an unsatisfactory result. We have had, however, adverse circumstances to face. In the first place, from January 1, your board, in view of the state of the yarn market and the general condition of affairs, decided to cease night work and to continue day work only. This not unnaturally for a time upset our labour, entailing as it did a period of somewhat high production costs. Secondly, we commenced the year with a considerable stock of yarn to dispose of and although eventually, sold at an equivalent figure to which it was taken into stock, the quality was not up to our usual standard and due to its colour lost favour in the consuming districts. With these facts to face, as well as a dull market, and exceptionally low prices ruling during the first six months of the year, we had considerable up-hill work to re-establish the good name our spinnings had previously enjoyed.

We also regret to say that this state of affairs disclosed to us very clearly the need for drastic re-organization within the mill and for numerous changes in the foreign and Chinese staff. It became apparent during the summer that the internal working of the mill left a good deal to be desired, and the process of remedying matters, which lasted several months, led very naturally to a good deal of confusion, with consequent financial loss. We are able to state confidently, however, that under the new management the working of the mill is now progressing satisfactorily, the production has increased substantially, and numerous economies have been effected in all departments.

DEBIT CARRIED FORWARD.

Under these adverse circumstances, our debits standing at profit and loss account amounts to Tls. 296,056.67 on the year's working. Against this loss we have a sum of Tls. 90,000 standing at the credit of development reserve and Tls. 120,000 at the credit of dividend reserve. Both of these amounts your board now recommands should be appropriated to this year's loss, leaving a debit balance at profit and loss account to be carried to the new account of Tls. 86,056.67. We trust you will approve of this recommendation.

Turning to the accounts, owing to our heavy overdraft during the year, you will notice that our interest shows a debit of Tls. 70,035.34. In this matter we must bear in mind that the capital of the company only stands at Tls. 800,000 and in view of the fact that our spindle plant has been doubled and 515 looms added to our machinery, necessitating additional buildings, we have also purchased land standing in our books at Tls. 140,601.91, erected staff buildings and native houses, without adding one cent to our capital since the inception of the company nearly 28 years ago. It is not surprising, perhaps, that when we have to carry stocks our interest charge cannot help but be heavy. Rents collected on our native houses, amounting to Tls. 6,494.24, have again been written off the cost of these houses, which are now written down to Tls. 46,693.26. Concerning your other assets, they remain, with some minor additions, at the same figure as last year.

A GLOOMY YEAR.

The cotton spinning and weaving industry in China for the year 1923 on the whole has been very disappointing. Merchants have only been able to lay in the smallest of supplies, merely replenishing their stocks as and when the demand was forthcoming and the intricacies of transport allowed them. All markets have been sadly handicapped by incessant fighting in nearly all provinces between the different political factions over that grim struggle for supremacy, while the Central Government remains totally incapable of exercising any effective control over the country. Banditry has continued rife throughout nearly all the trade routes, not only causing trade depression, but a danger to life and property. To say that the outlook is encouraging would be perhaps optimistic. The statistical position is, however, exceptionally healthy and with anything like order being restored we should certainly see a pleasant and long looked for revival in trade.

Due to the high prices ruling for the raw material in both America and India we have had to be more dependent upon China cotton and it is to be deplored that due to this situation our Chinese dealers have again resorted more effectively than ever to their old time malpractice of adulteration and watering of cotton. To this has now been added the even greater evil of mixing grades, more especially short staple Hankow with the best Shensi, and Shanghai cotton with Tungchow, making good spinning an even more difficult matter than it has been in the past. It is surely high time that the Chinese cotton merchants took this matter into their own hands and insisted upon adulteration and false delivery being made a criminal offence. How is it possible for this great industry and the growth of cotton to thrive when these malpractices are allowed to pass without any punishment?

This concludes all I have to say, but before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my abbility any questions that you may like to ask.

No questions were asked and the formal resolutions were carried unanimously.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE SHANTUNG ROAD HOSPITAL

The Oldest British Public Institution Greatly in Need of New Buildings

Great interest was shown in the annual meeting of subscribers to the Shantung Road Hospital, last Friday, the small room in which the meeting was held being more than comfortably filled with foreign and Chinese visitors. Mr. S. Barton, C.M.G., H.M. Consul-General, presided, supported by, amongst others, Sir Edward Pearce, the Very Rev. Dean C. J. F. Symons, Dr. D. MacGillivray, Messrs. J. H. Teesdale, L. J. Cubitt, F. R. Scott, Geo. Matheson, A. D. Bell, Chu Pao-san and Ellis Pugh (hon. secretary and treasurer).

The Chairman—This is the second occasion on which I have been honoured with an invitation to preside at the annual general meeting of subscribers to this Hospital, and it certainly is a privilege to be associated with the one public occasion in the year on which residents of Shanghai have the opportunity of testifying to their admiration of the great work of healing and service which is carried on by this Hospital and their respect for the workers who carry on their labours under what are still, perhaps, disheartening conditions arising from their very cramped and inadequate quarters. In spite of this, the report for last year shows the usual record of cheerful and efficient work. It also contains a report of progress in a direction other than purely hospital work, namely, the training of nurses, which I think is an earnest of what this Hospital should, and we all hope really will be able to do in this important branch of medical education, especially in China, when once the new buildings which we hope one day to see are available. The report also alludes to the receipt of a very welcome legacy from the estate of the late Mr. Taylor, but unfortunately a considerable portion of this had to be expended on much needed repairs to the old buildings because we are not yet in sight of the day when rebuilding as a whole will be possible. Once more we note the continued generous support of the Race Club, who have been such good friends in the past.

SMALLER CHINESE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

On the other hand, as an example of the ups and downs with which most things in Shanghai are characterized from time to time, is the marked drop in the amount of Chinese subscriptions. Last year we welcomed a record in the amount of Chinese subscriptions, but this year is a considerable drop. Personally, and I am sure all of us believe that this does not indicate any real falling off of interest on the part of our Chinese friends in the work of the Hospital by which they are the principal beneficiaries. I am sure that when the time comes to put a definite reconstruction proposal forward we shall find that our Chinese friends will rally to the support of the Hospital in a way that will leave no doubt of their intention to do their part in placing it beyond the possibility of want in the future.

The grant from the International Municipal Council has stood at the present figure for many years, but though it has not increased, the report shows that the number of Municipal employees benefiting by the Hospital has increased very largely and it would, I think, be a fitting recognition of the ever-increasing contribution which this Hospital makes to the service of the community in this town if the Municipal grant were increased.

THE NEED FOR RE-BUILDING.

An innovation in the report is the extremely interesting history of the Hospital which now appears for the first time. That history is extremely interesting reading and I hope that the reading of it will strengthen the appeal for new buildings, which, when all is said and done, must until that appeal is met remain the principal theme of anybody who has to speak on these occasions. That history shows us that the Hospital is the oldest British public institution in Shanghai. If you go through the inspiring experience of mounting to the roofs of some of the new skyscrapers housing much younger institutions and look over this really remarkable town of Shanghai, you will not be able to help noting that you can discern no building which you are told is a hospital and which is worthy to house an institution with traditions such as this one has. Some of these new buildings, I believe, still contain empty rooms, but it is certain that when the new buildings for this hospital are erected you will not be able to find a spare corner in them. Therefore, as on many previous occasions, the note which one would like to stress, and the thought one would like to leave with those now present, is that there can be no doubt that in the coming year we can best help the Hospital by seeing that we keep before the community, as opportunity may serve each of us, the great and imperative need of the provision at the earliest possible date of new buildings worthy of this institution, its work and its workers. (Applause).

THE COMMITTEES.

On the proposition of the Chairman, the report and accounts for the past year, as presented, were adopted. The following committees were then elected:—

Foreign Committee.—The present trustees (Messrs. J. H. Teesdale, L. J. Cubitt, C. M. Bain and Rev. E Box), Dr. C. J. Davenport (Medical Superintendent), Dr. R. J. Marshall (consulting medical officer), Dr. A. C. Bryson, Sir Edward Pearce, Messrs. F. R. Scott, E. Pugh, A. D. Bell, R. W. Wells and E. S. Elliston.

Chinese Committee.—Messrs. Chu Pao-san, Fu Sie-wan, Wang Yi-ting, M. Y. Chung, Chun Fai-ting, Loh Ve yung, Shik Luk-sung, Yu Ya-ching, Tam Hoi-chow, Chun Bing-him, Bai Shing-shun, Chang Lan-ping, Chun Shut-kai, Sisson Nie, Jabin Hsu and C. P. Yim.

In proposing the election of the Foreign Committee, Mr. Cubitt stated that Mr. Elliston would take the place of Mr. Pugh as secretary. They were all very sorry to lose Mr. Pugh, who had been secretary for a number of years and had done an enormous amount of work for the Hospital. Fortunately they would retain his services on the committee.

PRAISE FOR THE STAFF.

Sir Edward Pearce—It is with very great pleasure that for a third time I have to propose a vote of thanks to the visiting doctors and to the Hospital staff. I think it is little known to our subscribers that among our local medical fraternity so many of them give their help and assistance without any tangible reward beyond the satisfaction of being able to relieve the suffering from pain and to witness the gradual recovery of their patients to health. It is therefore with much pleasure that I extend the thanks and appreciation of subscribers for their valuable services, their voluntary aid, medical and surgical skill. I refer to Dr. W. L. New, Dr. B. H. Stanley Alyward, who has very kindly carried on the work of Dr. Couper Patrick during his absence, Dr. Hay Bolton, Dr. Friedlander and Dr. Billinghurst, who retired from China in the spring of this year. It is also very gratifying to the subscribers to read the report placed before them to-day recording the great work performed so unostentatiously and so harmoniously by the permanent officials, doctors, superintending sisters, and the Chinese staff. A mere glance at the extraordinary number of patients treated, that is, 2,902 in-patients and 104,663 out-patients, bears silent testimony to the good work and to the appreciation which I am sure all patients feel when leaving the hospital cured of all their suffering.

It is perhaps not for me, in asking you to record your vote of thanks to one and all of the Hospital staff, to touch upon the

COMPANY MEETINGS

SHANGHAI & HONGKEW WHARF CO., LD.

Annual Meeting of Shareholders

The annual general meeting of shareholders in the Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd., was held at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., the general agents, on March [illegible] 1924. Mr. A. Brooke Smith (the Chairman) presided, supported by Messrs. C. Gordon Mackie, H. W. Lester, Pan Ching-poo, P. L. Knight, N. Lees-Smith (directors), P. A. H. Chambers (superintendent), J. J. Dunn (secretary) and a number of shareholders, [illegible] shares being represented.

The Chairman said: The directors regret that the result of the year's working compares unfavourably with the showing for 1922, but I feel we should not be dissatisfied with the balance at credit of profit and loss account, considering the absence of trade activity.

As usual, an interim dividend of Tls. 3 per share was paid last August and it is now recommended that a final dividend of Tls. 10 per share be distributed, making Tls. 13 for the year. It is proposed that we should allocate Tls. 60,000 to ordinary repairs and renewals account, Tls. 50,000 to special repairs and renewals account and Tls. 50,000 to depreciation reserve. These amounts in the aggregate are the same as last year and I venture to hope they will have your approval. The directors suggest that Tls. 9,854.49 be paid as a bonus to the staff at the wharves in recognition of the good work done on behalf of the company.

On June 30 last we redeemed the "D" debentures and the item of interest on debentures will not appear in our next year's accounts. Our property account has, you will notice, been increased by Tls. 132,874.26, mainly due to the erection of much needed transit sheds at Pootung East Wharf. During 1923, we berthed [illegible] more than in 1922 but [illegible] average [illegible] Tls. [illegible]. While we handled practically the same amount of cargo as in the previous year, it moved off rapidly and our godown accommodation was not utilized in the way we should have liked. The Hongkew and Old Ningpo wharves were kept fully employed during the year, but the Pootung wharves could have berthed a great many more steamers.

Outgoings on account of dredging have been heavy and with the deeper draught vessels that are now visiting Shanghai I am afraid our expenditure on this connection will increase. To cover the ever increasing ratio of working expenses in general, particularly on the Shanghai side of the river, it has been arranged that from June 1 next a [illegible] per cent. on the [illegible] handling and delivery charges will be instituted. At the same time it is proposed to increase the return to vessels berthed at Pootung from 7½ to 15 per cent. in the hope of making that side of the river more attractive to shipping companies. You may be aware that in spite of these charges a Pootung most shipping companies prefer to have their vessels accommodated on the Shanghai side of the river. Storage charges are to remain unaltered and it is not anticipated that the advance in rates alone will increase our earnings materially. As my predecessor remarked last year, we are now in a better position than we have ever been before to take full advantage of any improvement in trade which, [illegible] for the unsettled state of the country, would, I am confident, develop rapidly. Notwithstanding the all such drawbacks, the year has opened fairly well and prospects are not unsatisfactory.

Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions shareholders may desire to ask.

No questions were asked and [illegible] were carried unanimously.

Mr. Brodie A. Clarke—I think that before we go away we should record a vote of thanks to the general managers and the board of directors for the very favourable accounts they have placed before us. The Chairman has told us that the past year was not as good as last, but I think we can say that every [illegible] year cannot be [illegible] I move a hearty vote of thanks to the general managers and the board of directors.

Mr. H. J. Clark—I have much pleasure in seconding that.

The Chairman—Thank you very much for your kind remarks. I hope that next year we shall be able to present you with better accounts.

EWO COTTON MILLS

Shareholders' Annual Meeting: Many Serious Handicaps

The third ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld., was held at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ld. (general managers), on Tuesday. Mr. A. Brooke Smith (the Chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. C. Gordon Mackie, E. E. Clark, H. Martin Little, W. Wakeford Cox, Zee Quan-yuen, Pan Ching-poo and Woo Ling-shu (Consulting Committee), Mr. R. J. McNicol (secretary), and the following shareholders:—Messrs. V. Gensburger, A. S. Ellis, E. F. Ellis, Pan Tah-chuen, Jas. Harrop Ellis Hayim, W. R. Lemarchand, J. Spunt and Brodie A. Clarke, a total holding of [illegible] shares being represented. The secretary read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Ghairman—The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for over [illegible] with your approval, I will take them as read.

The profit for the year was Tls. 538,758.90, which, with the amount brought forward, leaves Tls. 869,615.39 available for distribution. Considering the many difficulties encountered, I trust shareholders will not be dissatisfied with the result shown. I will now proceed to comment briefly on the proposed allocation of profits. The dividend of 8 per cent on the preference shares, absorbing Tls. 72,000, is in accordance with the terms on which these shares were issued. The suggested dividend on ordinary shares of Tls. 6.75 per share, equivalent to 11 per cent., will, I must, meet with your approval. The amounts provided for depreciation of buildings and of plant and machinery are rather higher than those of last year, but, although liberal, are not excessive. The amounts written off water supply, furniture and motor car do not call for comment. During the year we have spent on special repairs and renewals Tls. 98,436.63 and by adding Tls. 40,000 to this fund, now standing at Tls. 61,563 [illegible] our policy of providing that our mills will be kept up to the highest possible standard of efficiency. Our staff at the mills have worked wholeheartedly in the interests of the company and I feel sure that the sum of Tls. [illegible] recommended as a bonus to them will have your sanction. It has been well earned and will be highly appreciated.

A GOVERNMENT DEBT

Turning to the balance sheet, you will notice that our reserves remain intact, and aggregate Tls. 4,101,256.23. On December 31 we had at the credit of Chinese [illegible] Tls. [illegible] and as this is more than sufficient to cover all known liabilities to our employees, no call need be made on last year's profits to augment this fund. You will observe that further additions have been made to buildings and plant and machinery and I am hopeful that the money invested will be productive of satisfactory results when conditions are more normal. The amount due from the Chinese Government represents the balance and interest due on cloth supplied to the Board of War as far back as 1919, and although we have exerted and continue to exert every pressure through H. M. Minister and our own representatives in Peking, it is only occasionally that we receive a small payment on account, notwithstanding the fact that the debt is fully acknowledged by the Chinese Government. Recently [illegible] unfortunate chain [illegible] a deputation to the Chinese Government, nevertheless the present situation is most deplorable, and I feel that we cannot hope to see confidence restored in this country until a government is established capable of keeping peace and good order and meeting its financial obligations. The employment of numbers of officials and militarists is undoubtedly retarding the progress of this vast country, and it is regrettable that the Powers do not take concerted action to bring about unification, without which industries will, I am afraid, continue to languish.

A DEPRESSING YEAR.

The year under review has been the worst experienced by the cotton mill industry in China for a great many years. While we were able to work full time at all our mills except the Yangtszepoo mills, where we adopted short time during July and August, we had most anxious times for most of the year and I regret that the outlook for the near future causes us much concern. Except from June to October, the marketing of our products was most difficult and during the greater part of the year yarn was sold at a loss. We were more fortunate with cloth and the products of our other departments, which, together with fortunate purchases of cotton, were mainly responsible for the year's profit. On all sides we hear of additions to weaving plants in China and the day may not be distant when cloth will be a non-paying proposition as we have at times seen it in the past.

EXORBITANT COTTON PRICES.

During the whole of 1923 cotton was maintained at a very high level and during the last few months of the year reached exorbitant prices, owing to the world's shortage, and while we have recently experienced a substantial decline, we are still a long way from the point where we can expect demand for yarn and cloth will be more than to fill the urgent needs of consumers. I would here like to enter a protest against the malpractice of adulteration by water which has become increasingly common—in fact, it may now be considered general—in all Chinese Cottons that are sent to Shanghai. As much as 20 per cent. moisture has recently been found in deliveries to the mills—this means that some 12 per cent. of water has been fraudulently added—and I need hardly say that this adulteration causes rapid deterioration, besides involving no little danger of fire through spontaneous combustion. The mixing of large quantities of inferior cottons with better qualities continues unchecked and unless these two fraudulent practices cease it will mean that mill owners here, being unable to rely on Chinese cottons, will have to look abroad for their supplies to a greater extent than hitherto.

CHILD LABOUR.

As you are aware, there has been considerable attention devoted recently in certain quarters to the employment of child labour. On more than one occasion I have pointed out that the real remedy for the state of affairs now prevailing is legislation and inspection by competent and honest officials throughout China. As this is not likely to be brought about immediately, we issued instructions that from September 1, 1923, no boy under 10 or girl under 12 would be admitted inside our mills. Our efforts in this direction have met with some success, but it is only by constant watching on the part of the staff at the mills that we are able to maintain this rule. There is no doubt, however, that workers, both parents and children, would have been [illegible] pleased had the [illegible] not taken place.

A POOR OUTLOOK.

From the remarks I have already made, you will realize that I am not optimistic about the near future, but given peace and good order in the land and reasonably cheap cotton, I have not a doubt in my mind that the cotton mill industry will again flourish, especially if the Government takes steps to foster all industries by the abolition of taxation that is now a serious handicap to rapid development, which would provide greater employment for the masses who [illegible] on the borders of starvation and for the want of a better means of livelihood often turn their hands to banditry. Some Chinese owned mills have been closed down for many weeks and a number have been working short time for months, but the reduced output has not yet made itself felt and spinners cannot to-day purchase cotton and produce yarn without suffering a severe loss. The cloth situation is somewhat brighter, but the margin of profit leaves a great deal to be desired.

During the year, Messrs. R. M. Dalgliesh and F. Ayscough resigned from the Consulting Committee on their departure from Shanghai, and our thanks are due to these gentlemen for their services.

No questions were asked and the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

"That the report and statement of accounts as presented be passed and that the allocation of profits for the past year as recommended be adopted."

"That Messrs. C. Gordon Mackie, E. E. Clark, H. Martin Little, W. Wakeford Cox, Zee Quan-yuen, Chai Lai-fong, Pan Ching-poo and Woo Ling-shu be re-elected members of the Consuling Committee."

"That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews be re-elected auditors at the remuneration of Tls. 5,000 for the coming year."

SHANGHAI LOAN AND INVESTMENT CO.

Annual Meeting

The fifth annual meeting of the Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ld., was held on Tuesday afternoon at the offices of the general agents (Messrs. George McBain). Mr. R. S. F. McBain presided, and was supported by Messrs. John Prentice, A. W. Burkill and A. J. Welch, directors.

In his speech the Chairman said:—

The result of the year's working was fairly satisfactory, and the profit and loss account, including the balance brought forward from last year of Tls. 17,597.29, shows a credit balance of Tls. 185,693.34 and your directors will recommend that this amount be dealt with as follows:—

	Tls.
To pay a dividend of 10 per cent.	125,000.00
To add to general reserve (bringing the amount up to Tls. 100,000)	25,000.00
To carry forward	35,693.34
Tls.	185,693.34

I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more about the accounts, as I believe that the report makes everything quite clear.

THE EXPLORATION LOAN.

The Shanghai Exploration & Development Co., Ld. is making arrangments to repay the amount owing by them to us. They propose to offer to their shareholders one share at par (Tls. 5) for each share in the company held by them, and their directors have decided to offer to us at the same time 100,000 shares at Tls. 6 per share. This will mean that the total capital of the company will then be Tls. 3,000,000 in 600,000 shares of Tls. 5 each. This will place the company in a sound position and it is the intention of the directors therefore to accept the offer. The balance owing to us will be paid in cash. The offer is made to us in return for the financial assistance we have given them and because their directors felt that if they had been forced to apply elsewhere for the necessary capital they would also have had to pay something in addition to interest.

There were no questions, and the formal resolution were adopted.

SMALL INVESTORS LD.

Statutory and Ordinary Meetings

The first meeting of shareholders in the Small Investors Ld. was held on Wednesday afternoon at the offices of the company, Szechuen Road. Mr. G. H. Wright, chairman of directors, presided and was supported by Messrs. H. C. Marshall and B. W. Gale, directors, Mr. Douglas Fleming, managing director, and Mr. J. C. Burgess, secretary. The assurance represented 11,770 Shares.

The notice convening the statutory meeting having been read, the Chairman said: Gentlemen, this meeting is called to comply with the Companies Ordinances, which as you are probably aware, require every public company to hold a statutory meeting within three months from the date on which the company is entitled to do business.

The statutory report has been in your hands for several days and with your permission I will follow the usual course and take it as read. From it you will have seen that the 80,000 shares offered for public subscription have been taken up and the amount due on application fully paid. Considering the stringency of the money market at the time subscriptions were invited, it is satisfactory to place on record that applications were received for 10,456 shares in excess of the number offered.

The agreement for the sale and purchase of the business formerly carried on by Mr. Douglas Fleming, sole proprietor of the Small Investors' Company, referred to in clause 3 of the articles of association, has been duly executed and the fixtures taken over as provided in that agreement.

In our prospectus we estimated that our preliminary expenses (including legal expenses, auditors' fees, registration fees, underwriting commission, etc.) would be in the neighbourhood of Tls. 7,000, and I am pleased to be able to state that they will be well below this figure.

A list of shareholders is lying on the table and is open for your inspection.

As we are holding our first ordinary general meeting immediately after this meeting, I will reserve until then the few additional remarks I have to make, but if you have any questions to ask in connexion with the report, I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability.

There were no questions, and the statutory report as presented was adopted, on the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Marshall.

A PROMISING OUTLOOK.

The first annual general meeting of the company was held immediately on the conclusion of the statutory meeting, Mr. Wright presiding.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, it is necessary, in order to comply with the Companies Ordinances, to hold an ordinary general meeting of shareholders once at least in every calendar year and, as our first financial period will not terminate until December 31, 1924, which means that the first accounts will not be ready until the early part of 1925, your directors have thought it advisable to take advantage of your presence at the statutory meeting just concluded to do so now.

The company received permission from the Registrar of Companies on December 14, 1923 to commence business. In our opening two months a very large business has been done, as can be seen from the daily list of transactions which we record in the press. It would be seen from these reports that we deal in a very large variety of stocks. During our first two months we have had many interruptions, first the Christmas holidays, then the New Year holidays and for a whole week the market was closed during the China New Year holidays.

A very encouraging feature of our business is the great number of small orders we are receiving and for these we especially cater. We have the organization and we make it a special feature to give the man with Tls. 50 to invest as much attention as we bestow on our largest orders. From all over China now we are receiving,

hai oarsmen carried off the honours in every event, a record which we may well feel proud.

THE RELIABLE VETERANS.

On the other hand, I feel it incumbent upon me to utter a word or two of warning. If you look down the names of the crews you will see that the men who rowed in the fours also rowed in the eights, those who rowed in the pairs also rowed in both fours and eights, and our sculling representative took part also in the pairs, fours and eights. Moreover, the men who represented Shanghai at Hongkong in the spring were again called upon as our representatives in the autumn. The point that I am endeavouring to emphasize is that we have only a very limited number of oarsmen of outstanding merit, and our second strings, on whom we shall have to rely in future, are so far behind these happy few that we were forced to call upon these few oarsmen in every event to row for Shanghai. This was a point that had our very earnest consideration prior to the Regatta, and was discussed at a meeting of your committee which Mr. Graham, as coach, was invited to attend, when it was ultimately decided that we could select no better crews, and it was only fair to both ourselves and our opponents to put the strongest crews available into the races.

Speaking of oarsmanship, I must just say a word or two bout the griffins. They worked like trojans, and must indeed be complimented on the amount of training they put in. On the other hand, that this training was not to the best advantage was evidenced by the style ultimately displayed, which, it must be confessed, was somewhat disappointing. For this I am not blaming the griffins in the least. I am rather apologizing to them, inasmuch as the Interport events both in the spring and autumn took up the whole of our senior oarsmen's time, with the result that it was impossible for them to spare any time to give advice and coaching to the griffins. It is to be hoped that during the coming season those of our seniors who are retiring on their well won laurels will make a special point of assisting the younger oarsmen in every possible way, and from what I know of our senior men it is a hope that has only to be expressed to be speedily realized.

THE SWIMMING SECTION.

To turn very briefly to swimming affairs. It is a matter for very great gratification to find the club's representatives maintaining the very high standard set in recent years, and even improving upon it. As in the previous season, we again hold every championship except two, and but for an unfortunate slip on the part of our representative in the 100 yd. backstroke event, would have held all but one. This is a record of which we may well feel proud, and it should be sufficient spur, if any is needed, to our younger swimmers to fit themselves, by diligent training and practice, to carry on the good work of those who have raised the club to its present eminent position in this branch of sport, at such time as the latter by reason of *anno domini* or other unavoidable circumstances are forced to retire from active participation. Our particular congratulations are due to Mr. C. N. Brown, who lowered two local records, namely the 220 yd. and 100 yd. free style.

It is much to be regretted that, due to lack of support, the Basketball League failed to survive the season, so that I am unable to congratulate our players on repeating their win of last year. It is sincerely to be hoped that next season will see a general revival of interest in the game, which is difficult to beat from the point of view of keeping one fit during the winter months.

We have again to thank the Shanghai Nanking Railway for the facilities afforded us, as in past years. This has already been mentioned in our report, but I should like to emphasize to Mr. Wayne, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Yun of the Traffic Department our deep sense of gratitude for their personal interest in the club's doings at Henli. Our thanks are also due to Messrs. K. C. Evans and H. V. Gulston for kindly auditing the club's accounts, by no means a light task and generally a very thankless one.

Finally, I would like to express to the outgoing committee my personal and sincere appreciation of their assistance and co-operation during the past year. That it has been a busy year you will readily gather from the report in your hands and my few remarks, and all have worked together harmoniously and with but one object in view, namely, the furtherance of the interests of the club as a whole.

The report and accounts having been duly passed, the next business before the meeting was the election of the officers and committee for the coming year. This resulted as follows:—Captain, D. M. Graham; Vice-Captain, F. W. Schlobohm; Hon. Sec. J. G. B. Dewar; Hon. Treas., H. V. Gulston; Committee:—R. G. Woodhead, L. G. Day, E. V. Featherstonhaugh, L. P. Kurt, E. T. Stelle, E. A. Brodie, R. L. Evans and H. J. Collar.

A telegram was received during the meeting from Mr. Carl Neprud, who expressed his pleasure that the spirit of the "Scrubs" was still alive in the Club. It will be remembered that Mr. Neprud was the founder of this organization, which was so prominent at the Autumn Regatta in 1922.

Mr. Gulston inquired about the housing problem at Henli, and was informed by the Captain that as a result of the heavy expenses incurred last season in repairs to the bath and general building the matter of Henli had to be left over to this year, but it would doubtless receive the earnest attention of the incoming committee.

Sundry other matetrs of a minor importance having been discussed, the meeting adjourned after a vote of thanks to the Captain and outgoing committee had been passed.

SHANGHAI HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A Successful Year: Horticulture Flourishing in Shanghai

The annual meeting of the Shanghai Horticultural Society was held at the Cathedral Girls' School, Yates Road, on Wednesday evening. The chair was taken by Sir Skinner Turner, President of the Society, supported by Mr. E. J. Cornfoot (Hon. Treas.), Mr. D. Macgregor (Hon. Sec. and Director) and Messrs. P. H. Nye, R. W. Wells and E. S. Wilkinson. The attendance was good.

Sir Skinner Turner, proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, said the Society was in a very flourishing condition at the present time. It had not always been so, but now they were on the upward path he trusted they would maintain the position they held during the coming year. That it could be maintained he felt sure, if the members would give the committee their backing. One of the simplest ways in which they could do this was by obtaining new members. Their's was not a very expensive society,—at $5 per year.

One move they had made last year had proved a great success,—the election of a ladies' sub-committee to take in hand the organizing of the autumn show. Their work was extremely successful, and it was not too high to say that that show was one of the best they had ever held. The thanks of Shanghai were due to the ladies for the trouble they had taken.—Another new move was the affiliation of their society with the National Flower Societies in England and for the first time, to the best of his knowledge, in the history of Shanghai, they were offering medals from the different societies at Home for various flowers, including the National Rose Society's medal.

He wished to pay public tribute to the work that had been done on behalf of the Society by their Secretary and Director, Mr. Macgregor, who had loved the Society from the time he had first come to Shanghai. He also wished to express their thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Cornfoot, whose energy and keenness had created quite a new feeling of enthusiasm towards the Society in Shanghai.

Sir Skinner went on to remark that they were at the beginning of Spring. To-morrow *i.e.*, to-day, the Chinese celebrated "the Day of the Excited Insects" and it was up to members of their Society to become "excited insects" in their own gardens. With that he would move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. P. H. Nye seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

On the proposition of Mr. W. H. Trenchard Davis Sir Skinner was re-elected President.

Expressing his appreciation of the honour, Sir Skinner remarked that he was a believer in constant change at the head of this and every other society. Accordingly he warned them that after having served for them during the years of 1923-4 he would have to refuse them for 1925.

THE OFFICERS.

The committee was re-elected *en bloc*, *i.e.* Messrs. P. H. Nye, R. W. Wells, E. S. Wilkinson and Way Yu-Ding.

Mr. Macgregor was re-elected Hon. Sec. and Director.—A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Fleet for so kindly allowing them the use of the room in which to hold their meeting.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the ladies' sub-committee Sir Skinner said he felt sure that in view of the excellent work of these ladies during the past year they would have no hesitation in returning them again.

The proposition was agreed to, and accordingly Lady Turner, and Mesdames Merriman, Nye, C. J. Scott, C. Skinner, Trenchard Davis, and E. J. Cornfoot (Hon. Sec.) were re-elected.—Mr. Keating was also thanked for the hard work he had done in auditing the accounts.

The Society has a balance at the bank of $935.08.—The exact date of the three yearly shows will be advertised in due course.

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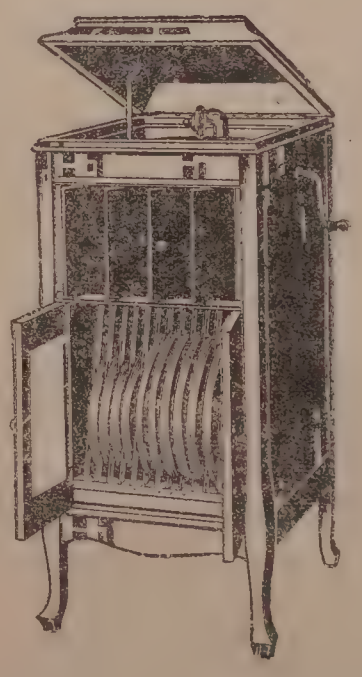

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accounts, but one cannot but be rather disconsolate at the meagre subscription from the Chinese community to this Hospital, amounting as it does this year to only Tls. 5,861.36 towards the upkeep of the Hospital and the kindly attention given to no less than some 107,000 Chinese patients who have sought advice and sympathy in their sufferings. I would appeal once again to the Chinese committee to see if this state of affairs cannot be rectified in the coming year.

In closing, I have pleasure in welcoming our three new sisters, Miss Gunn, Miss Foster and Miss Clark, and I can heartily support what has been said by the Chairman as to the needs of the Hospital. I feel certain that when a fine substantial Hospital is built in the place of this one, our Chinese friends will give us their hearty support with money and that they also will bless us.

Dr. Davenport replied on behalf of the staff and said that he hoped there soon would be a Union Medical Training School in Shanghai. Arrangements were being discussed now and if it could be brought about it would be a great advantage to the Hospital and also would enable it to do still better work.

On the proposition of Mr. Pugh, a vote of thanks was accorded to the auditor (Mr. E. S. Elliston) and to Mr. B. H. M. Brenchall, who he said had given great assistance with the accounts. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY

Annual Meeting and Concert

The annual meeting of the St. David's Society was held in the Union Church Hall, on Saturday, under the chairmanship of the President, Mr. Ellis Pugh. There was a large gathering of members and their friends, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The hall was appropriatly decorated by the Ladies' Committee, shields bearing the coats-of-arms of all the Welsh Counties lining the walls. Crayon sketches by Mrs. Evan Morgan, kindly lent to the Society, also hung on the walls and these pictures of Welsh castles were the source of much interest. A large Welsh flag also was a prominent feature.

The Chairman opened the proceedings by welcoming the new and old members, then turned to the business part.

After a review of the Society's financial condition, the election of officers took place, the following being elected:—

President, Mr. T. I. Vaughan; Vice-President, Mr. L. R. Rees; Hon. Secretary, M. O. G. R. Beynon; Treasurer, Mr. T. J. Evans; Committee, Mrs. J. B. Grant, Capt. J. H. Jones, Messrs. J. F. Jones and G. T. Lloyd.

The business concluded, an interesting musical programme followed, Mrs. O. G. R. Beynon gave excellent renderings of "Neges Blodeuyn," "Merch Megan," and "The Welsh Englishman." Mrs. Gardner, who possesses a fine soprano voice, delighted the audience with her songs, "Spring's Awakening" and "A Birthday." The gathering was very fortunate to have in its number Mrs. Umpleby, who a new comer to Shanghai, sang two songs, her contralto voice being of exceptional quality. Pianoforte solos were given by Mr. W. Howells. Mr. R. M. Howells gave two excellent recitations and Mr. W. E. Hughes sang "Fy Nhol'y," "Mentra Gwen" and "Nos Galan." Mr. Hughes' Welsh sounds good to the exiled cymro, like a fresh breeze from home. Refreshments were partaken of during an interval.

The Chairman in his remarks, mentioned the death in the course of the past year of the late Mr. Edward Evans, who was a life member of the society. Mr Evans had done a great deal towards forming the St. David's Society in Shanghai. The President also read a letter from the former President Mr Evan Morgan, who is now taking a holiday in Wales. Reference was made to the new book of rules and regulations compiled during the past year. Copies can be had from the secretary, Mr O. G. R. Beynon, Shantung Road Hospital.

Mr. Vaughan, on behalf of friends, wished Mr. Pugh, who is shortly going on home leave, *bon voyage* and a pleasant time at home. The singing of "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau," and "God Save the King" brought the enjoyable celebration to a close.

Miss J. Huggett and Mr. Carver were the piano accompanists for the evening.

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

Annual Meeting: New Organ Due Next Year: Heavy Costs of Erection Forecast

The welcome announcement was made at the annual meeting of the subscribers to Holy Trinity Cathedral on Monday, that the new organ, completing the Cathedral's War Memorial, will be delivered in Shanghai in March of next year. The old organ will be in use up to Christmas, when arrangements will have to be made for its removal and sale in order that the memorial organ might be prepared for. The old organ will, accordingly, be on sale to any church, mission, or individual who may wish its purchase.

The meeting was held at the Cathedral Church House. The Consul-General, Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., presided, supported by the Dean, Very Rev. C. J. F. Symons, Mr. A. C. Clear (Hon. Treas.) and Mr. E. L. Allen (Hon. Sec.).

Those also present were: Messrs. E. Page, J. J. Dawe, A. E. C. Thompson, P. L. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Young, Rev. T. W. Hall, R. M. J. Martin, Rev. W. Robbins, Lord Addington, T.E. Trueman, P. W. O. Liddell, O. M. Green and Mrs. Bichard, Mrs. Gorton, Mrs. A. Samson, Mrs. Symons, Mrs. I. W. Hall, Mrs. Chapley, Mrs. Page, Mrs. Hodges, and Messrs. S. J. Williams, D. P. Griffiths, Dr. W. Tucker, J. A. Smallbone, C. J. Passikides, and Norman Smith.

On the proposition of the Dean, seconded by Mr. A. C. Clear, Mr. E. L. Allen was re-elected Secretary, after which the Rev. Robbins opened the meeting with prayer.

THE MEMORIAL ORGAN.

Mr. Edney Page, proposing the adoption of the report and accounts of the Trustees, reminded the meeting that while the income of the Trustees was fixed, their expenditure was by no means fixed, and they were not in such a happy position as the Vestry when attempting to raise money. The consequence was that they were rather liable to run over their mark, as they had done during the past few years, and they were likely to be in the same condition till they were blessed with better times,—when the Church House and the Deanery no longer needed repairs. These expenses had, however, been lighter this year, though the Shanghai Municipal Council had made them completely re-wire the Cathedral on the grounds that it was unsafe, at a cost of some Tls. 600.

They were able to state at last that the new organ, completing the Cathedral War memorial, would be delivered in Shanghai by March of next year. This required that they look forward to that date and consider how they were to meet the liabilities which would fall on their shoulders as a result. It had been decided no expense was to be spared in this matter to make the memorial thoroughly suitable, and such as they would like to see as a worthy memorial to those who had gone,—but a considerable sum of money would be needed. They had enough money in London for the shipping of the organ at that end, but they would at this end have to meet all other expenses. They would see by the report that the Trustees had £5,325 18s. 8d. for their purpose, and they had already paid the first instalment of £2,000. The burden now fell on the congregation and their friends, and it would be a heavy one. No less than another $15,000 would be needed, even if they were successful in selling the old organ.

THE NEW ORGAN'S POSITION.

The new instrument would be ranged on a platform 10½ ft. in height and would be far more visible to the Church than is the present organ. The choir and vestry would be immediately beneath it, an arrangement that had always been very badly needed, and which, he felt sure, would be greatly appreciated. The old organ was for sale, and if there was anyone in the congregation who wanted a nice instrument in their music room he felt sure they could come to terms with the vestry.—(Laughter). It would have to be removed in any case after Christmas in order to make room for the new organ. He hoped the congregation would bear the matter in mind and see what could be done to assist.

They had been lucky, Mr. Page continued, in getting Mr. Percy Liddell to succeed Mr. Peebles, who had resigned as a Trustee. Mr. Peebles had given them much valuable advice and assistance while he had held the office.

With that, he begged to propose the adoption of the report.—Mr. Liddell seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

THREE OUTSTANDING NAMES.

The Dean, proposing the adoption of the report and accounts of the Vestry, said there were three outstanding names mentioned. The first was that of the Rev. C. E. Spencer, who, since their last annual meeting had left them to take up important work at Home, and about whom the report stated:

"Three and a half years' work in the Far East is a considerable break in the life of a clergyman whose work is centered in England, and the Vestry feels assured that they are voicing the opinion of the Congregation when they record their appreciation of the services Mr. Spencer has rendered during this time."—(Applause).

Reference was also made, the Dean continued, to the work of the Vestry sub-Committee, appointed to make arrangements for the Rev. Spencer's successor. This sub-committee had requested Bishop Bardsley and Dean Walker to act for them at Home, and since the printing of the report they had received letters from these two gentlemen to the effect that they had not forgotten the matter, but that health reasons had prevented their sending on the nominations. However, in the meantime something had been done locally and the Vestry had made the appointment of the Rev. A. C. S. Trivett, who had been three years at Hankow and came to them well approved by his friends in that port. They were ready to give him a warm welcome when he did come, and he felt sure that his assistance would be of great value to the Vestry and the congregation generally in Shanghai.

Then they had the name of the Rev. W. Robbins who was taking his Home leave next spring. The Rev. Robbins had been a very great aid to them on Sundays, and since Mr. Spencer had been away he had been doubly valuable. He felt sure they all joined in wishing him *bon voyage*,—(applause), and a speedy return when his furlough was over.

The Dean went on to speak about the Services, and quoted the paragraph in the report reading:

"Confident of the unanimous approval of the Congregation a letter of appreciation was sent to the Organist and Choirmaster, Mr. R. C. Young, emphasizing the high standard obtained by him in the organ and choral music of the Cathedral, to the great enhancement of the beauty of its services,' and a further letter to the ladies, gentlemen and boys of the choir for their good work in the following terms—'The musical portion of the services have been brought to a high degree of excellence. The balance, tone and expression being particularly good and greatly enhancing the beauty of the services of the Cathedral. We wish also to thank Mr. Graham Barrow for his careful training of the boys and Mr. Dexter for his valuable services as Deputy Organist.'"

THE MUSICAL SIDE.

He paid high tribute to the sterling work of those responsible for the musical side of the services. He was one of the oldest residents here, but during all the time he had been here he had never realized till this last year how really beautiful the renderings of Church music could be. The playing had not been of the "firework" character, but it had in it the qualities of real devotion and music. They owed their hearty appreciation and thanks to all the ladies and gentlemen responsible, and to the boys also. To get them to sing and join in in the way they did was a great achievement, and only two or three Sundays ago Mr. Young had been so pleased with the way the choir had acquitted itself that he took the trouble to send them a note remarking on the reverence and dignity with which they had sung.

He also thanked the Ladies' Guild for the invaluable aid it had given in the way of decorating the Cathedral on special occasions and weddings—particularly weddings.

He then proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. A. C. Clear (Hon. Treas.) seconding, dwelt on the accounts at some length.

THE CATHEDRAL FINANCES.

He explained that since the printing of the report and accounts, further subscriptions had been sent in, bringing the total income guaranteed to date to Tls. 8,340. The balance required to meet all expenditure and liabilities including interest charges, Tls. 9,613.

The whole of the expenditure for which the Vestry was responsible was, in round figures Tls. 18,038. Of this the expenditure on assistant clergy absorbed Tls. 9,194. Organist, Choir and Church Expenses needed Tls. 8,843. To meet this they had the Alms Fund, pew rents and subscriptions. All expenditure in connexion with Assistant Clergy was charged to the Alms Fund; but they preferred to meet as much of this as possible from their regular income. They wished to maintain the reputation of the Cathedral as a distributing centre for charitable purposes, but at the same time had to remember that charity begins at home, and consequently it was necessary to ear-mark the whole of the Assistant Clergy expenditure as a charge upon the Alms Fund. At present, therefore, they depended on the Alms Fund to cover the expenditure of Tls. 9,194 for Assistant Clergy. Towards the cost of Organist, Choir and Church expenses totalling Tls. 8,843 they had an income of Tls. 8,340, leaving a deficit of Tls. 500 to be met. They should be easily able to obtain this amount during the year, and he had no hesitation in recommending acceptance of the Budget as shewn.

—For 1923 $7,950 was needed to meet current expenses, an increase of $800 over last year's contribution. They finished the year's working with a total deficit of Tls. 1,399.27 after providing for all liabilities. This was some Tls. 300 less than the deficit for the previous year's working and he hoped during this year they would make a substantial reduction, and possibly wipe it out altogether.

CONCERNING PEW RENTS.

Mr. Clear recalled the suggestions made at the last meeting for the abolition of pew rents on the ground that they caused a certain amount of jealousy. The whole question had been thoroughly discussed in the vestry since then and he did not think it could possibly be done if the Cathedral was to be maintained with the dignity it should be. Pew rents and subscriptions totalled two-thirds of their income and they could not afford to lose that amount. He did not think the matter would be raised again, however.

The adoption of the report and accounts was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

OFFICERS.

On the proposition of Mr. P. W. O. Liddell, seconded by Mr. C. S. Young, Mr. T. Page was re-appointed Trustee.

The following nominations for six wardens were put to the meeting and passed: Messrs. E. L. Allen, R. Calder Marshall, J. J. Dawe, P. L. Knight, S. C. Young and Captain R. M. J. Martin.

Mr. P. W. O. Liddell nominated Mr. A. C. Clear as Dean's Warden.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.

SHANGHAI ROWING CLUB

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Shanghai Rowing Club was held on Wednesday at the boathouse. The captain of the Club, Mr. R. L. Serjeant, was in the chair, supported by the following members of the committee, Messrs. A. K. Brown, (vice-captain), E. T. Nash (hon. sec.), L. G. Day (hon. treas.), R. L. Evans and R. Rolleston West, and a fairly large attendance of other members.

The captain's speech was as follows:—

The Captain said:—Last year, if you remember, I expressed my gratitude to our energetic honourary secretary for having prepared so comprehensive a report as to leave very little for me to say. This year, I must say, I feel I have a grievance against him. So comprehensive is the report in your hands, that I find myself really with little to add.

To refer first of all to the financial affairs of the club. Some of you will doubtless have noticed that we have not paid off any further debentures during the past year. I think you will agree with me, however, if you study the figures closely, that this need give no cause for alarm. It is not due to decrease of revenue or increase of ordinary expenditure for the past year, as the figures in both cases will be found to compare favourably with previous years. You will find that expenditure on account of renovation of the bath and building amounted to no less than $6,129.54, and that deficits on the Interport Regattas at Hongkong in March and Henli in the autumn account for a further $1,510.87. Thus, these two items alone total some $7,640 odd, which, with the aid of $3,000 withdrawn from our fixed deposit at the bank, has been paid for in the course of last year's working. Deducting this $3,000, you will see that no less than $4,640 has been applied out of last year's receipts for the payment of this extraordinary expenditure, and the whole of this sum would, in a normal year, have been available for the redemption of outstanding debentures, which, I think is highly satisfactory. I have referred to this expenditure as extraordinary, in that it may definitely be regarded as non-recurring. The renovation of the bath and building has been carried out in such a comprehensive manner that no more than a nominal amount should be required annually to maintain same in a satisfactory condition.

INTERPORT REGATTAS.

The staging of two Interport regattas in the same year, one at Hongkong and one in our home waters, is not likely to occur again, but it was felt by your committee that the past season afforded an excellent opportunity to revive these events, which have been conspicuous by their absence since before the war. We considered that the event at Hongkong might be regarded as the thin end of the wedge, and that if an Interport Regatta could be arranged at Shanghai on a more ambitious scale, by inviting oarsmen from the northern ports as well as Hongkong to compete, it could be anticipated that interest in such fixtures would be definitely renewed, to the ultimate benefit of rowing not only in Shanghai, but in the Far East generally. Most unfortunately the disastrous earthquake in Japan precluded any possibility of crews being sent from that country, and the contest eventually became a triangular one between Shanghai, Hongkong and Tientsin. The results of this contest are now history, and need not be enlarged upon by me.

This brings us from the financial aspect of the club's affairs to a contemplation of its rowing activities and I would like here and now to offer my heartiest congratulations to those of our oarsmen who took part in these Interport events, and who not only worthily kept our own flag flying, but in every case brought back the flags of our opponents. At the two meetings, namely, at Hongkong in the spring and at Henli in the autumn, our Shang-

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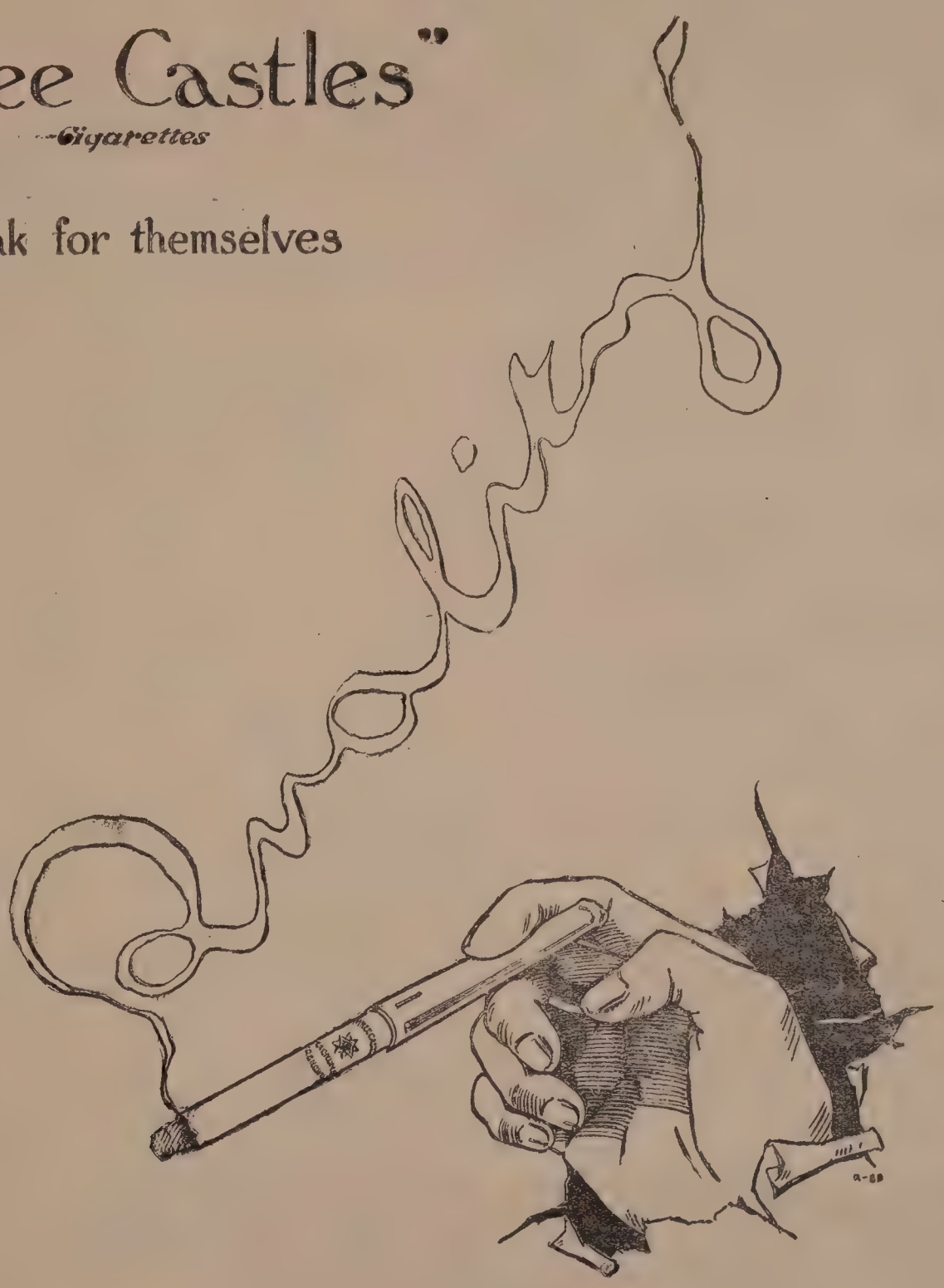

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LAW REPORTS

COUNSEL'S ADMISSION HE WAS FOOLED

A Conflict of Ideas as to Representation: The Fees that are Most Talked About

The case of Sahdoo Singh *v.* T. R. Crank, a claim for money owing, came before his Honour Mr. Peter Grain, Assistant Judge in H. M. Supreme Court on Monday. Mr. R. C. Faithfull appeared on behalf of the plaintiff.

The Judge—You say you represent the plaintiff, Mr. Faithfull. My instructions are that you appear for the defendant.

Mr. Faithfull—No. I appear for the plaintiff. I signed the writ.

Defendant said that the debt was 11 years old. He stood guarantee for a friend.

The Judge—But don't you represent the defendant, Mr. Faithfull?

Mr. Faithfull said that was in another case. In this case he was acting for the plaintiff. There had been negotiations, in which he had discussions with the defendant, but he had never acted for him. He had not charged any fees and defendant had not asked him about his fees.

Mr. Faithfull—I admit that I have changed places. Mr. Crank is a stranger to me. He came to me and got me to induce the Indian to drop his claim by $60 and then he made a fool of me. There are two different actions.

The Judge—At the present time, Mr. Faithfull, you have got two actions before the Court for the same sum of money.

Mr. Faithfull—I have nothing to do with the first one. The plaintiff took that out and he should have withdrawn it. There is something wrong.

The Judge—There is something very wrong indeed!

An Indian who said he was the plaintiff was called to explain the matter, but he gave his name as Harra Singh and said that he held a power of attorney for the plaintiff, who had gone to India.

The Judge—Then he cannot tell us anything.

Defendant said that he paid a certain sum of money on condition that the action was withdrawn and it was not done.

Mr. Faithfull—That was not my action. Mr. Crank should have come round and seen that the action was withdrawn.

The Judge—Mr. Faithfull, you cannot say that it was the defendant's duty to withdraw the action. It was your duty or the duty of your client. You have been saying that Mr. Crank made a fool of you, but it seems to me that your client made a fool of Mr. Crank. I shall adjourn this case for a week and give the defendant an opportunity of coming to some arrangement in order that one of these actions may be withdrawn. I cannot give any costs at present.

Mr. Faithfull—They are not worth talking about. They only amount to about $20.

The Judge—That is what lawyers usually talk most about.

MRS. ROWARTH'S AMAH CHARGED

Alleged Attempt to Murder Sikh Moneylender: Echo of Supreme Court Trial

A 16-year-old amah, Wong Foo-mei, whose name was mentioned prominently at the trial of Mrs. Rowarth at H. M. Supreme Court for the attempted murder of a Bakhar Singh, a Sikh moneylender, of which she was acquitted, appeared in the dock at the Mixed Court on Monday. The girl was charged "that she, with one already charged and certain others" on May [illegible], attempted to murder the Sikh. It will be remembered that at the trial, it was stated that he was lured by several women to a lonely spot in the Wayside district, where he was attacked with a chopper. One hand was nearly severed from the arm, and his injuries were so severe that his life was despaired of.

Applying for a remand, Det.-Sub-Insp. Quayle said that he arrested the prisoner in Chaoufoong Road, on information received. For some time the police had been on the look out for the women.

On this evidence, she was remanded in custody for a week.

ERSATZ WHISKEY

Sikh Gets Too Much, and Two Months

In the British Police Court, on Monday before Mr. G. W. King, Magistrate, Munsha Singh, a watchman employed at the Ewo Cotton Mill, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, with being in possession of a loaded pistol, with pointing the weapon at Bhaded Singh and with committing a common assault.

Inspector Crookdake said that the police prosecuting solicitor wished to take charge of the case, but owing to a prior engagement he had to attend the Mixed Court that morning and therefore requested that the case should be adjourned till the afternoon.

Mr. P. W. Goldring—I have been asked to assist the prosecution. I regard it as a very serious matter and probably, after seeing Mr. Maitland, I shall ask to be allowed to add a charge of threatening to kill.

The Magistrate—Is there such charge? I have never heard of a charge of threatening to kill, though that might be what a layman would call it. Inspector, do you wish to make a more serious charge? Did this man intend to shoot?

Inspector Crookdake—Evidence will be given that the accused said he would shoot the complainant.

The Magistrate—How far did he go? Lots of people say things they would never carry out.

Inspector Crookdake—In my own mind I don't think he intended to kill him.

The Magistrate adjourned the case until the afternoon.

When the proceedings were resumed in the afternoon Mr. E. T. Maitland, Police Prosecutor, said that the accused was drunk and quarrelled with complainant. He drew a revolver, pointed it and said "I will shoot you," but made no attempt to pull the trigger. Even if he had done so he could not have fired, there being no bullet in the barrel of the weapon.

Various witnesses called supported Mr. Maitland's statement. A Chinese stated that early in the afternoon he sold two bottles of German whiskey to the accused.

His Worship—An *ersatz* brand, I suppose?

Inspector Crookdake—The bottle is labelled "Haig's Highland Cream."

The Chinese witness was unable to say whether or not the stuff was manufactured in Hongkew, but said that the price was $1 a bottle.

Accused denied that he carried or had ever seen the revolver. When reminded that the Chinese witness saw him take it from his pocket, he suggested that probably the witness had been paid by complainant to say so.

Accused was pressed by his Worship to say where he obtained the revolver, but maintained that he knew nothing at all about it until the following day.

Accused was sentenced to two months with hard labour, and the revolver was confiscated.

MR. Norwood F. Allman, Junior American Assessor, has resigned from the American Consular Service. He will be associated with Mr. W. S. Fleming in the practice of law in Shanghai. Mr. Howard Bucknell, JR., Consul, lately at Canton, will succeed Mr. Allman on the Mixed Court bench. Mr. Bucknell was [illegible] in 1919 and has served at Chungking, Changsha and Canton. He was recently promoted to Consul's rank.

A KIANGWAN RACE COURSE DISPUTE

Sequel to the Parking of Motor Car: Four Police Arrest a Foreigner: $50,000 Claim

In the Mixed Court on Tuesday there was a further hearing of the case in which Mr. A. Libby is claiming from the International Recreation Club $50,000 as damages for an alleged assault by one of their servants. Mr. F. J. Schuhl appeared for the complainant and Mr. G. H. Wright for the club.

Mr. Y. S. Day, secretary of the club, cross-examined on the evidence he previously had given, said that complainant told him that the buttons were pulled off his coat when he was being taken by the police to the police station. He did not say that he had been assaulted by Pointsman No. 2, an employee of the club. He asserted that some money had been stolen from his pockets. Subsequently witness made inquiries and was told that at the police station complainant and his friend were willing to pay a fine of $5.

Mr. Schuhl—Did you tell him that you had no time to go into the matter and that he could sue you without prejudice?—No. He only came to see me with regard to the wrongful parking of his car and the trouble with the police.

Re-examined, witness said that no mention of injuries was made by either of the men. The matter did not seem to be of importance and witness gathered that the chief grievance was as regards the police. That was why he told them that, although they were foreigners, they were within the jurisdiction of the Chinese police.

RACE COURSE BAD CHARACTERS.

Mr. C. R. Burkill, Vice-Chairman of the Committee of the International Rereation Club, said that there was only one tollgate at the Kiangwan race course for the entrance of the public. There was another gate, but it opened only to the private enclosure for the committee's cars. The race course was in Chinese territory and under Chinese jurisdiction. The Chapei police attended the race meetings, but they came there for their own purposes, because a lot of bad characters came to the races and the police wished to preserve law and order. They were not paid by the club, they were not there at the request of the committee and the committee had no control or jurisdiction over them. The police made their own arrangements. The Chapei police in other cases had exercised jurisdiction over foreigners to the extent of arresting them.

Supt. Wilson, of the Shanghai Municipal Police, said he was told on the course that a foreigner had been locked up and as it was very unusual witness went to see what had happened. He was admitted to the cell outside the club enclosure and Libby told him that he and a friend went in a car to the course, that his friend had violated the regulations in some way and the police arrested him—the wrong man. Whilst they were talking, the friend (Giovannini) came in and said that the matter was all right, as he had paid $5. At their request, witness went to the place where the car had been parked—a part of the road where there was a notice stating that cars must not be parked here. Later that day witness had a further conversation with the two men and they treated the matter more as a joke than anything else. They did not complain of any injuries and did not even mention having been assaulted. Libby said then that $50 or $55 had been taken out of his pockets.

Answering the Assessor (MR. Jacobs), as to whether Libby's clothes gave the impression of an assault, witness said that his collar and tie were not quite straight, suggesting that someone might have grabbed him by the neck, but nothing else.

FOUR TO ONE.

Sub-Inspector Milne said that he saw Libby being taken to the lockup by four Chapei policemen, two holding an arm each, and two having hold of his collar. Giovannini asked witness what should be done and witness told him to see Mr. Day immediately. Later in the afternoon, witness spoke to the two men, neither of whom complained of having been assaulted though Libby objected to the way in which he was handled by the police. Witness thought Libby was detained for about ten minutes.

The Assessor—Do you think he was being roughly handled?—A little more pressure than was necessary, because he was making no resistance at all.

Sub-Inspector Jones gave similar evidence.

Mr. Wright—It is alleged that Pointsman No. 2 was in the act of striking Libby and that you took the stick out of his hands—Nothing of the sort.

Did you see any assault or attempted assault?—No. No complaint was made to me of any assault.

Mr. Schuhl—Did you tell Giovannini that you saw Pointsman No. 2 assault the complainant and that you took the stick away from him?—No. I don't tell lies as a rule and I could not say that, because I was not there.

Did you say that the I.R.C. should be taught a lesson as another foreigner had been assaulted out there?—Nothing of the sort.

AN INTERCHANGE OF DIRECTIONS.

Pointsman No. 2 said that he was employed by the club to direct traffic and prevent cars stopping at unauthorized places. Witness saw the complainant and his friend stop their car at such a place and walk to the course. He told them they must not leave the car there and Libby replied, "Shut up!" Witness asked, "what thing shut up? You no can stop this side." Libby then said, "You go to ——!" On witness' suggestion they started for the office, but Libby refused to go inside and when Zung, witness' superior, tried to persuade him, Libby said, "You go away" and pushed Zung. Then he attempted to take away witness' stick and also endeavoured to assault him. Witness struggled with him for possession of the stick, several Chinese called for the police and four policemen came up and arrested Libby. Witness did not attempt to strike anyone. There was no truth in Libby's statement that witness held him so tightly by the neck that he became almost unconscious.

Zung gave corroborative evidence and added that when it was explained to Libby that he was parking his car in an unauthorized place he answered, "I don't care." They tried to persuade the two foreigners to go into the office because there was a Mr. Chang inside who had sufficient authority to settle such a dispute.

At this stage the hearing again was adjourned.

TINNED MILK BOUGHT AT AUCTION

The Mixed Court Prosecution for an Infringement of Trademarks

In the Mixed Court on Tuesday a case in which the alleged infringement of trademarks was the subject of a prosecution came to an end with the conviction of the accused. The case was heard by Mr. Allman, American Assessor, and Mr. Li, Magistrate, the accused being a grocer named Yung Chong-zung. There were two charges, the first having reference to a brand of tinned milk imported by Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., who alleged that defendant forged and uttered the trademark of an eagle and the words "El Aguilo Del Oro," "Registered Trademark," and sold and exposed for sale milk not supplied by prosecutors bearing their name, thereby injuring their business and credit. The Nestle & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. prosecuted in the second charge of selling milk bearing that firm's device, consisting of a flying eagle upon which was written in Chinese "Flying Eagle Old Brand."

Mr. A. M. Preston prosecuted and Mr. J. W. Schoenfeld defended.

The case was before the Court a week ago, and was continued given by a representative of on Tuseday, when evidence was Messrs. W. Funder & Co., auctioneers, to the effect that on October 23 last year they sold 300 cases of unlabelled tins of condensed milk. Ten of these were opened as samples, and at that time they were unlabelled.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

THE ACCUSED SURPRISED.

Evidence for the defence was to the effect that the accused (a grocer) had purchased three cases of the milk, and on receipt found that the tins were labelled. He had been in business as a grocer for six years, but did not know the brand. He had bought them as unlabelled tins and was surprised to find a label on them.

An auction broker stated that he took delivery of three cases from Messrs. Funder on October 24 or 25, having bought them as unlabelled tins. Having been in business for 30 years as an auction broker it did not surprise him to find that they were labelled, which he discovered when they were opened. He knew that the milk was not good: he believed it came from Japan or possibly Hongkong. He did not take any samples to the shop.

The Assessor asked why, having bought it as unlabelled milk, he did not send it back when he found that it was labelled.

Witness replied that they often bought milk as unlabelled and then found that the tins had labels on them. He admitted that he knew the brand of Carlowitz & Co.'s milk which had been on the market for 15 or 20 years, but he had not seen it for several years past.

In giving the decision of the Court the Assessor said that they did not believe the story of the defence. They believed that the milk had been bought unlabelled and a fine of $50 would be imposed upon the shop keeper.

INFRINGEMENTS OF TRADEMARKS

Five More Chinese Offenders: Imitation Cigar Bands: Prosecutors' Rights Challenged

A trade name imitation on an extensive scale was alleged at the Mixed Court on Thursday in connexion with the prosecution of five Chinese shopkeepers for wrongfully and unlawfully using the mark and seal of "Londres" cigars. An interesting point in the case was that the foreign firm who prosecuted, are themselves being challenged as to ownership of the trade name. The complainant was Mr. I. Delbourgo, agent for Messrs. Walter Olsen & Co., Inc.

Mr. S. Moss appeared to prosecute, and Mr. A. C. Holborow watched the case on behalf of Mr Carl Ingenhohl.

Mr. Holborow informed the Court that his client claimed ownership of the "Londres" cigar trademark, and the matter was at present in the hands of the British Court. Proceedings had also been begun in the Mixed Court, but these had been stayed for the time being. No objection was raised to the present proceedings, but it was not admitted that Messrs. Olsen were owners of the trademark.

Two Chinese in the employ of Mr. Delbourgo gave evidence as to purchasing so-called "Londres" cigars from the defendants' shops, paying seven or eight coppers for each one. They were all taken from a "Londres" box.

Mr. Delbourgo gave evidence that his company represented the Oriental Cigar Factory, who were makers of the real "Londres" cigar. A good deal of trouble had been experienced with dealers who sold imitations. The original cigar was sold for about $3.90 a box, but the imitations were on the market at 90 cents a hundred. He estimated that 300,000 imitation "Londres" cigars were disposed of every month, and this was doing his business a great deal of harm.

The defendants offered various denials of the charge. One of them said that if a customer asked for a "Beautiful Woman" brand of cigar he was given one. If he asked for a "Londres"—"old Beautiful Woman"—he was given an old one. The old brand cost $4.20 a box and the new $1.80, and the latter brand had Sincere's name on it.

The Court fined each of the accused $25, and warned them that a second offence would mean a heavier fine and possibly gaol.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

MR. R. MACDONALD AND M. POINCARE

Days of Fruitful Conferences but Ruhr Still Stumbling Block to Complete Accord: Britain's Friendly Efforts and Intentions

Paris, Mar. 1.

Further letters have been exchanged between Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and M. Poincaré embodying a general exposition of the views of the two Governments on the methods necessary to lead to a solution of problems of foreign policy. The letters are couched in a sincere spirit of collaboration.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 2.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald in his letter to M. Poincaré of February 21 says that he sees little prospect of their being able to attain agreement with regard to the Ruhr, the Rhineland and the Palatinate, unless they are first able by frank and courageous discussion to achieve some unanimity with regard to the essential purposes to which these problems are merely subsidiary, for when he considers their relations in their wider aspect, he does not feel that their essential objects are so divergent.

The British and French both desire security, the French security against Germany and the British security against war. The problem of security is not merely a French but a European problem.

Their task must be to establish confidence, which can only be achieved by allaying international suspicions and anxieties. Whether this can be partially achieved by local demilitarization and neutralization, or by the creation between certain States of bands of neutralized territory under mutual or even collective guarantee and supervision or by some other means is a matter for careful consideration in detail.

The British Prime Minister believes that the League of Nations by discussion and eventual action might play an important part in this. The assent and goodwill of every European country must be enlisted in support of this policy, which can only be initiated if France and England are agreed.

Mutual Sacrifice.

Similarly the French desire reparation mainly in the form of payment by Germany. The British also ardently desire to repair the devastation of the war by restoring ruined markets and remedying unemployment. Before this problem can be discussed, however, the reports of the Expert Committees must be awaited. Mr. MacDonald hopes that they will draw Britain and France together.

He does not see any reason why this problem, if approached from its widest aspect and considered in conjunction with the cognate problem of inter-Allied debts, should not soon be solved so as to give England hope of economic stability in Europe and France assurance that her just requirements will be met.

Here again, if France and England can but agree, the cooperation of the other European countries will be assured and it will be possible for them to approach the United States as United Europe, anxious by mutual sacrifice and arrangement to cure the ills of the people.

France's Debt to Britain.

Mr. MacDonald says that the people of Britain regard with anxiety what appears to them to be the determination of France to ruin Germany and dominate the continent without consideration for Britain's reasonable interests and for the future consequences to a European settlement. They are apprehensive of the large military and aerial establishments, maintained not only in Eastern, but also in Western France. They are disturbed by the interest shown by the French Government in the military organization of the new States of Central Europe. Finally, they question why all these activities should be financed by the French Government, disregarding the fact that the British taxpayer has to find over £30,000,000 a year for the interest on the loans raised in America and also to find large sums to pay the interest on the debt of France to Britain, to meet which France has not yet made nor propounded, as far as they can see, any sacrifice equivalent to their own. "Such popular sentiments are erroneous, though they may be, and are factors which both you and I are bound to take into consideration."

The British Prime Minister refers to the friendliness of M. Poincaré's reply to his letter of January 26. He says that he desires at present to prepare the way for a complete, mutual understanding by reciting unreservedly his difficulties and the manner in which he envisages the situation. He emphasizes his opinion that the differences in most cases have not been wholly unavoidable. He is ready in the future to re-examine the whole problem in its larger outlines and more essential elements.

Mr. MacDonald dwells on the importance of public opinion in France and England. He has endeavoured not merely to interpret the views and desires of his own countrymen, but sympathetically to realize the opinion and needs of France. It is widely felt in England that, contrary to the Treaty of Versailles, France is endeavouring to create a situation which gains for it what it failed to get during the Allied peace negotiations. The view of this section of his countrymen is that that policy can only perpetuate the war, and in the end will destroy whatever temporary security France may gain.

The British Prime Minister admits that the German menace to France is real and the French have some justification for seeking more tangible safeguards instead of the lapsed Anglo-American joint guarantee. The French are also disappointed with regard to reparations.

Neither the virtually unlimited expectations, aroused at the moment of victory, nor the more specific assessment of 1921 bear any real relation to the economic situation to-day. British security is not menaced, but her economic existence is gravely endangered owing to the acute and persistent dislocation of the markets of Europe, which is mainly due to the uncertainty of Franco-German relations, the economic chaos in Germany and the ultimate uncertainty of Anglo-French relations.

After alluding to British apprehensions with regard to French activities mentioned above, Mr. MacDonald expresses the opinion that these states of opinion have vitiated Anglo-French relation in the past and have often induced the two Governments to indulge in altercations with regard to the symptoms of the malady without endeavouring with clarity and good sense to investigate the causes. It is a thoroughly unhealthy condition, which gives him much concern and, he believes, disturbs M. Poincaré too. He is heartily anxious that they, together, shall try to give both these sections of French and British opinion some sense of confidence that the basis of their fears and resentments are being removed.

Joint Action Necessary.

Nobody who has to observe British opinion to-day can afford to overlook the urgent necessity of reaching arrangements with regard to the Ruhr, the Rhineland and the Palatinate without delay.

After dealing with security and reparations, as mentioned above, Mr. MacDonald concludes that, if he and M. Poincaré can achieve agreement on the main principles which inspire them and if these principles can be explained to their respective peoples and public opinion, there would then be little doubt that many subsidiary problems, intricate and thorny though they have become, will not prove impossible of solution, but, if they allow themselves to be entangled in a mass of detail, they will relapse into the old, wearisome round of controversy on points not fundamental. He again emphasizes that the condition of Europe can only be remedied by joint Anglo-French action, undertaken with full sympathy for their respective requirements and wise regard for the interests of the world at large. He is fully prepared for such cooperation.—Reuter.

M. Poincaré's Reply.

M. Poincaré expresses keen pleasure at Mr. MacDonald's frank and friendly letter. He says that he is ready to begin with him examination of the great outstanding problems; the interests and desires of the two countries are altogether in harmony and both can only be satisfied by the same means. He declares that, if France does not mean that the recovery of Germany shall develop into a hegemony, she herself has no ulterior motive of continental supremacy. No reasonable Frenchman has ever dreamt of annexing a particle of German territory, nor of turning a single German into a French citizen.

Apart from Alsace France has never claimed the Rhine as a frontier. She has only asked that Germany should no longer be in a position to use the Rhine as a military base for fresh attacks on France. Whatever disappointments she has experienced she has never sought anything not recognized as hers by the Treaty.

Aerial Defences.

If France's military and aerial establishments are scattered throughout the country, it is because administrative organization requirements do not allow of their concentration in the East. "But our Army and Air Force are no more a sign of defiance to England than the aerial and maritime fleets of Britain are, in your view, a threat to France."

Referring to French relations with the Little Entente, M. Poincaré intimates that France would welcome England's adherence to this group of friendships to the best guarantee of peace.

He hopes that the progress of the League of Nations and the development of international arbitration will soon justify the Associated Nations in proceeding to co-ordinated limitation of armaments, which will not expose the most peace-loving to the enterprises of the most warlike.

In conclusion, the French Premier says: "No more than you am I able to imagine England and France separated from each other or even indifferent to each other. We owe it to civilization to remain united. Since our two Governments are conscious of this duty, it is impossible that we should not act together to carry it out."

Favourable French Comment.

Paris, Mar. 2.

Commenting in advance on the correspondence between Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and M. Poincaré, which will be published to-night, a semi-official statement pays a tribute to Mr. MacDonald's friendly efforts and intentions, which are bound to find favourable echo in France. It says that French security and also peace in Europe must be assured, for example, by neutralization or demilitarization of certain territories or by limited control by the League of Nations.

The statement declares that France awaits with confidence the result of the Committee of Experts with regard to reparations. Then, perhaps, it will be possible in raising the question of inter-Allied debts to secure the participation of the United States in the final liquidation of the War.

A New Angle of Vision.

Later.

That professions of good intentions alone will not succeed in bridging the gulf between Britain and France is a fact which nobody endeavours to conceal in commenting on the evolution of the "new diplomacy." Several London newspapers mourn the absence of any essential change in M. Poincaré's oft-repeated policy and lay stress of the continued fundamental divergence of the peace policies of the two Premiers, namely, sectional alliances *versus* universal agreement. The Liberal papers welcome M. Poincaré's reference to the League of Nations as suggesting a new angle of vision. General satisfaction prevails that the correspondence is usefully proceeding from generalities to concrete issues, while unanimous praise is accorded to Mr. MacDonald's efforts to create an improved atmosphere as the most weighty factor in the ultimate settlement.—Reuter.

Glowing Paris Press Tribute

London, Mar. 3.

Great satisfaction is felt in British official circles in regard to M. Poincaré's reply to the Prime Minister's letter.

It is considered that the correspondence marks a very definite advance in relations between Britain and France and clears the air for an Anglo-French conference.—Reuter.

Paris, Mar. 3.

The newspapers comment at length on the correspondence between Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and M. Poincaré.

The "*Matin*" declares that the letters are absolutely sincere. An important fact is that there is now a determination to reach an understanding. Furthermore the fundamental ideas are admitted on both sides.

The "*Petit Journal*" says that the cessation of recriminations is a great step forward, but there is still a long way to go before an agreement is reached.

The "*Petit Parisien*" asserts that Germany will now realize that any attempt to play off Britain against France is foredoomed to failure.

The "*Figaro*" declares that M. Poincaré's reply shows that France's demands are preliminary conditions for the realization of British aims.

The "*Echo de Paris*" says that while Mr. MacDonald regards positive guarantees as of secondary importance, M. Poincaré attaches a greater importance to them.

The "*Journal*" asserts that the correspondence almost gives the impression that for three years we have been victims of a nightmare and all that is needed to make the two countries fall into each other's arms is to wake them up.

The "*Gaulois*" says that it looks as though negotiations might now be opened in exceptionally encouraging conditions.

The Socialist journal, the "*Populaire*," says that M. Poincaré's reply is a paltry defence of his policy and heralds difficult negotiations in the near future.

The Radical paper, "*Quotidien*," affirms that the Premier's reply is a courteous but definite refusal.

The Communist organ "*Humanité*," calls M. Poincaré's letter hypocritical.

The Leftist newspaper, the "*Oeuvre*," declares that Mr. MacDonald's is the letter of an honest man desirous of a settlement: M. Poincaré's is the letter of a pseudo Machiavelli who loves quibbling. Reuter.

Berlin's Tribute.

Berlin, Mar. 3.

The newspapers give prominence to the correspondence between Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and M. Poincaré.

The "*Montagspost*" says that Mr. MacDonald's letter is an historical document. For the first time a leading Entente statesman thoroughly and frankly investigates all the political questions hanging over Europe like a cloud of poison. Undeniably, the paper declares, Mr. MacDonald's personality has wholesomely influenced M. Poincaré, and this will not be without effect on the French people.—Reuter.

LONDON, Mar. 6.—The death is announced of Lady Hubert Brand, wife of Rear-Admiral Sir Hubert Brand.—Reuter.

BERLIN, Mar. 6.—The German-Dutch Trade Treaty, which will expire on April 1, will be renewed for three years. The prohibitive duty raised in Holland against German footwear will then cease.—Reuter.

HOUSE OF LORDS AND AIR DEFENCE

Motion for Maintenance of Home Defence Force Passed Without Division: Interesting Questions in the Commons

London, Mar. 4.

The House of Lords to-day passed without a division, but against the Government's advice, a motion by the Marquess of Londonderry laying stress on the necessity of maintaining for home defence an air force sufficiently strong for adequate protection against attacks by the strongest air force within striking distance.

The Secretary for Air, Brig.-General Thomson (created Peer but title not yet announced), and the Lord Chancellor, Viscount Haldane, for the Government, deprecated the motion as likely unfavourably to affect the Government's foreign policy, but General Thomson assured the House that the Government were continuing their predecessors' scheme for expanding the air defences, though they were ready to take advantage of any disarmament conference decisions. The policy of the country, until general disarmament was possible, should be to make such preparations as would show the world that Britain did not mean to be caught napping, but the Government's policy was to prepare for peace.

Repatriation of Destitute British Seamen.

In the House of Commons today at question-time Mr. Sidney Webb, the President of the Board of Trade, stated that legislation would probably be necessary to deal comprehensively with the question of the repatriation of destitute seamen who were natives of British tropical dependencies. The matter was being considered. He would gladly confer with Mr. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in that connexion, and try to expedite the matter, but it was impossible to hold out any hope of legislation this session.

Betting Bill Discarded.

In reply to questions Mr. Philip Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer, stated that the Government had carefully considered the report of the Betting Committee and after reviewing the whole question had concluded that it would be against the public interest to make the changes in the law which would be involved.

World's Sugar Production.

In the House of Commons today, at question time, the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Sydney Webb, stated that no official statistics were available, but those compiled by a New York firm showed that sugar production outside the British Empire in 1923/24 was estimated at 14,867,000 tons, or 78.8 per cent. of the world's production.

Minimum Living Wage.

March 5.

In the House of Commons last night a private Member's motion was carried without a division affirming that a minimum living wage for all workers should be the first charge on industry and calling a special commission of inquiry.—Reuter.

THE ABOLITION OF THE CALIPHATE

Young Turkey's Attack on Religion: Proscription Demanded by People's Party

Constantinople, Mar. 2.

An important session of the People's Party is being held today to discuss three Bills for firstly, the suppression of the Caliphate; secondly, the suppression of the Ministry of Pious Foundations; and thirdly, the abolition of theological schools.

The Bill concerning the Caliphate provides for the deposition of the Caliph, the abolition of the Caliphate, the perpetual expulsion of all members of the Caliphal family from Turkey within ten days, the forfeiture of their Turkish citizenship, the payment of a lump sum which is said not to exceed Liras 300,000

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

Volunteer Corps.

General Alarm.—The Commandant of Volunteers calls attention to the advisability of effecting a change in the method of sounding the General Alarm. The existing method of giving the alarm by firing the Customs Gun at Pootung is open to the serious objection that the sound cannot be heard in the main portion of the Settlement. The experiment has been tried of employing the ordinary Ship's "Distress" Signal, but this has been found to be neither loud enough nor sufficiently distinct to serve the purpose. With the object of surmounting the difficulty the Commandant advocates the introduction of "Maroons" such as were used in England during Air Raids and proved to be effective warning signals. The suggested substitution of the "Maroon" will, it is hoped, supply a solution of the problem and afford the desired improvement in the method of disseminating the General Alarm.

British Infantry Reserves.—Lieut. J. C. Bosustow, M.B.E., is transferred to the Reserve of Officers.

Sergeant R. P. Tilley to be 2nd Lieutenant.

Consular Body.

A letter from Mr. Hugo Reiss, Consul for Brazil, informs the Council that during his absence from Shanghai for two months, Mr. W. Chalaire will be in charge of the Consulate.

Tramways.

Correspondence.—Correspondence in continuation of that published in the Gazette of November 29, 1923:—

Shanghai, January 23, 1924.

SIR,—As requested by you at our meeting yesterday, I now give you in writing the Tramway Company's proposals on the question of overcrowding and the present position concerning Traffic Regulation 36 B.

The present position is that the Company's Appeal to the Full Court and the 53 charges against the Company in the Police Court are still pending, while the Company has fitted to a number of cars and trailers now running gates which it is believed will be satisfactory. As to the latter, as long as they are kept in working order and manipulated as the Company proposes, they must effectively prevent anyone travelling on the steps or mounting or leaving a vehicle whilst in motion.

The Company is willing to withdraw its Appeal if the Council will withdraw the further charges pending and give the Company time to fit gates on all its cars in service. The time can be limited, and in this connexion you will remember that we are still awaiting the Council's approval of these gates before taking steps to have the necessary number made locally; the Company intends to call for tenders as soon as it receives the Council's approval, and push on the work as fast as possible.

Moreover, the Company is prepared to admit the Council's power under Bye-Law 36 to make any reasonable traffic regulation and thereunder to specify the maximum number of passengers to be carried in any car. On the other hand, the Company does suggest that Traffic Regulation 36 B is unjust to the Company, in that it does not provide for any prosecution or even removal of a passenger infringing it; and the Company also asks that the figures which have been laid down under that Regulation should be the subject of further consideration. I think you agree that if the Regulation is to remain in force, it should be amended to deal with offending passengers.

If pending the fitting of gates to all cars, no steps are to be taken to enforce the Regulation, it would seem more convenient from the view of both sides that it should be withdrawn; also if the Council should consider it necessary to lay down a maximum number of passengers to be carried and the Council is prepared to discuss this matter with the Company, that will take a certain amount of time and experience gained from cars running with gates fitted should help us considerably.

For these reasons I suggest that Regulation 36 B should be withdrawn because some amendment of it seems necessary, such amendment would be more easy later on, and by reason of the admissions above stated, which the Company is prepared to make, the Council could make a similar Regulation at any time in the future. To put it shortly, I do not ask for a withdrawal for all time, but only of this present Regulation which is not completely satisfactory.

Having regard to the foregoing, I have to suggest further that if the Council does not approve the wording of Clause 12 of the Extension Agreement with the Company's suggested amendment, it would be more satisfactory to omit the clause altogether. The Council's powers under Bye-Law 36 should not and could not be affected by agreement in any case, and the Council has certain other powers under Clause 9 of the Concession Agreement. Again, in view of the admissions which the Company is prepared to make, I cannot see that this clause is really necessary.

With regard to the word "reasonable," I can only say that it seems plain that the Council must have some latitude, but that it also seems to me that it cannot fairly claim the power to dictate absolutely as to the number of people to be carried without the Company having any say in the matter at all.

I think this covers all the points that were raised yesterday, and I hope it will help you to explain to your colleagues the Company's attitude, and the difficulties we are all trying to solve.

Yours faithfully,
R. N. MACLEOD.

S. FESSENDEN, Esq.,
Chairman,
Shanghai Municipal Council.

Council Chamber,
Shanghai, February 13, 1924.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed to allude to the letter addressed by Mr. R. N. Macleod to Mr. S. Fessenden, dated January 23, on the subject of the Tramway Company's proposals, and to deal with the points therein raised as follows:—

The Council appreciates the point of view of the Company in regard to Traffic Regulations, but cannot agree to withdraw Regulation No. 36B. However, the Council will consent not to enforce the Regulation in the Courts so long as the Company makes a *bona fide* effort to prevent overcrowding and proceeds without undue delay to equip all its passenger rolling stock with gates.

The Council approves the present type of gates, but would call the attention of the Tramway Company to the opinion of the Commissioner of Police that the type of construction is none too strong and that the height may be insufficient. It is the opinion of the Council that the question of the strength of the gates as also their height is a responsibility which the Tramway Company must take upon itself, having regard to the primary requirement that the onus of preventing overcrowding lies upon the Company.

With regard to the prosecutions pending against the Company for offences against the Bye-law, the Council will withdraw these concurrently with the withdrawal of the appeal against the conviction recently entered against the Company.

The Council will be pleased to to give consideration to any proposed amendments to the Traffic Regulations which the Company may see fit to suggest.

With respect to your suggestion to omit Clause 12 altogether the Council quite agree.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
E. S. B. ROWE,
Acting Secretary

MESSRS. HANSONS

Fire Brigade Report for January.

The total number of calls received was 44, all of which were genuine fires, 30 occurring within the Settlement and 14 Outside.

The damage on assessed property within the Settlement was estimated at Tls. 40,250 (Foreign Tls. 25,050: Chinese Tls. 15,200), whilst the property at risk was estimated at Tls. 1,902,700 (Foreign Tls. 1,655,000: Chinese Tls. 247,700).

3 lives were lost during the month and 3 other persons injured. 32 premises were damaged.

In dealing with these calls Brigade machines travelled approximately 450 miles. Hose used was 43,700 feet and time occupied approximately 350 hours.

It is pleasing to be able again to report there was nothing unusual as regards the causes of fires under the jurisdiction of the Brigade. A complete change from the old days when Chinese New Year fires were the order of the day.

The Brigade attended, amongst others, five serious fires, outside the Settlement and rendered assistance.

Return of Communicable Disease.

Reported during the week ending Saturday, midnight, March 1, 1924.	Foreign Cases notified from within Settlement limits (Estimated population 21,400	Deaths among Chinese resident population of 825,000).
Small-pox	3	3
Cholera	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	11
Paratyphoid Fever	1	0
Diphtheria	0	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	20
Plague	0	0
Amœbic Dysentery	0	0
Bacillary Dysentery	0	
Measles	0	4
Total Deaths from all Causes	6	197

C. NOEL DAVIS,
Commissioner of Public Health.

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SPORTS AND PASTIMES

THE PAPER HUNT CLUB RACE MEETING

Mr. Springfield's Surprise Win of the Club Challenge Cup With Harry M.: Letchfield Well Beaten by Red Pepper

OFFICIALS.

Stewards:—Messrs. G. Grayrigge (Master), C. Noel Davis, M.D., H. W. Lester, E. S. Benbow Rowe, N. L. Sparke, M. O. Springfield, A. W. Olsen (Secretary).

Judge:—Mr. A. W. Burkill.

Assistant Judge:—Mr. S. W. Pratt.

Time Keeper:—Mr. W. G. Pirie.

Starter:—Mr. D. W. Crawford.

Assistant Starter:—Mr. S. A. Sleap.

The annual race meeting of the Paper Hunt Club on Saturday afternoon was run off with the usual good sport attending such events. It is the invariable luck of the Paper Hunt Club to meet with bad weather about this time of the year and very frequently the races have had to be postponed. Such seemed to be the probability this year, but the weather cleared on Friday and Saturday was a glorious day, if a trifle cold. The course had dried up and though not fast the going was quite good.

St. Blaise stood out from all the other runners for the Tunsin Plate, and though Mr. Brand gave his many supporters a shock by postponing the last dash until very late, he managed to get home by a short head from the outsider, White Satin. In the first steeplechase, for the Jorrocks Cup, the speedy Niccolite gave Mr. Maitland an easy ride and a win by many lengths. The two miles race for the Tally Ho Cup brought out the gallant old Seebird once more for his special race, but this time with Mr. Hill in the saddle, and the public accordingly counted him more of a certainty than ever. The fine stayer fully justified the support, for he defeated The Magpie and The Hawfinch by a distance.

The Club Challenge Cup steeplechase produced a surprise. Very few really good ponies had qualified and the race seemed to be a gift for Wild Chance, for Harry M. did not flatter at Kiangwan, Spark Plug is only a second rater despite his succession of placing, Wiltshire has not done well lately in racing, and nothing else appeared to be in the picture. Wild Chance, however, when apparently running easily in the second round, stumbled badly in front of the grand stand and a less experienced rider than his owner certainly would not have stayed in the saddle. Mr. Sparke gathered and steadied the pony and kept him in the running, but from there to the finish there was nothing convincing about the favourite and Harry M., who had been making all the pace, ran away from him to win by five lengths, with Wee Jimmie beaten into third by another four lengths.

Wyvlesfield had a close call in the steeplechase for the Pleasant Quarter's Cup, an outsider in Tara running him to a neck, whilst Aintree, re-named Battletree, was only another length away. The Hungjao Plate went to Zoulou, who won quite comfortably from Dash and Coquelicot. Then came another surprise in the steeplechase for the Stewards' Cup, supposed to be so easy for Letchfield. Mr. Sparke gained a considerable amount of consolation, for Red Pepper carried him as Wild Chance should have done, finishing two lengths ahead of Letchfield, though he had to battle hard to beat off the challenge of Exchequer Bill. Despite the fact that Sweetheart had been very widely tipped to beat both The King and Right Royal for the Beef Stakes, the pony was neglected and when he did justify the opinion of the knowing ones by beating The King by a neck and Royal by another two lengths, the pari-mutuel paid out the big dividend of $277. Del Monte, now Dalmeny, brought off another coup for the Hark Forrard Stakes, beating a lot of highly fancied ponies and coming in a 10 1 winner.

The results in detail follow:—

1.—THE TUNSIN PLATE.—1½ miles.
lb.
Messrs. Logan and Wilson's sp. wh. St. Blaise, (Mr. J. K. Brand) .....158—1
Mr. A. B. Thompson's grey White Satin, (Mr. Knoll) 155—2
,, Dod's dun Standlight, late Standardization (Mr. G. Pollock) .....145—3
Won by a short head; half length. Time: 2.46⅘.

2.—THE JORROCKS CUP.—A Steeplechase.—Once round and in.
lb.
Mr. T. T. Chow's bay Niccolite (Mr. Maitland) .....157—1
,, Allan's grey California (Mr. Greig) .....
,, Henry Morriss' bay Bovne. field (Mr. Springfield) ...
Won by many lengths; 2 lengths.

3.—THE TALLY HO CUP.—2 miles.
lb.
Mr. Birdrake's grey Seabird (Mr. Hill) .....
,, Fash's p'bald The Magpie (Mr. Springfield) .....
,, Allan's gr. The Hawfinch (Mr. Knoll) 158
Won by many lengths; 3 lengths. Time 4.33⅘.

4.—THE CLUB CHALLENGE CUP.—A Steeplechase.—Over Morriss' water jump, twice round and in.
lb.
Mr. M. O. Springfield's bay Harry M., late Goonfield (Mr. Springfield) .....
,, N. L. Sparke's bay Wee Chance (Mr. N. L. Sparke) 156—2
,, J. G. Lyon's black Wee Jimmie (Mr. Dalgarno) .....
Won by 5 lengths; 4 lengths.

5.—THE PLEASANT QUARTERS CUP A Steeplechase—Over Morriss' water jump, once round and in.
lb.
Mr. Henry Morriss' grey Wyvlesfield (Mr. Greig) .....
,, Henry's grey Tara (Mr. Newbigging) 15
Capt. R. E. Sassoon's bay Battletree, late Aintree, late Battlewing (Capt. Sassoon) 1
Won by a neck; one length.

6.—THE HUNGJAO PLATE.—1 mile.
lb.
Messrs. J. Beudin and M. Speelman's sp. who, Zoulou, late Christmas Sale, late Mikasa (Mr. Heard) .....163—
Mr. Omekrik's bay Dash (Mr. Knoll) .....152—
Messrs. H. & S. L.'s bay Coquelicot (Mr. Liou) .....160—3
Won by one length; two lengths. Time: 2.10⅘.

7.—STEWARDS' CUP.—A Steeplechase Twice round (back to Grand Stand wall and water).
lb.
Mr. N. L. Sparke's ches. Red Pepper (Mr. Sparke) ...157—1
,, C. R. Burkill's grey Exchequer Bill, late Sceptic Dahlia (Mr. Burkill) ...157—
,, Henry Morriss' ches. Letchfield (Mr. Heard) .....
Won by a short head; two le

8.—THE BEEF STAKES.—¾ mile.
lb.
Mr. Trenchardson's grey Sweetheart, late Silver Money (Mr. C. Trenchard Davis) 160—1
,, H. G. Robinson's grey The King, late The Deid Loss (Mr. Robinson) 16
,, Fiddes' ches. Right Royal (Mr. W. D. Fiddes Wilson) .....160—3
Won by a neck; two lengths. Time: 1.36⅘.

9.—THE HARK FORRARD STAKES.—¾ Mile.
lb.
Mr. Dunbal's dun Dalmeny, late Del Monte (Mr. Patterson) .....158—1
,, N. W. Hickling's grey Settrington (Mr. Knoll) ...149—3
,, William McBain's bay Artful Dodger, (Mr. Hajmovitch) .....
Won by half a length; one length. Time: 1.34⅘.

AMATEUR BILLIARDS

London, March 1.

The final of the Amateur Billiards Championship was played at Burroughs' Hall in London to-day. The holder, Mr W. P. McLeod, beat Mr J. Graham Symes by 136 points in 3,000 up.—Reuter.

perience in local government. The bill would mean an increase of three and a half to five million voters and would give the women a majority over the men.

Mrs. Wintringham, Liberal Member for Louth, and Lady Astor, Conservative Member for Plymouth, supported the bill, which Lord Hugh Cecil, Conservative Member for Oxford University, opposed.

Mr. J. R. Clynes, the Deputy Leader of the House, said that the Government would try to find time to pass the bill if it passed committee.—Reuter.

THE SINGAPORE BASE

Government Said to Be Inclining in Its Favour

London, Mar. 1.

It is understood that the Cabinet has appointed a special committee under the chairmanship of Mr. J. R. Clynes, the Lord Privy Seal and the Deputy Leader of the House of Commons, to consider the whole question of the Singapore base.

The "Daily News," which opposes the base, learns that the opinion of the prominent members of the Cabinet is in no way so hostile as formerly, and believes that the Government will ultimately approve the scheme.—Reuter.

Australia's Keen Demand.

Perth, Mar. 1.

The Acting Premier, Dr. Earle Page, made speeches at a dinner yesterday evening and at a luncheon to-day on the occasion of the visit of the British Naval Squadron, in the course of both of which he laid stress on the importance of the construction of a naval base at Singapore or elsewhere. He said that, if this were accomplished, Australia could receive periodical visits from the main British Fleet and men would be stimulated to join the Australian Navy.

Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Field, replying on both occasions, said that Singapore represented a gateway which must be defended. It was an absolutely key position, but Australia would require other bases where Australian ships could be repaired.—Reuter.

Comparison Between Britain's Shipbuilding Programme and That of Japan

London, Mar. 5.

In the House of Commons to-day, replying to a question, Mr. Ammon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, stated that no decision had yet been made with regard to the Singapore base. The matter was at present being considered.

In reply to Commander Kenworthy, Liberal Member for Kingston-upon-Hull, Mr. Ammon gave particulars of the reduction in the Japanese naval estimates since the earthquake, which would retard Japan's building programme for approximately a year. Commander Kenworthy asked whether this would affect the British building programme. Mr. Ammon replied that the British programme would be built up regardless of anyone else (Liberal cries of "Oh!").

Project Dropped?

London, Mar. 6.

Notwithstanding Mr. Ammon's statement in the House of Commons yesterday, the "Daily Mail" understands that a Cabinet meeting yesterday received a report from the Clynes sub-committee on the Singapore base proposal. The journal says that there is good reason to state that the Government has decided not to proceed with the project and expresses the opinion that resignations from the Board of Admiralty are to be expected unless the Government announces that it has over-ridden the advice of the naval staff.—Reuter.

THE OILFIELDS OF SARAWAK

A Question of Protection: Important Bearing on the Singapore Base

London, Mar. 5.

Presiding at a lecture by the Hon. Mr. T. G. Cochrane to the Royal Society of Arts on the oilfields of Sarawak last night, Lord Bearsted pointed out that the Sarawak field was only 630 miles from Singapore. Development of the field had a very important bearing on the Singapore base. The question of protection of Sarawak was most important because it was inconceivable that we would ever allow that wonderful field to fall into enemy hands.

Lord Bearsted very strongly protested against Governments attempting to develop oil in the British Empire. He was dismayed to see the association of the Australian and British Governments for the purpose of developing oil in Papua and New Guinea. Hundreds of thousands of pounds had been spent without result. The future of the British Empire rested on the efforts and ability of individuals.—Reuter.

THE INDIAN BUDGET

General Improvement Visible: Balance of Trade Well in India's Favour

Delhi, Feb. 29.

In the Legislative Assembly today, Sir Basil Blackett, Finance Member of the Executive Council, produced a balanced budget for part of the year.

He said that the financial position was more satisfactory than in the previous twelve-month, and estimated, on the existing taxation, for a surplus of nearly three and a half crores next year. Practically the only important tariff change was a reduction in the excise duty on motor-spirit by one and a half annas a gallon. The salt tax had yielded three crores less than expected. The question of reduction would be left to the Assembly to decide.

Military expenditure next year would show a considerable reduction. Trade conditions were steady but difficult. There was a prospect that the visible balance of trade in favour of India might reach a record.—Reuter.

AKALI OUTRAGES IN INDIA

Frontier Situation Now Quiet but More Trouble Expected

London, Mar. 3.

The India Office announces that the casualties in the Nabha affray, which took place on February 21, between the troops and a force of armed Akali fanatics, who raided the State, number 21 dead, 33 wounded. Seven hundred persons have been detained.

The situation in Jaito has since been quiet but a second jatha of 500 men has started out and is expected to arrive in Jaito on March 14.—Reuter.

Swarajist Obstructian in Council

Nagpur, Mar. 4.

The Swarajists threw out all the Government measures in the Central Provinces Legislative Council to-day.—Reuter.

SOVIETISM IN EGYPT

Communist Activities of Cotton Factory Workers Suppressed by Police

Alexandria, Mar. 4.

Another attempt to establish a works Soviet has failed. The workmen employed by the Abouchanab Cotton Oil Factory forcibly took possession of the premises yesterday. Three policemen were injured in the course of the fight.

Zaghlul Pasha sent a message ordering the workmen to evacuate the building or be treated as outlaws. Preparations were made to eject them, whereupon the workmen to-day evacuated the building, which is now strongly held by the police pending conclusion of wage negotiations.

The police seized a quantity of documents at the Communist Headquarters.—Reuter.

MILITARY CONTROL IN GERMANY

British Proposals Adopted by Ambassadors' Conference: Text of Note Drafted

Paris, Mar. 5.

The Conference of Ambassadors to-day agreed on the text of the Note to Germany on the subject of resumption of military control. Marshal Foch was present at the meeting. The British proposals to revive the Inter-Allied plan of September, 1922, substituting a Committee of Guarantees with limited functions for the present Control Commission, were adopted on their main lines.

The Note claims the right of the Inter-Allied Commission to verify throughout Germany whether during 1923, when control ceased, Germany had engaged in new military preparations and whether disarmament can to-day be considered finally completed. If the German Government agrees to an inquiry and the results are satisfactory, then the Allies will appoint a Committee of Guarantees or a similar effective organization.

The German Government must, as a preliminary, reply satisfactorily to the five demands of the 1922 Note dealing with amendments to the laws concerning export of arms, demilitarization of the police, and other matters of military control.—Reuter.

GEN. WRANGEL AGAIN

To Confer with Grand Duke Nicolas: Secret Arrival in Paris

Paris, Mar. 3.

Gen. Wrangel has arrived in Paris from Yugo-Slavia to confer with Grand Nicholas. His whereabout is a secret.

He even refused to receive his ex-officers, but it is understood that the object of the visit is to discuss with the Grand Duke not a possible anti-Bolshevik offensive, of which there is at present no question, but the situation arising from the forthcoming recognition of Soviet Russia by Yugo-Slavia, which would necessitate finding a new home for his (Gen. Wrangel's) army now living on the land in Yugo-Slavia.—Reuter.

U. S. IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS

Shipping Companies' Protests Against Quarantine Detentions

New York, Mar. 4.

The Commissioner of Immigration has notified the steamship companies that beginning on March 5 all aliens arriving by second class must go to Ellis Island instead of landing at the piers as hitherto. Also no aliens travelling first class will be examined at the quarantine station after 7.30 in the evening, thus necessitating detention of vessels in quarantine until the morning after arrival.

Representatives of the companies announce that they will appeal against enforcement of the order which, they say, would cause diversion to Canada of many second-class passengers. They add that 80 per cent. of the incoming tourists arrive in "one cabin" steamers, which Ellis Island lists as second class.

Concession by Commissioner.

Later.

At a meeting this afternoon with representatives of the passenger conference lines, the Commissioner of Immigration agreed that second-class passengers should in future be examined in the first-class cabins instead of at Ellis Island.

The Commission also modified the hours of inspection for first class passengers, but declined to agree to the inspection of vessels arriving an appreciable time after sunset.—Reuter's American Service.

Aliens' Wives and Minor Children Abroad Now Barred

New York, Mar. 5.

Federal High Court Judge Hand has ruled that wives and minor children of resident aliens are not admissible to the United States in excess of the immigration quotas, unless it is shown that the resident alien was married while on a temporary visit abroad.

Assistant United States Attorney Thomas states that the decision will have immediate restrictive effects.—Reuter's American Service.

CHINESE LABOUAR ON NAUARU ISLAND

Allegations as to Differing Agreements: Provision for Workmen's Wives

London, Mar. 4.

The House of Commons to-day agreed to vote £106,000 for the Nauru phosphate undertaking after a discussion in which Mr. J. W. Black, Liberal Member for Harborough, called attention to the conditions of Chinese labourers in the islands and the terms of the agreement under which they were brought from China. He said that they had to sign two agreements, one before leaving China, in which a week's work was given as 52 hours, and the other on arrival at the Island, in which a week's work was given as 57 hours. The rate of pay was not stated in the copy of the agreement supplied to him. No reasonable provision was made whereby the labourers could take their wives with them.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, replying, said that he could not accept strictures against Australia, but the statements would be communicated to the Australian Government. He stated that provision had been made for their wives, but the Chinese labourers, for their own reasons, did not desire to bring them (loud laughter).—Reuter.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY BY-ELECTION

Mr. Winston Churchill as an Independent Caindidate: A Triangular Contest

London, Mar. 4.

It was announced to-day that Mr. Winston Churchill has decided to stand for the Abbey division of Westminster as an Independent.

This makes a piquant situation, as Mr. Otho Nicholson, Mayor of Finsbury, nephew of the late Member and official Conservative candidate, and Lieut.-Colonel George Parkinson, the well-known builder and Independent Democratic Conservative, are already in the field. The Liberal, Mr. Scott Duckers, has been threatening to stand if Mr. Churchill is a candidate, while Mr. Havelock Wilson is considering candidature as a "Sane Trade-Unionist."

Later.

Lieut.-Colonel Parkinson has withdrawn his candidature and will support Mr. Churchill.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 2.

Mr. Winston Churchill announces his willingness to stand as Independent Constitutional candidate in the by-election for the Westminster Abbey Division. He declares that he does not intend to change his position on the main questions of public policy but wishes to co-operate with the Conservative Party in opposing the Socialist Party and its allies, whoever they may be.

He adds that there must be hundreds of thousands of Liberals who conscientiously feel similarly and see at this juncture no reason why they should not co-operate with the Conservatives on lines of the late Government's King's Speech and Mr. Baldwin's recent fiscal declaration.—Reuter.

Sympathy with Anti-Socialism

London, Mar. 5.

Mr. Winston Churchill, in a statement in regard to his candidature for Westminister Abbey, declares that he is in no way hostile to the Conservative Party, which he now recognizes to be the rallying ground for the opponents of Socialism.

Mr. Nicholson, the Conservative candidate, says that he is naturally anti-Socialist and asks what will guarantee that Mr. Churchill, in view of his previous record, will not join the Labour Party within a year.

A number of prominent Conservatives have promised to support Mr. Churchill.—Reuter.

FATAL EXPLOSION IN NEW JERSEY

New York, March 1.

Eight persons were killed, 12 are missing and 100 injured as a result of an exlosion at the Nixon Nitration Works on the Raritan River, which shook Northern Jersey and was felt in New York City. Windows within a mile radius of the explosion were shattered and doors unhinged.

Later.

It is now believed that 30 persons perished as a result of the explosion at the Nixon Nitrate Works on the Raritan River. All neighbouring buildings, including 100 workmen's quarters, were wrecked and are now on fire.

The Ammonite Company, which was using the building for storage, is engaged in the manufacture of fertilizers from war-time high explosives and unused shells. The buildings which were blown up contained 1,000,000 gallons of ammonia niterate and 15 tank cars each containing 90,000 gallons of ammonia nitrate in process of crystallization.—Reuter's American Service.

THE RECENT AVIATION FATALITIES

Thrilling Story of Survivor: A Fatal Side-slip Followed by Fire

London, Mar. 5.

A thrilling story was told today at the inquest at Biggin Hill on Flying Officer Smith and Sergeant Lister, of the Air Force, who were killed in aeroplane accidents on Monday.

A survivor, Pilot Meech, said that the Vickers-Vimy F-9181 ascended in the morning for a flight for the Air Ministry. Films were being taken from another machine, the operations being intended to illustrate an aeroplane shot down and on fire. At 3,500 feet he received the prearranged signal and ignited a flare. Flying Officer Smith commenced stalling at a speed of 100 miles an hour and dropped to 600 feet. In the last stall the machine rose-dived and partially flattened out near a group of trees, but side-slipped, hitting the trees. Witness jumped 20 feet to the ground just before the machine crashed. It caught fire and the bodies of Flying Officer Smith and Sergeant Lister were burned to ashes.

A verdict of death from misadventure was returned.—Reuter.

OBITAUARY

Mr. Toyoji Wada

Tokio, Mar. 5.

Mr. Toyoji Wada, Managing Director of the Fuji Spinning Company, who is a well-known businessman in both Japan and China, died to-day as a result of an operation for cancer of the stomach. He recently refused the Presidency of the South Manchuria Railway.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THREE MILE LIMIT

And Liquor Treaty: Principle Still Recognized by Britain and America

London, Mar. 3

A White paper, containing the text of the Anglo-American Liquor Traffic Treaty, shows that the first Article lays down that the Parties shall firmly uphold the principle that territorial waters extend to three miles, although it is subsequently declared that the right of search for liquor is extended to one hour's steaming from United States territory.—Reuter.

and the confiscation of all palaces. The deportees would be allowed one year in which to liquidate their private property through their representatives.

It is expected that the party will accept the Bill, which will be rushed through the Assembly this afternoon.

Later.

The People's Party, by an overwhelming majority, accepted the Bill deposing the Caliph and abolishing the Caliphate.—Reuter.

Constantinople, Mar. 3.

It is reported from Angora that the National Assembly has voted for the deposition of the Caliph and the abolition of the Caliphate.

The Vali of Constantinople has been commissioned to execute the measures within 10 days.

Religion to be Purged from Political Influences

Constantinople, March 4.

On the occasion of the fateful debate crowds of people surrounded the Assembly, building, which was packed. A speech by Mustapha Kemal Pasha dwelling on the necessity of purging religion from political influences, unifying the system of education and purifying the judiciary was received with acclamation, except by the clerical and Conservative minority, who raised slight opposition and suggested that the Caliphate should be vested in the President or in the Assembly, but the proposal was rejected. Then the Assembly approved without discussion the bills suppressing the Commissariats of Pious Foundations and Religious Affairs and the Chief of the General Staff, after which the bill abolishing the Caliphate was voted integrally after a lively debate, in which Mustapha Kemal Pasha's proposal to exempt the ladies of the Caliphal family from expulsion was rejected.

It is reported that the Caliph intends to proceed to Egypt.

The ladies of the harem are greatly perturbed. The principal wife is prostrated with grief. The chief eunuch has refused food for three days.

The Deposition Ceremony.

Later.

At two o'clock this morning the Vali of Constantinople and the Director-General of Public Security, accompanied by the Police, proceeded to the Dolma Baghche Palace where they ordered the Caliph to seat himself upon the Throne. The decree ordering his deposition was then read, after which the Caliph was ordered to descend from the throne and to make arrangements for an immediate departure. An hour later, accompanied by two wives and his son, he was motored to Chatalja on the frontier, where a special train awaited his departure.

Later.

The Caliph has gone to Switzerland.—Reuter.

Delhi, March 4.

The news of the developments at Angora came as a bombshell to a representative gathering of Moslems here, who were entertaining a Turkish Red Crescent delegation.

Advices from other Moslem centres in India indicate the disturbed state of Moslem feeling at the abolition of the Caliphate.—Reuter.

A Disaster to Islam.

London, Mar. 5.

The Rt. Hon. Syed Ameer-Ali, interviewed in London, expressed the opinion that the abolition of the Caliphate would prove a disaster to Islam and civilization and would especially create revolution and disorder in the ranks of the unadvanced Moslem communities on account the universal belief that through the Caliph they were in spiritual touch with their Prophet.—Reuter.

Saigon, Feb. 29—The British steamer Gorjistan, from Rangoon to China, put in at Saigon today with a valve burst. Repairs will probably occupy a fortnight. —Reuter.

LUDENDORFF AND NATIONALISM

Fiery Declamation at Bavarian Sedition Trial: An Appeal to the Chauvinists

Munich, Feb. 29.

The evidence of General von Ludendorff, in the form of a three-hour political propagandist speech, was read this afternoon before a crowded court. The witness was wearing horn-rimmed spectacles. He occasionally almost shouted his declarations. He dealt with his ambitions to separate Bavaria from the Reich and described his share in the November revolt. He declared that he was an old man, but his heart was young and beat with longing for the freedom of the people and with love of the people.

General Ludendorff denounced Marxism and Communism. He declared that he was against Jews, who should not be allowed to obtain authoritative influence in Germany any more than the English or French. He admitted that he was a monarchist, but he considered that the monarchical question could not be solved at present.

The speaker bitterly accused the ex-Dictator of Bavaria, Dr. von Kahr, and General von Lossow of acting dishonourably and of having "lied with their handshake." He declared with raised fist that the action of the police and troops in firing on the Nationalist bands with himself at the head was murder and disgraceful.

Nationalism Saved.

He concluded almost lyrically: "In spite of treachery, murder and broken promises, the Nationalist movement has been saved. We do not want a Rhine Confederation by the grace of France: we do not want a State under the influence of Marxist, Jewish or ultramontane figures, but a Germany which only belongs to Germans. The destruction of the Nationalist movement was the price paid for the reconciliation of General von Lossow and General von Seeckt, between Berlin and Munich. The hopes of the enemies of Bismarckian Germany are dashed to the ground. The Nationalist movement stands erect. May it, through the blood of the martyrs of November 9, become so strong that it firmly welds the German people and so that the Reich arises, freed from the fetters of Federalism or Separatism, a Reich strong and free." General von Ludendorff sat down amid a suppressed hum of applause.

The proceedings terminated with compliments from the Public Prosecutor, who said that the prosecution had never had the idea of calling into question the General's personal courage.

Asked by the Chief Justice how he thought things would have gone if Dr. von Kahr and General von Lossow had carried out their original intentions, General Ludendorff replied: "The movement, supported by the Nationalist organizations of the North, would have become such a mighty demonstration in the Reich that the affair would have been carried out without any act of violence."—Reuter.

Bavaria's Separate Path.

Berlin, Feb. 29.

President Ebert's decree raising the military state of emergency will not be fully applied in Bavaria, which will retain its special decrees against forcible alteration of the Constitution.—Reuter.

Gen. von Ludendorff's Counsel Demands Arrest of other Generals

Munich, Mar. 3.

At the trial of Gen. von Ludendorff, the request of counsel for the defence for the arrest of Dr. von Kahr, Gen. von Lossow and Gen. von Seisser, as being responsible for the November bloodshed, was refused.

A lieutenent of the Infantry School testified that the school supplied guns to participants in the November rising. The public was excluded by request of the Prosecutor when the lieutenant made this statement.—Reuter.

Paris, Mar. 3.

The German Cabinet has freed Dr. von Kahr from his bond of professional secrecy in order to permit him to reply to Gen. von Ludendorff's attacks. Catholic circles are excited by General Lundendorff's attacks on the Vatican. He attributes to Benedict XV phrases which tend to prove he was hostile to the Central States. In Vatican circles it is affirmed that the Holy See will make *démarches* to the German Government if the latter does not express rgret—French Wireless through Reuter.

Witnesses Said to Have Been Influenced by Circulation of Pamphlets

Munich, March 4.

On the resumption of the trial of Gen. von Ludendorff and Herr Hitler, counsel for the defence asserted that the witnesses and even the Public Prosecutor had been influenced by Gen. von Lossow and Gen. von Seisser circulating pamphlets stating their own case. He also declared that Dr. von Kahr and Generals von Lossow and von Seisser had made a joint statement to the examining judge after reading the statements of other witnesses, and that Gen. von Lossow's statement had been distributed to all the military witnesses.

The Court then decided to exclude the public, including the representatives of the Reichswehr Ministry, during the examination of officers of the Infantry School, in view of the fact that many questions with regard to concealed arms would be asked.—Reuter.

AMERICAN OIL LEASES INVESTIGATION

Income Tax Returns of Men Implicated Scrutinized

Washington, Feb. 29.

The Senate to-day adopted a resolution for an investigation of the income-tax returns of ex-Secretary Fall, Mr. Doheny, Mr. Sinclair and the others concerned in the oil leases inquiry. The Senate then considered a resolution for an examination of Mr. Daugherty's administration as Attorney-General.

It is understood that President Coolidge will shortly appoint a special committee to enquire into the validity of the title-deed held by the Standard Oil Company of California to sections of the naval oil reserves in California.

Mar. 1.

The Senate has passed a resolution authorizing an investigation into Mr. Daugherty's administration of the Department of Justice.

The resolution was carried by 66 votes to 1, the only negative vote being that of Senator Elkins, who recently announced that he had purchased oil stocks and was willing to disclose all about it. The insurgent Republican, Senator Brooker, will preside over the investigation committee.—Reuter's American Service.

Telegrams to Palm Beach in Government Code

Washington, Mar. 3.

The inquiry of the Senate oil committee has disclosed a new trail.

It is declared that some telegrams from Washington to Palm Beach were in the old code of the Department of Justice written by Mrs. Mary Duchstein, a former secretary, to Mr. Burns, the Chief of the Investigation Bureau of the Department of Justice, to her husband, an employee of Mr. McLean, the publisher of the "Washington Post."

In the Senate to-day, where the resolution was discussed, demanding an investigation into Mr. Daugherty's administration of the Department of Justice, the Democrat, Senator Caraway, declared that he held the Attorney-General responsible for the use of the Department code in the messages to Palm Beach.

He added that he would like to ask the President himself whether he had been communicating with Florida.—Reuter's American Service.

Mr. Heflin's Definition of the "Principal"

Washington, Mar. 5.

The Democratic Senator, J. T. Heflin, caused a sensation in the Senate to-day when in the course of a debate he referred to the telegram sent to Mr. McLean, the publisher of the "Washington Post," at Palm Beach by Mr. Bennett, editorial writer of the same newspaper, informing him that he had seen the "principal," who assured him that there would be "no rocking of the boat and no resignations."

Senator Heflin expressed the opinion that the "principal" was no less a person than President Coolidge. He stated that the telegram was sent when the Senate was discussing the necessity for the resignation of Secretary of the Navy Denby and suggestions were made that Attorney-General Daugherty should resign. He asked that the Oil Committee should call Mr. Bennett to question him as to what he meant when he telegraphed that he had seen the principal who "expected a reaction from the unwarranted political attacks."—Reuter's American Service.

Coded Telegrams to Palm Beach Explained by Mrs. Duckstein

Washington, Mar. 4.

Mr. Burns, the Chief of the Investigation Bureau of the Department of Justice, and Mrs. Mary Duckstein gave evidence to-day before the Senate Oil Committee with regard to the telegrams to Mrs. Duckstein's husband at Palm Beach, which were alleged to be in the old Department of Justice code.

Mrs. Duckstein said that they were garbled in transmission. Mr. Burns said that they were merely intended to suggest that Mr. McLean should resign his position as special agent of the Department of Justice at $1 a year, because continuance might embarrass Mr. Daugherty. — Reuter's American Service.

AN ANGLO-ITALIAN CONTROVERSY

Jubaland Claimed by Italy as Promised Under War Agreement

[The following message gives the Italian official view. We have not yet heard the British side of the question.]

Italian Wireless Service.

Rome, Feb. 26.

Premier Mussolini has addressed a forceful Note to the British Foreign Office giving Italy's point of view on the question of the cession to Italy of British Jubaland. It is understood that this Note has taken the place of another far more sharply worded one, which had been prepared after the statement of Mr. Ponsonby, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the House of Commons on February 20, when he declared that no settlement of the Jubaland question was possible until the question with which it was linked, the return by Italy of the Dodecanese Islands to Greece, had been solved. Later on, however, the British Foreign Office made a communication to Italy to the effect that Mr. Ponsonby's statement was to be considered as expressing the point to which the negotiations had been brought by Lord Curzon when he retired from the Foreign Office, and that the new Government, not having had time to go into the matter thoroughly, had not definitely settled its policy on the question. In view of this explanation, Signor Mussolini in his Note has not protested against Mr. Ponsonby's statement but has limited himself to a review of the Jubaland question in all its phases.

The London Pact.

Jubaland is first mentioned in the London Pact, which contains the conditions under which Italy consented to join the side of the Allies. It is stated in this treaty that, if the Allies won the war and annexed German colonies, the British would cede Jubaland to Italy. In this same treaty Italy's sovereignty over the Dodecanese Islands is fully recognized. According to the Treaty of London, therefore, Italy has just claims to both Jubaland and the Dodecanese Islands.

The question first became complicated at the time of the enactment of the Treaty of Sèvres and of the Bonin-Venizelos Agreement. M. Venizelos refused to sign this agreement until the British Foreign Office undertook to use its influence on Italy to obtain the return of the Dodecanese Islands to Greece. Italy at the same time was granted an extensive zone of influence in Asia Minor.

Since then Britain had made the cession of Jubaland to Italy conditional upon the return of the Dodecanese Islands to Greece. Italy, however, contends that the above mentioned treaty and agreement have been repudiated by subsequent international agreements, which have deprived her of the zone of influence, and that these questions have reverted to the original terms of the London Pact, the only treaty dealing with the matter which now has any value.

Alleged Compromise Suggested.

In previous negotiations an attempt was made to induce Italy to accept rectification of the frontier of her Tripoli colony with Egypt instead of with Jubaland, but, since the latter country secured its independence, this attempt utterly failed. Britain then offered to cede Italy Jubaland but keep the wells for herself. Italy refused this offer, on the ground that the territory would be of no value without the wells. Subsequently Britain offered to waive the question of the Dodecanese Islands if Italy would accept a compromise regarding Jubaland, but this was refused because Italy mainatined that the Dodecanese Islands had nothing whatever to do with Jubaland.

Premier Mussolini's Note ends by exhorting the British Government not to embitter Italian public opinion by refusing to cede a piece of territory which she can very well do without and which is of very limited use to Briatin. He again expresses the opinion that the cession of Jubaland is a debt of honour, which Britain cannot repudiate without breaking her word, and energetically reaffirms that he will not consent to the question of the Dodecanese Islands being used as a weapon against him to arrest the concession of Jubaland. Whether or not the Dodecanese Islands shall be returned to Greece is a matter which must be setted by direct negotiation between Italy and Greece, adds Premier Mussolini.

***Jubaland is a long narrow strip dividing Kenya Colony in East Africa from Italian Somaliland and running back to Abyssinia.

MORE VOTING POWER FOR WOMEN

Bill to Enfranchise All from 21 Years Up and Widen Residential Conditions

London, Feb. 29.

The House of Commons to-day passed the second reading of a bill moved by Mr. W. M. Adamson, Labour Member for Cannock, Staffordshire, to amend the Representation of the People Act of 1918 with the object of enfranchising women of 21 years of age and upwards both in local government and in Parliamentary elections and placing the whole franchise for both sexes, other than University electors, on a similar basis of residence.

Miss Jewson, Labour Member for Norwich, in her maiden speech seconding the bill, spoke confidently and made her points clearly and was frequently cheered. She claimed that the experiment in the enfranchisement of women in 1918 had been amply justified. Women voted wisely and well. She ridiculed the fears of "petticoat government" by women combining to outvote the men.

The Duchess of Atholl, Conservative Member for Perth and Kinross, moved an amendment in favour of a conference of all parties to decide what further alteration in franchise was desirable. She expressed the opinion that prior to a great extension of the franchise they ought to wait until women had gained ex-

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

OUR PARIS LETTER

France on the Brink of Financial Ruin: Panic Measures to Cope with Situation

From Our Own Correspondent.

Paris, Jan. 18.

The Government has become thoroughly alive to the danger of the financial situation. It is asking Parliament to vote a series of measures of an emergency character. They include an automatic increase of 20 per cent. in all direct taxes, reductions in public expenditure to the amount of Frs. 1,000,000,000, and several minor measures, the details of which are not yet announced, tending to restrict speculation in currencies and prevent fiscal frauds—a delightfully vague expression which can cover anything from searching passengers' baggage at the Customs stations to unearthing the unpatriotic citizens who conceal the full amount of their incomes.

The Government also asks to be given power to stop imports of any goods which it does not consider necessary. This last proposal, which involves arbitrary interference with the ordinary flow of trade and will have consequences such as no one can foresee, is in itself sufficient to show how alarmed are the men in authority, and how suddenly they have fallen from official optimism to something like pessimism.

This abruptness is just what the country may fail to understand. "On Tuesday January 5," writes M. Pierre Bertrand, editor of the "*Quotidien*," "the Government suddenly became enlightened because the franc had dropped sharply the day before and discovered that the country is in a serious position and that heroic remedies are indispensable. Up to this memorable date everything, we were told, was going on nicely. Not only was the Budget balanced, but there was a surplus. The Treasury was so well off that we were able to lend hundreds of millions of francs to the Poles, Serbians and Rumanians. In short, the consequences of the Ruhr victory were developing, and, by merely waiting quietly, we should be able to reap the fruits.

20 P.C. INCREASED TAXATION.

"A single day sufficed to change everything. As the result of an unusually sharp attack on our currency, the Government discovered all at once that the position of our finances is lamentable, that existing taxes must be increased, that there is a deficit of at least Frs. 8,000,000,000 and that this hole must be filled up even if a lot of poor people have to go hungry. The Budget, of course, was balanced, but that was simply the ordinary Budget, and there was the other one to think about—the Budget of Recoverable Expenditure, which is all outlay and no revenue. This would have to be tacked on to the ordinary Budget and paid for by the 20 per cent. increase in taxes. Very good. Let us, for the sake of argument, admit that these proposals are meant seriously. What is incomprehensible to the taxpayer is why the same men who were telling us yesterday that all was well are alarming us to-day, and why we have all at once ceased to be prosperous and find ourselves on the brink of a precipice. How will the taxpayer take it?" That, indeed, is the question. In the preliminary debate which took place yesterday in the Chamber, M. Poincaré's supporters remained faithful to him even when he said that the Government would oppose any legislation involving fresh expenditure, but his majority was distinctly less than he has had on questions of foreign policy, and, for the first time, some of the "old Parliamentary hands" are beginning to doubt whether he will be in power when the general election takes place.

WHERE ARE THE PATRIOTS?

To ask deputies, three months before they come before their constituents for re-election, to vote a large increase in taxation and reject the pensions and insurance schemes which would have given the deputies who voted them a distinct claim on the gratitude of a great many electors, is to expect something like political heroism. One may be excused for doubting whether the Government's proposals will be adopted in their entirety. They will make living dearer than ever, and this will be quite enough to rouse great opposition, especially in view of the general tendency in France to make the Government responsible for everything.

As an instance I may quote some remarks by M. André Billy, the writer of a short daily article in the "*Petit Journal.*" He says: "Because I advised those who complained of the dearness of living not to expect relief from the Government but to go through their expenses with a small toothcomb so as to make both ends meet, I have received quite a number of letters containing nasty remarks addressed to myself. I recommended housewives to eat ordinary instead of fancy bread and to buy chilled instead of fresh meat. The general effect of these letters is: 'And so you expect us to give up fresh meat and light bread because the Government cannot do its duty and make living cheaper? You must be a nice sort of fellow!' I don't know whether the Government has or has not done its duty towards the cost of living, but I have a very strong impression that the Government cannot do much in a country where no one will sacrifice any interest, where no check is placed on egotism, and where no housewife will give up fancy bread, the pretext being that it is the Government's fault if fancy bread is dear."

BUSINESS NOT COUNTRY FIRST.

The whole question of saving French currency from a severe fall is one of self-interest. It is useless to urge the public not to buy foreign goods when everybody knows that French speculators are as ready as any others to sell francs if they see a chance of profits, and when French exporters are keeping part of their money abroad instead of bringing it home. The latest instance of the "business first" principle is supplied by a statement made at the offices of the Under-Secretary for Mercantile Marine, to the effect that representations have been made to the Shipowners' Committee concerning the action of certain French shipping companies in requiring their customers to pay freights in dollars. The reply was that most of the French shipping companies have to pay pounds or dollars for their coal and oil, and they have considered this to be a sufficient reason for requesting freight payments to be made in those currencies. The department has no power to stop the practice.

CHICKEN OR BILLIARDS.

An Englishwoman who knows her Paris and has penetrated the great secret that one can generally find excellent food at the small restaurants frequented by cabdrivers and other toilers, was about to lunch with a woman friend at one of these democratic establishments the other day when she saw a notice announcing a "*poule au gibier.*" Believing that she had discovered a characteristically French dish previously unknown to her, she summoned the proprietor and ordered two "*poules au gibier.*" The worthy man was somewhat taken aback, and, having made sure that his ears did not deceive him, he said: "I am afraid, madame, you will have to come this evening, as that is when the '*poule au gibier*' is played." "I don't want to play anything" was the retort; "I want two portions of your '*poule au gibier*' which I take to be a fowl dished up with one of your wonderful French sauces that will make it taste like game." Light then dawned upon the proprietor, and he explained that a "*poule au gibier*" is a billiard sweepstakes for which the prize is a pheasant or a hare or some other head of game purchased out of the entrance fees and carried off by the winner. Having thus enriched their knowledge of the French language, the two ladies lunched off beefsteaks. One wonders if they are acquainted with yet another meaning of the word "*poule.*"

ENGLISH AS SHE IS WROTE

By a London University Professor.

My official capacity brings me at this time of the year frequently into inquisitorial contact with the aspiring young. They may be seeking scholarships, or to pass a university qualifying examination, or, more dully, to satisfy me with their progress during the past term. Here is one of their offerings. I copy it in its perfection, adding not one comma, not one iota:

> To have a good diet one should have vitimin a, which consists of green vegetables and fruit especially uncooked cabage and in oranges and lemons, it is at unknown substance which is found in these and in any vegetable that is not cooked very well, if they are cooked a great deal it kills this germ and all the good in it is lost, the lack of this causes scurvy, and a lack of vitiminis altogether causes rickets, constipation, you get full of spots, and a very bad colour.

Really to enjoy the lustre of this gem take a deep breath and then say it as fast as you can. Better, perhaps, intone it. You will know that you are in the presence of a masterpiece.

But what, I ask, am I, a man with some shreds of conscience left, even after 20 years of marking examination papers, to do about a candidate who writes thus? I can say to myself: "A bare moiety of the facts are there. Who am I to censor the King's English? I am an examiner in science, not in the writing of English." On the other hand, the remnants of my conscience say: A candidate who is guilty of the muddled thinking which such rottenness of expression betokens should not be let loose on the cure of souls or of bodies." It is a case between my kindness of heart and my conscience.

If my candidates were elementary school children, coming from poor class homes, and thrust on the world at the age of fourteen, I could understand it. My candidates are not even children of the New Rich. They have a fine, crusted flavour of aristocracy about them. They are over nineteen years of age, and have been expensively brought up. The names of their schools will make my son green with envy. The result of all the care and money spent on their education is. . . . that they cannot even write their own language! So I explode, thus:

> These are the people who are to fill Government offices—who, by the weight of the family influence, can impose themselves upon us as our rulers. No wonder that the Battle of Jutland, won on the water, was lost in a dispatch.

In my more Minor Prophet moments I cry down destruction upon them; but, after all, it is not entirely their fault. If the public schools tolerate such a thing, why should I punish their victims?

THE FLUCTUATING YEN

[*The rate of exchange for the yen is fluctuating heavily.*]

Dear Reader, I take up my pen
(As you'll notice I do now and then)
On behalf of those women and men
Who'll possibly never again
Get back to a stabilized "yen."
(A properly stabilized "yen.")
Who thinks of them? Not one in ten!
Could they tell you who work near Big Ben
What it means to a housekeeper when
She is buying the eggs of a hen
When there isn't a stabilized "yen"?
(A properly stabilized "yen.")
To the franc and the mark our attention is called, and our pound now and then
Goes wandering out of our ken,
But surely it's worse for the women and men
Who'll possibly never—no never—again
Get back to a stabilized "yen"!

—W. H. B.—in the "Morning Post."

DIPLOMACY IN ANCIENT GREECE

"Stupidity" and Strategy

In a paper on "Ancient Diplomacy," read to the Classical Association Mr. F. E. Adcock said the verdict of the ancient world was that when you wanted a diplomatist you employed a Greek. At Sparta diplomacy was a career. It was fashionable to call the Spartans stupid; the Greeks called them wily. They were, it seemed to him, persistently and intelligently dishonest, and this, of course, led to stupidity when they deceived themselves as well as others. In the war between Persia and Sparta at the beginning of the fourth century they used diplomacy as a part of strategy; and the Persians went one better at the same game. But when they had a clearly conceived policy they were able to pursue it with adroit persistence. And sometimes their diplomacy had a note of constructive cunning.

The Spartan diplomatists seemed like the successful Spanish Ambassadors of the 16th and 17th centuries, with their grave, discreet impressiveness, which masked a vast deal of finesse. Here, perhaps, they had the advantage over the Athenians, whose native eloquence and love of intellectual display made them bad listeners. He doubted if any amount of practice in *suppressio veri* could have made Demosthenes discreet.

What was perhaps more characteristic of Greek diplomacy was what he called a kind of logic. It was possible that had there been a little less logic at Athens Greece would have been spared the impoverishment of the Peloponesian War. The weak side of Greek diplomacy seemed to him to be its unwillingness to compromise.

Professor Postgate was elected President of the Association in succession to Lord Crewe.

INTERESTING CHINESE CULT

Lecture by Mrs. F. Ayscough

A paper entitled "The Cult of the Spiritual Magistrate of the City Walls and City Moats" was delivered by Mrs. Ayscough on January 15, before the Royal Asiatic Society, and was illustrated by a number of very fine lantern slides. Dr. W. Percival Yetts, who presided, said the lecturer needed no introduction. She had been described by Prof. Giles as "that *rara avis* in Sinology, a woman, Mrs. Florence Ayscough." She was the sole Western woman to reach eminence in Chinese studies.

Mrs. Ayscough said this cult was one of the most popular in China to-day. After death the spirit of some famous man was often appointed to the post, which varies in rank according to the size of the city. Thus the Magistrate of the Capital is a Royal Prince, that of the Provincial Capitals a Duke of the Prefectural Cities a Marquis, and of the District Cities an Earl. His special duty is to keep a record of men's actions in this world, so that he can make an accurate report to the Ruler of the World of Shades, who decides what rewards and what punishments shall be meted out to the spirits of the dead. A death is at once reported to the local tutelary deity, who is supposed in his turn to report it to the nearest Spiritual Magistrate, who then informs the Ruler of Hades that he may expect such and such a person to arrive in spirit form. Since the days of the highest antiquity the Chinese have been convinced that men's souls survive this life in some more tenuous form, and that their wants in the other world did not differ greatly from those they had felt here. This being so, they consider it perfectly reasonable to imagine a spiritual hierarchy corresponding with the hierarchy of this world. Republicanism did not seem as yet, to have invaded the Dark regions, as the Spiritual Magistrates when making their tours of inspection are still preceded by the scarlet beards of authority, which show that they have received an Imperial command to go forth and "examine clearly" the state of the city. These progresses, when the figure of the Magistrate is carried through the streets, take place three times in the year. The temples of the Magistrate are built on the exact model of an official residence. Highly educated Chinese naturally look upon the superstitious practices connected with the cult as being fit only for the ignorant, but belief in the survival of the soul is universal among them.

The origin of the cult was rooted in the highest antiquity, as it had sprung from a sacrifice instituted by King Yao about 2357 B.C. to the rivers and mud walls, and developed as an outcome of the belief in the yin and the yang. The lecturer then described particularly the temple of the Spiritual Magistrate in the District City of Shanghai, showing pictures of the figures representing the Magistrate and his household with its various accoutrements, and spoke of the rites connected with him. The temple was of the Ming period, and was erected on the site of an earlier temple to Ho Kuang, erected about A.D. 270.

Dr. Giles and Mr. Hopkins contributed to the discussion, and both expressed the opinion that it was very doubtful if the cult sprang from the very early sacrificial rites in China, as Mrs. Ayscough thought, and Dr. Giles said he thought the cult was essentially Buddhist in character. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the lecturer for her interesting paper.

BARONET AS SON OF ALLAH

Sir Archibald Hamilton Becomes a Moslem: Woking Ceremony

"It is perfectly true that I have embraced the faith of Islam, and that I made formal profession of my faith at the Mosque at Woking on December 20," said Sir Archibald Hamilton, Bart., of Selsey, Sussex, to the "Evening Standard."

"I consider that the faith of Islam is the only true religion, and that it is the religion of the future. It contains all that is best in other religions, and emphasies the duty of man to God and to his brother men.

"This decision was not arrived at without much thought and study; which study, I may say, was very excellently guided by Lord Headley, who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca—a pilgrimage which I hope to make some day. I do not know when, but it certainly will be some day not very far distant.

"Islam requires that its adherents should carry their religion about with them seven days of the week. One reason which made me turn to Islam was that I found that the average Christian, particularly of the Anglican sect, took his Christianity with him to church on Sunday, and then completely, and apparently willingly, forgot it during the remaining six days of the week.

ALL SONS OF ALLAH.

Christians generally are the most intolerant people in the world, whereas we believe that all teaching of a religious nature is divinely inspired.

"All men to us are brothers. They may be black, white, or yellow, but they are all sons of Allah the All Powerful.

"The faith of Islam is the only kind of Socialism which can be of any practical good. Under the ordinary workaday Socialism of the Labour Party the genius of the individual is stultified, but in Islam it is preserved.

"The ceremony at Woking was very simple. I simply made my declaration, and was admitted a member."

Sir Archibald Hamilton, who is 48, holds two baronetcies, one dating from 1776 and the other from 1819. He succeeded to both on the death of his father in 1915.

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WRONGFUL DETENTION ON PLEA OF LUNACY

Farmer Awarded £25,000 Against Two Doctors

London, Feb 29

A proposal will be made that the Government should appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the Lunacy Laws as a result of a lawsuit in which a farmer named Harnett has been awarded a total of £25,000 damages against two doctors, Dr. Bond, Commissioner in Lunacy, and Dr. Adam, who has a home for mental cases.

Mr. Harnett was detained at asylums for over eight years but escaped in 1921, when specialists certified him to be sane.

The jury found that Mr. Harnett was sane when he was detained in 1912 and that reasonable care had not been exercised.

A stay of execution was granted pending an appeal.—Reuter.

MISTAKES OF THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT

Mr. George All for Forbearance

London, Mar. 1.

Mr. Lloyd George, speaking at Hartlepool to-day, urged, in view of the serious situation at home and abroad, forbearance, toleration and sympathy for the Labour Government, whose mistakes hitherto, he said, had been largely mistakes of inexperience. "I am all for leaving them for some time between the handles of the plough," he declared. "They will soon have aching backs and weary hearts but very much wiser heads."

The former Premier expressed the opinion that a coalition was not now a practical alternative. It was more vital than ever to Britain's well-being that Liberal sentiment should be strengthened and mobilized to impress on the members of the Labour Party the folly of alienating Liberal support by adventures in socialism. — Reuter.

THE GERMAN ATTITUDE TO REPARATIONS

Distrust in French Press

Paris, Feb. 29.

Commenting on Dr. Stresemann's speech in the Reichstag yesterday, in which he declared that Germany was prepared to discuss the question of reparations and did not want to disturb the present negotiations of the Committee of Experts, but that it was the duty of the German Government to undertake anything designed to render an attempt at settlement successful, the *"Petit Parisien"* characterizes the speech as a perfidious and astute invitation to the Experts to espouse Germany's cause. If the speech is to be taken as a new orientation of German policy, the Reich must prove it by acts.

The *"Echo de Paris"* disclaims Dr. Stresemann's interpretation of France's waiting attitude. The journal says that France is ready to agree to big sacrifices for a general settlement, but she is in no way prepared to break the instrument she has armed herself with unless she is assured that there will not be any necessity to use it in future.—Reuter.

U. S. INCOME TAX

Lower Surtax and Reduction on Small Incomes

Washington, Feb. 28.

The House of Representatives, after rejecting by 261 votes to 153 the Republican proposal to restore the so-called Mellon Tax Bill instead of the Garner Democratic Tax Reduction Bill, adopted by 216 votes to 199 a compromise measure proposed by Mr. Nicholas Longworth, Republican (Ohio), making the maximum surtax 37½ per cent. (as compared with the Garner proposal of 44 per cent. and the Mellon proposal of 25).

The Longworth Bill will reduce the nominal tax on small incomes from 4 to 2 per cent.—Reuter's American Service.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

THE NAVAL BASE AT SINGAPORE

Government's Decision Not to Proceed with the Scheme for the Present: A Project Not Abandoned But Shelved: No Definite Decision

London, March 6.

The newspaper report that the Cabinet had decided not to proceed with the Singapore base has not been confirmed officially. The Cabinet Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. R. Clynes, considering the scheme, has not yet submitted a report.

An official, interviewed by Reuter's representative to-day, said that the question was so important that the decision would probably first be announced in Parliament. "The report may or may not be correct, but it is premature."

It is hoped that the Committee will report to the Cabinet next week.

Later.

The Press Association understands that the Government have decided not to proceed with the Singapore scheme. The decision has been communicated to the Dominions and the Government will await their replies before making an announcement in the House of Commons.

March 7.

The belief is now general that the Government will not proceed with the Singapore Naval base scheme though there is a tendency in some quarters to believe that the project is not so much abandoned as shelved.

The political correspondent of the "Daily Chronicle" says that the Cabinet's attitude is that no active support will be given to the scheme at present on the ground that decisive measures are not called for and that the position has resolved itself into a negative attitude of marking time.

In any case public announcement of the Cabinet's decision is expected early next week when exchanges of opinion with the Dominions will be concluded. Meanwhile the Liberal and Labour opponents of the scheme, who regard it as as good as dead, are expressing deep satisfaction. It is understood that Viscount Chelmsford favours the project and stipulated before going into the Cabinet that it should be thoroughly examined on its merits apart from Labour pledges against it.

Later.

In the House of Commons to-day, Major Sir Arthur Morrison-Bell, Unionist Member for Honiton, gave notice that he would ask the Prime Minister whether since the Government assumed office there had been any further exchange of views with the Dominions concerned with regard to the construction of the Singapore dock and whether he proposes to submit those communications to the House of Commons.—Reuter.

AMERICAN OIL LEASE INVESTIGATION

Allegations against High Officials: President's Telegram to Florida

New York, Mar. 6.

The question of the retirement of Attorney-General Daugherty is again being given serious attention. It is even stated that the White House is considering selection of a successor.

One of the reasons for the recrudescence of the demand for his resignation is the alleged disclosures resulting from a grand jury investigation of the Chicago Bureau, in which connexion the jury reported that Government funds had been used in speculation and that sums had been paid to two members of Congress. The disclosures are stated to relate to matters over which Mr. Daugherty had technical jurisdiction as head of the Department of Justice.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Mar. 6.

The following telegram from President Coolidge to Mr. McLean in Florida, dated January 12, was placed on record by the Oil Committee to-day: "Prescott is away. Advise Slemp with whom I shall confer." Mr. Slemp, the President's secretary, was then in Florida. Members of the Committee were unaware who Mr. Prescott was. The President telegraphed to Mr. McLean at Palm Beach on February 12, "Thank you for your message. You always have been very considerate. Mrs. Coolidge joins me in sending kindest regards to Mrs. McLean."

President Coolidge immediately issued a statement from the White House saying that the matters mentioned in his message related to questions of local government in the District of Columbia in which Washington is located. The President explained that he desired to confer with Mr. Prescott, who was Republican City Chairman, regarding District matters.

President Coolidge declared that the second telegram was a [illegible] telegram from Mr. McLean congratulating the President on his Lincoln's Day speech and amounted merely to an exchange of amenities.

Examination of Tax Returns.

[illegible] submit to the Oil Committee the tax returns of individuals or corporations prominently mentioned in the oil investigation, stating that the Acting Attorney-General advises that the President is without authority to comply with such a request. President Coolidge, however, offers to co-operate in the effort to secure an amendment to the regulations which would permit the Committee to inspect the returns.

The Cancellation of Leases.

It was announced to-day that the Government will begin next week a suit for the cancellation of the oil leases granted to the Doheny and Sinclair interests on the ground of "fraud illegality." An injunction has also been asked to restrain the lessees from making further drillings. The Court has been requested to appoint receivers to control the Government properties pending litigation.

A Heated Scene.

It was later announced that Mr. McLean's congratulations related to the President's reply to the Senate's demand for the resignation of Secretary of the Navy Denby.

Speaking in the Senate Senator Lodge warmly defended President Coolidge in connexion with the telegrams to the McLeans, declaring that they were perfectly trivial and easily explained and that there should be a rule to protect the President against such attacks on the part of Senators.

Replying to Senator Lodge, Senator Harrison denied that he had attacked President Coolidge. An altercation then ensued between them, terminating in Senator Harrison expressing hope that the President would make an explanation and that the country would accept Senator Lodge's statement.

At this stage Messrs. Heflin, Carraway and McKellar intervened, recalling that Senator Lodge had formerly been one of President Wilson's most bitter attackers. Mr. Walsh charged Mr. Lodge with trying to utilize the people's just respect and reverence for the President in order to "minimize the effects of the oil disclosure."

The debate gradually became more heated and Senator Carraway again bitterly assailed Senator Lodge, declaring: "Everybody knows that Wilson sleeps in his grave as a result of the abuse and unjustified attacks levelled against him when President."—Reuter's American Service.

ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS

British Ambassador's Conveyance of King's Message of Good Will

Washington, Mar. 6.

In an interview with President Coolidge, Sir Esme Howard, the new British Ambassador, expressed on behalf of the King and the Prime Minister cordial and sincere goodwill and friendship towards the United States. Sir Esme gave an assurance that he would always endeavour to maintain and promote in every way the cordial relations between Britain and the United States so much desired by every member of the British Empire.

President Coolidge cordially reciprocated the greetings and declared that happily no clouds shadowed the relations between the two countries. The President believed that the conscious identity of the general aims which the two nations were cherishing and similar ideals of disciplined liberty and truth and love of justice would be a mighty force in bringing the world to a just and lasting peace.—Reuter's American Service.

DIRECT ACTION AT SOUTHAMPTON

Shipbuilders Unconstitutional Strike During Wage Negotiations

London, Mar. 7.

A serious situation has developed in the shipbuilding industry arising from an unofficial strike at Southampton after negotiations had opened between the men's Federation and the employers for a rational increase of 10 shillings per week.

The Southampton men struck for an increase of 1s. 5d. per day. The masters declared that this was an unconstitutional action, declined to meet the Federation's executive and threatened a general lock-out.

The Federation yesterday was unsuccessful in an effort to induce the Southampton men to end the strike, whereupon the executives of the unions, after a protracted conference, appointed a deputation to proceed to Carlisle immediately with the object of persuading the masters to postpone the lockout.—Reuter.

THE BY-ELECTION AT WESTMINSTER

Mr. Churchill's Declaration of Policy: No Resentment Against Conservatives

London, Mar. 6.

Mr. Scott Duckers, the Liberal candidate for the Abbey division of Westminster, has written to Mr. Baldwin asking him to state whether he in any way supports Mr. Winston Churchill's candidature.

Mr. Churchill, interviewed to-day, emphasized that his political position was unchanged as compared with the last 20 years, when he always fought both Protection and Socialism. Even if the whole weight of the Conservative Party machine were opposed to him he would not feel resentment and would not return the attack, but would rejoice in the opportunity of co-operating with the Conservatives since they had returned to a progressive platform.

A 'Labour Candidate.

Mr. Fenner Brockway, the Secretary of the Labour Party, has been adopted as the Labour candidate for the Abbey division of Westminster. Mr. Havelock Wilson has abandoned his intention of standing as a Trade Unionist. —Reuter.

SPECULATION IN FRANCS

New York, Mar. 6.

An increase of nearly one billion francs in French note circulation to-day has brought a plunge of selling orders from foreign capitals, which precipitated the franc to 3.97 cents.—Reuter's American Service.

MINERS' DEMANDS

Wage Concession Offered by Coalowners for Increased Output

London, Mar. 7.

Delicate negotiations have opened between the miners' representatives and coalowners on the miners' notices to terminate the National Coal Agreement on April 17.

A meeting lasting three hours yesterday had no definite result, but the conference will be resumed to-day. The coalowners are offering concessions as regards minimum wages and alteration of the ratio of division of wages to profits, but the extent of that remains to be settled between the parties. It is understood that the employers require greater output by the men.—Reuter.

GERMANY AND ALLIES

The New Gold Notes: Rhineland as Buffer State: Disarming Under the Treaty

Berlin, Mar .6.

In the course of a speech in the Reichstag to-day Herr Stresemann, the Foreign Minister, announced that the bill for the establishment of a gold note bank would be submitted to the House.

He rejected the idea of neutralizing the Rhineland by making it a buffer State and did not believe that Mr. Ramsay MacDonald had made such a proposal.

He declared that the disarmament of Germany had been almost completed in the spring of 1922. Germany could not agree to the replacing of the Inter-Allied Military Control Commission by a Commission of Guarantees.—Reuter.

THE LUDENDORIF TRIAL

Munich, Mar. 6.

The treason trial was suddenly interrupted to-day, the chief Prosecutor refusing to continue owing to the humiliating attacks by counsel for the defence. The second prosecutor requested an adjournment while he consulted his superiors.

The action of the two prosecutors in indignantly leaving the Court followed a remark by one of defendants' counsel that a regular mania for arrests prevailed on the side of the Prosecution, but that they had not arrested those guilty of the blood-bath of November 9, meaning Dr. von Kahr, General von Lossow and General von Seisser.

The audience applauded, whereupon the Chief Prosecutor left, banging the door violently behind him. The Court later reassembled when the Counsel for the defendants apologized, but it is not yet certain whether the Prosecutor will return.—Reuter.

Trial Resumed.

Munich, Mar. 7.

When the Public Prosecutor reappeared in Court to-day, counsel for the defence apologized for his language yesterday. The apology was accepted and the trial resumed.—Reuter.

SEVERE EARTHQUAKE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, Mar. 4.

Three earthquake shocks occurred here this morning. A telegram from San José, Costa Rica, states that an earthquake occurred there which destroyed many buildings and resulted in a number of casualties. Part of the American Legation was destroyed, but the Minister and his family escaped uninjured. — Reuter's American Service.

Mar. 6.

Damage to Government buildings and churches by earthquakes in the past 10 days is estimated at $15,000,000. Private losses are heavy, but the total has not yet been assessed.

Four hundred and eleven shocks occurred within 12 hours, but few warning shock gave the people time to reach safety.—Reuter's American Service.

THE NEW RUSSIAN POLICY IN CHINA

Imperialist as Ever Was the Tsar's Regime: Combined Bullying and Cajolery: Playing Off China Against Japan

By Rodney Gilbert

Peking, Feb. 24

Since it first became clearly apparent that the Labour Government in Great Britain would recognize Soviet Russia there has naturally been endless speculation here upon the effect which such recognition would have upon diplomatic affairs in the Far East. Guessing has been very cautious from the outset and no one is yet prepared to predict what the ultimate result of recognition by Great Britain and Italy will be. In Club circles there is much more interest expressed in the possible position which the Russian envoy will take in the Legation Quarter than in any other phase of the question. If China falls in line with Great Britain and Italy and recognizes the Soviet Government, and if Russia gives her envoy the rank of Ambassador, will he not be Doyen of the Corps in the sight of China and two European powers? And if so what will be his position relative to the other Ministers and so forth? The position of the local Russians, the tenancy of the Russian Legation and similar questions of course, interest a host of persons. The French, the Chinese and the "white" Russians think largely of the Chinese Eastern Railway. The Japanese are concerned about their fisheries off the Siberian coast. There are a hundred problems to speculate upon to which there is no clear solution, but in a larger way the majority of people, both foreign and Chinese, who have no personal interest at stake are watching for Russian, Chinese and Japanese changes of policy as a result of Great Britain's recognition of the Soviet Union.

At the moment, the Chinese and Japanese are most concerned with demonstrating to othe world that they take an independent stand and that their attitude towards the Russian Government is in no wise altered by Russia's improved position in Europe. Mr. Karakhan, on the other hand, is trying to make it clear through both official correspondence and press interviews that Russia's position in the East has been made materially stronger through the change in her status in the West and that the Oriental nations with whom she has been trying to negotiate will now delay meeting her terms at their own cost and not at Russia's cost.

CHINESE WATCHING THE WEST.

Under the surface, the Chinese diplomats are of course watching developments in the West with considerable solicitude. They are naturally watching conditions in Russia. Many persons supposed that Trotsky's removal from control of the Red Army, followed by Lenin's death, would lead to fresh domestic convulsions in Russia and would greatly weaken Russia's diplomatic position. The world at large thought such developments possible and has not given up looking for them; so China naturally is still watching the political arena in Moscow. Like many foreigners here who are watching the situation from afar, the Chinese are also persuaded that Great Britain's recognition of Russia is so conditional that it scarcely amounts to recognition at all. They believe that genuine recognition is conditional not only upon Russia's re-assumption of many repudiated obligations and upon a display of good faith in their discharge, but also upon the life and success of the Labour Government in Great Britain. They feel that if the Labour Government were to fail and collapse before Russia had signed pledges which met the approval of the British people at large, the conditional recognition extended by the Labour Government would be repudiated by their successors as a domestic political gesture if for no other purpose. The Chinese are also watching to see what effect Great Britain's recognition of the Soviet Republic has upon Japanese and American policy. They naturally do not want to be left to the last and put themselves in a position where Russia can impose her terms, with or without diplomatic relations, but they are determined not to be "bluffed" into full and unconditional recognition of Russia, with none of the many disputes settled, while there is time and opportunity to bargain. They believe that there are still possibilities of Russia suffering severe diplomatic reverses in the Occident and that if these come, Mr. Karakhan will hastily descend from his high horse and condescend to talk business. This, after all, is sane and shrewd diplomacy.

BRITAIN'S CONDITIONAL RECOGNITION.

Concerning Great Britain's "conditional" recognition of Russia, a well informed Chinese recently said to the writer: "It amounts to no more than China would be willing to extend tomorrow as a basis for negotiations. We are willing to admit that there is at this moment an administration in Moscow which rules all of Russia and can exact obedience from the Russian officials and people in the greater part of what we used to recognize as the Russian Empire. We are willing to admit that Mr. Karakhan is a representative of that central administration with full powers to negotiate with us and to believe that he has documents which prove it. Great Britain's recognition amounts to no more than such an admission. It is simply an essential preliminary to negotiations which will eventually determine whether Russia is to be fully recognized as a power capable and willing in the discharge of conventional international relations or not, whether she is to be admitted to the society of nations as a member who will, in good faih, abide by the rules which govern this society or not. We cannot have any assurance of these things until we have closed certain essential preliminary negotiations with Russia's envoy any more than Great Britain can. When we have entered upon these negotiations we shall have extended recognition in precisely the same degree that Great Britain has and Russia has agreed to go through with these negotiations with Great Britain, thus accepting what you might call limited recognition, but Mr. Karakhan will enter into no such arrangement with us. He wants full and unconditional recognition, only pledging himself to settle our dispute later. He has broken earlier pledges and repudiated old promises; so why not this one?"

LABOUR'S CHANCES.

The question of the life of the Labour Government in England and the survival of its policies is certainly one which no one in the Orient is fully capable of discussing. Yet under present conditions the Chinese and many others who view Russia's attitude with concern, are forced to discuss these matters whether out of blank ignorance, or out of piece-meal information, or on the basis of what might be called political intuition, with which some Chinese seem to be particularly well endowed. At all events the Chinese seem to feel that the Labour Government in England will be short-lived and that Russia's status will fall with it. Peking seems to feel that the wiser the policy of the present administration in England the more certain its down fall. The more sanely it administers imperial affairs, the more surely will organized labour in Great Britain disown it. The deeper Labour representatives go into the business of government the more pledges to labour will they repudiate and the less sympathy will there be between the nominal representative and the alleged constituency, until a frank rejection of responsibility on both sides brings a new election and many new policies. The Chinese believe that these developments may come in Britain before any complete Anglo-Russian understanding has been reached and that it therefore behooves China to wait and watch as several deeply concerned major Powers are waiting and watching.

America's attitude towards Soviet Russia, once very sympathetic with the revolution, is profoundly suspicious because the Russian Red Communism of late memory threatened for a time to backfire in America. The big financial interests are not yet ready to believe that Russia will resume her obligations and big employers of labour still fear communist propaganda, so they unite to support the American Government in its contention that Russia has not yet evolved a Government with which the United States can enter upon relations of mutual trust and respect. There can be no doubt, however, that if Russia deals fairly with Great Britain and if full recognition brings England material commercial benefits, these same big financial and industrial folk in America will change their position over night and will be the very first to urge their Government to enter into some bargain with Moscow which will make trade relations possible. America cannot possibly stand aloof if Great Britain profits from her coming negotiations with Russia, and America will probably know better how things are going than China; so the Chinese diplomatists will naturally watch America's movements with the most intense interest.

RUSSIA EVOLVING.

So far as Russia's domestic affairs bear upon China's position they do not, at the moment, promise to bring much relief from diplomatic pressure from the North. Stories of feuds within the Red inner circle and accounts of big reactionary movements in the army are not substantiated and are not likely to be. A few years ago when Russia was really dominated by a small clique of ardent communists who were bent upon applying their unworkable theories at all costs and were riding their country to abject ruin, the elimination of both Trotsky and Lenin would certainly have thrown Russia into unspeakable confusion. The old Red theories are now dead, however, and their ghosts are only made to walk from time to time to soothe the unconverted Bolsheviks who still wield some influence in the new state. These persons will be slowly but inevitably eliminated, and just as surely will a spirit of intense nationalism take the place of communistic internationalism. One by one every policy of the old Imperial regime is being taken up by the present Government both in Europe and the East. Whatever the communists, in a burst of liberality, gave up while communism still governed policy in Russia, the new state is struggling to recover and whatever Russia of 1920 promised to give up, the new Russia is determined to hold.

The Chinese realize that they are again face to face with Russian imperialism under a new guise. They understand that if they recognize the new Russia unconditionally they will be recognizing her as the heir to old Imperial Russia and will be recognizing her legal claim to all the properties and rights which Imperial Russia enjoyed within the Chinese Republic. Once this is done the Chinese have nothing to bargain with. China will no longer be a negotiator but a petitioner. She can only beg Mr. Karakham to abide by the pledges which he and his predecessor have made from time to time and if his Government cares to repudiate every last one of these pledges China has no redress because the new Government's position as the fully recognized heir of the old would be perfectly legal. The Boxer Indemnity would still be a binding obligation and would be at Russia's disposition. Mongolia would be an autonomous state under the terms of the Kiakhta agreement. The Chinese Eastern Railway would revert to its old status and the zone would be a political base on Chinese territory governed by a Soviet viceroy. Russia could reassert her authority in her concessions and reimpose extraterritorial jurisdiction upon all Russians in China. The only possible way in which China can be sure that Russia will lay claim to any or all of these properties and rights is to pin Mr. Karakhan down to sealed contracts before his Government is fully recognized as the heir to the realm of the Czars.

NEW RUSSIA STILL IMPERIALIST.

The fact that Mr. Karakhan is unwilling to enter upon any sort of settlement of questions of Russia's rights in China until his Government is fully recognized, is evidence enough in itself that the new Russia's imperial policy is fairly well developed and that he intends to retain for Russia a much larger share of old Russia's rights than were claimed for the Soviet by its spokesman a few years ago. It is naturally his policy now to hurry China into full recognition before the imperialistic tendency of the new Russia becomes too obvious to the Chinese diplomats and to the masses of intelligent Chinese whose opinion might influence diplomacy. It does not suit his purpose to have China watchful of England, Japan and America. He does not want a cool and observant China but a panicky China, so fearful of being left out in the cold that she will sign any bargain just to fall in line with Great Britain. To this end he and all other Soviet agents are trying to prove that they do not care whether or not they ever enter into any sort of relations with Japan.

They are taking the initiative in breaking off such relations as have hitherto existed. The offer to help in relief work in Japan is withdrawn. The Japanese consul in Vladivostok is handed his papers. Japanese journalists are threatened with a loss of their right to reside in Russia, and now even Japanese mails are refused. America is denounced as a capitalistic and imperialistic tyrant with control over Japan's policies through the money market, and Russia on her new high horse refuses to traffic with such sordid folk. If China will hurry up and come under Russia's wing, Russia will be her benevolent patron and will protect her against these hideous ogres of the Pacific. Karakhan is playing upon China's traditional hostility to Japan and, in associating America with Japan in his propaganda, he is trying to break down China's traditional feeling of friendship for the United States. These are all very thin and transparent devices but they may have the desired effect upon China. If the Soviet diplomats can persuade China that the new Russia will be her supporter against Japan and the Occident and will perhaps help her to repudiate some of her obligations they will probably get full recognition without preliminary bargaining.

PATIENCE LOSES NOTHING.

This is an extremely interesting game, but the foreign onlooker will find it difficult to be a very ardent partizan of either contestant. From the Chinese point of view, it would be folly to extend full recognition to a Russia which will make no preliminary pledges, until the outcome of Great Britain's negotiations with the Soviet is fairly clear and until America's position, contingent as it must be upon these negotiations, is known. China cannot lose anything by waiting. Russia wants as much now from China as she will want three or six months hence; and if her diplomatic position in Europe should happen to weaken she might be willing to compromise on her wants six months hence. If China were playing the game in her relations with all the rest of us, we should all share and support this point of view enthusiastically. Unfortunately, however, we know that the Chinese point of view is now an irrationally anti-foreign, nationalistic point of view. China wants through negotiation to bring Russia in China down to as low a level as possible before she is forced to recognize her as a full fledged nation. She wants to do this to establish a bottom level to which she hopes to reduce all the rest of us in due course and she wants Russia's help in this patriotic effort. Those of us who live in China are so used to working with and for China in her difficulties that it is hard in this case not to share her point of view fully. If China were playing the game with the rest of us it would be easier to cheer her on; but in advising China against Russia at this juncture we cannot help feeling that we may be teaching her how to dig pits in our own paths.

RUSSIA NOT YET RESPECTABLE.

It is no easier, on the other hand, to cheer for Mr. Karakhan and the Government behind him. It would undoubtedly be an excellent thing for all of us if a respectable Russian Government were to reassert Russia's ancient rights in China and pull Russian prestige out of the mire with a strong hand. A respectable Russia could do more than any other country to bring China to her senses and to instil a little discipline into Chinese officialdom. The hitch comes when we realize that Russia has still to prove her respectability. The British Labour Government would not have extended conditional recognition if Russia's good faith were beyond cavil. The American State Department, which is liberal to the point of sentimentality in extending "the glad hand," would not have taken such a decided stand against recognition if the new Russia's respectability were established. Mr. Karakhan would not have to buy publicity in the Far East for his job of reestablishing Russian prestige in China if in his efforts to establish himself here and to reestablish his country's standing it had not been his and his predecessors' consistent policy to curry favour by undermining the prestige of all the rest of us in China. Yet he and his predecessors have merely got vitriolic and have called us capitalists and imperialists when, in the past, we have called attention to these tactics.

There are very few foreigners in China who would not like to see a responsible Russian Government bring China to account in some way for the orgy of outrages which have been perpetrated against Russians in this country for several years past. We should all like to see a respectable Russia come back and spank an intolerably impertinent Chinese official caste but we cannot be expected to cheer a form of Russian diplomacy which depends for its progress upon the humiliation of all those from whom it elsewhere querulously demands sympathy and consideration. It is inevitable that foreign partisanship in the Sino-Russian struggle will be influenced in the future by China's good or bad behaviour and by Russia's good or bad behaviour. If China were to pull herself together and show some inclination towards evolving a real Government, foreign sympathy would undoubtedly be with China. If Russia shows a tendency in the East and West to play the game and China continues to follow a madder and madder course, China can only expect that international sympathy will be with Russia and that the more imperialistic the policy of the new Russia the louder will be the cheers.

POCKET WISDOM

(Author unknown. Date, 1557.)

Do all your deeds by good advice,
Cast in your mind always the end –
Wit bought is of too dear a price –
The tried, trust and take as friend;
For friends I find there be but two:
Of countenance, and of effect –
Of these sort first there are enow:
But few are of the other sect.
Beware also the venom sweet,
Of crafty words and flattery.
For to deceive they be most meet,
That best can play hypocrisy.
Let wisdom rule your deed and thought:
So shall your works be wisely wrought.

OUR Nanking correspondent writes on March 1:—Several prominent members of the community have recently left us. Mr. and Mrs. George Jack of the China Import and Export Lumber Company, who have gone to Wuhu, and Mr. and Mrs. Islay F. Drysdale of the Sun Life Assurance Company, who have gone to England on furlough, expecting to return to Nanking in September. In addition to these Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Osland-Hill of the C. P. O. are due to leave soon for Canton. Mr. Osland-Hill is to be relieved by Mr. H. S. Parnell of Foochow.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE HARDENING OF PHARAOH'S HEART

A Sermon Preached by the Rev. A. N. Rowland in Union Church, Shanghai on Feb. 24, 1924

"The Lord said unto Moses, When thou goest back into Egypt, see that thou do before Pharaoh [illegible] in thine hand: but I shall harden his heart and he will not let the people [illegible]."

The world has been interested during the last year in the embalming of a Pharaoh's body, but in every generation it has been interested in the hardening of another Pharaoh's heart. Although the subject is focussed in this old story of Egypt, it may be found more or less fully all over the Bible, and furnishes the key no doubt to the tragedies of King Saul and Judas Iscariot. The menace of such a process even to the people of God may be gauged from the prayer in Isaiah 63. 17, "O Lord why dost thou make us to err from thy ways and hardenest our heart from Thy fear?" And our Lord's reference to the principle in Matt. 13. 10 cannot be forgotten.

His mental process, however, is almost identified with the collapse of the proud Pharaoh in his collision with the will of the Almighty. God wanted an obscure people to enjoy their liberty and His service, but Pharaoh wanted to oppress and exploit them. God began the duel by appeal and summons enforced by judgment. Pharaoh answered with resistance, built himself into a fortress of fear and hate, greed and pride towards God's people. Then God himself took a hand in the stiffening process until the very gates of the fortress were sealed and its chance of rescue gone. We are not surprised that God conquered Pharaoh, but we are perplexed by the manner of the siege. Did the Almighty lure Pharaoh to his doom? Did He hasten his footsteps thither? Did He make it hard for him to find his way back. These are questions not to be answered off hand, but only in the remembrance that they concern a mystery where we can only see "in a riddle, darkly."

HARDENING ONE'S HEART.

(1) One or two considerations, however, may help to guide our judgment and first: *God only continued what Pharaoh began.* Ten trials of strength are recorded between the Almighty and the autocrat and in the first five of them the report is, not that God hardened himself. In the various motions of our mind and will it is difficult to say where God's spirit begins and the spirit of man ends, but this we know, that in evil God only ends what man has begun (James I: 13). You know what it is to harden the heart? Who can deny his personal responsibility? Truth comes along and asks for a decision, Justice appears with a claim for reparation. Right demands repentance, Duty calls for obedience, Need makes a plea for compassion. And by way of response you summon your reasons and marshal your excuses for not saying "Yes." You think you justify yourself thereby, but you are certainly hardening yourself. There is nothing else to do unless you yield.

See how it worked out in the case of King Saul. He was charged with the duty of obedience at a critical moment in the national fortunes. But with various excuses he justified his disobedience, and we are shown the consequence.

Before long he is insensible to the claims of the throne and finally he is incapable of intercourse with God (1 Sam 15. 22, 23).

The same process threatens every man. Here is one who, with his Bible or at Church, gets a premonition, a persuasion, to leave a certain habit, to take a certain path. But it will mean the loss of pleasant things, so he ignores the Bible and then goes on to question its authority or he neglects the Church and then goes on to criticize its members. Thus he proceeds to thicken the crust about his soul, and it becomes easy to repel the suggestions that were at first so searching and disturbing.

"GOSPEL HARDENED"

The invariableness of this situation is depicted by the poet of India, Rabindranath Tagore in these gloomy words:

I am ever building this wall all around;
And as this wall goes up into the sky day by day
I lose sight of my true being in its dark shadow.
I take pride in this great wall, and I plaster it
With dust and mud lest a least hole should be left
But for all the care I take I lose sight of my true being therein."

It is the confession of one who dulled his sensibilities and made his heart impervious. The phase of it that is to be feared above all is described as "gospel-hardened," which means protecting oneself with a profession of the gospel against its true meaning and its real claims.

We can watch the same process at work on the grand scale of politics as long ago in Egypt. There are Pharaohs running the world to-day, who will not "wait for God" or learn righteousness, although His judgments in the earth are evident. Protesting voices like those of Nitti and of Smuts echo the ancient pleas of Moses and of Aaron. We have had our plagues a tenfold visitation—war's burden, fever, waste, havoc, hatred, demoralization, teeth of the dragon and poison of hell. But more armies than ever are abroad as the sign of a hardening heart in spite of consequences, damning the consequences. Unless repentance comes it will be the ruin of civilization. God carries on what man has begun. As an old writer put it when recording the demoralization of the later Crusades, "God did not forsake the Crusaders until they had already forsaken Him."

GOD'S LAW.

(2) There is, however, a further consideration and that is that *God's law is transcended by love.* The methods of law are in obeyance if the results can be obtained otherwise. This is the message of the New Testament, but its doctrine must not be misunderstood. It is an announcement of love freely given, but love is the consummation of law, not its contradiction. And we cannot dispense with the old Testament which focusses God's reality, but we can throw light upon it.

We must take for granted then that God has a share in every process that concerns us. It is He that hath made us and not we ourselves. It is He that is making us still with the materials we supply, making us happy or hard according to our own choice. By the output and intake of every day, by the decisions that we hourly control, our lives are being fashioned, and we can by no means leave out God from the development of our nature.

Yet we cannot define His relation to us directly after the manner of the Old Testament. What the Bible refers to His intention we refer to the working of His law. Pharaoh hardening himself, God hardening Pharaoh, are in our view two aspects of moral deterioration, traceable in laws of psychology. No matter what the name so long as we take account of the fact. The law is that if we refuse justice, generosity, compassion to God's people we grow hard, unable to discern values, whether human or divine. What begins in human choice is linked up to divine law with its consequences. But there is another way, just as a parent has two ways with his child—the ways of the household and the word of his heart. In the Old Testament we learn the ways of God's household—God as law, as the principle of moral cause and consequence.

Many refuse this standpoint of the Bible. Some refuse to see God in any sort of law: their standpoint is sentimental. Others refuse to recognize God except in law: their attitude is scientific. But the Christian standpoint is that God is law fired and consumed by Love, and if the love-way is available He takes it. I once went over Lingfield Farm Colony in the English county of Surrey, and the Warden, a big man every way, told me this incident. In this colony of unfortunates there was a large school for poor epileptic girls. One of them proved to be refractory and disobedient, and her case was reported to Mr. Brooks, the Warden. He walked round the grounds with her and resting his hand on her shoulder said in the kindest tones, "What shall I do to punish girls that are disobedient?" In a low voice she gave the Warden her answer "Punish me like you're doing now." Love was the punishment; transcending law it did the work of law, for the girl never needed to be punished again. God wants to deal with us and us to get to Him by love, but if we do not take His hand in a way that softens the heart we must feel it by way of hardening. It comes to this that we may choose the way of our contact with Him but we cannot be quit of it. Let us greatly fear the hardening process, which is at work upon us now in so far as we are hard to others. Then all our contact with our circumstances or our fellows thickens the crust about our heart.

"But let me choose my highest part
And turn my face to Thee;
O let me stir my inmost heart
And worship fervently.
Within my heart Lord, speak, speak on,
My heart alive to keep,
Till the night comes and labour done
In Thee I fall asleep."

THE FIELD

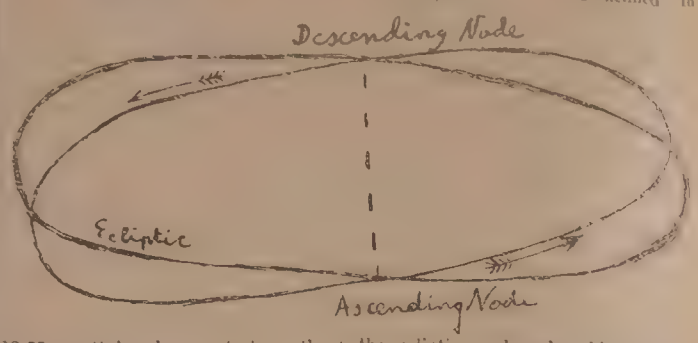
Recurring suns that rise and blaze and die;
Grass-rufflng winds or tempests that trees tear;
And that eternal arch of changing sky
At which I do for ever stare and stare—
The wash of winter rains, the chill of dew,
White warnrth of snow or tingle of black frost—
Such I do know and such I ever knew
Far in my mind where count of time is lost!
Back there where there is naught of conscious me
Save as vague part of one huge entity—
One boundless stretching, undulating skin
Informed with dark primordial life within.
So through the barren years, barren I lay,
While the world weathered and stars burnt away—
[illegible]
Conscious of naught but sun, and wind, and sky,
And that old mystery of quickening
[illegible]
I do not known when first there woke in me
Dim premonitions of identity:
When first my contours seemed no things of chance
But held a sudden deep significance:
[illegible]
Each rod of soil, each yard of crankt hedgerow.
When seed-time and grave harvest came to be
[illegible]
Until it was, I know not why or how,
[illegible]
And with that knowledge revelation came
[illegible]

KENNETH H. ASHLEY.

CHINA'S SKIES FOR MARCH

By Sirius.

1 Meteoric showers in the Leonids.
2 Mars attains its descending node, 8 a.m.
4 Mercury in conjunction with moon, 8 p.m. Mercury 2°.6 S.
5 New moon ●, 11.44. p.m.
Partial eclipse of sun, invisible in Asia, visible in South Pacific Ocean.
8 Uranus in conjunction with the sun, 4 p.m.
9 Venus in conjunction with moon, 10 a.m. Venus 5°. 5 N.
Jupiter in quadrature, 10 p.m.
12 Moon in apogee, 5.7 a.m.
Occultation of Aldebaran in Taurus, 8.27 p.m.



13 Mars attains its greatest southern declination.
14 First quarter (moon) ☽, 0.36 a.m.
15 Mercury in conjunction with Uranus, 10 a.m. Mercury 1°.4 S.
18 Neptune in conjunction with moon, noon. Neptune 1°.6 N.
21 Sun enters Aries, 5.20 a.m. Spring equinox.
Full moon ○, 0.16 p.m.
22 Occultation of Gamma Virginis, 2.54 a.m.
Mercury in superior conjunction with sun, 6 p.m.
23 Saturn in conjunction with moon, 2. p.m. Saturn 1°.8 S.
24 Moon in apogee, 1.0 a.m.
26 Jupiter in conjunction with moon, 11 p.m. Jupiter 4°.3 S.
28 Last quarter (moon) ☾, 4.10 a.m.
Mars in conjunction with moon, 5 p.m. Mars 4°.4 S.
31 Venus in perihelion, or at least distance from the sun, midnight.

Phases of the Moon.

	Day.	Hour.	
New moon	● 5	11.44 p.m.	Peking time
First quarter	☽14	0.36 a.m.	
Full moon	○21	0.16 p.m.	
Last quarter	☾ 28	4.10 a.m.	
Moon in apogee	12	5.7 a.m.	
,, perigee	24	1.0 a.m.	

RISING AND SETTING OF THE SUN AT INTERVALS OF 5 DAYS.

	Rises	Sets
1	6.28 a.m.	5.57 p.m.
5	6.24 a.m.	6.0 p.m.
10	6.18 a.m.	6.3 p.m.
15	6.11 a.m.	6.6 p.m.
20	6.5 a.m.	6.10 p.m.
25	5.59 a.m.	6.13 p.m.
30	5.52 a.m.	6.16 p.m.

In this month the mornings increase 40m. (at Greenwich 68in.); and the afternoons 19m. (at Greenwich 51m.), making a total for the month of 59 minutes.

ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPAL PLANETS.

MERCURY.—Visible as a morning star in first week of the month; rising about an hour before the sun. In conjunction with moon on 4th; with Uranus on 15th; in superior conjunction with the sun on 22nd
Rises on the 2nd at 5.47 a.m.;
,, 9th at 5.55 a.m.

VENUS.—An early evening star, crossing Pisces and moving into Aries, setting later and later, and visible at the end of the month for over 3 hours after sunset.
In conjunction with moon on 9th; in perihelion on 31st.
Sets on 1st at 9.3 p.m. (3h. 6m. after sunset);
,, 16th at 9.27 p.m.;
,, 30th at 9.49 p.m.

MARS.—A morning star in Sagittarius, rising about 4 hours before the sun, and increasing in brilliancy. Attains its descending node on the 2nd; its greatest southern declination on the 13th.
Rises on 1st at 2.8 a.m.;
,, 16th at 1.51 a.m.;
,, 30th at 1.33 a.m.

JUPITER.—An early morning star in Scorpio, visible nearly the whole second part of the night.
In quadrature on 9th; in conjunction with moon on 26th.
Rises on 1st at 1.29 a.m.;
,, 16th at 12.36 a.m.;
,, 30th at 11.39 p.m.

SATURN.—An evening star in Virgo, hastening its rising towards the close of the month. Visible for the greater part of the night, and increasing in brilliancy as it approaches opposition. In conjunction with moon on 23rd.
Rises on 1st at 9.48 p.m.;
,, 16th at 8.46 p.m.;
,, 30th at 7.42 p.m.

VENUS INCREASING IN BRILLIANCY AND SETTING LATER.

Venus is an inner planet, and twice as far away from the sun as Mercury, the mean distance being 69,000,000 miles, which varies at aphelion and perihelion about 1,000,000 miles, a contrast to Mercury, which varies 15,000,000 miles. Venus is now moving towards its greatest eastern elongation, and hence becoming more and more brilliant. It is also very high in the southwestern sky, and hence sets later and later than at other parts of its orbit. In the early part of the month the planet may be observed for 3 hours after sunset, and towards the close for over 3½ hours.

ASCENDING AND DESCENDING NODES OF PLANETS.

All the planets of our system move in the same direction around the sun, their course as viewed from the northern side of the ecliptic being contrary to the motion of the hands of a watch. They describe around the parent star elliptical orbits, more or less inclined to the ecliptic, and each orbit intersecting it in 2 points—*the nodes*—one half of the orbit lying north, and the other south of the earth's path. When the planet rises above the level of the ecliptic, this point is called the *ascending node*, and the opposite point of intersection is termed the *descending node*. The longitude of the node is its distance from the first point of Aries, measured eastwards on the ecliptic. The annexed diagram will illustrate the nodes.

THE SIDEREAL AND TROPICAL YEAR.

The sidereal year is the interval of a complete revolution of the earth around the sun, measured by a fixed star. It comprises 365 days, 6 hours, 9 minutes, and 9 seconds of mean solar time.

A tropical or equinoctial year is the interval between 2 successive passages of the sun through the Vernal equinox, or first point of Aries. It comprises 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds. If the equinoxes were stationary, the sidereal and tropical year would be equal, but as the equinoxes retrograde along the ecliptic 50¼" annually, the sidereal year is 20 minutes 23 seconds longer.

WELLS FROM TOR HILL

Backward I turn, and see the phantom towers
Emerging through a rift
Of swathing fog that fitful winds uplift;
A touch of tender rose
Thrown like a smile, before the vapours close:
Around me wildered berries, ragged flowers,
Bracken and grasses withering, sere and wet;
And in my heart a voice of bygone hours,
Of hushed regret,
Speaking of things estranged—
The never-changing pleading with the changed.
And there in mystic light
Quivers the tender vision rosy-white,
Intangible, remote,
Like images that float
In failing eyes ere sleep hath brought the night.
A moment, and the curtain-folds are drawn
Like clouds that kill a dawn;
The casements that revealed
Are blindly sealed:
I see no longer walls or town or field.
Yet in the mist abides
That which hath been;
I have seen what I have seen.
I have known the eternal that the transient hides—
Beauty and love and hope, and man's desire
Lighted at moments with transmuting fire.—Arthur L. Salmon in the "Observer."

THE Korean who pasted placards on the wall of Kioto Palace is considered innocent of seditious intention, according to the *"Hochi,"* and is merely suffering from a "mania for grandiloquence." His posters announced that there would be serious trouble in Japan this year and that when it came he would be the only person to be relied on for succour. He is to be sent back to Korea. He is a man of 27 named Kim.

THE BETTING COMMISSION'S REPORT

By CANON PETER GREEN in the "CHALLENGE"

Canon Green writes admittedly as an opponent of the proposed tax on betting, but his criticisms will be none the less interesting to many readers and do not seem without point.

The Report of the Commission on a Duty on Betting, a bulky volume of 672 pages, contains, in addition to a full report of the evidence, some valuable appendices and a full index, no less than three reports, namely, the final official report, the draft report proposed by Mr. H. S. Cautley, K.C., Chairman of the Committee, and the draft minority report proposed by Mr. Isaac Foot. The first, after a really valuable review of the legal position of gambling and a useful explanation of the various methods of betting, comes to a sudden end, the dissolution of Parliament having prevented the Commission from further considering the draft report. Only one "finding" is recorded, to the effect that a tax on betting is "practicable." But (*a*) such practicability is admittedly dependent on the possibility of suppressing street betting altogether; (b) all the evidence laid before the Commission, and all experience, go to prove that the police are powerless to effect this; (c) it is not likely that it will prove any easier to suppress street betting when the existence of a tax has supplied an additional incentive to evasion; and (4) the experience of countries where the *pari mutuel* is in use, or where betting is in any other way legalized, shows that illicit betting has not merely not been suppressed but has actually increased. So the single finding of the official report would seem to be valueless.

Mr. Foot's draft report, on the other hand, is a really masterly piece of work. It is plain, unadorned, practical and to the point. It recognizes to the full the moral and social damage caused by gambling, and recommends just those methods of combating the evil which experience in other fields of social reform has proved most efficacious. Specially good are the brief paragraphs on "educational" and "social" methods of combating the evil.

CONTRADICTORY AND ARBITRARY.

Of the draft reform proposed by Mr. Cautley the exact opposite may be said. It is long, rhetorical, contradictory and curiously arbitrary in its treatment of the evidence laid before the Commission. Its worst features are the author's *obiter dicta* on the moral issue and its really preposterous findings on the subject of the amount of money spent on betting and the rate of profit enjoyed by bookmakers. Both these points call for brief notice.

The report declares that it has been *proved* before the Commission that "millions of persons who bet and large numbers of others incapable of estimation (the writer of the report does not really mean that the people referred to were incapable of estimation; he means that their exact numbers cannot be estimated) regard betting in no sense as either immoral or sinful." This, the report declares, is the view that will appeal to the vast majority of the people of this country and to the large majority of truly Christian men. It also says that the Committee did not go too minutely into consideration of morals. On this we may remark:

(*a*) That they did not go into the consideration of morals at all. Mr. Cecil Wilson raised the question immediately before my own examination, on the ground that it was impossible to discuss questions of morality unless we knew on what moral grounds any action was approved or discussed. The Chairman declared that he should rule out of order "abstruse questions of theological belief or moral code of that nature." Mr. Morgan Jones protested, and had the room cleared, but the Commission upheld the Chairman's ruling. So the Commission, having declined to discuss the moral question, had no competence to report upon it.

(*b*) The statement is directly contradicted by the one on the previous page to the effect that members of the Free Churches regard betting as immoral in itself, a sin and an offence against the law of God; unless, that is to say, we deny that Nonconformists can be regarded as "truly Christian men."

(*c*) Opinion in the Church of England is declared to be divided. But two of the three witnesses called, the two first selected, were apparently chosen because they had already declared in favour of a tax.

(*d*) If the contention of the Commission were true it would be unimportant. Public opinion saw nothing "immoral or sinful" in the days of Walpole in statesmen drunk daily after two in the afternoon, or in the days of Wellington in duelling, or in the days of Clarkson and Wilberforce in negro slavery.

Equally indefensible is the *obiter dictum* that State regulation or taxation would no more imply encouragement of betting or an invitation to bet than licensing of public-houses implies encouragement or invitation to "drinking." If by drinking the use of alcohol is meant it clearly does imply such invitation. If by drinking we are to understand drunkenness, it is inexcusable that the report should equate betting to drunkenness and yet deny that it is morally wrong. What makes the matter worse is that the ambiguity of the phrase "drinking" was repeatedly pointed out to Mr. Cautley during the sittings of the Commission. But the whole report shows a complete inability to discuss ethical questions.

ARITHMETIC ALL WRONG.

But if the report is morally unsatisfactory it is arithmetically absurd. The Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue admitted that only 164 bookmakers doing nothing but street betting paid income tax, and that even if the numbers of those who combined street with other types of betting were added the number fell below 400 in all. The Assistant Commissioner from Scotland Yard estimated the street bookmakers of London alone at 950. Hence it is clear that the Inland Revenue returns are no guide at all to the takings of ready money bookmakers. Yet the income tax figure, with a trifling addion for those below the taxable line, is taken as the basis of a quite futile calculation which lands its author in the conclusion that the average profits of all bookmakers average £200 per annum, which even he sees to be absurd. The results would be yet more ridiculous if it were not stated that the credit bookmaker works on a profit of half per cent., and the course bookmaker on one, if not more than two, per cent. These startling conclusions are apparently based on statements submitted by bookmakers *in camera*. It is not likely that these gentlemen are more modest or more careful about their figures *in camera* than when writing to the public Press, and I have dealt, in the "Manchester Guardian," with some of the figures of the Secretary of the Turf Guardian Society, and of the Secretary of the National Sporting League, and had no difficulty in proving them to be absurd. Also I offered figures, fully substantiated to the Commission which would effectually have prevented so absurd an estimate but for the Chairman's curious and apparently invincible objection to what he called individual cases. As if any actual cases could be anything but individual. The estimates of the amount actually spent on betting are declared to be guesses and are dismissed as "almost valueless." Yet my own estimate (£160,000,000 for horse-race betting alone with probably another 80 to 100 million for other forms of betting) is supported by the income tax returns, the estimate of the Board's expert, and, as regards horse racing alone, the first published estimate of the Turf Guardian Society, and that of the Chairman. And my figures for profits have stood the test of long continued controversy in newspapers.

WHAT WILL LABOUR DO?

Of the report as a whole it may be said that the evidence, and some of the appendices, supply a mass of valuable information to those capable of using it, and that Mr. Foot's draft report is a model of what such a report should be. For the rest the actual report is quite negligible and the main draft report such that the general election, which stifled it at birth, must be regarded as a real blessing. It is much to be hoped that the proposal to tax betting will be heard no more of, and that men of goodwill may devote themselves to the one thing needed, namely the creation of a healthy public opinion on the anti-social nature of all gambling.

MY MORNING TEA

Phantasmagoria

By W. Bruce Lockhart.

Feb. 27.

In common with so many other readers of the "N.-C. Daily News" the first thing I do every morning on awakening from my slumbers is to look at page 11 for the foreign telegrams and special articles. This morning my attention was immediately directed to an account of the miseries of a Shanghai boy, Mr. Elly Widler, which are succinctly summarized in the captions of the special article dealing with his case:—

"A Swiss citizen in durance."

"Mr. Elly Widler still held as prisoner by Chinese in Szechuen:"

"Threats of Torture and Death."

Mr. Widler, a resident of Chungking, was arrested by order of Gen. Yang Sen as far back as September 10, and a ransom of $200,000 was asked, otherwise he was informed that he would be shot.

The account goes on:—

"Then came the advance of the Southern Generals and Yang Sen prepared for retreat. All things looted and taken from the Cosmos Club, including more than $3,000 in money, hundreds of clocks and watches, curious and merchandise were handed over to Gen. Yang Sen."

"On November 16, after spending weeks in a dirty military gaol he was forced out, cruelly bound, and made to march with Yang Sen's retreating army all the way from Chungking to Wanhsien—a 10 days' tramp. At Wanhsien he was put into a filthy public gaol, and there he still remains."

So much for that item of news, and I mildly wondered who Gen. Yang Sen was.

Following my custom I then turned to page 6, the Leader page, and lo, at the top of column seven my mild curiosity is instantly satisfied, for I read that Gen. Yang Sen is a lieutenant of Marshal Wu Pei-fu who is the War Lord of Loyang, up Hankow way, I believe.

The illuminating leading article gives further information for I find that Gen. Feng Yu-hsiang is on the same side of the political hedge as Marshal Wu Pei-fu, so I assume that these three eminent commanders are all friends, with one thought in common.

OFF TO THE IRONSIDES.

Turning to the opposite page the first article that any reader must see is captioned:—

"Gen. Feng Yu-hsiang's Ironsides."

"Soldiers whom the People Welcome: Military Efficiency and Religious Zeal."

"From a Correspondent in Chihli."

Far be it from me to offer any comment or criticism on famous men, be they Christian Generals or otherwise, so I will confine myself strictly to giving readers some excerpts from my matutinal reading in the form of precise quotations.

Thus saith the "Correspondent in Chihli."

"One finds in certain quarters, and among superficial observers of the kaleidoscopic changes and regroupings of Chinese political factions at the present time, a tendency to doubt the sincerity of this powerful military chief, who after a short tenure of the Tuchunate of Honan, was transferred a little over a year ago to the important post he now occupies."

The Correspondent goes on:—

"After a shake-down in Gen. Chang's private quarters, where I occupied a room stacked high with enormous quantities of educational literature for the troops, I was awakened soon after six on Sunday morning, and found that the camp was astir with unmistakeable signs of soldiers in neighbouring buildings at their devotional exercises. Subsequently I learned that groups of men were meeting for Bible study all over the camp, a strange phenomenon in any country in the world."

NOT STRANGE IN CHINA.

I digress here to put forward a mild reflexion of my own in reference to Mr. Elly Widler, that it would be a strange phenomenon in any *other* country in the world, *except* China, for a General commanding an army to arrest a peaceable merchant, hold him to ransom for an enormous amount, loot the whole of his private property, and then carry him away captive when circumstances force him to flee before the troops of another eminent military enthusiast!

This all in a time of profound peace between the Swiss Republic and the Republic, or Republics, or whatever any one prefers to call it or them, which may be shortly summed up in the one word—"China."

Gen. Yang Sen is friend and ally of "the famous Christian General Feng Yu-hsiang," so without wasting any more precious time with my own foolish reflexions let us get hot foot on the track of these soldiers whom we left at Bible study.

"Soon after the General led the way to a large hall at the east end of the camp, where a Christian service was to be held. On arrival there we found a packed audience of some 600 officers and N.C.O.'s, all seated on serried ranks of benches. They sprang to attention as the General entered. He accompanied the speaker and the chaplain on the platform, and with military promptness gave out the opening hymn. It was Onward Christian Soldiers, and though one has heard the famous hymn sung by crowded congregations in Christian lands far away, it had surely never been sung with such sincerity and thrilling effect as by these Chinese soldiers.

"One thought instinctively of the great Protector's doughty heroes singing their psalms in the early dawn and striking terror into the hearts of their Cavalier foes at the outset of many desperate battles."

I digress again at this point in the narrative to remark that I was wrought up to a sublime state of spiritual emotion which was rudely interrupted by the boy bringing in my cup of tea. Moistening my parched tongue, cooling my fevered emotions with that refreshing product of China—that product of ancient China—I turned again to my paper in time to join in the last verse of "Onward Christian Soldiers."

"It was an extraordinary experience to look into the faces of these hundreds of clean, alert, well set-up Chinese officers. Hard things have been said of recent years in the foreign Press of China and, in most cases, deservedly, of the make-believe soldiers, 'uniformed coolies,' who swagger and slouch in the public eye, bully their fellow-countrymen, and who have made their profession a by-word of contempt and loathing to all observers.

"But here was a miraculous transformation, a veritable apotheosis of the despised grey uniform, disciplined Chinese soldiers, and withal men of real soldierly bearing.

"After a passage dealing with the depressing condition of China to-day, and the need for strong men of moral courage to stem the tide of corruption which threatens to engulf the whole nation, the speaker asked if it were not the case that what China needed most was men of absolute faith in and allegiance to Jesus Christ as the Saviour of individuals and of society. A spontaneous and shattering response of 'Yes' came instantly from the packed congregation with such a volume of sound as to rattle the windows. This happened three times during the address.

"After a return to the camp for breakfast I was privileged two hours later to attend another service in the same hall, this time crammed to the doors with over 700 men, all of whom were to be baptized on the following Sunday. Nearly a thousand men, I was told, have been under instruction with a view to baptism during the past year, and the hall was too small to admit all those who wished to be present."

All this interested me immensely and reflecting on the modern method of baptism by battalions now prevalent in the Chinese army to the stirring strains of "Onward Christian Soldiers," I found myself wondering whether, when Mr. Elly Widler was having the whole of his private property looted by Gen. Yang Sen's portion of the Chinese army he was moved to burst into the strains of that other well known hymn beginning with—"All that I have I give to Thee."?

Howbeit, I perchance may never know.

A LEGATION EPISODE.

Then I turned from the laudable desires of the famous Christian General Feng Yu-hsiang's stern, strong, but evidently not-at-all-silent men, and took another glance at page 11, where the telegrams are, and, tucked away at the bottom of the fourth column much as the modest primrose hides itself, etc.,—(soft music here, ad lib.)—I read as follows.

"GEN. FENG'S FAUX PAS."

"LEGATION POLICE COMMENDED."

"Mr. H. H. Fox, Chairman of the Administrative Commission of the Diplomatic Body, to-day expressed to the policemen concerned the appreciation of the Diplomatic Body of their conduct last Friday evening, when they were suddenly confronted with a difficult situation, and informed the policemen that small rewards would be given to them in recognition of their devotion to duty."

I remembered then that that famous Christian warrior, Gen. Feng Yu-hsiang, whilst on his way to dine at the American quarters in the Peking Legation Quarter had encountered the professional attentions of the Legation police owing to his chauffeur scorching along with extra bright headlights in full blast—two things which the Peking foreign diplomats do not permit in their portion of the city. With military promptitude and Christian fortitude Gen. Feng had himself descended from his car, on his very own Christian feet, and *"reasoned"* with the policemen! One account says that he "beat them up" and took their batons, or batons, away from them to do it with—but that, doubtless, is but the vulgar jargon of the uninstructed who are blissfully unaware that Gen. Feng has a whole army of splendid fellows who, on waking at dawn, immediately say their prapers, and then spend a few hours in Bible study while awaiting their turn for Meeting. (Anglice—Church or Chapel)—to receive their meed of instruction for Baptism.

Who are we to say them Nay. I ask?

You and I, dear reader, on awaking at dawn employ these fresh early hours of "another day" to scanning page 11 of the "North-China Daily News," and then page 6, and so on—and there are even some more diligent than you or I who turn to page 4 to find out what Gordius has been doing the previous day, or when the *next* End of the World is due!

It would be well with us indeed if we emulated the bright example of that Christian man, Gen. Feng, No, no, I mean *the example of his soldiers* and said our prayers first thing in the morning like good boys. As for motorists, speed limits, bright headlights and so on, why, only the other day a French friend of mine fined himself 100 tinkling Mexicans for *stopping* his car—and Mr. King will undoubtedly invite me to part with at least five beans if Mr. McEuen's alert myrmidons catch me scorching on my way to eat some "pie" with my friend Mr. Fessenden.

And so the merry game goes on.

WANTED, AN ANSWER.

Meanwhile, I have a mild conundrum to propound; Is there any one sufficiently intimate with Gen. Feng Yu-hsiang, who would be so kind as to ask him to send a telegram to his friend, ally, and fellow brother-in-arms, Gen. Yang Sen, up at Wanhsien suggesting his trial of Mr. Elly Widler, or his immediate release from the hospitality he now forces upon him?

Lest Gen. Feng should think this an unreasonable request, as between two friends I think it would not be impolite to remind him that a profound state of peace now exists between the Swiss Republic and the *"etcetera"* of China?

If, of course, war *has* been declared between the Republic of Chungking and the Swiss Republic or, as the crow flies, Gen. Yang's new Republic at Wanhsien, *then* it may be another matter—but the "North China" has given no hint of the outbreak of Sino-Swiss hostilities, so far.

And, anyhow, would Gen. Yang return *one* of Mr. Elly Widler's watches *or* clocks to him—the *cheapest* one, of course, of the collection he has appropriated. Gen. Yang cannot possibly use them *all*!

A TRAVELLER IN MODERN AMERICA

Lively Interest in China but Little Accurate Knowledge: Domestic Prosperity: Vast Railway Schemes: Cities That Spring up During the Night

From a Correspondent.

Somewhere in America, Feb. 12.

About 15 years ago I remember writing for the "North-China" away far back in untravelled Western China. I had been held up by the rains and was scribbling on a rickety table in a tumbledown Chinese temple, with mountains rising all around me to 14,000ft. and more. I remember in my loneliness in that Switzerland of China, where nothing had altered very much the handiwork of the Great Beginning, dreaming of the next two decades, maybe three, when China would really be taken in hand by the Powers and her economic development really get under way.

But I had lived in China for many years, and was not then so painfully aware of the general ignorance in Western countries of the most elementary things Chinese.

That was, of course, before the Revolution which introduced most of the ills that you are now contending with in China, before the war, and much has happened since then to China's favour which would incline one to believe that foreign ignorance around the world of the real China has been considerably broken down. Whatever may have taken place in other countries, however, I fear that little progress can be recorded of America. During the past few months I have visited every city and town of any size on the Pacific Coast, and as far down as New Orleans. Prior to that, in a tour of investigation among many Eastern cities of the United States, an opportunity was afforded me of making a more or less careful examination of the mental attitude of the average American towards China and her problems. That was my mission. My conclusion, expressed in nutshell form—and it applies to the whole of America—is that (a) of the interest of the average American, no matter what his walk of life, there can be doubt, but (b) excepting among an infinitesimal percentage, the ignorance of the simplest things Chinese is colossal.

TREND OF TRADE PACIFICWARDS.

I found it to be agreed upon without dissent, in some strange fashion, among Americans of progressive thought who should be in a position to judge world movements, that the Pacific area is fast supplanting the Atlantic as the theatre of economic development and commercial progress. This is the favourite theme, and unquestionably a right one, of that wonder-Scot of these parts, Captain Robert Dollar, a man whose knowledge has been built on sound experience. People in this country, moreover, are now slow to agree that this quickening of trans-Pacific commerce will entail the opening up for closer relationships the nearly billion population of Asia, among which China is to become the object of lively competition; but no disposition is shown to devote time and study to any constructive programme. In whatever I have been, on both seaboards or far inland on the great industrial centres, I have been impressed with a general ignorance among otherwise well-enlightened people, which is positive short of appalling to the real China hand.

It is true that the principal magazines of the country devote much space to China's politics, her trade, her people and their ways of thought and life, and many of the libraries are well equipped with reliable reference matter, so that it is comparatively easy to secure data pertaining to China and the Far East. Pretty well everybody who is anybody coming from China, if he can make a show at all in public, is invited to give a talk and in the very much misinformation very often finds its way around. There is usual tragedians under this head are young China students, who, with the natural Chinese gift of oratory, will sway an American audience to tears or will so interweave sympathy I heard a speech from such a man in Chicago the other day that caused my grey hairs rapidly to multiply as I listened with fear and trembling to a long line of passionate half-truths being rammed down the throats of a fallaciously enthralled audience.

In commercial life, again, one is continually meeting with demeritorious "schemes" which are to be "put over," often by men who have made a flying trip to the Far East and returned with a front bold enough to delude the unwary investor.

LACK OF INFORMED PUBLIC OPINION.

So one fails to find in America a very deep current of informed opinion on actual conditions in China.

My opinion is that it is too much to expect any speedy change either, for the great bulk of the people are too busy for their interest to go deep enough to form a real public opinion on China and what America can do for her. If the average proletarian can play mahjongg, and happens to possess his own set, or if he can attend a popular lecture and absorb a few elementary ideas of the structure of the written Chinese language (as an example) well and good—he is sufficiently entertained; and the business-worn American needs much entertainment. But the fault, if it can be so termed, lies in the fact that America is so enormously prosperous domestically that she is not forced to look across the Pacific, and her interests consequently are focussed largely on home affairs. I suppose that I am not alone in deploring this lack of public opinion on Asiatic matters in general, and Chinese matters in particular. America is to play an increasingly important part in the affairs of this continent on the other side of the Pacific no matter what may be said to the contrary. If what she will do is done with an informed knowledge of the people of America, it will be infinitely better than the reverse operation. But Americans have not yet grasped the importance of China to the world. They probably think, as do the majorities of several other countries, that Chinese civilization is practically unchangeable or only changeable through influences operating slowly over long periods of time. All of us used to be of the some opinion, but we have been awakened to the fact that since 1911 more changes—many of them for the worse—have come with lightning rapidity in the thought of the Chinese. No one nation can stand aloof from a great human problem such as China presents. Things move rapidly nowadays, and we have to be prepared with full knowledge of conditions. What has the last decade taught the world? I suppose it may be said that mankind has been shown that civilizaation, writing the life of a single generation, can be made to undergo changes so profound, so permanent, that it would almost appear as if human nature itself had been completely altered in the interval.

I am sure that the American who has lived in China, say for 10 years, will agree with what I have written. I mean no sarcasm. As Sino-American interests must some day grow to great proportions, the more the pity that America at home is so destitute of a viewpoint on the real China even remotely approaching soundness in many respects.

DOMESTIC PROSPERITY—CITIES MADE TO ORDER.

I have referred to the prosperity of the United States. It is apparent everywhere. In the rural districts one is rarely out of sight or sound of the plasterer and plumber, and hears the carpenter's hammer day and night. In the towns and cities building goes on at a feverish rate and cities seem to spring up under one's very nose. This is a feature of American life that the Briton cannot understand. In the dear old borough of Dunheved just over the Tamar in England, where the family of the writer have lived for generations, the population has not changed probably one per cent. in the last 300 years this is what the average American cannot understand. He is used to seeing things created in a lifetime. As an instance: there is a new city up in the State of Washington that boasts of the name of Longview. A year ago it was a wilderness, hemmed in by gigantic forests. Clever advertising, however, proclaimed to all and sundry, and particularly to those who who were motoring over its site, that a modern city was to be built there. And it was true enough. A colossal lumber trust said that it had to be done, and it was accordingly done as fast as human industry and money could do it. I passed through again six months afterwards, and to my astonishment motored over a fine 40-feet cement road alongside a new railroad, was bewildered to find modern schools and many children in attendance, stayed in a modern hotel, saw stores of all kinds, a complete tramcar system, with building construction going along at top speed. The new residents, the workers, were "changing houses" from their tents in the open to up-to-date wooden and stucco bungalows. Such a sight almost frightens an Englishman.

Then the growth of Los Angeles is known all round the world. I believe it is true that they do not know even at the present moment what the huge population of that city is, so fast is it growing. I heard of a man recently who went to New York to raise I don't know how many million dollars for improvements in that city. His banker greeted him with the question, "Well, what is the population of Los Angeles now?" "Couldn't tell you," came the reply. "I haven't been home for 10 days."

But this is the atmosphere in which the American public lives. No wonder that there is little time to be given to the troubles over which China broods. Added to which there is, of course, that important factor in the lack of continuity of foreign policy which does not help at all.

U. S. RAILWAY EXPENDITURES.

To give your readers some definite idea of the prosperity of America I can do no better than quote what the railways are doing. After completing capital expenditures in excess of $1,075 million during 1923, United States railways have under consideration a plan for the spending of more than $1,000 million during the present year. This is certainly "some" spending! Congress is cited, however, as the one influence that is delaying the progress of the work in some cases. "Once the railroads have been assured that no adverse legislation will be enacted at this session of Congress," says an authority on the matter, "their expenditure will proceed at approximately the same rate they maintained last year in the opinion of the men who made the survey." Poor China, with her miserable 6,500 miles of lines, what has she to say for the following forecasts of expenditure by some of the principal U. S. companies this year: Atchison Topeka and Sante Fe 70 millions of dollars; Pennsylvania, more than 50, Illinois Central, 45; Southern Pacific, 40; Norfolk and Western, 15 and so on.

One comes after all to the conclusion, however, that the average American holds the average human point of view—wrong though it is. While he awaits the thrilling results of world movements, he is able to take refuge in the fact that business at home is doing very well, money is plentiful, employment is general and wages are high, consumption of goods is at least up to last year's records, building is increasing, prices are steady. As I heard a man express it an hour ago: "They may have a capital levy in England, taxes may go up another 20 per cent. in France, the winter may be a hard one in Moscow, and Germany may be in the familiar down-but-not-out, position. But we can see no reason for disatisfaction in our own bailiwick Be it ever so humble. . . ."

THE U. S. SHIPPING BOARD'S SALE OF ALL ITS VESSELS

1,335 Ships Involved: Effect on Ship Market Generally Not Expected to Be Appreciable: The Fight for the Pacific: Robert Dollar and Pacific Mail Rivalries

A Reuter's cable was received in Shanghai on Saturday stating that the United States Shipping Board had invited bids for the sale of its entire fleet of 1,335 vessels, the bids to close on March 14. Of this number 423 vessels are in operation for the Board by various agencies in all parts of the world; the rest are laid up.

The news came as no surprise to shipping circles the world over, for the Board has been notoriously unsuccessful in the management of its fleet ever since it was organized about 1918. This continued unsuccess has been largely due to the world-wide slump, but it came to a head a few weeks ago with the failure of the huge Leviathan, which is among the vessels to be sold.

It is the Shipping Board's intention to put all its ships in the hands of private owners if possible. It might be thought that the sale of such a fleet at one time would have some effect on freights and charges, but that is not the case. Owing to the state of the market and general shipping conditions the process of transferring these ships is bound to be a long one and so they will be absorbed slowly and imperceptibly almost, into the services on which they are put. Eastern shipping will be very little affected excepting that there will probably be a number of extra freighters put on the trans-Pacific trade.

In business circles hope had been expressed that private competition would have the effect of reducing freights, but such is extremely unlikely. Business from the shipping companies' point of view is improving year by year. There is no difficulty in getting cargoes and most companies are negotiating with the Government for the purchase of extra ships to deal with the trade. This being the case, it will not be in the interests of private owners to force down freights.

MANY SHIPS USELESS.

In Shanghai there is a tantalising lack of information as to what the American Government will do. The different agencies operating the Board's ships in the trans-Pacific trade have all commenced negotiations for the purchase of the ships they are running, but the principal difficulty up-to-date has been the heavy price asked. Inquiries were set afoot by the "North-China Daily News" and the sum total of the information gathered is "that everything depends on the Government, and there is no telling how the Government will act."

The Shipping Board has fixed no minimum price for the steamers offered, but simply gives forth that a minimum will be fixed after the valuation. When the vessels were offered for sale on previous occasions a minimum of $30 per ton was fixed, but few bidders were found at the price. Now, it is hoped, the Board will come down considerably in its demands.

Over 1,300 ships sounds a large fleet, but in this case numbers are apt to be deceptive. A large proportion are totally unfitted for general cargo trade, having been built during the war to carry war materials across the Atlantic and designed for no other purpose. This applies chiefly, of course, to that part of the fleet at present laid up. The 423 in operation are nearly all on established trades, and have been for the past four or five years. They may be regarded as permanent fixtures, since the agencies in each case will almost certainly negotiate for their purchase.

DOLLAR AND PACIFIC MAIL FIGHT.

One of the most interesting developments as far as the trans-Pacific trade is concerned lies in the fight between the Pacific Mail interests and the Dollar and Admiral Oriental Line interests for the purchase of the five steamers run by the Pacific Mail between Pacific ports, Shanghai, Hongkong and Manila. These liners, the Presidents Cleveland, Wilson, Lincoln, Pierce and Taft, are of the "535" class, and are well known in Shanghai, since they run in and out of this port every few days.

The Dollar interests are aiming to get possession of all ten "535" liners in operation in the trans-Pacific trade. Five they have already, the Presidents Maddison, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson and McKinley. On the other hand the Pacific Mail naturally wish to purchase the vessels they have been operating for themselves, and since they are the agents expect preference over their rivals, from the Board.

Mr. R. Stanley Dollar has been in Washington for some months negotiating with the Board, and news was received in Shanghai about three weeks ago that Mr. Dollar had made what he termed his "final offer" on February 1, and with that he expected either to close the deal or to drop it altogether. As far as can be gathered, however, these expectations have not been realized, for negotiations are still going forward, and according to later information a representative of the Dollar interests called on President Coolidge to obtain his assistance in getting the Board to come down in price, about a week ago. What the result of that interview was it is difficult to say.

BOARD'S PRICES HIGH.

Apart from the competition for these ships, however, the Admiral Oriental Line have been negotiating with the Shipping Board for the past twelve months for the purchase of all the vessels they have been operating. Here again the trouble is one of terms; the Board are asking considerably more than the Company like to give. At present the Admiral Oriental Line are running about 17 freighters, but they can find use for quite a few more and they are also negotiating for sufficient boats of this type adequately to balance their fleet. It is understood the Government's demands are not so heavy in this case, and there will not be many big difficulties to prevent the deal being put through.

The Barber Steamship Lines, for whom the Admiral Oriental Line also act as agents, are negotiating for the purchase of the United States Shipping Board vessels they operate on the Oriental-New York-European run.

The Pacific Mail, in addition to negotiating for the purchase of the vessels they already run, are asking for 10 more freighters, but how far the proceedings have gone it is difficult to say. The Tampa Inter-Ocean Steamship Company, for whom the Pacific Mail are also agents, will also ask for the purchase of their own vessels. They run a service of about two ships a month in and out of the Far Eastern ports.

The same story comes from Struthers & Barry. They, too, are negotiating for the purchase of the ships they run for the Board and Mr. Struthers himself is in, Washington for the purpose. There he will shortly be joined by Mr. Everett, who left Shanghai recently for San Francisco. Messrs. Struthers and Barry have nine ships on this service as well as several tankers which run straight between the Pacific coast and Manila. All these boats are owned by the Shipping Board and operated by Struthers & Barry.

Further developments will be awaited with interest.

Members of the British Chamber of Commerce are invited to attend the British Industries Fairs, to be held in London from April 28 to May 9, and in Birmingham from May 12-23. Any member who will be in England during these months, and who desires to visit the fairs, may obtain a letter of introduction from the secretary of the Shanghai Chambers.

THE WOMAN'S PAGE

SHANGHAI'S MOTHER GOOSE

By Elizabeth Pepys.

WINNING HIS PINK.

Bye, Baby Bunting,
Daddy's Paper Hunting.
He hopes to get a coat of red;
But he may get a fall instead.

SANITATION FIRST!

Pat a cake, baker's man,
Make me a cake as fast as you can.
Wrap it up well in waxed paper, you see,
So there'll be no germs for my baby and me.

HIC JACET.

A bright young man
Came to Japan
And now my story's begun,
He drank quite too much
Of cocktails and such
And now his future is done.

TO MOTORISTS.

Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn,
Have you been imbibing the juice of the corn?
Where is the traffic cop guarding the street?
He's under that doorway fast asleep.
Shall we wake him? No, no I.
We're only too lucky to get by.

IT'S NOT DONE.

Early to bed and early to rise
For Shanghai people would be a surprise.

SONGS OF THE PEOPLE

Songs That Have Sung Themselves into the Hearts of Everyday People

By Elizabeth Pepys:

Mrs. Carrie Jacobs Bond, the well known composer who has just passed through Shanghai on the str. President Hayes on her way to Manila, is doubtless the most popular song-writer in America, no less than five million copies of "A Perfect Day" having been sold. Incorrigibly cheerful, caroling always of love and faith and courage, hers is not the cheap optimism of the life that has never known hardship or sorrow.

Left a widow with a son of eight years to support with but scant means she was obliged to rent some of the rooms in her house to students to cover expenses, but as she sympathized with ambitious youth and was always ready to give her last dollar to any one in need, this venture did not prove a financial success. She began to put some of her fancies into words and to set these words to music, as she told us. She found publishers readily and began to win recognition but the financial returns were unsatisfactory and it became apparent that she must be her own publisher.

The little "Bond Shop" was therefore started in a very small way but it has now developed into a big concern with the great music publishing house of Schirmer acting as its distributing agents. "This is all due to my son," said Mrs. Bond with natural motherly pride. "He has been my partner ever since he was 17 and he has a remarkable business ability. When we began I used to paint the covers for my songs myself, and I still give the ideas for them to the artist who works them up."

"Yes," replied Mrs. Bond, 'I'm still writing songs. I wrote one coming over on the boat, one day when I was missing my son. It expresses my own real emotion as all my songs do, just a bit of feeling that is common to us all. Last year we brought out five new songs, and a new edition of one which was written some time ago —"Still Unexpressed." The new ons are "My Homeland," "Little Lost Youth of Me." "Were I," "Evening, My Love, and You," and "The Lazy River."

"My attitude towards life and work is expressed in the song 'The Golden Key' which I wrote as the national song of the Professional and Business Women's Clubs of America. I regard work as the golden key unlocking the door that leads to God.
No idle life can happy be,

We all must do our part,
Must work a while and play a while
With all our soul and heart.

Mrs. Bond has gone on to Manila but will be returning to Manila but will be returning to America through Shanghai the first of April and it is hoped that her health which while improved still shows the effect of her recent nervous breakdown, will permit her to be present at some public meeting tendered by her friends and admirers of Shanghai. Many a lover has voiced his story through the medium of her swetly simple lyrics and millions have appreciated the wholesome, cheerful philosophy innate in every composition of this gracious, genial woman, whose smile is the essence of friendship.

THE CLUB WOMAN

And How Mrs. Lobingier Interprets Her Responsibilities

Busy, bustling Shanghai hurries along so fast that it has no time to stop to take account of stock, to realize what it is doing and whither it is tending. In the women's organizations the ceaseless activity is much the same and we are only "stabbed broad awake" when some one whose faithful and efficient service we have come to take for granted, to depend upon subsconsciously, goes on Home leave and we realize how great a gap is left.

So it is that the imminent departure of Mrs. Charles Sumner Lobingier for an extended visit in the United States sets the members of the American Women's Club to reminiscing about the many useful things this executive woman has done, not only for the local club but in the Philippine Islands and the United States as well. Mrs. Lobingier's first connexion with woman's club work was in Omaha, Nebraska, in an organization of over 800 members, where she was for two years in charge of the Social Science De-

FUR IS USED ON MANY SPRING SUITS.

partment, which, in co-operation with other organizations of the city succeeded in having Juvenile Court legislation put through. While active in this club Mrs. Lobingier represented its interests in the federation of women's clubs and also served as corresponding secretary of the Nebraska state federation.

The next phase in club activities took place in Manila where Mrs. Lobingier was prominent in

MRS. C. S. LOBINGIER.

the "Fortnightly Club" which was established in the early days of the Americans' coming to the Islands and when Mrs. Taft, wife of the then Governor General was one of the members. This club resembled the present Literary section of the A.W.C. in its study of local geography, history and art. This institution still exists but another association has sprung up, an international body called the Woman's Club of Manila, its members drawn from the European, American and Filipino residents. Its first interest was to establish day nurseries for the babies of the working mothers and to co-operate with and supplement the work of the Board of Health. Endorsed by the legislature and the Municipal Board the club did much to advance the social welfare of the city.

Coming to Shanghai after this varied training Mrs. Lobingier threw herself with enthusiasm into the philanthropic work of the A.W.C. and for two years served as Chairman of that division which has now developed into the Civic Department. For the two years following that she served as President of the Club and during that time represented this organization at two of the biennial conventions of the Federation of Women's Clubs with which this local body is affiliated.

During Mrs. Lobingier's third term as President of the A.W.C. the scheme of departmental activities was put into effect to meet the needs of the rapidly growing membership. The invaluable service of the cup of tea and other social factors in promoting friendly acquaintanceship has never been lost sight of by Mrs. Lobingier and many a stranger to the city has found a warmer welcome at the club because of Mrs. Lobingier's cordial interest in the new comer.

As Mrs. Lobingier is leaving with her husband for a holiday in her old home in Omaha and their place in the Ozarks they are followed by many sincere wishes for a speedy return to their many close friends here. Mrs. Lobingier's mental poise and her charm of manner have made her an inspiring personality in the club and one which will not willingly be spared. At the reception tomorrow in the club rooms, 66 Szechuen Road at five o'clock, there will be an opportunity for all the club members to wish this loyal fellow worker *bon voyage* and it is hoped that all will avail themselves of this opportunity.

GYMNASIUM FOR GIRLS

Athletic Opportunities Offered by Y. W. C. A.

The Foreign Y. W. C. A. has many membership privileges but few more eagerly seized than the chance of gymnastic training and swimming classes. Every Monday afternoon at 5.30 a gymnasium class under the direction of Miss Norah Jervis, the principal of the Y. W. C. A. Normal School of Physical Education and Training meets in the gymnasium of the Navy Y. M. C. A. which has been kindly made available to them during the "off season for sailors."

The enrollment of the class is 50 and the average attendance close upon 40. The work offered consists of setting up drills and country dances with occasional games and the girls taking the course report not only great enjoyment of the drills but a noticeable improvement in health. Miss Jervis has enjoyed the best English training available and has taught with Cecil Sharp, the authority on Folk Dancing so Shanghai girls are fortunate to have her as an istructor.

The swimming classes have used the Navy Y. tank but will be obliged to relinquish their claims when it is needed for the men of the visiting fleet. Four more Thursday afternoon in March are available, however, beginning to-day, the fee being $2.50 for the month. It is rumoured that if the enrolment this month justifies it, it may be possible to secure the tank during the summer, the time which it would be most appreciated.

THE GYMNASIUM CLASS IN ACTION

HOME HUMOURS

Anticipation.

Mary, the new maid, seemed eminently satisfactory, but the mistress of the house thought a few words of advice would be just as well. She concluded: "I shall expect you to be very reticent about what you hear when you are waiting at table."

"Certainly ma'am," said the treasure, whose face lit up with an innocent curiosity, "and may I ask, ma'am, if there will be much to be reticent about?"

PERSONALLY CONCERNED.

Scott and Jasper were arguing about the need of a general and immediate spelling reform and

ROSETTES AND BEADS FORM A GIRLISH TRIMMING.

the discussion grew warm. "Look here," said Jasper at last, "why are you so bitter in your opposition to reforming the language?"

"Because," replied Scott, bringing his fist down with emphasis, "I've just invested thirty dollars in a new dictionary."

THE RULING PASSION.

Old Professor Smith, who is inclined to absent-mindedness, was a lover of good horses and an enthusiastic horseman. He could be seen galloping over the neighbouring fields and streams almost any summer evening, usually alone, but sometimes in the company of his wife who did not altogether share her husband's enthusiasm for sport.

One evening Mrs. Smith, who was riding somewhat ahead of the professor, attempted to cross a little stream in too much haste and was thrown from her horse into the water. Her mount scrambled up on the bank and when the professor reached the scene of the disaster it was trotting off toward the nearby highway. Mrs. Smith, floundering in deep water, tried to shout for help, but her husband merely lifted a quieting finger: "Stay right where you are, my dear," he said, "I'll get him if I have to chase him all the way to town."—"Harper's Magazine."

WHAT WIVES THINK ABOUT HUSBANDS

You will be engaged on a long journey through the deserts of life with this solitary companion. You will remember as a rule when he fails to please you and you will put that down to his sex. On the other hand you will ignore the fact that he keeps you throughout your life in a standard of very decent comfort that you do nothing in the world to earn. You will ignore the fact that he is frequently kind, generous, considerate and even delicate in his attentions to you. He may bring you a bunch of violets every evening on his return from work. He may present you with a valuable bracelet on every anniversary of your wedding day. He may deprive himself for life of the pleasure of listening to music because music gives you a headache. But all these things you will say are just his duty: you will pay no attention to them. But supposing that he should ever omit any one of these things. Then immediately you would say:

"He is like all the rest of his sex—utterly unrefined."

And what you will mean is that he has no sense of discernment or he would have known how bitterly your delicate female soul would be grieved by his omitting to bring you that bunch of violets.

Of course, during all this time he will be doing exactly the same by you and, if you are not exceptionally lucky, you will find that by the time you have been married 15 years there will have grown up between you a sort of dull, uninterested sex bitterness so that whatever your man may do to irritate you, you will say:

"What can you expect? He is a man." And whatever you may do to irritate him he will say:

"What can you expect? She is a woman." Whereas actually since God made us all and the world is a trying place we are most of us poor people trying to make the best of a bad job.

FORD MADDOX HUFFER

SINCE YOU HAVE GONE

Now, there is no one to laugh with,
No one to cry with,
No one to run hand in hand with,
Down the strange, sweet, unknown ways,
Where red flowers grow,
And white stars shine,
And the tongue of water
Laps against the stones,
And little, brown birds sing.
There is no one near in the silence of the night,
When the heart speaks loud,
And no one in the throbbing of the noon,
When the heart is out-voiced.
There are no brown birds,
And no bright flowers,
And no white stars—
Only I myself.
Crying
With myself
Alone.

Jane Dransfield in "Good Housekeeping."

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

One of the most important books this year will be the second volume of Queen Victoria's letters, which is to be published by Mr. John Murray. The first volume, edited by Dr. A. C. Benson and Lord Esher, appeared in 1907 and contained a selection of the Queen's letters down to the death of the Prince Consort in December, 1861. The second volume will carry the correspondence to about 1885, covering a most important period of history in which Lord Palmerston, Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. Gladstone, and Lord Salisbury played leading parts.

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Who, would you say, is Exon of the King's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard? It is Colonel De Sales La Terriére, and he has just written his reminiscences for Hutchinson. Notables occur in them with delightful frequency, for they give glimpses of, among others, Queen Victoria, King Edward, Queen Alexandra, King George, Lord Lonsdale, and Mr. Winston Churchill. Lord Wolseley and Sir Evelyn Wood also come into the book, and it has much to say about Kitchener when he was beginning his career in Egypt. Colonel La Terrière lived with him then, and simplicity and frankness were the order of their friendship.

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The new English book which sold most largely last year was Mr. Rudyard Kipling's "Land and Sea Tales," of which over a hundred thousand copies were bought in Great Britain. The book still sells, especially to Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and probably by this time next year it will have sold a hundred and fifty thousand copies.

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Father Knox, whose last book won praise and readers, has a new one appearing with Methuen. It is called "Sanctions," is described as a "frivolity," and is likely to be found both amusing and provoking. It follows, in form, the lines laid down by Mr. W. H. Mallock in "The New Republic," and imitated by Mr. Lowes Dickinson in his "Modern Symposium." That is to say it is a record of a series of conversations between a set of inquirers into life. We are assured that in no book of our time have so many hares been started.

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One hears that "The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House" is to be the personal property of her Majesty, who will distribute the profits made from it as she thinks fit. They are likely to be considerable, because the book will stand out very prominently on the landscape of the spring literary world. It will for one thing, be a book of beauty and its contents artistic and literary, promise to be unique. Ever so many well-known authors have written special stories essays, or poems for inclusion in the work, which the Methuens are to publish.

∴

When Mr. Justice Darling retired from the Bench it went about that he would write his reminiscences. He has done nothing that way, so far, but, as Lord Darling, he is giving us some more verse. It will be contained in a new edition of his "On the Oxford Circuit," and there is so much of it that it will double the size of this book. The fresh poems will be found grave and gay, like the old ones, as becomes the author of "Seria Ludo."

∴

A year or so ago a novel, called "Kamiko," by Mr. John Paris, had a great success in England and in America. Readers have watched with interest for its successor, which is on the spring list of the house of Collins under the title "Sayonara," meaning literally, "If it must be so, or otherwise," "Farewell." Japan is again the scene of Mr John Paris's writing.

BIG MARK!

"Big Mark—One of China's Boys." By. Anna Magdalena Johnnsen pub. at 2/- net by the China Inland Mission, London.

This attractive book of 100 pages with four illustrations would make a welcome gift, not only where there are boys and girls to read it, but to any resident in China who desires to know particulars of its social life. Many who have lived in Shanghai for years are quite vague in their knowledge of anything outside the Foreign Settlement and regard the peculiar ways of the natives with unseeing eyes. They would do well to consult this authoress who has lived as a missionary here for 26 years and reveals her intimacy with domestic scenes in China, in chapters on Infancy, School, Testivals and so on. The translations of children's songs are particularly interesting.

A.N.R.

ARTHUR WEIGALL'S GARDEN

BY ACHILLES.

Most people who read his books will consider "The Garden of Paradise" (T. Fisher Unwin: 7/6) to be far and away the best of Mr. Arthur Weigall's achievements in the realm of fiction. He has improved, assuredly, with time and growing maturity.

This volume contains numerous ideas which are choice and subtle, and language which is poetic and yet possesses a pungent flavour. Yusuf, a student, is much enamoured of the clever Leila, and believes to the end that she is perfectly pure in all respects whereas she has formerly been the chattel of a notable personage. The author portrays skillfully her chagrin and remorse which are awakened only when she falls in love with Yusuf. Only then does she acquire new courage and nobility, which enable her fearlessly to say that she would be content that Yusuf, the extreme idealist, should if he sees fit, kill her when she has acquainted him with the truth. Her reason is thus picturesquely expressed:

"I would not wish to live if hatred of me and contempt were to be aroused in his heart; as, after all, the longest life is but a drop of rain falling from the cloud of destiny into the ocean of eternity." There is a pleasing Omar Khayamish twang about this and the lines that follow: "Soon each of us must sleep beneath the ground without a friend, a comrade, or a loved one; and if I am sent into that Nothing which may prove to be All, a little while before you, do not think that Yusuf has done me an injury. When the eagle of my soul shall have shaken from its plumage the dust of this body, it may be that I shall be permitted to wait for him in the Garden of Paradise until he shall come again to me." One regrets that Fate always intervened to prevent the confession reaching Yusuf's ears, but he, at least, carried his illusions to the grave so prematurely reached.

There is a native and witty philosopher whose utterances are neat and to the point. His half-hantering excuse for a certain youth's puerile folly is accompanied with a request that one be not angry with him for he is but suffering from a slight shortage of years. This is almost as good as Ernest Bramah's wonderful Kai Lung!

Hassan-es-Sabbah, the orange-bearded, who persecutes Leila, was conspicuous for the expression of perpetual astonishment which he wore on his face. We can picture this Arab, crafty and enterprising, with his uplifted eyebrows and deceptively innocent smile. How charmingly the author gives the finishing touch to this gentle caricature, by telling us that Leila considered the perpetual astonishment on his face was but 'the response of matter to the audacity of mind.'

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Lord Charnwood's Study of the Man and his Work

By Dr. Arthur Smith.

Theodore Roosevelt: By Lord Charnwood. Author of Abraham Lincoln. The Atlantic Press, Boston. Pp. 232.

The well earned distinction which the author of the Life of Abraham Lincoln attained in the United States after the publication of that important contribution to the literature of the subject, is evidenced by the fact that three "Impressions" of the present book were called for within three months of its first appearance. In the case of Lincoln there was need for English readers of a full exposition of his antecedents and achievements, for he lived more than two generations before that Life was written. Few Englishmen had ever seen Lincoln, who was very little understood by the educated class of the British isles until after his tragic death. Theodore Roosevelt, on the contrary, was in very recent times an international figure. His visit to Europe contributed to the gaiety of nations, while his numerous public utterances elicited a tempest of criticism as well as at times a storm of applause. So many volumes large and small have been written about Roosevelt that it might appear that there is absolutely nothing more to say, yet there is always an interest in seeing how an able, experienced, and impartial writer will handle an inherently important and difficult task.

It is no doubt an invariable source of irritation to the people of any country to read a book about one of their countrymem, written by a non-resident foreigner, when he assumes an air of semi-omniscience as if his dicta had especial weight by reason of his lack of qualification for his task. From any failure of this sort, Lord Charnwood is conspicuously free. He incidentally commends Admiral Mahan's two volume Life of Lord Nelson, as one of the few biographies of great Englishman, adding that the people of England owe any clear idea of the importance of England's sea-power to Mahan's great treatises on that subject.

In the author's chapter on Nineteenth Century America, he is careful to begin by remarking: "It may be best to hazard here some crude and hasty remarks upon the course of the national development up till then."

And at the close of the chapter he adds: "I would repeat how fully conscious I am of the crudeness and probable inaccuracy as well as the fragmentary nature of this survey." Such an attitude completely disarms criticism, while the obvious sympathy of the author with the ideals of the object of his studies gives assurance that whatever judgments he expresses will not be hasty, ill considered, or due to inadequate information.

In matters where his national prejudices might have been expected to bias his judgment Lord Charnwood displays a rare capacity for complete detachment. This is especially illustrated in his treatment of the Alaskan boundary dispute. After five or six pages on the subject he concludes with the judgment that Mr. Roosevelt "worked most honestly for the cause of friendship between our peoples, which neither more nor less than that of friendship between America and her neighbours generally he had at heart." In dismissing this topic he says: "I have dwelt upon this matter at such length because it seems to me a good test-case of Roosevelt's manner and spirit in his dealings, and because I happen to have a very warm affection for Canada and a passionate interest in the evolution of the British Empire. I do not want to be dogmatic, but I think it perhaps significant that I began studying this point with feelings of intense indignation against Roosevelt, and that I end with the absolute conviction that he did a very able and a most right and friendly thing."

Still more space is devoted to the matter of the Panama State and its relation to the Canal, where as he says, "American comments have often been very severe upon the most conspicuous instance where he gave a swift decision in dubious circumstances." After an extended discussion he concludes that senator Hoar was "in error" in his antagonism of the Panama State, on the ground that the sovereignty of Marquini over the people of Panama was that of a usurper. That the American Congress ultimately paid a handsome bonus to Columbia did not settle the moral principle involved; but merely the political question whether it was not worth while to spend a few million dollars rather than to have a dissatisfied and perhaps permanently hostile neighbour.

Of Roosevelt's international sympathy at the time of his European visit, we have a sample in a quotation from his writings. "Germany has the arrogance of a very strong power, as yet almost untouched by that feeble aspiration toward international equity which one or two strong powers, notably England and America, at least begin to feel." Upon this Lord Charnwood remarks: "Words of more exact justice could hardly have been chosen." It is interesting to have it suggested in the same connexion that perhaps Roosevelt enjoyed being on parade with William II as a twin stage figure; doubtless he enjoyed the moment, if it is true, that the latter potentate, having craved an audience with him, was granted precisely 20 minutes because Roosevelt had an appointment with Mrs. Humphrey Ward.

Of Mr. Wilson, Lord Charnwood does not hesitate to write: "In my eyes, this singular and powerful figure appears an evil figure, which it may be right to pity, but it can not be right to admire." The closing paragraph of this discussion of one whom an Englishman once spoke of as "The foremost figure in civilization to-day," admits the author's favourable predisposition towards the subject of his study. "I began this book by avowing a hero-worship of long standing. I do not mean by hero-worship any disposition to found a cult of the hero, to use his name as a rallying cry for party, or to shape one's own life in any spirit of discipleship to him. There is only one honest and useful discipleship possible to men. Great men are only worthily honoured if the honour we pay them provokes us, the weakest or the stupidest, to stand resolutely erect, and least of all would Theodore Roosevelt be worthily admired by anyone when the power of his mental or physical machinery should impress us as the real wonder of his life.

A GERMAN HANDBOOK OF AVIATION

Moedebeck's Taschenbuch fur Flugtechniker und Luftschiffer (Moedebeck's Pocket-book of Aviation and Airships)—Fourth Edition, M. Krayn, Berlin. 15s.

This pocket book was very well known before the war, an English translation of a previous edition having a wide circulation. It has now been revised and greatly enlarged by Messrs. Suring and Wegener and contains a wealth of information, some quite new. For example, there are no less than 53 pages on the subject of motorless flight. There are in all 868 pages of text, followed by 40 pages of tables; nevertheless the matter is very condensed. There are four chapters on meteorology, one on aerodynamics, one on aeronautical photography, two on aerial navigation, one on motors and propellers, one on mechanics of flight, a long chapter on the construction of aeroplanes, one on the manipulation of aeroplanes, one on gliders, one on airships, another on their control, and finally one on ordinary balloons.

The section on aeroplanes is very full, but naturally emphasises German development rather than that of other nations. As not very much is known of recent German practice, this is an advantage rather than otherwise. The author somewhat disparages French, British and American construction, but this was perhaps to be expected, however one may disagree with him. Airships are very fully described.

This book should certainly be in the hands of any German-reading person interested in aerial navigation.

R. CHATLEY.

THE FAITH AND THE FIELD

A Missionary's Story of the Great North-West

By Rodney Gilbert.

"The Call of China's Great North West, or Kansu and Beyond."—By Mrs. Howard Taylor. Published by the Religious Tract Society, London, for the Chinese Inland Mission.

"The Call" of which Mrs. Taylor writes is not the call of the wilderness but the call to the mission field in north-west China. The book is more than anything else an appeal to supporters of missions, so that descriptions of Kansu and its people together with historical data are incidental to an account of the evangelical work being done in a number of remote and widely separated stations by the members of the China Inland Mission and those of allied organizations. In her own itinerary, Mrs. Taylor does not go beyond Kansu. She sets out from Sianfu in Shensi just before the great Kansu earthquake and arrives in Lanchowfu shortly after the catastrophe, visiting all mission stations on the big highway. Liangchow, Pingfan, Sining, Kumbum and Hochow are also visited and some account of mission work in Kanchow Ninghsia, Tsinchow and other unvisited centres is given. To those in sympathy with evangelical work the most interesting portion of the book will undoubtedly be the story of the remarkable work done by an independent Chinese missionary, a Dr. Kao who has settled in Kanchow where he supports himself through his medical practice while devoting most of his energies to spiritual ministrations in a Christian community which he has built up by his own efforts in this new and untouched field.

While Mrs. Taylor devotes most space to the personnel and the work of the various missions, she also writes of the physical charms of a rugged, mountainous country and has something to say of the character, manners and history of the picturesque denizens of the country, such as the Tibetans, Moslems, Mongols and the so-called aborigines. The material for these sketches was obviously furnished by missionaries in the field and contains nothing which the scientific student of the Kansu people would regard as a contribution, though there are some statements about the origin of the aborigines and the Moslems east of Hochow which one would be forced to challenge if Mrs. Taylor's book pretended to be a scientific work.

To foreigners in China who are not in close and sympathetic touch with mission work in the interior, the simple, primitive faith of the Chinese Christian converts whom Mrs. Taylor describes will be of interest because the sincerity of converts is always a subject for debate among foreigners in China who are not in sympathy with mission work. Miracles have a place in the daily lives of the Kansu converts. Evil spirits are cast out by prayer. An old man who is too poor to go to a Christian meeting prays for help and his wife finds a silver dollar in her sewing basket. A man curses his brother who is a Christian and his horse breaks a leg. The reader may not believe in such happenings, but Mrs. Taylor will leave no doubt in the reader's mind that the missionaries and their converts do believe in them.

The book is well illustrated with a number of photographs of typical Kansu scenes and persons.

The North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE

WEEKLY EDITION OF THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS

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CHINESE TRADEMARK LAW—BRITISH FIRMS' CABLE TO THE "TIMES"

Detailed Indictment of Proposed Law: Its Manifold Violations of Treaties and Menace to Business: Immense Foreign Interests Endangered

The following protest against the Chinese Trademark Law and against its acceptance by the Foreign Powers was cabled to the "Times" by the signatory British firms in China as under on March 5 and was published apparently on March 10 in London.

SIR,—Foreign property in China is menaced by the promulgation by the Chinese Government of a trademark law which, if recognized by the Powers without substantial modifications, in addition to imperilling trademarks, will weaken the whole basis on which foreigners live and trade in China. We are leading British firms in China and in our own interests and those of British trade as a whole we ask you to be good enough to publish this letter so that all concerned in trade with China may be made aware of the danger that threatens them.

THE MACKAY TREATY.

In Article 7 of the Mackay Treaty ratified in 1903 China undertook to protect British trademarks and to establish offices for their registration under the control of the Maritime Customs, which is officered by British and other foreigners. The proposed law places trademarks under undiluted Chinese control and lacks many of the essential safeguards provided for trademark owners in Europe and America.

Your columns have borne repeated testimony to the chaotic condition of China at the present time, to the powerlessness of the Central Government, to the domination of the provinces by military adventurers, to the existence of large armies of marauding troops, to the way in which treaties are being flagrantly violated, to the subordination of civil and judicial to military authority. Yet in these chaotic circumstances it is proposed to strip foreign property worth many millions of pounds of the safeguards which have hitherto protected it.

THE TREATY OF TIENTSIN.

Article 15 of the Treaty of Tientsin 1858 stipulates that "all questions in regard to rights whether of property or person arising between British subjects shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the British authorities." Under the protection of this and other agreements designed to ensure to British subjects enjoyment of the fair treatment provided by British law and British courts, British capital has been freely invested in China and a large outlet has been won for British manufactures of all kinds. The proposed trademark law strikes at the root of the safeguards which have made investment of capital and commercial development possible.

CHINESE BUREAUCRATS.

It does this in the following ways. It establishes a Registration Bureau officered entirely by Chinese from which appeal in cases of dispute lies to Chinese bureaucrats inexperienced either in trademark or any other branch of law. There is no appeal from the Bureau to a Court of Justice such as British or American law provides. On the contrary article 36 of the proposed law specifically precludes reconsideration of any decision given on appeal by the Chinese officials. Thus any dispute between two British subjects or between a British subject and another foreigner or between a foreigner and a Chinese, regarding the registrable character of a trademark on which the right to use the mark depends, will be settled by Chinese tribunals alone. This is an obvious contravention of the Treaty of Tientsin and of the extraterritorial rights also agreed to elsewhere, for all other cases of dispute between foreigners are tried in foreign courts, while in disputes between foreigners and Chinese the former have a right to be represented by their Consuls or to be heard before assessors of their own nationality. Yet while the proposed law makes no reference to the procedure to be adopted when foreigners are plaintiffs in civil actions against Chinese for infringement, and thus ignores our treaty right to be represented by a Consul or heard before an assessor, it leaves in doubt whether this right will remain to us in criminal actions.

APPEAL TO THE CHAMBERS.

In these circumstances and in view of the deliberate manner in which treaty obligations of all sorts are being ignored we desire to appeal through your columns to Chambers of Commerce and other public bodies to use their utmost influence to prevent this law being recognized in its present form, and to support us in asking for effective foreign co-operation in the administration of the Registration Bureau and effective foreign representation in all tribunals and Courts which may be called upon to give any decision affecting foreign interests in connexion with trademarks.

THE PREY OF CHINESE OFFICIALDOM.

We warn all concerned that if the law is recognized in its present form foreign trademarks will become the prey of Chinese officialdom, while the safeguards which have hitherto protected foreign property and rights in China will be dangerously undermined.

We are, etc.,

ASIATIC PETROLEUM CO. (N. CHINA), LD.
ARNHOLD & CO, LD.
BARLOW & CO.
A. R. BURKILL & SONS.
BRITISH-AMERICAN TOBACCO CO. (CHINA), LD.
BRADLEY & CO., LD.
CALDER MARSHALL & CO., LD.
JOSEPH CROSSFIELD & SONS.
DODWELL & CO., LD.
WILLIAM GOSSAGE & SONS.
ILBERT & CO., LD.
JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LD.
WILLIAM LITTLE & CO., LD.
LEVER BROS.
MACKENZIE & CO., LD.
MAITLAND & CO., LD.
HOLYOAK & MASSEY, LD.
PRICES (CHINA), LD.
PROBST, HANBURY & CO., LD.
SCOTT, HARDING & CO., LD.

"TIMES'" SYMPATHATIC COMMENT.

London, Mar. 11.

The "Times," in a sympathetic leading article, lays stress on the desirability that a settlement should be reached as early as possible in order that the subjects of Treaty Powers shall not be put at a disadvantage *vis-à-vis* of their competitors.—Reuter.

PEKING, March 8.—The Shui-wuhu has appointed a commission to consider changes of duties or obligations devolving upon it as the result of the new National Constitution. Mr. Chen Luan has been appointed chairman of the commission.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINA AND SOVIET RUSSIA

The Progress of Negotiations: Opposition from Marshal Chang Tso-lin

PROBABILITY OF EARLY AGREEMENT

Peking, Mar. 7.

Dr. C. T. Wang will attend the Cabinet meeting to-morrow when the Sino-Russian negotiations will be considered. Meanwhile the members of the Cabinet are studying Dr. Wang's memorandum.

It is reported that Marshal Chang Tso-lin opposes recognition as a preliminary measure. Marshal Chang contends that the Chinese Eastern Railway and other important questions should be settled, at least, in principle. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

Mar. 8.

This morning's meeting of the Cabinet was entirely devoted to hearing Dr. C. T. Wang's report and memorandum on the Sino-Russian negotiations which occupied three hours in reading. Consequently there was no opportunity for discussion or exchange of views. All the Cabinet Ministers were present except the Minister of Education.

THREE POSSIBLE COURSES.

Mar. 9.

The semi-official *"Ching Pao"* says that there are three courses open to the Government with regard to a Sino-Russian settlement, firstly, unconditional recognition, secondly, continuance of preliminary negotiations until a settlement is reached and after that recognition, and, thirdly acceptance of broad principles for recognition after which details can be settled. The paper adds that M. Karakhan has made many concessions and is not likely to concede more. It considers that the first alternative is unwise from the Chinese point of view, while the second will not meet the Russian wishes. Therefore, the third is the only one likely to prove satisfactory.

According to other reports, the Government will send a delegate to Mukden to-morrow and, as Marshal Chang Tso-lin's official views wil not be known, it is not likely that the Cabinet will reach a decision on Tuesday, when the Sino-Russian question will again be considered.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

KARAKHAN PREMATURE.

In view of "China's pending recognition of Russia," Karakhan, states a Peking, telegram received by the *"Shunpao,"* is planning to remove into the former Russian Minister's building in Peking. In this, however, he is likely to meet with opposition, since it is said that the Diplomatic Body held a recent meeting to discuss the matter, at which certain members maintained that they should not hand the premises over till the recognition had actually been brought about. They also contended that he should not be allowed to attend conferences of the Diplomatic Body until the Soviet has been recognized by all the nations.

M. KARAKHAN'S WARNING.

Riga, Mar. 10.

In the course of a note couched in very definite terms, Mr. Karakhan, Russia's representative in Peking, warns the Chinese Government against taking independent action in connexion with the Chinese Eastern Railway, formerly belonging to Russia. He declares that the slightest alteration in present relations would involve China in very serious consequences.

The newspaper, *"Isvestia,"* adopting a similar attitude,

MAIL NOTICES

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PASSENGERS

INWARD.

Per M.M.S. Perthus, February 28. From Marseilles. Mr. Grab, Mr. and Mrs. Leb, Mr. and Mrs. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Messrs. Schaal, C. Elias, Mr. and Mrs. Hemendinger, Mrs. Rebel and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Berrey and child, Miss Jabobson, Rev. Father V. Gustaf, Messrs. Samuelsen, P. Jean, Mr. and Mr. P. Jean, Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Hubert, Mrs. Bergquist and child, Miss E. Hagelin, Miss S. Berstrom, Mr. True, Mr. Lorenzi, Mrs. Majewski, Messrs. Heuvert (2), Miss Horwert, Mrs. Howwert, Mrs. Duggan, Mr. de [illegible] and **From Port Said** Mr. and Mrs. Gaze, Mrs. and Mr. Chelmis **From Colombo.** Messrs. Mercer and Rutledge, Mr. Huttemsen. **From Saigon.** Mrs. E. M and Miss Andrus, Mrs. Bertin, Mr. Lacern. **From Hongkong.** Mr Lonicansl

Per str. Sinkiang, February 29. From Hongkong and Canton. Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] and child, Mr. Sellers.

Per str. Suiyang March 1. From Amoy Mr. and Mrs. Bowman

Per str. Kiangan, March 1. From River Ports. Mr. Hedges.

Per str. Kutsao, March 1. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. Drummond Messrs. A. Bolton and Pasquinelli

Per str. Shuntien, March 2. From Tientsin. Mr. and Mrs. Vaes.

Per str. Hsinfung, March 2. From Wenchow. Two Sisters of Charity.

Per str. Hsin Peking, March 2. From Ningpo. Messrs. E. H. Adams, A. H. Limmings, S. Brooks and A. Huntley.

Per str. Loongwo, March 2. From River Ports. Rev. P. C. Ferris, Mrs. Ferris, Mr. and Mrs. Winspear and [illegible] Miss Ferris

Per str. Insimong, March 4. From Tientsin. Capt. Blethyn.

Per str. Tungchow, March 4. From Chefoo. Miss. N. White.

Per str. Kiangshun, March 4. From River Ports. Two Sisters of Charity.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, March 4. From Ningpo. Capt. H. Burwerth, Mr. and Mrs. F. Caren, Bishop and Miss Mowing, Capt. Yonkers, Mrs. Scott.

Per H.A.L.S. Derfflinger, March 4. From Europe, etc. Messrs. G. Engler, M. Winderlich, E. Greven, Miss L. E. Mitchell, Messrs. O. Wahlgren and family, Mrs. Kooymann and child, Messrs. H. Parchkewitz, O. Bergmann, Mr. and Mrs. Firstsen, Messrs. V. W. Bruce, D. Fames, W. Herrgesell and family, T. Filtness and family, M. Hirsch, M. Audestad, Miss E. Wohlbier, Miss B. Schmidt, Messrs. H. Thiele, A. Trenbooster, Mrs. E. Lipkin, Mr. and Mrs. Kutzweil, Mr. H. Groetzinger, Mrs. N. Fuchs, Messrs. C. Gronberg, F. F. Kochemakin.

Per str. Hsin Ningshao, March 5. From Ningpo. Mrs. Heffmann.

Per str. Luenho, March 5. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Miss A. Coghil and child.

Per str. Poyang March 5. From River Ports. Capt. and Mrs. J. B. Bailey, Messrs. Gregory, Gilmans and Gregows, Mr. and Mrs. Lecky.

Per str. Yungshin, March 6. From Ningpo. Mr. W. C. Farnbern.

Per str. Kaiping, March 6. From Chinwangtao. Mr. A. M. Spence.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, March 6. From Ningpo. Mr. H. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. A. Somerton.

Per str. Kungwo, March 6. From River Ports. Mrs. Boddington and child, Mr. Downs, Rev. S. H. Littell.

OUTWARD.

Per str. Hsin Peking, February 29. For Ningpo Mr. E. H. Adams.

Per str. Whangpu, February 29.—For River Ports Mr. and Mrs. R. Lawson and child

Per M.M.S. Angers, February 29.—For Marseilles Mr. and Mrs. Le Gouche and two children, Mr. A. de Gialas, Mr. and Mrs. Lafiangus, Mrs. P. Matthead and three children, Mr. J. Gilmore, H. A. L. Bayley, Mr. and Bondiel, Miss H. Bondiel, Mr. M. Bondiel, Mr. and Mrs. Mallon, Misses. J. Gilmore, H. A. L. Bayley, Mr. and Mrs. Jarno, Mr. and Mrs. O'Neill, Mrs. Marchand, Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Heid, Mr. E. I. Forrest, Rev. Father A. van Acker, Mr. J. Eymard, Miss A. Bourdin, Mr. and Mrs. de Sevaux, Misses A. and T. de Sevaux, Mr. and Mrs. H. Lawrel, Mr. and Mrs. Audiglier, Misses G. D. and I. Lawrel, Misses R. and J. Lawrel, A. Lopez, P. Sweet, J. Peley, A. Kenney, F. J. Banachan, Mr. and Mrs. J. Turner and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. Cooper and child, Miss J. Shaw, Mr. C. Kelly, Rev. Father Williams, Mrs. Fraser and child, Mrs. Barnard and two children, Miss P. P. Batten, Messrs. C. Gregory, Y. Stern, P. Roux, J. Franchi, G. Nablet, P. de Lino, Hulowicz, A. Bilinowsdeff. **For Port Said**—Mr., Mrs. V. and Miss Hacidovich. **For Colombo** Sisters Marie and Françoise, **For Singapore**—Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Corbet. **For Saigon** Mrs. F. W. Dee and child, Mr. P. H. Jennings. **For Hongkong** Messrs. Fraenkel, K. I. Kerr, G. Payne, B. C. Dix, C. F. Jones, K. C. Lane, Miss E. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. A. Gomez and three children.

Per str. Chehiang, March 1.—For Chefoo—Mr. W. Gardner.

Per str. Changsha, March 1.—For River Ports,—Messrs. D. MacDonald, W. D. B. Miller, Ngstrom, Saunderson, J. Reed, Miss Jacobson.

Per str. Sunning, March 2.—For Hongkong.—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ironside and three children, Mr. A. S. D. Coulsland.

Per str. Hsin Peking, March 3. For Ningpo. Mr. L. J. Magnus, Rev. Father Barnett.

Per str. Sinkiang March 3. For Tsinetao. Mr. and Mrs. Stephens, Two Franciscan Sisters.

Per str. Suiyang, March 4.—For Amoy.—Mr. Cole. **For Hongkong.**—Mr. J. Keenan.

Per str. Shunties, March 4.—For Tientsin.—Miss C. Rosenburg. **For Chefoo.**—Col. and Mrs. Hayley Bell and nurse and two children.

Per P. & O. S. Karmala, March 4. For Hongkong, Mr. F. B. Cook, The Rt. Rev. Bishop F. R. Graves, Messrs. W. A. Hawkes, A. S. Kent, Mrs. P. L. Knight, Mr. A. F. D. Lyall, The Rt. Rev. and Mrs. Malony, Messrs. C. G. S. Mackie, F. R. Madiera, Rt. Rev. Bishop F. L. Norris, Mrs. M. P. Remedios, Messrs. L. J. Silva, L. F. Sequeira, D. Tinmans, Capt. and Mrs. A. St. C. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Hyndman **For Singapore,** Capt. L. J. V. Scott, Mr. H. Spencer-Fenton. **For Colombo,** Messrs. A. C. Knight, C. F. Taylor **For Marseilles,**—Mr. G. Bocaldeldam's Mr. and Mrs. W. H. C. Wingrove, Master C. J. M. Wingrove, Misses F. M. J. and H. C. Wingrove and Mr. Brown **For London.** Messrs. H. W. Allison, J. Barry, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Deane, Mrs. E. Fairburn, Misses Fairburn (2), Mrs. A. C. Harmer, Mr. R. H. Kingswood, Mrs. W. W. and Master R. Kay, Mrs. R. F. C. Master, Miss P. and Master H. Master, Mrs. J. Archer.

Per str. Nganking, March 4. For River Ports. Messrs. W. Judd and A. F. Davis.

Per str. Hsin Peking, March 5.—For Ningpo.—Mr. and Mrs. Moale.

Per str. Woosung, March 5.—For River Ports.—Mr. E. S. Hawkins, Miss N. Loomis.

Per str. Tungchow, March 6.—For Chefoo.—Rev. Father E. Irence Freiderie, Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Nagain, nurse and three children, Mr. N. P. Yannoulatos.

BIRTHS

COULTHARD.—On February 26, 1924, at Rhiwbina, Cardiff, to Dr. H. L. and Mrs. Coulthard, the gift of a son, Alan. (By cable.) (H. L. Coulthard, M.D., D.P.H., second eldest son of Rev. J. J. Coulthard, of Chefoo).

IRVINE.—On March 4, 1924, at Hankow, to Mr. and Mrs. John T. Irvine, a son.

KIRBY.—On March 2, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Kirby, a son.

MARRIAGES

FSDALE—RIVETT.—On Saturday, March 1, 1924, before Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., H.B.M. Consul - General, Shanghai, Charles J. A. Esdale, of Kobe, Japan, to Avice, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rivett, of Stockport and Deganwy, North Wales.

PHILLIPS—BURTENSHAW. On March 1, 1924, at H. B. M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, before Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral by the Very Rev. Dean Symons, Thomas Phillips, son of the late Thomas Truslow Phillips, of Portsmouth, England, to Evelyn Marie Burtenshaw, daughter of the late Arthur Reeves Burtenshaw, Taunton, Somerset.

DEATHS

DABELSTEIN.—On March 4, 1924, at Dr. Fearn's Hospital, Shanghai, Arthur Dabelstein, the beloved husband of Harrie Dabelstein, aged 59 years.

HYKES.—On February 27, 1924, at Chengchow, Honan, Mrs. Rebe S., widow of Rev. John R. Hykes, D.D.

JORGE.—On March 4, 1924, at No. 252 Avenue Joffre, Shanghai, Emilia, widow of the late H. Jorge, aged 76 years.

LOPES.—On March 5, 1924, at his residence, No. 41 Haskell Road, Shanghai, Francisco Xavier (Chico) at the age of 45. Singapore, Hongkong, Canton and Japan papers phase copy.

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SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month	Barometer 9 A.M.	Barometer Attcd Therm	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather Conditions
Feb. 29	30.32	47.1	N N E	2	39.8	37.6	45.2	37.1	
March 1	30.51	48.8	N	1	42.4	38.1	49.8	37.9	C. M.
,, 2	30.54	48.8	N N E	1	41.4	37.4	46.8	34.2	B.
,, 3	30.47	49.1	N E	2	44.6	39.8	52.0	34.6	B.
,, 4	30.31	49.3	E N E	2	40.1	39.2	41.9	38.9	B.
,, 5	30.25	48.8	N W	1	44.2	40.3	51.6	33.4	C. D. R.
,, 6	30.38	48.6	N N E	2	42.6	39.9	50.9	34.5	R. C. O. C.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—ozone

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date	Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Rainfall 1923
Feb. 29	38.0	37.0	43.6	63.2	0.18	Nil.
March 1	33.0	44.8	43.6	66.8	0.49	Nil.
,, 2	29.0	39.0	42.8	56.6	Nil.	Nil.
,, 3	29.0	38.8	45.8	48.6	Nil.	Nil.
,, 4	34.8	42.6	55.0	61.6	Nil.	Nil.
,, 5	46.8	41.6	51.6	52.8	0.31	0.18
,, 6	47.0	44.2	60.0	57.0	0.13	0.35

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WHY NOT TOC H IN SHANGHAI?

Mar. 10.

THE hopes have vanished which were entertained a few years ago that the great war then being fought would end all war and henceforward there would be peace and goodwill among the nations. In their disappointment some idealists are inclined to smile, perhaps a little derisively, at their faith and expectations, and to echo the words of the preacher, vanity of vanity, all is vanity and a striving after the illusory. But the founding of numerous Toc H branches in England and other parts of the world is evidence that such hopes are by no means extinguished. Recently there was a very interesting celebration in London of the birthday festival of this organization. The Prince of Wales presided. Among those who took part in the ceremonies were Viscount Grey, General Sir Charles Harington, the Duke of Devonshire, the Lord Mayor of London, the Bishop of Willesden, and Sir James Barrie. "We must spread its spirit fearlessly far and wide," said the Prince, "for the spirit of Toc H is one that is wanted very badly in this country to-day and will be wanted in the future."

What is the significance of this movement? During the long strain and stress of the fighting in northern France many soldiers, wearied in body and mind, felt the need of a brief period of rest. To meet this need Talbot House, named after Gilbert Talbot who died at Hooge, was opened at Poperinghe, for the refreshment, spiritual and physical, of those serving and suffering in the Ypres salient. No less than 100,000 officers and men passed through it. The name Talbot House was shortened to "T.H." In the vocabulary of army signallers "T" was named "Toc" for telephonic reasons, so Talbot House became "Toc H." Its consonants also suggested the three words that have become the motto of the movement, "To conquer Hate." After the war the movement spread to England, the object now being to establish centres of social and spiritual influence to propagate and maintain the ideals which brought the British Empire into the war. The organization is a brotherhood of service. It has no class distinctions, its membership being drawn from young men in the schools and universities, offices and workshops. Each branch has its own Lamp of Maintenance. Round the lamp the members of the branch gather every week or fortnight in remembrance of those who fell in the war and in loyalty to the tasks which they left unfinished. The following questions and answers are a part of the simple ritual of introduction: "What lit this lamp?" "Unselfish sacrifice." "What alone can maintain it?" "Unselfish service." "What is service?" "The rent we pay for our room on earth." At the London celebration the representatives of sixteen new branches approached the Prince in due order; he lit their lamps with a taper lighted at his own Lamp of Maintenance, and a mighty shout arose from those present when it was seen that the last two lamps were those of Montreal and Buenos Aires, showing how the movement was spreading in the British Empire and beyond it. By this time the older branches had been arranged along the two sides of the hall. Sir Charles Harington and Sir James Barrie, with tapers lighted by the Prince, each took a side and walked down, lighting the lamps of the branches. When all were lit, the electric lights went out. Sir Charles Harington spoke a few ritual words of remembrance, answered by the deep and general murmur, "We will remember them." Then suddenly, out of the silence and from a distance that made it sound faint and far, as though it came from Flanders itself, there sounded the ever-moving strains of the Last Post. After the solemn hush the lights went up, to the accompaniment of the cheerful "Reveille."

Is not the spirit of this movement needed in Shanghai? It would strengthen the fellowship of the men who fought in the war by associating them in generous service for the good of others, and by giving them opportunities to spread and maintain the ideals for which so many of their comrades laid down their lives. It would instil patriotism of a high order into the minds of British youths born out here whose devotion to England, without this inspiration, may not be as strong as the patriotism of those born in the Home land to whom the soil itself is dear; and youths arriving fresh from Home would find in the comradeship of Toc H a helpful steadying influence that would keep those with a tendency to wildness from going astray. "I cannot imagine," said the Prince, "a method of memorial more practical and permanent than that the names of the dead should thus be household words, held high by generation after generation of lads coming up to work in our big unfriendly cities." Further, in this very cosmopolitan city of Shanghai, the motto "To conquer Hate," should be the motto of all. This may seem a counsel of perfection, but the war has been fought, the hatchet should be buried, and the policy of goodwill given a fair trial. At any rate, among those of British birth there should be unbounded goodwill and reciprocal helpfulness, to a degree unknown perhaps before the war, for the nation is passing through difficult and dangerous times and all should stand together. In Toc H, based on patriotism and the fellowship of service, this unity will be secured.

Chief Preventive Officer Watt, who rescued a Chinese man and woman from drowning during the typhoon which struck Hongkong last year, was decorated by the Governor on February 28 with the Royal Humane Society's bronze medal.

SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mar. 11.

OPTIMISM is not to be looked for nowadays from institutions concerned with business and politics in China, and the report for 1923 of the Committee of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce certainly affords no exception. "The present position (in China) is one of infinite chaos," it says, "and it would be difficult to conceive a more hopeless state of affairs." Actually it might be suggested that that very hopelessness contains seeds of hope, inasmuch as matters could hardly be worse and in the ordinary course of events, as illustrated even in China's history, any change ought to be for the better. But it is not for Committees of business organizations to indulge in psycho-analytic speculation: they want to show results and of these the year 1923 was unhappily sterile. The most agreeable entry is that the representations made by Sicawei Observatory to the Chamber for financial assistance, as recorded in the report for 1922, met with a ready response, the sum of Tls. 5,050 being remitted to the Director of the Observatory by the S.G.C.C. There can be no firm doing business on the China Coast which would not gladly testify its appreciation of the invaluable work done by the Fathers of Siccawei.

The largest section of the report (apart from a voluminous review of events in China in the past year) is devoted to pilferage in the harbour and the consequent need of more police. In August information was received of suggested improvements to the River Police Force involving additional capital expenditure of Tls. 50,000 and additional annual expenditure of Tls. 25,000. A further increase of the strength of the Force to fifty-eight, as recommended by the Harbour Master, with accompanying plant, would involve a further capital expenditure of Tls. 100,000 and bring the additional annual expenditure up to Tls. 100,000. In May, 1922, the S.G.C.C. had pressed for at least sixty-four foreigners and forty-eight Chinese. The report states that while the Inspector-General of Customs would find the Tls. 100,000 for capital expenditure, the additional staff could not be provided unless merchants in Shanghai would agree to pay a special wharfage due of one-fifth of one per cent. of the Customs duty. The Committee examined this proposal narrowly, finally agreeing to it, if funds could be obtained by no other means, on condition that "proceeds of the levy should be devoted, together with the funds already provided by the Inspector General of Customs, solely to the River Police Service of this Port, the Customs Authorities to keep available separate accounts of receipts and expenditure. The whole to be subject to revision at the expiration of two or three years." A letter to this effect was sent to the Senior Consul on November 29 last and an answer is still awaited. It would look as if the authorities in Peking misliked the Chamber's guarded attitude. But considering the immense value of the trade of Shanghai and that no other body but the Customs has any authority on the water, it is difficult not to think that a more liberal spirit could and should be shown in the matter of policing. It will be remembered that the British Chambers of Commerce at their last annual conference had a good deal to say on this subject.

One notes that "unanimity has not been arrived at regarding the reduction in the pilotage tariff and a meeting of Shipping Representatives has been convened with a view to arriving, if possible, at some basis for mutual agreement. It is not considered advisable at the present juncture to publish the text of the Chamber's Report or the correspondence on the matter." This is rather tantalizing. The question of a reduction of pilotage charges occupied a large part of the Chamber's energies in 1922 and on November 7 of that year the Consular Body called a meeting of representatives of the Shanghai Licensed Pilots' Association and the Chamber to consider a scheme formulated by the Harbour Master. An "attitude of expectant receptivity" is still, it would seem, the only one to be taken. The Chamber took an active part in the general flood of remonstrance which poured in on Peking after the Lincheng outrage. Its telegram on that occasion is worth reproducing, melancholy though the feelings be that it arouses:—

> The Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce expresses abhorrence at the dastardly outrage perpetrated at Lincheng and humbly presents views as follows. Committee desires to emphasize China's complete disregard of the liberal treatment by the Powers at Washington Conference, which is looked upon by Chinese officials as sign of weakness. That, in view of recent attack on Pukow-Tientsin express, the various agreements made at Washington Conference be suspended until a general settlement of the present chaotic conditions both financial and military has been arranged to entire satisfaction of the Powers. Responsibility to be attached to Tsao Kun and Shantung Tuchun. If necessary, international garrisons at treaty ports and at agreed points on the main trunk lines to support demands of the Powers. That foreign settlements and concessions should no longer be used as an asylum for political agitators."

With all allowance for the heated state of feeling ten months ago, we cannot think that any of the measures urged in this telegram was either excessive, uncalled for or impracticable. It is indeed tragic to think how the unequalled opportunity that Lincheng presented of doing something really effective for the welfare of the Chinese people was frittered away by procrastination and ineptitude.

The roll of members of the S.G.C.C. shows a small upward movement, with 125 at the close of the year as against 123 a twelvemonth earlier. British, French, Americans and Japanese are represented on the Committee and once again we would venture to emphasize the importance of the part that this long-standing organization may play and the necessity of its being well supported. If the Lincheng outrage mostly resulted in disappointment, it did at least bring all the Powers into line for the signing of a joint note; and this tendency to make common cause in questions which, although ostensibly involving only one nation, affect all indirectly, has since been visible in other matters, notably the famous gold franc controversy. Such community of interest may well be observed by business men. None of them can afford indifference to what affects his neighbour; and when they band together in their own defence, it is also not to be forgotten that they are fighting the battles of their Chinese *confrères* against official rapacity and misgovernment.

THE WESTMINSTER BY-ELECTION

Mar. 12.

THE contest in the Westminster by-election is certainly not without humour. As far as we can see from the telegrams, which are not quite clear on the point, there are four candidates, Mr. Nicholson, Conservative; Mr. Scott-Duckers, Liberal; Mr. Brockway, Labour; and Mr. Winston Churchill, Independent, professing we know not quite what, equally opposed to socialism and protection, yet proclaiming his attachment to Mr. Stanley Baldwin, who, however, will have none of him and bids all Conservative voters to plump for Mr. Nicholson. Mr. Winston Churchill is certainly one of the ablest men in England and, it must be added, one of the most unpopular. It is curious to read in "Who's Who" that he was educated at Harrow; somehow he gives the impression, at least in parliamentary life, of having had a private tutor. He has been a soldier and fought with distinction in three continents. He has been a war correspondent and has also written books which have brought in large sums. He has, since the year 1900, represented three constituencies, Oldham, Northwest Manchester and Dundee, has "crossed" the floor of the House, as the phrase for changing one's politics has it, and, if he can get in again, now proposes to perform a sort of diagonal upon it or zigzag. And he has been at different times President of the Board of Trade, Home Secretary, First Lord of the Admiralty, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Minister of Munitions, Secretary of State for War, for Air and for the Colonies. It appears undoubted that he bears the responsibility for the ill-fated Gallipoli expedition, surely the most tragic adventure of all the war. He is a forceful though not a ready speaker, all his speeches necessitating careful preparation. And to do him justice, he is an indefatigable worker.

It is early days to speculate on what Mr. Winston Churchill means to do in Parliament till we know whether he has got there. By his allusions to Socialism and Protection one might imagine that his busy brain was planning the formation of a new party; and Westminster is certainly the sort of constituency that might be chosen as a starting-point by a champion of those middle classes of whose supposed revolt one has heard so much and seen so little. His father also, Lord Randolph, one remembers, was once a leader of Adullamites. But these attempts to create new parties, which shall exhibit the virtues of all and the vices of none, never succeed. They represent compromise, which, conspicuous though it be in British political practice, is allowed no place in British political creeds. We are not, as a people, expert in subtle thinking; every boy and every girl that's born into this world alive is either a little Liberal or else a little Conservative; and our politicians, in profession at least, must be one thing or the other. Much in the same way there appears no room in Parliament for the Indepen-

states that Russia is no longer satisfied at being regarded a negligible quantity in the Far East.—Reuter.

THE BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

Peking, Mar. 11.

Dr. C. T. Wang attended the Cabinet meeting this morning and reported his conversations with M. Karakhan since the last meeting of the Cabinet. Lengthy consideration was given to the whole Sino-Russian question, but there is reason to believe that no final agreement can be reached before the end of the week.

The negotiations concerning the Chinese Eastern Railway, which is the most important matter being negotiated, followed the lines of the agreement for the restoration of the Kiaochao Railway and probably an agreement in principle will be reached whereby official negotiations will open, China according recognition when this agreement is signed.

The Russian Government is apparently prepared to cancel all Tsarist treaties and the C. E. R. settlement, it is believed, is only a matter of price.

Mar. 12.

A special meeting of the Cabinet this morning, attended by all the members of the Cabinet and Dr. C. T. Wang, exclusively considered the question of Sino-Russian relations. It is understood that agreement was reached on the principles which will be the basis of negotiation with the Soviet representative.

Chinese circles are confident that China's recognition of the Soviet is only a question of days. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

China Ready to Recognize Russia

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Mar. 13.

Two Cabinet meetings were held to-day on the question of China's recognition of Russia.

The Soviet Mission and Chinese Cabinet officials agree in their statements that the result of the second meeting is likely to be endorsement of the proposal for immediate recognition of Russia.

Latest reports indicate that such recognition would be due to Chinese concessions rather than to Russian and would be decidely to the Soviet's advantage.

Peking, Mar. 13.

It is understood that the Cabinet this morning accepted the amended articles regarding the Chinese Eastern Railway and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Mongolia. Consequently no further obstacle remains in the way of recognition of the Soviet Government.

The Premier and the Foreign Minister will report to the President this afternoon and it is anticipated that President Tsao's approval will be forthcoming to-day or to-morrow and that the agreement will be signed by Sunday.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINESE NAVY DISPUTE

Still No Settlement

Peking, Mar. 7.

The Government still finds it difficult to heal the breach between Admiral Wen Shu-teh and Admiral Tu Hsi-kuei. The latter opposes the appointment of the former as commander of the Peihai Squadron, contending that the vessels at Chefoo form only a portion of a squadron and that they must be placed under the command of Admiral Tu, adding that there is no occasion to institute a new title or rank in the interests of Admiral Wen.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINESE MOHAMMEDANS AND PARLIAMENT

Peking, Mar. 7.

The Ministry of Interior has received a number of petitions from Mohammedans in Honan and other provinces praying that they be accorded representation in Parliament. The Ministry has replied to the effect that this is a matter which does not fall within its purview and should be referred to Parliament itself.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TURN-OVER IN FUKIEN

Expulsion of Gen. Wang Who Retreats on Hsinhua : A Night Attack

Peking, Mar. 6.

Advices from Amoy report that General Tsang Chih-ping, before he was relieved of his office as Military Commissioner at Changchow and Amoy, complained to the Consular Body that the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and two others were using the mails to undermine his position with the Central Government and asked that they be expelled from th International Settlement. The Consular Body, in reply to the communication, stated that it was not their intention to interfere in Chinese domestic affairs.

Mar. 5.

Foreign telegrams confirm the ousting of General Wang Yun-chuan. The telegrams say that a brigade of General Sun Chuan-fang's troops from Yenping arrived at Foochow at 10 o'clock on the night of March 6 and co-operated with General Chow Yin-jen's force which was already at Foochow. General Wang Yun-chuan with 2,000 men left Foochow for Hsinhua at two in the morning. The *coup* had been carefully planned and was quietly carried out at night. The city was quiet next morning.

According to Chinese telegrams, General Sun Chuan-fang's supporter, General Chow Yin-jen, suddenly appeared in Foochow yesterday and drove out General Wang Yun-chang, who escaped. General Chow brought his forces from Yenping, to which city General Sun had recently retired from Foochow. No fighting is reported and it is inferred that a *coup d'etat* had been planned, which was effected on General Chow's arrival.

Admiral Sah Chen-ping is reported to have issued a circular telegram stating that he is maintaining order pending the arrival of General Sun, which is expected immediately.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Gen. Sun's Return to Foochow: Intrigue Between Generals Wang and Lu

Peking, Mar. 9.

Although the Government apparently leave Fukien political questions to Marshal Wu Pei-fu, to whom Admiral Sah Chen-ping's telegraphic reports of recent events at Foochow have been referred, considerable importance is attached to the driving out of Gen. Wang Yung-chuan. In the first place the return of Gen. Sun Chuan-fang to Foochow disposes of the general belief that his transference to Yenping was a preliminary measure to an attack on Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang, in agreement with Gen. Wang. It is suggested by Chinese now that, on the contrary, Gen. Wang began to in trigue with Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang as soon as Gen. Sun left Foochow, and it is expected that Gen. Wang will now ally himself with Gen. Chang Chih-ping, follower of Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang, who maintains his position, independent of the Foochow authorities, at Amoy, giving allegiance only to Gen. Lu. Thus the menace to Gen. Sun on the South is likely to be strengthened.

Gen. Wang Yung-chuan is now at Hsinhua, and his post of Assistant Director of Military Affairs is vacant. Gen. Chou Yin-jen, who drove Gen. Wang out of Foochow, will probably be a candidate for this post, and it may be given to him if no other suitable recognition of his work can be secured by Gen. Sun for his able assistant. The post, however, was created for Gen. Wang. It is a sinecure that gives opportunity for intrigue and the acquisition of power dangerous to the Tuli, and Peking is in favour of abolishing it. In this Marshal Wu will have the last word.

Meanwhile Civil Governor Sah Chen-ping is said to be holding himself aloof from favour to either side. He commands a force of marines, which promptly takes control over the city when disturbances occur. The absence of looting during the recent coup is credited to the efficient work of these marines.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Reward Offered for Capture of Gen. Wang

Peking, Mar. 10.

Later reports from Foochow indicate that Gen. Wang Yung-chuan stationed parties of troops along the river between Foochow and Yenping after General Sun Chuan-fang had established his headquarters at Yenping. The brigade of Gen. Sun's troops apparently left Yenping, which is 150 kilometres north-east of Foochow, during the night of March 6-7, travelling by boat down the Minkiang. At 1 a.m. on the 7th instant they captured the Upper Bridge Arsenal, while four field-guns, eight machine guns, 7,000 rifles and 3,000 rounds of ammunition were taken from detachments stationed along the river. Gen. Sun's forces reached Foochow at 10 p.m. on the 7th, and 900 of Gen. Wang's men surrendered next day. Another thousand surrendered at a point about ten miles from Foochow.

A foreign telegram says that a reward of $20,000 has been offered for the capture of Gen. Wang Yung-chuan and $10,000 for his brother, Wang I-chuan "who are accompanied only by a few guards." It is thus surmised that the 1,900 men who surrendered were included in the 2,000 with whom Gen. Wang and his brother left Foochow.

The situation in Foochow was quiet on the 8th instant. There was very little disturbance in Foochow, the fighting that occurred having taken place along the river.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NORTHERN CAMPAIGN AGAINST CANTON

Indications of an Early Movement: Munitions En Route to Kuangtung Border

Peking, Mar. 7.

Certain troop movements have been reported which would seem to indicate that the first steps in the Northern campaign against Canton have been taken.

Gen. Shen Hung-ying, the well-known Kuangsi militarist, has been ordered to proceed with his troops from Chenchow to Shoukuan, while Gen. Fang Ping-jen's forces have arrived at Tayuling, near the border of Kiangsi and Kuangtung in readiness to enter Kuangtung at the appointed time. The latter will be joined shortly by the First Special Mixed-Brigade from Kiangsi.

Considerable quantities of arms and ammunition are being transported from Hankow to the Kuangtung border under the escort of Gen Ma Chi.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

RECRUITING TROOPS IN SHANGHAI

A Thousand Men off to Fight for Dr. Sun Yat-sen in Canton

It was learned on Monday that a Chinese recruiting campaign has within the past few days been actively pursued in Shanghai. Notwithstanding the activity shown, the recruiting agents have succeeded in keeping it very quiet, and although no fewer than 1,000 men have been enrolled and apparently despatched from the port, it has not yet been ascertained by what steamer they left.

The campaign has been on behalf of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and the troops were informed that they would be sent to Canton. After being enrolled they were allowed to return to their homes, and were notified that subsequently they would be informed of a rendezvous to which they should immediately repair. Not even the day of their departure was made known to them beforehand. Apparently the recruits were duly informed when the day of departure came, for they seem to have left Shanghai, although, as stated, it is not yet known by which steamer they left, or when.

ADMINISTRATIVE AREA IN KIAOCHAO

Proposal to Appoint Mr. Kao En-hung Civil Governor

Tsingtao, Mar. 7.

The Kiaochao Territorial Administration announce that they endorse the movement to place Mr. Kao En-hung, the former Minister of Communications, here as Governor of a separate administrative area, comprising Tsingtao and the former German leased territory. A mandate appointing Mr. Kao En-hung is expected shortly.

The Japanese First Squadron, comprising 21 men-of-war, will leave its base at Sasebo to-morrow, arriving here on Sunday.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Mar. 8.

According to Chinese sources, Mr. Kao En-hung, who has been named as Director of the Tsingtao Administration, will shortly proceed to Tsingtao to inspect conditions in the port and to interview General Hsiung Ping-chi, the present director. It is understood that a group of members of the Shantung Provincial Assembly have telegraphed to the Government protesting against any change being made in the administration of Tsingtao, contending that, as the port is part of Shantung, its administration should be in the hands of the Civil Governor of the province.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING'S UNPAID POLICE

Salaries Long in Arrears

Peking, Mar. 7.

There again seems to be some uneasiness over the non-payment of salaries due to the Peking police and gendarmerie who are said to be several months in arrears. It is reported that Marshal Wang Huai-ching, Commandant of the Peking Garrison, Gen. Hsueh Chih-heng, Commandant of the Gendarmerie and Gen. Nieh Hsien-fen, Commandant of Police, invited Mr. Wang Ko-ming, Minister of Finance, to a dinner on Tuesday last with the object of discussing ways and means to secure the salaries in question, but Mr. Wang was ill and could not attend. Another invitation is being sent to Mr. Wang to-day.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Mar. 8.

The commandants of the Peking Garrison, the Peking Gendarmerie and the Metropolitan Police have despatched delegates to call on the Cabinet in order to inquire when and how the arrears of wages due to these forces will be paid.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINESE CUSTOMS SURTAX

A Preliminary Conference

Peking, Mar. 11.

The Chinese Government this morning sent a long Note to each representative of the Powers signatory to the Washington Nine Power Treaty, requesting a preliminary conference to prepare the way for the conference, which will be held in Shanghai when all the Powers concerned ratify the aforesaid Treaty, concerning the increase of 2½ per cent. in the Customs duty. The Note refers to the long delay and contends that a preliminary conference will facilitate the work of the regular conference later on.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE ITALIAN ARMS

Peking, Mar. 8.

According to current reports the Italian arms have been removed from the old Manchu arms store at Sanchiatien and are being distributed among various centres, including Jehol, Nanking, Loyang and Chenchow, Hunan. It is believed that the portion sent to Loyang is intended for Szechuan.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE WAR IN SZECHUAN

Marshal Wu's Demands for Funds for Northern Troops

Peking, Mar. 4.

It is reported that Marshal Wu Pei-fu has asked the Government for $5,000,000, to pay all the Northern troops in Szechuan up to date. There does not seem to be much prospect of this demand being met in full, according to semi-official comment, but the Government will remit a percentage of the money as soon as possible.

Premier Sun Pao-chi returned to Peking from Tientsin last evening. The Cabinet office asserts that Mr. Sun's visit was taken solely in connexion with private affairs.

General Yang Tseng-hsin, Tuchun of Sinkiang, has reported to the Government the arrival at Urumchi (Tihue) of Afghan delegates with the object of bringing about negotiations between China and Afghanistan on the subject of a commercial agreement.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Mar. 8.

In connexion with the demand of Marshal Wu Pei-fu for funds to pay the northern troops in Szechuan, it is reported that the Military Council has sent General Wang Hung-lieh to the Ministry of Finance to consult with the Minister regarding available money. The Council is said to have $150,000, only available for this purpose.

Marshal Wu Pei-fu recommends the appointment of Mr. Ho Pei-yung as Civil Governor of Hupeh, thus relieving Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan of that concurrent post.

Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan now holds three official posts: Inspector-General of Hunan and Hupeh, Tuchun of Hupeh, and Civil Governor of Hupeh. He was recently relieved of the command of the 25th Division, which gave him four posts. Marshal Wu points out that the posts of Inspector-General and Tuchun provide sufficient outlet for the activities of one man.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

RIVAL GENERALS OF KUEICHOW

Peking, Mar. 3

Chinese circles report that a reconciliation has been effected between Gen. Liu Hsieh-chih, Tuchun of Kueichow, and Gen. Yuan Tsu-ming, the former commander-in-chief of the troops in that province, as a result of which it is believed that the former will vacate the post of tuchun in favour of the latter, Gen. Liu, however, remaining as Civil Governor. As soon as affairs are settled in Szechuan, Gen. Yuan will return to Kueichow. The reconciliation between these two leaders is attributed to their desire to unite against Yunnan.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE Fengtien authorities have sent Mr. Ma Chong-zeu, Defence Commissioner of the Waterworks of the Three Eastern Provinces, to Shanghai for the purpose of investigating into the conditions of the independent navy in Shanghai, and also to confer with Commander Ling on certain matters. The local Chinese press states the deputy arrived at Shanghai yesterday and will proceed to Hangchow in a few days time.

WITH reference to the firing upon the str. Meiren on December 7, by the Revenue cruiser Haichow, Admiral Lin, Shanghai Chinese Naval Officer and Captain K. T. Hsu, who was commander of the Haichow at the time of the firing, have called on the U. S. Consul-General to apologize and to express regrets for the firing, and for the fact that some shots struck the Meiren. The incident was purely accidental, they stated. They have undertaken to meet the cost of repairs for any damages caused and the Admiral has given the most formal assurances that precautionary measures have been taken which will ensure that there is no repetition of such incidents.

men have to face at the present day, and their questions are prompted by a sincere desire to better their chances of work. The former shows that he realizes perfectly well the impossibility of trying to run British steamers engaged solely in Asiatic waters except by Asiatic crews, hence his limitation respecting Suez. He, however, ignores the fact that to-day British crews have to compete with Asiatics not only east of Suez but the whole way from Japan to England and the rest of Europe. To mention one country only, Japan, with her great steamship lines, would almost certainly make inroads on the British carrying trade but for the cheap labour which the latter are enabled to obtain. There is a further and very important point which Commander Kenworthy and others have apparently lost sight of. When trouble occurs among a white crew on an Eastern run the master of a ship may be placed in the most difficult situation imaginable. Admiring the British sailor as we do, it has yet to be admitted that at times he makes rather too good a life of it when in distant ports, and from time to time numbers have to be left behind from other causes than sickness. The difficulty of finding European sailors to replace them in Far Eastern ports is very great, and there is a very great danger of a ship having to go short-handed or stay in port, so piling up charges. With an Asiatic crew in Asia this seldom proves to be the case, and we believe that if the opinion of shipowners generally were taken they would be unanimous in the belief that for Asiatic trade Asiatic seamen are a *sine qua non*. And whether they be Lascars or Chinese, British subjects or not, is no sufficient reason for tampering with the custom of an industry with which the prosperity of the nation is so intimately involved.

If ships are running at a loss just now, as Lord Inchcape indicates, it would be a much more serious matter if, because of some Act of Parliament, their running expenses were so increased—through the employment of white crews for instance—that they had to be laid up. Yet it is difficult to see what else would happen, for shipowners will not continue indefinitely to meet deficits, nor will the public be able to stand the drain of higher travelling expenses and heavier freight rates. As matters are at present the recent London strike may easily have the effect of higher charges all round owing to the greater expenses entailed on ships calling there. And if the public refuses to respond to these increases, ships will inevitably be laid up. Therefore instead of having improved the position of the British seaman, these champions of his cause will have merely succeeded in damaging it. Nor will that be the end of the trouble, for once ships lie idle the shipbuilding yards will feel the effect and instead of being confined to one class hardship will extend to several. The old vicious circle of unemployment and still worse trade will be started all over again. Probably it is just as well that this problem has come at first hand to Mr. Webb, for as well as being a Socialist he is an economist of considerable experience and reputation, and if his economic theories at times conflict with those current in the City, he shows a disposition to avoid any experimentation at this early stage of his career in office. Moreover the benefit to Labour of his economic knowledge may help to allay these periodical agitations in respect of Asiatic seamen which have been the rule for several years past.

THE C. P. O. SAVINGS BANK

Mar. 15.

WHEN the Chinese Post Office launched its scheme of a savings bank in 1919 most of us prophesied failure. Mistrust of lending money to any institution at all connected with the official world on the one hand and, on the other, the low rate of interest offered as compared with normal prices of borrowing in China were thought likely to prevent success. Actual experience proves that the foreign control of the Post Office, guaranteeing honesty of administration, has commanded confidence and, as in other countries, the savings bank has proved invaluable to the class who can only put away two or three dollars at a time. Thus it is that the 800 depositors recorded at the end of 1919 had risen to nearly 26,400 at the end of 1922, for which year we have now received the report. Deposits in big dollars during this year amounted to $4,125,539 an increase of 62 per cent. over the previous year, and although withdrawals also increased, as they naturally would do with payings-in rising, the amount due to depositors when the year closed was 80 per cent. higher than a year before, namely, $2,715,964 against $1,505,883. The number of depositors grew by nearly 7,000.

The report includes a large number of statistics, which, after the manner of their kind, suggest interesting reflexions to those who take the trouble to burrow into them. The analysis of passbooks shows that the greatest number, 8,214, were for sums of ten dollars and under, an illustration of the bank's usefulness to the small depositor mentioned above. But the next biggest class are the accounts between one and five hundred dollars, 7,925. Those between fifty and one hundred number only 3,410. Is it that the people who can accumulate such sums are most liable to be hit by some unexpected charge necessitating withdrawal? Or that the unwonted possession of sixty or seventy dollars is too much for their self-restraint and out the money comes to be squandered in one glorious "burst"? From personal memory of spasmodic attempts to save in earlier days, one fancies the latter is the likelier explanation. From the analysis of professions or occupations of depositors we see that merchants headed the list with 4,457, Government employees (we had no idea they got their wages paid regularly enough to save anything) came next with 3,641 and students third with 3,631. Once again we may ponder on the gulf which separates East from West: in our own student days there was never anything to save, very much the other way. But the most interesting entry is that while men depositors number 19,019 women can muster only 4,065. East or West, feminine nature is the same. No true woman (we are not thinking of the "This Freedom" type) in her heart of hearts ever really believed in banks and of anything like an investment she has an invincible mistrust. The old stocking—not, be it observed, the masculine sock—is still the true image of woman's notion of the properest way of laying something by.

Political conditions affected the Savings Bank adversely. The further opening of branches was found inadvisable on this account and "the impossibility of safely investing money locally made it necessary to remit surplus funds to the various ports and this is not only a difficult but also a dangerous procedure when the country is in a disturbed condition and bank charges abnormally high in consequence." Also, in Kuangtung, small coin deposits have slightly decreased, the rate of interest having had to be dropped in that province from 5 to 3.6 per cent. owing to "the difficulty experienced in investing funds in Canton"—which has notoriously been shoving its money into Hongkong in order to save all it can from the claws of Kuomintang military collectors. But how much more political turmoil might affect the Savings Bank is suggested by its table of investments. In 1919, its first year, it took up a modest $2,601 worth of the current Shanghai municipal debentures; in 1922 it took up $460,321 worth. What would be the value of that investment, to-day probably the finest gilt-edged security that the world can show, if extraterritoriality were removed? Still more suggestive are the figures of investments in Chinese Government Internal Loans, of which the Savings Bank now holds altogether $2,534,620 worth at face value, which, allowing for what the bonds actually cost, makes them a very profitable holding. Yet their value depends solely on the fact that they are secured on the Customs surplus and that their service is vested in one man, the Inspector-General. It is not only the Chinese banks, but voiceless small investors all over the country who have cause to be thankful that the Powers, at no small risk of boycott and disturbance, would not allow the Canton Government to appropriate the surplus in Kuangtung. Also those small investors may be grateful to the Post Office. It serves them well, produces a report which tells exactly every penny that was received and where and how, in what manner invested and at what cost, and makes a handsome showing. It has convicted us of false prophecy, and we wish it all success with the greater heartiness therefor.

GOVERNOR General Wood has been decorated with the Pope's medal of peace for his services to humanity. Father Francis X. A. Byrne presented the governor with the papal decoration last week.

SIR Edward Stubbs, the Hongkong Governor, has been interviewed by the "China Mail" on his impressions of the Philippines which he recently visited. After expressing the usual enconiums on amenities of the Islands, Sir Edward went into the question of importing Philippine timber. He thought Hongkong should try to develop a trade in Filipino mahogany and other woods. Not only were they very beautiful, but several varieties were proof against white ants, which was an important consideration for Hongkong builders. The Governor was of the opinion that the Philippines could co-operate more closely with Hongkong in suppressing the arms and opium evils.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Naval Base

The Labour Government has succeeded in shelving the Singapore naval base scheme by pleading the need for economy. It is a tolerably adroit way of disposing of an inconvenient question in a non-commital manner, but it will not satisfy military opinion in the country or in the Empire. It was a carefully thought-out scheme by the Admiralty experts who had before them the problem of how best to protect our trade routes. The military opponents of the plan were divided into two groups, one who held that while a base was necessary in the Pacific Singapore was not the correct place for it, and the other, led by Sir Percy Scott, who acted on the theory that the day of the battleship is definitely at an end. In consequence, they declined the view that docks capable of taking capital ships were a necessity of the case. Future events may show that this latter view is correct, but nothing has yet happened to confirm it. The naval lessons of the late war cannot be said to give it the required confirmation, and any government which adopted the theory in its entirety would be acting in a very rash manner. Fortunately the present Cabinet has not definitely decided against the base, and this is the most satisfactory feature of what is a very unsatisfactory position.

Labour in Office

When the question of the British Air Force estimates was raised three weeks ago in the House of Commons Mr. Leach, the Labour Under-Secretary for Air, gave a most uncompromising reply to Sir Samuel Hoare, the member drawing attention to Britain's aerial weakness. He more or less hinted that no expansion would take place, because the Great War had shown that the nations which had prepared for war had got most of it. Mr. J. H. Thomas, obviously a man of considerable Parliamentary skill, took it upon himself to tone this blunt assertion down considerably, and to-day we see how far Labour has progressed in its consideration of this branch of defence inasmuch as a definite programme of expansion has been announced. This is all to the good, and quite fails to conform with the expectations of what Labour might do when in office. It is worth while looking at anticipation and execution. First of all during the election, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald succeeded in hiding the suggestion of a capital levy behind his future official advisers; next he refused to commit himself to a revocation of the Singapore naval base scheme, but shelved it on the ground of economy; but when it comes to a palpable weakness in Home defence he enunciates a policy at least somewhat in line with what students of military matters would have. By doing so he must undoubtedly be dispelling the fears which a large proportion of the electorate undoubtedly held of a Labour Government. It is true that to-day the Premier is in a minority and so is not in a position to do anything really Socialistic, but we prefer to believe that he is not playing a sinister game for future power but is rather realizing his obligations to the nation and the limitations imposed by circumstances.

The Custom House

The work of removal from the Custom House was completed during the week-end, and not only has the personnel departed it but we understand that the archives have gone too. Therefore we are now taking our farewell glances at the building. Tenders for its demolition have been called for, and probably within a month the tower will be in the hands of the wreckers. Thus the glory of 30 years passes away. Work on the construction of the present Customs House was started in 1891 and the building was completed in 1895, so its lifetime may be set down as roughly a score of years. There is a tradition, which may be truth, that the ground plan, which takes the form of an "H" was so designed out of compliment to Sir Robert Hart, but the opinion today of architects and engineers, that it was so designed for purposes of light and ventilation, seems rather more in accordance with the probabilities. At any rate during its existence it has served its purpose well, and, had Shanghai not out-grown it, would have been serviceable for years to come. At an interesting juncture like the present it is worth recalling that although situated on the Bund the Custom House is not in the Settlement, the plot of land on which it stands being excluded from the jurisdiction of the Municipal Council whose writ would not run there.

The Caliph and China

As everyone knows, Mohammedanism is very firmly established in Kansu, where a large section of the population are followers of the Prophet. In Hangchow also the True Believers are strongly represented and there are districts in China where smaller sects still cling to the old religion. Yet it does not appear likely that the deposition of the Caliph will have any effect in China. An appeal for information made to several travellers and sinologues met with the response that there are few people in Shanghai who have been in close association with the Chinese Mohammedans and that, any way, the latter are not greatly different from any other Chinese except that they are more or less strict adherents to the creed. Isolated as they have been for centuries, and out of all touch with Turkey, however enthusiastic they may be over their religion, they have no such idea as seems to prevail amongst Indian Mohammedans that the Caliph is their real leader. One traveller who has spent a lot of time amongst the Kansu Mohammedans said that he doubted whether they ever had heard of the Caliph and if they were told about him he did not think it would impress them greatly. He ventured the opinion that, if a fanatical mullah went amongst the people and worked the deposition of the Caliph up into some sort of an excuse for preaching a Holy War, possibly disturbances would follow, but without some such inspiration the people would remain undisturbed. In years long past the Kansu Mohammedans were responsible for several very serious risings, but they have since been ruled with a heavy hand and now they appear to be quite content to live in comparative isolation so long as they are free from outside interference.

The Mackay Treaty

One of to-day's Reuter telegrams states that at question time in the House of Commons on the 12th instant Mr. P. J. H. Hannon, Unionist Member for the Moseley Division of Birmingham, suggested that, in the interests of British exporters, the British Legation in Peking should be instructed to co-operate with the other Legations to ensure ratification of Article 8 of the Mackay Treaty. The suggestion is very much to the point, though Mr. Ponsonby, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, did his best, apparently, to obscure it. The point is: Is the Mackay Treaty alive or dead? The attitude of the Diplomatic Body in Peking towards the proposed Trademark Law has given everybody the impression that they regard the Treaty as dead. If that is the case, how is it going to be possible to quote the Treaty in connexion with the 2½ per cent. Surtax, which is to be granted on condition that China takes steps to abolish likin? Article 8 of the Mackay Treaty providing for abolition was never ratified: Article 7 providing for Customs control of trademark registration was. If a ratified article can be set aside, as the Chinese in their trademark law propose to set it aside, what chance is there of conditions laid down in an unratified article being observed If the Diplomatic Body are asleep, we can assure them that British traders are not.

dent member, and there are certainly no spoils of office.

But in some respects there can be no doubt that Mr. Churchill might, perhaps does, voice a general feeling of dissatisfaction with the condition of things in Parliament. There must have been many in the late general election who equally disliked voting for Labour and for Protection, and there was no way out. But the fault lies not in principles so much as in the party system. A very striking book has lately been produced by an anonymous writer, who is evidently "on the inside" in parliamentary knowledge, called "The Blot on Parliament," the theme of which is that members vote, often against their private convictions, not for a measure, but at the behest of the Whips, in order to keep the Government in power. And the writer goes on to show how this inevitable result of the party system has led to class legislation and dictation to Government by powerful interests, first the landed gentry, latterly the industrial magnates, to-morrow it may be by Labour. Of all of which the writer quotes distressing evidence. The remedy he suggests is so simple that most people will call it Utopian. He urges that the Government shall not, as at present, be compelled to go out of office because it is defeated on any measure. If it is repeatedly defeated, then let a vote of no-confidence be moved and the result will decide. But it is absurd and paradoxical that a Government's life shall hang in the scales of every division, not infrequently in cases where its supporters are against it and its opponents on its side. By the method suggested, our author says, members' freedom of conscience will be restored, the private machinations of trusts defeated and Parliament will be in a fair way to achieve what it is meant to achieve—the greatest good of the greatest number.

SHIPS' OFFICERS AND PIRATES

Mar. 13.

THE voluminous correspondence which is published in another part of this issue and which, we understand, is being widely published in the Far East, should serve to bring to a head the whole question of piracy prevention on the China Coast, in which the present state of affairs is no more hopeful, if as much so, and in which the prospects of a peaceful, satisfactory and lasting settlement are less apparent, than two-and-a-half years ago, when the recrudescence of piracy in China waters first forcibly became evident. The two Guilds concerned may be taken as representing the great majority of ships' officers on the China Coast, and as these officers, followers of a profession which normally is arduous and responsible, constitute one of the most important links in the chain of commercial intercourse in and from the Far East, their opinions and their suggestions, their requests and their demands should be accorded that careful consideration their importance warrants.

A careful study of all the facts made public gives one to the conclusion that the piracy evil has now become acute and important, and has obtained a firm standing; among the present-day disabilities of China Coast conditions generally, that any disquisition on its basic origin (which indubitably is to be found in the present chaotic state of China—militarily, politically and economically) would be as useless as any efforts to strike at the root of the evil with immediate prospects of amelioration would be futile. Piracy on the China Coast is not a transitory phenomenon; it is a cold, hard fact, a fact that has to be faced from all its prospects and viewed from all its angles, fearlessly and with an open and an unbiassed mind. Piracy was last seriously considered as a recognized profession on the China Coast in the late 'sixties; and the average pirate gang of those times has been described as "an ugly crowd, with pistols drawn and knives ready. . . Low-down swabbery of cut-throat thieves, the wharf-rats of the Canton River and the fever-haunted creeks of the Fukien seaboard." It is unlikely that their successors—their descendants, maybe—are imbued with any more virtues, blessed with any more chivalry, or endowed with any more honour than were their predecessors, who were woefully deficient in these three cardinal qualities. There is nothing of glamour about the Chinese pirate; none of that romance associated with the imaginary blue seas and painted sails of the Spanish Main; none of the magnetism of Morgan or Gunn; none of the enchantment that seems to surround, on canvas, Brangwyn's handsome buccaneers of the seventeenth century. We have not to deal with such as they, but rather with a type of creature which, human in shape, can and will, if occasion arises, be more nearly a beast. And that is the pirate of the China Coast in this the twentieth century.

The Officers' position, their contentions, their demands, are ably set out in the letter of February 4 to the Colonial Secretary of Hongkong. Briefly: They want no more police interference in the defence of the ship, which, they contend with apparent justification, results in dual control—control by the police at Hongkong and control by the master on the vessel, with the Naval authorities naturally refraining from interfering where the police are vested with, and assume, responsibility. They want no armed guards or arms and ammunition on the ships; the guards, they say, are neither sailors nor policemen, are not sufficiently intelligent, are at times drunken and disobedient, usually decline combat, are generally inefficient, and constitute a hindrance rather than a help to the master of the ship. Such a formidable indictment cannot have been made without some justification, and that subject alone calls for early and thorough investigation. The arms on a ship, the officers consider, are a source of great attraction to the pirates, whose possession of them is one of the first objectives of an attack. The Officers want a comprehensive system of Naval patrols and convoys. The Hongkong Government already is doing something on these lines: it appears to be on a small scale and subject to the approval of the Admiral Commanding the China Squadron. The installation of wireless telegraphic apparatus is considered a *sine qua non* to all vessels subject to attack, a view with which every reasonable person must be in full concurrence. It is held by the Guilds that after every case of piracy there should be a competent, formal inquiry. With that view no objection is apparent, and it appears to have many points in its favour. The Officers consider as important that rewards should be given for any information leading to the arrest of any person implicated in a piratical attack, and in all cases of seizure of arms and/or ammunition. No objection to this course is apparent, and it appears to have much to recommend it.

We are reliably informed that feeling among the Officers, while strong on all of the points we have mentioned, is especially so on two others, separate yet correlative. They are:—

(*a*) That the new Piracy Regulations contain the inviolable dictum that "it is the duty of the master and other certificated officers to resist to the uttermost any piratical attack. This obligation is imperative and no discretion may be exercised as to whether to resist pirates or not;" and

(*b*) That no provision is made, either in the Piracy Regulations or by any other means, for a (compulsory) scheme of insurance under which, if an officer gets killed in resisting pirates, his dependants shall adequately be provided for; and if he gets maimed, he shall suitably be recompensed. Convincing cases are quoted to show the necessity for some such provision.

As regards (a): This regulation abrogates one of the oldest, most important and cherished traditions of the sea—that the master of a ship, in all circumstances and under all conditions, is the supreme governing body and the sole arbiter on his vessel when at sea, subject to no man's rule and with power to use his discretion as he thinks fit. No provision is made for a case, which conceivably might occur, of the pirates getting the upper hand almost immediately. Are the officers, in such a case, to fight to the last? If so, to what end? There may be women and children, and other harmless passengers, on board. What would happen to them in the case of pirates having been resisted and coming out victorious, is better left to the imagination. Unspeakable atrocities, butchery and savagery, easily might result. This "resist to the uttermost" policy appears to be a mistaken one; the possibilities must be considered, besides the probabilities. As to being deprived of all discretion, the Officers put forward an argument that appears completely unanswerable when they contend that "imperative obligations admit of no discretion. The idea of an officer without discretion is a paradox. . . . The officer is the leader of others." They further point to Section 5 of the Regulations which says "the master shall have complete control of the ship and all on board," and say in reply, "Without discrimination no man can control; without discretion no man can discriminate"—hence another paradox—the master being unable to avoid violation of some part of the Regulations. In view of the criticism that was levelled at this Regulation before it became a law, it is surprising that it has been included in the recently-issued new Regulations.

As to (b): It is never without the bounds of possibility that the pirates will gain control, or partial control. If the officers are to obey the Regulations, they are to fight. In such a case, someone probably would get wounded, or even killed. It has happened already. The Officers contend that as they have to adopt the dual role of sailor and fighter, some sort of provision should be made for their dependants if they get killed, and for themselves if they become wounded. Insurance is the obvious remedy. They suggest that with the money saved by the abolition of the Indian guards (some $1,200 a year per ship) such insurance could amply be covered. That, of course, is a contingency depending on whether the guards are retained or not, but in any case the Officers have a very strong case, and one that cannot lightly be disposed of.

And that is how matters stand at present; with so much publicity being given to the whole affair, everyone concerned, directly and indirectly, should be fully conversant with the facts, and it appears that everything now rests with the Hongkong Government, which cannot well avoid making known its views and its proposals.

THE TRADEMARK DANGER

Mar. 13.

IT is to be hoped that the long and weighty telegram addressed to the "Times" by twenty leading British firms on the subject of the Chinese Trademark Law, of which we published the full text yesterday, will attract the attention and have the result that it deserves to have. The firms who sent the telegram are much to be complimented on their public-spirited action: that they have their own trademarks and cognate interests to defend, does not alter the fact that they are championing, at much trouble and expense to themselves, the cause of all foreigners doing business in China. The telegram reflects credit on whoever composed it, setting forth the facts of the case tersely and tellingly, an unanswerable indictment of a most dangerous and insidious measure.

The crux of the whole matter is Article 15 of the Treaty of Tientsin of 1858, which stipulates that

"all questions in regard to rights whether of property or person arising between British subjects shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the British authorities."

By no possible means can the Chinese Trademark Law be made to square with this stipulation. It is just conceivable, though not at all desirable, that the provisions of the Mackay Treaty for the establishment of a trademark registration under the Customs might be modified to suit Chinese *amour propre* without losing the all-essential foreign control of foreign interests incalculably valuable. That would be a matter for negotiation, after the Legations had been properly approached: and in the present circumstances of China we are very far from recommending or even being disposed to acquiesce in the idea of any change. We merely say that it is imaginable. The actual, bland overriding of the Mackay Treaty is, of course, intolerable. But that John Doe and Richard Roe being involved in a dispute over a trademark, should be deprived of the use of their own country's courts and compelled to take them to a Chinese court is unthinkable. Yet this is exactly what would happen if the Chinese Trademark Law were accepted by the Powers.

It almost seems as if the Diplomatic Body had not yet fully realized the true issues involved or the extensive nature of the issues involved and the far-reaching effect of the law. To accept it is to abrogate the Treaty of Tientsin and imperil the foundations of extraterritoriality in China. And on this vital question of the 1858 Treaty, the Legations have as yet vouchsafed no reply although they have been pressed for one since early last December. If they do not intend to let that Treaty be abrogated, how is it that there is nothing in the Trademark Law to preserve our rights under Article 15 of the Treaty? How can the Legations possibly be satisfied to accept the Trademark Law with no better safeguard of foreign interests than a suggestion—not even an indispensable condition—that foreign advisers be retained in the registration bureau? It is impossible not to think that the Legations were imperfectly advised by people who had never properly grasped the question, when they sent to the Waichiaopu the Note of January on proposed modifications of the Trademark Law, not one of which comes even near to touching its essential viciousness, and that having sent that Note they find themselves in a quandary. The appeal is to London, where it is to be hoped that everyone interested in the China trade will combine to save it while there is yet time.

BRITISH SHIPS AND THEIR CREWS

Mar. 14.

MR. Sydney Webb, the President of the Board of Trade, has in a Parliamentary sense handled the subject of the manning of British ships as cleverly as other leading members of the Labour Cabinet have met inconvenient topics. This means that he has noted points for future reference and in the meantime he allows matters to take their course. There is a great deal to be said at the present moment and especially in the present case for this line of action, and the only fault we have to find with Mr. Webb is that he leaves himself free to pursue any, even the most revolutionary, course in the future. The subject of the manning of British merchant vessels came on this occasion from a Liberal, Commander Kenworthy, who brought forward the suggestion that only ships trading east of Suez should be allowed to employ Asiatic crews, while as a corollary to this Mr. Sexton, the Labour Member for St. Helens, pointed out that Lascar seamen were not being paid a wage commensurate with good British citizenship. From the point of view of British shipping interests and actually of trade interests generally, the position these two members have taken up seems to suggest that they have arrived at only a superficial judgment on the matter, and it should not be allowed to pass without a statement of the only way in which shipowners trading with the Far East can regard their industry if they hope once more to restore it to a profitable basis. That it is not to-day on a profitable basis we know from a recent statement by Lord Inchcape who went the length of saying that there was a loss on practically every voyage of a P. & O. steamer.

Commander Kenworthy and Mr. Sexton are, of course, deeply interested in the hardships which unemployed British sea-

THE TAKING OF CHENGTU

Sudden Swoop of Yang Sen's Forces on City: Taken with Little Loss

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chengtu, Feb. 9.

At last the Northern Armies under Yang Sen, Liu Hsiang and Yuan Tsu-min have captured Chengtu, Hsiong Keh-wu, Tan Mong-shin and Liu Yu-chiu are in full retreat. But what has happened to Lai Hsin-hue? That will no doubt come to light in a few days. In all probability he has, as was suspected, thrown in his lot with Yang Sen.

The past week has been full of interest. Chengtu city was in a state of siege for a week. All the gates were closed last Saturday night, and only opened to-day (Saturday) when Generals Yang Sen and Yuan marched in to take charge of the Capital, with 20,000 troops under their command.

In my last letter I spoke of the severe defeat of Hsiong Keh-wu at Tongchuan a week ago last Sunday. After the break up of his armies, Hsiong climbed over the wall at Tongchuan and escaped in the night. He was somewhat bruised and shaken up but managed to get back to the capital by Friday night and got in before the city was closed. Gen. Yu Pei-ti, Hsiong's Divisional General at Tongchuan has not been seen since the rout. The worst is feared for Yu. He was very popular in the city, and known as a valuable general officer.

The Northern armies' tremendously swift advance upset all their preconceived plans and conjectures and made hopes of a Southern victory very slim indeed. Although Hsiong got back to the Capital in time for the siege his defeat at Tongchuan had destroyed the morale of the troops here, which is never very high unless they are winning and in greatly superior numbers.

After the taking of Sintu, Yang Sen swooped down on Chengtu with his armies. His centre and left were used to envelop the Capital. Chen Kuedong, Den Chi-heo and Tang Chi-yao, with their 7,000 stalwarts were out on the Great East road to prevent flank attacks. On Thursday morning Gen. Yuan Tsu-min as Generalissimo of the Northern forces attacked the Arsenal, with General Yang Sen and his victorious Second Army as shock troops. The Arsenal was won in an hour and half, Liu Yu-chiu's troops were soon in full-retreat. They stood for a while near the Ngan-suen-chow, the large bridge between the Arsenal and the city. A great deal of ammunition was fired at them that seldom found its mark. As soon as the Northern soldiers appeared out of the trenches around the Arsenal, the local troops turned and fled. The Eastern suburb was taken and then troops swept round to the South Gate and occupied part of the suburb.

Generals Yang and Yuan then sent an ultimatum to Hsiong that he and Tan Men-shin were to leave the city at once and would not be molested. They took the tip and with the redoubtable Chang Tsung called the "Napoleon of West China," got out of the South Gate at midnight. Their soldiers kept up a lively rifle fire all the time to cover the retreat. Next an ultimatum was sent to the gallant General Liu Yu-chin, who has played the rôle of "Middle-man" so long and successfully, to get out the next day. Yang Sen had intended to leave Liu alone as harmless, but the fighting on Friday after Hsiong had gone rather angered him, and Liu was given his marching orders. The City was turned over for safe keeping to General Lan until Yang Sen should take over. Again at the midnight hour the South Gate was opened and Liu Yu-chin said a last fond adieu. His soldiers looted the South Gate suburb in passing as Yang's men had with drawn to give them a safe passage.

LOOTING BY SOUTHERN TROOPS.

After Liu left pandemonium broke loose in the city. Hsiong's and Liu's yamêns were looted first by civilians then by soldiery. Gen. Lan soon had loyal troops on the spot and quelled the disorder, arresting soldiers wholesale. They were court-martialled in the morning and over 30 summarily beheaded in front of the old "Chen Fang Si Ling" right on the open street. It was an effective warning to all would-be evil-doers.

I went out to the Arsenal on Saturday morning, where were the Northern Generals' headquarters. The road was lined with soldiers with fixed bayonets 50 feet apart all the way from the Arsenal to the East Gate, then down the Great East street right to the Governor's Yamên.

Generals Yang Sen and Liu Hsiang entered the city early, to prepare the way for the Generalissimo Yuan Tsu-min. I had the privilege of meeting him at the Arsenal, being introduced by the Tsung Pan of the Arsenal, Ma. The General expressed pleasure on arriving at the Capital and taking it with so little loss. His losses, he said, were not more than 300 casualties in the two days' operations round the capital. The Tsung Pan announced that General Yuan was the "Tsung Si Lin" commander in-chief of the Northern Armies representing Wu Pei-fu for the three provinces. Kueichow, Yunnan and Szechuan.

The march into the city was quite imposing. Two battalions of well drilled and smart-looking troops formed the advance guard, and the Generalissimo's cavalcade gave quite the impression of the proverbial "the conquering hero comes." No opposition of any kind was experienced. The East gate remained open all day. It is expected that the other gates will be opened at once. It looks as if the people will be permitted to have a small share of their New Year's ceremonies after all. In fact pessimism has turned into joy. Business men see the end of paper money now. Some of Liu Yu-chiu's troops when interviewed said, "Why shouldn't they conquer (referring to Yang's man)? They are paid in silver and we only in paper." Rather illuminating sidelight don't you think?

Of course, the question is, what next? it is unthinkable that Hsiong, Tan and Liu will sit down and weep. It is on the cards that they will work eastward again and unite with the Yunnanese Tang Chi-yao element, who wish to recapture Chungking as a base for the South. In the meantime Liu Chen-heo is there.

NO WAR IN THE SPRING

Fengtien Faction Reported Anxious to Beat Its Swords into Ploughshares

Mukden, March 8.

The attitude of the Fengtien faction towards the political situation has considerably changed, public opinion now veering in opposition to war. This, it is reported, is due to the decision reached at the conference of military officers of the Three Eastern Provinces which was held some time ago.

In these circumstances, market-prices of various commodities, which, until recently, had fallen continuously in anticipation of hostilities in April between the Chihli and Fengtien troops, have of late gradually revived. The belief that there will be no war between Chihli and Fengtien has come to be generally entertained in both official and commercial circles here.

It seems certain that the Fengtien faction will do its best to avoid hostilities in April, and that the Fengtien authorities have decided to improve internal administration, to readjust the finances, and to encourage and develop the industrial and educational enterprises of the Three Eastern Province. Further, it is said to have been decided (1) that the autonomy of Kirin and Heilungkiang Provinces be further extended, (2) that unification of the currency of the Three Eastern Provinces be enforced, (3) that railways in the three provinces be constructed and that (4) mines and uncultivated land shall be opened and immigration encouraged with a view to the development of industry in the Three Eastern Provinces.—Eastern News Agency.

THE GREAT FIRE IN CHOUTSUN

Varying Stories of the Cause: An Unlucky Arrest and Leaderless Soldiers

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, March 4.

Two sensational stories are now to hand in connexion with a disastrous fire that has occurred in Choutsun, a town on the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway. It appears that early on the morning of February 29, fire broke out in the central district of Choutsun and burned with fierce intensity for some 12 hours, during the course of which all the principal shops and warehouses were destroyed. The death roll is estimated at 300 although this may be an exaggerated figure, but all are agreed that during the height of the conflagration the town was looted.

The first story was that a few days previously, while *en route* to Tsinan on his return trip from Tsingtao, a son of General Chang Foo-lai, Tuchun of Hunan, alighted at Choutsun with his bodyguard of eight men, for the purpose of seeing the town and the train went without them. General Chang's son and his men had, therefore, to wander about in the town in search of accommodation. Moreover, being short of funds they had to go from one place to another for the purpose of ascertaining the cheapest lodgings.

Now, in Choutsun there was a very energetic chief of the local garrison in the person of Colonel Mai, who supposed General Chang's son and his men to be a gang of cut-throats. He consequently arrested the young man and his bodyguard. In vain did General Chang's son endeavour to make his identity known, until he asked for permission to telegraph Tuli Chen and Governor Hsiung Ping-chi at Tsinan concerning his predicament.

It was then that Colonel Mai realized the delicate position he had fallen into, in arresting the son of a Tuchun. The story continues that Colonel Mai made himself scarce, leaving his soldiers in a disorganized state and that, not having received their wages for some time, they thought it a good scheme to burn the town and take advantage of the confusion by looting it.

The second story is that it is the custom of the people in Choutsun to celebrate the Lantern Festival for 15 days. On February 29 a stiff north wind was blowing and a number of lanterns caught fire and ignited the paper shutters of a public house. By the time the fire brigade got to work, several buildings were well alight. In the interval, bandits in the neighbourhood took advantage of the confusion to loot the town. According to this second story, the bandits set fire to other parts of the town far removed from the seat of the fire.

It is unfortunate that the confusion and panic were so intense that very few can give a clear account of the looting. Some assert that it was the Government troops that did it while others say that it was the brigands.

Many Roasted While Asleep: Property Loss Over $1,000,000: The Brigands' Chance

Tsingtao, Mar. 5.

Further advices are reaching here about the holocaust in Choutsun on Friday when, according to reports, more than 300 people lost there lives. The town was almost entirely consumed, practically all the buildings being swept by the flames. To add to the terror of the inhabitants, bandits in the surrounding hills, attracted by the mounting flames, sweeped down on the city and ransacked many houses before the flames reached them, their occupants having fled in terror.

Many awoke to find their domiciles in a blaze and were roasted to death. Scores were trampled under foot in the mad rush that ensued in the narrow streets. The panic-stricken people dashed madly about until some leader among them led them out to the open country. The injured, in many cases, were left behind to become the prey of the flames and the bandits, who remained as long as possible. Bodies were stripped of clothing and jewelry.

The property loss is said to be more than a million dollars. More than 100 shops and about 90 houses were destroyed. More than one-eighth of the population are on the casualty list.

Believing himself to be in deep trouble and fearing the consequences of his acts Colonel Mai disbanded his troops and fled. The soldiers, freed from his command, decided to loot the town. They ransacked the place killing those who sought to stop them, and finally set the place of fire. Bandits appeared and completed the work of pillage. Chang and his party were able to get away unscathed.

The fire and the strange tale of its cause have made a sensation here. Inquiries are pouring into the police to ascertain the fate of friends and relatives. The police still are without official advices. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

Tsingtao, Mar. 7.

It now appears that the early reports of the fire at Choutsun were exaggerated. The death-roll was probably not more than a score and the reports of general looting have not been substantiated. The material damage, however, is said to exceed $500,000.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BANDITS SCARCER IN SHANTUNG

Over 200 Executed by Tuchun Tien's Successor: Roads Safer

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsinan, Shan., Mar. 1.

Gen. Cheng Shih-chi, who replaced the unfortunate Tien as Military Governor, is evidently getting to work to exterminate the bandits. It is said that over 200 of them have been executed since Cheng came into power.

The minor officials in the rural districts are realizing that their efforts in this direction will be supported by headquarters, and in some parts of the province the roads are becoming safer.

THE LATEST VICTIM.

About Chinese New Year the son of a wealthy merchant of Choutsun was carried off by local robbers. The lad was caught while offering filial sacrifices at the ancestral graves.

Negotiations for a big ransom were soon started. The go-between had even arranged to receive the money at a lonely rendezvous, when the father of the captive put the case into the hands of the local military official, a man with plenty of initiative. The go-between was ambushed and compelled to divulge the whereabouts of some of the bandit leaders. The premises were surrounded, but the inmates put up a stout resistance. In desperation the soldiers set fire to the place, and among the ruins the charred remains of several bodies were found. It is feared that the merchant's captive son may have perished in the flames.

PHILIPPINE AMBITIONS

Independence Ideals Knocked on Head by Message from President Coolidge

Manila, Mar. 7.

The letter from President Coolidge to Mr. Roxas, the Chairman of the Philippines Independance Mission, stating that there is no hope of independence at present, is regarded as knocking out the props from under the local campaign to raise money from voluntary contribution to continue propaganda in the United States. A few thousand pesos have been raised so far. Three Americans, one of whom is a missionary and the other two businessmen, have contributed to it.

The projected boycott of American merchants, newspapers and so forth has failed to materialize to date, though there are evidences that attempts are being made. A chain letter advising a boycott is being circulated.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHANGSHA MILITARY CONFERENCE

Disappointment at Postponement: Marshal Wu Pei-fu's Message

From Our Own Correspondent.

Changsha, Mar. 5.

Disappointment is evinced at the postponement of the much-talked-of military Conference which was to meet on March 1. It has been delayed for 10 or 12 days through the non-arrival of two most important officials who rank next to the Commander-in-chief, both of whom have been employed away from Changsha and neither of whom started for the capital in time. Rumour is, of course, rife as to the reasons for such late starting. The two officials. Divisional Generals Yeh Kai-hsin and Ho Yai-tsu, are said to be on their way and will arrive some time next week.

Awaiting them are Brigadier-Generals Tang Sheng-chih, Liu Hsing, Tang Sheng-ming, Chiang Tsu-ou, T'ang Hsu-pien and Tsou Hsu-ping. There is also the Hupeh General Hsia Tu-yin, who has been in the province since Gen. Hsiao Yao-nan took over the seals of his native province. Gen. Tsou Li, a Hunan (Liuyang) man. has just returned from Loyang, bringing with him a lengthy missive from Marshal Wu Pei-fu which will form the main subject of discussion.

Beyond the fact that Chao Heng-ti will be confirmed in the highest military office in the province, if the military conference agrees to the cancelling of the Hunan Constitution and loyalty to the Peking government, I have not heard anything else about Marshal Wu's message.

Gen. Ma Chi and some of his colleagues are also here.

Among other subjects which the conference will take up will be the question of both the military and financial relations between the generals and the provincial authorities—both matters in which there is much need of proper understanding.

BEGGAR FARMERS

Hochow's Unwelcome Visitors: Lower Yangtze Valley Peaceful

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hochow, An., Mar. 5.

About two weeks ago a straggling band of about 300 beggar farmers from Honan province came into Hochow from south of the river and squatted in the temples and city gates. They demanded money to help them back to Honan. In the beginning of winter they had migrated south but now they were returning to their little homes and farms.

Last December a young man in Hochow strangled a seven-year-old boy and then threw his body into pond because the little fellow had pulled his ear in fun. Last week this man was escorted out of the city by the mayor and a band of soldiers and placed before a firing squad who did not miss the mark.

The ground has been purchased and a new house is in process of erection for the Bethel Mission in Hochow. This mission and the Methodist have been holding Union Evangelistic meetings for a month with Dr. Chen Wei-ping, Mr. Li Yoh-han, David Yang and others assisting as evangelists. Great interest has been manifested and over 140 persons have signed cards asking for more Bible instruction. The people certainly showed great interest and were most attentive.

No robbers have been reported for over a month and the people all up and down the valley seem happy and contented. It is to be hoped that the war lords will let them alone. If they do all will be peaceful.

February has been a wet cold month and very little spring planting has been done. The winter wheat, beans and rape plants seem very flourishing and a bumper harvest may be anticipated for June.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

OUTBREAK OF WAR IN EAST SHENSI

A War of Vengeance Styled Punitive Expedition: The Senseless Fighting of Factions: Wu Pei-fu's Adherents to be Wiped Out

From an East Shensi Correspondent.

It was on Saturday, February 9 at night that the city of Hoyang suddenly was enclosed by between 12 to 18 hundred soldiers, who early in the following morning opened a brisk fire and made a determined, though vain, attempt to enter the city.

The enemy had chosen a favourable time, because the General for the troops in Hoyang and connecting military district, as well as the Colonel, who had the direct command of the city troops and several of the Staff-officers had gone to their homes in the city of Pehshui for the Chinese New Year holidays, and were entirely unprepared for hostilities of this kind.

Thus the city was only defended by the troops at home, until the General and the Colonel had time to return with additional soldiers. Thereupon the troops were ordered outside to attack the enemy, who kept up a hard fight, and only retired step by step, in some directions 20, in others 20 *li* from Hoyang.

THE NATURE OF THE WAR.

This was for some 10 days, and still is, rather difficult to decide. It was soon learnt, that the foremost attackers were two former Majors of the Hoyang general. These, like nearly all of General Kao's troops, had formerly been robbers, like Kao himself. But while Kao, *very much impressed by General Feng Yu-hsiang's acts*, while he was in this province, had in fact begun to reform himself as well as his army, these two majors of his, Tuan and Wang, would not reform. Thus Kao started war on the former in the town of Weichuang, with the intent of relieving him of his weapons, but Tuan was able to escape with most of them and came and joined Ma, "*chi-tui-chang*," in Hancheng. Major Wang, stationed in Hoyang, was just about to be relieved of his weapons too, because it had been known to Kao that he secretly had assisted robber bands in the neighbourhood; but he managed to escape with one company of his soldiers with their rifles and ammunition; and having gathered some robber bands about him, went and joined Ma, "*szi-ling*," in Hancheng, was gladly receives any rascals, provided they have guns and can add to his strength.

For about the said number of days it was generally thought, that a war of revenge only was fought, and that these two Majors were assisted by Ma "*szi-ling*" secretly.

The gentry of Hoyang sent several telegrams from Tungchow to the Tuchun in Sian inquiring about the nature of this business, but no answer was received.

A POLITICAL WAR OR NOT?

While General Kao, was in the act of driving Ma "*szi-ling's*" troops back to Hancheng, it became known that large bodies of troops had entered his district from the southwest and were fighting his troops in that direction. Accordingly he recalled all his troops to Hoyang and leaving 1,000 men to defend that city, took the rest with him and went westward to ascertain who it was that had attacked him there.

Soon it became known however, that the whole warplan had been laid by the Tuchun, Liu, in Sian, and that he had used the antagonism between Ma's and Kao's troops to start the so-called "punitive expedition," with the object of destroying entirely the power of Kao, who had proved in the past to be a hard fighter. As the Governor's troops, so overwhelming in numbers, brought with them plenty of artillery of which Kao had none, and even big guns, they soon took several of his positions and marched inwards his stronghold in the city of Pehshui, which according to order was to be levelled with the ground.

This city has been besieged and bombarded now for five days, and to-day, February 29, the news has come that Kao has fled, after having killed a great number of the attacking troops, and that he took with him about 1,000 men, as well as his families and valuables.

The Colonel, left to take care of Hoyanghsien, was later offered the command of his master's troops, if he would offer allegiance to the Governor, and seeing that his master had to give up city after city, he accepted the offer and handed the city over to Ma "*szi-ling*," who was besieging it.

CHIHLI PARTY THE REAL AIM.

However the nature of the war is not yet clear. Though many believe, what the proclamation now posted all over the district says, that it is purely a punctive-expedition directed against General Kao alone, it is to the observer hard to believe, that such stern measures would be taken against him for such faults, as are mentioned in the proclamation (whereof some are entirely false), seeing that some of the leaders of the troops ordered to attack him, do not discipline their troops nearly as well as Kao and their characters fall far short of his.

Personally, I with many others, am inclined to credit the rumour that has been floating about long, that the younger political element in the province is about to start a war against Wu Pei-fu and Tsao Kun with the object of "diminishing their power."

We are told too, that after Kao, the Colonel of Puchenghsien is next to be attacked, and after him the cities occupied by General King in Ulinfu are to be dealt with, beginning with the city of Lochuan, that lies to the north of Pehshui.

However, plans may be altered according to circumstances. While these lines are penned a great war council is being held in the city of Tungchowfu, which the Tuchun himself has actually come to conduct.

No doubt there is important business at stake.

ANOTHER LEADER ADVANCING.

But while they now are congratulating themselves on the superficial victory won over General Kao, owing to their big guns, reliable news has already reached us, that General Ching from the north is also on the move, and that his troops have reached and taken Ichuanhsien to the north of Hancheng. The city there was almost emptied of troops, when Ma ordered a regiment from there to assist him in attacking Hoyang. In its absence, however, Ching's troops had entered Ichuan, and now Ma's Ichuan regiment, together with two other regiments of his, are on their way back to Ichuan to retake it.

Thus it is evident, that war between different factions in this province has commenced and we may at any time see the Chihli general in Tungkuan take advantage of the Tuchun's troops' expedition to the north and follow his not altogether concealed ambition to place himself in chief command of the province. Because everything points to the fact that even this beginning is after all a war between north and south.

The Yangtze has probably reached its lowest level this season and will steadily rise. At Kiukiang on March 7, the water mark was 9.1 feet rising. Hankow on the same date recorded 6.1 feet steady. A vessel drawing 17 feet could reach Kiukiang at the present state of the channels.

Of the thousands thrown out of employment through the Japanese earthquake, the "Japan Advertiser" states that bank clerks were the most unfortunate, 2,315 of them losing their positions.

CANTON MILITARISTS IN WUCHOW

Getting Ready for Flight? Rumours of Impending Hunanese Southern Adoance

From Our Own Correspondent.

Liuchow, Si., Mar. 1.

The old Chinese year closed with comparitive quietness and the new was ushered in with questions as to what the next few months might hold in store for this storm-tossed city.

In December Marshal Luk with a fine body of well equipped troops left Nanning for Kueilin calling on the cities *en route* and receiving a warm welcome all along the way. The merchants and gentry alike hasten to put their faith in the Marshal Luk in the hopes of a better government and a united province, and this tour of the province seemed in the minds of many to be connexed with such a scheme.

Reports were current that the Marshal had gone to confer with the Hunan leaders regarding a concerted move on Kuangtung, and as Wuchow has been an outpost of the Canton government for many past the interest in government affairs was naturally intense in this city.

Nothing startling has yet happened, but recently members of the Canton military party stationed in this city have been anxious to find more comfortable quarters. They seem to prefer foreign buildings in close proximity to the steamer landings to the former yamêns inside the city wall. An open road to escape by seems to be the desire of all, and within the last few days several of those in highest positions have left on urgent business for places nearer the coast, while their trained retinues and families are following closly behind them. Why this hurried exodus, is the question that the man on the street asks. And the answer of many is, "Marshal Luk is marching on Wuchow." If this is true Wuchow may soon again be under the control of the Kuangsi leaders and as the Marshal has instituted order and stimulated business in other parts of the province his arrival here is looked forward to by the masses with a great degree of pleasure.

NEW ROADS FOR WUCHOW.

Meanwhile steps are being taken to improve the road system of the city, by the opening of larger and better roads. Already surveyors are at work across the river from the city making plans for a Maloo which will connect the growing suburb on the banks of the West River with the city and make travel to and from the city more easy, as well as encourage settlers who cannot find housing accommodation in the city side to settle on the hills to the west. A large street is also to be made along the Fu River front running down to the bund and boat landings.

A few days ago an enterprising firm started a launch service between Wuchow and Pingloh. The launches fly the Portuguese flag and are expected to make regular trips up and down the Fu River. Later when the river rises it is hoped to extend the run as far as the ancient capital Kueilin. Such an improvement on the present slow style of travel on houseboats will indeed be a welcome change and much appreciated by those whose business obliges them continually to travel along this route.

BRITISH STEAMER AGROUND.

The heavy rains of two weeks ago raised the river several feet and made steamer travel up and down the West River more easy. The British-owned steamer Kochow however did not long enjoy the flood, for on her last down-river trip, during a fog she ran aground 20 miles below Samshui. The receding waters left her stranded. Now she is high and dry and must wait for the next flood before there is any hope of refloating her.

LIFE IN HANGCHOW

Sudden Dearth in War Rumours: Missionary Music-lovers

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hangchow, Mar. 5.

Rumours are few these days, but deputations to Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang from far and near are frequent. Of what results from them we know nothing.

We hear that bandits are making their presence felt in Yuyao. Recently a skirmish between the police and military took place in front of the Customs Overseer's Yamên in Ningpo, and resulted in a couple of his waiters getting mawled.

The Waterworks Committee is still meeting and talking plans, but we still depend upon the clouds for our water supply, and these days it is more than abundant.

Yesterday the monthly Missionary Association meeting was a musical one, and met at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Duncan Main. There was a generous programme and every piece was encored. The talent was all local with the exception of "Joe" Evans, who came specially from Shanghai to charm us with his violin solos, and he did. Dr. Lasell, the pianist, accompanied him with distinction. The singing was of a high standard, and a reading by one of the ladies on woman's rights in South America, tickled our risible faculties not a little. We look upon these social meetings as stress and distress ventilators and aids to mission work.

Mar. 3 (delayed).

On Saturday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Latimer, the foreign community had a great treat in seeing the "Goblin Fair"—a fairy operetta presented by the children of the Hangchow American School, under the direction of Mrs. C. B. Day.

The children, some of whom were only tiny tots, played their parts exceedingly well, and fairly astonished the audience who had no idea there was so much latent amongst the children. Mrs. Day deserves great praise for her wonderful accomplishment.

Dr. Edwards, of Taiyuanfu, who was at Home when his hospital was burnt down in November, is here on a visit to his old friend and fellow student, Dr. Main. Dr. Edwards is accompanied by his doctor daughter, and has returned to rebuild his hospital. He was very much interested in the progress made by the C.M.S. Medical Mission during the last few years.

The Rev. C. P. Barkman preached the monthly English sermon yesterday on "God inexhaustible."

CATTLE DISEASE IN CHINA

Dr. Charles S. Gibbs, bacteriologist to the College of Agriculture and Forestry, Nanking, is still in Kaifeng, Honan, working on rinderpest. This winter's epidemic seems to be particularly virulent and widespread, says the College bulletin. It has been reported from Shansi, from Shantung (unless the disease there is other than rinderpest) and Nanhsuchow in Northern Anhui. The incidence of disease is high; in many cases 100 per cent. of all the cattle of a village die. Mr. W. E. Salee of Kaifeng estimated about a month ago a mortality of 50,000 head of cattle, with a value of $1,000,000, which would seem conservative in view of the wide area affected and the virulence of the epidemic. By now the loss is undoubtedly very much greater. The last letter from Dr. Gibbs says that he has arranged for an experiment in several of the villages near Kaifeng, using products which he has made in Kaifeng, and which he has already used with success on the mission herd.

Dr. Gibbs' experiments are watched with the keenest interest and hope, as the control of rinderpest is absolutely essential to the development of a safe and profitable animal industry in China.

CHINESE MONTAGUES AND CAPULETS

Daughter of Tang Sacrifices Herself for the Family of Pang

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kaifeng, Ho., Mar. 10.

A few days ago the whole city was in consternation at the death of Miss Pang, affianced daughter in-law to Gen. Tang, who is said to have taken her own life to be with his deceased son who, never having seen, she honours beyond measure by her death.

The General is one of the wealthy landlords of Kaifeng, a friend of the late President Yuan Shi-kai, and one who enjoyed his confidence when at the height of his power. Gen. Pang was a Shantung man, who wanted to get into favour in those good old days and sought to do so by making an alliance with the family of Tang. Thus it came about that the second son of Gen. Tang was betrothed to the young daughter of Gen. Pang. When Yuan Shi-kai was lost as friend and patron, a coldness sprang up between the two families, and this the passing of years had not abated at the time of the girl's death.

When the funeral rites for his son were over it occurred to Gen. Tang that the vacant place might be filled by the wife that was to have been his son's, and accordingly sent for Miss Pang. It is reported that Gen. Pang was very wrath at this demand and declared that his daughter should not leave his home, and that death had given his family a quittance of all obligations to the family of Gen. Tang. It seems, however, that Miss Pang herself thought otherwise and without waiting to ask her father's leave or blessing she set off with her mother, whom she had won over to her way of thinking, for Honan and the home that should have been hers if her intended husband had lived.

THE SPIRIT WEDDING.

With her came the bride's trousseau that had been procured for the great occasion of her life. After being some time in the home of Gen. Tang, it is said, she solemnly arrayed herself in her wedding garments and going to the grave of her husband - to - have - been went through a spirit wedding with the spirit of the departed. Returning to the Tang home she proceeded to drink a poisoned draught and so passed into the spirit world of her unknown lover.

That is the story as it comes from the family of Tang, and to honour her and incidently to gain further merit for the family Tang gave her a most elaborate funeral.

A monster procession was formed, which led by bands and a multitude of banners marched through the principal streets of the city escorting a sedan chair in which was a large photo of the young bride. This procession kept up for a good half day, so that the whole city might hear of the virtuous daughter-in-law, and yield plaudits to the family of Tang.

It is said that General Tang has petitioned Marshal Wu Pei-fu, and the President, for the privilege of building a memorial "*p'ai-fang*" to commemorate this worthy "widow." The widows' arches in Honan are very beautiful, usually made of cut stone and much decorated with carving. If Kaifeng is to have such an arch or arches it ought to be a worthy addition to street ornamentation.

AN ADDED HORROR.

There is a story going the rounds that adds even a greater touch of tragedy to this story. The papers recently had reports of a certain "General Pang" who has committed wholesale assasinations among his family. This Gen. Pang is also a Shantung man, and the story of Miss Pang as recorded above is being filled in with the added horror of the temporary insanity of her father, bereft of his senses, when he discovered the loss of his daughter. After killing 25 members of his family, concubines, officers, and servants, he took his own life, thus adding grim emphasis to his objections to cementing his family alliance with the family of Tang.

GAINING GROUND FROM YELLOW RIVER

Useful Work in Honan: How the River Dyked Itself: Marshal Wu Pei-fu's Interest in Forestry and Agriculture

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kaifeng, Ho., Feb. 28.

In my last news letter I spoke of the very commendable efforts of Marshal Wu Pei-fu, to further the cause of afforestation, by holding the various magistracies responsible for the work. In that letter I also mentioned the passing of Mr. Wu Ih-lu, the head of the Forestry Department in this province for many years, till his elevation to the headship of the Industrial Department.

When Mr. Wu was raised to the Shi Yeh Ting, a former pupil of his, whom he had raised step by step in the Forestry Department, till he had become chief secretarial head of the department, was made the Commissioner in sequence to Mr. Wu. This young man had been appointed by Mr. Wu to go to Loyang on many occasions to attend to the carrying out of Marshal Wu Pei-fu's afforestation schemes, and from this contact frequently repeated, he gradually worked himself into the marshal's good graces. It seems to be part of Marshal Wu's policy to take the men, whom he knows intimately, and place them in spheres of influence that may be very useful to him when he will eventually stand in need of all his friends can do for him. Thus Mr. Ren Wen-ping, was made Commissioner of Forestry in the province. But the favours of fortune have not stopped there. When his old patron came to an untimely end on New Year's eve, and left the Industrial Department without a head, there seemed to be a veritable landslide for Mr. Ren, when he was appointed concurrently head of the Industrial Department as well.

A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT.

There are several reports accounting for this second stroke of good fortune for Mr. Ren. Since his elevation to the Forestry Headship he has been much in contact with the Marshal, who makes it this business to be interested in all things in the province. The Honan International Famine Relief Association had done an admirable piece of work along a short stretch of the Yellow River Embankment in the way of experiment in reclamation work. This was the anchoring of trees in the river bed some distance out from the shore marked by water. The trees were anchored parallel to the shore for some seven or eight li in extent while the season was still dry. When the waters arose each tree became a centre for a small whirlpool, which attracted the silt from the centre of the river, and deposited it fairly regularly between the row of trees and the shore. When the waters subsided the result was most gratifying, as a new shore line had been marked and several hundred of acres of good land had been reclaimed inside the line of trees. This is known in reclamation work as the Tree Retard Method and was carried out under the advice of Mr. Todd, the consulting engineer of the Famine Relief Commission in Peking.

UNLUCKY JEALOUSIES.

Then the Honan Famine Relief Association asked the privilege of planting trees along this stretch of reclaimed land, and also along the new dyke erected during recent famines by relief labour to keep back the angry waters of the Yellow River when in flood. The good offices of the Nanking University Forestry and Agriculture Department were to have been utilized through its extension scheme, to get young trees and to start experimentation leading to improvement in agricultural methods for the province. The plan proposed to make the work self-perpetuating, by utilizing the trees grown to continue the work of reclamation, as the purchase and delivery of grown trees makes a big inroad on finances, and the fruits of the agricultural work were to continue the work for the benefit of the farming community of the province.

The Forestry Department of the province, through its head, so rumour says, found this plan very humiliating, as it seemed completely to ignore the provincial machinery. As Mr. Ren was in attendance on the Marshal at Loyang, it is said that he insinuated that this scheme if carried out, would constitute an encroachment on Honan's sovereign rights, because there are several foreigners in the Famine Relief Association. Needless to say the scheme has not been approved, though it would be of very great advantage to the province and help in solving one of the great engineering problems, of the Yellow River, that of keeping the bed from silting up: the very work that reclaims the bed adjoining the shores also keeps the channel open, and deepens it.

A MUCH REGRETTED OFFICIAL.

Incidentally there have been other changes in the personnel of provincial officials. The foreign community of the province regrets the passing from the control of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs of Mr. C. T. Sia, who has been Commissioner for several years now. Since his connexion with Honan affairs, Mr. Sia has been in touch with the Foreign Bureau, that is for 16 years. Mr. Sia was educated in Fukien, of which province he is a native, and having a good grasp of English he turned his attention to teaching in Government schools, both in Changteh-ho and in this city. For the careful mediation and conduct of foreign affairs, Mr. Sia got a good schooling under Mr. C. F. Hsu, who was Commissioner in this province for many years before he was promoted to the banner office in Shanghai. During his own term as Commissioner, Mr. Sia has ever been careful to guard the interests of the province, while attempting to be just to the foreign residents who had grievances to adjust. But unfortunately for him at the present time, perhaps, he has been a hard working member of the Famine Relief Association, and now he is not Commissioner in the Bureau of Foreign Affairs.

A USEFUL PEN.

His successor, Mr. H. L. Li, comes direct from the court at Loyang to fill the vacant office. Mr. Li is most eminently fitted by many gifts of mind and person to adorn this office, even though he is the nominee of the great Marshal. He was early educated in St. Paul's school in Hongkong and later went to England and America. He has been an attaché of the Waichiaopu in Peking, and also much interested in journalism. So keen has been his pen, with so much power to embarrass his political enemies, or at least the political enemies of his party, that he has suffered reprisals even to the extent of being incarcerated. It may have been for this particular gift that the Marshal invited him to Loyang to be his English secretary, and incidentally his propagandist in the English papers. It may not be too long a guess to say that whatever bears the index of "Chung Mei News Service" as coming from Honan and having nice things to say of Wu Pei-fu and his plans, has been from the pen of Mr. Li Hsin-ling. He has now come to take his post in Kaifeng, and we are very sure that his pleasant and winning personality will soon make him many friends both among Chinese and foreigners alike.

MISSING HONGKONG LAUNCH LOCATED

Hongkong, Mar. 12.

The Chinese ferry launch Kwong Shun, which together with her passengers disappeared from Hongkong harbour now nearly a fortnight ago, has been located in the shallows 25 miles from Macao. The Portuguese gunboat Patria is awaiting a favourable opportunity to recover her.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SMALLPOX ON U. S. LINER

Manila, Mar. 10.

Four cases of smallpox have developed amongst the steerage passengers of the President Hayes. Quanantine regulations are now very stringent, and passengers refusing vaccination or unable to produce a certificate are barred from landing.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE CIGARETTE TAX IN KIANGSU

Supported by Those Who Hope to Farm It: More Money for Weapons for Peking

According to the *"Shunpao,"* nothing definite has yet been settled between the disputants regarding the proposed imposition of the special tax on the sale of cigarettes in Kiangsu. The attitude of the opposing dealers has been greatly weakened, and there are not a few among them who have been scrambling for the right of farming this tax in this or that district. Speaking of Shanghai, the difference in the treatment of dealers inside and outside the foreign settlements, seems to be the only knotty point that requires straightening out.

The *"Shunpao"* does not blame those who are outbidding each other for the farming of the tax, since it is only human nature to compete for a profitable job. What the paper objects to most is that the Ministry of Finance at Peking should be allowed, by taking advantage of this opportunity, to secure an enormous sum of money with which more arms may be purchased and more blood shed, as well as to destroy the Constitution which Peking itself has promulgated by appropriating to itself this business tax, which is fixed in that Constitution as belonging to local revenue and which is urgently needed for the development of local education. Cigarette dealers should not agree to Peking's proposition even for the sake of a profitable job, as in doing so, they would support the oppressors of our people instead of opposing them.

THE TAX ITSELF LIGHT.

The sale tax on cigarettes passed by the Kiangsu Assembly is fixed at 20 per cent. of the price which would be the lightest tobacco tax in the world, viewing it as a levy on luxuries. Dealers have really no ground to complain, and they are not complaining. The dispute is mainly sustained by dealers fighting for the farming right as already said, and they rely upon the big tobacco merchants to back them up. In China, tobacco merchants are almost all of foreign nationalities, native merchants forming only an infinitesimal part thereof. Thus, the cigarette business may be regarded as the foreigner's business. As foreigners have no genuine love for China, they would pay money to whomsoever could best protect them against the sale tax. They think that if the payee should spend such money on fire-arms and kill people, foreigners would be immune (from such killing). The tobacco merchants have promised to pay 2½ per cent. to the Central Government, and 2½ to local authorities. Based on this percentage, Kiangsu would benefit to the extent of $300,000 a year only, which would not go far in furthering educational work in the province. But, (and it is a great "but,") if other provinces should follow suit, the total sum available to Peking for the purchase of arms and slaughter of people would be very large indeed.

SECURITY FOR MORE LOANS.

And there might be another phase worth considering, viz, this 2½ per cent. tax might be pledged in advance for a big loan. As such a transaction, considering the handsome interest and fat discount it would yield, would be profitable, why should not the tobacco merchants be glad to accommodate Peking? As the tax which these merchants would have to pay could be kept to offset the interest and build up an amortization fund, no security would be demanded. With ample funds in hand, Peking could satiafy its thirst for the people's blood as much as it pleased.

QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION

Smallpox Patient at Amoy Made to go on to Hongkong: Another Case on Board the Result

It will be remembered that at the annual meeting of the Associated British Chambers of Commerce in China, held at Shanghai last month, a resolution was passed to the effect that

> "... in the opinion of this Conference the absence of quarantine regulations at Chefoo and other of the smaller ports constitutes an ever-present menace to their commercial interests. The Conference would, therefore, urge the importance of providing quarantine facilities in all ports or of issuing regulations providing that ships which have become infected, destined for such ports, must proceed to other ports in which quarantine facilities exist."

A case has been brought to our notice which gives point to the above resolution. A few weeks ago, after the Indo-China str. Yatshing had left Shanghai for Amoy and Hongkong, the third engineer was stricken with smallpox. When the vessel arrved at Amoy and the Port Doctor came on board, the case was brought to his notice and a natural request made that the patient be transferred ashore. This the Port Doctor, we are told, declined to have done or to permit, on the ground that although quarantine regulations obtained at the port, and that there was a special quarantine anchorage (at Cornwallis Stone, we believe) for infected ships, there were no suitable facilities ashore for the reception, isolation and treatment of cases such as smallpox. The result was that the patient had to be taken on the ship to Hongkong, and during the voyage between Amoy and the Crown Colony another case of smallpox occurred, the victim in this instance being tht captain of the vessel.

AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION.

One can hardly blame the Port Doctor of Amoy for declining to allow ashore a case of very infectious disease if he is denied proper facilities for dealing with such a case, and his action in the matter is easily to be understood. The absence of very necessary isolation facilities, however, is a matter not so easily justified, especially if we consider the size of the port and the magnitude of the traffic that passes through it; for Amoy, while not one of the greatest ports of China, is by no means one of the smallest. We have no statistics for last year available, but from those for previous years it appears very probable that the ocean shipping using the port during 1923 was close to the 2½ million tons mark; that the trade of the port under the supervision of the Customs was something over Hk. Tls. 30,000,000; and that the number of passengers passing through the Maritime Customs averaged considerably more than 1,000 a day.

ONE CASE OF MANY.

And Amoy is but one case of many. There are numerous other ports in China, some larger than Amoy, some smaller, at which a state of affairs equally unsatisfactory prevails. The whole subject, as the Chamber of Commerce resolution indicated, is a broad one and should be dealt with on broad lines; but there should be little difficulty, in cases such as that of Amoy, in providing the requisite isolation accommodation. Practically every port in China has its official Port Doctor, and the provision of quarantine regulations and facilities, and accommodation for isolation of infectious diseases at those ports, should not be a problem insuperable, or even difficult. The expense involved would not be appreciably high, especially if weighed against the possible benefits, for—once more to quote the Chamber of Commerce resolution—"the absence of such regulations . . . constitutes an ever-present menace to their commercial interests." Now that the matter has officially been taken up by so weighty a body as the Association of British Chambers of Commerce in China, the necessity of something being done on the lines suggested possibly may be realized at Peking, and we can only hope that the matter will receive that early attention and be accorded that early action that its undoubted importance warrants.

CHINESE POST-OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

Review of the Fourth Year's Work and Statement of Accounts

Peking, Mar. 4.

The report on the working of the Chinese Post Office Savings Bank for the 11th year of Chung-Hua Min-Kuo (1922) states, *inter alia*:—

The period under review represents the fourth working year since the inauguration of the Post Office Savings Bank. In spite of unsettled conditions with consequent cessation or dislocation of communications, it is possible to record an expansion in almost every branch of savings bank work.

General conditions caused by the political situation were such as to render inadvisable the further opening of savings banks, the total number of which therefore remains at 334.

The impossibility of safely investing money locally made it necessary to remit surplus funds to the various ports and this is not only a difficult but also a dangerous procedure when the country is in a disturbed condition and bank charges abnomally high in consequence.

INCREASING POPULARITY.

In many districts the Post Office Savings Bank enjoys great popularity, while in a few it is not so well supported owing to the rate of interest being much lower than that offered by native banks and money shops. Nevertheless, it is felt that the Savings Bank system is becoming better known and more fully appreciated as time goes on, and this is borne out by figures given in statements attached to the report, which show steady advances over the previous year.

Owing to unsettled conditions everywhere, the public in general has abstained from inland investments and turned to the Savings Bank for the safe custody of their money, having come to realize the absolute security of deposits entrusted to this institution.

Deposits, in big dollars, during 1922 amounted to $4,125,539.30, an increase of 62 per cent. over 1921, and withdrawals to $3,021,074.14, an increase of 73 per cent. over 1921, while the amount due to depositors grew from $1,505,883.79 to $2,715,964.48, an increase of 80 per cent. over 1921. The number of depositors increased from 13,863 to 20,378.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

U. S. NAVAL AEROPLANES FOR CHINA

Part of a Large Consignment Landed in Manila

Manila, March 13.

Ninety-seven military aeroplanes are due to arrive at Manila on board the transport Meigs to-morrow. Some will be used by the new naval flying unit. It is unofficially reported that naval planes will later be sent to China.

The guards on military hangars at Camp Nichols, Manila, and Camp Stotsenburg, Pampanga, have been doubled following rumours that disaffected natives have planned to disable the planes there.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE CHINESE BANKERS' ASSOCIATIONS

Annual Meeting in April

Peking, Mar. 7.

The Chinese Bankers' Association of Peking has nominated a committee to make arrangements for the annual meeting of Chinese Bankers' Associations throughout the country, which is to be held in April this year in Peking in accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting at Hankow on April 15 last.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

WU PEI-FU'S BID FOR FIRST PLACE

The Real Capital Gradually Shifting from Peking to Loyang: Peking Now Only a Useful Screen Against Foreign Claims

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Mar. 6.

Political developments in Peking for some time past have been of little more than local interest and, as Loyang rises on the crest of a new wave, the importance of whatever happens in Peking in the way of purely domestic politics dwindles to insignificance. While the Gold Franc question hangs fire, while Sino-Russian negotiators seem to get nowhere, while diplomatic plaints to the Waichiaopu remain unanswered because Peking can in no instance make up its official mind what to do as long as it has no power to do anything, the best space in the Chinese press is devoted to speculations upon the alleged personal feud between Premier Sun Pao-chi and Minister of Finance Wang Ko-ming. This has to be printed very prominently to give anyone a thrill, because no one feels that it matters very much how the so-called Cabinet problem is solved. All interest is centred upon the provinces, with General Wu Pei-fu monopolizing the limelight as usual.

THE VICTORIES IN SZECHUAN.

There is every evidence that the Chihli leaders would all like to take speedy advantage of the victories in Szechuan to launch an overwhelming assault upon Kuangtung, and then possibly Yunnan, before any of Dr. Sun's potential allies have a chance to organize relief movements or create diversions. It is apparent to all that to do this on the proper scale and to make a lasting job of it, all the factions of the loosely knit Chihli group must stand solidly united on every front. To this end someone must be acknowledged the boss, and it must be clearly understood who will distribute power and profit when the campaign is over. There can be no doubt that General Wu Pei-fu is making a determined effort at this juncture to demonstrate that he is the only logical candidate for unchallenged leadership and that he is making no little progress in impressing this upon many minds. The assault which he is making in Shantung upon the strongholds of the so-called Paoting and Tientsin groups there is already half a victory. It will be complete when Governor Hsiung Ping-chi's resignation from the post of Kiaochao director is accepted and when Admiral Wen Shu-teh is formally appointed commander of the Pei Hai squadron. In spite of the most strenuous opposition from Tsao Kun's closest advisers; and in spite of opposition from Admiral Tu Shih-kuei, supported by Governor Chi Hsieh-yuan, it appears at this writing that Peking will be forced to comply. Such a victory would demonstrate beyond cavil that the *de facto* capital of most of China is now really Loyang and not Peking.

LOYANG'S THE ONLY POWER.

The usual tests of the genuine existence of a Government are its ability to collect money and control its disbursement, the ability to give orders to armies and have them taken, and the ability to shoulder and honourably discharge international obligations. According to none of these standards is Peking a Government. Loyang qualifies in the two respects of being able to collect and disburse money and of being able to order armies about. Loyang has not undertaken the burden of international obligations and will not do so until the Powers openly declare that Peking is a humbug and a farce.

Those who know General Wu Pei-fu and the trend of his thoughts, which always hark back to historical precedent, can have no doubt that when he chose Loyang as his headquarters he did so because historically it was a strategic centre and, under many dynasties, a great capital of the Middle Kingdom. There is no telling what Wu Pei-fu actually has in his head because this erratic little man, who seems to speak so frankly, has no confidants to whom he ever exposes his whole mind. But the writer believes it very safe to wager that, at the back of his mind, General Wu Pei-fu is determined to make Loyang the centre of administration for a new China and that he already regards Peking as nothing more than a wet blanket between himself and the smoke of foreign endeavour in China.

THE PETTINESSES OF PEKING.

Local affairs are really trifling. Nothing that can happen in the Cabinet can possibly have the slightest effect upon general conditions in China. Mr. Sun Pao-chi took office and accepted as his colleagues those indicated to President Tsao Kun by Wang Yu-chih. He counted upon getting Parliament's help to rid him of these persons so that he could quietly withdraw and give Dr. W. W. Yen his post with a Cabinet of his own choosing. Over the New Year Mr. Wang Yu-chih "fixed" Parliament in some way, so that all the investigations and impeachments of Christmas time are now forgotten. Having nothing else to stand on, Mr. Sun Pao-chi stands in the Chinese press as the one immovable opponent of the Gold Franc settlement, which in itself automatically marks him for extinction.

Mr. Wang Ko-ming has been so cautious in his movements, in his endeavour to avoid Parliamentary criticism, that he has reduced Peking to the lowest state of penury which this capital has yet experienced. He has developed eye trouble in such a serious form that he cannot possibly talk with the foreign diplomats nor negotiate even the smallest loans.

All of this is of course hopelessly irrelevant "piffle," having nothing whatever to do with the general state of China and with foreign trade in China, any more than Tsao Kun's indisposition has to do with the price of bonds.

At this juncture the really serious question is: How many Chihli leaders will loyally follow Wu Pei-fu's lead in the effort to reunite China by force? Would not folk like Chi Hsieh-yuan and Sun Ch'uan-fang much rather see China divided so that they can dicker for semi-independent places of their own? Will not Chang Tso-lin, who has no intention of invading China proper, make a feint towards Chihli to create a diversion and save Sun Yat-sen rather than see Wu Pei-fu dictating terms to all China from Loyang with no recalcitrant on the map but himself? Tang Chi-yao must follow much the same tactics as Chang Tso-lin. Unity under a Loyang dictator would suit his convenience no more than it would Manchuria's.

NO PROMISE OF PEACE.

There is no promise of peace in the present situation, though there may be some promise of the evolution of a responsible authority in Loyang if Wu Pei-fu wins out. This promise, however, holds out nothing to the foreigner; because the Powers would not think of recognizing Loyang as the capital of China, however big the monopoly of power centred there might be, and because Wu Pei-fu would not encourage such recognition, which would involve obligations, so long as he could preserve Peking as the afore-mentioned wet blanket between the accident and himself. His great game now is to have two centres in China, one taking all the power and collecting and spending all the money, namely Loyang, and the other assuming all the responsibilities and obligations with absolutely no power to discharge them, namely Peking. Foreign recognition of Peking means loyal concurrence in this scheme and cannot possibly mean anything else, whether to China or to the Powers.

Tuchun Hsiao Yao-nan has decided to build a motor road connecting Hwangchow and Macheh districts at a cost of $500,000. He has himself given $50,000 for the purpose, and the rest of the money will be raised in these two districts.

THE RELEASE OF FATHER VAN PLAET

Peking, Mar. 9.

According to semi-official sources the French and Belgian Legations have addressed notes to the Waichiaopu expressing their pleasure at the release of Father Van Plaet, but calling attention to the large number of bandits operating in Suiyuan and urging the Government to take drastic measures to suppress them.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DIVINATION IN HUNAN

A Chinese Planchette and What It Wrote

From Our Own Correspondent.

Siangtan, Hu., Mar. 4.

The writer has for many years been anxious to see and witness the working of the Taoist Planchette, but not until recently has an opportunity been offered. Three foreigners and as many Chinese were invited to be present at the working of this medium and we turned up just in the midst of some special work for a distant patient. Then every thing was cleared for us to have a chance to witness the working of the Planchette. It consists of a crooked stick with two prongs, and on the opposite end at the bottom a sharp stick which does the writing in the sand. Two men hold this pen, one holds one prong with his right hand and the second holds the other prong with his left hand and they together write what the god states in the sand. One man standing by announces the character and smooths over the sand in the box for the second and so on till the end. If was a put-up job for us and a commonplace story of being glad that the party had come to see. It was all so crude as to be uninteresting and so manifestly false as to be silly. Many are turning to this old Taoist medium for revelations of the spirit world in these days.

A SOLDIER RIOT.

The political situation does not seem to change here. We had a scare on the streets here recently. Word came from headquarters to disband some soldiers who had no guns, in the interests of economy, but more recently it has been learned that those being disbanded are not loyal to the powers that be and so these soldiers were armed in some way, and the leader refused to be disbanded and firing took place; one soldier was killed and several wounded. Several wards of the City were closed for hours and the shopkeepers all shut up for the day. It seems strange that there should be disbanding when there seems for months to have been such feverish activity in drilling and recruiting new troops.

IN GENERAL.

The large steamers are running to Siangtan and have been for several weeks. The water has been very high for this time of the year and many are predicting floods this year.

The new road between here and Hsiang Hsiang is being pushed with vigour and it is hoped that it will be open in a few months.

Mrs. Shambaugh of the Evangelical Mission has been taken to their hospital at Liling for treatment. She has been unwell for several months and this hospital having accommodation for foreigners, it is hoped will help to bring Mrs. Shambaugh back to health.

The Chinese New Year season has passed with the usual festivities and closed with a very interesting episode. On the night of the 16th there was an eclipse of the moon, which lasted for several hours and during those hours the whole town was one big uproar with gongs and bells and guns and firecrackers and such a continuous din as one scarcely ever hears even in this land of strange noises.

A SAD thing has happened to the Zoological Survey of India. It has lost the latter part of its collection of mollusca owing to the coolies on the staff drinking the alcohol from the preserving bottles! But it ought to have known. In China, at least, snake spirit is medicine and very valuable.

MILITARY MATTERS IN KUANGTUNG

Trouble Between Dr. Sun and Gen. Shen: Settlement of the Rice Strike

Canton, Mar. 1.

Mr. Yang Shu-chan, a Szechuanese and former chief private secretary to Dr. Sun Yat-sen, this morning assumed the post of Civil Governor of Kuangtung. At present some 32 of the 96 districts in the province may be considered under Dr. Sun's influence.

According to the vernacular press, there is likely again to be trouble between Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Gen. Shen Hung-ying, the Kuangsi leader who first joined and later turned against the Kuomintang leader early in 1923. A report is, however, in circulation that Gen. Shen may be persuaded to return to Dr. Sun's fold if he is promised the appointment of Commander-in-Chief of the troops in Kuangsi.

The national convention of the Kuomintang recently terminated without taking any action for the reorganization of the General Military Headquarters or for the nomination of Dr. Sun as "President of the Consolidated Government for the Reconstruction of China." For some reason the more able leaders of the Kuomintang have thought fit to sever their connexion with the Canton Government altogether. For the time being Dr. C. C. Wu is the only well-known Cantonese in high office in Canton, being Secretary of Foreign Affairs, but he has not been formally admitted to membership of the Kuomintang.

Mr. Wen Hung-fei, a Cantonese Senator in the Peking Parliament, recently arrived in Canton on a visit. He was promptly arrested, but later released after Dr. Sun's attention had been drawn to the fact that Mr. Wen came by appointment on a special mission.

The rice-shop employees' strike ended last week in a victory for the Labour Union, which secured an increase of 30 per cent. in wages for its members. Owing to the fact that the head of the union, Mr. Yen Yu-sheng, and his wife were assassinated while in bed one morning, many rice shop hands are now afraid of being union men and have given public notice of their resignation from membership.

ASSAULT ON A JOURNALIST.

Mr. Kuo Li-chuan, an editorial writer of a local daily paper, the "*Yinchiangpao*," was attacked with a cudgel at the Canton Press Club on February 29 by a member of the Kuomintang, Mr. Huang Ti-han. Mr. Huang charged Mr. Kuo with having cast reflexions on his party when reporting incidents in connexion with the settlement of the rice strike. The "*Yinchiangpao*," which is one of the largest dailies in Canton, has announced that its proprietor has ceased to be a member of the Kuomintang and will no longer be subject to the control of the party.

Dr. Sun has ordered the Hunanese troops to lead in the proposed offensive against Gen. Chen Chiung-ming and fighting is expected on the eastern front. As the telegraphs between Hongkong and Canton are still interrupted owing to the position of the rival troops along the Canton-Kowloon Railway, which is still closed to public traffic, true conditions on the eastern front cannot be ascertained, even apart from the censorship and the delay in the mails.

A REIGN OZ TERROR.

A reign of terror still exists in Canton and the district. The British gunboats in Canton waters are forced to take serious steps to deal with terrorists interfering with British launches or small steamers. Practically all small Chinese steamers have been under foreign registration in order to avoid their being commandeered for war service.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE Chinese merchants who undertook the collection of the cigarette taxes for the Government in the Wu Han cities have already lost about $6,000 since the Bureau was established, says the "Central China Post." The Financial Commissioner now does not agree to take over this unprofitable organization from the merchants.

HUNANESE TROOPS IN CANTON

Making Nuisances of Themselves While Awaiting Transfer to East River

Canton, Feb. 27.

During the past week there has been little change in the military positions. The Hunanese troops of Gen. T'am Yin-hai have continued to arrive, and there are now in the City several thousands. They are to move out to the East River within seven days according to an order published by their C.-in-C., but it is doubtful whether they can be supplied with ammunition in time to allow of that. They are at present very short of ammunition and every effort is being made to increase the output of the various factories.

The behaviour of these troops in the City has left a lot to be desired. Their discipline is not good. There are daily instances where they create disturbances at places of amusement, such as the roof-gardens of the Sun and Sincere Companies and the theatres. They attempt to enter without tickets and, when remonstrated with, start a disturbance. Last Sunday at the Sun Company on the Bund about 200 of them tried to force their way in, and roughly handled the employees who tried to stop them. Assistance was sent for and a Hunanese officer with some armed men arrived and tried to get the men to disperse quietly, but apparently they took no notice of him, and went away through the Hotel Asia pulling up the stair carpets and doing much damage to windows etc.

A strenuous effort is being made to centralize the finances of the province and a certain amount of success seems to have attended them, but much remains to be done yet.

The strike of the rice coolies is now partially settled and the situation is somewhat better as the import of rice has been possible owing to the efforts of the Overseas Chinese Association, but it still remains for a complete settlement to be come to before normal conditions can be restored.

THE SOVIET AND JAPAN

Moscow Boycotting Vladivostok Japanese

Peking, Mar. 8.

M. Karakhan visited Mr. Yoshizawa yesterday and explained that the Moscow Central Executive Committee had recently resolved that there could be no *de facto* relations with any country which had not recognized the Soviet. Therefore, the Japanese Consul at Vladivostok could not be recognized. This and the other recent Russo-Japanese incidents were discussed. No decision was reached.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PHILIPPINES' LUMBER EXPORTS

Manila, P. I., Feb. 18.

Exports of lumber from the Philippine Islands more than doubled during 1923, due largely to the demand from Japan after the earthquake and fire of September, according to figures compiled by the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

In 1923, the lumber exports from the Philippines were 36,949,904 board feet, while in 1922 they amounted to only 18,285,000.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PHILIPPINE TRIBUTE TO DR. WOODROW WILSON

Baguio, P. I., Mar. 4.

The late ex-President Woodrow Wilson's name is to be perpetuated by the city council, which has just adopted a resolution changing the name of Kisad Road, one of the principal thoroughfares of this city, to Wilson Road.

The resolution says:—"His policy toward the Philippine Islands during his entire term of office was characterized by a genuine sympathy for the Filipino people and their ideals."—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MODERNIZATION OF JAPAN'S ARMY

Need for Drastic Changes in Military Methods: Mission of Investigation

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Mar. 6.

The study of present day military equipment and the methods of financing its adoption form the basis of instructions given by the Minister of War to the special committee of General Staff offices, which has just been appointed to draft recommendations for the thorough modernization of Japan's army of 245,000 officers and men.

This committee, of which the chairman is Lieut.-Gen. Tsuno, the Vice-Minister of War, is not expected to submit its report before the end of the next fiscal year, that is, March 31, 1925, and during the interval between now and that date will survey the whole range of possibilities at home and abroad.

That there is urgent need for drastic change in the military machine of this country is frankly admitted on all sides. Japan has made no serious alteration in her methods of attack and defence since the conclusion of the Russo-Japanese war, it is pointed out; she took part in the Great War, it is true, but only in the very limited area of Tsingtao, and that before the experiences of the most modern forms of warfare were put into actual practice in the field. She has, therefore, fallen behind, and, if she is to take her place beside the great nations of the would, she must bring her fighting organization up to date.

NOT AN AGGRESSIVE MEASURE.

Emphasis, however, is laid on the fact that any changes that may be adopted as the result of the investigations now to be made most not be regarded as of an aggressive character. Japan merely desires, it is stated, to bring her army as regards standard of equipment and training into line with those of the other Great Powers, who learned their lessons at first hand during the world struggle of 1914-18.

Investigations abroad are to be conducted by the military mission, of which mention has already been made. This mission, headed by Lieut.-General Kamiji Wada, will spend six months in Europe and America, and will devote its study to such organizations as tank corps, motor transport, machine guns, and automatic rifles, in all of which Japanese army heads declare that they are disastrously deficient.

AIR FORCE TO BE DOUBLED.

Another branch of the army service that will engage the serious attention of the investigators is the air force, which at present consists of six flying squadrons, and which army officials insist should be doubled. Plans are already being considered for a five year programme of air force expansion.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the inquiry is the fact that the investigations are to cover the methods of financing the changes.

It is certain that financial ability to meet the cost of remodelling the army enters very largely into the question, and it has been suggested that the modernization process will be carried out at the expense of further economies in army expenditure.

THE WASHINGTON PACT.

It will be remembered that as the result of the popular movement arising out of the decisions of the Washington Disarmament Conference, which emphasized the need for curtailment in military as well as naval expenditure, the army authorities in Japan agreed to and carried out a reduction of the army personnel by about 57,000 men, which was claimed to be a reduction by five divisions on a peace strength.

Now it is hinted that, in order to modernize the army, and to secure the necessary funds, the number of divisions may be reduced, which proposal is a noteworthy change in army policy, when it is borne in mind to what extent the authorities have gone in their advocacy of 21 divisions as the minimum strength of the army, and how a few years ago great efforts were made to increase the number of divisions for the defence of Korea. Alternative suggestions to the foregoing, which the investigating committee will have to consider, are: (1) the abolition of the infantry brigade in favour of the French plan of forming a division out of three infantry regiments, under one chief of infantry, and (2) the assignment of two battalions to each regiment.

THE SOLDIER'S PAY.

Another question which it is expected that the Committee will take up is that of the army personnel, and the possible increase of the pay of the private soldier. The private soldier has hitherto been in receipt of some 15 sen a day, which has necessitated his being subsidized while on service by the members of the family. This has naturally tended to make the army unpopular, and it is suggested that an improvement in the soldier's financial remuneration would enhance the standing of the army in the popular estimate. Here, however, again, it is mainly a question of finance.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A CHINESE LABOUR MANIFESTO

Address to Moscow and London on Evils of Militarists in China and Treachery of Intellectuals and Socialists

We have received from the signatories copies of letters published below which have been addressed to the Soviet Government in Moscow and the British Labour Cabinet. We offer no opinion on their contents, which we print for purposes of interest. But the number of organizations signing the letters is imposing. We have no idea of the numbers of workmen they include.

The Commissaries of Soviet Russia

c/o M. Karakhan,
Soviet Envoy in China

DEAR SIRS,—Since the sad news of M. Lenin's decease was made public, the people all over the world have been plunged into profound sorrow, especially the class of people who are living under heavy oppression. The thought, spirit, and achievement of M. Lenin not only have obtained political rights for the oppressed class of your country, but also have greatly helped the weak peoples of the world in their protesting for their rights. How unfortunate it is to mankind that he should be suddenly overtaken by death when his work is not yet complete!

The militarist government in our country has become tyrannical to the extreme. The education of the workmen is still in its tender infancy. Because of this, the labourers have to suffer under the militarists' suppression, in addition to the capitalists' exploitation. Moreover, all the outcast politicians and some of the educated class who call themselves socialists take the opportunity of the labour movement to show their apparent kindness to the workmen but carry out practically their plans for enriching themselves. From the sacrifice of Hwang-Nai and Pang-Jen-Chuan on January 7, 1922, and the tragedy of the P.H.R. workers on February 7, 1923, we can see clearly the atrocity of militarists combined with capitalists, and underhand policy of the false socialists. It is enough to break one's heart in telling this.

Because the labourers of our country are situated in this state of oppression and exploitation, they respect and even worship the more, M. Lenin, who has really fought for the well-being of the oppressed class. Now that he is no more, we lose a great man to help us resist oppression. Our sorrow, therefore, is more and deeper than can be put down in words.

We hope your country will follow the spirit of M. Lenin and continue to develop your principles. M. Lenin has sympathized with the claim for freedom of the Oriental nations. We hope that you will cherish this sympathy and promote the relation between your country and the Orient.

Very truly yours,

THE ALL-CHINA INDUSTRIAL SALVATION UNION
SHANGHAI WEAVERS' UNION
THE ALL-CHINA WORKERS' SELF-SALVATION UNION, SHANGHAI
CHEKIANG WORKMEN'S UNION IN SHANGHAI.
KIANGSU CONFEDERATE WORKMEN'S UNION
P.H.R. WORKERS' UNION
CHINESE WORLD-WAR WORKERS' UNION IN SHANGHAI
SHANGHAI WORKMEN'S VOLUNTARY HELP UNION
SEAMEN'S UNION
ANHWEI WORKMEN'S UNION

Shanghai, March 10, 1914.

Their Excellencies
The Secretaries of State of Great Britain
London, England

HONOURABLE SIRS,—Since the formation of your Cabinet, the world has seemed to receive a shock! Capitalism though still powerful and dominant is approaching its day of downfall. The establishment of Soviet Government in Russia has dealt the first blow to capitalism. What will be the influence which your recent success will exercise over the future, it is certainly impossible to foresee; but there is clearly proved again the tendency for all who uphold the cause of labourers to get the upper hand in the society of today. Both your Cabinet and the Soviet Government in Russia are the pioneers of the world of labourers, to whom we ought to show proper sympathy and support. As part of the world-labourers, we hereby express our feeling toward your success.

We do not want to pay you empty compliments. We want to put hope in the place of compliments. First, let us report to you our present situation and then express our hope.

The little development of the Chinese labour movement is a recent affair. In the history of the world labour-movement, it is quite young. In regard to us labourers, our education is very scanty and our organization weak, for which we are very sorry. But in present China, our movement cannot but prove to be a specially difficult one, and our oppressing enemies are specially numerous.

Not to mention the mercilessness of the capitalists and the cruelty of the militarists and government officials, our new and most detestable enemies are those outcast politicians and rascally scholars. They call themselves by the respectable name of socialists, but take the opportunity offered by labour movement to realize their disreputable and dangerous plots for attaining their selfish aims. Apparently they say they are helping us labourers, but in fact they are using us as a cat's paw. They have nothing in view but to cheat and tempt us, and, by means of exploitation, further their own personal power and increase the chance of profiting themselves. As animals that have made preying on us their business of life, the so-called socialists are not a little bit less merciless than the capitalists and government officials. They only know how to harm us.

The martyrdom of Hwang Nai and Pang Jan-chuan on January 7, 1923, and the tragedy of P.H.R. Workers on February 7, 1923, are memorable events in which Chinese militarists and capitalists combined to deal with us with iron hands, and in which the false socialists were also revealed. Under these circumstances, what a hard time we are having!

Upon this, we very earnestly hope that you will understand our present situation and help us to go on. As we firmly believe you will offer us help, we, with the warmest sympathy, herewith congratulate you.

(Signed as in the first letter.)

Shanghai, March 10, 1914.

AMERICA AND JAPANESE IMMIGRATION

New York, Mar. 10.

The Japanese Minister, Mr. Hanihara, addressing the Japan Society to-day, expressed pleasure at the thought that the United States and Japan were located in the same ocean. He thanked the Americans for their friendliness in sending relief to the earthquake sufferers and subscribing to the last Japanese loan. The only issue of importance outstanding was the immigration problem, the solution of which was more particularly a matter of the elementary principles of international intercourse—in other words, whether Japan as a nation was entitled to the respect and consideration accorded by other powers in their dealings with each other. The United States had perfect right to restrict immigration, but it should be done in a manner which did not discriminate against Japan.—Reuter's American Service.

NO DECLINE OF MORALITY

Chinese Press Believes Merchants Are Honest: Only Individual Failures

The following interesting Chinese press comment on Sir Ronald Macleay's speech at the opening of the "North-China Daily News" building appears in the Peking papers.

Referring to what Sir Ronald described as the partial responsibility of foreigners for the introduction of modern reforms and theories into this country, which were mainly responsible for the 1911 Revolution in the Wu Han cities, the majority of the vernacular newspapers highly eulogized the British Minister for his sensible utterances; but the *"Shih Pao"* and other journals caution the Chinese authorities against further procrastination in bringing about political reunification of China simply because they might mistake the friendly speech as partial approval of, or support to, their existing inconsistent and half-hearted efforts to bring about the unity of the Republic through peaceful measures.

With regard to the resolution of the British Chamber of Commerce Conference about the alleged decline of the morality of the Chinese commercial people and their inability to observe agreements and contracts in Tientsin and other Treaty ports the papers are of the opinion that there is no decline of the commercial morale on the part of the Chinese merchants, especially, those who have business intercourse with foreigners. The *"Min-kuo Pao"* admits that on account of extreme financial pressure in recent years, individual cases have been reported of the failure of Chinese merchants to observe their contractual obligations with foreign firms; but the paper repudiates the idea that the Tientsin cotton disputes can be regarded as the actual moral decline of the Chinese traders as a whole. But the paper urges the Chinese merchants always to live up to their obligations.

HONGKONG MILITARY LANDS TRANSFER

Safeguarding Service Interests

London, Mar. 6.

Replying to a question in the House of Commons to-day Mr. William Graham, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, stated that negotiations were proceeding between the War Office and the Hongkong Government for the exchange of properties there, including the existing parade ground and the military hospital. If and when a settlement of this question was reached, the question of the hospital accommodation required by the Navy and Army would be reconsidered.—Reuter.

Hongkong, March 13.

The Legislative Council to-day approved, under the protest of the unofficial members, Sir John Oakley's award regarding military lands.

The senior unofficial member, protesting, stated that the award was arbitrary and irregular and suggested that the matter should be referred for arbitration to Lord Parmoor.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Note: Under the award the Colonial Government agrees to take over the lands within 10 years at Sir John Oakley's valuation, which involves payment to the Army Council of $16,983,512.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

AEROPLANE CRASH AT CHITA

Red Army Loses One of Its Leading Pilots

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 29.

At Chita recently, Commandant Koshelenko of the Aero Section, 5th Red Army lost his life in an aeroplane fatality. The accident happened in the afternoon at 2.15. The pilot was flying over the town at an altitude of 6,000 feet when the machine suddenly plunged to earth.

A technical commission which sat recently decided that the accident has not been caused by engine trouble. It is thought that the aviator had a heart attack or fainted.

The deceased was considered to be one of the best aviators in the Soviet Army, on the outbreak of the war he was studying at the Moscow Aero School, and was one of a number of pupils sent to France in 1917 to study military aeronautics. Following the Russian *coup d'etat* in 1917 all Russians attending the French Army Aero School were asked to join the French Army. He agreed to serve with the French Colonial troops in Africa. In 1918 he attempted to fly from Nice to Tunis, but his machine came down in the Mediterranean. Subsequently after returning to Vladivostok after the war he took part in Red Army operations against Merkuloff troops at Habarovsk.

SHENSI BRIGANDS ACTIVE

Routed by Shansi Troops in Attempt to Cross Yellow River

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kiangchow, Sha., Feb. 28.

Two desperate attacks have been made by bandits to invade Shansi within the last fortnight. In one case the invaders came from Shensi crossing the Yellow River near Tsikeo, at the western end of the Fenchow motor road. About same date, 15th of the first moon, an encounter took place with Shansi troops at the south-east corner of the province some little distance from the Honan terminus of the Taotsing line. In both cases the attack was successfully defeated and the enemy driven off with loss.

Shensi or Honan *tufei* will be well-advised to "hold off," for it is perfectly clear that Governor Yen and his colleagues are not going to be caught napping.

PHILIPPINES' FORTIFIED ZONE

Japanese Steamers' Breaches of Regulations

Manila, Mar. 11.

The Customs have ordered the detention of the Itsukushima Maru on its next call at Manila owing to alleged violation of harbour regulations by passing close in by the Corregidor fortified zone in spite of signals from Fort Mills at Corregidor forbidding her. This is said to be the third case of violation regarding the fortified area by foreign ships within a short period. Governor-General Wood is taking up the Itsukushima Maru and other cases with Washington and a protest to Tokio is expected.—Reuter's. Pacific Sevice.

A NEW SOVIET ENVOY TO MONGOLIA

Ceremonious Reception and Flowery Speeches by Red Mongols: Moscow's Professions of Beneficence: But Careful Emphasis: on Fact That Mongolia is not Independent

The following is a translation from the "Zarya" of Urga. In reading, careful allowance should be made for the paper's pro-Bolshevist nature and its highflown statements accordingly be discounted.

On January 3, Comrade Alexei Vasilieff, presented his credentials to the Mongolian Government, these were accepted by Tseren Georgie, the Mongolian Prime Minister.

There was a parade of the troops and students of the Military School, in the entrance to the Government House stood members of the local People's Party and the Union of Youth. The Minister, who was accompanied by his staff and the Consul, was saluted by the guard of honour and received to the strains of the "International", played by the Mongolian Military Orchestra. After inspecting the guard of honour the Minister complimented the Young Army and gave them the best wishes of their elder sister the Red Army.

SPEECH OF PRIME MINISTER.

The procedure of presenting the Credentials was conducted with the greatest solemnity. In the Cabinet Room were the Premier, Tseren Georgie, Acting Premier, Dan Zan, Minister of War, Rinchino, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amour. The text of the Credentials was read and received standing.

Replying to the good wishes of the Russian Government, Tseren Georgie said that in 1919 the Mongols lost their automony and were under the heel of Chinese militarism, they also lost the rights granted them by the Kiachta Tripartite Agreement. In 1920 they suffered from the Whites and Baron Ungern. Mongolia found a saviour in the People's Party who eventually freed the country from the Chinese and Ungern and with the help of the Soviet, Mongolia became free. They entered into treaties with the Soviet which were far more generous and equitable than those of the old Tsarist *régime*, which they replaced. Even so, it was difficult to persuade the masses of the Justice of the Soviet. Further, continued Tseren Georgie, there were a number of Russian citizens who accused the Government of anti-Russian prejudices, but this was not the case. The arrival of the new Minister, the first to arrive from any country, would settle all misapprehensions and he hoped that the relations between the two people would be more cordial in the future.

VASILIEFF'S REPLY.

In his own words, Comrade Vasilieff emphasized the wording of the Credentials, which spoke of sincere feeling and friendship, without ulterior motives, of the Soviet for Mongolia, and said that Russia was ever ready and willing to help her neighbours on the path to freedom and civilization. Mutual friendship in outside provinces must bring about normal conditions in economic spheres. The ratification of the Russo-Mongol Bank project and the Russo-Mongol Telegraph Convention, which he brought with him from Moscow were the first steps towards a prosperous future which would be of mutual benefit. The Soviet fulfils its promises always. Therefore it was necessary, in perfect frankness, to emphasize that Soviet Russia is at present surrounded by reactionary States and she is forced to take these circumstances into account. On her part, Mongolia must recognize that it is often necessary to fall back on the second line of defence, and present circumstances demand that Mongolia should foster immeasurable enthusiasm amongst her peoples for the new *régime*. In closing Vasilieff impressed upon the Mongolian Government the unchanging friendship of the workers of Russia for the workers of Mongolia. Not one step in Mongolia would the Soviet take without the permission and authority of the Mongolia Government.

INTERVIEW WITH VASILIEFF

The new Minister from the Soviet Government to Urga gave an interview to a representative of the Rosta News Agency and also one from the local newspaper, "*Zarya*", in which he gave a short sketch of his life as well as his views on the Far Eastern situation. He is a true Muscovite, having been born, educated and imprisoned in Moscow. On finishing Preparatory School he went to the university to stuy medicine but left this for law. For his part in the students' demonstration in 1899 he was excluded from the University and deported. He continued his studies in Berlin, in law and philosophy. In 1902 he returned to Russia but was arrested as a "political" and sent to Saratoff. From there he again returned to Moscow to sit for a State examination and became articled to an advocate. Comrade Vasilieff joined that young body of advocates who were always working in the interests of the proletariat and who formed the nucleus of the Social-Democratic Party which has produced such men as Kursky, the present Minister of Justice in Soviet Russia. It was in 1904 that Vasilieff joined the Social-Democrats and accepted the Bolshevist principles. He had already spent two years in prison and a similar period in exile in Saratoff and Tver. In 1905 he was a member of the Moscow Bolshevist Committee and was responsible for their military disorders in memory of the "Decembrists", when for the first time in history, the streets of Moscow were barricaded. Here it might be mentioned that the first steps in revolution were taken by the Moscow garrison and that garrison was under the direction of Comrade Vasilieff. After the October Revolution (1917) Vasilieff occupied a responsible position as Assistant Commissar of the Moscow Military Command. He was also a member of the Highest Tribunal in Russia. In recent times he was Soviet Minister of Justice in the Turkestan Republic, and from this position, after three months vacation, he came to his present post, as Minister Plenipotentiary in Urga.

RUSSIA AND MONGOLIA.

In answer to questions on the relations between the two countries, Vasilieff said, "The present mutual understanding between the two nations leaves nothing to be desired." The Mongol Government was sincerely in accord with the ideals of the First Workers Republic and those ideals which the Soviet was propagating amongst Asian peoples. The bonds of union between Mongolia and Russia were greatly strengthened by their commercial relations and the Russo-Mongol Telegraph Convention has further tied the knot more securely. On the soil of the economical re-birth of Mongolia will be raised the home of her cultural and progressive regeneration. The farther Mongolia travels along the road to prosperity the greater will be the reforms in her fiscal, judiciary and civilizing policies, and the easier will it become for the two nations to collaborate. In all these efforts towards reform Mongolia can count upon the energetic support of the Soviet. Justice, however, demands that it should be said that, under present circumstances, Russian citizens are less favourably treated than those of some other nations. This is not normal, and should be immediately rectified. He hoped for the formation of an improved code of conditions which will state more clearly the rights of Russian living and trading in Mongolia and on the frontier which extends for several thousands of versts. All this will help to smooth out and improve conditions to the mutual advantage of Russia and Mongolia.

MONGOLIA AND CHINA.

Vasilieff was then asked for his personal views on the situation between Russia, China and Mongolia. In this affair, he said, the first thing to explain is our national political policy which is to establish complete freedom and real friendship and which is directed to these ends by the International Committee of Universal Union of Peasants and Workers. We have always stood for and still stand for the self-determination of small nationalities and peoples. But at the same time, we Bolsheviks, the professors of the Marxist doctrine, do not hide in the ground and we do not shut our eyes to our surroundings. In my speech on the occasion of presenting the credentials, I drew the attention of the Mongolian Government to the fact that we are living in a period of reaction. This situation, not of our own evoking, prevents us from making an energetic advance, it even causes us to withdraw to our second line of defence. Applying this to the interests raised by your question, I will say definitely, that the present conditions do not permit of us speaking or referring to the "independence" of Mongolia, the only thing we can refer to is "automony" for your country. But, here it is important to emphasize that the difference between the two is more visionary than real. For example, China is completely independent in theory, but actually she is controlled by foreign financiers and internal unrest. All Chinese financial measures are controlled by representative of the Entente. Chicherin only spoke the truth, when he used the classical example of Bulgaria, which in 1909 was under the sovereignty of Turkey, yet actually she was far more free then than now. Too much stress is laid upon the external signs of independence: what should be considered, are the actual conditions under which you live, and if you make the necessary preparation, you can live much more free and unmolested under Automony that under Independence. The thing for your country to do is to make itself so strong financially, economically and militarily that you will be able to speak to all nations as an equal, then even if you only have automony, yet your allegiance will be purely nominal. You should be strong enough to insist on being allowed to go your own way along the road to progress and freedom.

There is one thing which I cannot emphasize too strongly, concluded Vasilieff, and that is the words of the Soviet Minister for Foreign Affairs, Comrade Chicherin, when he said Good-bye to me in Moscow: "Kindly inform the Mongolian Government, from me that Russia has done nothing, and will do nothing, behind their back. The Mongolian people will be the sole arbiters of their fate and future standing."

RAILWAY ROBBERIES IN RUSSIA

Severe Sentences on Principal Culprits but Actual Leader Still at Large

Riga, Mar. 9.

It is reported from Minsk that 22 of a body of well-equipped bandits, including three women, who have carried out a series of robberies on the railways, have been tried and condemned to death. Eight have been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and 27 to shorter terms, while eighteen have been agquitted. The band, which was led by Ataman Yegor Monich, also terrorized the local population and carried out pogroms of Jews. The leader has escaped across the frontier.—Reuter.

AMERICAN AIR STATIONS IN MANILA

Manila, P. I., Feb. 18.

The first navy air unit installed in the Philippine Islands has just arrived from the United States on the navy transport Vega. It consists of 10 officers, 43 enlisted men and six seaplanes, under the command of Lt.-Cdr. C. S. Keller. Headquarters of the unit will be aboard the old warship Ajax, which is moored at the Cavite naval station.

The United States now has air stations at Camp Nichols, just outside Manila, Corregidor, Camp Stotsenburg and Cavite.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

WILL KORNILOFF BE EXECUTED?

The Decree of Amnesty: General Opinion His Chances of Escape Are Small

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 28.

There is considerable speculation among residents here as to whether Gen. Korniloff will be executed or not, now that the appeal he made in the High Court has been dismissed. His lawyer, Mr. A. A. Widder who has put up a very spirited deferce, is taking the case to the Senate at Peking, as a last measure. It will be remembered that some time ago the President of China signed a decree of amnesty to be extended to Russian prisoners incarcerated in Chinese prisons and that the prison authorities in the railway area were requested by the Court here to make full lists of all Russians, which has been duly done, with Korniloff's name included. Since the extreme penalty passed on Korniloff has now been confirmed by the High Court a representative of the "*Novosti Zhizni*" called on the Public Prosecutor and was told that according to the Constitution of China the prerogative of amnesty belongs to Parliament, but that the President has authority to mitigate sentences in individual and special cases.

The decree of amnesty has a long history. It was in the ninth year of the Chinese Republic when the Minister of Justice moved the question of the necessity of mitigating the punishment of convicted criminals whose sentence was too severe for the comparatively slight offences that had been committed. This forms the basis of the decree recently issued by the President. According to the actual meaning or sense of the decree it shall be for the public prosecutor of the Three Eastern Provinces Special Area to go over the lists of the convicted and solicit mitigation of punishment for those whose offences do not represent too grave a menace towards public peace.

According to the opinion of this Court official but a very small proportion of the convicted Russians are likely to obtain a reduction of their punishments, since the Courts of Justice in the Three Eastern Provinces Special Area only apply a very severe sentence in very exceptional cases. According to the general opinion of well-informed Chinese the chances that Korniloff will not suffer the death penalty are but small. He has a sister in Moscow in Government employ, who is doing all what she can, and it may be the Soviet representative will intercede on the behalf of Korniloff.

CONGESTED CHINESE COURTS.

The Chief Justice of the High Court of the Special Railway Area has recently given for publication statistics concerning the working of the Chinese courts in this territory during the past year 1923. The figures compiled are of considerable interest.

In the special Area Law Courts there have been 11,017 civil and criminal cases heard during the year, whilst final decisions were given in 1,502 criminal trial and 7,513 civil suits.

The District Court decided 3,346 civil cases and pronounced judgment on 620 criminal trials, the corresponding figures for the High Court being 219 criminal and 474 civil cases.

The Lower Court attached to the District Court brought to a close during the same period, 2696 civil and 237 criminal cases.

The Lower Provincial Courts situated along the railway decided 997 civil cases and tried 426 criminal cases.

Notwithstanding the intensity of the work, the number of cases pending has slightly increased at the beginning of the year 1924. On January 1, 1923 the pending cases numbered 1513 civil and 91 criminal. During the year were registered a further 7,860 civil and 1535 criminal cases, thus leaving at the beginning of the current year 1,840 civil and 124 criminal cases still pending.

RUSSIANS MURDERED BY HUNGHUTZE

Villages Sacked in Ussori Region: More Outlawry in Manchuria

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Feb. 29

Pogranitchnaya residents are alarmed at the activities of a dangerous band of Hunghutze, said to be 600 strong, who have lately pillaged Russian villages and Cossack *stanitzia* between Lake Hanka and the Manchurian frontier.

Reports state that the brigands entered Russian territory north of Pogranitchnaya, raided the village of Konissarovskaya, which was sacked, and afterwards destroyed by fire. The peasants were illtreated and some did not escape with their lives.

The village of Jarikova met a similar fate, but news of the bandits' activities by this time had reached the authorities, who despatched a strong Red detachment against the marauders. Red troops encountered the Hunghutze at Nesterovka, which was surrounded by the soldiers, who opened fire on the bandits. Up to the present Pogranitchnaya has not yet heard how the fight went, but it would seem that only a portion of the enemy were in the village at the time. Advices from Grodekovo indicate that the rest of them were in the neighbourhood of Novo Alexievsk, about 12 versts from Pogranitchnaya and eight from Grodekovo.

As the bandits are travelling in a southerly direction it seems unlikely that they will enter the frontier town of Pogranitchnaya, especially as there is a strong garrison there, including mountain guns and an armoured train. The railway workers have none the less appealed to the C. E. R. Administration for further protection.

It is predicted that the horde will proceed to territory south of Sanchiakou, where there is little chance of their meeting with resistance.

According to Russians, the Hunghutze were wearing Chinese military uniforms and carrying service weapons. If this is so, no doubt the Russians will formally protest against Chinese regulars trespassing in Russian territory.

So far there is no official news of the affair.

General Massacre Prevented by Cheka Guards

Riga, Mar. 9.

The Soviet press publishes reports from Vladivostok with regard to an attack on the East-Siberian village of Kommisarovka on February 20 by 300 Hunghutze, who, it is alleged, were reinforced by Chinese soldiers from the garrison of Mishiyan. The village was burnt and men were killed and women outraged.

The Cheka guards prevented massacre of the whole population, and killed 20 bandits. The remainder plundered two more villages. The Russian frontier guards subsequently killed 20 more bandits.

It is alleged that the band was commanded by a Chinese officer called "Siasava." The Band was well-equipped and had four field-guns and an ambulance.—Reuter.

WOMEN STUDENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Manila, Mar. 4.

Women are to be admitted as students in the University of Santo Tomas beginning with the school year of 1924-1925, it is announced. The change in the University's policy was recently approved by the Pope and the ecclesiastic officials have arranged to admit young women into the Institution's College of Pharmacy at the opening of the next school year.

The University of Santo Tomas was founded more than 300 years ago and is the oldest university under the American flag.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

WU PEI-FU AND CIVIL POWER

Kaifeng Commissioner of Foreign Affairs Now Sent to Loyang

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kaifeng, Ho., Mar. 10.

The new Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Li Hsin-ling is spending his time in Loyang, with the first secretary in charge of the Bureau here. It would seem that the great Marshal is determined to concentrate all power in the little western city. Those offices that carry little real power with them are left here in the real capital. The stories that are being repeated about Mr. Li, that he was mixed up in some oil company scandal and consequent ly spent time in prison, are not believed here.

I suggested in my last letter that Mr. Li had spent some time in prison as a political prisoner, on account of his journalistic feats against the Anfu clique, and that is the correct story of his imprisonment.

FAMINE PREVENTION.

Mr. O. J. Todd, the consulting engineer of the Famine Relief Commission is now in the district. He and his party left last Saturday for Lanfeng and the portion of the Yellow River on which the "tree retard" work of reclamation was attempted. He will come back to Kaifeng to-day and will soon start for Shensi to consider suggestions for a very big irrigation work in that province. If his approval is given the Relief Commission will no doubt finance the scheme.

The Right Rev. W. C. White, of the Canadian Church Mission in this province, who has been so active in Famine Relief for many years now, is to leave to-day for Canton, and attend the General Synod of the Chung Hua Sheng Kung Huei. He will not return to Kaifeng, but will proceed to Canada for his furlough and a well earned rest.

SPRING IS COME.

Spring is so far advanced that the buds are beginning to swell, and the jasmine are all in bloom.

The winter has been a singularly mild one for Honan. There has been no snow; and no time has the ice been more than the thickness of a finger through.

The minds of many have already been exercised over the dryness of the spring, for no rain has fallen. For the last few days there has been no meat on the market, on account of an order against taking life of animals till the drought should be broken. I rejoice to say that a very gentle rain feel throughout the past night. It is dark and sullen again to-day and the rain may start again. It is devoutely to be hoped that there may be sufficient to allay the dread of gaunt famine.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE

Enormous Advance in Imports

Tokio, Mar. 5.

The foreign trade of Japan for the month of February shows an excess of imports over exports to the amount of Y. 186,494,000. Exports during the month under review amounted to Y. 104,792,000 while imports reached the total of Y. 291,286,000.

The foreign trade of the Empire for the first two months of this year has totalled Y. 721,021,000, of which sum Y. 505,496,000 represents imports and Y. 215,525,000 exports.

From these figures it will be noted that the excess of imports reached this year is Y. 289,971,000. Compared with the first two months of 1923, exports have decreased by Y. 2,662,000, while imports have made the enormous advance of Y.200,315,000.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Mar. 9.—Gen. Li Yao-nan, who three or four years ago was acting Tuchun of Kuangtung and exercised military influence on the West River, is reported to have arrived at Loyang and it is believed he will also come to Peking in order to discuss the situation at Canton.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SHANGHAI NEWS

AN ACTOR-MANAGER IN THE FAR EAST

Mr. R. B. Salisbury's Varied Career: Medicine, the Stage, the Air Force and Once More the Stage: The Versatile Chief of the "Quaints"

The subject of this sketch affords as much remarkable matter as we have had the privilege of publishing for a long time. To-day he is the most successful theatrical manager visiting the Far East, yet rather more than a score of years ago, he was in such a different capacity that his occupation to-day would hardly have been considered possible. Fortunate accidents, however, happen, and a man trained in medicine and dentistry is to-day offering to the Far East the very things its residents want in the way of amusement.

Mr. R. B. Salisbury, of "Quaints" fame, was brought up to the medical profession and for a number of years he pursued it. He selected dentistry as his particular branch, and the openings in this line took him to South Africa. There he seemed to be assured of a lucrative practice, but Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's policy intervened. The British troops were withdrawn from South Africa, and a practice up to that time worth thousands to himself and his chief practically went west. He then threw in his hand at dentistry, and turned to the stage. He had been in amateur theatricals once or twice before but not enough to convince him that he was cut out for the job. Nevertheless he took whatever chances were coming.

EARLY EFFORTS.

His first job was with the Woods-Williamson Company in South Africa, and within a fortnight he had been appointed manager of another company. Success attended him in these ventures, and he contributed greatly to theatrical enterprise at the Cape. He was the first man there to undertake productions of Ibsen, Bernard Shaw and Somerset Maugham.

After this Mr. Salisbury returned Home, and set about the work which we know so well now. Work in London offers of course, the great prizes of the profession to bold venturers, but once a man has been abroad, especially resident in another continent, there is the inevitable call of "furreign parts." Mr. Salisbury confesses to having been bitten by the "travel bug" badly. So it was that after successfully managing a London company from 1912 onwards, he decided in 1914 to see the Far East. India and China appealed to him, and although he had been successful in the City and was under no compulsion to find fresh fields he resolved to see what the East and Far East offered.

FIRST EASTERN TRIP.

Selecting a company he came East, but during his travels in 1914 war broke out. About this time he was approaching China with his "Quaints," and there was a feeling that a theatrical company should not in any sense of the word give its mixed audiences anything in the nature of political or war comments. Mr. Salisbury broke this rule at Shanghai with an "All-British Night," when the audience practically took the burden of entertainment on its own shoulders and seldom has anything so furiously popular been seen. When he returned from Japan and found he could secure the Lyceum Theatre for one night, a Saturday, he learned that within three hours of announcing his return he was booked up.

Mr. Salisbury's hope was now to proceed Home as quickly as possible, as there was bigger work for members of the company to do than the entertainment of Far Eastern audiences. Arrived back in London, he had the mortification to find that the War Office would not have him in any capacity. Mr. Salisbury is slightly built and of rather diminutive stature, and the idea in those days was that soldiers should be big hefty men. There was, accordingly, nothing to do but to get to work again, and in London he took the Vaudeville Theatre, where he introduced the "intimate" revue. The Gatti's who owned the theatre wanted a chorus of 12 girls, whereas Mr. Salisbury, who knows exactly what he wants on the stage, had no idea that such a number was called for. He compromised, however, by selecting the smallest and most *petite* girls he could find, and events proved him to be correct.

Now came the "Pedlar of Dreams," which proved an instant success. On the occasion of its 70th performance Mr. Salisbury received a notification from the War Office that they would take him as a "Tommy," and an end was put to this venture.

IN THE AIR FORCE.

This was on a Saturday. Mr. Salisbury quickly got into touch with Mr. André Charlot, then at the Playhouse, and by the Monday the latter had taken over the Vaudeville. For a second time Mr. Salisbury saw hopes of a fortune vanish into thin air, the first having been on the Eastern tour which had been extraordinarily successful.

AFTER THE WAR.

Mr. Salisbury thus joined the infantry, but within a short period secured a commission in the Royal Air Force, in which he became a pilot. It happened that towards the end of the war Great Britain was becoming short of medical men of whatever branch, and in 1918 Mr. Salisbury was seconded from the Air Force to a London hospital where once more he took up the practice of dentistry. He was employed on this work until the conclusion of the war left him free to bring the "Quaints" into being again.

Mr. Salisbury then joined Mr. Dion Boucicault, and subsequently was stage director for the duration of a couple of plays at the Criterion. Then he decided to come out East again, and has since been here three times with his "Qaints," with intervals occupied in playing in London and the Provinces.

While Mr. Salisbury says that he comes out to the East because he likes it, there is another side to his *penchant*. When he runs companies at Home he makes more money, not having the same expenses, but to have to play the same part for months, as others do, fails to appeal to him. In fact he says it would drive him crazy.

At the same time he realizes fully the difficulties of playing to Far Eastern audiences. Here one plays to what is practically a West-end audience. At least half the people have seen the shows when they were at Home only last year, and the other half will see them next year, and all have a good idea of what they should be. And a company has no pit and gallery to carry off a production as would be the case at Home. All of which increases the difficulties with which companies here have to contend against.

Mr. Salisbury says that a Shanghai audience is particularly quick to appreciate a joke. The people are worth while taking the trouble to please for the very good reason that if they are not pleased they simply stay away from the theatre. Withal they are a cheery crowd, although always complaining of being hard up, the Shanghai slogan, to quote Ranger Gull, apparently being, "In the midst of life we are in debt; in fact we are here to-day and gone to-morrow."

MR. W. C. Cassels, who has been acting British Consul at Kiukiang since Mr. C. D. Smith was granted sick leave in October last, arrived in Shanghai on March 8. Mr. and Mrs. Cassels and family are now staying in the Consulate as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Moss. Mr. J. B. Affleck has been appointed acting British Consul at Kiukiang and Mr. Cassels is proceeding on the 15th inst ant to Swatow as Vice-Consul.

TRAVELLING HOME VIA SIBERIA

Some Initial Difficulties to be Overcome before the Actual Start is Made

We have of late received a number of inquiries as to how one should proceed in making arrangements to go Home viâ Siberia, a once popular and expeditious trip which nowadays the Soviet representatives do not seem disposed to encourage. This we are left to presume, judging from available information as to the formalities required of a prospective passenger.

We understand that callers at the Soviet office in Ezra Building, upon stating that they require to proceed to Europe viâ Siberia, are presented with a number of forms to be filled up. Here are some of the questions set:

Name
Age
Occupation
Reasons for proceeding to Russia (admittedly a difficult question to answer).
Does the applicant speak Russian?
Has he any friends in that country, if so state name, age, occupation, place of residence.
Has applicant served in any military capacity against Russia, as a conscript or otherwise?
Has applicant been in Russia before?

These are only a few of the questions put, and the entire collection has to be answered in two sets of papers. Of the first, the applicant is required to furnish five copies, three in English and two in Russian. He may have the translations made himself, or pay the Soviet office for the same. Of the second group of questions, a summary of the first set, the applicant must furnish three copies, one in English and two in Russian. The formalities have been duly complied with when the applicant has submitted all this detail, together with five copies of his photograph.

POSSESSION OF PASSPORTS.

This having been done, and the question of one's passport approached, the Soviet official will request that the applicant hand over his passport for despatch either to Moscow or Peking, together with the other documents. There appears to be some doubt at present as to where the particulars have to be sent for the official "chop" to be applied, but certainly they must go either to Moscow or Peking, and if to Moscow, the applicant may have to wait for three months before the documents are returned.

In the matter of the passport, it should not be necessary to warn British applicants that on no account should they hand over their passport to any Soviet office. Why it should be necessary to send applicants' passports either to Peking or Moscow is rather difficult to understand, since, if it be a question of guarding against fraud, the British Consulate in Shanghai would be the proper place for establishing the genuineness or otherwise of such a document. Other possible reasons for wishing to get hold of passports in this way afford interesting material for speculation. However, no more need be said now than that this demand should not be complied with.

BOOKING FOR THE JOURNEY.

With regard to booking for the journey, we believe that at present it is impossible to book at Shanghai for any place beyond Harbin, so that it would be necessary to arrange to arrive there two or three days before the trans-Siberian express is due to leave. As to the journey itself, a recent traveller eastward states that the accommodation is quite good, though not so well appointed as formerly, and that the cost of the trip is in the neighbourhood of $600.

THE Four Roads Street Union, West Gate, met a few days ago and passed a resolution asking the Settlement Police to deal with the nuisance of loafers and people of a similar type who molest respectable citizens in the streets. As many of these people live in Chinese territory a similar request has also been made to the Chief of Shanghai-Woosung Constabulary.

VALUE OF LAND IN SHANGHAI

Chinese Property Inside the Settlement Doubled in Value Within Three Years

An important property transaction was completed last Friday in Shanghai, land to the value of over half a million taels changing hands.

The property in question is E. C. Lot 583 (Cadastral Lot 537), possessing an area of mow 12.6.2.2, and is situated at the junction of Chekiang, Hoopeh and Canton Roads. For the purposes of taxation it is assessed by the Municipal Council at the rate of Tls. 33,000 per mow, or a total of Tls. 416,526.

Three years ago this land, including the houses standing upon it, was bought for a sum of Tls. 268,000, and the owner has now sold it, also with the houses, for no less than Tls. 535,000. This works out at Tls. 42,000 per mow (houses included) against the Municipal Assessment of Tls. 33,000 (exclusive of houses). The value of the houses will certainly not be anything like the Tls. 9,000 difference shown here, and a genuine rise in land values is indicated.

Messrs. Algar & Co. Ld. negotiated the transaction.

COMMANDER CAREY DECORATED

For Long Service in the R. N. Reserve: Friday's Ceremony at Consulate

A pleasing ceremony took place at H. M. Consulate last Friday, when Lt.-Cdr. Hamilton Foote Carey, R.D., R.N.R., of the I-C. S. Kungwo, was presented with the Royal Naval Reserve Officers' medal for long service. The presentation was made by Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., H. M. Consul-General and was attended by Rear-Admiral Anderson, Lt.-Cdr. Symes, Mr. Hitchison, Vice-Consul, Mr. H. N. Steptoe, Vice-Consul, Mr. A. Brooke Smith, Mr. L. Boyack, head clerk in the Shipping Office, Capt. Gibb, Mr. W. E. Kirby, secretary of the China Coast Officers' Guild, and Mr. Dixon (Messrs. Mackenzie & Co.)

Mr. Barton said that, by command of his Majesty, he had pleasure in handing to Lt.-Cdr. Carey the insignia of the Royal Naval Reserve Officers' decoration which his Majesty had been graciously pleased to confer on him. The decoration was only conferred upon officers who had at least 15 years' service in the Reserve, and thus they knew that Lt.-Cdr. Carey had not only done war service but also was one of those men who were prepared to "carry on" and be prepared for emergency and who, when emergency did arise, were able to be of the greatest possible use. It was a comparatively easy thing to tackle extra work during time of war or civil trouble, but it was not so easy to work consistently when there was no excitement attached to the job and with little thanks and perhaps not even the approval of one's neighbour. Lt.-Cdr. Carey was thus the type of man we wanted in China and in Shanghai, and he was proud of having the honour of presenting the decoration awarded to him.

Lt.-Cdr. Carey responded with a neat speech, in which he thanked the Consul-General for so kindly arranging the little ceremonial, and added that he regarded the presentation as an honour not only to himself but to the merchant service in general and to his employers. The honour Rear-Admiral Anderson did him in attending was quite in keeping with the Service, which was one huge club and renowned for its good fellowship. During his years of service he had always had very good relations with the officers under whom he served and with his brother officers in the permanent service. Lt.-Cdr. Carey concluded by saying that he greatly appreciated the gathering so kindly arranged by Mr. Barton and Mr. Moss, and would regard it as an addition to the many courtesies and kindnesses of his Majesty's Consular service in China.

FOOTBALL FUN

An International Classic at Chinkiang

From a Correspondent.

It is a very rueful individual who is wielding this pen in an attempt to describe what has been the most interesting football match in which he has participated. He is enduring, with as much fortitude as he can muster, the aftermath of the violent exercise which a lovely game of this kind involves. His nether limbs are vehemently protesting against the unusual exertions which the occasion required of them. During the last four months, which have been spent in language study, the only exercise which kept him physically fit was a daily walk of a mile or so and this, as can be readily realized, is no suitable training for the football field. Consequently, at the present time, the process of sitting down is an exceedingly painful one, and to cross the legs so as to sit in comfort can only be achieved by lifting one of them with the hands and placing it over the other.

From the student body of this language school a football team was chosen to play against that of a local high-school. The opposing team was composed entirely of Chinese, but a striking feature of our was its cosmopolitanism, for in it three continents and six countries were represented. In the forward line was a player who hailed from Sweden. He had made his first appearance on the football field three days previously. In spite of his previous efforts to memorize the rules of the game he instinctively put out his hands once or twice and stopped the ball therewith; but apart from this slight violation he played remarkably well and, to his own surprise, actually scored a goal. On the right wing he was assisted by a German colleague whose knowledge of football was no more extensive than his own, but who played with much energy and courage. On the left wing of the forward line was another German who, while knowing little of the game, distinguished himself by fleetness, clever footwork and twice scored for his side.

THE TEAM OF ALL THE TALENTS.

Other players were an Australian, a Canadian. The Australian functioned as one of the half-backs. In stature he was of considerable length, and the longest part of him was his legs which, when in action, cleared a wide area around him. There was no player on the field more zealous than he, but his zeal was not always according to knowledge, for on one hectic occasion, when a number of the opposing team were strenuously trying to put the ball between our posts, he relieved them of the effort by doing it himself. The movements of this half-back were quite easily followed owing to the bright blue bed-stockings which encased his shins. This leads me to remark that most of us were arrayed in rather a weird assortment of togs, for we had not brought our sports-clothes to the school. Consequently, all had to resort to the best substitute for "shorts" and other articles which could be found or borrowed. Our centre half-back was running about with a boot on one foot and a shoe on the other.

I attempted to play as left full-back, but of my own contribution to our victory I will say nothing, except that as I ambled off the field I was painfully conscious that it was very small. But mention must be made of the brisk American who played with me at right full-back. What our friend did not know about [illegible] would fill [illegible] But he was really splendid [illegible] and more than once called an opponent to the ball when he was in dangerous proximity to our goal. The Canadian filled the position of right half-back. He was of a corpulent frame and made up in energy what he lacked in [illegible] and [illegible] In [illegible] he was assisted [illegible]

THE LAURA KADOORIE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AT BAGDAD

Princely Benefaction Recently Visited by King of Iraq.

A London newspaper recently, when describing the sights and possibilities of the rediscovered garden-country of Mesopotamia, asserted that there are only two buildings in the whole of the domain worth seeing, and they are well worth a visit. They are the principal Mosque—the name of which has passed from memory—and the Laura Kadoorie School for Girls in Bagdad. It was only a few weeks ago that the school was accorded a signal honour, being inspected by the King of Iraq.

The King of Iraq (in peaked head-dress), with his Ministers and the Head Mistress, after inspecting the Laura Kadoorie School for Girls, Bagdad.

The Kadoorie brothers have behaved in princely fashion in the matter of their benefactions and there are few parts of the Near East and the Far East that have not good cause for feeling thankful to them. Many years ago, when they retired, they realized the great fortune their business instinct had brought to them and decided that they must do big things for the benefit of less forturate people, they sat down for a while to discuss what it would be best for them to do. The discussion was brief, for the late Sir Ellis simply said, "Give me China, and you can do what you like elsewhere."

The bargain was made and everyone knows how much Sir Ellis has done for China, especially in the way of education, though as a matter of fact he also did a great deal for other countries. Mr. E. S. Kadoorie's benefactions mainly have been in the Near East and they cover the whole of that great area.

The Bagdad School for Girls, named after Mr. Kadoorie's wife, ranks high amongst his gifts, and its success has amply justified the foundation. Indeed, its standard is such that a girl who does not hold its certificates has to be exceptionally well favoured or have some other special attraction if she is to secure a husband. The school was started in a small way, but it has grown so rapidly that now there are 1,600 girls in attendance, whilst the building, with its handsome marble embellishments, is, as the London paper suggested, one of the finest in the Near East. Attached to the school are many departments where the girls receive instruction in embroidery, dressmaking and kindred arts and the beautiful work turned out by them eventually attracted the notice of the King of Iraq's consort, who purchased several articles. When the King saw these he wanted to know from whence they came and on being told said that he must pay a visit in person to the school.

Bagdad then was in a feverish state of excitement, for the visit of a King in these romantic countries is a different business to say, a tour by the Prince of Wales through some Midland manufacturing area. Amongst other things, a special chair and cloth of gold covering had to be made for him, and three days were occupied in cleaning up the streets through which he would have to pass. The great day arrived and the King rode through Bagdad preceded by 300 men of his guard running to clear the way. He made a most particular inspection of the school and he and all his Ministers expressed themselves as both surprised and delighted at all they saw. So now the school ranks higher than ever.

The Staff and Pupils of the Laura Kadoorie School for Girls, Bagdad.

HOLIDAYS AT TSINGTAO

A Possible Rival to Post Earthquake Japan: Busy Preparations for Visitors

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Mar. 1.

Deputy Governor Kun Chi-ping at a Press dinner yesterday asked the journalists to assist the Administration in advertising Tsingtao because he thought a large number of residents in the outports will have to abandon Japan this year as a summer resort. He was of the opinion that due to the disorganization of tourist facilities in Japan, foreign residents in China who are accustomed to the practice of spending their vacation in that country every summer will have to look elsewhere for a suitable resort.

Deputy Governor Kun said that the following points should be emphasized with regard to [illegible] a holiday resort, namely, the absence of bandits, safety from earthquakes, ex[illegible] climate, unsurpassed facilities and the anxiety of the Administration to ensure efficient protection to the visitors.

The beach will be reserved for holiday makers and special policemen will be detailed to keep the undesirables away from the foreshore. Boats will be provided [illegible]

The staff of the Hankow American [illegible] is to be shortly augmented by the arrival of Mr. Robert C. Coudray, who is consular clerk. He is expected to arrive from the United States toward the end of March.

CATTLE PLAGUE IN ANHUI

Rinderpest Rampant in Province

From Our Own Correspondent.

Yingchowfu, An., Feb. 28.

During the past weeks rinderpest has been rampant here as elsewhere over big stretches of country. Many hundreds of head of valuable cattle have succumbed to this dread malady.

The thrifty and small farmers have been sadly hit, as they depend so much depend on their ox or cow when ploughing starts.

The local farmers appear to believe that when blight falls on the crops in the fields it remains on the stalks that become cattlefood, and in the event of a very mild winter, especially when snow does not fall until well on toward the end of winter, they once become anxious for the safety of their cattle. If the snow comes soon after winter sets in, they think that the chief cause of these epidemics has been eliminated.

Dealers in skins have been more than busy and thousands of hides have found their way to Hankow for export. These are usually taken across country to the Peh-Han Railway and thence by freight trains to the southern ports. Animals are being brought in when monetary circumstances permit to get ready for the time they will be required, and that is not now very far distant.

The Hector and the Antenor, sister ships of the Blue Funnel Sarpedon and the Patroclus are expected to come into commission in the autumn. They have been considerably delayed by the boiler-makers' strike in Great Britain.

JAPANESE EMIGRANTS FOR BRAZIL

Tokio, Mar. 5

To encourage emigrants to proceed to Brazil, especially from the earthquakes-stricken districts, the Home Department has decided to defray all travelling expenses and to grant a subsidy of Y. 200 to each emigrant. If a sufficient number respond to this offer on the part of the Government, it is proposed that the first party of 100 shall leave Japan for Brazil by the end of next month.

Additional parties will be sent later, if the scheme works out satisfactorily.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Hongkong is to have a super-cinema palace at West Point, to be erected shortly at an estimated cost of $130,000. Interior decorations and furnishings are to be on an elaborate scale.

THE QUAINTS

"The Beggar's Opera"

When we announced that Mr. Salisbury was bringing "The Beggar's Opera" to Shanghai, we ventured to predict that it could not be revived under better auspices in the Far East.

A great point about the Far Eastern revival is the fact that the original text in Mr. Salisbury's hands has suffered only to the extent of "cutting" of the more frank and shameless parts of the dialogue, and the opportunity of hearing the original is a pleasure which not even Lovat Fraser's exquisite settings at Hammersmith could make up for. The audience at the first night in 1728 could hardly have been more enthusiastic than that at the Lyceum Theatre on Monday. We had nearly all the jokes about "shameless sluts" and "saucy jades," nearly all the songs—all of which were wildly applauded. It was surely one of the most riotous evenings in the history of the Lyceum Theatre.

When the opera was first performed it was the Polly of the day that made it. Miss Dorothy James is not exactly a perfect successor to the famous Lavinia Fenton, but she gave a well-balanced sympathetic reading of the part. Miss Olive Turner, as Lucy Lockit, who possesses a beautiful voice, and acts with great sincerity, one ventured to think, should have slipped into the other's shoes. It is sincerity as well as an expression of innocence, that is required to portray the only well-behaved character. But she was greatly helped by her highwayman hero, magnificently played and sung by Mr. Ernest Melvin. Mr. James Allan as Filch and Mr. R. B. Salisbury as the Beggar and Lockit were excellent, and Mrs. Peachum, in the hands of Miss Mavis French, was played in a spirit of real fun. The duets and ensembles go capitally, as for instance the chorus of cut-purses in the tavern near Newgate.

All the minor parts were admirably taken. The dance at the end of Act II for sheer beauty both of Dr. Pepusch's music and of its exquisite movements has rarely been equalled on the local stage.

The settings appeared to be closely copied from the Hammersmith production, but there is one small fault that nearly spoils the principal scene outside the worthy Peachum abode. The pillars of the portico should not resemble the trellis work of a suburban garden, but the classicism of the Augustan age in domestic architecture.

"The Nine O'clock Revue"

"The Nine o'clock Revue" given by the "Quaints" was enthusiastically received by a full house at the Lyceum on Thursday. The production was amusing, but nothing more nor less than what it pretended to be—a revue. There was the usual conglomeration of dances, songs, funny men and the inevitable "Mammie" song. Much of the book was clever, but the show inclined to drag in the early stages. Mr. Salisbury was his usual scintillating self and had the whole house with him in "William the Konk," probably his best efforts of the evening. Miss Dorothy James danced delightfully as ever and was well supported by the chorus; they were particularly good in "Susannah's Squeaking Shoes," the "Mammie" song aforementioned, a delightful feature of which was the scenic effect of the tumbledown hut, silhouetted against the moonlight. The revue brightened up considerably towards the end, but in our opinion was much too long, and the fall of the curtain came soon enough. Mr. James Allen ran a good second to Mr. Salisbury on the humorous side; his song of "Nicholas" was an exquisite piece of foolery. Miss Mavis French and Miss Olive Turner acquitted themselves with honour as did the whole cast. It was, indeed, difficult to discriminate between the performers, with the outstanding exception of Mr. Salisbury and Miss James, for while all were good none stood out above his or her fellows.

On the whole the company did an excellent best with a very ordinary production of its kind, glossing over the vulgarities and getting the best out of the book.

FIRE AT FOOCHOW RD. THEATRE

House Rapidly Cleared During Performance: No Casualties Reported

The Chinese theatre at the corner of Hoopeh and Foochow roads was the scene of some excitement about 7 p.m. on Thursday, when an alarm of fire was given. The usual performance was in progress at the time, but the house does not appear to have been unduly crowded, and despite a rush for the doors when the alarm was given, the theatre was cleared without accident, and in exceedingly quick time.

The fire occurred in a Chinese shop at the back of the theatre opposite the stage door, and separated from the main building only by the usual narrow alleyway. The place was stored to the roof with a quantity of stage gear, actors' clothing, properties, scenery etc., and the actors themselves turned to with the stage hands in hasty efforts to save these belongings. A good deal of stuff was saved from the ground floor, and a good deal more in the upper part of the premises was lost, this portion of the building being burned out. Central Fire station answered the call and in half an hour's work had the fire under control, with no danger of its spreading to adjoining buildings. The theatre staff made good use of emergency fire appliances whilst the brigade were on the way to the scene. No casualties were reported.

HUMMING-BIRD

I can imagine, in some other world
Primeval-dumb, far back
In that most awful stilness, that only
gasped and hummed,
Humming-birds raced down the avenues.

Before anything had a soul,
While life was a heave of Matter, half
inanimate,
This little bit chipped off in brilliance
And went whizzing through the slow,
vast, succulent stems.

I believe there were no flowers, then,
In the world where the humming-bird
flashed ahead of creation.
I believe he pierced the slow vegetable
veins with his long beak.

Probably he was big
As mosses, and little lizards, they say
were once big,
Probably he was a jabbing terrifying
monster.
We look at this through the wrong
end of the long telescope of Time,
Luckily for us.

D. H. LAWRENCE.
—The Nation.

Agents:—Messrs. Wakefield & Co. (China), Ltd., S. Y. Sheng Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

Volunteer Corps.

Headquarters. — Lieut. T. G. Drakeford resigns his commission.

Maritime Company. — 2/Lieut. M. W. Buck and 2/Lieut. C. P. Mollison are promoted to be Lieutenants from March 1, 1294.

American Company. — 2/Lieut. H. F. Kay resigns his commission.

Electricity Department.

Riverside Power Station Disaster.—The following report by Messrs. A. McLean Ranft and D. Somers Brown, sent out by Messrs. C. A. Parsons & Co., Ltd., to investigate the circumstances under which a 20,000 K. W. Turbine was wrecked on November 15, 1923, is published for general information:—

Shanghai, February 27, 1924.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to our conversation this morning at your office the following telegram was received to-day from Messrs. C. A. Parsons & Co., Ltd.:—

"It is now possible to throw "further light on the accident "which occurred to the 20,000 "K.W. Steam Turbine at Shang-"hai November last. It has "been suggested that the acci-"dent was caused by increase in "speed of Turbine beyond nor-"mal; although the evidence "shows that this did not occur it "seems desirable to give se-"quence of events should a tur-"bine of this design overspeed. "First, discs would come loose "on turbine shaft as stress of "centrifugal force overcame al-"lowance for shrinkage between "discs and shaft; the discs com-"ing loose would cause blades to "jamb and fouling of blades "would take place, under these "conditions it would be impos-"sible for turbine to continue to "accelerate, but even if this were "possible discs would have to "attain speed of about 3,000 re-"volutions per minute and shaft "a speed of 4,000 revolutions per "minute before they would "burst.

"The normal speed of the "machine in question was 1,500 "revolutions per minute, from "this it is evident that if the "shaft were of even moderately "sound material it would be ex-"tremely unlikely for the mach-"ine to reach such a speed that "the shaft would burst.

"The Engineer-in-Chief, "Shanghai Municipal Electri-"city Department, has held an "enquiry at which it was dis-"closed that at the moment be-"fore accident occurred there "was nothing abnormal in run-"ning of turbine, nor was there "shadow of evidence that tur-"bine had exceeded normal "speed. The whole of evidence "so far received from our en-"gineers who were sent to "Shanghai to report shows that "the accident was caused by "rupture of turbine shaft.

"Photographs of fractured "shaft and diagrams showing "positions and nature of frac-"tures have been fully discussed "with technical experts of Mak-"ers of shaft forging, and they "are in agreement with us that "all evidence points conclusive-"ly to accident having been due "to a concealed defect (probably "a clink) in interior of the steel "forging. The forging in ques-"tion was obtained from one of "the experienced steel firms in "this country. The shaft forg-"ing was made from a cold in-"got in 1921 when the precau-"tions which were known to be "necessary during manufacture "of large forgings of alloy steels "were not as fully appreciated "as they are to-day in respect to "medium carbon steel forgings "of dimensions required for this "shaft. All medium carbon "steel forgings of large or vary-"ing sections are treated to-day "in a manner similar to the "highest class of alloy steels for "ordnance under the direct "supervision of the steelmakers' "metallurgical experts, and "from the casting of the ingot "to the final quality heat treat-"ment the material is not allow-"ed to become cold. These pre-"cautions and the present al-"most universal practice of "boring holes through the cen-"tre of shafts for internal in-"spection and examination have "reduced possibility of repeti-"tion of such an accident to "minimum.—Turbo."

The accepted interpretation of the metallurgical term (clink) is an internal crack due to heating the forging too quickly, and may be developed by forging into a cavity of dimensions according to the size of the original crack and the amount of forging which has been put upon it.

After our preliminary survey at Riverside a critical examination was made of the damaged parts of the turbine, and all the available information covering the running of the plant at the Power Station was carefully considered. The evidence obtained suggested the accident was caused by the breaking of the turbine shaft; all the other damage being consequential.

The turbine shaft was found broken into three main portions, transversely and lengthwise. When these were assembled and co-related it was found that several pieces of shaft had broken away from the transverse fracture, also that a portion of shaft was tightly wedged in the cast steel turbine casing. When all the shaft parts were co-related a longitudinal irregular fracture was disclosed at the centre of the largest diameter of shaft, indicating that during the process of forging this fault had developed, extending longitudinally and outwards leaving a comparatively small section of sound material. The nature of the fractures suggests that the final breaking of the shaft was instantaneous and would not give any warning or indication to those responsible for running the plant.

In conclusion we wish to take this opportunity of expressing our thanks and appreciation for your guidance and assistance, and for having placed at our disposal unreservedly the evidence and information you had collected prior to our arrival at Shanghai, which has been of material assistance in carrying out the investigations.

We would like you to convey to your officials and staff our appreciations of their valuable assistance in this matter.

Your's faithfully,
A. McLEAN RANFT,
D. SOMERS BROWN.

T. H. U. ALDRIDGE, Esq., M.I.E.E. M.I.MECH.E. FEL.A.I.E.E.
Engineer-in-Chief and Manager, Shanghai Municipal Electricity Department.

Tobacco Tax.

In connexion with the local agitation engendered as a consequence of the rumoured levy of a tax on Tobacco, instructions have been issued to the Police to arrest any person found attempting to enforce this levy upon residents of the Foreign Settlement.

Return of Communicable Disease.

Reported during the week ending Saturday, midnight, March 8, 1924.	Cases notified from within Settlement limits (Estimated population 21,400	Deaths among Chinese resident population of 825,000.
Small-pox	1	7
Cholera	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	6
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0
Diphtheria	2	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	22
Plague	0	0
Amœbic Dysentery	0	0
Bacillary Dysentery	2	0
Influenza	2	0
Total Deaths from all Causes	11	186

C. NOEL DAVIS,
Commissioner of Public Health.

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TO AUSTRALIA.
Sailings from DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN, HAMBURG and LISBON to FREMANTLE, ADELAIDE, MELBOURNE, SYDNEY and BRISBANE.

TO NORTH PACIFIC.
Sailings from COPENHAGEN, GOTHENBURG, CHRISTIANIA, HAMBURG and ANTWERP to ST. THOMAS (with transhipment to the GREATER and LESSER ANTILLES), CRISTOBAL (with transhipment to CENTRAL AMERICAN PORTS), LOS ANGELES HARBOUR, SAN FRANCISCO, PORTLAND (Ore.), SEATTLE, TACOMA and VANCOUVER (with transhipment to other NORTH PACIFIC PORTS).

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Sailings from COPENHAGEN, GOTHENBURG, CHRISTIANIA, HAMBURG and ANTWERP to ST. THOMAS (with transhipment to the GREATER and LESSER ANTILLES), CRISTOBAL (with transhipment to CENTRAL AMERICAN PORTS), GUAYAQUIL, CALLAO, MOLLENDO, IQUIQUE, ANTOFAGASTA, VALPARAISO, TALCHUANO and CORRAL (with transhipment to other SOUTH PACIFIC PORTS).

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BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

TERRIBLE FIRE IN CHAPEI

Over 40 Chinese Lives Lost in a Veritable Death Trap: Pathetic Scenes Among Ruins

A terrible fire broke out at Chapei on Monday shortly after 11 p.m. when a big silk weaving filature, some four or five storeys high, suddenly burst into flames in a veritable labyrinth of Chinese houses. It was some time before the blaze was discovered and by the time the Chapei Fire Brigade was able to get to the scene there was absolutely no hope of saving the building. The factory is known simply as "The Cantonese Factory" and it is set well back in the middle of a thickly populated area just off North Szechuen Road Extension, about a hundred yards beyond Range Road. The inhabitants of the houses near by were fleeing for their lives taking with them all their household belongings and valuables. The factory is most unhappily situated for it is bordered on each side by very narrow streets, rendering the work of the brigade terribly difficult. Lines of hose were laid up alleyways and through private houses and then trained on the flames just underneath the factory walls at imminent peril to the lives of the firemen should the walls have caved in.

The glow in the sky could be seen for miles around. Huge clouds of sparks shot up into the air and every few minutes the crash of burning masonry could be heard. Neither was the work of the firemen assisted by the large crowds of sightseers drawn up all round. When a "North-China Daily News" reporter arrived on the scene no-one, including the police and firemen, knew very much of what was happening, excepting the blaze was a serious one. Among the sufferers were a number of Russians who could be seen standing in the roadway beside their baggage.

Forty dead bodies were recovered on Tuesday among the *débris* and and unfortunately this number probably does not in any way represent the total lives that may have been lost, as there is no means of estimating the number of men, women and children who were in the building at the time. It proved to be a death trap. Although the windows were barred on the outside, the inmates made frantic efforts to escape when exit by the stairway had been cut off by the flames. Those outside were powerless to offer assistance, despite the agonizing shrieks from within.

An unofficial estimate made by members of the Fire Brigade place the number dead at over 50, while it is asserted in Chinese quarters that between 200 and 300 perished.

This latter figure may easily be correct if that number of women and children were on the fatal second storey, the windows of which were barred and screened with wire netting on the inside. The intensity of the flames combined with the falling floors and roof which scattered bones here and there will, however, make a final accurate estimate entirely impossible.

Friends and relatives were searching among the gruesome remains all day on Tuesday.

The building which housed the silk filature was situated just off North Szechuen Road north of Jukong Road in Hsuan Kong Road. The Settlement Fire Brigade who also responded to the call soon had nine jets playing on the Szechuen Road side, the lines being run 200 yards into the interior of the district through a maze of one-storey buildings, while the Chapei firemen battled with the flames from the inside section. The interior condition of the building, being of such light wood, had so fed the flames that before the arrival of the Settlement Brigade the one floor had already collapsed. It was impossible to do anything for the doomed structure, so water was played on to the surrounding buildings in case the flames should spread. The absence of an alarm system in Chapei was responsible for the great headway that the flames made before it was known that the fire had started. Shortly before four o'clock it was found possible to stop work.

SHANGHAI PORTLAND CEMENT WORKS

A party of officials of the Public Works Department of the Shanghai Municipal Council and others on Saturday made an interesting tour of the recently completed "Elephant Brand" factory of the Shanghai Portland Cement Works, Ld. The many in the party who were competent to judge all expressed themselves as very favourably impressed with the compression tests, the results being highly satisfactory.

The works are situated on a piece of ground measuring 150 mow, just above the Kiangnan Arsenal. It is a purely Chinese concern, capitalized at $3,600,000. The construction of the works was begun in 1921, and by the summer of 1923 the "Elephant Brand" cement was placed on the market and was extremely well received. The works are equipped with the latest machinery for the production of cement, the selection having been made after a group of foreign and Chinese experts had inspected a large number of cement manufactories in Europe and America. Many of the ingenious labour-saving devices won the admiration of the visitors.

The plant has a maximum capactiy of 1,400 barrels of 375 lb. per day of 24 hours; it has also a barrel shop which has a daily output of 1,200 barrels or 1,200 steel drums. There are two jetties, one for landing raw materials, such as stone, clay, gypsum, etc., and the other can be used by steamers of 3,000 tons to discharge coal. The length of the water-front is 1,200 feet. The plant generates its own electricity, has a small waterworks and manufactures its own gas. An important feature of the establishment is the laboratory where one foreign and one Chinese qualified chemist make daily tests of the cement, coal, clay etc.

NANKING TUCHUN'S CHAUFFER ROBBED

Came to Shanghai with $900 for Motor Accessories

Marshal Chi Hsieh-yuan's chauffeur, who arrived in Shanghai on Monday evening with $900 in his pockets to purchase motor accessories, was robber early on Tuesday morning by a gang of three men who attacked him and dragged him into an alleyway.

Tsung Li-sung says he arrived in the early evening and proceeded to a lodging house at 331 Kiukiang Road. He had gone out to a restaurant to procure some food and was on his way to meet a friend at the Yih Ping Shan Hotel at about 2.20 a.m., and while going along a cross road this side of Thibet Road he was attacked by the gang, some 40 yards off Nanking Road. They jumped upon him and gagged him, while one of them stabbed him seven times with some sharp instrument. After taking him into an alleyway he was robbed of the wallet containing $899. Eventually the police removed him to the Shantung Road Hospital, where the doctors certified that he had two wounds in the neck, two in the left arm, two deeper ones in the left hand and one in the right thigh. His condition is reported as not serious.

CHINESE POLICEMAN SHOT IN YANGTSZEPOO

In attempting to arrest an armed gang of five in Ward Road, Yangtszepoo, shortly after 8 p.m. yesterday, a Chinese P. C., No. 1180, was shot dead.

The robbers were departing from a pawnbroker's shop at 744 Ward Road with clothing they had stolen from the place, when the policeman's suspicions were aroused. Securing the assistance of another P. C., the pair approached the gang. While chasing one of them P. C. 1180 was shot through the head. His companion stated that all the men were armed with revolvers. No arrests were made at the time.

MOTOR ROADS OUT OF SHANGHAI

New Road and Service of Buses to Tsingpu

A good deal of interest is being taken in the Shanghai-Tsingpu motor service project in Chinese circles in the the two cities concerned. The idea was taken up once before but had to be dropped owing to insufficiency of funds. Now, however, three well known Chinese merchants of Shanghai Chêkiang and Tsingpu are taking the matter up again and intend forming a company with capital of $600,000, the shares to be offered to the general public. The gentlemen concerned are Mr. Chang Pau-pae, a member of the Kiangsu Provincial Assembly, Mr. Shen Kung-hsien of Chêkiang and Mr. Mo, of the Teh Dah Cotton and Spinning Factory of Shanghai. Ten motor cars will be purchased and put on the service with skilled drivers and competent conductors and the road will run from Sicawei through Piyisz, Tsihpao, Szeking, Tienmasan and so on to Tsingpu. The road will, of course, have to be built for the purpose, and what will probably happen will be that the company will buy the full rights of way from the proper authorities and so make profit out of the road itself. The result of the service should be a big fillip to the district through which it runs and should help to develop the surrounding country. The people will look kindly on the scheme without doubt, for great disappointment was expressed when it fell through last time it was mooted. Tsingpu is about ten or fifteen miles from Shanghai. At the present stage the scheme is in its infancy but we hope to give more details in the space of a few days.

PASSENGERS BY THE TEIRESIAS

Mr. H. F. Bell Retiring

Leaving Shanghai this week by the Blue Funeral str. Teiresias and after a short stay in Hongkong with his niece Mrs. Blood (*née* Doris Lavers), continuing to England by the Naldera, Mr. H. F. Bell says goodbye to the Far East. Mr. Bell was born in Shanghai, son of Mr. F. H. Bell, of Adamson Bell & Co., and Mrs. Bell, afterwards Mrs. Jenner Hogg, and after being educated, at King's School, Canterbury, came out to Shanghai in 1894, to the firm of Ilbert & Co. It may be mentioned that almost immediately he joined the Cathedral choir and has sung in it ever since; yesterday its members presented him with a silver cigar box, a memento of his very long service. It is also to be recalled that a house in San Souci Terrace where Mr. Bell messed with the late Mr. "Ruby" Ellis and Mr. C. E. Anton, afterwards taipan of Jardine's, could in those happy days be rented for we think Tls. 35 a month. Mr. Bell was a good cricketer and lawn tennis player but riding was his great game and for several years he was a well recognized jockey. He was an ardent paper hunter though he never had the luck to win a hunt. He was also for many years in the Light Horse attaining almost a record we believe, for on the outbreak of the war, when a groggy knee effectually prevented his going Home to serve, he joined up again with his old Company and did his full measure of work. He left Ilbert's to become an exchange broker some 20 years ago and actually retired from business last year. He was a member of the Country, Race, Shanghai and Golf Clubs, serving for some time on the Committee of the last named. The regret which his friends feel at losing him is compensated for, to some extent, by the thought that fortune has favoured him at so early an age.

MR. AND MRS. COCHRANE.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Cochrane also have left China for good by the Teiresias. Major Cochrane, M.C., as he should be called, is an engineer. He served with much distinction in the war in that most perilous arm, the balloon observation, in which work he was thrice shot down and learnt a good deal about parachuting. He also was with the British Occupation Army in Cologne for some time after the armistice. He came to China in 1919 to help build wharves and godowns at Pootung for the Blue Funnel, and the only complaint his friends had against him was that he found the delights of engineering almost too engrossing. But when he could be tempted away from reinforced concrete, he was an ardent golfer. Mrs. Cochrane will be remembered as one of the best amateur actresses that the A.D.C. has had. Her playing of the servant in "The Passing of the Third Floor Back" was a beautiful study only surpassed by her quite flawless performance of Maggie in "What Every Woman Knows." She was chairman of the B.W.A. Dramatic Section for some time, when, however, her modesty kept her too much in the background. She is an admirable reciter. Mr. and Mrs. Cochrane are ultimately bound for Java, after which it is their friends' sincerest wish that some other job may call them back to Shanghai!

OUR LOCAL FILMS

How to Secure the Best Type

How to secure the highest possible type of films for Shanghai audiences was the subject of the first paper read before the members of the American Women's Club on Wednesday morning by Mrs. I. L. Boynton, who stated that she had acted only as a compiler in collecting the experiences of American cities which might bear upon the problem here. "Can the public reform the moving picture business?" she asked, and answered, "Yes, when public opinion so voices its approval or disapproval definitely enough to register upon the producer's mind. Public opinion has never been organized efficiently except during the war."

Censorship, the speaker went on, was good as far as it went, but even the best censorship boards permitted the showing of plays which if not vicious were certainly not ideal, They eliminated the worst features of the films but at best this was only a negative action while the "better film" movement had a constructive effort in commending ideal plays and making it profitable to produce those of this type. Both lines of endeavour were doubtless necessary at the present time and might exist side by side, although it was hoped that the need for censorship might finally be done away with.

It was suggested that women's clubs might well take upon themselves the duty of bringing the best plays to the attention of the public and of commending their producers, as well as devoting five or 10 moments of each meeting to a *régimé* of the best current cinema productions. The elaborate censorship regulations of Australia and their practical application were quoted, as well as examples in the United States.

It was stated that so far as was known the only local organizations censoring films were the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A. and the American School. The willingness of the proprietors of local cinemas to co-operate so far as possible in showing high grade films was mentioned, and also the fact that the Chinese did not seem so keen to see melodrama and "racy" pictures as did the foreigners.

SHANGHAI'S EDUCATIONAL VALUE.

Mrs. N. F. Allman then spoke on sights of educational value about Shanghai, looked at from the standpoint of parents anxious to give their children all the advantages of their local environment, and emphasized the desirability of making them understand the conditions under which they were living and to appreciate the picturesque atmosphere. Besides the possibility of visiting such places as Woosung, Sungkiang, Jessfield Village, Loonghua Pagoda and the like, there were mentioned the Native City, commercial enterprises such as silk and match factories, presses, both native and foreign, schools, the Mixed Court, and public institutions.

SHANGHAI EX-SERVICE MEN

War Medals Now Obtainable from Hongkong Harbour Office

The undermentioned list of Shanghai ex-Service men entitled to wear the British General Service and Victory Medals for service in the Great War has been forwarded to H.M. Royal Naval Office. The medals can be obtained, personally or by letter from the Harbour Officer, Hongkong.

Stanley K. Barden, Brain E. Bidwell, Chi Ah, Thomas J. Collier, Michael Courtney, Henry Curtis, John E. Drumond, Robert MacA. De La Sala, William J. Dinnen, William Dryden, John Dunbar, Mahomed Fatteh, John D. Fraser, James P. Gibson, William Henry Godfrey, Claude W. Glover, Robert Hassard, John Hargreaves, William B. Haslett, Reginald Haymes, Mark Hull, John Henry Jones, Elias Jones, Thomas Jones, Robert Kettlewell, W. J. Larter, A. C. Lemercier, E. W. Lowson, George McCallum, Thomas McCartney, Edwin J. McCombie, Allan MacInnes, John J. McKimm Robert Middlemas, John Millar, Lawrence St. J. Mumby, Philip John Norton, Lionel E. Paine, F. D. Pillatt, W. A. Piper, Bert Plumb, Berthold W. S. Pritchard, Alfred Record, John Ross, Henry Simpson, Luis Teyssandier, James W. Whyte and J. A. Wilde.

SHANGHAI AMERICAN SCHOOL

Judge Lobingier on the Need for American Education

The Scottish Rite prizes were presented at the Shanghai American School, on Monday, by Judge C. S. Lobingier. Mr. C. L. Boynton, the acting Principal, briefly explained how the prizes came to be offered and also spoke of the Judge's interest in the school and the services he had rendered to Americans in China during his ten years' residence in the country.

Judge Lobingier said that it gave him a great deal of satisfaction to see the American School in full operation in its new premises. Recently the organization he represented engaged in a systematic educational campaign in the United States with a view to removing the plague spots of illiteracy which the world war had revealed. Its programme included the support and improvement of the public schools, popular instruction upon political and social needs, and the establishment of a Federal Department of education under a Cabinet officer. In China the conditions were quite different but the needs of the American colony were not less exacting and important. Here the problem was to keep American the rising generation, to bring it up in touch with American ideals and devoted to American purposes and needs. He regarded that as no less important than the task of making Americans out of those at Home of foreign birth and his idea in providing these prizes and instituting these contests was to stimulate interest in, and familiarity with, America's needs and problems. He felt that this was the nearest approach that could be made in China to participation in the educational programme of the Scottish Rite.

Already the contests had demonstrated that the purpose of the prizes was being attained. The choice of subjects disclosed that the students had caught the spirit of the enterprise and were acquainting themselves with the needs and conditions of their Home country and the treatment accorded their themes had won the highest praise from those who had heard them. The great benefit was not the reception of the prize but the instilling of practical patriotism and civic education.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bucknell, jr., arrived by the str. President Grant last Friday. Mr. Bucknell will serve as U. S. Junior Assessor in the Mixed Court, succeeding Mr. N. F. Allman, who has resigned from the consular service.

ponds so generously to the annual Christmas appeal "No ricsha man need go hungry or shelterless."

Contributors to the work may be gratified by the knowledge that by their generosity they are helping the "upward and onward" movement for China in which alone lies the hope for China's millions.

Again thanking you, Sir, and the Management of the "North-China Daily News."

I am, etc.,

GEORGE MATHESON
Founder and Hon. Director.

Shanghai, March 12, 1924.

RELIEF WORK.

Distributed during Christmas week, December 20, 1923 to January 2, 1924, inclusive:—

Special parcels of food each parcel containg 3 hunds, 2 rice cakes, 2 pork pies and 3 Canton cakes, total 10	9,500
Tickets for hot meals	2,500
Garments	800
Towels	1,000
Sandals	2,000
Gifts to women	700
Gifts to children	1,800

A LONG RECORD.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In the reprint of the first issue of the "North China Herald" of August 3, 1850, appear two announcements worded in the manner peculiar to that time, regarding certain insurance agencies then held by the firm of Jardine, Matheson & Co., and it is interesting to note that of the five Companies mentioned, the firm still represents three, *viz*:—

Alliance Assurance Company,
Reliance Marine Insurance Company,
Canton Insurance Office.

The last mentioned was, I believe, founded by the "Ewo Hong," in 1832, so that the continued representation for so many years is scarcely so unique as the fact that the firm has held the other two agencies for practically three-quarters of a century.

Surely this is somewhat of a record, especially for the East?

I am, etc.,

JOHN ENGLAND.

Shanghai, March 7, 1924.

By Royal Warrant, the Royal Horse Artillery, Royal Field Artillery, and Royal Garrison Artillery will henceforth form one corps. It will include all artillery units of the Territorial Army and the local batteries and companies of Royal Artillery abroad. Enlistments will be for service in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Since July, 1916, the Royal Regiment of Artillery has consisted of two corps—(1) the Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Field Artillery (including the Special Reserve, Royal Field Artillery) and the Royal Horse and Field Artillery units of the Territorial Army, and (2) the Royal Garrision Artillery, including the local batteries and companies of Royal Artillery abroad, the Special Reserve, Royal Garrison Artillery, and the Royal Garrison Artillery units of the Territorial Army.

THE Field Artillery Battery, S.V.C., held their annual dinner in the Volunteer Club on Saturday night, when there was a full attendance of members, old gunners and others. Major R. W. Davis presided, and was supported by Mr. S. Fessenden, the Civil Commandant, Col. Gordon, C.M.G., D.S.O., the Battery officers and other officers of the Corps. The toast of "The Guests" was proposed by Lieut. Lobb, and replies were made by Mr. Fessenden and Col. Gordon. The latter referred to the work of the Battery, and pointed out that with the fine personnel of the members it would be possible to bring its efficiency up to that of any regular battery. Lieut. Mellows in an amusing speech recalled the condition of the Battery at a time when very few of its present members had been born. In those days the ponies they had were those which ordinarily did duty in the Municipal scavenging carts, and on one occasion when the Battery was returning from the Point two of them fell dead. An excellent musical programme was carried through, and the dinner was one of the most successful on record.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

LADIES' GOLF CLUB

Results of the February Competitions.

Owing to the unfavourable weather conditions prevailing last month there were insufficient entries both for the Season Medal (Kiangwan) and the Club Cup (Shanghai).

The Eclectic Competition which was played at Shanghai during January and February resulted in a win for Mrs. Sleap. The following are the scores.

Mrs. Sleap	41-1½-39½
Mrs. Marples	46-3 -43
Mrs. Eldridge	48-2½-45½
Miss Crombie	49-3 -46

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

Ireland Beat Wales

Cardiff, Mar. 8.

Ireland beat Wales by 13 points to 10 in an international Rugby football match played here to-day.

The weather was sunny and there were 45,000 spectators, including the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. J. H. Thomas.

After a quarter of an hour a neat passing movement by the Irish three-quarters ended in Gardiner securing a try which Crawford converted. The Irishmen then played with tremendous dash and a brilliant breakaway by the backs resulted in H. Stephenson scoring a try, which was not converted. The Welsh forwards controlled the ball splendidly in a series of footrushes and finally Richards scored a try, which, however, they failed to convert. At halftime Ireland was leading 8-3.

On resuming, Wales attacked strongly and after five minutes Watkins, the Welsh half-back, scored a drop goal. An Irish raid resulted in Hewitt securing a try which Crawford again converted. Nothing daunted Wales made a glorious forward rush, Pugh scoring a try, which was not converted. In the closing stages of the game the Irish line was frequently in danger owing to the fierce forward rushes of the Welshmen, but the match ended with Ireland the victors by 13 points to 10.—Reuter.

AIR FORCE BEAT ARMY.

Uxbridge, Mar. 8.

The Air Force beat the Army by 8 points to 3 in an inter-Services championship Rugby football match played here to-day.—Reuter.

HEAVY WEIGHT BOXING

Firpo Knocks out Spalla

Buenos Aires, Mar. 8.

In a boxing contest here last night, Luis Firpo, the Argentine heavyweight champion, knocked out the Italian, Spalla, the European heavyweight champion, in the fourteenth round.—Reuter.

Dempsey to Meet Firpo Again

Chicago, Mar. 12.

Jack Dempsey has announced that he will meet Luis Firpo in a return match on September 1.—Reuter's American Service.

LAWN TENNIS

Davis Cup Competition

New York, Mar. 10.

Canada, Italy and Denmark have challenged for the Davis Cup, thus bringing the number of entries up to 17.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Mar. 11.

Cuba and Belgium have challenged for the Davis Cup.—Reuter's American Service.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUN

The National Championship at Doncaster

London, March 8.

The Doncaster National Cross Country Championship of 10 miles was run to-day. The going was heavy.

Corporal Cotterell, of the Royal Corps of Signals, won the Championship, his time being 56 min. 50 sec. E. Harper, of the Hallamshire Harriers, was second (56 min. 54 sec.) and J. Webster, of the Birchfield Harriers, third (57 min. 6 sec.)

The team placings were as follow:—

Birchfield Harriers	53
Surrey Harriers	71
Hallamshire Harriers	98

Birchfield has created a record by winning for five successive years.—Reuter.

STATUS OF AMATEURS IN AMERICA

Philadelphia, Mar. 11.

Mr. W. T. Tilden, Jr., says that the rule of the American Olympic Committee barring members of the Olympic team from writing for newspapers will prevent him from playing in the tennis matches as he has signed a contract to write two articles a week while he is abroad.—Reuter's American Service.

HOME FOOTBALL

English and Scottish Cup Tie and League Results

London, Mar. 12.

F. A. Cup Replays:—Cardiff City 0, Manchester City 1; Burnley 3, Swindon Town 1.

Scottish Cup Replays:—Ayr United 0, Airdrieonians 0; Partick Thistle 1, Hibernians 0.

English League:—Chelsea 0, West Bromwich Albion 0; Aston Villa, 2, Arsenal 1; Bolton Wanderers 4, Liverpool 1.

Scottish League:—Hamilton Academicals 3, Aberdeen 0; Falkirk 4, Third Lanark 1.

The draw for the semi-final round of the Scottish Cup, which will be played on March 22, is as follows:—Aberdeen *v.* Hibernians or Partick Thistle, at Dundee; Falkirk *vs.* Ayr United or Airdrieonians, at Celtic Park, Glasgow.—Reuter.

INTERNATIONAL GOLF

Bellair Heights, Fla., Mar. 10.

Hagen and Havers defeated Ockenden and Kirkwood in a four-ball match by one up here to-day.—Reuter's American Service.

ALL vessels bound for Manila must now call at Mariveles for quarantine inspection, states an official wire to the U. S. Consulate-General. Passengers for the Islands should also note that the Philippine quarantine authorities now require vaccination of all crews and passengers of vessels arriving in a Philippine port within 15 days after calling at Yokohama, Shanghai or Hongkong.

The Magical SKIN HEALER

CONTAINS NO ANIMAL FAT
IS PURELY HERBAL
Zam Buk
"RUB IT IN"
for CUTS BRUISES · BURNS SCALDS · PILES · ECZEMA ITCH · DELHI SORES · BAD LEGS PRICKLY HEAT · ULCERS · RINGWORM BOILS · ABSCESSES · CHRONIC SORES BITES · STINGS · SPRAINS · RHEUMATISM
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ZAM-BUK, Nature's perfect healer, is prepared from rich herbal oils and extracts of the highest medicinal value.

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COLUMBIA GRAFONOLA

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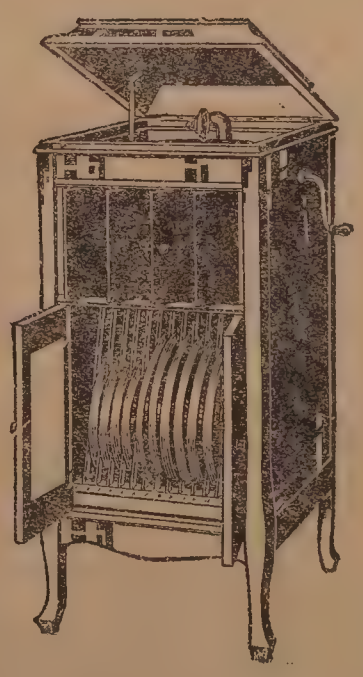

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"I consider this instrument the greatest contribution to the advancement of music since the original invention of the gramophone itself."

Dame CLARA BUTT
"I feel that you have in this invention easily placed the Grafonola several years in advance of any other known gramophone."

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"There is something about it which is different to all other gramophones, to my mind, very natural and satisfying in its fidelity."

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(*Conductor, Halle Orchestra*)
"Your instrument, by comparison, makes every other gramophone old fashioned and untrue."

Model No. 30a—£70.

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CORRESPONDENCE

PRICES IN SHANGHAI.

To the Editor of the
"North China Daily News."

Sir,—With reference to a paragraph, taken from your "Day to Day" columns of to-day's issue, I would particularly direct your attention to the sentence therein, "Business cannot prosper . . . if the goods sold are not of proper quality and of a right price."

I enclose for your information a receipt for a safety razor strop purchased to-day at a Chinese company. The charge for the same, you will note, is $1, yet I invite you to purchase the identical article at a foreign store and they will unblushingly demand $1.50. It is exactly the same with all other commodities sold in Shanghai and, as usual, the consumer is ever the victim for it is nothing more than victimization. Taking the above quoted extract regarding "Business" there would seem to be many firms in Shanghai who should now be languishing in bankruptcy!

Another matter in which the opinions of your readers may be invited is the ever increasing cost of commodities. Take as an instance, sugar. The cost of a 10-pound bag two years ago was $1.10. Ten cent rises have been added from time to time and without any reason being tendered, till to-day the price of the same 10-pound bag is $1.55. And so the vicious system progresses. Where it will all end unless somehow checked is hard to say, but it is a fact that families in Shanghai who did not find it too difficult to pay their way on the price ruling two years ago, now find it hardly possible, on account of the inflation of prices having to be met with a not commensurately increased salary, to make ends meet.

Enclosing my card,

I am, etc.,
"Puzzled."

Shanghai, March 6, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North China Daily News."

Sir,—Your correspondent "Puzzled" would be less puzzled if he made a wider survey of prices at foreign and Chinese stores in Shanghai. The citation of a single case, and that of an article as rare as a blue tiger (some sort of patent razor strop), proves nothing at all. It may be news to your correspondent that the patent of a famous razor ran out fairly recently, and that he is possibly comparing the price of new and cheaper stock with the original article.

I note, by the way, that you advertised in your paper only the day before, a razor, blades and case for $1.20 at Weeks. Why buy a strop?

There are a great many things—Japanese hats and cutlery, Chinese shoes, shirts, soap, scent, cigars, that once used will never be forgotten. Many of these commodities would be cheap at double the price if purchased at a foreign store that confined itself exclusively to imported instead of local products. A known brand of whisky, or butter, or cod-liver oil costs just about the same at a foreign as at a Chinese store—providing it has not been purchased by the native retailer as damaged cargo at an auction.

The writer is not interested, even indirectly, in any foreign store, but is puzzled to know why, if they make the huge profits suggested by your correspondent, they do not pay correspondingly huge dividends, or princely salaries to their staffs.

There is just the possibility, however, that they conduct their businesses honestly; that they do not take advantage of Lao-wai passers-by to charge in gold dollars what they usually charge in Mex.; and that they can be depended upon to sell goods that can be eaten or worn or used with confidence. It will be noted that no comparison has been made between the quality, attention and advice that the casual buyer receives at either of the sources mentioned native and foreign. To some this may be of no value; but there are others who appreciate it.

Old residents here are under no misapprehension as to what would happen if retail trade were left entirely to the Chinese. They have had experience of "rings" before and do not need to be reminded of the necessity for foreign stores to stabilize prices. The cost of coal is a case in point. It cost no more to mine and little more to carry to the consumer during the war than it does now, yet the prices went up two and three hundred per cent. No doubt if Kailan coal was raised from $13 to $30 a ton we should be paying a like increase for all other grades of coal.

It ill becomes "Puzzled" or any other foreigner here who knows local conditions to rush into print because they have to pay 50 cents more for a patent razor strop or a dollar more for a pair of patent leather shoes at a foreign store.

I am etc.,
Unperplexed.

Shanghai, Mar. 8, 1924.

MORAL WELFARE.

To the Editor of the
"North China Daily News."

Sir, Since, as your leader on Moral Welfare so well points out, "legislation in moral matters is powerless," why should we cling to fallacious ideas any longer? Is it not time to omit from the licensing conditions of hotels the words "that no disorderly or immoral conduct, gambling, etc., be permitted on the premises"? What is the use of such "grandmotherly" legislation when, as our Police department assures us "in some of the hotels prostitution has become part of the business on which the proprietor relies for his profits?" Does not this mean increasing defiance of licence conditions which our police are aware of, but are apparently unable to prevent? Fancy the police authorities of an English city making such a confession! Why make law and order ridiculous by attempting to control such matters at all, and failing? Who cares what takes place on premises so long as rent and taxes, and licence fees, are duly paid?

I am, etc.,
Laissez Faire.

Shanghai, March 10, 1924.

∴ With all respect to our correspondent this appears to us an illogical not to say absurd position to take and not quite fair on the police. Because the experience of three years in Shanghai—of three, and thirty, and thirty-three thousand years elsewhere—proves the Moral Welfare League's policy a failure is no reason for abandoning the ordinary machinery of government. Our correspondent's letter appears to us additional evidence of the hopelessness of rational argument on this question.—Ed.

To the Editor of the
"North China Daily News."

Sir,—Your footnote to "Laissez Faire's" letter in to-day's issue is justly warranted, for anyone possessing powers of deduction would at once know that new measures are always countered by newer methods, as has been so ably stated by the Deputy Commissioner of our excellent police force.

Does "Laissez Faire" really expect a hotel manager to insist upon incoming guests producing marriage lines before granting them accommodation? If such was the case there would be, without doubt, a necessity for an increased police force to settle unseemly brawls between hotel managers and prospective guests. There must be few who would tolerate such an insult and passively acquiesce in pandering to the whims of unconventional reformers.

I am, etc.,
Wang Mao

Shanghai, March 11, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North China Daily News."

Sir,—As the matter of seeking the best methods of dealing with our local moral welfare problems is of importance, and is of public interest, I hope you will once more allow it to be discussed in your columns, in a frank and fair manner: as a beginning I venture to refer to some of the points of your leader dealing with the Police report published in the latest Municipal Gazette. Let us first, in fairness, remove a misconception. your words "the policy forced on the Council by the Moral Welfare League" are incorrect, and therefore misleading. The policy referred to was unanimously recommended by a properly-appointed Commission, only one third of whose members belonged to the M.W.L. It was proposed at the Ratepayers' Meeting by Judge (now Sir) Skinner Turner, and it passed the meeting constitutionally, so I fail to see how it was "forced on the Council by the M.W.L." That sentence appears to indicate a prejudice which is regrettable, and which does not help towards a fair and dispassionate consideration of what is, at best, a difficult problem. Let us be thankful for the good which it is admitted has already been gained by the experiment, and if better ways can carry us further, we are willing to try them.

When you say that "hotels make a regular income out of a business (prostitution) they once never used," one wonders what period the "never" refers to; to have any bearing on this discussion it should mean that such business was not used prior to the last three or four years. If that is the meaning, the statement is amazing, and betrays a lack of knowledge of conditions which no writer of a serious article on the subject ought to display. The police know better, and speak of the business being of "greater extent." The Vice Commission's report four years ago said: "We have great reason for thinking that much immorality takes place in certain Chinese hotels in the Settlement." There was sufficient evidence that this practice is of long standing: what, then, is the purpose of suggesting that a *new* situation has arisen since the new policy was started? It may have been written off-hand, but it is a misleading statement.

When saying that "legislation on moral matters is powerless" surely it is not meant that law should take no cognizance of morality at all: is it meant that while legislation should not be used to try to improve morals, yet it shall be used to protect and perpetuate prostitution and attendant evils? Experience everywhere teaches that law and morality are very much co-related, and while nobody expects that legislation will change a man's heart and desires, yet it can greatly assist in lessening temptations, and especially it can give a "sporting chance" to the "under dogs" of the world. I have never heard anyone suggest that any laws at Shanghai aim to make people virtuous and pure: yet, for some old-fashioned reasons, street solicitation has always been punishable, and hotel licences require that "no disorderly or immoral conduct, gambling, etc." take place on the premises: picture shows are subject to police control: panders and obscene picture sellers are punished, and opium-smoking is prohibited. Why have any legislation on these matters at all if it is powerless? The police, and most citizens, will prefer to believe that legislation in moral matters really has its uses, and its powers.

As regards the present accessibility of vice, I beg to differ from the view of your leader; there is no question whatever in my mind that prostitution is making less show on the streets now than it did five years ago. Conditions are totally changed in Nanking and Foochow Roads, and in some other districts. When increased solicitation "in public parks" is spoken of, the reference is to foreigners, who have always been a numerically small part of our problem. Only 15 houses, with 53 women, were reported in 1920; many of these women are still undisturbed in well-known houses, and others are reported to be housed elsewhere: it is doubtful if any of the solicitation referred to comes from women who have been evicted by the new policy, or who were in Shanghai at all in 1920. As we all know, and ought frankly to admit, there are at present other causes which have probably much more to do with "glad eye" solicitation than the Council's policy. Over 95 per cent of our problem is Chinese, and among these, vice is much less flaunted than it used to be: the brothels are fewer, the streets show less exhibition of girls, and in fact vice now has to be sought instead of its hitting the eye every evening as one went through the city. I consider this a gain to "public morality" even if private vice remained the same.

I am glad to see your word of caution to any who might want to hastily change the present policy. Public feeling is, as you say, opposed to a system of licensed and medically supervised houses: yet you add that by no other means can girls be "trapped and brought back to special areas." The figures given to the Vice Commission, from two independent sources, showed about 4,500 Chinese prostitutes: it is doubtful if the whole of these came under the licensing regulations. The Commission said that the estimate given could not be a complete one: a Chinese estimate about the same time gave over 8000, and recently in your correspondence columns the enormous figure of thirty to forty thousand was given for greater Shanghai. On any showing the "untrapped" must have greatly outnumbered those officially recognized by the police, and this is the common experience of towns in Europe where regulation is practised. But who wants to "trap" girls? That is one of the saddest features of the whole business, in that it denotes that somebody is *victimized*, and there can be no doubt that in many cases girls are compelled to submit to virtual slavery of the worst kind, against their wish; in other cases they are deceived and taken advantage of and treated so unchivalrously that the whole matter is one for shame to our community. Frankly, I prefer to hear of girls living as "emancipated prostitutes" rather than herded in the stews, with bitter hardships, as they used to be. They are likely to have more humane treatment and more comfort in the life they follow, for whatever reason, and which I regret that any of them should follow. My opposition is strongest to "commercialized vice," and especially the compulsion and cruelty connected therewith; and as we are told that the present policy has alleviated these evils, it has so far done real good to hundreds, or thousands, and apparently has worked no real harm to any, and I see no good reason for not continuing it at least to the end of the term. Let us be "sporty" enough to see the last wicket fall before changing sides, and then with wood grace we can with good-will together face the next step. From my own observation, and the experience of other places, I doubt if we shall find any other policy likely to do more to improve things than this is doing; but I shall be ready in due course to follow any other lead or policy, provided it is a genuine attempt at moral welfare, and not a retrograde step or an evasion of the problem.

With your permission, Sir, I will refer to the Police report in a future letter.

I am, etc.
I.M.

Shanghai, March 11, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—Your leaderette of Saturday 8 and two letters subsequently published dealing with conditions in hotels, have all overlooked one important point. The situation indicated by the authorities, accepted by yourself and your correspondents, may be true: it is certainly *not new*. This is interesting because it is on the basis of this and similar assumptions that you attempt to discredit the Moral Welfare League. But do *not* let that trouble you. To prove that the situation is not new, I respectfully refer the authorities, yourself and your correspondents to the dossier of the Vice Commission and to the Vice Commission's *published* report. If others have mislaid their dossier they may see mine, which has been neither mislaid nor overlooked. In this dossier you will find reports by the authorities and others which indicate a very bad condition of affairs in hotels. There are some interesting admissions. As a matter of fact the Vice Commission's report is made up very largely on information supplied by the authorities of the Settlement. If necessary, I can give some additional evidence to show that the situation was as bad before the present system went into effect, as it is now.

May one ask another question? The police evidently think they have *inside* information on this matter which enables them to make their recent public assertion. Now, according to a licence condition, such things should not be allowed to go on in hotels. That licence condition, furthermore, is not something new nor introduced by the Moral Welfare League: it existed before the Moral Welfare League did. But why, if the police have this definite information, do they not proceed in some way to see that this licence condition is kept? I am not attempting to minimize the difficulties in this problem. But why do the authorities not offer some solution to this problem instead of implying that the blame lies on the Moral Welfare League where it certainly does not belong? Why do the police not call on the Moral Welfare League to assist them in securing the "necessary evidence" as they did in the case of other places, which were successfully closed?

I am, etc.
Frank Rawlinson.

Shanghai, March 12, 1924.

RICSHA MISSION CHRISTMAS FUND.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—It is with very deep appreciation of your oft repeated efforts on behalf of the "Ricsha Mission" that I have again the honour of acknowledging your cheque received on the 12th instant for $5,261.64 the amount resulting from the "North-China Daily News" sixth Christmas Fund for ricsha men.

Through you, Sir, to the Management of the "North-China Daily News" and to all who so kindly and generously contributed to the Fund or sent directly to the Mission, most sincere thanks are tenndered on behalf of the coolies and their families.

As formerly, the money will be expended in providing food, clothing and general assistance to sick and indigent men and their families not only at present but during the year while the money lasts.

This season, during the Christmas week, December 20, 1923, to January 2, 1924, the distribution of food, clothing and other gifts was on a much larger scale than ever before both in respect of the amount of relief and the number of recipients. The Fund will continue during the entire year to supply on an average about 300 meals daily, many garments and other assistance to sick and needy men.

The conditions under which the ricsha pullers ply their calling still leave much to be desired, but evidences of improvement physically and in the morals of the men generally, are not lacking. This, along with the sympathetic attitude of a large portion of the public towards the men and the work of the Mission on their behalf, greatly encourages the efforts made for the amelioration of the hardships from which as a class the men suffer.

Taking this obvious change for the better evidenced in very many ways in conjunction with the constant fluctuation of the men from one form of coolie labour to another and the accompanying migration from place to place, it may not be out of place to assume that the favourable moral influence of the work is not confined to this city only, but has also penetrated to many remote parts of China.

In consequence of the number of public ricsha licences issued by the Council being now unlimited, there are already thousands of additional public ricshas, with an average of three men to each in the 24 hours plying for hire, which makes conditions of wage earning harder all round for the pullers.

The Mission will continue to give assistance as far as possible where required, and still ventures to say that as long as the "North-China Daily News" continues this great assistance and the Foreign Community of Shanghai res-

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Mar. 14.

Bank's demand selling rate for £1 at 3/3⅛=Tls. 6.13 at 71.35=$8.59

Bank's demand selling rate for G.$100 at 70=Tls. 142.86 at 71.35=$200.22.

Mex. Dollars, market rate	71.5875
Native Interest	02
Copper Cash	257,500
Bar Silver	33 7/16
Bank rate of Discount	4%
Paris on London	Frs. 98.35
New York on London	G.$4.29⅜

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/3
Demand	3/3⅛
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	69¾
Demand	70
PARIS—	
Demand	1590
INDIA—	
Demand	231½
HONGKONG—	
Demand	72
JAPAN—	
Demand	61¼
BATAVIA—	
Demand	194
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	72¼

BANK'S OPENING BUYING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/3⅜
4 m/s. Credits	3/5
4 m/s. Docs.	3/5½
6 m/s. Credits	3/5½
6 m/s. Docs.	3/6
NEW YORK—	
Demand	71
4 m/s. Credits	73½
4 m/s. Docs.	73¾
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1675
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/2 7/16
New York T.T.	69⅜

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR MARCH.

Hk. Tls. 5.44 at 3/3⅜	£1
,, 1 at 1595½	Frs. 17.77
,, 1.26 at 71	Gold $1
,, 1 at 64½	Yen 1.73
,, 1 at 231½	Rupees 2.58
,, 1 at 1.50	Mex. $1.50
,, 1 at 16.275	It. Lire 18.13
Marks and Roubles	no quotation

Sino-Italian Bank Quotations

Selling Rates, Mar 14.

It. Lire 16.15	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 4.00	Tl. 1
It. Lire 9.70	Y. 1

Week's Exchange Notes

Mar. 15.

At the close of business on the 13th instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 27,892,000 and $42,450,000.

These figures include Tls. 7,600,000 and $28,550,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 943 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—
1,709 bars from America

Shipments were:—
Nil.

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—
Tls. 187,000 Chopped dollars from Hongkong
350,000 Mex. Dollars to be melted

Tls. 537,000

Shipments were:—
Nil.

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—

$500,000	from Ningpo
300,000	,, River Ports
200,000	,, Soochow
140,000	,, Wusih
150,000	,, Kashing
50,000	,, Tungchow
50,000	,, Hangchow

$1,390,000

Shipments were:—
$500,000 to be melted
200,000 ,, Dairen
50,000 ,, Chefoo

$750,000

SILVER.

The price yesterday was 33 7/16d. ready and 33½d. forward, showing a fall on last week's prices of ⅛d. and 1/16d. respectively. India has been reported as buying on most days and China sold a little. Stocks of sycee and dollars have increased by Tls. 22½ lakhs and $6½ lakhs respectively during the week. Bars in stock, 3,362, including silver yen 10 lakhs. The price of dollars has kept very steady during the week, and was quoted yesterday 71.5875.

EXCHANGE.

In ordinary times the fluctuations in the local gold bar market are a fair reflexion of our exchange market as a whole. This last week, however, these fluctuations seem to have had very little effect on sterling or gold dollar exchange, and have centred practically entirely in the yen market. Local transactions were again chiefly inter-bank and on account of speculators, whose position is estimated as oversold about £500,000.

Exchange closed off last week at T.T. 3/3d., where it remained until Tuesday, when it went up to T.T. 3/3½d. There was a steady market all day on Tuesday until just before closing, when weakness set in. On Wednesday the opening rate was 3/3⅛d., with a further drop to 3/3d. shortly after opening. At this level it remained till the afternoon session on Thursday when a further drop of ⅛d. to 3/2⅞d. was recorded. The market is very quiet with sellers T.T. 3/3d. March, 3/2⅞d. April/June. G.$ T.T. 69¾ ready and forward to December.

London Silver

Reporting on the London silver market on February 6 Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co. said:—

The approach and incidence of the Chinese New Year (February 5) has tended to deprive the market of animation. After purchases had been completed for last week's steamer, India has been inactive. America has been a moderate seller. Some buying emanated from China on Monday and imparted a steady tone, supplies not being large. The price for cash delivery has remained unchanged for a longer period than usual, having been fixed at 33 5/16d. from January 31 to February 5 inclusive. To-day India bought on balance and the quotation rose 1/16d.

Japan's New Issue of Treasury Notes

Tokio, Mar. 5.

Short term Treasury Notes to the amount of Y.10,000,000 will be issued on the 25th inst., in accordance with the demand for funds for railway reconstruction and extension. The notes will bear interest at five per cent., the issue price will be 91.8. and the issue matures on June 1, 1930.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

Depreciation of the Yen Tending to Weaken the Local Yarn Market.

Mar. 15.

The drop in the yen exchange seems to be the principal factor in the local markets this week. It has undoubtedly affected the outlook of the yarn dealers, causing them to reduce their offers for the local product, and accordingly limiting business.

The piece goods market has hardly been active during the week, and with a further reduction in certain auction and other values the outlook is not what would be called satisfactory.

While a small amount of silk has been purchased by Lyons, exports generally are stagnant.

PIECE GOODS.

Thanks to the shortness of stocks and easy monetary conditions, clearances of piece goods have been very good during the past week. In contrast with the situation prevailing prior to the China New Year dealers seem to be very well off financially, with the result that as soon as goods arrive they are being cleared. Generally speaking dealers are making their offers on a lower scale than latterly, but even so a certain amount of business has passed with Manchester, and it is reported that one or two good lines in imitation Venetians and black Twills have been booked at about a shilling under the quotations of a month ago. Szechuan merchants are understood to have taken further quantities of White Shirtings, but their offers have been very low. The cuts that have been made and the very moderate volume of business that has taken place with Home are not hopeful signs.

In woollen goods the market continues to be very quiet. While deliveries are good no new business has been recorded. The Home market continues firm, and the recently prevailing high rates are being maintained.

As far as the auctions are concerned there is little change to report from a week ago. The slump in Italians has continued, and the fall has been even more accentuated than a week ago. Since the drop started the fall this year has amounted to 13 per cent., while during the same period last year it was 8 per cent. As the stock of Italians is so very much smaller than a year ago, it is possible that we are seeing a much sharper but shorter drop than in 1923, and prices may already be near the bottom. Auction deliveries have been good during the week and the purchases made have been by dealers in possession of genuine trade orders, the speculative element being still largely absent from the auctions. The recent fall in cotton does not seem to have perturbed the dealers greatly, as in view of a probable shortage before next crop they anticipate higher rates before very long.

Chinese dealers in Korean varieties are again showing anxiety because of reports that a preferential tariff in favour of Japanese products is to be introduced for Korea. In 1922 a report to a similar effect was very strong indeed, but until now nothing more has been heard of it. It is again to the fore, although no particulars of the duty to be imposed are forthcoming, and Korean merchants have been hurriedly clearing all cargo in consequence.

COTTON AND YARN.

China Cotton—A fair demand for cotton has taken place on the part of the mills during the week, and towards the close prices have firmed up. The Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange quotations are higher by Tls. 1½ to Tls. 2 compared with a week ago. The rates current there are:—March 44.35; April 43.90; May 43.40; June 43; July 42.45; August 42.10. Spot quotations are as follows:—Tungchow 44; Shanghai 42; Shensi 43½; Hankow 41.

Yarn—Until Thursday the yarn market was showing increased strength, but owing to the depreciation of the yen some weakness has since developed. Chinese consumers apparently believe that owing to this movement in exchange Japanese yarn will be able to find a good market here, and accordingly are hoping for lower prices. The Szechuan merchants have bought certann quantities, but on the whole they are waiting in the expectation of a substantial reduction in the freights rates to Chungking. They are working on the strength of a report that rates will come down from about Tls. 18 to Tls. 10 per bale. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange prices advanced on buying by the provinces, but later declined owing to the drop in yen. The quotations on the Exchange are:—March 173.90; April 171.70; May 168.80; June 167.80; July 166.90; August 166.10. Local grey cloth has been quite active, especially drills which are wanted by Tientsin for army uniforms. Newchwang has not yet come into the market to any extent. Prices are on the whole firmer.

SILK.

Lyons continuse in the market, making small purchases of low grade steam filatures and Szechuan filatures at declining prices.

The Yokohama market has had a severe setback.

America remains out of the market.

PRODUCE.

The Home markets for seeds and groundnuts are stagnant, mainly owing to the unsettled position of the franc. There is evidence of increased interest in general produce, but lack of supplies continues to hinder business. There seems little prospect of anything but hand to month trading for some time to come.

THE PORT OF TSINGTAO

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Mar. 1.

During the last ten days of January, 51 vessels of 81,547 tons entered into and 42 vessels of 58,897 tons cleared from the port of Tsingtao according to a report issued by the Kiaochow Customs. Of the arrivals the Japanese took first place with 24 steamers of 28,975 tons, American vessels taking second place with 3 steamers of 15,103 tons, British third place with 4 vessels of 9,187 tons, German fourth with 2 steamers of 8,874 tons, Chinese fifth with 13 ships of 7,031 tons, the Dutch sixth with a single entry of 4,568 tons, the Danish seventh with two entries of 4,510 tons, the Norwegians eighth with a single entry of 3,073 tons, and the French last with one steamer of only 226 tons.

In departures, the Japanese again led, with 20 ships of 24,279 tons, followed by 5 British steamers of 13,744 tons, 2 American vessels of 9,211 tons, 2 Danish vessels of 4,510 tons, 1 German steamer of 3,491 tons, 11 Chinese vessels of 3,426 tons and 1 French steamer of 226 tons.

ANGLO-FRENCH LAND INVESTMENT CO. LD.

Final Dividend

We have been advised by the agents of the Anglo-French Land Investment Co. Ld. that the profit for the year ended February 29, 1924, including the amount of Tls. 7,847.55 brought forward from last year, amounted to Tls. 159,370.27. An interim dividend of Tls. 3½ per share was paid in September last, absorbing Tls. 45,500, leaving a balance of Tls. 113,883.71 at credit of profit and loss account.

At a meeting of the directors held on Monday, it was decided to recommend at the annual meeting to be held on April 2, 1924, the following appropriation:—

	Tls.
To pay a Final Dividend of Tls. 4½ per share (making 8 per cent. for the year)	58,500.00
To place to special repairs account	15,000.00
To place to depreciation and renewals Account	31,114.84
To carry forward	9,268.87
Tls.	113,883.71

Cotton Production in Indo-China

Paris, Mar. 10.

The Colonies Committee of the Senate, inquiring into the question of production of cotton, today heard Colonel Bernard with regard to the climatic and other advantages afforded by Indo-China, where the Society for the Study of the Cultivation of Cotton is successfully experimenting on intensive lines, as the British are doing in India. He said that Cambodia cotton presented the characteristics of American cotton.

M. Hirsch, the President of the Niger Cotton Company, describing the results obtained in French Sudan, affirmed that it was possible to count on a yield of 400 kilogrammes of cotton to the hectare. The company's cotton fields, where cultivation began three years ago, now cover over 3,000 hectares.—Reuter.

Eastern Telegraph Company Dividends

London, Mar. 8.

The Eastern Telegraph Company announce a final dividend of 2½ per cent., making 10 per cent. for 1923. The Eastern Extension Telegraph Company announce a final dividend of five shillings.—Reuter.

CHINA'S NATIONAL AND CONSOLIDATED LOAN SERVICES

The following statement for the year 1924 of China's national and consolidated loan services is published in the Chinese Economic Bulletin:—

Name of Loan	Amount of Principal Issued	Drawn for redemption	Outstanding on Jan. 1, 1924	Interest Per Cent	Borrowing Date	Remption Begins	Remption Ends	Date of Payment of Principal	Date of Payment of Interest	Amount Payable in 1924 Principal	Amount Payable in 1924 Interest
A. NATIONAL LOAN SERVICE.	$	$	$							$	$
3rd Year Loan ...	24,926,110.00	16,467,105.00	8,459,005.00	6	1914	1918	1925	31/12	30/6 & 31/12	(A). 5,473,470.00	(A.) 425,438.00
11th Year Loan ...	10,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	8,000,000.00	8	1922	1923	1927	31/5 & 30/11	31/5 & 30/11	2,000,000.00	600,000.00
Total ...	34,926,110.00	18,467,105.00	16,459,005.00							7,473,470.00	1,025,438.00
B. CONSOLIDATED LOAN SERVICE.											
8% Military Loan ...	7,371,150.00	*5,600,000.00	1,771,150.00	8	1912	1921	1924	2/8	2/2 & 2/8	850,000.00	141,692.00
(C.) 6% Consolidated Loan	54,392,228.00	5,439,222.60	48,953,606.00	6	1921	1921	1930	1/12	1/6 & 1/12	2,719,611.00	2,937,180.00
5th Year Loan ...	20,000,000.00	†1,242,410.00	18,757,590.00	6	1916	1926	1928	31/3 & 30/9	31/3 & 30/9	nil.	1,125,455.00
7th Year L. T. Loan	45,000,000.00	nil.	45,000,000.00	6	1918	1928	1937	30/6 & 31/12	30/6 & 31/12	nil.	2,700,000.00
§7% Consolidated Loan	13,600,000.00	1,360,000.00	12,240,000.00	7	1921	1921	1930	31/8	28/2 & 31/8	680,000.00	856,800.00
9th Year Loan ...	60,000,000.00	24,014,100.00	35,985,900.00	6	1921	1921	1926	31/3 & 30/9	31/3 & 30/9	(A.) 10,000,000.00	(A.) 2,009,154.00
Total ...	200,363,378.00	37,655,732.00	162,707,646.00							14,249,611.00	9,770,281.00

DRAWINGS OF CONSOLIDATED LOANS IN ARREARS ON JANUARY 1, 1924.

8% Military Loan:	6th Draw, due	August 2, 1923.	$ 850,000
7% Consolidated Loan:	3rd ,, ,,	,, 31, ,,	680,000
9th Year Loan:	6th ,,	,, Sept. 30, ,,	5,000,000
6% Consolidated Loan:	3rd ,,	,, Dec. 1, ,,	2,719,611
		Total in arrears	9,249,611

(A.)—Approximate.
(C.)—Converted First Loan.
§ Converted 8th Year Loan.
†$4,000,000 redeemed previous to Consolidation of Loans.
*$1,242,410 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

COMPANY MEETINGS

THE KROEWOEK JAVA PLANTATIONS

Annual Meeting

The 14th annual general meeting of the Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ld. was held last Friday afternoon at the offices of the secretaries and general managers (Messrs. J. A. Wattie & Co. Ld.). Mr. A. J. Welch presided, supported by Messrs. W. W. Cox, R. G. MacDonald and H. M. Tibbey (directors), and Mr. C. J. L. Stewart, secretary, the attendance representing 6,763 shares.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen,—Before proceeding with the formal business of this meeting, I wish to express, on behalf of the Board, our sorrow at the great loss we have sustained through the death of Mr. J. H. McMichael who died on January 28, 1924.

Mr. McMichael was one of the original directors of this company, always took the keenest interest in its affairs and the benefit of his experience and advice will be greatly missed by those of us who remain. I am sure you will join with me in heartfelt sympathy with his relatives in their sad bereavement.

The report and accounts having been in your hands for the prescribed period, I propose, with your permission, to follow the usual custom and take them as read.

THE COFFEE CROP.

You will have noticed from the report that the areas under rubber and coffee respectively are somewhat different from those shown last year. In the first place the shade from the rubber trees has now become so dense that the coffee on the bushes that were interplanted amongst the Hevea could no longer ripen and consequently the bushes have all been removed and the timber will be used for firewood. Secondly, it was decided to cut out the Hevea on certain small areas of very steep and wind swept slopes on the higher portion of the estate where the trees were making no progress and to replant the areas, which are some 11¼ acres in extent, with coffee for which the soil and altitude are suitable. This work was all completed before the end of the year.

At the end of the year 1,540 acres of the area under rubber were in tapping and 113 acres were immature; this latter area consists of numerous small patches which were planted in 1915 and 1919.

As you are already aware this company, in common with the vast majority of British owned estates in Java, has agreed to restrict its output voluntarily on the same lines as pertain in the Straits and Ceylon. In conformity with this policy, we harvested 583,881 lb. during the year, but, had there been no restriction, we could easily have harvested 700,000 lb. without straining our trees in anyway.

Tapping on this estate has always been of the very highest order and the bark renewal and reserves are excellent.

No signs of any fresh diseases have appeared and apart from sporadic appearances of stripey canker and brown bast, which are promptly and efficiently dealt with, the estate is practically free from disease.

As regards coffee, the bushes interplanted amongst the Hevea have been entirely cut out and from now onwards the crops will be obtained from the permanent coffee area, the outturn from which should tend steadily to increase as the areas that are still immature come into bearing.

Labour has been more than sufficient throughout the year so it has been possible to demand a very high standard of work from the tappers and only to retain the most expert.

PRODUCTION COSTS.

In spite of the heavy restriction of the output of rubber, it is satisfactory to note that our cost of production, at 5½ pence per lb. again shows a large reduction as compared with the previous year. I don't think, however, that we can look for much further reduction, if any, until such time as we are permitted to increase our output and thus reduce the cost per lb. of our overhead expenses.

If you will now turn to the accounts, you will see that the Dutch company made a profit for the year of Guilders 177,110.32 or say roughly Tls. 88,000 and the Shanghai company made Tls. 11,350.95 so that the combined profits amounted to practically Tls. 100,000 or Tls. 1.80 per share.

Capital expenditure was negligible and the accounts are so straightforward that I can find no items that require special explanation.

The undivided profits are sufficient to have allowed of a considerably larger final dividend being paid, than the one tael per share recommended, but, although the price of rubber is now almost double what it was before restriction was enforced, the rubber plantation industry is not yet out of the wood and it is impossible to tell what the trend of prices will be for the next year or two, so your Directors considered that it was wisest to recommend a moderate dividend, thus consolidating the company's finances and putting it in a position to meet any eventualities that may arise.

If you agree to the directors' proposals the two companies combined will start the new year with their liquid assets exceeding cash liabilities by over Tls. 62,500 or in other words, the reserve of Tls 50,000 and the premium on shares account, Tls. 9,380 appearing in the balance sheet of the Shanghai company are more than covered by the combined surplus of liquid assets.

LIFE OF A RUBBER TREE.

As regards the appropriation of Guilders 40,000 to reserve account out of the profits of the Dutch company, I have, on more than one occasion in the past, pointed out that a rubber tree is a wasting asset, the duration of its commercial life depending to a large degree upon the treatment it receives.

Up to the present, it has not been possible to determine what the average period of productivity is, but it is certain that trees cannot go on living and yielding latex for ever. The trees on Kroewoek have never had anything but the very best treatment so that their useful life should be considerably longer than that of trees on many other estates, but even they must cease to be productive sooner or later and the present appears to your directors to be an opportune moment to start accumulating a reserve against the day when it will become necessary to replant our rubber areas.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I must say that it is only through the unceasing efforts of our manager, Mr. Westendorp, and of our Sourabaya agents that we find ourselves in this very satisfactory position after the times of stress that we have been through so recently and I am sure that you will join with me in voicing our heartiest thanks to these gentlemen for the very able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Estate.

There were no questions, and the following resolutions were formally carried:

That the directors' report and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1923, as presented be passed. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. W. W. Cox.

That a final dividend of Tls. 1 per share, making Tls. 1.50 per share for the year, be paid. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. H. M. Tibbey.

That Mr. W. W. Cox be re-elected a director of the company. Proposed by Mr. A. K. Craddock, seconded by Mr. R. G. MacDonald.

That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews be elected auditors to the company for the ensuing year. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. W. W. Cox.

THE SHANGHAI TUG & LIGHTER CO.

Shareholders' Annual Meeting

The twentyfirst annual general meeting of shareholders in the Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld., was held at the offices of the agents, Messrs. Wheelock & Co., on Monday. Mr. J. Prentice, the Chairman, presided and there were also present Messrs. H. M. Tibbey, J. H. Dollar, H. W. Lester, W. J. N. Dyer (directors), T. W. Mitchell (secretary), B. Firth, H. J. Clark, W. R. McBain, W. Wakeford Cox, H. B. Ollerdessen, J. H. Teesdale, W. G. Pirie and S. A. Sleap, the total of shares represented being 6,239. The secretary read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman—The report and accounts for the year ended December 31, 1923, having been in your hands for some time, with your permission we will take them as read.

The result of the year's working, although not as good as that of the previous year, we consider has been very satisfactory and feel certain you will agree with us. The amount available for distribution, after the payment on August 9 last of an interim dividend of 3½ per cent. on the preference shares and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, is Tls. 138,423.59, which we recommand be dealt with as follows:—

	Tls.
Pay a final dividend of 3½ per cent. on preference shares	17,500.00
Pay a final dividend of Tls. 4.50 per share on ordinary shares	90,000.00
Add to general reserve	7,348.28
Carry forward	23,575.31
	138,425.59

You will have seen by the profit and loss account that Tls. 30,000 have been written off for depreciation. Repairs, etc., to the fleet have been charged as usual to working account. Your directors wish to record their appreciation of the services of the foreign staff and the Chinese office staff during the year and later a resolution for the payment of a bonus to them will be proposed.

According to the Articles of Association, Messrs. H. W. Lester and H. M. Tibbey retire, and offer themselves for re-election. The auditors, Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews, retire and offer themselves for re-election.

No questions were asked and the formal resolutions were carried unanimously.

Mr. H. W. Lester—I wish to propose that a bonus of 20 per cent. be given to the staff. Messrs. Wheelock & Co. inform your directors that the staff have worked well and are fully deserving of this bonus, whilst you have heard the Chairman state that he considers the report and accounts very satisfactory, so I hope that you will pass this resolution.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Tibbey and carried unanimously. Mr. W. J. N. Dyer returned thanks on behalf of the staff.

The Chairman announced that dividend warrants would be posted that evening.

SHANGHAI-SUMATRA TOBACCO CO., LD.

Good Prospects for Selling 1923 Crop: Annual Meeting

The 22nd annual meeting of the Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ld., was held on Tuesday at the offices of the general agents, Messrs. George McBain. Mr. R. S. F. McBain presided and was supported by Messrs. John Prentice, A. W. Burkill, W. R. McBain and J. Elmore.

The notice convening the meeting having been read the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some time past I will, with your permission, take them as read. I will however read you the auditors' report:—

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. The balance sheet, which is in accordance with the books, accounts and vouchers of the Company in Shanghai and the signed statements received from the Estate is, in our opinion, properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information, and the explanations given us, and as shown by the books.

Lowe, Bingham & Matthews,
Chartered Accountants.

I am sorry that the year's working again shows a loss amounting to Tls. 23,016.14, and together with the amount brought forward from last year the general profit and loss account shows a debit of Tls. 253,018.33 to be carried forward to a new account. Our 1922 crop of tobacco gave very disappointing results in spite of the fact that it was reported by our manager to be of very good quality. Your directors have been very anxious about the position and caused careful inquiries to be made in Sumatra and Amsterdam. Our manager, Mr. Cochrane, was on leave during part of last year and took the opportunity to visit Amsterdam and to attend some of the sales. He was thus enabled to get in closer touch with the market, and to find out the buyers' latest ideas of what is required in the various markets. His visit will, I feel sure, be of much practical value to us.

We were able to make arrangements with Mr. W. Percy Pinckney—a retired planter with many years experience in Sumatra as manager of different estates—to take his place during his absence, and our best thanks are due to Mr. Pinckney for placing his great experience at our disposal. He has put in a great deal of very hard work for us and his high ability and great enthusiasm have, I feel sure, been of great value and encouragement to the assistants on the estate. To us his great value is apparent as the sandleaf which he has produced has already been reported on from Amsterdam as "fine," and it is I am inclined to believe through his efforts that this success has been attained. I think that the estate will benefit considerably from the work done and the advice given by Mr. Pinckney and we shall convey to him this appreciation of his efforts on our behalf.

He strongly recommended that we should become members of the Planters' Society and we therefore approached the Deli-Maatschappij about the matter, and they offered to give us all possible assistance if we decided to join. Eventually your directors decided to apply for membership on the terms indicated by the Deli-Maatschappij, which made it possible for us to make the changes with regard to labour that were necessary in order to comply with the conditions of membership of the Society.

1923 CROP PROSPECTS.

We have also arranged with the Deli-Maatschappij to inspect our tobacco estate regularly and give us the benefit of their advice. The inspection will be made by one of their inspectors and I think I can safely say that we shall have the benefit of a very valuable opinion, and I have every hope that we shall derive great benefit therefrom. In return for this they will receive 5 per cent. of the net profits, but there will be no fees charged in the event of the estate not yielding a profit. I do not want you to think that we have lost confidence in our manager by doing this, and I would therefore explain that in companies like the Deli-Maatschappij and Deli-Batavia, etc., many good managers are working with advantage under the inspection of men of longer experience and undoubted ability in tobacco production.

I am glad to be able to inform you that there are very good prospects of selling our total 1923 crop at a very good profit. In fact a telegram was despatched last night which will probably close the deal, and I hope therefore that we shall be in a position to give you the details in a day or two. This will go a long way towards wiping out our indebtedness and we shall thus be placed in a good financial position, a situation which you will welcome as much as your directors do. After these sales there will only be a few hundred bales of common stuff to sell.

There are these indications that the market for tobacco in Amsterdam will be good this year, and Germany is reported to be buying again, but on the whole we do not think that we are in a position to take any risks and we feel sure that it will be your wish that we should not do so.

SATISFACTORY RUBBER POSITION

The rubber estate working account shows a profit of Tls. 89,581.77, and I think this may be regarded as quite satisfactory. Our manager is to be congratulated on having improved conditions on the estate considerably during the year and he now expects to be able to produce rubber at a slightly lower figure than he estimated last year. His estimate is 680,000 lb. at 1/1 G.O.35½ at the estate.

OIL.

I am sorry that I have no further information to give you with regard to oil, but the position in Sumatra for the production of oil generally has improved during the year. The B.P.M. have given us no indication that they are likely to do any work on our concessions in the near future, and I think you would be wise not to count too much on any results in this direction.

The health throughout the year on both estates has been good, although an epidemic of malaria was experienced. This was dealt with quite successfully, and only lasted about two or three weeks, and the effect on the working of the estate was almost negligible.

The formal resolutions were then duly passed.

CLUB AND SOCIETIES

CHINESE Y. M. C. A.'s ACTIVITIES

The Annual Meeting: An Ever Widening Field: Bigger Accommodation Needed

The annual meeting of the Shanghai Y.M.C.A. took place in the directors' room of the building on Szechuen Road on the 4th instant. A large number of members were present to hear the reports and elect directors in accordance with constitutional requirements.

Mr. Anson T. Wong was elected as temporary chairman and Mr. A. T. Y. Chow as secretary. Reports were given showing the progress of the work for the past year. At no time have the educational, physical, social and religious features of the "Y" programme been more largely used than during the past year. The membership at the present time stands at 4,117, of which 2,728 are men and the remainder belonging to the boys' division. This includes representatives of all provinces.

The staff include 27 secretaries and 44 teachers. During the past year Mr. C. G. Hoh has served as General Secretary in the absence of Mr. S. K. Tsao who, for health reasons, has been absent from Shanghai.

SHANGHAI'S 15,000 STUDENTS.

The student department with a staff of five secretaries carries on its work almost entirely outside the building among the 15,000 students of middle schools and colleges of Shanghai which, while not usually considered as an educational centre, has as many students in schools of higher learning as any city in China with the possible exception of Peking. The Association assists to stimulate voluntary student activities in 25 middle schools and colleges with a total of 9,980 students. It also is working in nine higher primary schools where some such activities as the Association promotes seem much needed. The student bureau assisted 300 students, including the Tsinghua party, in their arrangements to go abroad.

The industrial department is experimenting with an educational programme in four industrial concerns in Shanghai, seeking in cooperation with

(Continued on Page 414.)

The following telegraphic advices have been received :—
Singapore, March 12, 1924.

Spot or March	42⅜ cents
Apr./June	43¼ ,,
July/Sept.	44½ ,,

DEBENTURES.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
S'hai Municipal Council	1903 6 to 20	26-9-22	T98½	*b* T490,500	6	June-Dec.
	1904 do.	11-1-23	T98½	*c* 214,500	6	do.
	1905 do.	12-5-22	T96½	*d* 320,000	6	do.
	1907 do.	24-4-22	T94	500,000	6	do.
	1908 do.	11-3-24	T99	650,000	6	do.
	1909 do.	15-3-23	T99	300,000	6	do.
	1910 do.	11-5-23	T99	313,800	6	do.
	1911 10 to 30	8-1-23	T95	350,000	6	do.
	1912 do.	3-1-24	T99	340,000	6	do.
	1913 do.	3-5-23	T100	756,300	6	do.
	,, 10 to 50	8-5-22	T78	500,000	5½	do.
	1914 10 to 30	8-1-23	T91	900,000	5½	do.
	1915 do.	11-3-24	T91	800,000	5½	do.
	1916 do.	4-12-23	T99½	1,400,000	6	do.
	1918 10	18-10-23	T103	507,300	7	do.
	1919 10	4-12-23	T104	1,793,300	7	do.
	1920 10	1-2-24	T105	2,240,000	7	do.
	,, 10 to 30	20-2-24	£105½	£750,000	6	do.
	1921 do.	18-2-24	$110	$1,000,000	8	do.
	1921 do.	1-2-24	T111½	T5,096,400	8	do.
	1922 do.	12-3-24	T105	T8,000,000	7	do.
	1923 do.	13-3-24	T99	*a*T6,000,000	6	do.
French Municipal Council	1911 do.	8-10-23	T98	400,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914 do.	12-2-23	T88	500,000	5½	June-Dec.
	1915 do.	5-3-24	T90	350,000	5½	do.
	1921 do.	20-11-23	T108½	2,000,000	8	do.
	1923 do.	17-12-23	T95	*a* T300,000	6	May-Nov.
S'hai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	1921 10 to 30	2-10-23	T112	2,000,000	8	June-Dec.
	1922 do.	6-6-22	T108	T500,000	8	do.
S'hai Gas Co. Ltd.	1922 do.	2-10-23	T105	T1,000,000	7	do.
	1908 do.	29-11-23	T94	*e* 800,000	6	do.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.	1905 5 to 20	31-8-22	T96½	T250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1909 do.	27-3-23	T98	750,000	6	do.
	1911 do.	26-9-22	T92	250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	,, do.	27-3-23	T98	250,000	6	May-Nov.
	,, do.			250, 00	6	Jan-July
	1912 do.	3-4-23	T98	250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1913 do.	3-4-23	T98	250,000	6	April-Oct.
	,, do.	11-1-24	T93	250,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914 do.	22-3-23	T98	250 000	6	April-Oct.
	1916 5 to 25	21-8-22	T90	*f* 500,000	5½	June-Dec.
	1922 do.	12-2-23	T95	750,000	6	do.
	1922 do.	10-1-24	T98	500,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
Shanghai Club	1907 20	1-2-24	T93	450,000	6	May-Nov.
Country Club	1901 Perpetual			130,000	6	do.
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd.	1914 5 to 20			130,000	6	do.
	1915 do.			110,000	6	June-Dec.
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ltd.	1906 do.			250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	1911 do.	7-6-23	T98	300,000	6	June-Dec.
						do.
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd.	1923 10 to 20	27-2-23	T95½	*h* 270,000	6	do.
S'hai Race Club	1923 25	11-3-24	T100	1,200,000	6½	May-Sept.
Culty Dairy Co., Ltd.	1915 10			50,000	7	Feb.-Aug.
Hall & Holtz Ltd.	1914 5 to 20	14-10-22	$92	*i* 230,000	7	Jan.-July
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	1922 5 to 20	..	..	T500,000	7	Jan.-July

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment.

a—Now Issuing; Redeemed or Unissued:—*b*—Tls.65,100; *c*—Tls.51,100; *d*—Tls.34,100; *e*—Tls.68,500; *f*—Tls.262,400; *g*—Tls.189,800; *h*—Tls.12,300; *i*—$18,90

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	1924: Jan.	1924: Feb.	Total output this fin.yr. to date
			lb.	b.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	b.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	8.37d.	..	22,000	21,000	25,000	22,000	18,000	168,000
Amherst (Now)	,, 500,000	Oct.	72,442	80,692	90,751	*4.89d.	..	..	9,784	9,236	8,214	8,475	35,709
Anglo-Dutch	£200,000	Dec.	650,000	535,100	600,000	0/6.92d.	..	..	..	..	64,000	50,000	114,000
Anglo-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,524,711	183,000	1,550,000	6.95d.	..	..	..	..	184,000	164,100	348,100
Ayer Tawah	Tls. 300,000	Sept.	369,447	68,042	360,000	†0.24.41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Batu Anam	,, 400,000	Dec.	258,510	162,742	185,793	0/7.34d.	..	..	..	..	12,500	11,500	24,000
Bukit Toh Alang	,, 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,645	345,000	7.54d.	139,189	30,893	26,000	26,600	25,500	No.	248,182
Bute	,, 300,000	Dec.	230,067	171,350	159,516	10.11d.	..	..	..	..	17,500	16,600	34,100
Chemor United	,, 360,000	Dec.	340,794	246,412	246,192	0/7.15d.	..	..	..	..	27,200	23,300	50,500
Chempedak	£35,000	Oct.	147,730	163,063	..	1/5.22d.	..	..	14,000	16,700	14,000	4,400	49,100
Cheng	Tls. 675,000	June	151,923	145,338	..	11.09d.	52,730	18,010	15,574	15,700	10,500	9,700	122,214
Consolidated (1914)	,, 375,000	Dec.	669,899	625,638	574,680	0/6.58d.	..	..	..	..	53,000	56,779	104,779
Dominion	,, 350,000	Dec.	271,150	323,140	306,867	11.04d.	..	..	..	..	28,052	27,634	55,686
Gula-Kalumpong	£500,000	Dec.	1,113,000	938,000	1,215,000	1/0.7d.	..	..	..	..	88,000	78,000	166,000
Java Consolidated	£35,000	Dec.	675,800	620,400	..	7.03d.	..	..	..	..	68,300	60,900	129,200
Kapayang	,, 150,000	Dec.	189,239	146,710	..	†26.90	..	..	..	..	10,692	8,316	18,907
Karan	,, 250,000	Mar.	114,879	104,783	84,000	8½d.	41,012	6,623	5,574	6,858	8,146	6,448	74,661
Kota Bahroe (1921)	,, 300,000	June	138,330	339,970	..	..	78,957	24,885	27,143	29,933	29,156	26,949	216,923
Kroewoek	,, 470,000	Dec.	449,000	583,331	540,000	0/7.24d.	..	..	..	..	59,000	55,000	114,000
Langkat	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	842,589	943,000	975,000	Glds.0.28	..	..	86,300	92,500	92,500	71,500	343,300
Padang	Tls. 600,000	April	209,711	220,232	..	10½d.	66,300	17,200	17,000	20,000	19,700	11,100	151,300
Pencalan (1921)	,, 150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,253	176,088	†40.19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Permata	,, 250,000	Oct.	98,303	86,299	..	0/8½d.	..	..	9,012	8,573	8,080	..	25,665
Repah	,, 275,000	Dec.	68,584	217,185	£40,000	1/3½	..	..	..	..	17,400	8,700	26,100
Samagaga	,, 600,000	Sept.	361,316	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
See Kee (1918)	,, 100,000	June	179,665	142,005	115,183	11.37d.	97,613	..	10,896	12,000	8,500	11,000	140,009
Semambu	,, 300,000	Dec.	161,103	245,590	158,264	0/9.37d.	..	..	..	..	13,100	13,400	26,800
Senawang (1921)	,, 375,000	Jan.	272,500	275,100	..	*17.35d.	..	..	..	..	..	14,500	14,500
Shanchui Kedah	,, 400,000	Sept.	313,414	246,542	..	8.12d.	..	22,827	21,118	23,680	24,196	17,259	109,380
S'hai-Klebang	,, 315,000	Dec.	126,108	109,015	..	0/0.35d.	..	..	..	..	8,700	8,000	16,700
S'hai-Malay	,, 600,000	Dec.	373,111	289,156	392,000	..	..	..	..	..	22,732	21,424	44,256
S'hai Pahang	,, 200,000	June	209,881	188,016	..	9½d.	52,721	20,430	15,618	12,204	16,432	14,475	131,880
S'hai Seremban	,, 325,000	Dec.	173,213	147,031	..	0/8.67d.	..	..	..	..	14,100	13,600	27,700
S'hai-Sumatra	,, 600,000	Oct.	661,339	679,710	650,000	Glds.0.38	..	..	50,239	61,102	61,110	51,170	223,621
Sua-Manggis	,, 100,000	Dec.	114,880	27,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sungala	,, £10,000	Mar.	30,279	165,757	..	†7.20	6,126	..	..	7,884	8,892	..	22,902
Sungei Duri	Tls. 200,000	Dec.	308,073	236,568	229,000	11.61d.	64,560	23,302	18,774	19,773	23,698	22,272	170,379
Taiping (1913)	,, 750,000	Mar.	107,911	103,689	99,000	**30	..	..	..	..	8,184	..	8,184
Tanah Merah	,, 750,000	Jan.	415,000	395,900	..	7.92d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,800	21,900	22,200	279,000
Tebong	£150,000	Dec.	630,838	723,000	717,725	0/7.66d.	..	..	..	..	..	64,000	64,000
Ziangbe	£150,000	Dec.	514,566	523,600	600,000	7.24d.	..	..	..	..	67,500	58,200	125,700

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses

† Straits $ cents.

Company	Class	Par	Paid	Amount	Shares	Dividend	Rate	Period	Remarks	Date
See Kee Rubber Estates (1918), Ld.	T	1			100,000	T1		Sept.		
Semambu Rubber Ests., Ld.	T	1.37½			300,000	T1		Dec.		
Senawang Rubber Ests. (ord. Co. (1921), Ld. (12% Cum. Pref.	T	1.05			300,000	T1		Dec.	(T0.10, 1922 (Interim T0.05, 1923	20-4-2 30-10-23
Shanghai Kedah Plantations, Ld.	T	1.10			100,000	T1		Jan.		
S'hai Klebang Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	0.60			490,000	T1				
S'ha Malay Rubber Estates, Ld. .. ord.	T	4½			315,000	T1		Sept.	T0.05, 1919	
,, 8% cum. part. pref.	T	9			36,000	T10		Dec.	Ord. T0.60 for 9 months ended 31/12/16	24-2-20
					22 ,000	T10		Dec.	Pref. T0.40, for 6 months ended 31/12/22	2-3-17 31-10-23
S'hai Pahang Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	1			200,000	T1				
S'hai Seremban Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	0.80			325,000	T1		(Loss)	T1,213	June	Final T0.09 (mkg. T0.10, 1916-17)	
S'hai-Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ld.	T	90			30,000	T20		(Loss)	T247	Dec.	T0.04 for 10 months, ended 31/12/22	12-10-17
Sua Manggis Rubber Co., Ld.	T	3½			56,000	T5		(Loss)	253,810			31-3-17
Sungala Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	1½			100,000	T1			T812,170	Oct.	T2, 1918-19	1-4-20
Sungei Duri Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	7½			40,000	£1 at T8.50			T6,054 T25,000	Dec.	T0.25, 1919	20-4-20
Taiping Rubber Estates (1913), Ld.	T	0.70			200,000	T1			T4,625 T10,000	Mar.	T0.10, 1916-17	
Tanah Merah Estates (1916), Ld.	T	0.65			750,000	T1			T22,766	June	T0.53, 1922-23	12-7-17
					32)			(Loss)	T5,801	Dec.	T0.03, 1919	12-10-23
Tebong Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	1.22½			750,000	T1			T31,851			20-5-20
Ziangbe Rubber Co., Ld.		3½			54)				T5,737	Mar.	Interim T0.05 1916-17 (Final, Nil)	
					6)	10s.		(Loss)	T13,874	Jan.		7-12-17
									T38,757			
									T5,239	Dec.	T0.50, 1919	28-4-20
COTTONS, ETC.												
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. (ord.	T	11.95			15)	T5			T3,257			
,, (8% cum. pref.	T	105	106		43)	T100			T1,400,000		Ord. T0.55, 1923	
									T2,862,920	Dec.	Pref. T8, 1923	5-3-24
Laou Kung Mow C. S. & W. Co., Ld.	T	10			80,000	T10		(Loss)	T56,057 T120,000			5-3-24
Oriental C. S. & W. Co., Ld. .. .. ord.	T	5			60)	T3			T7,612			
,, pref.	T				3)	T100		(Loss)	T98,590	Dec.	Final T2, (mkg. T4, 1921)	
									T200,000 T2,551,760			8-3 22
Shanghai Cotton Mfg. Co., Ld. (Shanghai Boshoku K.K.)	T	65 old 40 new			80,000	T50				Dec.	Final T0.50 (mkg. T1.50, 1921)	
					40,000	T50			T50,375			26-3-22
INDUSTRIAL.									T1,270,000	June	T3.50 1922-23	24-8-23
British-American Tobacco Co., Ld. (ord:	£		35 3/16	£5 2/32	66)	£1						
,, (5% cum. pref.					4,500,000	£1			£3,531,846	Sept.	Final Ord. 1922-23, 9% (mkg. 25%) free of I/T	
China Im. & Ex. Lumber Co., Ld.	T	350			5,000	T100			£2,251,649			11-1-24
									T161,833		T8, 1922-23	
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.	H $	276		274	20,000	H$100			T300,000 T2,100,000	Feb.		31-5-23
Green Island Cement Co., Ld.	H $	35½			400,000	H$7.50			H $2,702 H $470,000		H$10, 1922	
									H $879,752	Dec.	Final H$1.50 (mkg. H$2, 1922)	27-3-23
Maatschappij, &c., In Langkat	T	12	(comb. T33)	(comb. T34½)	200,000	Gs.10			H $98,634		Interim H $0.50 a/c., 1923	24-2-23
									H $1,000,000	Dec.	T0.50, 1918-19	18-9-23
								(Loss)	T220,591	Oct.		30-3-23
Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ld.	T	7½			250,000	T5			T103,438			
									T35,698			
S'hai Exploration & Development Co., Ld.	T	13½			250,000	T5			T300,000	Dec.	T0.50, 1923	
Major Brothers, Ld.	T	5								Dec.		5-3-24
					10)	T20		(Loss)	T12,341	Dec.		
John Richards & Co., Ld.	T	10			6,000				T9,016			
					11)	T10			T70,000	Dec	10%, 1921	
Shanghai Gas Co., Ld.	T	45			25,000				T3,130 T30,000			24-6-22
					‡)	T50			T23,791	Dec.	T3.50, 1922	
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.	T	140			24,000				T30,000			13-4-23
					‡9)	£20			T666,891			
					50,000				T29,395	Dec.	(Final 1922, 20s. at Exchg., 3/2½	
STORES.									T75,000		(Interim 1923, 10s. at Exchg., 3/0½	6-4-23
									T1,680,295			31-7-23
Gordon & Co., Ltd.	T	25			37)	T25			T19,695		Div. T2.50 & Bonus T0.02½	
									T150,015		1922-23	5-7-23
Hall & Holtz, Ld.	$	6.90			‡16)	$20			$116,937	Feb.	$2, 1917-18	
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ld.	$	30			1,200	$60			$10,697	Dec.	$6, 1922	1-5-18
S. Moutrie & Co., Ld.	$	50			17)	$50			$26,000			12-5-23
Weeks & Co., Ld.	$	11	6		‡50)	$20			$20,282 $323,195	Mar.	(Final $2 & Bonus $4 (mkg. $9, 1922-23) (Int. 6%, 1923-24	2-6-23
									$37,633	Feb.	$1.60, 1922-22	30-11-23
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ld.	$	102	104		‡)	$100			$210,000			21-5-22
					2,500				$5,539			
MISCELLANEOUS.									$20,000 $250 000		$3, 1922-23	24-5-23
Culty Dairy Co., Ld.	T	13		12	10,000	T10		(Loss)	T26,956	Oct.	T0.60, 1921-22	
									T119,293			30-12-22
S'hai Electric Construction Co., Ld., "B"	T	17							£17,022			
London	£1		£2:14:9		40,000	£1				Dec.	(1st Int. 1923, 12s./- (Coupon 23)	
									£114,315		(2nd Int. 1923, 12s./- (Coupno 24) both less I/T at 4/7½ is £	1-10 23
S'hai Horse Bazaar & Motor Co., Ld.	T	50			5,400	T50			T18,548	Dec.	'15, 1922	1-2-24
Shanghai Mercury, Ld.	T	25			3 000	T50			T215,257	Apr.	T1 50 1913-14	20-4-23
Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. Ld.	T	73	72½		‡49)	40,000	T50		T10,285	Mar.	T4.50, 1922-23	31-3-15
									T79,000			31-5-23
Oriental Press (L'Imprimerie Française)	$	100			940	$100			T920,016 $109,513	Mar.	$10, 1922-23	
									$3,000 $21,101			5-7-23

For all Dollar shares quoted on the Shanghai Stock Exchange the Exchange rate is fixed at 73.

REFERENCES.

a Carried forward at last Ann. Genl. Meeting.
b Dividend Equalization Reserve.
c General and Other Reserves.
d Uncalled liability £5 per sh.
e ,, ,, £10 ,,
f ,, ,, H $250 ,,
g ,, ,, H $200 ,,
h ,, ,, H $ 83 ,,
i ,, ,, Tls. 25 ,,
v Working Account 1922
w Working Account 1921
x Working Account 1920
y Working Account 1919
z Working Account 1919 and former years.
† Registered; or Bearer (idem, "B").
** Issued Capital: 7% Cum. Pref. 24,451 shares; Ordinary, 16,270 shares.

‡ Debentures Issues also.
‡§ Subject to Estate Managers' Commissions
* Subject to E. P. D. and Corpn. Tax.
• Contingent liability for Interest on 12% Cum. Prof. Shares of Tls. 5,089

1—14,000 sh' unis'd.
2—70,411 ,,
3— 5,000 ,,
4— 4,000 ,,
5—19,182 ,,
6—50,000 ,,
7—10,781 ,,
8—10,000 ,,
9—16,470 sh. unis'd;
10—500 ,,
11—15,200 ,,
12—50,000 ,,
13—1,387 ,,
14—3,063 ,,
15—100,000 ,,
16—1,692 ,,
17—3,852 ,,
18—5,580 ,,
19—184,683 ,,
20—15,000 ,,
21—100,000 ,,
22—10,000 ,,
23—5,000 ,,
24—70,810 ,,
25—125,000 ,,
26—60,000 sh' unis'd
27—8,123 ,,
28—100,000 ,,
29—4,683 ,,
30—2,000 ,,
31—4,000 ,,
32—50,000 ,,
33—625,000 ,,
(Issue of 375,000 shs. pending)
34—102,570 shs. unis'd.
35—200 ,,
36—180 000 ,,
37—1,442 ,,
38—7,695 ,,
42—290,000 ,,
43—1,500 ,,
47—500 sh. unis'd.
48—100,000 ,,
49—5,644 ,,
50—6,178 ,,
54—40,000 ,,
55—88,000 ,,
56—10,824,826 ,,
57—5,000,000 ,,
60—16,000 ,,
61—240,000 ,,
62—401,055 ,,
63—15,000 ,,
64—600,000 ,,
65—200,000 ,,
66—1,953,950 ,,
67—66,500 ,,
(Not to be issued for less than 950 ea.)

In order to ensure accuracy of the above details, Agents and Secretaries of Companies are requested to notify Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of any alterations, errors or omissions.

COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

The Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Issue of Tls. 800,000 6% Debentures 1924.—Tls. 450,000 of the above are being issued at Tls. 98. Interest payable semi-annually on June 30 and December 31. Application forms and further particulars may be obtained at the office of A. R. Burkill & Sons, No. 2 Canton Road, Fourth Floor.

The Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of the board of directors held on 18th inst. it was decided to recommend (subject to audit) at the annual general meeting the payment of a final dividend of 6 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent. (making 15 per cent. for the year) for the half-year ending December 31, 1923.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 28 Jinkee Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, March 20, 1924, at 11.30 a.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 12 to 20, 1924, both days inclusive.

Naamlooze Vennootschap Maatschapij Tot Mijn-Bosch-En Landbouw Exploitatie In Langkat.—The Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 1 The Bund, Shanghai, Friday, March 28, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 21 to 28, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels, Ltd.—The Ordinary Yearly Meeting will be held at The Hongkong Hotel, Peddler Street, Hongkong, on Saturday, March 22, 1924, at 11.30 a.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 14 to 22, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of directors held on 6th inst. it was decided to recommend at the forthcoming annual general meeting, the payment of a dividend for 1923 of Tls. 4 per share, being at the rate of 8% on the paid-up capital.

The Anglo-Dutch Plantations, Ltd.—At a meeting of directors held on 6th inst. it was decided to recommend at the forthcoming annual general meeting to be held on March 31, that a dividend of 20 cents per share for the year 1923, be paid.

The 14th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, March 31, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 27 to 31, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.—The 18th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 2 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, April 2, 1924, at 4 p.m.

To pay a final dividend of Tls. 4½ per share (Making 8% for the year.)

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 24 to April 2, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Serembah Rubber Estates, Ltd.—The 9th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Friday, March 28, 1924, at 11.45 a.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 26 to 28, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Repah Rubber and Topioca Estates, Ltd.—The 11th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, March 24, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 20 to 24, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Major Brothers, Ltd.—The 34th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 2 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, March 24, 1924, noon.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 17 to 24, 1924, both days inclusive.

Share Report for Week Ending March 14, 1924.
No. 24/10

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use A1 Code
A.B.C. 4th, 5th and 6th Editions
B. Broomhall's Imperial Combination Code
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Members of Shanghai Stock Exchange;
Land, Estate & Insurance Agents.
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building,
12 The Bund.
Post Office Box No. 244, Shanghai.

The greater part of business transacted on the local Stock Exchange during the past week has been for March Settlements. The tone of the market is dull. With the fall in the price of the raw material Rubber shares have further weakened and few transactions are being recorded, sellers being unwilling to part with shares at present low prices. Cottons are easier with little business passing.

London market quotations for stocks are a little easier, Bonds remaining firm, and the following are the latest prices cabled to us:—

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	$ 72. 10. 0	(Middle Price)
" " " " " " " F.I.	69. 10. 0	" ex B.R.I.S.
" " " " " " " R.I.	68. 10. 0	(Sellers) cum "
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. "B"	3. 6. 4½	(Middle Price)
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estate, Ltd.	1. 5. 0	"
Shanghai Electric Cons Co., "B"	2. 14. 0	(Sellers)
Shell Transport & Trading Co., "B"	4. 11. 3	(Buyers)
Hongkong & Shanghai Banks, London Reg.	130. 10. 0	(Sellers)
Imperial Tobacco of Great Britain (Ord)	3. 10. 3	(Buyers)
Singapore Electric Tramways, Ltd.	0. 2. 9½	(Middle Price)
Mexican Eagle (Ord)	0. 19. 0	"
Oriental Consolidated Mining Co.	0. 15. 3	(Buyers)

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to-day is 3/3.

Shanghai, March 14, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:—

MARCH		8th		10th		11th		12th		13th		14th	
		Cash	June	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	June	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar
RUBBERS													
Repah Rub. & T. Est., Ld.	Tls.	0.85	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanah Merah Rub. Est., Ld.	"	..	..	0.85	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anglo-Java Est., Ld.	"	..	..	..	6.05	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bukit Toh Alang R. E., Ld.	"	..	..	1.05	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS													
S'hai Loan & Invest. Co., Ld.	Tls.	..	7.30	..	..	..	33½	..	55	..	..	..	..
Langkats (combined)	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	186	..	187½	..	..	..
S. & H. Wharf. Co., Ld.	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Eng. & S. Wks. (Pref.)	"	..	..	..	..	..	4.95	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd.	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73	..	..	..	..
S'hai Exploration & D. Co., Ld.	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14½
COTTONS													
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. (Ord.)	Tls.	..	..	..	..	..	12.05	..	..	..	..	..	..
DEBENTURES													
S. M. C. 1922 7% Debs.	Tls.	..	..	..	..	..	105	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1923 6% "	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	99	..	99	..	..

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

March 26, Tuesday. April 29, Tuesday. May 27, Tuesday.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, MARCH 14, 1924.

STOCK		Last business done.	Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Authorized Value		Reserve, etc.	Finan. year ended	Last Dividend, etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.											
	London	£ 127½		130½							
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Cor.		$ 1100			61) 400,000	H $125	(a	H $3,350,212	Dec.	Final £3 & Bonus £2 (mkg. £8 1922) less I/T	23-3-24
							(c	H $65,123,831			
Chartered Bank of I., A. & C.	London £	19 3/16			600,000	£5	(a	£222,201	Dec.	Final 7s. & Bonus 6s. 3d. (mkg. £1 0s. 3d.)	
							(c	£3,800,000		free of I/T, 1922	5-4-24
INSURANCE.											
Union In. Society of Canton, Ld.	H $	240	235		50) 200,000	$ $4	(av	£437,386	Dec.	Final 16s. (mkg. 40s.) ex 1921 Work. a/c.,	
							(b	$59,500		Interim 24s. & Bonus to Contributors, 20%,	26-5-23
							(c	$3,574,051		ex 1922 Work a/c	
North-China Insurance Co., Ld.	T	138			10,000	$ £5	(av	T610,687	Dec.	Final 15s. (mkg. 30s.) ex 1921 Work a/c. and	
							(c	T4,782,385		Interim 15s. ex 1922 Works. a/c.	30-6-24
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ld.	$	27	26½		21) 250,000	$10	(av	$1,921,998			
							(aw	$2,406,636	Dec.	$2 (or T1.46) ex 1922 Work. a/c. payable in	
							(c	$4,063,242		Taels at Exchg. 73	30-6-24
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ld.	T	22			1) 50,000	T20	(av	T518,348			
							(aw	T204,093	Dec.	T1.20 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	30-6-24
							(c	T9,361			
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.	H $	725	715		10,000	f H $100	(av	H $2,172,376	Dec.	Final H $32 (mkg. H $40) ex 1921 Work. a/c.,	
							(c	H $5,070,527		and Interim H $8 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	11-5-23
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H $	560	550		8,000	g H $50	(av	H $331,693	Dec.	H $32 ex 1921 Working a/c.	28-3-23
							(c	H $3,876,272			
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H $	127	145		20,000	h H $20	(av	H $1,328,920	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/c.	26-5-23
							(c	H $5,523,650			
Assurance Franco-Asiatique	F	500			14,000	F500	(a	F101,368	Dec.	None, Floated 1918	
							(c	F3,784,330			
SHIPPING.											
Jaöc-China S.N. Co., Ld.	(6% cum. pref.	H $ 38	38½		2) 120,000	$5	(a	£2,167	Dec.	Pref. 6s. at Exchg.—$2/4 London Warrants	
	(def. ord.	H $ 140			2) 120,000	$5	(c	$2,103,182		less I/T a/c., 1922. Def. Ord. Nil	15-6-23
Shell T'sport & Trading Co., Ld.	('B' ord.	£	£4:11:3		56) 30,000,000	$1					
	(5% cum. pref.	£			28) 300,000	£10	(a*	£2,029,050	Dec.	Interim 2s., free of I/T, Coupon 42	5-1-24
	(7% cum. 2nd pref.	£			57) 10,000,000	$1	(c	£5,000,000			
S'hai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld.	ord.	T 85½			20,000	T25	(a	T23,575	Dec.	Final Ord. T4.50 (mkg. T7, 1923)	11-3-24
	(7% pref.	T 51½	51½		10,000	T50	(a	T410,000		Final Pref. T1.75 (mkg. T3.50, 1923)	11-3-24
DOCKS AND WHARVES.											
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld.	T	95	95½		47) 55,700	T75	(a	T102,535	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
							(c	T1,948,000			
Hongkong & W'pao Dock Co., Ld.	H $	168			‡ 60,000	H $50	(a	H $583,680	Dec.	Final H $5 & Bon. H $3 (mkg. H $12, 1922)	27-3-23
							(c	H $4,021,693		Interim 1923, H $4	29-10-23
New Eng. and Shipbuilding Works, Ld.	ord.	T 5½			42) 500,000	T5	(a	T59,500		Ord. T0.25, 1923	10-2-24
	(8% pref.	T 4.95	4.90	6	65) 500,000	T5	(b	T300,000	Dec.	Pref. T0.40, 1923	10-2-24
							(c	T1,311,045			
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ld.	T	187½			‡31) 40,000	T100	(a	T3,480			
							(b	T200,000	Dec.	Final T10 (mkg. T13, 1923)	4-3-24
							(c	T1,035,261			
H'kong & K'loon W. & G. Co., Ld.	H $	130		168	80,000	H $50	(a	H $290,819	Dec.	H. $6 & Bonus H. $3, 1923	26-2-24
							(b	H $300,000			
							(c	H $59,240			
MINING.											
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld.	£	12/-			24) 500,000	G $10			June	G $0.50, 1920-21	20-7-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Bearer).	T	21½			†64) 2,000,000	£1			June	Final 84% (Coupon No. 23) free of I/T,	
London	£		£3:4:9	£3:8:0			(a	£10,537		1922-1923	11-12-23
							(c	£252,000	Mar.	1s. 2d., 1909-10	21-5-10
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld.	H $	5.05			200,000	£1	(a	£23,613			
							(c	£4,873			
LANDS AND HOTELS.											
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld.	T	121	121		‡) 78,000	T50	(a	T25,559	Dec.	(Final T3 & Bonus T2 (mkg. T8, 1922)	23-3-23
							(b	T250,000		(Interim 1923, T3	26-7-23
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld.	H $	114		121	240,000	H $25	(c	T2,106,583	Dec.	Final H $1.50 & Bonus $2 on 200,000 shares	
(New Reg.)							(a	H $157,836		(mkg. H $5, 1923) H $2.50 on 40,000 new shs.	28-1-24
							(b	H $250,000			
Humphrey's Est. & Finance Co., Ld.	H $	24			150,000	H $10	(a	H $155,299	Dec.	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.80, 1923	9-2-24
							(b	H $50,000			
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld.	T	6			3,674	T20	(c	H $421,483	Dec.	T1.20, 1923	13-2-24
							(a	T2,946			
							(c	T7,000			
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld.	T	120	121		‡23) 18,000	T100	(a	T7,348	Feb.	Int. Divid. T3½, 1923-24	21-9-23
							(b	T20,000			
							(c	T350,000			
Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels, Ld.	H $	28			‡3‡) 1,000,000	H $10				Final H $0.75 & Bonus H $0.50 on 375,000	
							(a	H $46,448	Dec.	shares (mkg. H $2 (old) & H $1.75 (new),	
										1923)	14-2-24
Carlton, Ld.	T	53			14) 10,000	T50	(c	H $2,265,828	Mar.	Floated April 1, 1922.	
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	G $	100			‡18) 10,000	G $100			Dec.	Incorporated under the laws of Delaware Ord.	
										1922, 7%	4-1-23
Raven Trust Co., Inc.	(ord.	G $ 10	12½		**100,000	G $10				Prof. 1st gr. 1923, 12%	4-1-23
	(pref.	G $ 10	10			G $10					
PLANTATIONS.											
Alma Estates, Ld.	T	6½		6.20	70,000	£1 at T9	a	T28,940	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23	19-12-23
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	0.50			‡62) 500,000	T1			Oct.		
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld.	T	2.99	2½	2½	12) 400,000	10s.	a	T32,505	Dec.	T0.30, 1919	7-4-20
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T	6.05			4) 500,000	10s.	(a	T129,151	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c. 1923	14-9-23
							(c	T378,570			
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T	23			27) 30,000	T10	(a	T16,223	Sept.	T2.00, 1922-23	28-12-23
							(b	T22,000			
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Ests., Ld.	T	0.97½			400,000	T1	(c	T69,960	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	10-4-20
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Ests., Ld.	T	1.05			500,000	T1	a	T30,789	Mar.	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1916-17)	25-7-17
Bute Plantation (1913), Ld.	T	0.75			300,000	T1	a	T20,402	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkg. T0.10, 1916)	25-7-17
Chemor United Rubber Co., Ld.	T	1.07½			400,000	T0.90	a (Loss)	T13,076	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	29-3-17
Chempedak Rub. & G'bler Est., Ld.	T	6		39)	35,000	£1	a	T37,697	Oct.	2nd Interim, T0.30, (mkg. T1, 1916-17)	6-11-23
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	1.40			135,000	T5	a (Loss)	T13,435	June	T0.20, 1919-17	16-10-17
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld.	T	2½		25)	500,000	2s.—T0.75	a	T4,120	Dec.	T0.10, 1922	1-11-17
							(a	T23,102		Interim T0.06, 1923	20-4-23
Oomiston Rubber Co., Ld.	T	2		19)	350,000	T1	(a	T30,000	Dec.	T0.40, 1919	15-10-23
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Ests., Ld.	T	9½		†48)	750,000	(21:450,000	(a	T13,813			18-6-20
						(5s; 200,000	(c		Dec.	2s. less I/T at 5s. in £1922, "B" Coupon 20)††	28-3-23
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee, Est. Ld.	T	14		8)	35,000	£1 at 2/3½	(a	T54,465	Dec.	Interim, T0.50, 1923	3-9-23
Kali Glidik Coffee Estates, Ld.	T	6½			70,000	T5	(c	T650,113		Incorporated 1923	
Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ld.	T	12		35)	15,000	T10				(T0.50, 1922	19-4-23
							(a	T6,077	Dec.	(Interim 1923, T0.50	17-7-23
Karan Rubber Estate Co., Ld.	T	6			25,000	T10	(c	T4,023			
							(a	T3,995	Mar.	T0.60, 1922-23	1-6-23
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1921), Ld.	T	1.05			390,000	T1	(b	T30,000	June		
Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ld.	T	13		20)	70,000	£1 at T8.60	a (Loss)	T38,263			
							(a	T32,940	Dec.	T1 (mkg. T1.50, 1923)	3-3-24
Padang Rubber Co., Ld.	T	6½			50,000	T10	(a	T62,599			
Pengkalan Durian Estates (1921), Ld.	T						(a	T15,410	Apr.	T0.05, 1919-20	

LAW REPORTS

A COLLISION ON THE RIVER

International Law and Question of Damages: Supreme Court Decision

An Admiralty case in which the China Merchants and the China Navigation Company are interested was the subject of a ruling by his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner in H. M. Supreme Court on Saturday. An action was brought by the China Navigation Co., Ld., owners of the str. Woosung, for limitation of their liability to £8 a ton of damage done by the Woosung on September 9 last, when she ran down and sank the China Merchants S. N. Co.'s hulk Kiangning at Kiukiang, resulting in very heavy loss to the latter company, and in respect of which collision the China Navigation Co. admitted they were solely to blame.

The defendant company recently applied to the Court in Chambers on an interlocutory summons that the service of plaintiffs' writ and all subsequent proceedings should be set aside on the ground that the Court had no jurisdiction under the Foreign Jurisdiction (Admiralty) Order in Council 1910, to try an action involving a claim for limitation of liability for damage done in a collision between a British ship and a Chinese hulk, their contention being that the Republic of China has no reciprocal law of limitation, and therefore that if the action had been one by a British ship against a Chinese ship in a Chinese court, the latter ship would have been made liable for the damage found due without being entitled to claim a limitation of her liability, and that therefore the action was one which was not in accordance with the comity of nations.

The subject was argued at length in Chambers, by Mr. R. E. S. Gregson for plaintiffs and Mr. J. H. Teesdale for defendants, and the Judge reserved his decision.

Sir Skinner Turner's ruling on Saturday was as follows:—On September 9, 1923, the British str. Woosung, registered at the Port of London, collided with the Chinese str. Kiangning at Kiukiang, causing considerable damage. The owners of the Woosung admit that their ship was solely to blame for the collision and they have therefore begun this action under our Admiralty jurisdiction to obtain a decree limiting their liability. The owners of the Kiangning appeared under protest and took out a summons to set aside the writ and all proceedings under it on the ground that this Court has no jurisdiction to make any such decree by reason of the fact that no such law is known to Chinese jurisprudence and that therefore there is no reciprocity between the two Powers, and that in this absence of reciprocity no decree can be made.

Our Admiralty jurisdiction is now based upon the Foreign Jurisdiction (Admiralty) Order in Council. 1910, and it has been suggested that that Order altered the law administered in our Court by stating that this Court must pay "due regard to International Law and the Comity of Nations": Art. 4 (3). But these words are not new at all. They are taken from Sect. 2 (2) of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty. Act. 1890, 53 and 54 Vict. c. 27, and that section was applied to this Court by the Consular Courts (Admiralty) Order in Council 1894 and continued by the China Order in Council, 1904, Art. 100 (2).

It is clear, then, that our jurisdiction has been exercised in Admiralty on the same principles certainly since 1894.

I have been unable to trace the origin of these words in any other statute or in a judgment of the High Court in England, but I take it to be a statement of the general principles on which the High Court of Admiralty proceeds in the exercise of its jurisdiction.

It has not been contended that in a proper case this Court has not jurisdiction to make a decree limiting liability. Such decrees have been made in this Court in the case of the Hangchow (two British steamers in collision), the Newchwang (also two British steamer in collision) and the Empress of India (British steamer and Chinese cruiser in collision) and no question as to jurisdiction arose in any one of these cases. Further the matter was considered by Sir H. de Sausmarez in the case of Taining (collision between a British steamer and a Chinese steamer). In this last named case, a decree was ultimately refused on the ground of the ownership of the British steamer; but the matter of jurisdiction was gone into very fully by the learned Judge on a summons similar to the one now before me. The judgment on this summons is reported in 96 "North China Herald" on p. 54, and it is clear that the learned Judge, who refused to stay the action on the summons, was ready to make the decree even though it related to a collision between a British steamer and a Chinese steamer. The judgment in the action itself when the decree was refused for the special reason above-mentioned is reported in 96 "North China Herald" on p. 338. In this case of the Taining the matter of reciprocity was expressly dealt with in the judgment, and it is clear that the Judge was satisfied that there was some means whereby the owners of a Chinese vessel could obtain some form of limitation of liability. I read the following from his judgment:—

> "It has been argued for the defendants that it would not be equitable to limit liability in this Court when only one ship is subject to its jurisdiction and the other ship might therefore, if found to blame in the Court of its own nationality, be held to the whole of its liability without limit. There are two answers to this, first that the law of practically all nations is to limit liability in some way or other, and second that English law is the law of this Court.
>
> "On the authority of "The Seringapatam" (3 W. Rob: 38) this Court has insisted on reciprocity between the two ships before it, and it certainly would not limit the liability of the British ship if the liability of the Chinese ship was not to be equally limited."

and that is the only meaning that can be put upon his language.

As far, then, as the decided cases in this Court go, I have three cases in which such a decree has been made and one was in relation to a collision between a British steamer and a Chinese steamer (cruiser) and I have a decision in another case where the jurisdiction to make such a decree in a case of collision between a British steamer and a Chinese steamer was considered and expressly affirmed.

It seems to me that in administering the Admiralty jurisdiction of this Court "in like manner and to as full an extent as the High Court in England," I am bound to follow the practice at home. I find this is laid down in Marsden's Collisions at Sea; 7th Edn. at p. 228.

> "Until the passing of the Merchant Shipping Act 1862 there was frequently great difficulty in cases where one or both the ships in collision were foreign in determining whether the Municipal law limiting owners liability was, or was not applicable. At the present day no such difficulty can arise. Whether the ships are both British or both foreign, or one British and one foreign, and whether the collision occurs in British waters or on the high seas, the limit of owners liability is the same, namely that fixed by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894."

It seems to me then that by the decisions of this Court and by the law administering in England in a like case a decree such as is asked in this case can be made. It was expressly decided in The Amalia. 1. Moo. P. C. N. S. 471. that a statute enacting such a law is not a breach of International law.

As regards the Law of China as administered in her Courts, I gather that it is not for me to receive evidence of it, as if it were foreign law to be provided before me. I have therefore not read the affidavit of Mr. Ting filed on this point; but it is not suggested by the owners of the Woosung that they are any way desirous of answering that affidavit, nor do they suggest that there is any Chinese Statute or Decree dealing with this matter. I am satisfied that there is none, but I am far from being satisfied that there is no means whereby some form of limitation of liability can be obtained. It is stated by many writers that by the maritime law the shipowner's liability for collision is limited to the value of ship and freight and, says Marsden, (7th Edn. on p. 170), this it is believed is the law in most if not all foreign countries at the present day. I do not doubt that under some such law as this the Courts of China would limit liability, realizing as they most certainly would that the rest of the maritime nations also limit liability. And this is the only explanation that I can put upon the judgment of Sir H. de Sausmarez in the Taining. And it must be remembered that a Chinese steamer would get the benefit of our law of limitation in our Courts in England. However, I do not think this matters. This Court administers the Law of England, and it seems to me that upon principle and authority this motion must be dismissed and the action must proceed.

I should like to call attention of the judgment of Dr. Lushington in The Wild Ranger, 32. L. J. P. M. & A. 49. Where he dealt with tht question of International Reciprocity in relation to this very question of limitation, as it then was. It was there held that a foreign ship could not obtain in our Court a decree of limitation of liability, even though she could obtain one in her own national Courts. This was before the present state of our law under which British and foreign ships can equally obtain such a decree: and it was argued that the doctrine of International reciprocity demanded that under the circumstances a decree of limitation should be made in favour of the foreign ship found to blame."

The motion was accordingly dismissed with costs, and, by consent, an order for pleadings was made.

ALLEGED BANK PASS-BOOK FORGERY

Young Sikh on Trial at Supreme Court: Prosecution's Story of alliged Swindle

A Sikh named Sadara Singh was indicted before Judge Sir Skinner Turner and a jury in H. M. Supreme Court on Tuesday on charges of uttering and forging a bank pass-book receipt and drawing out a deposit of $550, the property of a fellow Sikh, Soucha Singh. The accused was alleged to have obtained the money by an ingenious swindle made possible by the remarkable trustfulness of Sucha Singh's nature.

Mr. H. P. Wilkinson (Crown Advocate) and Mr. E. T. Maitland (Police Prosecutor) prosecuted, and Mr. L. K. Kentwell defended.

Prisoner pleaded "Not Guilty."

Mr. Wilkinson, opening the case for the Crown, said that Sucha Singh received a sum of money in gold dollars from the United States. Having an account with the American Express Company Banking Corporation in Shanghai, he placed the equivalent of the sum received in Mexican dollars—$550—in the savings bank department. He received a pass-book fully entered up in exchange. A day or so after this he went to the accused, his friend, and asked him to look after the book. Sadara Singh agreed. Some days later accused went to the bank, pretended to be Sucha Singh, and said he had lost his bank pass-book. After the usual questions he was given a duplicate book. With this duplicate book he was alleged to have gone back to the bank and to have drawn out all the money deposited to Sucha Singh's account, again pretending to be the depositor. Shortly after this Sucha Singh received the original book from the accused and went to the bank with it to deposit a further sum. He was then met with the statement that his account had been closed.

The Crown Advocate went on to review the evidence to be called, and concluded by explaining to the jury that the real point they had to decide was as to whether Sadara Singh was or was not the man who closed the account.

THE WHITE TURBAN.

Sucha Singh gave evidence bearing out the Crown Advocate's story. He added that he was employed at a Chinese mill in Chapei as a watchman. The money was sent to him by a cousin in America. The original deposit was made on January 9. It was on February 13 that Sadara Singh gave him the book back, and the following day he went to the bank and was told the account was closed.

Replying to Mr. Wilkinson, witness said he was wearing a white turban on both occasions when he went to the bank. Accused (who was wearing a brilliant purple turban in Court) according to Sucha Singh, also had a white turban originally. They both dyed their turbans purple at the same time.

Cross-examined, witness agreed that he had said he came to Shanghai from Mexico when he gave evidence in the lower Court.

Mr. Kentwell—Why did you trust the accused with your bank book and $550?

Witness—Because he had a relative in my village.

Asked who taught him to write his name in English, witness said another Indian was his instructor and it took him two hours to learn.

Re-examined, witness said Sadara Singh gave him the bank book back because he was afraid he might lose it.

BANK'S WITNESS.

The next witness was a shroff in the American Express Company Banking Corporation. He spoke to opening the account for Sucha Singh and giving him the original book. He also closed the account on February 11 of this year. On the last occasion, when the Indian signed the receipt, witness instructed him to write a second signature, since the first did not correspond with the specimen signature.

Asked by Mr. Maitland whether he could identify the man who closed the account witness pointed to the accused. He went on to say that he picked out Sadara Singh among a number of other Indians at the Kung Yik Cotton Mill, where he worked.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kentwell witness admitted that he was not quite certain of him.

Further questioned, witness said he did not remember everything that he said in the lower court.

His Lordship (interposing)—"Ah! but we do, we do. We have it all here."

Witness further said that Mr. Riggs, the cashier at the Bank, put his initials to the signature "Sucha Singh," on the receipt.

His Lordship—How many Indians have you with accounts at the bank?—Two or three.

Have you a watchman there, an Indian?—Yes.

How long have you been in the banking business yourself?—Three years.

CLERK'S OMISSION.

Mr. Ho Wen-tang, a bookkeeper at the bank, said he issued a duplicate pass-book to a man who said he was Sucha Singh on February 4. He produced a visiting card with the name Sucha on it, and on consulting with Mr. Burgess, of the bank also, he issued the book.

Cross-examined witness said he did not pay much attention to the Indian who closed the account. He forgot to write "duplicate" on the new book.

His Lordship—When you issued the duplicate book was any signature taken from the applicant?—No.

Mr. Donald S. Riggs, cashier of the bank, was the next witness. He said that before the pass-book was issued originally a specimen signature would have to be obtained.

His Lordship—If the word "duplicate" had been written across the second book, would the money have been paid out on February 9 or 10?

Witness—Well, we should have used more discretion in paying out.—Mr. Riggs went on to say that he saw the Indian sign his name a second time when he asked to close the account. He was quite sure that the accused was the man who drew the money out. A few days later Sucha Singh went to the bank with the second pass book to put in some more money and was then told the account was closed. They had an Indian watchman at the bank, but he was off duty when the transactions took place.

On the resumption in the afternoon, the cross-examination of Mr. Riggs was begun. Replying to Mr. Kentwell witness said he did exchange a few words with the Indian who drew out the money He admitted that the shroff to whom the request was made would have had a longer time to observe the Indian than would witness. It depended, he said, on how observant was the shroff.

Det.-Sub.-Inspector Yorke gave evidence of arresting Sadara Singh at the Kung Yik Cotton Mill When apprehended accused said: "The other man has $180, where did he get it?" Nothing of an incriminating nature was found in the man's box. The sum of $209 was found on his person.

R. C. Bridger; finger print office, Shanghai Municipal Police, produced enlarged photographs of the various signatures of the accused and Sucha Singh, made both in the lower court and on the original passbook and the receipt.

Mr. Kentwell, opening the defence, said their case was that the accused never went into the bank, and right up till yesterday he did not know where the bank was. They would seek to prove that on the morning he was supposed to be at the bank, actually he was working and could not possibly have been elsewhere.

The accused was then called. He said he had been with the mill for the past six years and was now drawing $28 per month. Sucha Singh, he said, was deported from America and went to see witness on the advice of somebody else.

His Lordship remarked that they should not put the worst interpretation on to the word "deported."

Witness went on to say that he was on duty in the mill at the time he was alleged to have been at the bank.

NOVEL METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION.

At this stage of the proceedings another Chinese witness from the Bank came into the Court—he had been sent for—and his evidence was interposed. Before he came to Court, the accused was allowed to sit down unobtrusively amid some 50 other Indians in the body of the Court. The Chinese was asked to pick out the man who came into the bank and drew the money.

The witness scrutinized all the Indians in Court for some minutes, but although the man was in the third row of the seats, he failed to recognize him. Asked "what thing?" he replied, "Perhaps not here."

AN "EVIL FACE AND WICKED EYES."

In the witness box again, witness said three Indians came in together, one of whom had "an evil face and sly, wicked eyes." He stared at witness all the time he was in the bank.

Mr. D. H. Hood, accused's direct superior, said he had been at the mill five years, during the whole of which time the accused had been employed there. For one year he had been employed in witness's department as a sizing clerk—the only Indian clerk in the sizing room. He was the only man in the department witness could talk to since he alone could speak English. On February 11,—the day he was alleged to have gone to the bank,—he was in the mill.

Clubs and Societies

(Continued from Page 410.)

interested employers to promote a programme in which, the men themselves take the main responsibility. At present such is carried on in a large printing establishment, a dye factory, an iron workers establishment and an export company. In addition a rather extensive work is done in Chinese buildings on one of the many aspects of it being where a programme of lectures, entertainments, popular education and health activities is being well received.

RELIGIOUS WORK.

The Shanghai Association has one of the largest programmes of religious work of any similar organization in the world. Not to go into details the report shows that there were more than 1,000 per week in attendance at religious meetings during 1923 and 2,306 men and boys were enrolled and in regular attendance upon 113 Bible classes.

The Association Evening and Day classes enrolled 2,047 students during the past year. These included the High School of Commerce as well as the Evening Schools. In the latter hundreds of young men and in business take the opportunity to study English, shorthand, typewriting and other subjects that will better prepare them for usefulness in a modern business community. The latest addition to the educational programme is an Extension day and evening school in Frenchtown that enrols nearly 200 students.

The gymnasium of the Association is the centre of a programme of play and physical education which includes all lines of indoor and outdoor sport. The enthusiasm is indicated by the fact that one of the most popular classes meets three mornings each week from 7 to 8 o'clock. Basket ball leads all other games in popularity, but the gymnasium and athletic field are rarely without occupants and it would seem that the enthusiasm for indoor and outdoor sport among the Chinese had come to stay.

The popular education programme, designed to teach illiterates to read and write 1000 characters was launched in Shanghai during the past year and promises to open the way for hundreds to learn to use their own language. This movement has proven much more popular than the attempt of a few years ago to institute phonetic script as a substitute for the complicated Chinese hieroglyphic.

THE FINANCIAL SIDE.

The financial statement for the year under review indicated that the sum of $169,579.45 had been received in income from the building, fees from classes, membership dues and contributions. The amount expended was $168,801.34, leaving a balance on working for the year of $778.11. The directors aim to keep the current fees at a point where the average young man in business can afford to enjoy them. This requires that a considerable sum be secured each year in contributions, this amount in 1923 being $44,460.02. This was given by individuals and by firms, a large percentage coming from the Chinese themselves for whom the work is mainly established. Foreign firms, whose employees enjoy the Association activities also contribute liberally. Careful scrutiny is exercised over expenditures and the accounts are audited by Mr. J. Trevor Smith.

The buildings in Szechuen Road are now inadequate for the demands of the expanding work and it is hoped that within a short time money may be available for the branch building the land for which has been purchased and fully paid for on Boulevard Montigny, near Rue de Consulat in the French Concession. This situation will make possible extending the activities of the Association to the western and southern sections of the city including the native city. Work will go forward on a modern building for this site as soon as the directors have secured further contributions amounting to Tls. 150,000. This will ensure a modern plant that will cost not less than Tls. 300,000.

The directors of the Association for the coming year, including those elected Tuesday evening at the annual meeting are as follows: Dr. T. H. Lee, Dr. Fong F. Sec, Dr. E. S. Tyau, Dr. W. L. New, Revs. T. C. Wu and Z. T. Kaung, Messrs. S. U. Zau, L. T. Yuen, A. T. Wong, A. T. Y. Chow, K. S. Lee, T. Y. Chang, N. L. Han, K. F. Chang and Walter H. Chen.

THE AMERICAN LEGION (FREDK WARD POST)

Annual Meeting: Monument to Gen. Ward and Donation to Boy Scouts

The annual meeting of the American Legion (Frederick Ward Post) was held on Monday at the American Court for China, with Mr. C. S. Franklin, Commander, presiding, supported by Mr. T. H. Wright and Mr. Gardiner Crane.

In presenting his report for the year, Mr. Franklin said that the outstanding feature of the year's work lay in the erection of a monument to General Ward, leader of the "Ever Victorious Army" at Sungkiang, and a donation of $300 to the Boy Scouts of that place, who are taking care of it. A contribution of $100 to the American Civilian Relief was also made, while tiffins to Admiral Phelps and Sir Robert Ho Tung enlivened the season concluded, Though it was a matter of regret that the tiffin to M. Wilden, French Consul-General, had to be postponed, the Commander's toast to Admiral Gilley last April was an international event of point. The celebrations on Armistice Day were fittingly observed with their Allies, while at the unveiling of the War Memorial last month, they were represented and placed a wreath. Condolences were also sent to Mrs. Harding and a flag presented to the American School. The Legion was represented on the Committees of all American functions during the year, including the Cunningham dinner, July 4, and the Washington Ball.

Mr. Franklin recommended that the organization join with the other veterans in providing watchmen for the War Memorial and that greater co-operation be tendered the other Allied organizations.

The resolution from the Canton Post, recommending to the Naval Department not to send first enlistment men to China, was ordered to be returned to that post with a vote of disapproval.—Proposed by Mr. L. Lehrbas, seconded by Mr. C. S. Franklin.

Upon a suggestion from the Peking Post that resolutions be adopted favouring Congressional assistance to American schools in the Orient, the matter was discussed, and it was finally resolved, on a motion by Mr. S. Chiat, seconded by Mr. Lehrbas, that the executive committee should forward a general statement of their approval of financial aid from any American source.

The following officers were elected:—Commander, Mr. G. Crane; Vice-Commander, Dr. T. B. Dunn; Adjutant, Mr. L. Lehrbas; Treasurer, Mr. R. S. Couvain; Service Officer, Mr. T. Wright; Sgt.-at-arms, Mr. L. G. Husar; Membership Officer, Mr. H. Hill.

In accepting the chair, Mr. Crane said that he hoped for a spirit of co-operation within the Post and a closer co-ordination with other local organizations and was cordially grateful for the honour done him.

THE UNION CLUB

An Encouraging Report at the Annual General Meeting

The annual meeting of the Union Club was held on Wednesday evening in the Club rooms on Hankow Road. Mr. V. G. Lyman, acting president, presided and was supported by Messrs. T. G. Drakeford, J. B. Powell, R. Calder Marshall, Chu Pao-san, Chang Nich-yun and Chun Shut-kai.

In addressing the meeting the Chairman said:—

Reference to the president's address given at the last annual meeting shows that it contained a somewhat pessimistic strain, and it was even suggested that the continued existence of the Club was somewhat at stake unless conditions should improve.

This feeling is easily understood when it is recalled that, financially, the Club had been going behind, to the extent of about $5,000 each year from the time of its organization, and of course, the permanent continuance of this state of affairs could not be contemplated in any very happy vein.

Much to the satisfaction of the committee, therefore, and equally, we feel sure, to that of the members, you have before you this year for the first time, a report which we consider to be of a most encouraging nature. The working account shows a loss of but $657.12 as against $5,299.71 for 1922 and this indicates to the committee that from now on the figures will be on the right side. It may be mentioned that this improved condition has been brought about by the practice of economy without in any way militating against the usefulness of the Club or the comfort of its members. Future committees will doubtless endeavour to follow this same line and with relief from financial anxiety, greater zest will be indicated in, and time given to, the development of the Club in the carrying out of the purposes for which it was formed.

The Commitee feels that the Club is serving an increasingly useful purpose and that the need of having a common meeting ground where they can foregather is constantly becoming more important to representative Chinese and those of English speaking nations. I take it that there is no other similar institution for business men in existence, and therefore its position is unique. At the same time it holds forth a wonderful opportunity for the development of a closer understanding, a deeper sympathy, between the men of the East and of the West who compose its membership.

THE NEW PREMISES.

It is of special interest to all members to know that the Club is removing into more commodious quarters next month. These are located in a new modern type building on Avenue Edward VII, between Szechuen and Kiangse Roads, where we have the entire top floor with largely increased space and conveniences over those made use of in the present building. The new quarters have been arranged solely for Club purposes, and with increased comfort and other advantages which the Club will then offer it is anticipated that there will not only be an increase of members, but a larger attendence from day to day of the present membership.

The fellowship dinners and tiffins have been maintained during the year and these have been of much interest. The number of those who attend remains somewhat stationary. To those who have not attended we can only say that a most delightful function of the Club is being missed and the Committee can only hope that an increased interest in this function will be manifested during the present year.

THE MEMBERSHIP.

The records of the Club show that there were four more members at the end of 1923 than there were at the close of the previous year, and while this does not show any special gain yet it shows that we have not suffered any loss.

There has been some growth in the Associate Membership, the figures being 18 as against 11 a year ago. It would seem that up to the end of the year the provision for associate membership whereby share-holding members are privileged to nominate to this membership men from their respective firms, has not been very fully availed of. I am pleased to inform you, however, that there is evidence of an early increase in this branch of the membership which entails no expense for admittance and the subscription for which is but $5 per month.

The membership at the end of the year stood as follows:—

Resident members	175
Associate ,,	18
Honorary ,,	45
Absent ,,	25
A total of	263

Much to the regret of your Committee, Mr. Wilson, your president, toward the end of the year, was obliged to resign on taking his home leave. Mr. Wilson displayed keen interest in the affairs of the Club, was most efficient in the duties of his office, and freely rendered very valuable technical services in connexion with securing and planning our new quarters.

I do not think it necesesary to refer in further detail to the report that has been placed before you and will conclude by requesting on behalf of the Committee you are about to elect the benefit it will derive from your helpful and sustaining interest.

On a motion by Mr. Lyman and seconded by Mr. Drakeford the report and accounts were adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following were elected to serve on the committee for the year 1924:—

Messrs. T. G. Drakeford, R. Calder Marshall, A. St. C. Campbell, V. G. Lyman, J. B. Powell, O. G. Steen, Chu Pao San, Chun Shut-kai, T. D. Zar and Pan Ching Poo.

On the proposal of Mr. Drakeford, seconded by Mr. Calder Marshall Mr. Lyman was elected President; Mr. Drakeford was elected foreign Vice-President on Mr. Lyman's motion seconded by Mr. Calder Marshall, while Mr. Chu Pao san became Chinese Vice-President. Proposed by Mr. J. B. Powell seconded by Mr. Chun Shut-kai.

On the motion of Mr. Calder Marshall the meeting tendered a vote of thanks to the committee for their splendid work particularly in that they had put the Club on a sound financial footing.

Union Club Proprietary

The Union Club Proprietary Ld. was next called into session, by the President, Mr. P. W. Massey, who was supported by Messrs. A. Brooke-Smith, J. B. Powell, T. G. Drakeford V. G. Lyman and Chu Pao-san.

The President said:—

Gentlemen, As the report and accounts for the year ended December 31, 1923, have now been in your hands for some time, I shall, with your permission, take them as read.

You will observe that the balance at credit of profit and loss account, after writing off 10 per cent. for depreciation against furniture, etc., only amounts to Tls. 536,61; this with the amount of Tls. 110.53 carried forward from the previous year, makes a total of Tls. 647.14 standing at the credit of profit and loss account which we propose to carry forward to next year's account.

With regard to the item of Tls. 18,331.28 appearing as a debt owing to us by the Union Club of China, it is certain that the Club at the present moment cannot meet this indebtedness, and until they can show a profit on their working account, this item is bound to increase. I can assure you, gentlemen, that the Club Committee have the matter very much at heart, and the accounts this year show that they have reduced the expenses quite considerably, and are looking forward to showing a working account next year with a balance on the right side.

I again state that the purpose of this Company is to sponsor the Club, and until such time as it is able to pay its way, it will be the duty of this Company to back it up. We, however, feel sure that the removal of the Club to its new premises will be a change for the better.

I do not think that there is anything else in regard to the accounts that needs any explanation from me, but before formally proposing their adoption I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions which any of you may desire to ask.

The following resolutions were unamiously passed:—

That the report and accounts as presented be passed: proposed by Mr. P. W. Massey, seconded by Mr. Chu Pao-san.

That Messrs. E. F. Mackay and T. G. Drakeford be re-elected directors, proposed by Mr. Massey and seconded by Mr. A. Brooke-Smith.

That Messrs. Lowe Bingham and Matthews be re-elected auditors for the ensuing year at a remuneration of Tls. 50, proposed by Mr. Massey and seconded by Mr. J. B. Powell.

AMERICAN RETURNED STUDENTS CLUB

Annual General Meeting

The third annual meeting of the American Returned Students' Club was held on Wednesday evening at its headquarters, above the Chinese Industrial Bank in Nanking Road. Dinner was first served to the fairly large attendance of members.

In the absence of the President, Mr. H. Y. Moh, who is away in Chengchow on business, Judge T. S. K. Loh presided and appointed Mr. Fred C. Sze to act as temporary secretary on account of Mr. K. S. Tsiang being unable to attend. The chairman had to report, with much regret, the compulsory absence of his colleague in the Vice-Presidency, Dr. W. S. New, through ill-health, and on behalf of the Club, wished him a speedy recovery.

The chairman then dwelt at some length on the steady progress that the Club has made since its organization about three years ago and remarked on the excellent spirit with which 80 "reliable" members had shouldered the finances of the Club Realizing the necessity of raising a foundation fund, he urged every one present to approach all fellow returned students, resident or non-resident, for their moral as well as financial support.

Mr. T. C. Yeh was then called upon to make the treasurer's report, which was accepted as read upon the motion of Mr. H. C. Mei. Brief reports were also made by Mr. Wm. K. H. Yen, representing the House Committee, and Mr. Y. M. Kuo, representing the Membership Committee.

Mr. S. D. Ren gave, on behalf of the Nomination Committee, a list of candidates for the various offices for the next term, and after the inclusion of a few more nominees from the floor, the following officers were elected:—

President, Dr. W. S. New; Vice-Presidents, Judge T. S. K. Loh and Mr. N. L. Han; Secretary, Mr. Fred C. Sze; Treasurer, Mr. T. C. Yeh; House Manager, Dr. L. S. Woo.

Prior to the drawing of two bonds issued by the Club, Mr. N. L. Han remarked that the Club's credit was good since the bonds have been regularly drawn. Mr. K. S. Lee was then asked by the chairman to draw two numbers which happened to be consecutive. They are Nos. 52 and 53. Before the adjournment the Chairman announced that the first executive meeting will be held next Tuesday at noon, at the Club.

SHRINERS' ANNUAL MEETING

The Nomad Oasis (Shriners) held their annual meeting on Tuesday night at the Masonic Hall. Mr. J. Harold Dollar (President) presided and was supported by Messrs. J. Eichwald, J. Potter, C. J. Irons, C. Wentworth, E. H. Himrod, C. Johnson, T. Porter and W. D. Inman (Committee).

In his annual report the President expressed his pleasure at the success of the past year and cited the report of the treasurer as a favourable financial index. The social and business meetings had been characterized by a marked attendance which he hoped would continue through the ensuing year. A short comment on the prospects of the Ceremonial for 1924 was adduced.

The officers of 1923 were re-elected *en bloc* and consist of Messrs. J. H. Dollar, President, J. Eichwald, Vice-President, C. J. Irons, treasurer, and J. Potter, secretary.

The meeting adjourned after a discussion of the Hykes Memorial proposal at the American School and the entire body attended the dinner given at the Parisien Hotel.

Road, said the accused gave him an order for three suits and an overcoat on September 5. He wanted the overcoat and one suit before going down to Hongkong and witness arranged this for him. He was to pay for the lot by cheque when he returned from Hongkong. He went to that colony and returned—witness was not sure on what date—and called for the other two suits. Witness asked him for a cheque, but he requested that the suits be sent to his address, and said he would send the cheque later. He did not do so, and the other two suits were not sent. Early in January he received a letter from Bowler pleading that his work for the "North-China Daily News" in Hongkong had been unsatisfactory and his expenses heavy. The letter added that he had secured a job with the Asia Life Insurance Co., Inc., and would receive his first month's salary at the end of that month, when he would pay one third of the debt. He would pay the rest the following month. However, nothing was paid. He had formerly represented he had Tls. 2,000 to come from the "North-China Daily News."

LOOKING FOR A ROADSTER.

Julien Heimendinger, manager of the Auto Castle Garage, Avenue Joffre, said Bowler went to the Garage about August 25 and said he was looking for a roadster. He chose a Buick six-cylinder, priced at Tls. 1,250. He went away and said he wished to make arrangements for the purchase. He came to the garage the next day, said he had Tls. 2,000 to come from the "North-China Daily News," and would pay for the car before the end of the month.

Witness gave him driving lessons every morning for some days afterwards, and provided him with two new tyres at a cost of Tls. 50. A shroff was sent to Bowler on several occasions during the following three weeks asking for the money and he was repeatedly put off. Then came a day when witness went round himself and was told to come back at eleven o'clock the next morning. He did so and was informed Bowler had gone to Hongkong the previous day. Witness made inquiries at the "North-China Daily News," but nothing was known there regarding the car.

ALLEGED SALE OF CAR.

Further inquiries were made and they were able to get the car back from the Central Garage. A day or so after this they were approached by a Dr. Lyons, who said that the car was his; he had bought it from Bowler. Witness told Dr. Lyons that Bowler himself had never paid for the car, and he did not hand it over.

Replying to the Magistrate, Mr. Maitland said Dr. Lyons had since left Shanghai and his evidence could not therefore be procured. He understood the defendant and Dr. Lyons had both been living at Shepherd's Hotel.

Mr. J. T. W. Brooke, who was in partnership with Mr. R. W. Davis of the "North-China Daily News" in the compilation of the "China Architects and Builders' Compendium," said Bowler was engaged by them to secure advertisements on a commission basis.

Replying to Mr. Maitland, witness said he did not think it at all likely that Bowler had Tls. 2,000 due to him from this commission on August 27. The total value of the advertisements he managed to get was somewhere in the neighbourhood of Tls. 9,000, of which he was to receive roughly 15 per cent. commission, Tls. 1,300.

Cross-examined by Mr. Reader Harris, witness said Bowler had done very well in Shanghai at this work, but very badly in Hongkong. He was not paid by the "North-China Daily News," but by Mr. Davis and himself.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

DEFENCE OPENED.

Mr. Reader Harris, in his address to the Bench, pointed out that there were two classes of offences brought against defendants. One was that of obtaining credit by fraud other than false pretences,—an offence under the Debtors' Act. The other class was that of obtaining goods by false pretences, under the Larceny Act.

There were three cases in the first class, and his submission was that there was no evidence of fraud whatsoever. If these three cases did constitute fraud, then there were a great many other people in Shanghai who should be in gaol—indeed there was no gaol large enough to hold them. It had been represented that the fraud lay in Bowler's stating he had Tls. 2,000 to come from the "North-China Daily News." It was denied that he ever did say this, but even if he had it could only have been an exaggeration of fact. When he was working on the conpendium in Shanghai he did very well indeed, and he anticipated doing equally well in Hongkong. With this anticipation he ordered these various goods and articles. Unfortunately, however, he did very badly in Hongkong and his expenses in that Colony eat up all the money he had already earned. When he got back to Shanghai he was employed for two months with the Asia Life Insurance at no salary, after which they agreed to take him on the permanent staff. He was expecting, therefore, salary for his latter work with the Company, but the Hudford Motors people raised a disturbance with his employers and he was dismissed. The result was he had not the money to come he was expecting.

There was one other very important matter. Two big insurance companies intended to put through a big insurance deal whereby they saved the superannuation to their employees by giving them endownment policies. This deal involved between one million and two million dollars and would have meant a large amount to defendant as commission. It was this amount he was expecting with which to pay his debts. He could not put it through, however, because of his dismissal, and he could not mention the scheme to his creditors because it was private, and if known would at that time have aroused considerable interest in some 20 or 30 other insurance companies—would now in fact.

Defendant gave evidence bearing out Mr. Reader Harris's statement. He described his connexion with the "China Architects and Building Compendium" and the non-success which attended his efforts in Hongkong. He was quite under the impression that he was employed by the "North-China Daily News" and not privately by Messrs. Davis and Brooke. He was paid by Mr. Davis with "North-China Daily News" compradore orders, and had cards given him inscribed "North-China Daily News."

Bowler went on to describe his return to Shanghai and his employment with the Asia Life Insurance Company.

The big insurance deal mentioned was one whereby the staffs of the companies were provided with an endowment policy which provided each man with $500 on attaining the age of 60 years. Supposing the deal had been put through he would have made about $50,000 commission, from one company alone. He never sold Dr. Lyons a car.

Cross-examined by Mr. Maitland, witness admitted that it did appear now he was not really employed by the "North-China Daily News" but simply by Messrs. Davis and Brooke.

The case was adjourned till next morning.

The Charges Dismissed

The charges against Norman W. Bowler were dismissed by Mr. G. W. King at H.M. Police Court on Thursday afternoon. In discharging the defendant, the Magistrate described him as "an extravagant young ass" who had lived beyond his income. The charges could not be proved. He would have had no sympathy from him, said his Worship, had Bowler found himself within the walls of the British Gaol.

Bowler again went into the box and the morning was occupied with a lengthy examination of defendant by the Magistrate.

In the course of this examination defendant stated that he was 23 years of age and came to Shanghai from Amoy. On arrival he had not very much money, nor did he come to a job; he was just looking for work. He first engagement was with Dodwell & Co., with whom he stopped for a few days only, after which he was given the commission job with Mr. Davis.

The Magistrate—We have heard you were doing pretty well at that, but why did you get a car?

Bowler (after a pause.)—I thought I would like one, that is all.

The car would have cost just what you had earned would it not?—Yes.

Then how did you propose to deal with that?—By continuing to work.

In other words you were going to live up to and over your income? Defendant made no answer.

You come to Shanghai, a young man engaged in a commission business which you know cannot be permanent, and then you go and buy a car valued at Tls. 1,000. Do you think such a thing justifiable?—It might not have been a wise thing to do, but I cannot see that I was not justified.

"HAD NO COMPETITION."

Then again, why did you go to Hudford's and get a car there. You had already one car taken away because you failed to pay for it. Your position at the time was not sound and although you had permanent employment with the Asia Life you were only on probation, and had not much money to draw?—I thought the business I had on hand would mature. I knew at the time I had no competition.

With regard to this insurance scheme. Can you assure me that you had any reasonable thought the deal would go through. You have told me you are a young man, 23 years of age; there is a good deal of competition in insurance to be met with. Do you honestly think that you who had just come to Shanghai could put through a deal involving such huge sums better than older and more experienced men? Was yours the only brain that could conceive the idea?—(Witness) No I do not think that exactly. The Asia Life were thinking of issuing a new type of insurance policy on January 1, and I saw a way whereby these policies could be made to serve as a group insurance policy for a large number of employees in such a way that superannuation would be saved. That is all I did, particularly, beyond approaching certain people regarding the business. They were interested and stated that they had in fact thought of something like it before, and there was no reason why I should not be the man to put it through for them.

A LITTLE MENTAL ARITHMETIC.

But where does your $50,000 come in?—That is the commission on the insurance. The company employs about 4,000 people and they would each be insured for $500; the 4,000 multiplied by 500 would be two million dollars. The premiums on the two million dollars would be about $1.50 per month on each man,—$6,000 per month. The first year's premiums would, of course, have to be paid up in one sum. Multiply your $6,000 by 12, take away 50 per cent. and you have my commission, roughly $40,000.

Then (continued the Magistrate) this idea came to your mind when these new policies were to be issued?—There are in Shanghai no companies which will issue what we call in insurance, group policies, where Chinese are concerned owing to the fact that the mortality rate of the Chinese is so uncertain. Then—.

"Really," interposed the Magistrate, "I think the China Mutual have been running for years on their knowledge."

Yes, but I do not think they have ever issued a group policy—that is a policy covering a number of employees, without examination. I believe it was once done by a Chinese company at one of the cotton mills, but it is at all times a hazardous experiment. If the companies would go in for these policies it would mean a tremendous amount of business in Shanghai for us.

But if the companies have not done it in the past, why should you think your scheme would be accepted?—Because of the nature of the Asia Life's new scheme. They were bringing out a new policy for a very much smaller amount than any other company had ever done before in Shanghai. The medical examination too, was not so severe as for the ordinary type of insurance policy. I think the scheme is possible, and I would not be surprised if the Asia Life are doing it right now.

Further questioned as to whom he approached, Bowler stated that he saw Mr. C. V. Starr, president of the company, who greeted the idea favourably.

This completed the Magistrate's questions.

At the request of Mr. Reader Harris, who said he wished to call Mr. Starr, the Magistrate adjourned the case until the afternoon.

On the resumption, Mr. Reader Harris said he had approached Mr. Starr who had replied that he had already been asked to give evidence for the prosecution and refused, and therefore he did not think it would be proper for him to give evidence for the defence, without being subpœnaed. As he did not particularly desire an unwilling witness Mr. Reader Harris said he had let the matter drop. He observed, however, that Mr. Maitland had brought in Mr. Hearne, manager of the Manufacturers Life Insurance, Ld.

INSURANCE MANAGER'S ADVICE.

Mr. Arthur George Hearne was then called. Examined by Mr. Maitland he stated that he was manager of the Manufacturers Life Insurance, Ld., for Shanghai and district. Bowler was introduced to him by Mr. C. V. Starr in February, and he did mention a scheme for insuring all the employees of a big firm. Witness was interested, but pointed out to Bowler that it was rather difficult to close a big deal of the sort, and advised him to work a few smaller cases first before embarking on anything so big, in order to earn his bread and butter. The scheme was one that might succeed or it might not and in any case it would take some time. Witness was not working on it himself and did not intend to do so. He had to make his money by quicker returns than would be got that way. He could not say whether it was really a sound proposition or not because he had not interviewed any of the people with whom Bowler was interested. He had two or three interviews with the accused and they made an appointment to go round and see one or two people on a Saturday morning, but although he waited in his office all the morning Bowler did not turn up and so he dropped the matter.

Mr. Maitland asked witness whether the scheme was so sound in his opinion that he would make an advance on it, and if he ever had made any advances to Bowler.

The reply was that Bowler had asked him to make advances on the scheme but he had refused and reiterated his advice to the young man to first try and put through some smaller cases which witness would close for him. That would be better than trying to handle a deal of the nature suggested.

NOT A "WILD CAT SCHEME."

The Magistrate (to witness)—There would be a possibility of money being made in a scheme like this supposing you got the right people interested? It is not entirely what you might call an "up in the air" scheme?—It is certainly not a "wild cat scheme" and money could be made out of it. Indeed, it is being done in many parts of the world to-day.

The Magistrate, before counsel addressed the Bench, intimated that in three of the charges he held no case could be substantiated. Therefore they could leave those right out. The Hudford Motors and Mrs. Wallace's were the only charges they need argue upon.

Mr. Maitland first dealt with the case of the car obtained from the Hudford Motors. Bowler purchased the car in December. Mr. Hearne had told them that this insurance scheme would take some time to put through, and they had it in evidence that he was still thinking about it in February. Therefore when he gave for the car a post-dated cheque in December he could not possibly have had any expectations of money coming from that source with which to meet the account. It had also been stated in evidence that Bowler had given the motor people to understand he had Tls. 2,000 due from the "North-China Daily News." This statement was manifestly untrue because during the whole of the time he worked for Messrs. Davis and Brooke the sum total of his earnings was Tls. 1,300. Out of this he had to live and clothe himself between the months of July and November.

Then there was the case of Mrs. Wallace. He had lived at the house for over a month and during that time paid nothing for the room, board or garage. He had given her two cheques, both of which were dishonoured.

Mr. Reader Harris argued that there was no false pretence in giving a post-dated cheque. The document was really more in the nature of an I.O.U., for when it was given no representation was made that there were funds in the bank to meet it. This was, of course, always provided the cheque was on a bank in which an account was held. People in Shanghai used them every day. Then they had the evidence which showed that the accused really was engaging in the insurance scheme they had heard so much about, and he submitted that when he bought these various things he did so in all good faith fully expecting the money to come in from the commission he was to receive. In doing this he was, perhaps, rather foolish and unduly optimistic, but they had to remember he was a young man, and perhaps inexperienced.

"EXTRAVAGANT YOUNG ASS."

His Worship, summing up, remarked that as he had elected to deal with the case summarily it was his duty to address himself as he would to a jury. There was a considerable amount of difference between life in England and life in Shanghai, and he had to consider this when applying English Law in Shanghai.—"In England you cannot get credit unless you are exceptionally well known. On the other hand you can get credit in Shanghai as a rule and not as an exception. Take this young man of 23. He came here to no definite position, he came in the smumer, and in July he does very well in this commission business. Instead of behaving reasonably he goes and buys a motor-car. He lives and dresses up to his income. In fact one can say that he has been altogether an extravagant young ass, but so far he had done nothing criminal. But when he finds the money going it does not bring him up with a round turn, but instead he goes to Case and orders suits; there again you have the difference between Shanghai and England. He gets credit. He makes no fraudulent representation and the goods are delivered. After his journey to Hongkong he comes back to Shanghai and gets employment. Then he starts on a real career of extravagance. He gets a car at Hudfords and gives a post-dated cheque for $2,000. . . If I seem harsh in speaking of him as an extravagant young ass I think that I am justified. Three of the charges I hold cannot be substantiated."

His Worship went on to review the evidence on the other two charges, concluding with the statement that if a jury had been sitting he believed, though reluctantly, that they would have held there was a doubt in the case and dismissed the charges. If Bowler had found himself between the walls of the Amoy Road Gaol the Magistrate would have had no sympathy for him. As it was it was his duty to discharge him. The cases would be dismissed.

AN application, in which Yao Pah-ling was the plaintiff and S. G. Halse the defendant, was made to his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner at H. M. Supreme Court on Monday, for a declaration that Consular Lot No. 9520 is registered in the books for the registration of land at H. M. Consulate-General in the name of Noel Charles Minchin Home, deceased, in trust for the plaintiff and for an order that such lot be transferred into the names of R.F.C. Master and M. R. Harris. Mr. M. B. Brown explained that he appeared for both plaintiff and defendant. It was purely a friendly action and was brought because Mr. Halse, who was shortly leaving Shanghai, wished to obtain the protection and a declaration of the Court. Mr. Brown said he would be able to satisfy the Court that the property actually was held in trust for the late Mr. Home. The case was set down for hearing on Thursday next.

Witness was always walking round and usually had occasion to speak to him several times.

Cross-examined by the Crown Advocate, witness said there were two other gates which only led out to the Creek and boats.

The trial was adjourned till next morning, bail being allowed.

A Verdict of Not Guilty

At the conclusion of Wednesday's hearing the jury found Sadara Singh not guilty of the charge brought against him and he was accordingly discharged.

The principal witness for the defence on Wednesday was Mr. Burgess, formerly assistant cashier with the American Express Co. He said that on a date at the end of January an Indian came to see him, presented his ordinary calling card, on which was printed Sucha Singh, and asked to withdraw his money. Witness did not keep the card.

Mr. Kentwell—Can you identify the prisoner as that Indian?—(Witness)—No.

Mr. Burgess went on to say, in reply to further questions, that he was asked to go to the mill to try and identify the Indian who visited the bank. In witness's opinion that Indian was not in the group.

Questioned by his Lordship, witness said he had nothing to do with the paying out of the money. He did not hear any discussion until after it had been discovered that apparently the wrong man had been paid.

NOT A GUILTY ACTION.

Mr. Kentwell, in his closing speech for the defence, described the case as a curious one. First of all he reminded the jury that it was no concern of theirs what where the methods of the bank. Going back to the first date of importance, January 8, counsel asked: Why had accused returned the pass-book on Feruary 13 if he had then drawn out all the money. Had he had a guilty conscience he would certainly have put off the complainant as long as possible. He could have put him off for a considerable time, but this he did not, and it was quite natural that suspicion should have fallen on Sadara as he had the original pass-book.

For the Crown, Mr. Wilkinson reminded the jury that if they brought in a verdict of not guilty it would mean that what Mr. Riggs had said was entirely wrong. It did not interest the bank as to who the man was. It happened that this mistake had been made, and counsel would therefore ask them to attach due and proper weight to the identification of Mr. Riggs and the Chinese shroff.

BANK AND DUPLICATE PASS BOOK.

His Lordship, in his summing-up, said there was only one real point in the case. If prisoner were the man who signed the blue form, he had committed a forgery; further he uttered it by handing it to the bank and getting money in exchange for it, and if he had done that it was with intent to defraud. There was no doubt that the case was a curious one. Not only had the letters were complicated by the the forged document, but mat-handing out by the bank of a duplicate pass-book. Had the word "duplicate," however, been written on it, the bank would have been much more careful when paying the money out. It was strange that that had not been done; it was strange that the pass-book was handed out to some Indian on January 25 on apparently very little proof that the other book had been lost, and there had been no identification of the individual who asked for it except the production of a printed visiting card. As for the money which had actually been deposited at the bank by Sucha Singh, as had already been pointed out, he would not lose it whether the prisoner was found guilty or acquitted.

There was one curious omission in the case for the prosecution. There was not a rag of evidence nor any suggestion to show how Sadara Singh was sufficiently alive to the signature on the specimen card, if Sadara were the man who went to the bank. His Lordship reminded the jury that there was no hostility between Sucha Singh and the prisoner. They were friends and prisoner quite voluntarily returned the pass-book. Furthermore there was no suggestion that Sadara was in any want of money. As regards the evidence of identification, the jury had to be careful, and the Judge reminded them of the famous case at Home where a man had been convicted on evidence of identification, but after five years' imprisonment was found not to have been guilty and given a free pardon.

After an absence of half an hour the jury returned with a verdict of not guilty, and the Judge discharged the prisoner. In thanking the jury for their attendance, his Lordship said the case had not been an easy one to try, and he was bound to say that the difficulties fully justified the verdict brought in. He directed that the jurors should be exempted from further service for a year.

A BURIAL PLACE IN YUYUEN ROAD

Interesting Points Raised in Court

In H. M. Supreme Court on Thursday, His Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner heard the case of Yao Pah-liang v. S. J. Halse, in which the plaintiff sought a declaration that British Consular lot No. 9,520 registered in the books for the registration of land at H. B. M. Consulate-General at Shanghai in the name of Noel Charles Minchin Home (now deceased) was held by the said N. C. M. Home in trust for the plaintiff, and also asked for an order that such lot be transferred in the names of R. F. C. Master and M. Reader Harris. Mr. M. B. Brown appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Halse conducted his case in person.

In opening the case Mr. Brown explained that the land in question was situated in Yuyuen Road and for many years had been the graveyard property of the Yao family. In 1918 it was desired to register the lot as a British consular lot, and the Chinese title was accordingly [illegible] and eventually the land was registered in the name of the China Land & Building Co., Ld. For some reason that was not made clear, no declaration of trust was ever given. The next thing that happened was that that company went into liquidation. In July, 1919, the lot was accordingly transferred to Mr. Home, but again no declaration of trust was made. Mr. Home died early in 1920, his executrix being his mother in England. His estate in Shanghai was wound up by Mr. Halse and Mr. S. B. Neill, and in the probate papers the land was not included in Mr. Home's estate. The present action was for a declaration that the lot in question was beneficially owned by the plaintiffs, and in support of this he would call evidence to show that state of affairs.

A DIFFICULT POSITION.

Mr. Halse said that the plaintiff was in his present position owing to his own fault. Mr. Home died in January, 1920, and his estate was wound up in the spring of 1921. At an early stage the question of this lot was taken up, the administrators being satisfied that it was not the property of Mr. Home. In spite of repeated requests the plaintiffs would not take up the matter with the executors who told them that what they wanted was reasonable evidence that the land was theirs. They wanted some documentary evidence in the form of a receipt for the title deeds.

His Lordship pointed out that in a case of this sort it would be the correct course to advertise for any other claimants to the property in question, but there was also the point whether Mr. Halse actually had the power in such a case to make the transfer.

In giving evidence Mr. Halse said he was not faced so much with a doubt as to whether he could sign a transfer but a conviction that he could not. When Mr. Home died his mother, as executrix, forwarded a power of attorney. This lady died a few months later, and Mr. Douglas Ralph Home, her son, became her executor. It was possible that he had sent out a second power of attorney from England, but witness could not be certain. He also had since died. As there were two deaths to revoke his power of attorney, Mr. Halse doubted his ability to sign a deed of transfer.

Evidence on behalf of the plaintiff was then heard, bearing out counsel's statement as to ownership.

In giving his decision the Judge said:—"There will be judgment for a declaration that the plaintiff, as the representative of the Yao family, is the beneficial owner of the land, that the defendant is the duly appointed administrator in the jurisdiction of this Court of the estate of N. C. M. Home, deceased, but he is expressly claiming no interest in the land, and he is still entitled to sign on behalf of the estate."

DRAMATIC SEQUEL TO ROWARTH CASE

Witness's Alleged Perjury: British Police Court Charge

A further development occurred in connexion with the Rowarth case on Tuesday afternoon, when one of the witnesses, William Henry Goulbourn, (married), chartered accountant, of 65 Haskell Road, appeared before Mr. G. W. King, at H. M. Police Court to answer charges of perjury. The charges set out that defendant, being a person lawfully summoned as a witness in a judicial proceeding on June 28, 1923, knowingly and falsely swore in H.B.M. Supreme Court that one Edith Judith Rowarth did not leave her daughter's house before 8.30 p.m. on the evening of May 4, 1923,—contrary to Section 1 of the Perjury Act. Prisoner, it is further alleged, with others not in custody, between May 4 and June 29, 1923, conspired with Cecilia Sequeira, a Portuguese subject, to defeat the ends of justice by keeping a material witness in hiding and from appearing at the trial of *Rex. v.* Rowarth, on a charge of attempted murder.

Mr. E. T. Maitland, Police Prosecutor, offered only evidence of arrest and asked for a remand in order that two other persons involved might be apprehended.

His Worship remarked that perjury was obviously an offence which could not be dealt with summarily, and provided a *primâ facie* case were made out there would have to be a commital.

Det.-Sub. Inspector Quayle gave evidence of arresting Goulbourn at the offices of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, 4 The Bund. When the charge was read over to him he made no reply.

The case was remanded till Tuesday next at 10 o'clock, bail being allowed, in the sum of $500 in two sureties.

A PROBLEM ON NATIONALITY

An interesting problem of nationality arose in H.M. Police Court on Monday morning when an Egyptian came before Mr. G. W. King charged with being drunk and disorderly.

The Magistrate said that the question had arisen as to whether the defendant, one M. Suliman, *alias* Sulivan was really entitled to British citizenship. The rules and conditions under which Egyptians were recognized were peculiar. During the war Egypt was a British protectorate and its people therefore British subjects. Now that protectorate no longer existed and special conditions had been drawn up regarding the people. He adjourned the case till the afternoon for inquires to be made.

Inquiries were made accordingly and the Consular authorities refused to recognize Suliman as British. He was, therefore, sent for trial at the Mixed Court.

NORMAN BOWLER AT H. M. POLICE COURT

Alleged Serious Frauds: Story of Purchase of Motor-car: His "Fad" for Furniture

Serious allegations of fraud were preferred against the young man Norman W. Bowler on Monday when he made his appearance on remand before Mr. G. W. King on the charges of obtaining from Dodge & Seymour, Ld., a motor-car valued at Tls. 1,500 by false pretences, credit to the amount of $357.11 from Mrs. Wallace, 14 Route de Grouchy, $1,053.93 from Arts & Crafts, Ld., and $330 from Jack Case, by fraud other than false pretences.

Mr. E. T. Maitland, Police Prosecutor, now appeared to prosecute and prisoner was represented by Mr. M. Reader Harris.

At the outset of the proceedings the Magistrate intimated that he intended to try the case summarily. He understood the motor-car had been returned, while the furniture was still in existence and could be given back to Arts & Crafts, Ld., little the worse. By this means the amount of the alleged frauds would be considerably reduced and would bring the case within the jurisdiction of his Court.

Mrs. T. M. Wallace said she kept two paying guests at her home in Route de Grouchy, and on January 15 defendant was one. He took two fully furnished rooms, with board, and leased a garage. He was to be charged Tls. 180 for board and lodging and Tls. 10 for the garage. On February 27 he left her to go to the Victoria Nursing Home. He had previously said he was with the Asia Life Insurance Co. She tendered the account half way through the month and he put her off, stating that he was busy and rather pressed owing to the Chinese New Year. She approached him a day or so later and he gave her a cheque for $357. She presented the cheque to the bank and it was returned because there were "not sufficient funds" to meet it. She spoke to Bowler again and he then said he had cabled his father in England and expected money at the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank any day. On February 5 he told her that if she presented the cheque at the bank again it would be met. Her husband went to the bank, but the cheque was returned. He left them on February 9 and they saw him the following morning, but he again failed to pay. He put her off on other occasions and once offered to guarantee that the landlord should have his rent by February 22. When February 24 arrived, however, neither she nor the landlord had been paid, and today he owed her $358.

A FAD FOR FURNITURE.

Mrs. Wallace added that defendant brought a certain amount of furniture and fittings with him, including a writing desk, an arm chair, a desk chair and certain electrical fittings. He remarked to her that he had a fad for that sort of thing.

Mr. Donald S. Riggs, of the American Express Company Banking-Corporation, said Bowler opened an account with the Bank in June, 1923. On January 7 he had a balance of $39.53. On December 14 the account had actually been closed, but the $39.53 was a cheque they had in hand to his credit. On January 14 the sum of $300 was paid in by Bowler and accepted in error by a Chinese receiving clerk. The Bank had wished to close his account of their own accord, though witness did not know why.

CHEQUES RETURNED.

Replying to Mr. Maitland, witness said that had a cheque of Bowler's for Tls. 1,500 been presented on January 15 it would not have been met. Several cheques were handed in and returned for sums larger than the amount to his credit. At the present time there was a balance of $1.75 to his credit.

Mr. F. B. Bills, manager of the Hedford Motors, said Bowler came to the garage on December 22 and bought an Essex car for which he tendered a cheque for Tls. 1,500, post dated. When the date fell due, January 7, the cheque was returned. He accepted a post dated cheque because Bowler said he had some money due from the "North-China Daily News," enough to cover the price of the car. As he had a good appearance and good address witness believed him. On January 15 he obtained another cheque, but this was no good either. Pressed for the money he finally returned the car.

QUICKEST DEAL EVER PUT THROUGH.

Cross-examined witness said the deal, when made, was the quickest they had ever put through.

Mr. A. Taylor, of the sales department of the Hudford Motors, also gave evidence. He stated that they allowed defendant credit because he said he had commissions from the "North-China Daily News," a well known and respectable firm.

Mr. R. W. Davis, Managing Director of the "North-China Daily News," said Bowler was employed on a commission basis by the paper. He obtained advertisements for the Christmas issue. On December 22 he had been paid all that was owing to him, and was no longer employed. He was only working on the Christmas issue, for about a fortnight or a month.

Cross-examined, witness said Bowler was given visiting cards in one corner of which—given purely as an address—was the title "North-China Daily News." He went to Hongkong for the firm, and drew during the time he was away $600 for expenses. In addition to being employed with the "North-China Daily News" itself he was also employed to aid in the assistance of the compilation of a compendium by Messrs. Davis and Brooke. He had no money due from either the paper or the compendium on December 22.

Mr. Mitchell Berry, salesman of Arts & Crafts Ld., described how defendant, in January, purchased furniture for his flat to the value of $1,053.90. Arts & Crafts were decorating the flat partially. The furniture was supplied on the strength of Bowler's position with the "North-China Daily News." A settle ordered by Bowler worth over $200 was stopped on Wednesday morning when they knew he was in difficulties.

At this stage the hearing was adjourned until Wednesday.

Bowler's Business Prospects

At Wednesday's hearing evidence was given concerning a two million dollar insurance scheme.

Mr. E. T. Maitland, Police Prosecutor, announced that there was one more charge to be added, namely, "that on August 27 of last year defendant did unlawfully obtain at Shanghai a motor-car and two tyres valued at Tls. 1,300 by false pretences, the false pretences consisting of untrue statements that he had the sum of Tls. 2,000 due to him from the "North-China Daily News."

The Magistrate raised some objection to this charge being added at the last moment. He pointed out that at the first hearing of the case he had taken into consideration the fact that the motor-car and furniture had been returned to their original owners, thus bringing the value of the alleged frauds down, and agreed to try the case summarily. Now came this further charge putting up the value of the money concerned considerably and leaving the Magistrate in a somewhat embarrassed position. He asked what guarantee he had that the police would not keep on bringing forward additional charges, in which case he would have to commit the case to the upper court, even though he had pledged himself to try the case summarily.

The only course he could see would be to take the cases separately and this would probably be harmful to the defendant.

Mr. Maitland said the police had only heard of this last charge on the previous day. They could not possibly have included it before.

Mr. Reader Harris (defending) strongly objected to the cases being tried separately. It would mean, he said, that if acquitted of these other charges his client would simply be re-arrested on leaving the Court.

After further discussion the magistrate agreed to take the cases together.

TAILOR'S EVIDENCE.

Mr. Jack Case, a tailor carrying on business at 418 Kiangse

DO YOU KNOW ?

THAT THE MANUFACTURERS OF THE "Three Castles" CIGARETTES USE CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN HALF OF THE VIRGINIA TOBACCO GROWN IN THE UNITED STATES ?

THAT THEY ARE ABLE THEREFORE TO SELECT THE FINEST LEAF.... ...THE ONLY KIND USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF "Three Castles" ?

"Three Castles"

MADE IN ENGLAND

P-42

This advertisement is issued by the British-American Tobacco Co. (China) Ltd.

A PIECE GOODS TRADE MARK

Successful Action by Bradford Dyers' Association: Injunction Against a Chinese Company

We give below the full text of an important Mixed Court judgment on the subject of trade mark infringement, and delivered by Mr. A. J. Martin, British Assessor, and Magistrate Kuan. The case originally came forward in November last and the plaintiffs were the Bradford Dyers' Association Ltd., who took action against the Lee Wo Dying and Weaving factory for an injunction restraining them from infringing a special piece goods trade mark. Plaintiffs' petition was granted.

Counsel engaged in the case were Messrs. Hansons, and Messrs. Platt & Co., for plaintiffs, and Messrs. Krisel & Krisel for defendants.

In this case the Plaintiffs, the Bradford Dyers' Association pray for an injunction restraining the Defendants, the Lee Wo Dyeing and Weaving Factory from using as their trade name the characters (麗華染織工廠) or any variation thereof of which the characters (麗華染) form part, and from fixing or attaching, or causing to be fixed or attached, to any cloth of the Defendants or otherwise employing, or circulating, or causing to be employed or circulated, any label, ticket notice or advertisement in which the trade name of the Defendants is represented by the characters (麗華染織工廠) or any variation thereof of which the characters 麗華染 form part.

The Defendants in reply allege that they were [illegible] and in good faith carrying on business under the name Lee Wo Jan Chih Kung Ch'ang (麗華染織工廠).

The facts of this case as given in the evidence are as follows:

The Plaintiffs are an Association of over 40 Dyeworks, whose business is dyeing and finishing piece goods. The Association opened an office in China in March 1902, its object being to advertise and extend the sale of the products of the Association.

One of the first steps of the Association was to adopt a Chinese Hong name, and the name adopted was Lee Wo Jan Fang Kung Ssu (麗華染坊公司) i.e. Lee Wo Dyeing Company. This Hong name was registered in London under the trademark Act in 1902 and with the Imperial Maritime Customs in Shanghai. The character Lee means by itself "beautiful" and the character Wo by itself "flowery" or "beautiful." In combination they were used as a Hong name in the same way as Ewo (of which E 怡 means harmony and Wo 和 means harmony) has been adopted as the Hong name and all piece goods have been imported wrapped in paper stamped with the Hong name since 1902.

The Association started an advertising campaign and from 1905 they employed runners to distribute samples and advertisements to all places of importance in China where piece goods are sold. Their records show that Wusih was included in the places visited by their runners as far back as 1905. In 1910 Plaintiffs sent signboards all over China and 17 of these were sent to Wusih. There has been a continuous advertising campaign and a considerable increase in business and an improvement in the quality of goods taken by the China Market until the Plaintiffs' Association handled 60 per cent. of the dyed piece goods imported into China and 75 per cent. of the dyed goods coming from England. Plaintiffs state that they receive letters from all over China expressing approval of their goods.

In August 1923 the Manager of the Plaintiff Association was shown patterns of Defendants piece goods containing the Hong name Lee Wo Jan Chin Jung Ch'ang (麗華染織工廠). Mr. Allen the Manager of the Plaintiffs' Company stated that he could not distinguish his patterns from those of the Defendant Company.

The name of the Bradford Dyers' Association does not appear on the cloth dyed by the members of the Association but the letters B D A appear on the cloth while the Defendants have a trade mark representing Two Flying Boys. A representative of the Defendant Company came to see Mr. Allen in August and maintained that as their cloth was stamped with the sign Two Flying Boys there would be no confusion and refused to discontinue the use of the characters. (麗華染).

The Defendants are a partnership. There was a partnership running a factory called Kuan Hua Pu Ch'ang. In 1917 this business was divided and some of the partners established a new factory under the name Kuang Hua Pu Ch'ang, while other of the partners, of whom Mr. Ch'en Ching T'ang was one, established the Defendants' business under the name Lee Wo Pu Ch'ang. Mr. Ch'en stated that at the time the name Lee Woo was adopted he did not know of any firm in any line of business which had the name Lee Wo and that he did not know the Bradford Dyers' Association were known as Lee Wo until he met Mr. Allen in August 1923. The name Lee Wo Pu Ch'ang (Lee Wo Cloth Factory) was changed to Lee Wo Jan Chih Kung Ch'ang (Lee Wo Dyeing and Weaving Factory) in the same year 1917.

Mr. Ch'en testified that the Defendant Company did not dye or finish any cloth at all. Their only business is weaving cloth. They sometimes buy white yarn and dye it, and sometimes buy coloured yarn and sometimes send white cloth manufactured by them to other people to be dyed. The name Lee Wo Jan Chih Kung Ch'ang (Lee Wo Dyeing Factory) was adopted in order that people might know that they produce coloured cloth. Factories entitled Pu Ch'ang would be understood to produce white cloth only.

Defendants admit that Plaintiffs have spent money advertising the name Lee Wo but maintain that Lee Wo is merely a descriptive term and as such there can be no exclusive right to the use of it. The Court is of opinion that Lee Wo is not a merely descriptive term used for describing goods but is a Hong name and as much the Hong name of the Bradford Dyers' Association as Ewo is of Jardine Matheson & Co. or Wayfoong is of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The Plaintiffs have made no allegation of fraud against the Defendants, and the only issue is whether the adoption and use by the Defendants of the name Lee Wo Jan Chih Kung Ch'ang is likely to mislead purchasers into believing that they are purchasing the goods of the Bradford Dyers' Association (Lee Wo Jan Fang Kung Ssu).

The Court is of the opinion that the adoption by the Defendants of a name of which the first three characters Lee Wo Jan (麗華染) are those of the Plaintiff Association is bound to mislead purchasers into believing that they are purchasing the goods of the Plaintiff Association.

Mr. K'u Tsu Pu, Manager of the Ta Feng Piecegoods Company and President of the Freign Piecegoods Guild, who was called as a witness for the Defendants, admitted that if last summer he had heard anyone speak of Lee Wo He would have thought they referred to the Plaintiffs and that if both Plaintiffs and Defendants were dyeing works there would be confusion. He also admitted that two or three years ago he had objected to another firm adopting the name Ta Feng, because his firm and the other firm both dealt in woollen goods, although his firm is a wholesale firm and the other firm was a retail firm.

Mr. Wu Ching Hao, President of the Piecegoods Union, giving evidence for the Defendants, stated that the Defendants' products being native products could be easily distinguished from the products of the Plaintiffs, but when confronted in Court with patterns of Defendants' and Plaintiffs' products was quite unable to distinguish which was which.

A Postcard addressed to the Defendants has been delivered to the Plaintiffs and the Court is of opinion that the similarity in the two names is sufficient to account for the mistake.

The Court is satisfied that the adoption by the Defendants of the name Lee Wo Jan Chih Kung Ch'ang cannot but mislead innocent purchasers into believing that they are purchasing Plaintiffs' goods and therefore gives judgment for the Plaintiffs and grants the injunction prayed for and further orders that defendants deliver to Plaintiffs within one month all labels tickets notices and advertisements in which the trade name of the Defendants is represented by the characters (麗華染織工廠) or by any variation thereof, of which the characters (麗華染) form part.

THE QUESTION OF FRAUD.

Fraudulent intent on the part of the Defendants has not been alleged and it is not necessary to decide whether or not the Defendants adopted the name to which objection has been taken with intent to deceive. But after hearing the evidence in the case it is difficult for the Court to believe the statement of Mr. Ch'en Ching T'ang a partner in the Defendants' factory, that when in 1917 the name Lee Wo Pu Ch'ang was adopted as the name of the factory and when later in the same year the name was changed to Lee Wo Jan Chih Kung Ch'ang the defendants were unaware of the existence of the Bradford Dyers' Association. In as much as the Defendants state that they do not dye any cloth it is difficult to believe that the word "Jan" was incorporated in its name without intent to deceive. Furthermore the Defendants have furnished clear evidence of intention to mislead in a letter which they addressed to the Wusih Chamber of Commerce after the first hearing in the case with a request for assistance. Their letter was published in the "*Sinwanpao*" on December 12, 1923 and the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce wrote a letter which was forwarded to this Court and which we feel sure they would not have written if they had not been mislead by the statements of the Defendants nor if they had been in possession of the facts as disclosed at the trial of the case.

It is significant that in writing to the Wusih Chamber of Commerce the Defendants did not venture once to call themselves the name Lee Wo Jan Chih Kung Ch'ang, their use of which name has led to this action, but call themselves Lee Hua Pu Ch'ang, or Lee Hua Cloth Factory.

ROBBERS SENTENCED

Ten and Five-Year Terms for Members of Dangerous Gang

Three men alleged to have participated in an armed robbery on Chaoufoong Road on February 17, on the premises occupied by a pawnshop, were brought to trial at the Mixed Court on Monday morning before Mr. Martin and Magistrate Kuan. Third accused was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and the other two to five years each.

The chief witness called by Chief Det.-Insp. Cruickshank was a young shop assistant who told the Court that he with others were at the shop at seven o'clock as the men came in. Two came right inside, while the third stood on guard at the door. The one carrying a pistol broke a window with the butt end of it.

Several watches were produced and one identified as having been stolen.

The Inspector—Are any of the robbers in Court?—There they are (pointing to first and third, who stood in the dock).

Are you sure?

Witness walked to the dock and pointed directly at the first and third. "The third accused carried the knife," he said.

Witness afterwards expressed doubt that first accused was in Court, but remained positive in the case of the third prisoner. The robbery had been committed by tall men, witness added.

All three prisoners were put into the witness box and questioned by the Magistrate.

Before giving their verdict the Bench asked Chief Insp. Cruickshank whether he had any comments to make, to which he replied. "We have not got the principals of the gang, but it is obvious to the Court that these men are implicated, and we may eventually get the ringleaders. The third accused is a crafty one with brains, though he prefers to assume the rôle of a simpleton."

Passing sentence of five and 10-year terms, the Bench ordered the confiscation of the automatic pistol and the wrench used as a dummy gun.

THE THEFTS FROM THE KASHGAR

Further Evidence Against Accused

Further evidence was heard at the Mixed Court on Wednesday morning in the charges against nine defendants, who are accused of having stolen 14 boxes of cloth and the contents of sundry broken boxes from the P. & O. S. Kashgar on January 8. Det.-Insp. Reeves prosecuted for the police, Mr. Mancel Reece appeared for the complainants while Dr. Fischer and Mr. J. R. Brown acted for certain of the prisoners.

One of the accused denied signing a certain statement which implicated him, and said that if he had known what was contained in the document he would never have affixed his signature and further that he did not understand at a previous hearing the questions put to him incriminating him, or he would not have admitted what he had. He denied all charges completely. Another called from the dock to the box admitted signing a statement and said it was correct. He had only seen two boys carrying out two rolls of cloth from which he got six yards which he sold to the tea seller. He did not know whether two rolls or 200 were taken, nor did he know any of the accused.

Det.-Insp. Reeves told the Court that he had talked readily at the Station and proved very willing to tell what he knew. He had identified Sz from among five others as being the receiver of some of the goods, but at yesterday's hearing he said that no one else was present when he was asked to point out the receiver. The fourth accused told him about Sz, so he knew all about him. They had been arrested on the same day in Chinese territory but he had not met him until they had been in custody two days.

The man charged with receiving, denied the charge completely and said that the fourth accused was angry with him because of a fight that they had had last summer when the latter had tried to borrow $10 from him during a gambling game and he refused to lend it. He said that he had been away from home for 10 days at the time of the robbery because his wife had gone to her people to have her eyes examined and as he had no one to cook his rice, he had gone to his brother's to live. His home was two roads from the river. It was put to him that his wife was dangerously ill at the time so he said that he was away only a part of the time. Later, he said that she was away 14 days, then admitted, as the prosecution showed that she had stayed in the next house, that such was true.

The hearing had not concluded when the Court adjourned.

CHILEANS AND EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY

Privileges Asserted in Mixed Court Case: Two Defendants

The question whether Chileans are entitled to extraterritorial privileges was argued at the Mixed Court on Thursday, when a man named Yip Ching-ho was charged before Mr. Jacobs and Magistrate Kuan with malicious prosecution.

Dr. Sellett said that though he had tried to get correspondence from official sources on the subject of the actual treaty he had been unable to do so. Therefore he must perforce submit the treaty itself. The interest of his client was not so great as that of the Chilean Consul, who was not represented in Court. The treaty in question was signed on February 18, 1915 and Art. 11 was as follows:—"The Government of China and the Government of Chile shall have the right to appoint Diplomatic Agents, Consuls-General and Consuls shall enjoy the same immunities...as are and may be conceded to the Diplomatic and Consular Agents of the most favoured Powers."

Continuing, Dr. Sellett said the Swiss treaty of 1918 which contains an identical article (Art. 11), concedes rights of extraterritoriality, but that this treaty contains an explanatory declaration which being drawn up later might imply the same rights to the citizens under the Chilean treaty.

The Bench reserved their decision until Tuesday, stating that a message had just been received from the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs that a telegram had come from Peking which had a bearing on the point in question.

MIXED COURT PROCEDURE

Chinese Lawyer's Plea on Behalf of Defendants Seriously Charged

An interesting suggestion is made to Magistrate Kuan, Senior Mixed Court Magistrate, in a letter from a Chinese lawyer, Mr. Sung Sz-siang, concerning the defence of prisoners charged with high crimes and misdemeanours. He points out that in the Mixed Court these men are not allowed a free legal advice and attendance, and as the most of them are ignorant and illiterate they are not able to put forward their defence in the manner it should be put forward, and it may sometimes happen that an innocent man is convicted. The letter goes on to remark that according to Article 178 of the Penal Code prisoners charged with offences punishable by imprisonment of the Third Degree are entitled to a lawyer provided at the expense of the Court. Similarly the privilege is extended in nearly all foreign countries and is sanctioned by a Presidential Mandate of July 1 in the 11th year of the Republic (1922). He is of opinion that the same privilege should be extended to Mixed Court prisoners and asks Magistrate Kuan to forward the suggestion to the Consular Body for approval.

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Webb replied that the Government could hardly deal with that question, which was a matter for the trade unions and employers. —Reuter.

IMPERIAL WIRELESS

Marconi Co.'s Plea for Unity of Control: Post Office Duties Not Clearly Defined

London, Mar. 7.

The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company have addressed a letter to the Premier, expressing the hope that the Company will be allowed an opportunity of stating their case before the Government come to a decision on the recommendations of the Imperial Wireless Committee.

The Company state their reasons for the request, including a suggestion that it is essential, in order to secure real efficiency, that all long-distance stations in the country should be worked under one administration.

The Company hope that the Government will be willing to refer to arbitration two points on which agreement with the Post Office has not been reached (whether the Post Office shall own and operate all Empire wireless stations in Britain or, alternatively, whether exception shall be made in the case of Canada and the existing competition between the Post Office and the Anglo-Canadian wireless be continued) and allow the agreement, which could then be completed within 48 hours, to be proceeded with. Otherwise, the Company suggest an arrangement for joint working between the Government and the Company on lines similar to those introduced in Australia.—Reuter.

THE INDIAN BUDGET REJECTED

Government Proposals Overthrown by Swarajist Opposition

Nagpur, Mar. 9.

The obstructionist tactics of the Swarajists in the Central Provinces Legislative Council have culminated in the total rejection of the Budget. A salary of only two rupees a year for Ministers was voted, whereupon Mr. B. P. Standen, the Finance Member, declared that the Governor would have to take over the transferred Departments.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 10.

The Calcutta correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" understands that the sanction of Lord Olivier, the Secretary of State for India, for the dissolution of the Central Provinces Legislative Council has already been sought. —Reuter.

Delhi, Mar. 10.

In the debate on the budget proposals in the Legislative Assembly to-day the Swarajists inflicted a series of defeats on the Government by refusing the Customs grant of 75 lakhs of rupees and successively rejecting by narrow majorities the Government's proposals regarding the income tax, the salt tax and opium.

Moving the rejection of the Customs grant Mr. Motilal Nehru declared that while Indians welcomed the change of vision evinced in the recent speech in London of the Secretary of State for India, Baron Olivier, the British Government's reply to the demand for a responsible Government was wholly unacceptable. Sir W. L. Hailey described the motion as an effort to bring constitutional government to a standstill.—Reuter.

LONDON, March 10.—The famous golf professional, Ben Sayers, has died.—Reuter.

NEW YORK, Mar. 12.—Lloyd's report that the American steamer Santiago, bound from Cuba to New York with a cargo of sugar, has been abandoned 60 miles south of Cape Hatteras. One lifeboat containing ten men has been picked up by a Norwegian steamer. There is no trace of the remainder of the crew.—Reuter's American Service.

FRANCE'S FINANCIAL MEASURES

Government's Grave Concern Regarding the Collapse of the Franc

London, Mar. 6.

After the recent temporary recovery the franc to-day reached the new low record of 108. The Belgian franc was quoted at 124½. —Reuter.

London, Mar. 7.

French francs to-day touched a fresh low record of 113.75 and closed at 112.05.

Belgian francs, after depreciating to 130½, closed at 127¾.—Reuter.

New York, Mar. 7.

The French franc fell to-day to 3.77½ cents and the Belgian franc to 3.29⅛ cents. There was heavy liquidation of French Government bonds.—Reuter's American Service.

London, Mar. 7.

Many reasons are advanced for the sensational fall of the franc which is causing consternation in France. The fundamental weakness is attributed to, *inter alia*, the Ruhr policy and the French Government's refusal to impose adequate taxation owing to the disinclination of the people to bear it.

The Bank of France declares that the increase of 1,000,000,000 francs in the note circulation, which was largely the immediate cause of the collapse, was chiefly due to a general increase in prices necessitating more money for business or alternatively less trade. This statement is regarded as indicating a policy of greater inflation with consequent perils.—Reuter.

Premier's Threat to Resign

Paris, Mar. 6.

The Finance Committee of the Senate having rejected the three main provisions of the Finance Bill, namely, reduction of expenditure by decree, increase of taxation by 20 per cent. and introduction of a system to prevent evasion of the income-tax, M. Poincaré told the Committee today that he would resign unless it changed its view by Tuesday.

Mar. 7.

The Senate to-day passed the Electoral Reform Bill which generally maintains the present method of voting. This is regarded as indicating that the Senate will not defy M. Poincaré with regard to the Finance Bill.—Reuter.

M. Poincare's Challenge

Paris, Mar. 7.

There was a great excitement late this afternoon in the lobbies of the Chamber of Deputies when it was learned that M. Poincaré had sent his seconds to the Royalist Deputy, M. Delaunay, owing, apparently, to M. Delaunay having used the word "felony" in an interjection during a speech by M. Poincaré in the Chamber.

The seconds, consisting of the Minister of War and the Minister of Colonies, agreed with M. Delaunay's seconds, after a half-hour's conference, that there was no cause for a duel.—Reuter.

Paris, Mar. 9.

In view of the position of the franc the Senate Finance Committee is speeding up consideration of M. Poincaré's fiscal measures with the object of presenting a report to the Senate as early as possible. The Committee yesterday accepted the principle in the proposals that the State [illegible] article preventing creation of fresh civil service posts and the article increasing all taxes by 20

Dutch Firm's Speculations

London, Mar. 8.

The flight of the franc continued this morning, the quotation falling to 117. The Belgian franc was quoted at 131.

The position as regards the franc is causing interest and anxiety in the City, where it is realized that the effects would be far-reaching and disastrous if the currency met the same fate as several other continental ones. Great bear operations are attributed as an additional cause for the fall. The centre of the movement is alleged to be in Holland. A prominent exchange broker declares that one Dutch House has made over £1,000,000 by manipulating the market in francs since September.—Reuter.

Meeting of Financiers and Ministers

Paris, Mar. 9.

President Millerand, M. Poincaré, M. de Lasteyrie, the Minister of Finance, the Manager of the of Finance, and several prominent financiers conferred at the Elysée this morning with regard to the measures necessary to improve the financial situation and restore the franc. The Government intend to impress upon the Senate the urgency of passing new financial measures, rapidly reducing expenditure and ending the loan policy. It is understood that the Bank of France will continue to associate itself with the Government's efforts.—Reuter.

Paris, Mar. 10.

The Senate Finance Committee examined Premier Poincaré's financial proposals the whole of yesterday afternoon. They passed a number of articles, but amended others. The Committee has up to the present approved the Frs 4,000,000,000 increased taxation, but remains hostile to investing the Government with power to form regulations having the force of law.—Reuter.

Paris, Mar. 10.

The financial situation is engrossing the public virtually to the exclusion of everything else.

The conference at the Elysée, mentioned earlier, was a council of war unprecedented in French history, marking the grave concern with which the Government contemplates the collapse of the franc.

The measures discussed, it is believed, include reduction of fiduciary circulation, which has practically touched the legal limit of Frs. 41,000,000,000, reduction of expenditure in the devastated areas, increase of the discount rate and heavy buying of francs, but, as secrecy is essential for the success of the counter-offensive, no official details have transpired.

Later.

The Cabinet has approved the measures decided upon at the Elysée yesterday morning for the restoration of the franc. M. Poincaré will make a question of confidence of the passage of the taxation bills before the Senate without essential modifications. The debate is expected to begin on Thursday and conclude on Saturday.—Reuter.

The Exchange Market.

London, Mar. 10.

Nervousness and weakness today continued to characterize the exchange market. The French franc improved to 113.75, but fell back to the record low level of 119.50. The Belgian franc rose to 127 and closed at 133.50. Spanish pesetas were quoted at 34.80. Sterling on New York receded to 4.26⅜.—Reuter.

Rumoured Loan by Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co.

New York, Mar. 11.

Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co. refuse to comment on rumours that they have offered France a three months' credit of $50,000,000 at 6 per cent. interest with the object of stabilizing the franc. This is regarded in financial circles as indicating that arrangements for such a credit are pending.

The "New York Times" says that a wide canvass of financial circles elicited the almost uniform opinion that the psychological moment for such an operation has arrived.—Reuter's American Service.

Paris, Mar. 11.

There is reason to believe that the Government are considering the postponement of the elections for six months or a year in view of the alleged offensive against the franc. It is reported that President Millerand favours the idea.

Mar. 12.

The Senate Finance Committee has now voted the whole of the Government's new finance measures with certain amendments, including articles tightening up the present financial laws. Large consolidation operations are contemplated. The Bank of France is negotiating with a view to obtaining large credits.—Reuter.

Increased Revenue Returns.

Later.

The revenue returns for January and February show a surplus of Frs. 905,000,000 as compared with the same period last year.—Reuter.

Credits From Great Britain and America

London, Mar. 12.

The improvement of the franc, which is now 108, is attributed partly to an arrangement in London for acceptance of a credit of £5,000,000 in favour of the French Government. The credit, in which a number of leading London banks and financial houses are participating, will run for 12 months, and will be covered by a deposit of National Defence Bonds and backed by a guarantee by the Bank of France.

Later.

The French franc to-day steadily appreciated to 102.90 and closed at 105.37. Belgian francs rallied to 120.75 and closed at 125.25.—Reuter.

New York, Mar. 12.

American bankers, headed by Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., have established a credit of $100,000,000 in favour of the Banque de France.

The French loan is fully secured by gold in the vaults of the Banque de France, which is acting for the French Government. It will be used to stabilize the French exchange and for other purposes. It is understood that the duration of the loan is one year. The statement does not mention the exact amount of the loan or the rate of interest, but quotes the Governor of the Banque as giving a pledge that complete measures will be taken to better the financial situation.—Reuter's American Service.

Paris, Mar. 12.

The Left Parties have decided that, if the Government prorogues the Chamber instead of having a general election, all the Left Senators and Deputies will resign *en bloc* and submit the case to the country.—Reuter.

FRESH TENSION IN PALATINATE

Germany Indignant at Allied Schemes of Military Control

London, Mar. 7.

The Inter-Allied Mission has again been despatched to the Palatinate as a result of certain disquieting events. There is still much tension in several centres there in view of alleged French reprisals and arrests of anti-Separatists.—Reuter.

Berlin, Mar. 8.

The Allies' Note regarding military control of Germany is the subject of very indignant comments by the Nationalist press, which demand its rejection regardless of consequences, declaring that the Note is a violation of the Treaty of Versailles. The moderate journals, although disappointed, recognize that abrupt rejection would do Germany more harm than good.—Reuter.

Three Deaths in Strike Riot at Duesseldorf.

London, Mar. 7.

A French source at Duesseldorf states that following the disturbances at the Badische Aniline factory at Ludwigshafen on Wednesday 3,000 workers stormed the factory. German police fired on the demonstrators and three were killed and 52 wounded, of whom 31 are in a serious condition. Four police were wounded. The police requested the French military officials to intervene and the French commander assumed control of the German police and sent a detachment of troops to the factory, who restored order without firing a shot.—Reuter.

Note: The employees of the factory struck on March 5, refusing to work nine hours a day.—Reuter.

Paris, Mar. 8.

M. Poincaré in the course of a three-hour speech in the Chamber of Deputies last night reiterated that France would only give up the Ruhr proportionately to payments and after total payment. He had strong hopes that French policy would not be contradicted by the Committees of Experts. If unity of the Allied front were re-established, Germany would carry out her obligations and there was every chance that a general settlement would speedily be put into operation.

French Policy Expounded.

The Foreign Office has issued a Yellow Book dealing with the inter-Allied negotiations regarding French security. It is a voluminous collection of letters and documents covering the period from January, 1919, to December, 1923. It does not reveal any secrets but throws light on the abortive Anglo-French negotiations for a treaty of alliance. Marshal Foch's memorandum urging the organization of the Rhine as a military frontier is among the published documents.

The Book is apparently designed to demonstrate, in view of the possibility of a fresh conference, that all the French Government's aims since the armistice have been dominated by the same preoccupation, namely, to ensure the security of France against possible German aggression once and for all, but without annexation of any part of Germany, which has not been contemplated. It is emphasized that the policy of the successive French Cabinets has been consistent and unvarying on this matter.—Reuter

France's Protective Measures to Prevent Aggression

London, March 10.

Strong sympathy is extended on every hand with France in her desire for security as brought out in the Yellow Book, issued by the French Foreign Office, dealing with the Inter-Allied negotiations regarding French security.

It is recognized that France is reasonably apprehensive of aggression from a rehabilitated Germany, but nevertheless the British disinclination to enter into a military alliance in accordance with the French views is defended, and at the same time it is pointed out that the occupation of the Ruhr and the Rhineland has no more solved France's fear of Germany than it has solved the reparations question. It is emphasized that security is more important than reparations and hopes are entertained that the discussions between M. Poincaré and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald will lead to an agreement on this predominant consideration. —Reuter.

GENERAL ELECTION IN GERMANY

Reich's Request for Freedom of Speech and Liberty of Press in Rhineland

Berlin, Mar. 9.

In view of the approaching general election, the Government of the Reich have appealed to the authorities in the occupied territories for liberty of the press and freedom of speech throughout the occupied zones in order to ensure uninfluenced voting.

The Government have asked permission for speakers from occupied Germany to address meetings and that the 140,000 inhabitants expelled from the occupied regions, two-thirds of whom are voters, should be allowed to vote.

It is stated that the inter-Allied Rhineland High Commission is likely to grant freedom of the press "as far as the safety of the occupation troops permits." —Reuter.

GERMAN GOLD NOTE CREDIT BANK

Sterling Denomination

Berlin, Mar. 9.

In the Budget Committee of the Reichstag to-day, Herr Schacht, President of the Reichsbank, outlined the plan for the establishment of a new Bank of Issue or a German Gold Note Credit Bank, an institution to be purely German and managed by the Reichsbank. The resources will be 500,000,000 gold marks, and the notes will be in the denomination of the

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

SINGAPORE BASE SCHEME HELD UP

Decisive Statement by Prime Minister Acquiesced in by Admiral Beatty: Expense too Great under Present Conditions of Finance

London, Mar. 8.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Admiral of the Fleet Earl Beatty, the First Sea Lord, met yesterday when the Premier explained that the Cabinet had decided that the Singapore Naval Base scheme could not proceed in the present state of the nation's finances. Earl Beatty made it clear that the Admiralty accepted the decision. This disposes of the possibility of Naval resignations.

The Government's decision is obviously regretted by the "Times," which sets forth at length the naval and commercial qualifications possessed by Singapore, says that happily at present there is no probability that any warlike action will be necessary in Far Eastern waters, but it is pure folly to suppose that no conflict will ever occur amid so many ambitions prevailing there. Britain might not be directly involved but British shipping will probably be the first to suffer. The paper says that, if there is to be no immediate progress in the work undertaken at Singapore, there must at least be no irrevocable reversal of policy.

The discontinuance of work on the Singapore base is regarded as quite justified by the "Observer." It thinks that until the naval outlook is both technically and strategically more clearly determined and more urgent deficiencies, such as the hopelessly unbalanced condition of the home air defences, are made good, it is practicable to wait, say seven years, and do the work in three years, instead of carrying out the original proposal of spreading construction over 10 years.

The Southern Dominion's Duty.

Addressing a distinguished company at the annual dinner of His Majesty's Civil Service, including the Duke of York, the Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the First Lord of the Admiralty, Viscount Chelmsford, the Deputy Leader of the House, Mr. J. R. Clynes, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Philip Snowden, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. J. H. Thomas, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Doveton Sturdee declared that Singapore was the gateway to the Pacific.

He thought that they ought to defend it and the Australians, New Zealanders and everyone interested in China trade should help them (Cheers.)

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, subsequently proposing the toast of the Civil Service, remarked amid laughter that he could not say that he quite agreed with everything Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee had said. Referring to the press reports about Admiralty pressure with regard to the Singapore scheme, he remarked that when he saw Admiralty officers, in whom they had the greatest confidence, used as pawns in a political game, he thought it his duty as the head of the Government to protest (Cheers). The Civil Service was responsible for advice and the Government was responsible for policy. Any newspaper attacks must therefore be directed against the latter.

Civil Service Compliments.

In conclusion the Prime Minister paid a high tribute to the loyalty and whole-hearted devotion shown by the Civil Service since Labour's advent into power.

Sir Oswyn A. R. Murray, the Permanent Secretary of the Admiralty, responding, remarked that the tendency of the present Ministry to decide important questions for themselves made for good administration and prompt decisions.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 11.

An announcement of the Government's decision not to proceed with the Singapore base is expected to-morrow, when the Earl of Balfour will also raise the question in the House of Lords. —Reuter.

BRITISH AIR FORCE ESTIMATES

Progressive Development of Force: Home Defence Requirements

London, Mar. 6.

The Army estimates for the year 1924-5 total £45,000,000, as compared with £52,000,000 last year. The establishment, excluding India, consists of 152,000 men, as compared with 154,000.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 7.

The Air estimates for the year 1924-5 total £14,511,000, an increase of £2,500,000 as compared with the current year.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 7.

In regard to the Air estimates for 1924/5, which total £14,511,000, it is announced that the cost of the Air Force in Iraq and Palestine has been decreased by over £1,500,000.

The increase in the estimates by £2,500,000 as compared with the current year is due to expansion of the home defence Air Force, increased requirements of Navy and Army co-operation and replenishment of material.

Eight new regular home defence squadrons will be completely formed in 1924/5, bringing the number allotted for that purpose to 15 by April, 1925.

The estimates also provide for the initial equipment of six more squadrons, which at present have been arranged to be formed in 1925/6.

Air units working with the Navy will be increased by five flights and the strength of the air units working with the home Army will be increased by the equivalent of one squadron.

The personnel will be increased by 2,000 to 33,000.

No provision is made for the development of airships, but the Government is considering the matter.

The total Air estimates must be expected to increase for some years but, unless further expansion is imposed upon Britain, part of the increase will not be recurrent.—Reuter.

Orders Totalling £4,500,000:

London, Mar. 11.

Introducing the Air estimates in the House of Commons to-day, Mr. W. Leach, the Under-Secretary of State for Air, said that negotiations were proceeding for the purchase of six new aerodromes. The total of flying hours had increased 50 per cent. during the year and the increase overseas was still higher. The ratio of accidents throughout the whole Force was steadily falling.

Our orders to the aircraft industry this year, he said, would total £4,500,000. A new type of machine for naval co-operation and Army co-operation was being developed and experiments were also being made with metal construction on a very large scale, which should greatly lessen deterioration. The scheme for the subsidy of £1,000,000 to be spread over a period of ten years to the Imperial Air Transport Company was being faithfully carried out. The Government felt that the Burney airship scheme needed still more examination and Lieut.-Commander Burney would have full opportunity of laying his views before the Cabinet committee considering the question. They, therefore, did not feel justified in asking any money this year for airships.

In conclusion Mr. Leach emphasized that disarmament was necessary but that it must be [illegible] and he laid stress on the Government's policy of good-will. Reuter.

THE BRITISH NAVAL ESTIMATES

Big Reduction in Expenditure as Compared with Pre-war Standards

London, Mar. 13.

The Navy estimates for 1924/25 amount to £55,800,000 a reduction of £2,200,000 as compared with the present year. The estimates include £1,800,000 for the commencement of five cruisers and two destroyers.

The figure is approximately equivalent to an estimate of £34,500,000 before the war, and, hence, the scale of expenditure of the Navy has been reduced much below the 1914/15 standard, being equal to the expenditure in 1903/04, before the expansion to meet the German menace.

The personnel provided for is 100,500 as compared with 90,500 for the previous year.—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mackay Treaty and Abolition of Likin in China: The Customs Treaty

London, Mar. 12.

In the House of Commons today at question time, Mr. P.J.H. Hannon, Unionist Member for the Moseley Division of Birmingham, suggested, in the interests of British exporters, that the British Legation in Peking should be instructed to co-operate with the other Legations to ensure ratification of Article 8 of the Mackay Treaty.

Mr. Arthur Ponsonby, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, replied that, if Mr. Hannon referred to the fact that this Article, which provides for the abolition of likin, had not been carried out by the Chinese authorities, he could assure him that His Majesty's Government was fully alive to the importance of the matter. They were at present consulting His Majesty's Minister in Peking with regard to the best means of dealing with the question at the special conference to be held in pursuance of the Nine Power Customs Treaty, but it must be realized that great difficulties existed owing to the present disorganized conditions in China and the Central Government's lack of control over many of the provincial authorities.

Comparison of Naval Strength.

Replying to Viscount Curzon, Mr. Ammon, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, stated that the numbers of cruisers and submarines on the effective lists of the countries named were as follows:—

Britain, 48 cruisers and 61 submarines; United States, 29 cruisers and 115 submarines; Japan, 28 cruisers and 44 submarines; and France, 16 cruisers and 48 submarines.

On April 1, 1929, the numbers would be as follows:—

Britain, 22 cruisers and 31 submarines; United States, 10 cruisers and 122 submarines; Japan, 40 cruisers and 79 submarines; and France, 16 cruisers and 69 submarines.—Reuter.

QUESTION TIME IN PARLIAMENT

The Government, Dominions and the Singapore Base: Chinese Customs Surtax

London, Mar. 10.

In the House of Commons today, at question time, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald said that the Government were communicating with the Governments of the Dominions and India on the subject of the Singapore base. He hoped to be able to indicate the policy of the Government at an early date, certainly before Easter.

Mr. W. A. Chapple, Liberal Member for Dumfries, asked the reasons for the delay in carrying out the Washington Agreement in favour of a special conference to deal with the levying of an extra 2½ per cent. duty in China. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald replied that the special conference could not be summoned until the Nine Power Treaty signed at Washington, which provides for it, was ratified by all the signatory Powers.

The Postmaster-General, replying to a deputation from the printing trades, expressed the opinion that the restoration of the penny post would be the most practical solution of unemployment in the printing trade. He would endeavour to induce the Chancellor of the Exchequer to agree to the financial sacrifices involved.—Reuter.

TROUBLE IN THE IRISH NATIONAL ARMY

Wholesale Demobilization of Officers and Consequent Dissatisfaction

London, Mar. 10.

Wholesale demobilizations in the Irish National Army, culminating in the discharge of over 900 officers during the past week, have led to serious troubles in several military centres. A number of demobilized officers in Templemore went off with machine-guns, rifles and ammunition. An armoured-car was sent to round them up.

Two officers of high rank addressed a letter to the President, charging the Government with failure to interpret the Treaty in accordance with the spirit of the Irish people, with the result that the military are endeavouring to arrest them for insubordination. They complain that the latest lists of the demobilized contain too many officers who participated in the Anglo-Irish struggle.

There is great military activity in Dublin, where guards have been doubled and leave has been cancelled.—Reuter.

Searches for Arms on Ulster Border: Dublin Under Military Control

London, Mar. 10.

Following the Free State Army mutiny, there is great activity amongst the Ulster Constabulary at Londonderry. All motor-vehicles crossing the border from the Free State are being held up and searched with the object of preventing any attempt to transfer arms from the Free State military barracks in County Donegal into Londonderry.

The military authorities in Dublin state that the search for the two officers, Messrs. Tobin and Dalton, has up to the present been without result. Lorries full of soldiers have again appeared and are patrolling the streets of Dublin.—Reuter.

Mutinous Officers Still at Large

London, Mar. 11.

None of the officers who decamped with arms and munitions in connexion with the mutiny in the Free State Army has up to the present been apprehended. No rifles or munitions have been discovered in spite of exhaustive searches in Dublin and elsewhere.

Mr. William Cosgrave, the President and Minister of Finance, announced in the Dail Eireann to-day that the Government had received an ultimatum from Gen. Tobin and Col. Dalton on behalf of the "Executive Council of the Irish Republican Army." He said that it was impossible for the Government to ignore this challenge. Steps would be taken to deal with the matter.—Reuter.

Dublin, Mar. 11.

Mr. Joseph McGraith, the Minister of Industry and Commerce, announced in the Dail Eireann to-day that he had resigned on account of muddling in connexion with the Army trouble. Reuter.

Later.

The Minister for Defence, General R. Mulcahy in a speech in the Dail Eireann to-day said that there was a threat that a large number of officers throughout the army would resign or take up arms against the Government. The only place where there was any possibility of danger was County Cork, where the second-in-command had resigned. He was absolutely confident of the control of the forces in the rest of the country.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 12.

In the Dail Eireann to-day President Cosgrave intimated that the Executive would appoint a Cabinet committee to inquire into the administration of the Army. —Reuter.

THE BY-ELECTION AT WESTMINSTER

Mr. Stanley Baldwin's Support for Conservative Candidate Against Mr. Churchill

London, Mar. 10.

A piquant situation has arisen in the Westminster Abbey division where, after numerous prominent Conservatives had announced that they would support Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. Baldwin has issued a letter stating that Mr. Churchill's Conservative opponent, Mr. Nicholson, should receive the whole-hearted support of the Unionist party.

Mr. Churchill had just published an election address emphatically declaring his intention of supporting Mr. Baldwin and the Conservative party.—Reuter.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE A MODEL TO EUROPE

Mr. Thomas on Mutual Trust as Solution of All Quarrels

London, Mar. 7.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a speech at the first of a series of monthly luncheons inaugurated by the Overseas League during the period of the British Empire Exhibition, declared that the Government wished to obtain confidence throughout Europe similar to that uniting the British Empire, in which, he declared, whatever differences there were between Britain and the Dominions, neither would think of adding a copper to their armament burdens because of those differences, and in which each relied on the inherent common-sense and justice of the others. The Government did not believe in a solution of the difficulties of Europe by force but by common-sense, justice and arbitration.

Referring to the Colonies and Protectorates, Mr. Thomas laid stress on the fact that Britain was the trustee of millions of people in these territories. The Government had accepted this responsibility and it intended to see that the trust was not abused.

In conclusion the speaker urged a policy of industrial peace in Britain, the great essential of which, he affirmed, was confidence on both sides.—Reuter.

ASIATIC CREWS ON BRITISH SHIPS

Employment of Lascars on Vessels Trading Between Great Britain and India

London, Mar. 11.

In the House of Commons today, Commander Kenworthy (Liberal) called attention to the fact that five vessels sailing from Hull for the East now carried coolie crews instead of whites as formerly. He asked whether steps could be taken to restrict employment of Asiatic crews to vessels trading east of Suez only.

Mr. Sidney Webb, the President of the Board of Trade, replied that four of the five vessels named were trading regularly between India and Britain and carried Lascar crews like other vessels employed in this trade. There was nothing unusual or irregular in this method of manning such vessels. Commander Kenworthy's suggestion would require legislation which would be controversial. He was certainly unable to undertake to introduce it, but the points would be borne in mind.

Replying to Sir James Hope Simpson, Liberal Member for Taunton, Mr. Webb agreed that Lascars were citizens of the British Empire in the sense that they were citizens of India.

Mr. J. Sexton, Labour Member for St. Helens, declared that the wages paid were not commensurate with good citizenship. Mr.

Nashville, North Carolina, Mar. 8.

The engagement of the Hon. John Cecil to Miss Cornelia Vanderbilt is now announced.—Reuter.

PORT OF LONDON DUES

Huge Increases Due to Dock Strike

London, Mar. 7.

A sequel to the recent dock strike is that the Port of London Authority has increased its shipping and goods charges by between 50 and 100 per cent.—Reuter.

THE STRUGGLE FOR OIL

British Rights in Venezuela

New York, Mar. 7.

Officials of the Lago Petroleum Corporation announce the acquisition of the British Equatorial Oil Company, together with its properties in Venezuela. The Chairman of the latter company will become the head of the Lago Company. — Reuter's American Service.

R. M. S. ORDUNA SEIZED BY U. S. CUSTOMS

Alleged Contravention of Prohibition Law

New York, Mar. 12.

Government agents to-day seized the Royal Mail steamer Orduna on a charge of violation of the Customs, prohibition and narcotic laws. Eight persons were arrested, including the chief steward. The affair is connected with the seizure of $10,000 worth of whiskey and morphine which is alleged to have been landed by members of the crew.

The Orduna has been placed in custody of the Treasury Depot guards, but the unloading of her cargo has not been interrupted. It is stated that forfeiture proceedings will be brought immediately.

Three million dollars will probably be demanded as bail for the vessel. The arrested persons have been released on bail of $10,000 each.—Reuter's American Service.

GREECE'S RECOGNITION OF THE SOVIET

An Exchange of Notes

London, Mar. 11.

It is learned from an official Russian source that the Greek Minister in Berlin has informed the Soviet Ambassador there that the Greek Government wished to resume diplomatic relations with the Soviet Government and formally recognized the Soviet *de jure*. The Soviet Government, in reply notified the Greek Government agreeing to immediate renewal of diplomatic relations and friendly settlement of all outstanding questions on a basis of reciprocity.—Reuter.

THE LUDENDOREF TRIAL

Herr Von Kahr's Evidence

Munion, Mar. 11.

The former Bavarian Dictator, Herr von Kahr, testifying at General von Lurendorff's trial in a crowded Court, said that he considered the Hitler movement catastrophal. He realized what terrible consequences a Bavarian march on Berlin would entail in the form of invasion by the French, Czechs and Poles. He maintained that his first endorsement of the Hitler outbreak was forced from him at the pistol's point and denied that he had changed his attitude owing to pressure by "His Majesty" Crown-Prince Ruprecht.—Reuter.

LONDON, Mar. 13.—Sir Edward Crowe, formerly Commercial Counsellor to the British Embassy at Tokio, has been appointed Director of the Foreign Division of the Department of Overseas Trade for the year.—Reuter.

ECHO OF THE EQUITABLE INSURANCE CASE

London, Mar. 6.

After a 24 days' hearing in the Chancery Court, Mr. Justice Romer reserved judgment in the case in which the Official Receiver as Liquidator of the City Equitable Fire Insurance Company asked on a misfeasance summons that Gerard Bevan, who was sentenced to imprisonment on December 5, 1922, the other directors and the auditors of the company should be ordered to pay £2,000,000, the amount of the losses resulting from Bevan's frauds. Respondents denied the allegation that they had been guilty of breach of trust.—Reuter.

SPREAD OF COMMUNISM IN EGYPT

Cairo, Mar. 6.

The Procurator-General is inquiring into the spread of Communistic ideas among Alexandria workmen and the possibility of ramifications in the provinces.

The employees of the Vacuum Oil Company, Ld., have struck. The workers of the Kafrelzayat Cotton Company's factory have returned, but the Abouchanab Cotton and Oil Factory, of which the employees forcibly took possession and then evacuated, is still closed, the proprietors refusing to compromise with the men's demands.—Reuter.

THE REPARATIONS LEVY ON GERMAN IMPORTS

London, Mar. 6.

The House of Commons rejected by 240 votes to 170 a Conservative motion to reduce the Supply Vote as a protest against the agreement with Germany with regard to the British reparations levy, providing for reduction of the levy on imports from Germany 26 to 5 per cent. The Liberals voted with the Government.—Reuter.

SPAIN'S DIFFICULTIES IN MOROCCO

London, Mar. 6.

Fresh fighting in Morocco is foreshadowed in an announcement by the Spanish Embassy that 4,000 reinforcements have been sent to eastern Morocco, where a punitive operation against the rebels is being undertaken. The announcement adds that the rebels have been everywhere beaten off the advanced Spanish positions with less than 50 Spanish casualties.—Reuter.

Paris, Mar. 10.

Reports from French sources in Morocco indicate the seriousness of the situation in Spanish Morocco. Two Spanish posts are besieged, but are managing to get food and ammunition by sea. The main routes are menaced. The Riffs are violently assaulting a number of Spanish positions 60 kilometres west of Melilla.—Reuter.

TWO NEW AMERICAN CARDINALS

New York, Mar. 8.

Dr. Hayes, Archbishop of New York, and Dr. Mundelein, Archbishop of Chicago, sailed on the Berengaria for Rome to-day to be elevated to the Cardinalate.

Five thousand persons thronged the pier to bid farewell to the prelates, the hand-shaking delaying the liner's departure.—Reuter's American Service.

GOVERNMENT GRANT TO ROYAL DUTCH LLOYD

Amsterdam, Mar. 10.

The Government has drafted a bill authorizing a grant of cash advances to the Royal Dutch Lloyd for five years to cover the company's working losses not exceeding 5,250,000 guilders. The City of Amsterdam will make similar advances not exceeding 1,750,000 guilders and the Royal Dutch Lloyd will undertake to pay 6 per cent. interest on the advances. A financial reorganization is likely to be carried through shortly, entailing a reduction of the interest on the Company's bonded debt from 7 to 4 per cent.—Reuter.

SOVIET OFFER TO TURKEY

Constantinople, Mar. 9.

It is reported from Moscow that the Soviet Government have granted "immediate freedom of trade" between Turkey and Russia, subject only to payment of Customs dues for local produce and manufactures of both countries, while Turkish traders are free to come and go and to sell wares to whomsoever they please.—Reuter.

INCREASE IN AMERICAN IMPORT TARIFF

Washington, Mar. 8.

President Coolidge has ordered an increase of 12 cents per bushel in the import tariff on wheat, an increase of 26 cents per 100 lb. in the duty on wheat flour and a decrease in the *ad valorem* rates on certain other mill products.—Reuter's American Service.

TUBERCULOSIS VACCINE

London, Mar. 7.

Professor Dreyer's new vaccine for tuberculosis, on which he lectured at St. Mary's Hospital on June 15, has failed to give the expected results. Patients in very few cases have shown improvement. Further experiments are being carried on with the vaccine.—Reuter.

THE LANCASHIRE COTTON MILLS DISPUTE

London, Mar. 10.

The threatened cotton lock-out has virtually been settled by the card-room amalgamation withdrawing from the Thornham mill dispute, which has thus become an isolated question.—Reuter.

THE MEXICAN REVOLT

Mexico City, Mar. 10.

The War Department announces that Federals have occupied Puerto Mexico without resistance on the part of rebels, who are withdrawing and splitting into two bands. — Reuter's American Service.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THE SAAR

Geneva, Mar. 11.

The Session of the Council of the League of Nations opened here to-day, after a speech by Baron Parmoor, the new British representative, declaring that the policy of Britain would always be based on the League of Nations.

The Council adopted the recommendations of the Salandra report as regards the gendarmerie in the Saar, with an amendment declaring that budgetary conditions at present did not permit development of the gendarmerie, after a debate in which Baron Parmoor expressed the opinion that the gendarmerie should be strengthened in order to enable France to withdraw her occupation troops.

U. S. RAILWAY FREIGHT RATES

Washington, Mar. 12.

The Interstate Commerce Commission announces that under the new regulations a lower joint freight rate will be authorized on American railroads from May 20 on commodities which are to be transported by American ships, except grain.—Reuter's American Service.

ADMIRALTY CHANGES

London, Mar. 12.

Admiral Sir H. Oliver will replace Admiral Sir J. M. de Robeck as Commander of the Atlantic Fleet. Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour will replace Admiral Sir H. Oliver as the Second Sea Lord.—Reuter.

U. S. INCOME TAX

Washington, Mar. 11.

President Coolidge has sent a message to Congress recommending that the reduction of 25 per cent. in the income-tax for 1923 be authorized before March 15.—Reuter's American Service.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

BRITISH ARMY AND NAVY ESTIMATES

Government's Motion for Adjournment Defeated: Acceptance of Previous Army Estimates: No Decrease in Strength: A Parallel of Inventions

London, March 13.

In the House of Commons today, a Government motion to suspend the 11 o'clock rule in order to debate the Army estimates because business was behindhand was defeated by 234 votes to 207, but the defeat was not regarded as vital within the terms of the statement which Mr. MacDonald had made more than once and Mr. Stephen Walsh, the Secretary of State for War, proceeded to introduce the Army estimates.

Mr. J. R. Clynes, the Lord Privy Seal and the Deputy Leader of the House of Commons, explained that the course proposed was an alternative to taking the private Members' time. He admitted, in response to pressure, that a Labourite back-bencher's motion to reduce the personnel of the Army by 150,000 men would be debated after eleven. This evoked Conservative and Liberal protests which culminated in a challenge and division.

The only effect of the defeat is that all the time available to private Members will be taken up by the Government in order to overtake the business that must be completed before March 31. A number of Liberals voted with the Government hence the announcement of the figures evoked an outburst of enthusiasm from the Conservatives and cries of "Resign".

Later.

Moving the Army estimates for the year 11924 5 providing an expenditure of £ 45,000,000, the Secretary of State for War, Mr. Stephen Walsh, explained that the estimates were prepared by the previous Government, but he was satisfied that they were framed with due regard to economy and the needs of the country. He declared that, if the German menace had disappeared, it must be remembered that our distant possessions could not be left defenceless. (Opposition cheers.) The difficulties we had to contend with in Egypt, Iraq, India and the East would not at present warrant a decrease in the strength of the Army. There were signs of improvement in recruiting. He said that the policy of substituting machines for manpower required a highly equipped research department, which was one of the finest it was possible to organize.

The motion relative to pensions grievances of certain ranker officers was defeated by 220 votes to 201, after Mr. Stanley Baldwin had endorsed Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's suggestion for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the whole matter

Lieut.-Colonel Page Croft, Conservative Member for Bournemouth, pointed out that, compared with 1914, we had reduced our trained forces by 250,000 men. No other country had done anything like this.

Major C. R. Attlee, Under-Secretary of State for War, replying in the course of the debate, declared that we were well up to the standard of other armies in regard to inventions.

The debate was then adjourned.—Reuter.

The Navy Estimates

London, March 13.

The Navy Estimates memorandum states that the general strategic position now permits a return to more normal conditions than the retention of most of the more modern vessels in Home waters, which was necessary for many years prior to the late war.

In the Mediterranean two destroyer flotillas will be replaced by more modern vessels and the Fleet in the Mediterranean will be gradually brought up to the following, the Atlantic fleet being correspondingly reduced; seven battleships, two light cruiser squadrons, four destroyer flotillas, two depot-ships, two aircraft-carriers, one repair-ship, one submarine flotilla and one submarine depot-ship.—Reuter.

THE NAVAL BASE AT SINGAPORE

Earl of Balfour's Arguments Against the Postponement of the Scheme

London, Mar. 13.

In the House of Lords, the Earl of Balfour asked for information in regard to the Singapore scheme and moved for the papers. He contended that the abandonment of the projects would be a disastrous mistake, which would have an echo throughout the Empire and the consequences of which could hardly be calculated. He laid stress on Australia's, New Zealand's and India's reliance on the British fleet, which would be useless in certain contingencies, however improbable, without a base.

The speaker declared that he could imagine no worse economy than one which rendered the fleet inefficacious in the greatest oceans of the world and in connexion with the existence of a very important part of the Empire. He emphasized the defensive nature of the scheme, which would safeguard peace, and termed fantastic the notion that a base 3,000 miles from Yokohama could menace our Japanese friends.

The First Lord of the Admiralty, Viscount Chelmsford, announced that the Government hoped to be able to make a statement of their policy in both Houses on March 18.

The House then adjourned.

Oil Storage at Sarawak?

In the House of Commons, replying to Sir William Davison, Conservative Member for Kensington, who asked whether the question of providing oil storage for the Navy in Sarawak, rather than at Singapore, had been considered. Mr. C. Ammon, Parliamentary Secretary for the Admiralty, pointed out that under the terms of the Washington Treaty no coast defences or fortifications could be established there in peace time. They would therefore rely primarily for defence on the presence of the British Fleet. Sarawak was not a suitable position for oil fuel storage for the Fleet.—Reuter.

U. S. PROHIBITION REGULATIONS

The R. M. S. Orduna Released Under Million Dollar Bond: Protest by the Owners

New York, March 13.

The District Attorney has filed a suit in the Federal Court demanding that the Government confiscate the steamer Orduna. Subsequently a conference between Royal Mail officials and Government representatives agreed to release the Orduna under a $1,000,000 bond so as to enable her to sail according to schedule on Saturday.

Later.

The owners of the steamer Orduna have complained through the British Embassy to the State Department to the effect that the bond of $1,000,000 for the release of the vessel is unreasonably high.

New York, Mar. 14.

A party of Federal officials spent two hours on the Orduna yesterday evening breaking the seals of storerooms and liquor bars, but found no contraband.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, March. 13.

The Senate to-day ratified the Anglo-American Ship Liquor Treaty.—Reuter's American Service.

pound sterling, which, among other reasons, the Reichsbank considered to be the most serviceable as German trade in the main depended on the London money market.—Reuter.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN GREECE

Overthrow of Dynasty Without Plebiscite: Departure of M. Venizelos

London, Mar. 8.

The resignation of the Greek Cabinet is announced.

A telegram from Reuter's correspondent at Athens says that the resignation was the sequel to a fresh crisis evoked by a group of Army officers backing up the Republican demand for immediate deposition of the dynasty. A delegation of officers was recently received by the Regent after the Premier, M. Cafandaris, had refused to receive them.—Reuter.

Athens, Mar. 9.

The Regent has offered the Premiership to the Republican Leader, M. Papanastassiou, whom M. Venizelos says the Conservatives and Liberals will tolerate. There is every probability that M. Venizelos will definitely leave Greece in a few days.—Reuter.

Athens, Mar. 9.

M. Papanastassiou, the new Premier, is said to be endeavouring to form a Cabinet including politicians of all shades of opinion in the present Assembly. The new Government's programme will include the overthrow of the dynasty by the Assembly without a plebiscite.

The question of change of the Constitution will be settled by plebiscite at an opportune moment.

At present it has been arranged that M. Venizelos shall leave Greece on March 10, viâ Brindisi.—Reuter.

Bomb Outrage in Athens

Athens, Mar. 12.

Following the explosion of a bomb at the entrance of the British Legation early this morning without casualties, five dynamite cartridges were found outside the Rumanian Legation.

The Republican Government believes that the bomb was thrown in order to discredit it. M. Papanastasiou, the new Premier, who has just completed his Cabinet, hurried to the British Legation and expressed regret for the outrage, which only damaged the marble steps and the door. A number of workmen have been arrested.—Reuter.

KING HUSSEIN AS NEW CALIPH

Accepted by all Middle East: Angora's Further Attack on Religious Dignitaries

Jerusalem, Mar. 7.

The Trans-Jordania Government have informed Reuter's Agency that King Hussein has accepted the offer of the Caliphate from the Moslems of Mesopotamia, Trans-Jordania and Hedjaz, who have proclaimed him Caliph. It is expected that the other Moslem countries will follow their lead.—Reuter.

Constantinople, Mar. 7.

Ismet Pasha has formed a new Cabinet excluding the Sheik-ul-Islam and the Chief of Staff, Fevzi Pasha.

All the male members of the Imperial family left to-day by the first train in accordance with the instructions of the Angora Assembly. A few of the ladies remain but they have been ordered to leave before Monday.

The Government has announced that it intends to tax Turkish exports such as mohair and liquorice 20 per cent.—Reuter.

Angora, Mar. 8.

Mr. Mahomed Ali, the Moslem leader, in a speech here to-day vigorously protested against the action of the Turks in deposing the Caliph. He declared that they had no authority to do so and predicted civil war in Turkey.—Reuter.

Palestine Moslems and the Caliphate

Jerusalem, Mar. 10.

One hundred accredited delegates from all over Palestine have conferred with the Moslem Supreme Council and have unanimously offered King Hussein the Caliphate on behalf of Palestine Moslems.—Reuter.

Ex-Caliph's Strong Protest and World-wide Appeal

Territet, Mar. 12.

The ex-Caliph has addressed a message to Mussulmans throughout the world, protesing against the abolition of the Caliphate by the impious decision of the present majority in the Turkish National Assembly. He describes the measure as a fundamentally sacrilegious one and null and void.

The ex-Caliph states that the Moslem world unanimously approved his election a year and a half ago and it alone is entitled to pronounce upon the question, and consequently invites the most authorized chiefs and representatives of Mussulman communities throughout the world to communicate proposals and concrete contributions as early as possible for the assembling of grand religious inter-Islamic congress, which he proposes to convoke at the most opportune time and place in order to adopt the decision required by the situation.—Reuter.

Delhi, Mar. 11.

Indian Moslem opinion almost unanimously strongly condemns Turkey's abolition of the Caliphate. The proclamation of King Hussein as Caliph is not likely to be accepted in India, where the Egyptian idea of holding an Islamic conference of leading ulemas and representatives from all parts of the world in order to elect a Caliph is generally favoured.—Reuter.

Jerusalem, March 12.

King Hussein has accepted the Caliphate from the Palestine delegates.—Reuter.

AMERICAN OIL LEASE INVESTIGATION

Mr. Doheny's Loan to Mexican President: The Oil Station at Pearl Harbour

Washington, Mar. 7.

Mr. Ira Bennett, editorial writer of the "Washington Post," testified before the Oil Committee to-day that the word "principal" which he used in his telegrams to Mr. McLean, did not mean President Coolidge but Senator C. Curtis.

Mar. 8.

Before the Oil Committee to-day, Senator Curtis denied Mr. Bennett's statement that the word "principal" in the telegram referred to him.

The Committee later, while investigating the Attorney-General's administration, subpœnaed witness from the Southwest to be asked about American oil interests promoting the present revolution in Mexico. Senator Wheeler stated that he expected to prove that Mr. Doheny, Mr. Fall and Mr. Sinclair had participated in a conspiracy to further the revolt.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Mar. 10.

Testifying before the Oil Investigating Committee to-day, Mr. Doheny denied that he, Mr. Sinclair and others had financed the present Mexican revolution. On the contrary, he said, he had lent President Obregon $5,000,000 to put down the revolution.

Mr. Doheny's attorney has advised President Coolidge that, inasmuch as the Government have declined to make further payments for construction work on the naval fuel station at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, Mr. Doheny has personally guaranteed the company against losses and therefore the work is continuing.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Mar. 11.

Senator I. L. Lenroot to-day resigned the chairmanship of the Oil Committee, giving ill-health as his reason.—Reuter's American Service.

RAILWAY DISASTER IN FRANCE

Several Casualties: Four Passengers Killed and 25 Injured

Paris, Mar. 10.

A Calais-Mediterranean express was derailed this morning near Lyons. Two persons were killed and three injured. The wrecked train was not the regular express from Calais.

Later.

The disaster to the Calais-Ventimiglia express occurred at the Grands Violets halt, where trains have recently been diverted to les Brotteaux. The express had just passed the crossings when the engine ran off the rails and turned over, dragging with it several coaches, including the sleeping-car and the dining saloon. The coaches were splintered. The driver and the fireman were seriously injured. Three British passengers and one Frenchman were killed and 24 British and one Frenchman were injured. The killed have up to the present not been identified.—Reuter.

A Confusion of Orders.

Paris, Mar. 11.

The famous London specialist, Sir St. Clair Thomson, was hurt in the head and foot in the Grands Violets disaster.

The accident, which occurred in the middle of the night, was apparently due to the driver jamming on the brakes when he discovered danger. The train was then doing 60 miles an hour. The driver, who was late, seems to have been confused by his orders regarding the use of a short alternative route.

The sleeping car next to the engine, which was almost entirely filled with English people, was split to pieces. The dining car and another coach plunged into the wreckage.—Reuter.

OBITUARY

Mr. Alfred Smith

New York, Mar. 9.

Mr. Alfred Smith, President of the New York Central Lines, was killed to-day by being thrown from his horse in Central Park.

Mr. Smith entered the service of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway in 1879 as a messenger boy. With this railway he worked up through the grades until appointed general superintendent in 1901. He transferred in 1902 to the New York Central Lines, becoming President in 1914.—Reuter's American Service.

Bishop Gibson

London, Mar. 8.

The death is announced of the Rt. Rev. Edgar Charles Summer Gibson D.D., former Bishop of Gloucester (1905-22) and Chaplain-in-Ordinary to King Edward VII and Hon. Chaplain to Queen Victoria (1901), at the age of 76.—Reuter.

SHIPBUILDING CRISIS

Following the Southampton Dispute: Proposals Which May Secure Settlement

London, Mar. 7.

The shipbuilding conference at Carlisle has formulated proposals, which will be submitted to the Southampton men on Monday and, it is hoped, will secure a settlement.

Note: A serious situation arising from an unofficial strike at Southampton for increased wages, has developed in the shipbuilding industry, the masters threatening a lock-out. The men's Federation yesterday appointed a deputation to proceed to Carlisle with the object of persuading the masters to postpone the lock-out.—Reuter.

London, March 11.

The Southampton shipyard workers have decided to continue their strike for a national increase of ten shillings a week.—Reuter.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN BRITAIN

Threatened Strike of Tramway and Railway Employees: Miners' Wage Demands

London, Mar. 12.

A demand by the Transport-workers' Union for an increase in wages of 17,000 London tramwaymen by eight shillings per week was the subject of critical discussions in London to-day. Strike action, possibly involving the busmen and underground railwaymen, is threatened failing a settlement.

The joint committee of the mining employers and the Miners' Federation again discussed the miners' wages demands. The owners have definitely offered an increase of the minimum wage to 30 per cent. above 1914 and to revise the ratio of proceeds paid, wages and profits making the proportions of 85 and 15 respectively. A delegate conference of the miners will consider the offer to-morrow.—Reuter.

THE UTAH FUEL MINE DISASTER

Salt Lake City, Mar. 8.

One hundred and seventy-five coalminers are entombed as a result of an explosion at the Utah Fuel Company's mine, which is on fire.—Reuter's American Service.

Salt Lake City, Mar. 9.

Although the rescue party has penetrated the workings of the Utah Fuel Mine to the depth of 2,500 feet, there is no definite news regarding the imprisoned miners. No indications of fire have hitherto been encountered. The leader of the rescuers was asphyxiated.

Later.

Nine charred bodies have been removed from the Utah Fuel Mine.—Reuter.

Salt Lake City, Mar. 10.

A fire, which broke out yesterday evening, greatly hindered the efforts of the rescuers in the Utah Fuel Mine. The fire was extinguished late last night. Seventy-five rescuers are exploring the mine and have found about 30 dead.—Reuter's American Service.

Castlegate, Utah, Mar. 11.

Seventy-eight bodies have been recovered from the Utah Fuel mine.

Mar. 12.

A hundred and thirteen bodies have been been recovered from the Utah Fuel Mine. It seems definitely certain that 173 persons perished as a result of the explosion and fire.—Reuter's American Service.

ITALY AND THE VATICAN

Dispute Said to be Settled

London, Mar. 11.

The "Daily Express" publishes the terms of an alleged agreement settling the dispute between the Pope and the Italian Government. The terms provide for the surrender of the whole Vatican Hill to the Vatican, which at present only holds a part. This gives the hill the status of an independent country. The Government will build at their own expense a palace or a series of houses for the accommodation of the College of Cardinals. The Holy See will hand over the scattered properties where the Cardinals are at present housed.

The Pope's independence will be guaranteed by the League of Nations.—Reuter.

Rome, Mar. 12.

The report of an agreement between the Pope and the Italian Government, published in the "Daily Express," is denied in authoritative quarters, though it is pointed out that the relations between Church and State are most harmonious.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 13.—The "Morning Post" asserts that the Government announcement with regard to Singapore will be made on March 18 on the naval estimates debate.—Reuter.

BRITISH HEN OR CHINESE LIZARD

Full Name and Address on Imported Foodstuffs

London, Mar. 7.

The House of Commons to-day passed the second reading of the Merchandise Marks Bill, providing for the compulsory marking of frozen or chilled meat, bacon, ham, eggs, poultry, dairy produce, honey and oatmeal with the name of the country of origin. Liberals and Ministerialists combined against the Conservative supporters of the Bill but failed to defeat it.

Rear-Adm. Sir Guy Gaunt, Conservative member for Buckrose, Yorkshire, moving the second reading in an amusing speech, appealed to the House to think of a poor little Yorkshire hen laying an egg daily and trying to keep a household together against a Chinese lizard thousands of miles away.—Reuter.

TUTANKHAMEN S TOMB

An Official Display with Sacrifices in the Ancient Manner

Luxor, Mar. 6.

Tutankhamen's tomb was reopened this afternoon, when about 200 distinguished personages, including Lord Allenby, Egyptian Ministers, foreign diplomats and members of Parliament, who were admitted as guests of the Egyptian Government to view the gold-covered coffin. The guests travelled in special trains. The elaborate ceremonies included the slaying of two bulls, as a sacrifice, in the centre of Luxor, as was customary in the days of the Pharaohs. The streets were decorated. There was a banquet in the evening, followed by a fête and fireworks.

Neither Mr. Howard Carter nor any one of his staff was present.—Reuter.

Cairo, Mar. 11.

Negotiations for a peaceful solution of the Luxor dispute have failed. It is understood that the Government have withdrawn their offer of a new concession to Countess Carnarvon.—Reuter.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN GERMANY

General Strike in Shipyards

Berlin, Mar. 6.

A number of employees of the Baden Aniline Dyeworks at Ludwigshafen struck yesterday, refusing to work nine hours a day. The strikers to-day forcibly entered the works and ejected those working. Police were summoned and were fired on. There were a number of casualties on both sides in the ensuing fight.

A general strike is in progress in the shipyards at Hamburg, Bremen, Luebeck and Stettin.—Reuter.

Berlin, Mar. 10.

The Hamburg dockers have decided to strike to-morrow.—Reuter.

Hamburg, Mar. 11.

The dockers struck this morning for higher wages. Work in the harbour is completely at a standstill. A British steamer from India was able to unload only one-tenth of her cargo of 2,400 bags of rice.—Reuter.

Berlin, Mar. 11.

The dock strike at Hamburg has extended to Bremerhaven. The dockers at Bremen have decided to join.—Reuter.

ENGAGEMENT OF MISS VANDERBILT

To First Secretary of British Embassy

Washington, Mar. 6.

It is understood that the engagement will shortly be announced of the Hon. John Cecil, First Secretary of the British Embassy, and Miss Cornelia Vanderbilt, the only daughter of the late Mr. George W. Vanderbilt. Miss Vanderbilt's mother was one of the famous Dresser sisters.—Reuter's American Service

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER

Dominion Politics and British General Election: Labour Jubilant Over Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's Rise to Power: The State Elections: Australia's Huge Loan Conversions

From Our Own Correspondent.

Melbourne, Jan. 31.

If it is true that a nation is happy which has no history, possibly Australia may be considered happy—at least *pro tem.*—because she has no politics. One gets ever nearer to the conclusion that our politics are all make-believe, and when we see such men as Lord Chelmsford, once as Governor of Queensland, fighting the Labour leader, Kitson, to a standstill, now holding office as First Lord of the Admiralty in a Socialistic government, we can honestly rub our eyes and ask whether we sleep or are visions about.

Naturally the Labour party in Australia is joyous, even triumphant, about the win to office, if not to power, of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. It sees in his advent to the Premiership the triumph of those great principles for which the proletariat has fought and bled for generations past. Of course the proletariat has done nothing of the sort, because it did not exist as an animate body, and certainly never worried its head about any principles. But it seems that one-fifth of the electors of Britain support the so-called Labour Government and the majority of the four-fifths are either unwilling to agree amongst themselves or willing to give Mr. MacDonald a chance. Which chance he will take and "dig in." Labour may be disposed to Pacifism, but it knows how to apply all the best military tactics to carrying out its plans.

This is not a diversion from Australian politics, but a brief reference to a position with which Australians are quite familiar. The Freetraders and Protectionists fought in Australia, and, Labour conveniently sinking the fiscal issue, secured the balance of power. From that day until the war Labour practically governed this country. The war created a new issue, and Labour split, but already the temporary Nationalist party is itself divided, and nothing but a temporary coalition maintains Labour in Opposition. The present cabinet seems to have all the faults and few of the virtues of the old Nationalist cabinet. Its Press sponsors either ignore it or warn it in a humble way not to make a fool of itself. The cable columns of the newspapers are full of encomiums of the work of the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. S. M. Bruce, in Britain. Mr. Bruce may have done excellent work, but to most it seems that he contributed to the wrecking of the Government in offering the Dominions preference, and at the same time promoted the cause of the Labour party to which he is naturally anathema.

LABOUR AND STATE ELECTIONS.

Politically the Labour party has every reason to be optimistic. It has got its opponents divided, and they decline to see the position. In Western Australia the State elections for the Assembly may be over before I write again. The contest is going along merrily, but there is a relatively small section which puts forward primary producer candidates on its own—a forlorn hope, which is quite capable of upsetting the applecart of the astute and progressive Sir James Mitchell.

In South Australia the elections are still a month or two ahead, but already Sir Henry Barwell, the Conservative Premier, is finding himself faced by two parties—Labour and the Primary Producer. Even Victoria is by no means safe, seeing that in the bye-election now on the Farmers' Union has deliberately put a man forward in opposition to the Government candidate.

In Tasmania the Labour Government has been confirmed in office by the votes of its own followers, coupled with those of sufficient Conservatives. The ministry of Sir George Fuller in New South Wales will be defeated the day the third or Progressive party makes up its mind to translate its hostile criticism into something which the Labour party can support, while as we know Queensland seems bound to support still a Labour government, which is certainly not of the Red variety and one expects daily to hear that it has broken away and become an agricultural ministry.

In Federal politics Labour has merely to sit down and wait. The present so-called composite ministry has not yet declared itself, nor can it do so until Mr. Bruce returns from England. It may then be possible for the Nationalist and Country parties to find common ground upon which to work, but if they do so the result must finally be to drive the ex-Labourites, who are members of both those parties, back into their original folds.

COMMONWEALTH FINANCE.

It is not necessary to say that the chickens should never have been hatched to remark that they are now coming home to roost. Australia has floated loans, and signed chits. She now has to meet them. The outward sign is some perturbation on the part of the Commonwealth Treasurer. In about three months he will require £19,000,000 to cash the balance of the war gratuities granted to the soldiers. Therefore it is argued that he should have priority before States borrowers. Obviously the States have other views, seeing that between them they have this year to redeem £37,000,000 in London and £31,000,000 in Australia, and in 1925 another £36,000,000, mostly in Australia.

Dr. Earle Page, the Treasurer, has succeeded in getting a Loan Council established, but as that consists of himself and the State Treasurers it is clearly not his instrument. To-morrow this Council is to meet and the press has been handed out inspired paragraphs about what it is hoped it will do. Incidentally it may be mentioned that some of the State Treasurers have issued on their own account suggestions that unless they look after their own interests the Commonwealth Treasurer is not likely to help them. The Queensland Treasurer accuses Dr. Page of conspiring with New South Wales at the expense of the smaller States, and Sir Arthur Cocks, of New South Wales, asserts that he will fight Commonwealth taxation of interest on State-raised loans to the last ditch. The financial obligations of the next few years look somewhat horrifying on paper, but it is always well to remember that it is not the amount one owes but his ability to pay which counts. In 1922 Mr. Bruce, then Treasurer, said that of the total national debts of the Commonwealth and States, namely £784,000,000, there were probably tangible assets amounting to £450,000,000. Obviously these loans can only be redeemed by fresh flotations, and it is evident that this calls for a working arrangement between Commonwealth and States. It is for this purpose that the Loan Council—a purely advisory body—is meeting to-morrow.

ELIMINATING IMPERIAL GOVERNORS.

The Labour government itself proposed to reduce the Estimates by £1 in order to mark the opinion as to whether in future there should be an Imperially appointed Governor or an administrator. Mr. Lyons, the Premier, told the House of Assembly that the question was an open one, but seeing that a decision in favour of an administrator would save about £2,500 a year, and the state of Tasmanian finances is pretty desperate, the vote to reduce expenditure was carried by a majority of three or four. It seems a somewhat poor reason to give for the change—merely one of economy—and it by no means settles the matter, even for Tasmania. At the present moment the acting Chief Justice is Administrator, and he of course owes his appointment to the advice tendered the Imperial authorities by the Cabinet. In other words he is appointed to all intents and purposes by the Cabinet. If in the case of Tasmania the Administrator is not a partisan, in the recent case of Queensland, before the Imperial Government hurriedly sent Sir Matthew Nathan to Brisbane, the Administrator was a rank partisan, and packed the Legislative Council in direct opposition to the policy of the previous Governor and of all some governments. It is certain that we could not for long carry on our system of government in the several States if the Governor were always chosen by the Cabinet. A change of constitution will be necessary, and the difficulty of not having an Imperial Governor would be most easily met by placing the appointment of State Governors in the hands of the Governor-General in Council, in other words following the system of Canada and South Africa. Should the agitation in favour of sub-dividing the larger States bring about far-reaching territorial changes some such method of choosing the Governors or Administrators will be necessary.

At a recent Australian Natives Association annual conference two leading speakers advocated "decentralization," and this may be considered the voice of Victoria. In Sydney a New States League has been meeting and I notice the name of William Morris Hughes, the late Prime Minister, as one of the committee of the League. The movement seems to have some vitality in it, and the acting Prime Minister has promised that the question will be dealt with this coming session. How, is not at all clear.

QUADRUPLE MURDER.

Melbourne has not yet stopped talking about a shocking tragedy which took place in the fine Botanical Gardens—nearly 100 acres laid out in lawns, rockeries, flower-beds, shrubberies and miniature lakes, quite close to the city. The perpetrator of the killing was a youngish man, who had spent much time in Mexico and America, but was an Australian by birth. He served in the British Army during the war, and posed as an intellectual. He spent much money on books. He came into the city one morning and bought a repeating rifle, some 50 dum-dum cartridges and a bottle of gun oil. It was understood that he proposed to wander afield shooting foxes and dingoes for which there are given substantial bounties. He was a first-class shot. He entered the gardens at one end and dodging amongst the rockeries and through the shrubberies "potted" no fewer than five people—three women and two men. One woman may live but the other four are dead—three killed instantaneously. Whether the man was an epileptic, or whether he somehow came to his senses after the fifth hit, he turned and ran. He had plenty of cartridges left, but he threw the lot away with the rifle and the bottle of gun oil in some thick vegetation. The next day the rifle was found, the buyer traced, and the purchaser proved to be one Norman List, who had been visiting his father but had not been seen for two days. The search for him is still going on, but it is thought by many that he drowned himself in the River Yarra. Seeing that the Gardens are the pleasantest resort around Melbourne, and are frequented about sundown in the heat of the summer by mothers and their children, the event has occasioned much alarm. A couple of days later 40 police replied to a call within 10 minutes. It was stated that "the maniac has come back and there is more firing in the Gardens." It was only a lorry back-firing, but the incident is significant of the manner in which the tragedy has got on to the nerves of the good people.

CANBERRA THE NEW CAPITAL.

The Commonwealth Parliament and administration will soon be transferred to the new city of Canberra. The Federal Cabinet has held a meeting on the site of what will no doubt some day be one of the great cities of the world. There is not at present a great deal to show in the way of buildings but a tremendous lot of dead work, that is buried work, sewerage, water, and light supply has been done. There is to be a temporary Parliament House, which is to last throughout the 50 years before permanent buildings are erected, and of this the foundations are now laid. For accommodation one hotel is now being built to house 200 persons, and two more are likely to be started very soon.

SOME PROMINENT VISITORS.

The Japanese training squadron is still in Australian waters, and in Sydney especially the visitors have been having a very gay time. Sydney both as for weather and natural surroundings lends itself to the entertainment of visitors more easily than Melbourne. Possibly the people also are more genial and open-hearted, as becomes a city which at times is almost tropical in its climate.

Lord Leverhulme has been over to Tasmania, and talks as if he might put up a soap factory there. He also has now explained that he does not want us to import Asiatics, but West African negroes, who have no initiative and do little thinking. He believes they would make it possible for Australia to produce cotton to the value of £300,000,000 a year. He bases his opinion upon his own experience in employing 25,000 negroes in their own country. Even his hosts get restive under his persistency, and tell him that 98 per cent. of the people of Australia are white and intend to remain so.

The Earl and Countess of Cassilis, Lord and Lady Harrowby, and Lord and Lady Dunleath are also paying us a visit. The first-named is a Royal Arch Mason, and comes to attend the celebrations of the centenary of the Sydney Chapter.

SATISFACTORY SUGAR HARVEST.

Details are now to hand showing that the sugar season in northern New South Wales and Queensland has on the whole proved satisfactory. For Queensland alone the output was 262,975 tons, as against 283,785 for the year 1922. Seeing that last year was considered one of prolonged drought, the rainfall during the early part of 1923, when we expected the crops to be harvested a few months later, being about 50 per cent. below normal, the result is something of a surprise, especially as the area of cane cut was only 3,467 acres in excess of that of 1922. The return was 1.82 tons of sugar to the acre, which for an exceptionally bad year compares with 1.92 in 1922, 1.88 in 1920 and, for the ten-years average ending 1918, 1.99, and not greatly to its disadvantage. There is little question that the planting of improved varieties of cane, richer in sugar and more drought-resisting, had something to do with the fine return, but so far as the northern parts of the sugar districts went it seems certain that moderate rains falling at frequent intervals though giving a lower aggregate downfall yield better results in sugar than tropical downpours of great measurement.

THE RESTORATION OF HUNGARY

Premier Sees the King

Count Bethlen, the Hungarian Prime Minister, when in London, was received by the King. This is the first time since the war that an ex-enemy Prime Minister has been received at Buckingham Palace. Count Bethlen's amply-demonstrated good will in the negotiations now being conducted in London for an arrangement between Hungary, the League of Nations, and the Allies for the reconstruction of Hungary and for an international loan, has proved to be one of the most hopeful factors in the prospect of success.

At a session of the Hungarian Sub-Committee of the League of Nations he declared that Hungary would accept the League scheme without reservation. That called for some courage on his part. The League Finance Committee has taken its courage in both hands and in a report yesterday stuck to the full meaning of the original proposals, in spite of certain unofficial French attempts, made in the meantime, to influence it in another direction.

As a result of the evening session yesterday it appeared unlikely that the protocols will be signed here and now. Both the French and the Czecho-Slovak delegates made reservations which depend on the acceptance of the League scheme by the Reparation Commission. As no member of the committee objected to the scheme it may be hoped that the protocols will be signed after the Reparation Commission has approved the scheme. It is at any rate satisfactory that an agreed League scheme will now be submitted to the Reparation Commission.

The scheme involves the restriction of Hungary's reparation liability to an annual average sum of 10,000,000 gold crowns (£400,000) for 20 years, beginning in 1926. Count Bethlen's undertaking made yesterday to pay this sum is subject, of course, to the acceptance of the scheme by the Reparation Commission. Before the loan for Hungary, which is the other side of the medal, can be floated, the Allied Governments will have to decide whether they will agree to a modification of their liens on the Succession States on account of Liberation Bonds, that is that proportion of Austria's and Hungary's theoretic liability which was transferred to those States. On this there is little difficulty to be anticipated.

MOTOR CARS AT THE HUNT

Duke of Beaufort Takes Action

The Duke of Beaufort, who entertained the Prince of Wales for the Beaufort Hunt Ball, issued a notice with reference to the presence of motor-cars at hunt meetings, and incidentally gives a lesson on hunting field etiquette.

"I notice," he says, "that certain people who hunt are now in the habit of having their cars to follow the hounds all day with their grooms. I would point out that this is unnecessary and against the interests of foxhunting, and I must request that the practice cease.

"It is quite easy to leave the motor at a certain place, from whence it can be easily summoned by telephone or otherwise.

"I would also suggest that people coming to the meet in motor cars should be most careful not to interfere with the sport, and keep well behind the hunt. It is evident that a number of motors following the hounds too closely is prejudicial to sport.

"I notice, with regret, that the regulations sent out with regard to second horsemen, are not being attended to, and I further notice that they ride with the field instead of behind, and that going to the covert, going home, and frequently during the day, they ride in the fields. This causes inconvenience and damage to farmers.

"I must request particular attention to be paid to all regulations."

WHADDON HUNT DISPUTE ENDED.

The toast of "Good-bye to the Hunting Disputes" was drunk by farmers at the meet of the Whaddon Chase Hounds at Horwood when it was announced that Colonel Selby Lowndes had decided to withdraw his action claiming that he was elected Master last year.

A large field included Lord Furness, Lord Ivor Churchill, Lord Blandford, Lord Hillingdon, and the Master, Lord Dalmeny. Sport was only moderate throughout the day.

THE IMMORTAL POEM

AFTER THE CHINESE OF LI-TAI-PO.

I write a verse, then, with a pensive eye,
Watch, through my window, on the azure sky,
The bamboos that maintain a murmuring
Like the soft music of a babbling spring.
On the white paper how the letters glow
Like tiny plum-tree buds upon the snow.
The oranges of Kiang-nan awhile
Are perfumed; but their scent is volatile;
Women need love, as roses need the sun,
Or soon their sweet and scented course is run;
But thou, my poem, hast no need of these,
Nor yet of bamboo-voices in the breeze,
To help thee to outlive the centuries.

I. O.

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER

Glasgow Slums Huge Source of Revenue to Bookmakers: City of Gamblers and Socialists: Liberalism Losing Its Hold on Scotland

From Our Own Correspondent.

Edinburgh, Jan. 22.

If you want to get an insight into the underworld of Glasgow, borrow or steal the volume of evidence taken before the Select Committee on a Betting Duty. Picture to yourselves four streets of tenement houses, with a population of 10,600 working folk, supporting seven bookmakers or their agents, and yielding a revenue in bets of £300 a day!

Of course, a large part of this amount comes back in winnings, yet it seems incredible that four streets in Glasgow, in these days of depression, should be able to gamble on horse-racing to the tune of £300 a day.

It was explained that these four streets were not exceptional, that they were just four ordinary streets in a working-class quarter, and that all the streets in Glasgow of the same class gambled in the same way. All this was street-betting carried on in "closes"—and was, of course, illegal.

Glasgow seems to take to betting as thoroughly as it does to Socialism, and for the same reason—as a distraction from the dreadful monotony of modern industrialism. If you and I had to do the same job every day, over and over again, and live in a Glasgow tenement, we should bet when we could and drink all the whiskey we could get. Also, we should vote for any quack who offered us any avenue of escape from the dullness of our lives.

DAUGHTERS OF MR. MACDONALD.

A good deal of interest naturally centres in the daughters of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. They have been brought up most carefully by their father under a scheme which his wife outlined before she died, and have inherited her taste and his for reading of the solidly instructive order.

Mr. MacDonald never has had time nor much inclination to give to modern novels even when they are good, and Miss Isabel MacDonald and her sisters are better acquainted with Dickens and Thackeray and Scott than they are with Galsworthy or Conrad or Wells. They may have a nodding acquaintance with those writers, but certainly they have none with many another living novelist who makes many thousands per year.

The eldest girl, who is 20, has had the modern idea of carving a career for herself, but her father needs her at home and his wishes come first. She is a nice-looking girl with frank, kindly manners, and she is not too deadly serious to take an interest in a mild amount of party going and in dress. Her most constant companion is her father's private secretary, Miss Rosa Rosenberg, a clever and attractive young Jewess who is enthusiastically interested in her work and a model of discretion.

THE LATE MRS. MACDONALD.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, like Mr. Bonar Law, came to place and power too late for his success to be shared by a beloved wife. Mrs. MacDonald—she died in 1911—was Margaret Ethel, a daughter of the late Professor J. H. Gladstone, and a niece of Lord Kelvin. A woman of great charm and of remarkable ability, Mrs. MacDonald interested herself especially in work on behalf of children. Her husband's memoir "Margaret Ethel MacDonald," is a beautiful tribute to her memory.

SCOTLAND'S POLITICS.

The election returns for Scotland make interesting reading. In the 1906 election and in both the elections of 1910 the Liberals won 58 seats, as against the Unionist 11. In 1922 they had 28 seats to the Unionist 14, and in the recent election they got 23 seats to the Unionist 15. So that in the last 17 years the Liberals have lost no fewer than 35 seats in Scotland, whilst the Unionists have gained four. If one also takes into consideration the fact that at the last election the Unionists polled about 40,000 more votes in Scotland than the Liberals, one is justified in coming to the conclusion that the Scottish people are gradually turning down Liberalism in favour of either Socialism or Unionism.

UNION OF EXILED SCOTS.

The numerous London Scottish functions which of late years have become one of the characteristic scoial features of the winter season have great potentialities from the point of view of propaganda.

Their influence, however, is being concentrated this year on reforms, including primarily the enrolment in one or other of the 60 odd Scottish societies which exist in the Metropolis of every exiled Scot.

Statists who have been investigating the subject assert that of roughly 80,000 Northerners in London some 30,000 are members of no society at all. A lead in the campaign of conversion and recruitment is being given by the Highland Club, whose president in a statement expresses his determination to raise the membership from 300 to 3,000. Happily for the propagandists, there are many methods of appealing to the susceptibilities of the lachrymose and sentimental Scot and convincing him of the excellence of hyperborean Freemasonry, and those who know the national qualities predict that ere long the entire London Scottish community will be allied in one great confederation.

CHINA YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY.

For a number of years there has been in existence in Edinburgh a "School of Study and Training" under the auspices of the United Free Church of Scotland "for the better equipment of voluntary Church workers and to prepare men and women for appointments at home and abroad.

The classes for the present term (the 13th)included a series of ten lectures by the Rev. James Webster, D.D., whose death was referred to in this letter some time ago. Mr. Webster's place, however, will be taken by the Rev. George Douglas of Liaoyang, Manchuria, at present home on leave.

FREAK GOLF TEES.

Freak tees are not unfamiliar on the golf course. Whether or not the enormous mound which the very long handicap lady player takes comes under that category need not be discussed, but one knows the type of lady golfer who leaves behind her enough sand to serve the next half-dozen players. The patent rubber tee is seen even in championships, but the palm for finickiness in tees may be given to the man from a London club who played in a St. Andrews Championship, and brought north with him in a little bag a supply of sand from his own course, so that he would play off a tee made of sand of the identical consistency to which he was accustomed. Major H. D. Gillies, however, puts all such people out of court with the 9in. tees he has been employing. They are made of a stick of wood with rubber tubing at the top, and can be varied according to the wind from 3 inches up to 15. Hitting a ball off such a tee seems to belong rather to the category of Kirkwood's trick display than to serious golf. Major Gillies, anyway, has set people wondering principally whether it is all a joke, but he drives so well with them that on the principle of the French proverb, he is laughing best. The only possible theory behind it is that with such a tee you get a flat swing, and with a flat swing a low-flying ball. Before the war Major Gillies was a bigger personality in golf than he has been since. During the war, it may be recalled, he made a great reputation as a facial surgeon, and saved from permanent disfigurement many a wounded man.

SCOTTISH-CALIFORNIAN CHAMPION.

It's a far cry from Carnoustie to California, where Macdonald Smith, the Forfarshire crack, has been distinguishing himself by annexation of the championship against the pick of the world's golfers. Smith was the player who at Troon in June last startled the field by first breaking the record with a 69. He plays with clubs that are never cleaned, and stops his putter dead for a moment in the swing before he brings it forward to the ball.

SCOTTISH GIRLS 100 YEARS AGO.

Women who broke away from the iron-bound conventionality of the early Victorian era and drank ale to the detriment of their figures are described in the "Letters and Journal of Anne Chalmers," edited by her daughter. The letters start in 1828 when Anne, the daughter of Dr. Chalmers, Professor of Moral Philosophy, St. Andrews, was 15 years of age.

"Do you remember our biscuits and beer and the last feast we had?" she asks Anne Parkers, her friend, who later became Lady Cardwell. "I read somewhere lately of a young lady of 17 who had a large fortune, but who to her other charms added the faculty of being an excellent boon companion. In vain her friends tried to dissuade her, on account of her shape, from her ale-bibbing propensities. She said that by continuing she could only lose a husband, while a pot of good ale was the soul of her existence."

The lapses of Anne Chalmers from the conventions made her the despair of her friends. "I remember being told in a shocked way," Writes her daughter, "that at a dinner party she often went to sleep in the drawing-room, when with the ladies. She woke up, however, when the men came in, and they all clustered round her, eager to talk to someone so bright and amusing. That, of course, only added to the enormity of her offence."

A cousin meeting Anne Chalmers one day in Princes Street, Edinburgh, stared in astonishment at her weird combination of a green dress and a crêpe bonnet. "Anne, why are you dressed like this?" asked the cousin. "Because I am in mourning for Mr. J—," was the reply. "He was only a cousin's husband and no relation, so as I had the bonnet I am just wearing it."

Anne Chalmers disliked intensely the custom of calling people by their Christian names, and never called her husband anything but Mr. Hanna. When reproached by him for her coldness and lack of affection, she told him that she did not know him well enough to call him anything else!

MISCELLANEA.

In the course of a lecture in Glasgow, Mr. Walter de la Mare, the poet, referred to the march of what we call progress, and named one or two of its symbols. Neither a smile nor a disapproving grunt greeted his grouping of "aeroplanes, newspapers, and poison gas."

From photographic revelations of the picture papers it appears that the Duchess of Atholl and Mr. Walter Claude Mellor, of Chelsea, who is married to a daughter of the Earl of Galloway, now attire their London house with butlers and flunkies in full Highland costume. The opinion of counsel is that no legal steps can be taken to prevent this.

Professor R. W. Reid has been telling the members of the Aberdeen Anatomical and Anthropological Society that the size of a person's head is no guide to the intelligence of its owner. In other words a big head does not necessarily imply a big brain. That knocks another old tradition on the head. It used to be said that Aberdeen people took a bigger size in hats than any other town in the Kingdom, and — well, of course, the inference was obvious. And has it not been said, too, that when the late Mr. Gladstone wanted a hat that would really fit his head he sent to an Aberdeen hatter for it?

OUR PARIS LETTER

Government's Financial Project: The Profession of Being a Deputy

From Our Own Correspondent.

Paris, Jan. 31.

The Government now seems to be sure of a majority for the far-reaching financial proposals which it considers necessary for the preservation of the national credit or, to be more exact, the protection of the national currency against undue depreciation. This result has been obtained by means which must strike the foreign observer as curious, to say the least.

M. Poincaré attended a meeting of the various Republican groups which have hitherto supported him, and told them that those who voted for his financial proposals could rely on his support at the forthcoming general election. This was another way of saying: "If you vote for me now, all the local Government influence will be at your service in your constituency." Such a bargain seems perfectly natural to anyone acquainted with French political life.

To nine out of every 10 members of the Chamber, re-election is a matter of vital importance. They are men who have given up their original occupations and have taken kindly to politics. Some of them sincerely hope to render service to their country by framing useful laws and removing abuses. To many of these men, who were originally doctors, lawyers, insurance agents, tradesmen and so on, their election represents a rise in life of which they are very proud. If they are rejected and have no recourse but to return to their former comparatively insignificant positions, they must look upon themselves as discredited, if not disgraced.

A CAUSE OF HESITANCY.

They are naturally anxious to avoid such a misfortune by keeping their seats; but this year's elections will be no walk-over, and the opponents of the present *régime* are not too scrupulous over their choice of weapons. The deputies of the majority, who do not profess to be heroes, now find themselves required to vote for a great increase in taxation, new fiscal burdens and the abolition of thousands of jobs in the Civil Service. No wonder they hesitate! And no wonder they require from the Premier an unmistakeable indication that *do ut des* will be his motto, especially as they must be aware that even official support may not be enough to secure re-election for them. It all depends how the country takes the situation so suddenly sprung on it.

One view is that the French people, feeling that they are engaged in an economic struggle with not only their late enemies but their late allies, will agree to almost any sacrifice as a measure of war, in very much the spirit they displayed from 1914 to 1918. Another is that the electors will make M. Poincaré responsible for not foreseeing and providing against the present crisis, to which it might be replied that, but for the sensational fall in the franc, Parliament could never have been persuaded that the danger existed and, therefore, would not have tried to remove its causes. It is quite conceivable that the crisis is a blessing in disguise, but we do not yet know whether the electors are inclined to take this view.

A FINE SCION OF ROYALTY.

The Duc de Montpensier, whose death at the Château de Randan, in the Puy-de-Dôme, is just reported, was by far the most original and energetic representative of the former royal family since the time of Prince Henri d'Orléans, the explorer. The Duc de Montpensier, who was only 40 years of age at the time of his death, had his cousin's passion for travel and exploration, and he headed several expeditions in which hunting was combined with geographical investigations. His adventures were a fruitful source of gossip in the capitals of Europe. At one time he was planning an aeroplane tour of Siam; at another he was credited with a desire to have himself proclaimed King of Albania; at another he was proposing the organization in France of a body of volunteers to take over the transport services of the country in the event of a strike. He publicly disowned his cousin, King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, when that crafty politician sided with Germany against the Allies. On all his hunting expeditions he took cinematograph operators with him, as well as a big retinue, as he considered it policy to make an impression on the natives.

Another prominent Frenchman who has departed this life is M. Georges Breittmayer, who was a wonderful fencer and a great authority on everything connected with the gentle art of duelling. The most serious affair of honour in which he figured as principal occurred in 1911, when he was 50 years of age. His adversary was Comte Léon de Montesquiou, who, being a poet, had a considerable dose of susceptibility. He also knew how to handle a sword, and, though wounded in four places, he managed to score three hits on the formidable Breittmayer. The latter, though 53 when the war broke out, volunteered for service and distinguished himself as an aeroplane observer.

THREE THEATRES IN ONE.

One of the most interesting theatrical centres in Paris is to be found in the Avenue Montaigne, quite a long way from the boulevards. It has three theatres under one roof. The largest, called the Theatre des Champs Elysées, is used for opera and Russian ballet; the second, known as the Comédie, does very well for modern plays without too elaborate stage settings; and finally we have the Studio des Champs Elysées, for short plays. Under the enlightened management of M. Jacques Hébertot, these three theatres have among them provided the public with a remarkable variety of good things presented with a constant desire to obtain the best artistic results. This week the Studio is giving two plays by M. Jean Sarment, a young actor-dramatist who, in a different style, seems destined to become almost as celebrated as M. Sacha Guilty. His "Facilité" is a very clever study of the influence of *milieu* and the fatal facility with which a well-meaning person can fall from one compromise into another. His other play, of which the central figure is Don Juan, old and bereft of his power over the other sex, is less successful.

GLANDS MONKEY AND OTHERWISE

"Alice in Wonderland"—and Life

"If such changes can be produced, do not think it means an increase in longevity. All that it means is that the powers with which we are gifted will be utilized right up to the end; but we are not going to increase the span of life." This was the conclusion reached by Professor Winifred Cullis, in a lecture on "Monkey Glands and Others," delivered at King's College in connexion with the Scientific Novelties Exhibition. If we want to lengthen life, she explained, we must go to eugenics, as statistics showed that the children of long-lived parents had an expectation of years more of life than the average population. "If you want long life, choose long-lived parents," she said.

In the first part of her lecture Professor Cullis explained the position and functions of the glands of internal secretion, and said that their investigation formed one of the real romances of the last 20 or 30 years. They were of transcendant interest, and appealed more to the imagination than any other structures of the body. Giants and tall people were so because, at the time of growth, the pituitary gland was very active; a deficiency of the gland caused dwarfs. Experiments with this gland on animals had produced animals of great size, though not so large as those imagined in Mr. Wells's story; and, in an experiment on a boy, the result was that he grew two and a half inches in a single term. Professor Cullis compared these experiments to the experiences of "Alice in Wonderland," and said that these delightful stories suggested more truth than their authors knew.

"I sometimes wish," added the lecturer, "that some politicians were better physiologists."

CHINA COAST OFFICERS AND THE PIRACY REGULATIONS

Strong Objections by China Coast Officers' Guild and Marine Engineers' Guild: Full Correspondence with Government: Rules Said to Be Impracticable

OFFICERS' LIVES ENDANGERED AND NO INSURANCE

Shanghai, March 12, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—We are directed to hand you the following information, including correspondence which has passed between the Hongkong Government and these Guilds, on the subject of Piracy on the China Coast.

Following the piracy on board the str. Sui An on November 19, 1922, a Commission was appointed by the Hongkong Government to inquire into the outrage.

This Commission was composed as follows:—

Mr. J. R. Wood, Magistrate, President.

Mr. C. McInnes Messer, Col. Treasurer (formerly Capt. Supt. of Police).

Lt. Com. C. W. Beckwith, R.N., Harbour Master.

Mr. H. P. White, Director, Douglas S. S. Co.

Mr. P. M. B. Lake, Marine Supt. I-C. S. N. Co. (retired).

The Commission held 7 public sittings 4.12.22—13.12.22. at which all available witnesses were examined, and on 26.1.23. its Report was presented to H.E. the Governor of Hongkong.

This Report made, *inter alia*, the following recommendations:—

EXISTING REGULATIONS EXPERIMENTAL.

"The existing Piracy Regulations when originally passed were experimental in character. In the light of experience they have been only partially enforced though their form has not been amended. We think that it may be found more convenient to repeal the present Regulations and substitute others than to use them as a basis for amendment."

"It is a tradition in the Mercantile Marine Service that the Master and his officers shall defend their ship against piratical attack. The obligation to resist pirates is also imperative under the existing Piracy Regulations. In our opinion it is essential that this statement of duty should be maintained and emphasized. It should, we think, be the first regulation in any new series. The master and the other ship's officers must be relieved of all duty to exercise a discretion whether to resist pirates or not. Their duty must be clear. If they do not resist their conduct should be submitted to inquiry. It is therefore just and necessary that they should be given a scheme of defence which has a good chance of success and in which each master for himself has a personal confidence. Resistance to pirates once begun cannot be abandoned. It is then a fight to a finish without quarter. The officers must be placed in the strongest possible position for defence on board their ship. They should also be able to rely on the thoroughness of the precautions taken by the Police Department and upon the support of efficient patrols. With reference to River steamers we are of opinion that the hand of officers will be greatly strengthened in carrying out piracy regulations if owners were required to give a bond to the Harbour Master undertaking to pay to his order a sum not exceeding three months' salary of any officer who, in the event of his summary dismissal under a contract made in this port, may be able to show to the satisfaction of the Harbour Master that his dismissal is due in any substantial degree to his observance of the regulations. We also think that the present system under which officers are liable to dismissal on 24 hours' notice is unsatisfactory and that all officers on river steamers should sign on articles for not less than three months."

THE DRAFT REGULATIONS.

On September 4, 1923 the Hon. Col. Sec. forwarded the Draft Regulations for the consideration of the Guilds.

The Sections which most concerned the personnel of the vessels were:—

1.—"It is the duty of the master and other certificated officers to resist to the uttermost any piratical attack. This obligation is imperative and no discretion may be exercised as to whether to resist pirates or not."

2.—"The appointment or employment of any person as master of any British ship, or of any foreign ship holding a passenger certificate under section 10 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, or of any foreign ship holding a special licence under section 38 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, which is about to proceed or is proceeding on any voyage from Hongkong to Macao, or to any port or place on the Canton River or the West River, shall be subject to the approval of the Governor in Council who shall in his absolute discretion have power to refuse to allow the appointment or employment of any particular person."

3.—"Officers who for any reason are considered by the Governor in Council to be unfit to take part in the defence of the ship shall not be permitted to sign on the ship's articles, and if they have signed, they shall cease to be employed as officers on the ship."

5.—"The master shall have complete control of the ship and all on board, and shall not be dictated to or interfered with or suffer himself to be dictated to or interfered with in any way by the owners, agents, charterers, licensees, compradore, pilot or crew in any matter connected in any manner with the repelling of any piratical attack on or on board the ship or with the rendering of assistance to any other ship so attacked or which he may consider to be in need of such assistance."

7.—"When the master of any ship has any cause whatever to believe or to consider that any other ship may be in need of assistance in respect of a piratical attack it shall be his duty to approach such ship as closely as possible, to stand by it, to prevent the access of pirates to or from native craft, to assist in rescue work, to call other ships to the aid of the ship attacked, and to do all such other acts as may be necessary or advisable to assist the said ship in repelling the attack."

THE OFFICERS' OBJECTIONS.

On September 9 a combined meeting of both Guilds was held to consider the Draft Regulations and the following letter was addressed to the Hon. Col. Sec. on the subject; to which neither acknowledgment nor reply was received.

Sept. 12, 1923.

The Honourable the Colonial
Secretary, Hongkong.

SIR,—We have to thank you for your letter of the 3rd instant, enclosing copies of draft Piracy Regulations, and now have the honour to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that we have taken every opportunity, by calling a meeting and by personal interview, to elicit the views of our members on the subject.

Generally, the Regulations as a whole are viewed by our members with great disapprobation, as being unjust, impracticable and, therefore, useless for the purpose for which they are devised.

We would first point out that we have season to believe (which is strongly supported by the wording of the document) that no active member of the Mercantile Marine has been consulted in the framing of the Regulations, which do not as a whole, or in any material point, coincide with the tenor of the suggestions put forward at an earlier date.

SECTION 1.

This section discloses a very grave misconception of the conditions under which piracy occurs on the Canton River delta and the China Coast generally.

In postulating that it is the duty of the master and other certificated officers to resist to the utmost any piratical attack it assumes that they have a crew of their own nationals under their command and that the pirates attack the vessel from the outside.

This is not the case, not only are these officers surrounded by an alien crew, but this alien crew may be, passively if not actively, part of the piratical gang. (Instance, the quartermaster of the "Sui An" leaving the wheel and jumping to the main deck for refuge).

The further and greater difficulty arises from the fact that none of these attacks are initiated from outside the vessel. Till the actual moment of launching the first attack the pirates are apparently peaceful passengers and are free to place themselves in any coign of vantage which they have ample time and opportunity to select, without let or hindrance and, possibly, with the connivance, if not actual co-operation of their compatriots who form the crew.

This is the position in which three, four or, at most five European officers find themselves when they are commanded, by persons who have not been, or ever will be so placed, to resist to the utmost, and gives reason for the pertinent question:—What *is* the utmost they can do? To which the obvious answer is:—Absolutely nothing.

"This obligation is imperative and no discretion may be exercised whether to resist pirates or not."

Imperative obligations admit of no discretion. Discretion is the quality without which no man can be an officer; the very idea of an officer without discretion is a paradox and, to say the least, ludicrous and absurd. The officer is the leader of others, the individual with the brain to direct the forces at his disposal and it is he who assesses the position and issues the executive commands.

SECTIONS 2 AND 3.

"Any particular officer considered unfit by the Governor in Council shall cease to be employed as an officer on the ship."

As the particular officer in question will hold a Certificate of Competency issued by the Board of Trade and will have no other vocation, what steps will be taken to permit him to obtain an honourable living?

It would appear that it is the intention of the Hongkong Government that Officers of the Merchant Service who were, during the War, ranked with and next to Officers of the Royal Navy are now to be treated with less consideration than the "ratings" in that Service.

This attitude is preposterous, and the Officers of His Majesty's Mercantile Marine serving on the China Coast demand fair treatment and the recognition of their status which is nowhere evinced in the document under review.

SECTION 5.

"The Master shall have complete control of the ship and all on board."

Without discrimination no man can control, without discretion no man can discriminate, hence it is impossible for the master to have complete control and a paradox is disclosed which places the master in a position of being unable to avoid the violation of some part of the Regulations.

SECTION 7.

"When the master—has any cause whatever to believe or to consider—."

But by Section 1 he has no discretion!

Further, we are directed to say that the officers of the Mercantile Marine on the China Coast will be delighted to assist in any measure which will tend to the extinction of piracy, or to consider any practical suggestions which may be advanced by their professional brethren. They do not, however, propose to allow their duty to be dictated or criticized by any person or persons who are not professionally connected with the active duties of the Mercantile Marine.

In conclusion it is submitted that piracy, fire and shipwreck are risks common to every person interested in the voyage and, as such, are insurable. The officers engaged on the China Coast fail to perceive why they should gratuitously shoulder the responsibility at the dictation of any person or persons who do not personally or in any manner share the risk which these Regulations direct that they shall take.

We have the honour to be Sir,
Your obedient servants,

CHINA COAST OFFICERS' GUILD,
Sgd. T. T. Laurenson, Assist. Secretary.

MARINE ENGINEERS' GUILD OF CHINA
Sgd. W. I. Stokes, Branch Secretary.

The list of piracies to date is as follows:

Kwanglee	Ch.	16.12.21.
Sui An	Br.	19.11.22.
Fatshan	Br.	8. 2.23.
Wing Ping	Ch.	13. 3.23.
Saichow	Ch.	25. 4.23.
Taishun	Ch.	12. 5.23.
Hsin Chang	Ch.	9. 9.23.
Sanning	Br.	23.10.23.
Hydrangea	Br.	27.12.23.
Tailee	Br.	21. 1.24.

Naturally, the publication of the Draft Regulations was followed by a considerable amount of comment and correspondence in the Press of the Colony as well as that in Shanghai.

Certain measures, (intended to make for a more rigorous adherence to the Regulations of 1914 which were then still in force), were initiated, but, being the butt of public criticism and condemned by the Commission, it was evident that they, both the old Regulations and the draft new ones, were not only inadequate but utterly at variance with the opinions of those most intimately concerned.

The Guilds, whilst watching the matter closely, concluded that their unanswered letter of 12.9.23 would take a certain amount of time to bear fruit and did not attempt to harass the Government by further communications. The murder, however, of Captain Willox of the Tailee, following so close upon the Hydrangea and Sanning outrages, emphatically demonstrated that the continued indifference of the Hongkong Government rendered it imperative that the seriousness of the problem be again submitted for their earnest consideration.

In response to the desires of a large section of members a combined meeting was held on Sunday, February 3, there being present 56 members of both Guilds, the outcome of which was the following letter, addressed to the Hon. Col. Sec.:—

The Honourable the Colonial
Secretary,
Hongkong, Feb. 4, 1924.

Sir,—We have the honour to inform you that a combined meeting of members of the China Coast Officers' Guild and the Marine Engineers' Guild of China was held on Sunday the 3rd instant, at which were present 56 members, most of whom are engaged in vessels subject to the Regulations made under the Piracy Prevention Ordinance, No. 23 of 1914.

At this meeting convened for the purpose, the matter of piracy was exhaustively discussed and we were, by it, instructed to forward, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor, the following resolutions:—

(1.) That, in so far as piracy prevention is concerned, the Police Department be relieved from all duties in regard to sea-going and river steamers whilst outside the waters of the Colony and concentrate its attention to detecting and preventing the embarkation of unlawful persons and/or firearms whilst these vessels are in Hongkong Harbour, unless some better method be devised.

(2.) That all arms and armed guards required by the Piracy Regulations be removed from every vessel and the absolute command thereof restored to the Master as laid down in the Merchant Shipping Acts, unless some better method is devised.

(3.) There shall be at once inaugurated a proper system of patrol in the Danger Zone.

(4.) That all vessels subject to Piracy Regulations shall have wireless telegraphy installed and under the control of a competent operator signed on the Articles.

(5.) That insurance be automatically effected for every Master, Officer and Engineer whose duty takes him into the Danger Zone.

(6.) That every case of piracy shall be the subject of inquiry at the Harbour Office (as soon as possible after the outrage) with the Harbour Master as President of the Court, which should consist of *active* Mercantile Marine Officers of both departments, with the addition of one *active* Naval Officer.

(7.) That a substantial reward be offered for information which leads to the arrest of any person implicated in any piratical attack.

(8.) That a reward should be paid in all cases of seizure of arms and/or ammunition.

(9.) That these Resolutions be at once presented to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary for the consideration of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, and a detailed reply requested in time to present to this meeting which stands adjourned till Sunday, February 17, 1924 at the same time and place for the purpose of receiving such reply.

As, in the interests of conciseness, it has been deemed advisable to make the Resolutions as brief as possible, it is considered necessary that the point of view of our members should be explained at somewhat greater length and we are instructed to submit the following objects and reasons:—

(The numbers refer to the Resolutions).

It is considered:—

(1.) That, as long as the Police Authorities have the control of a duty which is obviously outside the province of their proper activities, so long will the Naval Authorities refrain from taking any steps in a matter which is so essentially maritime and which cannot be efficiently directed under any dual control.

(2a.) That, as arms are indispensable to pirates for the prosecution of their nefarious designs, it is obvious that they will make them a principal objective, firstly to gain possession of the ship and, secondly to add them to their armament; it therefore strongly emphasises the contention that these arms are a danger and should be at once removed from the vessels.

(2b.) That the guards, who are neither sailors nor policemen, are not sufficiently intelligent to act in an emergency on previously formulated instructions without the steadying influence of a controlling European Officer. In no case has the initiative been taken by them, they have always declined combat and accepted the least painful of the alternatives of being disarmed or shot. It is obvious that this attitude in an emergency is a hindrance rather than a help to the already outmanned Master of the vessel in any attempt to retain control of his ship.

That the control, as established by the Regulations, is a divided one in which the influence of the Police is paramount, and to such an extent that the authority of the Master is largely discounted and is frequently sullenly resented.

That even when reports are made to the Officer Commanding Guards as to misconduct (sleeping on duty, drunkenness, disobedience of the orders of the Master and Officers) the penalties are ridiculously inadequate, and the little corrective effect they might have is rendered absolutely nugatory by the fact that frequently the same guard is returned to resume duty on board the same ship. His respect for the ships officers is in no way enhanced when his misconduct in condoned in this flagrant manner.

That a striking instance is afforded in the case when corrective measures (report to O.C.G.) were taken against one of the guards by the Chief Officer of a river steamer, which subsequently led to his death at the hands of the man he had reported; the said officer being fatally shot in the back whilst on the bridge at his post of duty, the murderer being allowed to escape.

(3.) That a system of patrolling the routes traversed by these vessels by armed craft equipped with wireless installations is the only means by which efficient counter measures can be taken.

That this is a duty which should be entirely in the hands of the Royal Navy which is the only Service adequately equipped to carry it to a successful issue.

(4.) That the installation of wireless telegraphy, although possibly expensive as to first cost, is nevertheless imperative and, if it tends to save life and property or check this crying evil, as it most assuredly will, no consideration of first cost should be allowed to weigh against this obvious factor of efficiency.

(5.) That the money paid by the shipowners for the services of the guards might be more suitably directed to the insurance of the lives and bodies of the European officers engaged in vessels subject to the Piracy Regulations. Under present conditions it is the lives and bodies of these officers which form the premium of insurance on the property of others. No form of recompense for bodily injury sustained is demanded by the Law and none has ever been paid.

When it is remembered that the least amount paid (in the case of vessels carrying four (4) guards is $1,200 per annum, it is clear that this amount would easily cover any premium on the life and limb of any of the officers engaged on that vessel. It would be an assurance to these gentlemen that they were some real value, rather than (as appears

SPECIAL ARTICLES

"THE LINKAGE OF LIFE"

Notes of a Sermon Preached by the Rev. C. E. Darwent in Union Church, Tientsin, Sunday Evening, Feb. 3

Text:, Acts XII. 20. "Because their country was fed from the king's country."

I suppose that Professor J. Arthur Thomson is the most eminent naturalist that the British Empire possesses. One need therefore make no apology for taking a title and plenty of illustrations from a recent article of his on the title. It seems useless to read, if one does not use one's reading for the illumination of divine truth.

Professor Thomson says that "one of the central ideas of modern biology is that of the linkage of life." A very striking phrase. He quotes a fine phrase from old John Locke, the philosopher, now undeservedly under a cloud, to this effect, "Every part of nature is a retainer of some other part." A most remarkable prevision of modern thought. Every part of nature is like a retainer of one of the old barons; dependent on him. That is very fine. Professor Thomson says that "the new biology puts the correlation of organisms in the centre of its thinking," a Latinized way of saying that all things are related. The day when we were told that "nature is a bitter and ceaseless struggle" is past. Nature is not so "red in tooth and claw" as we were once told it was. Creatures do not spend their whole time in clawing one another, but spend a great deal of it in helping one another. This, by the way, is a lesson to all those who make it a reproach to the Church that she changes her viewpoint occasionally. They say she contrasts badly with the fixity of science. The answer is that science changes just the same, as we see here, yet loses none of her credit. Why should the Church of Christ?

WHAT COMMON THINGS DO FOR US.

Let us then look at some of Professor Thomson's cases of the "linkage of life." There is the bracken. We all know it. I believe we have it here in North China. Farmers at Home find it a plague, beautiful and paintable as it is in a wood or on a hillside, with its rich orange colour. Like sin, once in, it is hard to get out. Spraying with sulphuric acid is apt to spoil other things as well. So then, use it for bedding. Then cut it up and throw it into rivers. The catch of fish at once increases, for "the slow decay of the bracken promotes the multiplication of animalculæ, on which small crustaceans feed, and the fish feed on them." We all love the sight of the heather, whether of the purple Scottish, or of the more red English variety. Now it has always been a problem, how it is that the heather can get a living where other plants cannot. That is the fact, and we need not wonder, therefore, that in Scotland it is taken as a national emblem. It can live where other plants starve to death. It appears now to science that the heather has done a very wise and remarkable thing. It has established a working partnership with a fungus. Heather and fungus form a kind of firm, of which the fungus has the capital; "The fungus penetrates through and through the heather, through every root, and twig and flower and leaf," and "the heather is a dual organism, depending for its food on the fungus." It is not, observe, a case of the heather doing better with the fungus, but the heather cannot live at all without it. A "linkage of life" indeed.

The thistle is our, pleasant friend the cabbage, not often sung by poets, but whom the Chinese have found, without knowing why, to be a very good friend, for creeping beeps, far more so than fond of a bovine nature. Why is this? It appears that we need nitrogen, the atmospheric gas, in our food, if we are to be strong. Man can manufacture nitrogen by sending a terrific lightning flash of electricity through air, but he makes a tremendous and expensive bother over it. The cabbage, that is as high or higher than we are. I have read that the temperature of Lake Baikal governs the weather of the whole of this East of Asia; it is such a mighty expanse of frozen water, that it chills the warmer breezes from the south, and we do not get warm till Baikal is warm. So it is with us. We are all "fed from the king's country," not from ourselves. So many of the elements that build us up to true and noble man and womanhood come from others "from the king's country." That cannot but be a miserable and a low-toned life that is wrapped up in self, that has nothing higher than its own ambitions, its own interests, its own pleasures,

"For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves, and those who call them friends."

The wise man sees that he is dependent on innumerable regions of existence, for not only his well being, but for his very life, just as the heather depends somewhat unpicturesquely on the fungus. It is our interlinking with others that gives us most of the things that are worth having in life. "We are all members one of another," says Paul. And the world can never progress, as it might do, until we all realize that God has made the world so, that if we are weak and sefish and bad, we make the life of other people around us weaker, and cripple them. We are all "fed" from some "king's country" or other.

NATURE THE GREAT BINDER.

Nature is one "king's country." It is pathetic to see how dwellers in the centres of great cities feel that, even more than countrymen. As you run into London and look down into the hundreds of back-gardens of the streets of working-class houses, there is always some attempt to have a bit of nature; a greenhouse, a few flowers, some fowls, a bit of grass, anything alive and that will grow. These people cannot feed their souls,

"From old well-heads of haunted rills,
And the heart of purple hills,"

so they do the best they can on a few drabbled geraniums. God has made His works to be remembered," and there is dissatisfaction in the masses of our best governed cities because men are so far from the green fields. God has made us to be so constituted that no Free Libraries and clean streets compensate for God's beautiful world. Our fellowmen are a "king's country." How we are linked up with them! And that in ten thousand ways. When we think about it we ought to be thanking God every day for all we receive and have received from them; we ought to make it a point of honour to see to it, that other lives benefit by ours. There are the past generations. We call ourselves "the heirs of the ages" and so we are. What books, what inventions, what conveniences we owe to the men who have passed away; we have inherited the fruits of their toil and brain-sweat, their tears and martyrdoms. "What have we that we have not received?" What a "king's country" are "the times of long ago"! We do admit it as Lincoln birthday celebrations prove.

And the toils and thoughts and activities of mankind to-day are a "king's country" that feed us and serve us. We enjoy a voyage on a luxuriously appointed steamer, say on the Indian Ocean. Do we think of the engineers, who are not reclining on deck on long chairs, but are down in the heat of the engine-room? It may be that those things, that we all hate on account of the inconvenience they cause, namely strikes, have a divine mission to us; to make us see, often to our intense surprise, how we are linked up with other people to whom we seldom give a thought. I lost four days of my holiday in 1911 on account of a threatened railway strike. I had to get to Dover when the lines opened, in order to cross to France and be sure of reaching Genoa. Strikes may be "means of grace." And other nations are a "king's country." Europe is in a grievous condition: Russia, emerging, ruined, from chaos; Germany bankrupt; France on the way to it; more men under arms than before the war; how can we wonder at unemployment and general misery, and prophecies of coming catastrophe? Victors in the war and vanquished are inextricably linked up with one another, and we have to work together or go down together.

THE LINKAGE WITH GOD.

Finally, there is the appeal of religion in these words; "We are fed from the king's country," from God, from that eternal world, where are the springs of all healthy life. There are people who seem to think that if they decide to have nothing to do with religion, they have snapped and broken all the links connecting them and their well-being with God. A great mistake is that. The world can never be what it was intended to be by its Maker, until we all see that we are "fed from the king's country," fed with His grace, His love, His power, given through His Spirit. "Without me, ye can do nothing"; "the spirit of man is the candle of the Lord." Things will all go wrong unless men keep the candle lighted from heaven. Christian people believe that once One came from "the king's country," "holy and undefiled," "made a little lower than the angels, because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour, that by the grace of God He should taste of death for every man." He came, we believe, from the King of "the king's country," filled with the fulness of God, that this sinful struggling world, might also, if it will, be filled with the fulness of God. The "linkage of life" is a linkage with God.

TEN YEARS' ADVANCE BY KOREAN WOMEN

Tremendous Strides Made in Many Directions During Past Decade

By Mrs. Choi Lay.

In Korea the past 10 years have seen, as it were, the birth of the rights, freedom and activities of women.

First, they have obtained the right to an education. Old time Korean parents considered that they were under an obligation to educate their sons, but to keep their daughters at home. Now they begin to realize their duty to educate their daughters also. Even 10 years ago the number of girls in attendance at primary schools was only 3,886, those attending secondary schools 291; in 1922 there were 42,816 primary scholars and 2,284 secondary.

Second, in their marriage relationship women have a new liberty. Ten years ago outside of the capital a girl was expected blindly to obey her parents and to have no voice in her marriage arrangements. She was not permitted to speak to her husband before his or her parents, nor was she expected to converse with him before others until after the birth of a child. To-day she may speak freely with her betrothed, and indeed with one to whom she is not even engaged. She may now express her opinion with regard to the actual engagement, and may write to her suitor. Even in non-Christian homes and among the uneducated the consent of the girl is now sought. Moreover the right of a girl to remain unmarried is recognized. This is perhaps the greatest freedom of all, since a few years ago the very existence of an unmarried girl of 25 would have been impossible A girl, however well educated and competent, was not expected to appear in public, and if she did so, it was in the face of severe criticism.

A great change has come into the relationship of mother and daughter-in-law, a very great change. Formerly the mother-in-law was the mistress, the daughter-in-law the life-long, unpaid slave. Nowadays, a daughter-in-law, having reached years of discretion before she enters her new home, joins in the counsels of the home, and is its mistress.

With regard to the education of the children, the mother formerly had no voice; now, about this also she is permitted to express her opinion, though indeed as yet she has not exactly a free hand.

Again, in purchasing supplies, the men now permit the women of the household to make purchase instead of running out to buy things themselves.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE.

Social intercourse has made a decided advance in 10 years. Ten years ago most of the unmarried girls of the capital were still wearing skirts over their heads, married women, cloaks; they were not free to go about the streets by day, and were expected to travel in sedan chairs. The uncovered woman was the subject of insult and staring; to-day those who follow the old customs are those to be gazed upon! In the country the wide reed hats, which covered not only the heads but most of the bodies of the young ladies, have fallen into disuse. A girl was scarcely permitted to visit her friend in the neighbourhood, now she may undertake work which carries her through out the country without reproach. This is a remarkable advance.

In public gatherings the curtain which secluded the women has been done away with, and a speaker no longer has to walk from end to end of the platform to catch sight of both, while mixed choirs are very common, and women are encouraged to address mixed audiences.

Korean women are now interested in many educational projects. In both city and village Korean women are making themselves responsible for the entire running of night schools and kindergartens. They have undertaken also a few day schools.

BUSINESS AND POLITICS.

Ten years ago it was very difficult to get women teachers even for primary schools; now they are available for secondary schools also, but the demand is greater than the supply. In some girls primary schools the classical masters (old style Chinese scholars) are the only remaining male teachers.

Ten years ago the Korean women doctors had died and there were as yet no successors, there were but a few nurses, no maternity nurses. Now there are several woman doctors, and a fine band of young nurses linked together in an association. Then only widows or destitute people were available as nurses, now the applicants are respected and some nurses' training schools ask for secondary education.

Woman's part in business and commerce has had in the past 10 years perhaps as radical a change as in any other field. Then women were not allowed even to go shopping. Now there are several large stores managed altogether by women There are also several women bank clerks, a great number of girls are taking commercial courses. The increase in the number of women newspaper writers is remarkable. A large number of women and girls are employed in factories.

In politics, also, circumstances have combined to furnish modern Korean women with a poignant interest in political affairs.

Ten years ago work in the church was of necessity largely in the hands of foreign women missionaries, with whom were associated a few outstanding women, Now most of such church business is in Korean women's hands. These are making themselves responsible for a definite part of the church budget. The standard of education for Bible women is very much higher, and women deaconesses and Sunday school teachers are doing efficient work.

The growth of women's societies in the past 10 years indicates the social development of the Korean woman. Ten years ago women's societies did not exist. This year they are vigorous and important enough to have come to the notice of the Government, where 58 organizations are recorded. A notable feature is the linking together of a number of organizations under the Y. W. C. A. Through these various societies women are coming to realize their responsibilities and to fulfil their wishes and desires. Thus the Korean woman takes her place in the world.

The past 10 years, then may be regarded as the "infancy" of the Korean woman. What possibilities of growth lie before her in the next 10 years? That she may increase in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man is my sincere payer.—"Japan Advertiser."

ment, and these, too, seem to have been taken as reasonable and necessary.

THE "DANGER ZONE."

29.—The term "danger zone" shall include the following:—

(1) All routes by water between the ship's buoy, berth, anchorage or wharf in the Harbour and the ship's buoy, berth, anchorage or wharf in or at any port or place of loading or discharge on the Canton River or the West River or any river or estuary in the province of Kuangtung or the province of Kuangsi.

(2) All routes by water between the ship's buoy, berth, anchorage or wharf in the harbour and the ship's buoy, berth, anchorage or wharf in Macao harbour.

(3) All routes by water between the ship's buoy, berth, anchorage or wharf in the Harbour and the ship's buoy, berth, anchorage or wharf in Kwong Chau Wan harbour.

(4) All routes by water between the ship's buoy, berth, anchorage or wharf in the Harbour and the ship's buoy, berth, anchorage or wharf in Amoy, Swatow, Hoihow and Haiphong harbours and in or at any port or place of loading or discharge on the coast of the province of Kuangtung or the province of Kuangsi; provided that in the case of a ship on a voyage from Hongkong the danger zone shall not extend to a greater distance than 120 miles along any such route.

A ship which is within the extremes of the above limits shall, except when at its wharf or moorings in or at a port or place of loading or discharge, be deemed to be within a danger zone whether on a voyage from Hongkong or on a voyage to Hongkong.

30.—No ship shall leave the waters of the Colony except from the Harbour, and after leaving its wharf or moorings and while within a danger zone no passenger or thing shall be allowed to embark or be taken on board except in the saving of life or rescue work at sea.

GUARDS.

31.—Every ship shall carry at least 4 guards, and River Steamers on the routes given in 29 (1) and (2) shall carry at least six guards.

32.—The duties of the guards shall be as follows:—

(a) To assist the Police in searching the passengers and their baggage and goods, the crew and staff of the ship and their belongings, and the ship and its stores and equipment and cargo.

(b) To protect the bridge deck and the access from the bridge deck to the engine and boiler rooms.

(c) To endeavour as far as possible to see that no ammunition or arms are smuggled on board.

No guard shall be employed on any duty other than those specified above.

33.—Subject to the performance of the duties required of them by these regulations, and subject to the right of the Captain Superintendent of Police to direct them with reference to any search, the guards shall be under the entire control of the master of the ship, and shall take no orders direct from the owners, agents, charterers or licensees of the ship, and all orders given by the owners, agents, charterers or licensees to any guard shall be given through the master of the ship.

SEARCHING OF PASSENGERS AND CARGO.

The next seven Sections deal with cargo and the searching of passengers, and would seem to allow little loophole for any lethal weapons or doubtful characters to get on board without a grave risk of detection.

GENERAL.

44.—In the case of a piratical attack in the daytime repeated blasts shall be sounded on the steam whistle or syren.

45.—In the case of a piratical attack at night, rockets, blue lights and Verey's lights shall be fired.

46.—The owners, agents, charterers and licensees shall notify the Captain Superintendent of Police confidentially beforehand on any occasion when it is expected that treasure will be carried on a ship and on any occasion when there may be any reason to fear that a piratical attack may be attempted.

47.—The metal or metal grille doors to the engine and boiler rooms shall be kept locked at all times while the ship is in a danger zone and during such time the only access to the said parts of the ship shall be from the bridge deck.

48.—Ships proceeding to or up any part of the Canton River or estuary, the West River, or the tributaries or mouths of such rivers, shall at night-time accompany each other as much as possible between Hongkong and Wang Mun or Bocca Tigris and remain within easy signalling distance of one another. The hours of departure from Hongkong of any ships so proceeding shall be subject to the approval of the Captain Superintendent of Police.

The final Sections are more or less obvious, and deal with the duties of shipowners and others in regard to prevention of piracy on their vessels—forwarding each and every item of information that might have any bearing on a possible piracy, etc.

GAMBLING MANIA IN GREAT BRITAIN

A Bookmaker's Paradise: The Proposed Betting Tax and Select Committee's Report

The article by Canon Green that we reprinted from the "Challenge" last week was mainly critical of features which the writer's own convictions and knowledge led him to disapprove. The following article gives some account of the gambling mania as the writer sees it about him, with a summary of the Committee's conclusions.

From Our Labour Correspondent.

Manchester, Jan. 14.

The social reformers of the last generation firmly believed that drink and gambling were twin evils that almost invariably went together. The second was supposed to be an almost inevitable outcome of the first. The Report of the Select Committee that has been inquiring into betting does much to prove that this is a wrong assumption. It is common knowledge that the mass of the British people are getting steadily more sober. Drunken men or women are rarely seen in our streets today. But if Bacchus is in eclipse the bookmaker is more popular than ever. Every class of the community is backing its fancy in some way or other. The wildest lottery schemes are extensively patronised. Sweepstakes were never more popular. There is a bookmaker's tout in nearly every street. Coupon betting on football results has reached enormous proportions and continues to increase despite the law against it. And this gambling fever is not confined to men and youths. Women are now among the bookmaker's best customers, and children in elementary schools save their coppers to have a flutter on the favourite.

WHENCE THIS MADNESS?

There are many conflicting theories on the cause of this mania. Some people ascribe it to the steady increase of occupations that make no demands on the intelligence and create a thirst for artificial excitements. Church and chapel workers say it is an inevitable outcome of the people's growing indifference to religion. Labour politicians sometimes contend that the popularity of lotteries and sweepstakes with big prizes arises from the worker's despairing conviction that winning one of these prizes is the only way now left to escape life-long economic servitude. And other people contend that millions of men acquired a taste for gambling in the Army and spread the bad habit when they returned to civil life.

The Select Committee that has been inquiring into betting was set up by the last Government to find out whether some of its profits could not be diverted into the hungry coffers of the State. While it was sitting an energetic campaign was commenced against the promoters of lotteries and sweepstakes. Most of them have now been stamped out. The life of the Committee was brought to a sudden conclusion by the fall of the Government that brought it up. Its Report has just been published.

OBSTRUCTION OF POLICE.

It states that street betting is a public nuisance and more widespread than is generally imagined. A tax on betting is reported to be practicable, but in view of the disturbed political situation it questions whether it is immediately advisable. It alleges that, "The continual breaking of the law by millions of people by betting in the streets, and the surreptitious passing of the slips, and the constant endeavour to avoid the police must have a demoralising effect on the character and establish a general weakening of respect for the law."

It also states that the police evidence proves that of all crimes this is the only one in which the general public puts obstacles in the way of the police carrying out their duties. This obstruction, in the opinion of the Committee, partly arises from the fact that the general public does not look upon betting as morally wrong or criminal, and partly because it resents a law which makes betting by a poor man illegal while facilities exist to enable the rich to bet to any extent they please. The Report alleges that "the street bookmakers have perfected a system which gives them practical immunity from the law," and says that "under the existing law the suppression of street betting is impossible." In support of the last contention it alleges that many of the police sympathize with betting and make bets themselves when off duty. This is undoubtedly true. When the promoters of some of the recent sweepstakes were prosecuted they defended themselves by pointing out that some of the most popular sweepstakes and lotteries in the North were run by the police for the benefit of police charities.

proceedings, and then with few exceptions discharge them. They also provide each taken of slips

The Report throws some interesting sidelights on the wiles of the bookmakers and their agents. It alleges that the bookmakers pay all the fines and costs of their agents when there are police court with from two to four outlookers to warn him of the approach of the police or detectives, and these outlookers are expected occasionally to visit the police courts during the trial of betting cases and familiarize themselves with the features of police officers and detectives dealing with such cases.

People who live in thickly populated industrial districts are well aware of another method of coping with police interference. A hundred yards from where I am writing they are now paying out the day's winnings. The back entry to the premises—a small private house—is thronged with a noisy crowd of lucky backers coming and going, most of them women. And everyone in the neighourhood knows that the policeman on this beat gives this back thoroughfare a wide berth on such occasions. It is, of course, assumed that it pays him to do so.

The Report also refers to the large number of small shops, tobacconists, hairdressers, and newsagents, who take slips for bookmakers. It states that in many instances the retailing element of these establishments is only a cloak to conceal the more profitable trade. It is curious to note that the places most free of the evil are the public houses. The licensee's dread of losing his licence makes him particularly alert to stop any gambling on his premises. The Report states that bookmaker's touts canvass women for custom between 11 a.m. and noon while the husband is at work.

THREE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

The Committee says that there are three practicable policies possible for coping with the problem. Firstly, prohibition. It says that if betting is to be regarded as definitely harmful the logical remedy is to increase the penalty to imprisonment without the option of a fine and put credit betting in the same category as ready money betting. None of the witnesses before the Committee ventured to say that this course was practicable, and it was thought that public opinion would not sanction imprisonment for a first offence. Even the Church speaks with two voices on the fine point of whether betting is a sin. Some well known prelates say that they see no harm in occasionally hazarding a shilling or two on a race, or in raising Church funds by lotteries and draws. Others look on it as a sin paving the way to a dismal procession of major crimes and felonies.

The Committee's second alternative was leaving things alone. This they unanimously condemned. The growth of betting must be stopped. They favoured a scheme of taxation as the best way of dealing with it. In those countries where State control is in operation they say that there is no sign of a general decline in the moral standard of the people. Nor, in their opinion, could the State be accused of putting its *imprimatur* on a national vice if such a course were adopted in Great Britain.

A MUG'S GAME.

If a Conservative Government had been returned to power at the last election there is every reason to suppose that the betting tax suggested by the Committee would have been put into operation. But there is little likelihood of Ramsay MacDonald favouring this course. He would be more in favour of punitive legislative measures to stamp betting out, but such a course would be unpopular with the majority of his followers. The Liberals have no preference either way, and could be depended upon to take any course least likely to lose them support. Until the Conservatives return to power it is likely that the present unsatisfactory conditions will remain unchanged. It is regrettable that the press has not given more publicity to the Committe's succinct summing-up of the national habit of backing horses. In their opinion, "it is a mug's game."

YANG KWEI FEI'S SONG

(On the occasion of the Emperor T'ang Ming Huang's failure to keep his rendezvous.)

Heaven and earth are so bright tonight,
In her vault doth the fair moon hang—
An isle of the sea, and a wheel of ice
(Like a rabbit of jade
That doth wade, doth wade,
Or a large white bird in a field of rice,
'Mid the songs that the star-larks sang)—

O moon of my wanderings, moon so bright,
Whose Lady went down to the Wall*
(By a castle wall that is clear and cold,
By a bridge of stone,
Alone, alone,
Where the mandarin ducks and the carp all gold
Play on, and the wild geese call)—

So white and so cold, O moon tonight—
Thou far-away castle clear!
Let thy ice-wheel turn like an isle of the sea,
'Tis my soul doth fly
From thy chamber high
To the flowers of earth, O resplendent sphere!
Where I sing of my love to thee.

* Dyang Ngoo, the Lady of the Moon, who once descended to earth in her search for love.

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to them at present) mere food for powder. Their position is that not only have they maritime duties to perform, but have in addition (at the behest of people totally unacquainted with those duties) to bear the brunt of and all responsibility for a failure to carry out the Piracy Regulations.

We have no knowledge of any other civilian calling in which the employee is called upon to offer his life in order to defend the property of others and we are constrained by reason to think that, if it were so, an adequate recompense would be given for the sacrifice.

(6.) That the absence of any form of inquiry into any of the cases of piracy which have occurred since that of the *Sui An* in November 1922, has given rise to an intense feeling of insecurity greatly aggravated by the attempt to put the "Draft Regulations" submitted to His Excellency the Governor, in immediately the present state of unpreparedness, by a body of gentlemen who, at no time ever had or ever will have, similar duties to perform.

(7.) That as the offer of a reward for useful evidence in the practice in connexion with the detection of other forms of crime, it could be profitably adopted in cases of piracy.

(8.) That it has been noticed by many of our members that the search of passengers is regularly very superficial, it is considered that a hope of reward would strengthen the incentive of the searchers to discover arms and ammunition.

(9.) That the necessity of pressing for a detailed reply is demonstrated by the fact that our letter of September 12, 1923, addressed to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary on the same subject, has never been acknowledged.

That the necessity of pressing for an early reply is demonstrated by the fact that, although the Regulations have been on the Statute Book since 1914, piracy is increasing and the lives of our members constantly at stake, but no satisfactory action has been taken whereby a remedy might reasonably be expected.

At any time and on any notice, however short, we shall be pleased to wait on you and endeavour to explain any points which may appear to be obscure.

We have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servants,

To which the following reply was received:—

"Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong,
February 11, 1924.

Gentlemen,—With reference to your letter of [illegible] 4, 1924, I am directed to inform you that the [illegible] September 12, 1923, the contents of which have been carefully considered, [illegible] have been forwarded to your [illegible] February 4, but as it appears that a detailed reply can be furnished in time for your proposed meeting on Sunday, February 17,"

"I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
Sgd. A. G. M. Fletcher,
Colonial Secretary."

and acknowledged as follows:—

Hongkong, 12, 1924.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
Hongkong.

Sir, We have to acknowledge your letter of the 11th instant and thank you for the information contained therein.

"It is gratifying to note that the suggestions put forward on the 4th instant by the Guilds are receiving the careful consideration of the Government and may, that a detailed reply may not be ready for our proposed meeting called for Sunday next.

We have the honour to be Sir,
Your obedient servants,"

following which, feeling that the matter brooked of no delay, an interview was sought with, and granted by, the Hon. Col. Sec. at which the Capt. Supt. of Police was present.

INTERVIEW WITH COLONIAL SECRETARY.

As the reply from the Hon. Col. Sec. was absolutely without any detailed reference to any foreshadowed action by the Government, it was felt by your Secretaries that it was far too unsatisfactory to present to a meeting. We, therefore, thought that a good purpose would be served by an interview, and accordingly asked for one for the purpose of eliciting some more definite reply.

By consent of the Col. Sec. we waited on him at 10.30 a.m. on the 13th instant.

The Col. Sec. prefaced his remarks by explaining that the resolutions called for such a marked change in the tentative arrangements which had previously been entered into that it became necessary to place them before all the interested parties for consideration. He pointed out that this was a matter of time and could not be completed in time for a reply to be prepared by the given date.

He explained that, owing to a heavy congestion of work and the changes of portfolios due to the Governor's absence, he had not the matter at his fingers ends as it was being dealt with by his assistant, by whom the resolutions were being prepared and minuted for the consideration of H. E. on his return from Manila.

The question of the removal of the Indian guards was discussed and the Col. Sec. asked for our reasons such a course. It was pointed out that these men, although on the articles, were not under the control of the master as he had no control of their wages and could not inflict any punishment for dereliction of duty as laid down in the M.S.A. On the point of their uselessness it was explained that there was no evidence that any one of them had ever fired a shot with the intention of killing except on the occasion of the murder of Mr. Shufforth and the letter of the C.S.P. dated 16.5.23, dealing with the C.C.O.G's. questions on this subject was submitted to the Col. Sec. who admitted that the point was very clearly demonstrated.

At this point (11.10 a.m.) the Captain Supt. of Police arrived and after introduction informed us that he had just had an interview with the Commodore and that the preliminary arrangements (subject to the approval of the Governor) had been made for the establishment of a system of convoys and escorts, details not yet being available.

After a lengthy discussion of the many points involved it was suggested by the Col. Sec. that we should take an early opportunity to interview the C.S.P. and discuss details so that a concrete minute might be prepared for submission to His Ex. This suggestion was agreed to by the C.S.P. and the interview terminated at 11.40 a.m.

The same afternoon a letter was sent to the C.S.P. asking him to grant us an interview on Thursday. No acknowledgment was received.

CONVOY ON RIVERS.

Saturday, 16th, 10.15 a.m. Received a telephone message from C.S.P. requesting certain information, but as it was rather too long to submit to memory he was asked to put it in writing and let us have it in time for the meeting. This letter was duly received the same afternoon and will now be submitted to you.

Police Headquarters,
Hongkong,
Feb. 16, 1924.

Gentlemen,—With reference to the representations made to the Governor by the China Coast Officers' Guild and the Coast Engineers' Guild [illegible] the provision of convoys for steamers in the inside waters, I have been requested to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has given his consent to the establishment of a convoy or escort system on the Canton River, and as far as Kong Moon on the West River to begin with. The Commissioner has promised every assistance provided he can get the concurrence of the Admiral. The Colonial Government is supplementing the number of vessels which the Navy can place on this service by [illegible] to be manned and armed by the Naval Authorities for [illegible]

It is hoped that the convoy system may be [illegible] within a very short time.

I have the honour to be
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
Sgd. E. D. Wolfe,
Captain Supt. of Police.

The adjourned meeting was held on Sunday February 17, at which the members of both Guilds were present when the interview with the Hon. Col. Sec. and the reply of the Government through the Capt. Supt. of Police was discussed and, on the next day, the following letter was addressed to the Hon. Col. Sec.:—

Feb. 18, 1924.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
Hongkong.
Sir Piracy.

Sir,—We [illegible] Gentlemen, [illegible] a letter was sent [illegible] the Police Superintendent of [illegible] of armed escorts [illegible]

"This letter was read at a Combined Meeting of the China Coast Officers' Guild and the Masters' and Officers' Guild held at West Point on Sunday February 17, when the following resolutions were passed:

1. "That this Meeting has great confidence in the arrangement and establishment of convoys and escorts being placed in the hands of the Naval Authorities."

2. "That with the exception of a system of convoys and escorts the Indian Guards as required by the Piracy Regulations are superfluous and should be immediately removed from the vessels subject to the approval of the Naval Authorities."

Apart from the general approval of the meeting many officers who were on duty and could not attend have since expressed their satisfaction regarding the resolutions passed."

Respectfully awaiting the detailed reply as promised in your letter No. 1 on 2265/1922."

We have the honour to be Sir,
Your obedient servants."

THE APPOINTMENT OF CAPT. BLOXHAM.

No reply, detailed or otherwise, has yet been received, but it has since transpired that a Capt. Bloxham, ex Indian Regiment, has been appointed Officer Commanding Guards and it has, further, been made apparent that this military officer is very actively concerning himself in the structure of ships in relation to their suitability to resist piratical attack.

To deal first with the appointment of an Officer of the Indian Army to command guards who will never, in his presence, be actively engaged in the duty assigned to them. He is evidently appointed because of his experience of these men as Indian troops and his ability to speak their dialect, the only one with which the guards are conversant. He will of necessity be stationed ashore in Hongkong as a centre of command while the duty of the guards is afloat and under the *so-called* command of ships' officers who, if they have acquired and Asiatic language, will have selected the more useful Chinese. It is thus evident that a more unsuitable appointment would be difficult to make. We as Seamen feel entirely at a loss to express an opinion as to the suitability of an Army officer to direct or criticise ship construction in general or in any detail pertaining to ships however small.

We have now received the following cable from our Hongkong offices:—

"New Piracy Regulations published, very little alteration from Draft. Regulations. Combined meeting held Sunday, members discontented. Correspondence between both Guilds and Government to be published. Strong action not to be taken until peaceful procedure is exhausted."

OFFICERS' HOPELESS POSITION.

A Reuters cable dated H. K. 19.3.24 amplifies the above in the following words:—

"The crux of the difference arises from the fact that the Regulations insist that "the officers shall resist to the uttermost" while no provision is made for the dependants of those killed."

The state of affairs, as it appears to us, then, is that the members of the Mercantile Marine engaged in the "Danger Zone" have their lives under a cross fire of Regulations on the one side and a foreign hope on the other.

This position is forced on them by a body of gentlemen who never met, and probably never will meet, a pirate on equal terms on his (the pirate's) busy day.

Although requested to make suggestions and although these requests have been complied with, every suggestion made by the experts (with their lives at stake) has been contemptuously set aside in a truly bureaucratic manner, which has only urbent sufficiently far as to seek the advice of the British and Chinese Chambers of Commerce in order to bolster up the inept actions of unprofessional heads of departments.

The value of this advice is aptly demonstrated by the fact that one section of the Chinese Chambers of Commerce expressed one opinion, a second section of it enunciated a diametrically opposite one, so it split the difference, then, being unable to agree to that, referred it to a sub-committee which is still silent in the matter.

The British Chamber of Commerce at Hongkong, true to its ancient lineage, has been constantly dumb.

What, then, is left for the mercantile marine to do? The Government cannot or will not do anything except copy old laws and call them new ones.

Remembering that they are the means of keeping the Colony fed the officers are loth to forcibly emphasize their utterly impossible position by strangling the river trade.

By doing so they alienate the sympathy of the public (who are first, last and all the time their ultimate masters) by starving them, and not only them, but their own dependents also, in addition to which they lose their own source of income and are thus doubly penalized for no fault of their own.

If they do not act thus drastically is there any other way the position can be treated?

As has been constantly pointed out in the Press, the travelling public together with shipowners and merchants are equally interested in this problem, why then has no definite action been taken by them?

Is the Mercantile marine (the war being finished) to quietly step into the background and shoulder all the responsibility by offering their lives in "resisting to the utmost" as a premium of insurance on the property, comfort and well being of others who persist in remaining supine?

If only these bodies would come out into the open with some suggestions of their own, progress might be made.

Even if their ideas are absolutely opposed to those of the professional sailor-man surely they have sufficient courage in their own convictions to argue them openly and unreservedly, always supposing that they really wish to put an end to, or at least mitigate, the evil. This last may possibly be termed innuendo; it is not so intended; but, if it serves to shock home, to those whose interests are identical with ours and whose responsibility to the travelling public is no less, that something on their part is wanting, it will have done some good.

It is then to all these parties that we submit this review of the matter, after eighteen months fruitless negotiations with the Hongkong Government.

The requests contained in the Guilds' letter of February 4, 1924, addressed to the Hon. Col. Secretary, were formulated after the most prolonged and careful consideration by practical and experienced seamen, who conscientiously believe that the adoption of the suggested measures is the only means whereby adequate protection for all the interested parties can be secured.

For the China Coast Officers' Guild,
W. E. Kirby, Secretary,
T. T. Henderson, Asst. Secretary.
For the Marine Engineers' Guild of China,
J. Watson, Secretary.
W. J. Stokes, Branch Secretary.

TEXT OF THE NEW REGULATIONS

Coincident with the publication in the "North-China Daily News" of full particulars of the activities and viewpoints of the Mercantile Marine officers on the China Coast on the piracy question, was the receipt in Shanghai of the "Hongkong Government Gazette" of March 7, containing the full text of the new Piracy Regulations which are to come into effect immediately.

The order, wording and tenour of the Regulations reveal an almost strict conformity with the Draft Regulations that already have caused so much discussion and dissention. There is one notable omission, however, in Section 1, which now reads "It is the duty of the master and other certificated officers to resist to the uttermost any piratical attack." An important and far-reaching clause that has been omitted from this Section is "This obligation is imperative and no discretion may be exercised as to whether to resist pirates or not." In this respect the officers of the ships appear to have gained an important point, though, we understand, they still have strong objections to the term "resist to the uttermost."

The salient portions of the new Regulations are given below:—

No. 109.

Regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 17 of the Piracy Prevention Ordinance, 1913, Ordinance No. 23 of 1914, on the 6th day of March 1924.

The Regulations relating to ships exceeding 60 tons, made under the above Ordinance and published on pages 458 to 465 of the Regulations of Hongkong, 1914, amended as appearing in Government Notification No. 347 of 1922, are hereby rescinded and the following regulations are substituted therefor:—

Ships (exceeding 60 tons).

MASTERS AND OTHER OFFICERS.

1.—It is the duty of the master and other certificated officers to resist to the uttermost any piratical attack.

2.—The appointment or employment of any person as master or other certificated officer of any British ship, or of any foreign ship holding a passenger certificate under section 10 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, or of any foreign ship holding a special licence under section 38 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899, which is about to proceed or is proceeding on any voyage from Hongkong to Macao, or to any port or place on the Canton River or the West River, shall be subject to the approval of the Governor in Council who shall, in his absolute discretion have power to refuse to allow the appointment or employment of any particular person.

3.—Each certificated officer, whether on or off duty, shall carry on his person one revolver and 25 rounds of ammunition at all times while the ship is in a danger zone, and he shall be familiar with the use of his weapon.

4.—The master shall have complete control of the ship and all on board, and shall not be dictated to or interfered with or suffer himself to be dictated to or interfered with in any way by the owners, agents, charterers, licensees, compradore, pilot or crew in any matter connected in any manner with the repelling of any piratical attack on or on board the ship or with the rendering of assistance to any other ship so attacked or which he may consider to be in need of such assistance.

5.—The master shall enter or cause to be entered in the official log-book a statement or, if there is no official log book, cause a record to be kept, of every occasion of any such interference or attempt at interference however slight, and he shall report the same to the Harbour Master at the first opportunity.

6.—When the master of any ship has any cause whatever to believe or to consider that any other ship may be in need of assistance in respect of a piratical attack it shall be his duty to approach such ship as closely as possible, to stand by it, to prevent the access of pirates to or from native craft, to assist in rescue work, to call other ships to the aid of the ship attacked, and to do all such other acts as may be necessary or advisable to assist the said ship in repelling the attack.

7.—No certificated officer shall take any part in or be present at the collection of tickets or fares from the passengers.

CONSTRUCTION.

Here come the Sections providing for structural measures to be taken for the defence of ships coming under the provisions of the Regulations. They appear generally to be accepted as reasonable.

SCHEME OF DEFENCE.

21.—When a ship is first fitted in accordance with these regulations, and at the annual survey, a scheme of defence of the ship as fitted will be drawn up by a committee consisting of the Assistant Harbour Master, and a Superintendent of Police, the master and, if the owner so desires, a representative appointed by the owner. The scheme of defence settled by the committee shall be set out in writing and carefully kept by the master who shall supply the Captain Superintendent of Police with a copy. Every master shall be well acquainted with the scheme of defence of his ship and he shall see that the officers and other persons on board to whom duties are assigned under the scheme are made acquainted with their duties.

EQUIPMENT.

Sections 22 to 28 are concerned with details of defensive equip-

THE WOMAN'S PAGE

SHANGHAI MOTHER'S GOOSE

By Elizabeth Pepys.

A Dog's Life.

Bow, wow, wow! What's the horrid row?
They won't take my muzzle off.
Bow, wow, wow!

Spring Journeys.

This Englishman went to Moscow;
This American stayed home.
He wished to enter Russia
But visa he had none.
This Italian said: Yes, we were wise
The Soviet to recognize.

Perquisites.

See saw, Margery Daw
The cook shall have a new master.
He is hunting an easier place
Where he can graft all the faster.

Who's to Blame?

Ding, dong, dess,
China's in a mess.
Who put her in?
All of us can guess.
Who'll pull her out?
There is where we doubt.
What a wicked man, you know,
Thus to harrass China so,
She never wished to start a fight
And here she's in this sorry plight.

MINISTERING CHILDREN

By Elizabeth Peyps.

It is a child's two-fold heritage—happiness and helpfulness. Neither should be denied him. The child who has never known the joy of helping another, especially of making other children happy, has been deprived of a rightful privilege. The Ministering Children's League fills both needs for it not only cares for sick and needy children but it enlists the generous-hearted sympathy and assistance of the children themselves for others less fortunate.

A Bazaar arranged by grown-ups for the benefit of children would be a gracious and beautiful charity but it could never possess half the significance of a Bazaar for which the children of Shanghai are working, giving up some of their play hours and their childish savings in order to make some French orphan, some little Russian refugee, some youthful cripple happier.

It is a familiar complaint that the children of the Far East are spoiled and from too much waiting upon have become lazy and selfish. There is too much truth in the criticism to dismiss it outright but a visit to the working parties where youngsters from four or five years to young girls of 16 and 18 are giving up their leisure in order to sew for their stalls is very reassuring. We have previously mentioned the sewing circle for St. Joseph's School, held in Mrs. Tibbey's apartment in the Glen Line Building, under the auspices of Mrs. Tibbey, assisted by Mrs Bolton and Mme. Darre', where the pupils and graduates are making innumerable pretty things for the chances of the Tombola booth.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

At the Public School for Girls on Yu Yuen Road under the supervision of Mrs. Edgar, assisted by Miss Manning, Miss Morris, Mrs. Daniels, Mrs. Hummel and Mrs. Bowman, girls from the school were busily sewing away in the sunny dining room. An industrious hive this was, with the older girls making rompers and seaside frocks for kiddies, or knitting scarves and jumpers, the younger ones making scrap books and all manner of fetching garments for dolls' outfits. The neatness of the stitches and the efficient way in which the young seamstresses went ahead with their work was a tribute to the training they are receiving, while their regularity in attendance shows their interest in the object of their work.

CATHEDRAL GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The next party of workers was found at the Cathedral School for Girls, where a number of little boys were also working with vim and vigour, taking a minute off now and then to give each other a friendly punch between stitches but accomplishing wonders in the way of knitted reins, feeders embroidered in outline stitch, or hemmed dusters. The ladies primarily responsible for this stall are Mrs. Neild, Mrs. Piercy and Mrs. Bichard assisted by Mrs. F. A. Sampson, Mrs. Bondfield, Mrs. Momber, Mrs. Crombie, Mrs. Roberts and Miss Harris. The ages range here from 6 to 16 and the range of articles was wide for the older girls were making all manner of ambitious fancy articles.

One of the side attractions of the Cathedral Stall is the Lucky Dip, in charge of Miss Harris, who is assembling a choice assortment of prizes to delight all who try their luck. The Stamp Collectors' Stall is another division in charge of Mrs. Piercy, assisted by Mr. Trenchard Davis, a stall which is bound to appeal to philatelists, old and young.

The "Dollar Competition" may be mentioned in this connexion, in which those entering are asked to make an article of any description the material of which is not to cost more than $1 and prizes will be given for those adjudged the best—$10 for the best sent in by an adult, and $6 and $4 as first and second prizes respectively for the best articles sent in by any schoolgirl. It is to be understood that all articles sent in for the competition are to be given to the Ministering Children's League, and to sold to the best advantage on the day of the bazaar, for the funds. Judging will be done by votes. All articles should be sent to Mrs. Piercy, 46 Route Ave. de Boissezon, not later than March 11, or to Mrs. Bichard, Cathedral Girl's School, not later than March 10. A paper must be attached to each article showing the cost of material used.

HOME SCHOOL AND NURSEY SCHOOL.

The Home School and Nursery Stall was in active session in a cheery sunshiny, firelit room at Mrs. O. M. Green's and here we found the youngest members whose devotion to the cause was quite out of proportion to their years. The seriousness with which these tiny tots plied their needles showed that the Bazaar could not fail of success. Lady Pearce, Mrs. Mackie, Mrs. Green and Mrs. Fryer are responsible for this stall and Lady Pearce has offered a special prize for the best article made by any of the juvenile members of this group under the supervision of older advisers.

SHALL WE GIVE THESE TO THE BAZAAR?

Gifts which will appeal especially to children are the specialities of this circle and any indulgent doll-mother will find the choicest of articles to fit out her dolls' houses and dress her darlings. Then there are powder-face cloths, fancy bags, dolls' dresses with knickers and cap complete, cushions, soft balls, face cloths, fancy bags dolls' piano stools, fascinating mud animals all the way from Wusih and dozens of other things.

There is a tremendous amount still to tell about this Bazaar and its numerous attractions, but that will have to be another story. Only don't forget the date, March 15, in the Carlton, kindly given by the management for this occasion, and at 2.30 Lady Stubbs will open the Bazaar.

LAW SCHOOL FOR CHINESE WOMEN

What One Women is Doing to Emancipate Chinese Girls

By Elizabeth Pepys.

As was recently announced in the news columns of the North-China Daily News, a Law School for Chinese Girls has been opened in Shanghai by Mrs. George S. Hsu, the wife of the former Minister of Justice and sister of the Shanghai City Magistrate. This school is located in the residence of Mrs. Hsu, J1293 Avenue Edward VII, in the first turn which the Avenue makes to the left, as one proceeds from the Bund, the doorway in the right hand side of the road mark-

MRS. GEO S. HSU

ed by two black wooden tablets, with Chinese characters in white.

The school must not be thought of as turning out full fledged lawyers, as the course given now consists of only one year and is rather in the nature of a general, practical preparation either for the technical law schools, one in Peking and one in Nanking, which admit women students, or for the administration of business affairs such as fall to many Chinese women. Mrs. Hsu is a firm believer in Votes for Women and feels that this course will enable them to exercise the franchise more intelligently.

AIM OF THE SCHOOL.

Girls are admitted after they have finished the Middle School, that is, after the age of 16, and study law principally, together with other studies useful to them in home and business life. Graduates are expected to take posts as teachers, in business or continue their studies. Twenty students are enrolled at present, eight of them boarders, and more are expected, accommodation being available for 50. They come from all over China, even from Canton and Anfui. The correspondence school conducted in connexion with the work has enrolled 100 pupils. The cost of the course, $24 a term, has purposely been kept nominal in order not to exclude any girls who have a genuine desire to learn.

Mrs. Hsu is not a "returned student," having been educated entirely in China, so she can realize how difficult it is for the average girl to get the higher education she craves. Her own home life was singularly fortunate, for as she says: "My parents loved me equally with their sons. They did not despise girls but granted me my wishes as if I had been a boy. My four brothers were studying at home with their teachers. I had no sister and was lonely so I was allowed to study with them.

"When I was married my husband spoke and wrote English. I wanted to be able to speak English also, so I have studied with different English ladies at various times, but have never been able to study long at a time, because sometimes my teachers were ill or moved away." One should explain here that Mrs. Hsu reads English and understands spoken English very well, and indeed speaks remarkably well considering the few lessons she has had. At times her thoughts run faster than her tongue, and with a little impatient gesture she will say: "I know, but I cannot say it."

WOMAN'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION.

Mrs. Hsu's children have all had every educational advantage Her oldest boy is in Columbia University, New York. Her oldest daughter has been at St. Mary's Hall although she is now in the South for her health. Two younger children are at school now and with only the baby left at home, Mrs. Hsu says she is lonely, and has turned her energies to this school work. "There is so much to be done even in this one small school," she says, "and all the time I am thinking how much more remains to be done throughout China. I am sure that women want education and they can help their country so much better if they understand law and government. I am so grateful to my parents for giving me the chance to study that I want to help other girls."

LEADER IN POPULAR EDUCATION

Approaching Marriage of Y.W.C.A. Secretary

The engagement of Miss T. K. Phen for several years a secretary of the Chinese Young Women's Christian Association of Shanghai, to Dr. N. S. Koo, Professor of Structural Engineering at Tangshan University, has lately been announced. Miss Phen is a graduate of St. Mary's Hall, and comes of a long line of Christian workers. Her mother was in the first class opened by St. Mary's School, and her father has been secretary to Bishop Graves for many years. Miss Phen taught a year after graduation, and then became social and membership secretary of the Y. W. C. A. During the past year she has been especially interested in popular education, and has given most of her time to organizing classes of girls and women who have had no opportunity to study.

"It is interesting to see," Miss Phen says "how the chance to study is eagerly grasped at by women who never dreamed of such a thing in their youth. Many of them cannot even write their own names—or read the letters announcing the death of some relative in the country. One woman was very anxious to learn to read because her son and daughter were both being well educated, and she thought they would respect her more if she could read and write. Many

MISS PHEN.

girls are allowed to come to study for an hour and a half a day who cannot be spared from the shop or home for all day schooling, and whose parents cannot afford to pay even a small fee. I feel that the Popular Education Movement will be a powerful instrument in attacking illiteracy among women, and will help greatly to make them conscious of their own place in the community."

After her marriage, in the summer, Miss Phen will live in Tangshan, Chihli where Dr. Koo is doing a very interesting piece of work in the government University in training students in structural engineering. Dr. Koo was graduated from Nanyang College in 1918, and received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Cornell University in 1921.

EXPLODED THEORIES

I.—You can't have too much of a good thing

By Elizabeth Pepys.

Little Arabella Flouncibel had beautiful golden hair. When sufficiently coerced with curling tongs or kid rollers it had a very natural curl. The only disappointing thing about it was its scantiness. Arabella's dear Mama would shake her head over it and say to the amah: "More better you puttee medicine topside baby. Wanchee plenty hair."

Amah, being a conscientious person with a third cousin in the pharmacy where the hair tonic was sold, sprinkled her small charge's head assidously and in due time had her reward or her punishment in seeing the ringlets increase so that the kid curlers had to be doubled in number and a larger comb was purchased. As Arabella grew up her hair was Dutch-clipped, which seemed to stimulate its growth prodigiously. The hair-dressers bills would have been enormous had not the faithful amah added hair-cutting to her list of accomplishments.

In time Arabella desired to let her tresses grow out and they rapidly extended to her waist, and were so thick that the professional shampooers doubled their fee for laundering her locks. For a time she was able to meet her expenses by cutting out thick strands underneath from her superabundant stock and selling them. Soon, alas, it became stylish to have no hair. Everybody bobbed. Switches and transformations were as *demode* as a bustle. That source of revenue was closed.

Negotiations with mattress factories brought little encouragement. Kapok and Ostermoor seemed to suit the public as well as curled hair. As hats became smaller heads followed the shrinking trend. Soon it became necessary in order to procure the sleek boyish effect to have a hair cut and clip almost every other day. Now every time Arabella sees a bottle of hair tonic she pines to smash it and in time, unless the styles changes we may expect to see her rivaling Carrie Nation.

HOME HUMOURS

A Choice of Evils.

Doctor: Now, remember, Mrs. Brown, if you give your husband anything to drink but water, it may kill him.

Mrs. Brown: Oh, but if I try to give him *water* he'll certainly kill *me*!

Shifting the Responsibility.

Clerk: May I have this afternoon off, sir? My wife wants me to—

Head of Firm: Sorry, can't be done! We're far too busy.

Clerk: Thank you very much indeed, sir!

Progress.

As a patroness of struggling and discouraged artists and musicians, Mrs. Gilling was not markedly successful, although she had plenty of money and a warm heart, and was interested in art and artists.

"I've brought some of my last year's sketches to show you," said one poor young man whom she had asked to call upon her, "but I do not feel satisfied with them. They are not as good in some ways as the work I did a year ago."

Nonsense!" said Mrs. Gilling, with loud cheerfulness, patting him on the shoulder. "You paint just as well as you did last year—as well as you ever have. Your taste's improving, that's all."

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

The [illegible] edition of Pepys' [illegible] Diary, previously [illegible] in eight crown 8vo volumes, is now available in the [illegible] form of an Ox[illegible]ford half-guinea edition. The text used is the copyright one, edited by H. B. Wheatley, F.S.A., and annotated by Magdalene College, Cambridge. Wheatley's short Life of Pepys and a comprehensive index are included. The price of the three volumes is 42 s., and the publishers are Messrs. G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., York House, Portugal St., Kingsway, W.C.2.

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If every person be capable of one book, every novelist is poet enough to make one volume of verse, and pretty generally it comes along. We had not suspected Miss Ethel M. Dell, with her soaring circulation in fiction, as a poet, but she is, though hitherto she has published no verse. Now she is giving us, through Hutchinson, "A Book of Verse," composed during the past few years. It will, we are told, reveal "the intimate perception of human emotions and powers of happy expression" which are the secret of Miss Dell's vogue as a novelist.

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To an energetic young Londoner, occupied in a City firm in Change-alley, something like a fortune comes unexpectedly, and he determines to put it to the brightest advantage. There you have the idea of a novel which that capital writer, Mr. Pett Ridge, has supplied with Methuen. Ever since he left London Town, he finds adventures enough for this young Croesus in and about the Strand. But the last and, perhaps, the jolliest incident takes place on a certain Friday afternoon at the Caledonian Market, N.

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A volume of essays which did well in the autumn was Mr. J. B. Priestley's "I, For One." It had something of the qualities which should distinguish the essay or the after-dinner speech, enough mirth to engage the heart and enough seriousness to exercise the mind. Now comes Mr. Priestley is giving us another book, and it is promised us by John Lane as "Essays on Modern Literature." Mostly the contents are criticisms and appreciations of recent or living authors. The list includes Messrs. G. Hewlett, Dr. Saintsbury, Mr. W. W. Jacobs, Mr. Arnold Bennett, Mr. Robert Lynd, and Mr. A. E. Housman.

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It is a sign of peace come to the book world, if not necessarily plenty, that the historical memoirist is once more busy. Mr. Lewis Melville is more than busy, for he has not only given us a book about Nell Gwyn, our promises us one on Beau Brummell. "Pretty, witty" Nell's career from orange girl to king's favourite makes a varied tale. The career of Brummell is a study in the eccentricities of fashion as they were worn by a man who was no fool. It was not only with dandyism that Brummell illuminated his time, cut with wit and wisdom, as this Hutchinson book will reveal.

∴

The verbatim reporting of debate has become so [illegible] that those who do not attend public assemblies may come near to forgetting its endurance. This perhaps helps to account for the success of freshness in the reading of "Yea and Nay" (Brentano's, 6s.), which is the record of a series of lectures and [illegible] lectures" given a year ago at the London School of Economics. There the protagonists were carefully chosen, and the subjects of a certain elevation, so that a note of distinction in the tone was secured. Among the questions propounded were the teaching of history on a national or international basis, the possibility of alternatives to the "sex novel," and the ethics of biography, while delicatessen from the Oxford and Cambridge Unions handled the thesis, "That Education is the Curse of the Country." Among the disputants were Mr. Wells, Mr. Chesterton, Mr. St. John Ervine, Mr. E. B. Osborn, Miss Sheila Kaye Smith, Miss Rebecca West and Mr. Oswald Mosley, M.P. It is a commonplace that what tells upon the platform may be very dull upon paper, but this volume seems to be composed almost entirely of exceptions to the rule. It suggests that what is prepared for a really intelligent audience may quite easily be read as well as heard with pleasure. The present experiment, at any rate, seems to invite cautious imitation.

A TOO-BRILLIANT NOVEL

"The Fir and the Palm." By Elizabeth Bibesco. (Hutchinson. 7s. 6d.)

Princess Bibesco's novel is in many ways an advance upon her shorter work, but it suffers from the desire of the brilliant beginner to compress all her *bons mots* into one story. To do this, every character that comes upon the stage has to sparkle, from the scene-shifter to the leading lady. It can be said with truth that there is not a dull page in the book; and with equal truth that a dullish page or two would come as a relief.

As for the theme, apart from the style, it is not altogether easy to believe in the suppressed vehemence of the husband's passion for his wife or in her unconsciousness of it. So sensitive an intelligence would surely soon have detected that usually unmistakeable atmosphere. However, it makes a fresh situation, and the irony of the wife's own love for a man who does not care a snap of the fingers for her, but yet serves to point a contrast, is neatly conceived.

The occasional sayings are often remarkably apt and shrewd. "Is not a Don Juan further removed from a real lover than a celibate priest?" "Caricatures are purged by laughter. It is only when they catch a serious part of you and spoil something that they are dangerous." These are only two specimens, but they give an idea of the enormous cleverness (the author must forgive the inevitable word) that makes all this young writer's books remarkable, and of the insight which makes them rather more than merely clever.

MORE FITZGERALD LETTERS

Some New Letters of Edward Fitzgerald. Edited by F. R. Barton. With a Foreword by Viscount Grey of Fallodon. 8s. 6d. (Williams & Norgate.)

"Those who know the letters of Edward FitzGerald," writes Viscount Grey, "will find nothing unexpected in this latest batch, but they will find here the same traits and qualities that have endeared his letters and their writer to so many." Nearly all the letters are to Bernard Barton, Lamb's Quaker friend, and they are linked together with a commentary by the editor, who is a descendant of Bernard Barton's. No man can write good letters unless he is writing to an intimate with whom he can be frank, careless, frivolous on occasion, always perfectly himself without fear of being misunderstood, and to Barton FitzGerald had such a friend. Nor can he write them unless he has a sense of humour, and FitzGerald's genial, broad, sometimes rather devastating humour plays through these pages and makes even his communications about personal and everyday affairs delightfully entertaining. He may label Wordsworth "Daddy," but there is sound criticism behind his frivolity; he had the keenest admiration of Tennyson, but was quickly alive to his weaknesses; and his feeling for Carlyle stopped so far short of idolatry that he could laugh at him and like him none the less. The many references to contemporary celebrities of all sorts add to the interest of these pages, but without these the letters are for their own sakes a delightful possession.

FORE-GLEAMS OF CHRISTIANITY

"The Babylonian Epic of Creation." By S. Langdon. (Clarendon Press. 16s.)

By Professor A. H. Sayce.

Half a century has passed since George Smith caused some flutterings in the theological world of the day by his discovery of an Assyrian account of the Creation, which resembled in several respects that of Genesis. In fact, the resemblance at the time seemed greater than we now know is really the case, for the Assyrian story was recorded on seven tablets, which appeared to correspond with the seven days of the Biblical record. The seventh tablet, however, now turns out to have been originally a hymn in honour of the god Merodach, which was added at a later date only to the original story. The story itself is in the form of an Epic, and begins with a short review of the current theories of cosmology.

The tablets, edited by George Smith, came from the library of Nineveh, and contained portions only of the Epic. Since then other fragments of the Epic have been recovered, and since the war nearly the whole of it has come to light, thanks to tablets found by German excavators on the site of Assur, the primitive capital of Assyria. It was time, therefore, that a new and complete translation and edition of the Epic should be made, and this has now been done by the most competent of our Assyriological scholars, Professor Langdon. His work cannot be too highly praised; the subject of it has been brought up to date with exhaustive thoroughness.

But what may be termed the introduction to it will attract the attention of the public even more than the Epic, and is likely to occasion a good deal of discussion in theological circles. The Epic, as Professor Langdon shows, was of Babylonian origin, and certainly not earlier than the Abrahamic age, and it found special acceptance in the later Assyria. In Babylon, and consequently at Assur also, it was recited on one of the 11 days consecrated to the celebration of the Feast of the New Year at the time of the vernal equinox.

The elaborate ritual performed on four of these days has now been recovered: on the fifth day the King was required to enter the temple of Bel-Merodach, where the high-priest removed the insignia of royalty and smote him on the cheek in token that for the moment he was no longer king but a slave of the god.

Side by side with the ceremonies of an external ritual went a sort of miracle-play or sacramental mystery, the interpretation of which, and apparently also participation in it, was confined to the initiated. Classical writers refer to "the tomb of Bel" at Babylon, and the explanation of this tomb is now afforded us. Bel, we are told, was bound and wounded to death: he was then consigned to "the grave" and passed into the underworld: a malefactor (more literally, "a sinner") was executed along with him; and the blood of the slain god was washed away from his body, which his garments were carried to Beltis of Erech. The women made lamentation for him and tumult fell upon the city. Then the door of the tomb was forced and Bel rose again from the dead.

It is needless to point out the curious analogies between all this and the Christian Gospels. Professor Langdon discreetly refuses to discuss the theological side of the question, and confines himself to its Assyriological aspect. Bel, as he says, has merely taken the place of the older, Tammuz, who, it was believed, had been similarly slain and afterwards raised from the dead. The same belief was held by the worshippers of Osiris in Egypt where it went back to the dawn of history. Christianity claimed to fulfil all that was truest and best in the religious aspirations of mankind, and if that claim were justified the belief in the divine man who was slain as a sin-offering and who rose again to life was necessarily realized in the person of its founder. In the old religions of the civilized East we ought to find what have been called the "Fore-gleams of Christianity," and the decipherers of the cuneiform texts is now finding them.

TRIMMINGS!

The Hat of Destiny. By Mrs. T. P. O'Connor. 7s. 6d. (Collins.)

Sparkling as champagne, and sustained without a hint of flatness or insipidity to the very end. The American women, Nelly and Laurel, are admirably drawn. Their feminine hearts are torn with jealousy and suspicion, and the culminating moment of the book is reached when Laurel sweeps into her rival's concert-room, wearing an exact replica of Nelly's devastating hat! Says Laurel lightly, "Look at me! I've dressed the part of Nelly's twin sister. We are the Sisters Love, and will do a dance together, if we are asked, a little later, won't we, Nell." "Please get up and go to the other end of the room," replies Nelly in fury. "If you don't, I'll tear both our hats to bits, and throw the pieces to the orchestra!" This is the light bubbling book, so constantly begged for, and lacking at our libraries. The hat is worth remembering. People held on to its long velvet streamers "as if it had been an iced mint julep."

GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS

"Heirs Apparent." By Sir Philip Gibbs. (Hutchinsons, 7/6).

A novel which finishes on the note of June, 1923, and deals entirely with post-war scenes, is bound to hold the interest of the young people of to-day. It is to the younger generation, we believe, that Sir Philip Gibbs addresses himself principally in "Heirs Apparent"; his hero is a supercilious Balliol youth who has some of his superiority knocked out of him and some sense knocked into him by contact with the Fleet Street world, and the operation was badly needed, for Julian Perryman was a most obnoxious prig before he learned the art of doing a worthy day's work and earning a more or less journalistically honest penny. His father was editor of *"The Week,"* a popular paper with a two-million circulation; a man of ideals who had sold himself, for a handsome salary, to the owner of that recognizable and not too reputable sheet. Into the story comes, slightly disguised, an account of certain events in the law-courts which are still fresh in our memory, and very cleverly is the trial of the proprietor of *"The Week,"* and the downfall of the huge edifice of half-sincere, half-spurious patriotism and popularity which he had built, portrayed.

Better than this, however, is the general picture of the group of young Oxford men and the lively interpretation of their attitude to life—their mask of gaiety, of boredom, of irresponsibility, concealing after all a very genuine good-heartedness and comradeship. We feel that there are portraits in this general picture, and that they are drawn with friendly touches. The girls are not quite so successfully "placed"; as in previous books, the author is more at home with his men. When the scene, in the progress of development, changes to the street of ink and the first experiences of Julian as a raw hand on the newsgathering staff of his father's paper, Sir Philip stands on the surest ground of all, even though he paints in gloomy shades the career of the journalist which, taking an average, is not so black after all. Most experienced newspaper-men have more philosophy, more stoicism and less lamentation, than had Burton, the news-editor of *"The Week."* Still, the picture stands; it is impressive and real; and we have to thank the author for a keen and exceedingly clever novel which will add to his reputation.

THE SILKEN THREAD

Silk by Sacheverell Merwin. Illustrated by N. C. Wyeth. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. Chinese American Publishing Co., Shanghai.

This is a charming story [illegible]cribed as "A legend as narrated in the journals and correspondence of Jan Po" it deals with the adventures of a young Chinese, who was sent by the Governor of Northwest China to the ancient kingdom of Balkh (which geographies give as a desert portion of Afghanistan, but would be rather identified in this story with Persia) to bring back horses to improve the breed in China. This, of course, was 2,000 years ago, and the modern controversy over half-breeds yet undreamt of. Balkh, meanwhile, was particularly anxious to discover the secret of the manufacture of silk jealously guarded by the Chinese and in which they did an enormous trade through Central Asia even with Rome itself. And Rome also was anxious to learn how to make silk and was threatening Balkh with divers penalties if it did not find out, which in turn meant exciting adventures for Jan Po, and for the heir apparent of the throne of China, who unexpectedly turns up in Balkh, and for the young Queen of that country, who naturally falls in love with him. The thread of the story is slender, but it is very prettily told and the chief characters Jan Po and his lady love Mosulla are very much alive; as also is the terrible redbearded Wa Zir, who very nearly makes an end of them all, but is himself "done in" in a most gruesome and vivid scene. The story is enlivened with delightful little extracts from Confucius and reflexions in his style, as thus from Jan Po's diary: "A degree of serenity I must attain, for we know that it is the inferior sort of man who becomes agitated at any time." Of which meritorious philosophy the bewitching Mosulla naturally makes mince meat.

A BOLD ATTEMPT

"A Guide to World-History." By Andrew Reid Cowan. (Longmans. 15s.)

There are guides whose professional deficiencies are compensated in part by the charm of their society, and one may take the liberty of placing Mr. Cowan in this class. He has essayed here a bigger synthesis than he can tackle. He has little grasp of the economic side of history. His industry, which has assimilated so much, seems to have overlooked certain departments of his subject, such as the recent Minoan discoveries and their bearings. He is under the sway of some quite untenable assumptions, such as the incompatibility of despotism with artistic triumph. (Before his next edition he might devote contemplation to the bust of Nephretiti the paintings of Velasquez and the plays of Molière.) But his sincere and ingenuous spirit is good to encounter, and faith in the worthiness of his enterprise gives his book a force and character not to be overlooked. His colloquialism sometimes takes the breath away ("Florence was inimitable in almost every line"), but he is one of those authors whose foot-notes are full of relish.

Mr. Cowan's early pages are his best. He gives very clear expression to the reading of history which makes the escape from nomadism the turning point of civilization, and accounts for the rise of Egypt and Mesopotamia, in preference to more fertile regions, by the conditions giving them relative security against nomad attack. He might have made the body of his book more effective by emancipating himself from the task of summary and confining himself to that of exposition. For, however often one might disagree with his commentary, his enthusiasm and intellectual honesty are qualities of the most attractive type, and his phrasing often adds something even to a familiar concept. —The "Observer."

The North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT AND CONSULAR GAZETTE

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THE WOOING O'T

The Commissar's Courtship and the Jewel of Asia

THE RUSSO-CHINESE NEGOTIATIONS

Two Conflicting Stories: Recognition by China Not So Imminent as Once Appeared: Soviet's Dislike to Sacrificing the Old Tsarist Treaties

HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF CHINESE CABINET

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Mar. 12.

Sino-Russian relations have reached an interesting but perplexing stage in their development. The Chinese papers, with the exception of those alleged to be subsidized by the Russian Mission, are frankly bewildered. This one says that we are on the eve of recognition and that only minor differences remain to be talked out. That one says that both Mr. Karakhan and Mr. C. T. Wang maintain precisely the same position that they did months ago, that apparent concessions on both sides are nothing but verbal evasions and that both parties are deliberately procrastinating to make sure of what is happening in the Occident. Another says that pourparlers have now reached the point where it is either recognition of the Soviet Government or quits.

Closer inquiry only seems to demonstrate that all of these opinions are more or less correct. Mr. Karakhan some days ago made a clear statement of the situation to a foreign caller. He said that Mr. C. T. Wang was trying to give his informal conversations with him, the Soviet envoy, the force and weight of treaties and that he had no intention that they should be so interpreted officially. He said that he still demanded full recognition as a preliminary to negotiations and that he resented the Chinese assumption that they were conferring a special favour upon Russia by recognizing her and could bargain for something in return. He believed that, while China persisted in this attitude, Chinese recognition was still a long way off and gave it as his personal opinion that an understanding with Japan would be reached first.

The official reports of the results of Mr. C. T. Wang's conference with the Cabinet yesterday would also appear to prove that the Russian question had gone into the same limbo as the Gold Franc question and that no matter what the general official opinion might be, the business of shifting responsibility would consume so much time that China would know the result of Anglo-Russian negotiations, which begin on the 25th of this month, long before the alleged Government of China had arrived at a decision.

KARAKHAN STILL HAVERING.

It seems that Mr. Wang told the Cabinet members yesterday how obdurate Mr. Karakhan had been during recent interviews. He said that in his talks with the Soviet envoy on Monday he had said that, without definite understandings upon the Chinese Eastern Railway question, the Mongolian question and the question of the complete abrogation of old treaties, they might as well forget all discussion of recognition, stop their conferences and agree to call all the time hitherto spent upon such gossip waste time. On Tuesday Mr. Karakhan seemed more reasonable but still refused to come down to "brass tacks." He agreed that all old treaties should be replaced by new ones (new lamps for old ones) but said nothing about wiping out old treaties as one sponges a slate.

Yesterday the Cabinet thought this a vague and unsatisfactory basis for recognition. The Cabinet members also wanted definite wording about the redemption of the Chinese Eastern Railway. On the whole they concluded that they could not very well discuss the issue at all without taking the President's office into the conference. In other words Mr. Sun Pao-chi will take no responsibility that he can pass along. He wants the President's advisers to have a voice in the matter so that he can say that he was overruled by the chief executive if the eventual decision proves unwise. Neither the President nor any of his advisers can be expected to have a single opinion upon the subject, so it is expected that after a solemn conclave to-morrow the whole question will be handed back to the Cabinet for further study and that Mr. Sun Pao-chi will then pass it along to Mr. C. T. Wang for further deliberation.

THE OLD TREATIES.

Within the inner circles it is today believed by some that Karakhan will negotiate and agree to China's terms and that recognition is therefore imminent and by others that there will be no capitulation on either side until there are further developments in Europe and that China will follow her traditional policy of watchful waiting. Probably the issue upon which negotiations will be longest suspended is that of the abrogation of old treaties. China wants Imperial Russia's treaties repudiated by new Russia prior to recognition and Karakhan promises new treaties for old ones after recognition. This is what is described in Chinese circles as one of the trifling outstanding questions, the settlement of which will lead to immediate recognition. This trifling point, however, involves the fundamental interests of both parties, and it is stupid for either to think that the other does not know it. Neutral Russian observers believe that Karakhan was right some days ago when he said that Japanese recognition might easily antedate Chinese recognition.

Terms of Draft Agreement

Peking, March 14.

The Chinese press has published the preliminary draft Sino-Russian agreement, which has not been brought up-to-date as it has been the subject of subsequent negotiations between Dr. C. T. Wang and M. Karakhan and was this morning discussed by the Cabinet, after which it will be referred to the President. There is reason to believe, however, that the following main points are still substantially correct:

After the agreement is signed a formal Sino-Russian conference will be opened within a month and all outstanding problems will be settled in six months' time.

The treaties concluded between Russia and China during the Tsarist *régime* will be declared null and void and new treaties drawn up in the spirit of the Russian declarations of 1919 and 1920.

Russia recognizes the absolute Chinese sovereignty over Outer Mongolia and will remove the Russian forces from there.

The two nations recognize the fact that propaganda against each other should not be indulged in.

The questions of boundaries and navigation will be discussed later.

CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY.

As regards the Chinese Eastern Railway, the following considerations will be observed:

(1) Russia and China agree that the Railway is to be undertaken by them absolutely as a commercial enterprise and that, excepting railway business, all affairs involving the sovereignty of China or local government should be controlled by the Chinese authorities;

(2) Russia agrees that China may redeem the Railway with Chinese capital;

(3) All estimates regarding price, conditions and procedure will be fixed by a formal conference;

(4) Russia will be responsible for the payment due from Russian shareholders to the Railway during the periods prior to the Russian revolution. Russia relinquishes the right to own concessions in China.

Russia also remits the Russian portion of the Boxer Indemnity, providing the funds are used exclusively for educational purposes.

EXTRATERRITORIALITY GOES.

Russia also agrees to the abolition of Russian Consular jurisdiction in China.

The preliminary agreement will be enforced immediately it is signed by responsible authorities of the contracting parties.

Later.

Yesterday evening's expected round-table conference at the Presidency did not come off owing to Dr. C. T. Wang's detention at a prolonged interview with M. Karakhan, at which differences of opinion regarding phraseology and also the withdrawal of Russian troops from Mongolia and the treatment of White Russians in Chinese territory were composed.

The Cabinet held an extraordinary meeting at the Premier's residence this morning.

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PASSENGERS

INWARD.

Per str. Wuchang, March 7. From River Ports. Mr. F. B. Simpson.

Per str. Kianghoo, March 7. From River Ports. Messrs. R. J. Dennison, W. O. Reuts.

Per str. Fengtien, March 7. From Tientsin. Capt. and Mrs. F. D. Northcombe. From Chefoo. Mr. A. Sugden.

Per str. Liangchow, March 7. From Hongkong and Swatow. Mrs. K. N. Pringle, Messrs. H. Hegate, H. Rasmussen, J. Dowar, and J. S. McGavin.

Per str. Suiwo, March 8. From River Ports. Mr. C. A. Pauncey.

Per str. Luenyi, March 8. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Cassels and child, Mr. A. D. Bell.

Per str. Kiangwah, March 8. From River Ports. Mr., Mrs. and Miss Peterson, Dr. Taylor, Miss Ogden.

Per str. Tuckwo, March 9. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Coulter, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Mr. L. Heas, Mr. R. Schwab, Mr. H. H. Fowler, Mr. B. Holroyd, Mr. S. H. Hamilton.

Per str. Changsha, March 10. From River Ports. Mr. D. McDonald, Mr. J. Reed, Mr. T. C. Ibbotson.

Per str. Yingshow, March 11. From Amoy. Mr. Y. R. Mudes, Mr. C. Constantinni.

Per str. Kiangan, March 11. From River Ports. Mrs. Mosher, Captain Kirkham, Mr. J. B. Fitzgerald, Bishop Huntington.

Per P. & O. S. China, March 11. From London, Mr. A. S. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Courtney and child, Dr. and Mrs. McAll, Miss M. Chapman, Mr. W. J. Barrow, Dr. C. J. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Ridgway and two children, Mr. J. Brackenridge, Mr. B. L. Hansen, Mr. D. R. Mackintosh, Mr. F. D. Roberts, Rev. A. Langman, Mrs. Berry and two children, Mr. H. G. Clements, Miss Swann and child, Mr. T. M. [illegible], Mr. C. H. [illegible], Mr. E. B. Cowen, Mr. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Mr. G. Stone, Mr. C. C. Nolan, Col. A. Hipsey, Mr. T. S. H. Hoey, Miss M. Frantsen, Mr. N. Drake. From Marseilles. Mr. L. E. Canning, Dr. and Mrs. Burchard, Mr. Potts, Mr. K. Vettewinkel, Mr. T. P. W. Rogers, Mr. F. G. Malley, Miss G. M. Rees, Mr. K. J. Jeffreys. From Bombay. Mr. G. N. Story, Mr. C. H. Dorman, Mr. F. Chatterton, Mr. S. B. Mehta, Mr. M. Ishaque, Mr. H. Holmes. From Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Townsend, Mr. A. D. Parham, Mr. J. E. Hope. From Calcutta, Mr. W. S. Ryde. From Singapore. Mrs. and Miss Kosh, Mr. and Mrs. Hatton, Mr. and Mrs. Pickard, Mr. H. H. Willies, Miss Messa, Mr. A. V. Ussher, Mrs. Wellington Koo and two children, Mrs. and Master Hussey, Mr. G. A. Sealey, Mr. D. Gordon-Stables, Mr. C. H. Umbehaun, Mr. and Mrs. Stetson, Mr. A. R. Landon. From Hongkong. Mr. L. F. Sequeira, Mrs. Clayton and child, Mrs. Turner, Mr. G. F. Gardner, Mr. H. Vl. Moon, Mr. C. S. Speyer, Mr. K. Juel, Mr. C. C. Bowen, Mr. G. A. Pethard, Mr. K. C. Ling, Mr. H. Edmondson, Mr. A. M. Turner, Mrs. A. P. Bierstadt.

Per str. Hsin Ningshao, March 12. From Ningpo. Mr. H. B. Duff.

Per str. Hsin Peking March 12. From Ningpo. Mr. D. C. Sims, Mr. and Mrs. Meale.

Per str. Kweichow, March 12. From Hongkong via Swatow. Mr. and Mrs. Jones. Mr. Rheinhert.

Per str. Kutwo, March 12. From River Ports. Mr. Zemliakoff, Mr. and Mrs. A. Archibald. Mr. J. H. [illegible], Mr. W. H. [illegible], Mr. [illegible], Dr. and Mrs. Mullam, Mr. W. J. [illegible].

Per str. Soochow, March 13. From Hongkong. Miss J. D. Dudley, Mr. J. W. [illegible].

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, March 13. From Ningpo. [illegible], Mr. Y. S. [illegible], Mr. A. [illegible].

Per str. Loongwo March 13. From River Ports. Mr. [illegible], Mr. A. [illegible], Two Naval Ratings, Mr. and Mrs. Duff and child.

OUTWARD.

Per str. Siukiang, March 9.—For Hongkong Mr. I. H. R. Shaw, Mr. W. A. Wells, Mr. R. A. Muir, Rev. P. Gaunt. For Canton Rev. P. M. Scott, Rev. C. McDonald, Rev. S. H. Littell, Bishop T. A. Scott.

Per str. Liangchow, March 10.—For Amoy—Mr. J. R. Hinton, Dr. Montgomery. For Hongkong—Captain J. W. Laurence, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Fowley.

Per str. Fengtien, March 11.—For Tientsin—Mr. R. Hall.

Per B.F.L.S. Teiresias, March 12. —For London—Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Wi Hayward, Master M. N. Hayward, Mrs. A. S. Crosbie, Master G. Crosbie, Captain and Mrs. J. B. Bailey, Captain C. C. Williams, Mr. W. Robbins, Mrs. A. M. Piquet, Mrs. C. D. Whitton, Mrs. J. N. Little, Master J. A. Little, Mr. G. D. Raeburn, Mr. F. D. Raeburn, Mrs. W. Robbins, Master C. M. Robbins, Master A. P. Robbins, Mr. J. Read, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Cochrane, Master G. Cochrane, Miss M. Cochrane, Miss Bangham. For Singapore and London—Miss M. C. Brotherhood. For Hongkong—Mr. J. Allison, Mr. H. F. Bell, Mr. W. D. Jamie, Mr. A. Taylor, Mrs. F. L. Smith, Master L. Smith, Master B. Smith, Master B. Smith, Miss D. Brandt, Miss Lumsden, Mr. E. W. Foster, Mr. N. Groucher, Rev. Dr. J. W. Nichols, Rev. Dr. F. L. H. Pott, Bishop, W. C. White, Rev. G. A. Andrew, Rev. and Mrs. E. J. Lee, Rev. L. B. Ridgeley, Rev. D. T. Hungtington, Rev. and Mrs. K. Mathews, Rev. Bishop L. H. Roots, Miss H. H. Reid, Miss E. Grave, Mrs. A. A. Gilman, Captain G. E. Oxspring, Rev. C. St. M. Forester, Dr. H. T. Hodgkin, Mr. J. H. Scott.

Per str. Yingchow, March 13.—For Hongkong—Dr. G. Wannop. For Swatow—Mr. and Mrs. Sayegh.

Per str. Tatung March 13.—For River Ports—Mr. Munro-Faure, Mr. C. D. Dixen.

Per M.M.S. Chili, March 13.—For Marseilles—Captain Semborn, Mr. and Mrs. Plangue, Mr. Vergult, Mr. and Mrs. de Pampignan and two children, Messrs. A. Bouinéeré, R. Casotte, E. Attali, J. Carrère, Mr. and Mrs. Fouliard and child, Rev. Pères Crapez, Legnaud, Salon, Brulant and Bonanate, Messrs. A. Mouret, L. Richard, G. Siniquet, Miss Terze, Mrs. Ferracci, Misses de Saussure and Gibbs. For Singapore—Mr. A. W. W. Wilkinshaw. For Saigon. Mr. R. Soliva, Mr. and Mrs. P. Mangard, Mr. M. Friedman, Mrs. M. Friedman. For Hongkong—Rev. T. G. Ibbetson, Mr. and Mrs. Nortes, Mr. G. Ratul, Mr. O. Hagar, Mr. J. das Caldes, Misses H. Rabtia, Nikolsaveva, Price, E. Gaikoff, Messrs. Ouhanow, Th. Stenger.

Per str. Szechuen, March 14. For Amoy—Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Bowman, Mr. G. Baron.

BIRTHS

GANDER.—On Sunday, March 9, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Gander, a daughter.

PARR.—On March 11, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Parr, a son. Both well.

SHAW.—On March 10, 1924, at 695 Avenue Haig, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. T. H. R. Shaw, a son.

SMITH.—On March 10, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Smith, a son.

TOEG.—On March 13, 1924, at 147 Weihaiwei Road, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Toeg, a daughter.

WADE.—On March 9, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. H. T. W. Wade, a daughter, Jeanine.

WHITAMORE.—On March 11, 1924, at Dr. Fearn's Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Whitamore, a son.

DEATHS

CLARK.—On March 6, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, Ambrose J. Clark (Yangtze Pilot), aged 64 years.

DAS CALDAS.—On March 8, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, Augusto Francisco, at the age of 41. Hankow, Macao and Japan papers please copy.

PERSEN.—On March 8, 1924, at the Isolation Hospital, Shanghai, Carl Johan Persen (third engineer of the Norwegian s.s. "Trafalgar"), aged 37 years.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

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SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month		Barometer 9 A.M.	Barometer Attchd Therm	Wind Direction 9 p.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Mar.	7	30.48	48.6	N N E	1	38.9	34.6	50.2	34.7	O.
„	8	30.37	48.4	N E	2	36 8	35.3	44 8	34.2	O. D. R. S.
„	9	30.19	49.5	E N E	3	43.7	43.2	45.0	42.2	O. D. R.
„	10	30.43	49.3	N N E	2	40.7	36.4	43.2	39.0	O.
„	11	30.43	49.1	N N E	2	42.6	38 3	51.1	35.8	R. O.
„	12	30.31	48 2	N	1	37.3	36.2	49.3	34.9	O.
„	13	30.47	48.4	N	2	42.6	39.0	48.7	31.7	R. O.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date		Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Inches 1923
Mar.	7	36.0	44.2	46.4	57.0	Nil.	0.35
„	8	36 2	44.6	44.0	51.8	0.21	Nil.
„	9	40 0	38.0	44.2	49.0	0.84	Nil.
„	10	39.0	41.8	42.4	55.8	0.02	0.42
„	11	37.0	43.0	47.0	56.0	Nil.	0.39
„	12	40.0	39 8	47.5	46.0	0 18	Trace
„	13	35.8	36.0	48.0	43.2	Nil.	Nil.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Mar. 17.

THIS year's celebration of St. Patrick's Day has a special significance in so far as it may be said that Ireland has now for the first time emerged from the grievous difficulties which beset her for so many years. The recent trouble amongst the disbanded officers, though regrettable at a time when the country had otherwise settled down, is obviously of no political interest, being merely a collective outburst of men angered at the sudden termination of their careers, and may even be regarded as convincing proof of the fact that peace has been restored to a point where drastic demobilization is considered possible and safe. As a matter of fact, though without official information, we understand that the Free State Army, originally composed of 40,000 men, has been reduced to 20,000, and that a further reduction to 12,000 is in contemplation. It is more than likely that it was in the course of this reduction that the discontent arose among the officers who were being demobilized.

These figures can only mean that the state of affairs in Ireland has changed radically and rapidly for the better, that the Free State anticipates no aggression from the northern counties, and that the Free State does not intend, as was once gloomily forecast by her political enemies, to carry on a savage war of extermination against the North. In this connexion it was pleasing to read in the telegrams a little time ago that the representatives of the North and the South on the Boundary Commission had on leaving an important joint meeting, looked very pleased with themselves and one another. A further piece of evidence indicating the condition of peace now prevailing is to be found in the flotation of the recent Free State loan. It amounted to £10,000,000, was floated entirely within the country, and days before the official day of closing had been oversubscribed to the extent of £4,000,000. Irishmen are a hardheaded race, and we may take it for granted that so much money would not have been forthcoming had the position of the country not indicated good security for their investment.

Locally we have a further indication of the readiness to-day amongst Irishmen of all classes and creeds to come together. This is seen in the local society dedicated to St. Patrick, of which this year's President hails from the extreme south of the country and the Vice-President from the extreme north, and together we may be certain that they will create that spirit of hospitality for which Ireland is so justly famed. Surely here is tangible proof of an end to the old hostility. We learn that on this occasion there will be no speech from the chair, and in so much one might almost regret that the Society have decided on a ball and not upon a dinner where such an event would have been in order. Even in the case of a ball it might, however, be permissible for the President to recall the virtues of the holy man who according to all good Irishmen made Ireland the leading educational and religious country in Europe and then devoted himself to bringing the culture of his English and Scottish neighbours to a like pitch of perfection, a task in which, as can be seen to-day, he seems to have achieved a certain amount of success.

HOMEWARD BOUND

Mar. 18.

THE departure to-day of the great P. & O. liner Naldera, her every cabin filled with residents of the Far East, marks the culminating point of the annual exodus Homewards. Many have gone already, many more doubtless are yet to go. But while the choice of routes and the luxuries that shipping lines offer are far more extensive than when the P. & O. Company instituted the practice of a through ship to and from England in spring and autumn, the indefinable prestige and dignity which surrounds these vessels gives to this annual departure a special significance and revives for the moment the feeling of romance in going Home, which the ease and frequency wherewith the voyage is now accomplished have almost stifled. There is something in the appearance of a P. & O., in the very rake of her funnels, which warms the Briton's heart, a sense of magnificent disdain about her for everything that sails the seas, which strikes a sympathetic chord within him. More than any other craft afloat she seems to express the supremacy of his country's mercantile marine; and that she is ready to pay for her pride is shown by the fact that of all her sisterhood not less than 127,000 tons were lost by submarine attack during the war.

It is, perhaps, only the normal experience of every year—just as every rainy season seems rainier and every drought more dry than any we remember—that this spring an unusually large number of friends would appear to be leaving for Home. For weeks past we have all been assisting them to "eat their way out", have assured them in more or less harmonious chorus and with the usual three cheers and "a tiger" that "they are jolly good fellows" and have stretched an already cracking overdraft just a little bit further to make them parting presents. Yet two days after their steamer's smoke has vanished on the horizon, it is as if they had never been. Their place knows them no more and the affairs, to which so recently their presence seemed indispensable, manage to get along comfortably enough without them. Such a phenomenon is certainly not peculiar to Shanghai although the rate at which we live in this busy town makes it more noticeable. But that it implies no real forgetfulness is shown by the warmth with which we greet our friends on their return. There is no pleasanter experience in life than to "come back" to Shanghai, which amply compensates for the regret we may have felt on leaving England. Mere acquaintances, of whom very likely we may have thought, in the past, that they were even less than indifferent to our personal charms, welcome us with the greatest warmth and instant libations. At Home, we cannot but reflect, it is different. No doubt the friends of our childhood are glad to see us, but national custom bids them conceal their emotions. In China it is quite clear they take no interest whatever and would almost appear to think that the fact of our living there is better hushed up.

For all this, the lure of going Home does not lose its power and it will be an unlucky day for the British Empire when it ceases to do so. Indeed the increasing facilities of communication are not without their danger to the more delicate forms of patriotism. It is the invariable trait in all human nature that a thing is desirable in proportion to its unattainability and the easier it becomes to test, by frequent visitation, our recollections of Hampshire water meadows, where we angled for the crafty trout, or of the unutterable splendour of sunset over the flat lands of Cambridgeshire, the less it is to be feared we may desire them. The strongest tie which unites the men of Australia, of Canada, of South Africa within the circle of the British Empire is their common dream of Britain herself as Home, even while many of them have never seen her, will never do so, and would be loud in criticism of her ways and especially her climate, if they were transplanted to live on her shores. The Siberian railway, by which before the war many people were in the habit of going Home every year did the Empire no real service and the lines of airships, which we are told will soon circle the globe in fewer hours than it took our ancestors weeks to come to China, will do it still less. For man lives not at all by facts but by his thoughts about them. It is assuredly well to go Home from time to time; it is not so well to go too frequently. We cease to be one thing or the other and lose the keenness of our interest alike in England and the Far East. There are few of us who will see the tender depart to-day without a pang. But we are left at least with the consolation of many pursuits and dreams unalloyed, until perhaps we may at last realize the greatest dream of all, of a competence and leisured retirement at Home.

THE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mar. 19.

THE review of the past year and comments thereon contained in Sir Edward Pearce's speech yesterday at the annual meeting of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce are interesting and deplorable. It is not using too strong a term to say that it is tragic to look back on the Linchong outrage, the unrivalled opportunity that it offered to achieve some solid betterment of affairs in China, the earnest and weighty representations made to the Diplomatic Body in Peking, the honeyed words that that Body returned, and to realize that nothing whatever of those high hopes has been achieved. Not only does the list of murders and lootings that Sir Edward gave convict the Chinese Government of utter falsity to its pledges, but even the promised compensation has not yet been paid to the bandits' victims nor is there any sign thereof.

One suggestive passage was that in which the speaker advocated the employment by the Chinese Government of trained foreigners with administrative powers. This is, in point of fact, a very old idea: but it has so long been lost sight of, that its reappearance makes it sound quite new. On the analogy of Japan, or to come nearer home, of the Customs and other services which Sir Edward mentioned, there is no doubt that such a system, if fairly worked, would be the regeneration of China. But a story told about the Soochow Creek illustrates the hopelessness of the suggestion. The Whangpoo Conservancy are ready to dredge the creek at least within the Shanghai district for nothing. But the residents in the districts it serves are willing to subscribe to have it dredged and the Conservancy's offer is rejected accordingly. As Sir Edward said yesterday: "All of us who have lived in China can draw our own inferences." When schemes of improvement and reorganization are urged upon Chinese officials by well-meaning foreign friends, the latter forget that the vast majority of said officials do not want improvement. They are making immense fortunes out of the present chaos and they will furiously oppose any system which would necessitate their accounts being audited. Thus it is that the fetish of democracy has proved disastrous to every Oriental country in which it has been introduced, Turkey, Persia, China, and as it threatens to prove in India and Egypt. It puts into the hands of an oligarchy powers which they are swift to abuse, for their own enrichment and the despoiling of the land.

The ancient history of the great trademark crisis recalled yesterday afternoon has an important lesson for all of us. Details of the draft trademark law sent to the Waichiaopu through the British Legation in 1920 would take up too much space here. But they involved a small voluntary sacrifice of extraterritorial rights, to which the British Chamber of Commerce and China Association, on most shortsighted advice from outside their own body, consented. There can be no moral doubt that this voluntary sacrifice encouraged the Waichiaopu to the far greater attack on extraterritoriality which makes the new trademark law a matter of so much anguished interest. The moral is, No concessions of any kind until China is ready to perform her part of the bargain. We hear that because her Government is bankrupt through the iniquities of her officials, we must give it more money in the shape of a surtax, to squander on palaces and politics; because that Government notoriously mismanages its people's affairs, we must appoint a commission to advise how it may be permitted to mismanage foreigners'; because it violates almost every treaty it has signed, we must accept laws which would enable it to violate still more. We know that we speak for the vast majority of business men and for many, many Chinese, in saying that while chaos is the rule, outrages unchecked, officials and bandits free to plunder as they please, the only course to follow is the most rigid exaction of every treaty right and no concession. The men who drew up the treaties were wiser than we. They framed them for precisely the kind of circumstances which have now arisen, and it is no more than reason to insist that they be fulfilled. This is not a gunboat policy. It is a demand for simple justice which Chinese officials may contemn but in which all thinking Chinese will acquiesce. When China can govern herself, it will be time enough to try her fitness to legislate for others.

BRITISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mar. 19.

THE annual meeting of the British Women's Association takes place this afternoon in the Lyceum Theatre and it is particularly to be hoped that there will be a large attendance of members, inasmuch as there are some more than usually interesting questions to be discussed. There is also the election of the Executive Committee, a matter of great importance to all. Several new names have been proposed we understand and this is a healthy sign. The experience of older societies has shown that a regular rotation of officers, an annual retirement of a certain proportion of the previous year's committee and appointment of new members, is the best system for the whole organization. In connexion with the B.W.A. election we are asked to say that it is not permissible for members to send their votes by letter to the secretary, as some have done. They must be present in person, election being only by ballot.

At the end of the third year of its existence the B.W.A. has every reason for pride in its development and usefulness. The past year has been for it a particularly busy one. Its Hospital Aid Department is specially to be complimented on the work that its members do in visiting the wards and supplying bandages; the Needlecraft Section also does a great deal of most useful work; while the Social Service Board is one of the leading charitable organs of the town. It is also not to be forgotten that when the great earthquake occurred in Japan last September, and the prospect opened of numbers of refugees arriving in Shanghai, the B.W.A. organization enabled it to produce immediately a list of members who were only too ready to take in refugees and care for them. The work that the Association did in the ensuing months in shipping clothes and supplies to Japan and providing for earthquake sufferers when passing through Shanghai, cannot be too highly praised. The Association also gave a number of receptions for ladies of distinction, all which were largely attended; and it held one of the most successful bazaars recorded in the Settlement, which yielded a profit of some thirty-two thousand dollars.

The Residence Fund, to which this money was devoted, now stands at quite a respectable figure, although it is of course still far from the full

It is understood that all the known difficulties have been solved and that the Premier, Mr. Sun Pao-chi, the Foreign Minister, Dr. Wellington Koo, and Dr. C. T. Wang will proceed to the President to obtain his approval.

Chinese circles are of opinion that the recognition of Russia will be announced almost at any hour.

TIMELY REMINDER FROM FRANCE.

The French Minister yesterday sent a Note to the Waichiaopu warning China not to forget that other Powers possessed interests in the Chinese Eastern Railway, if she is making a settlement on the matter with the Russians.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Mar. 15.

The Cabinet has not yet reached a decision on Sino-Russian relations. Official circles are today less optimistic regarding the immediate conclusion of an agreement.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

EVACUATION OF MONGOLIA A VITAL POINT.

Mar. 16.

Reuter's correspondent learns from an authoritative source that the Cabinet are not divided on the Russian question. That the recent meetings of the Ministers failed to reach any definite conclusion is not a statement of fact. The Government have approached the question with an open mind, not seeking to use China's special position to bargain with Russia, but not being willing to accord recognition unconditionally without reaching a satisfactory arrangement regarding principles for the settlement of certain outstanding questions.

The points to which the Chinese attach the greatest imortance appear to be, firstly, the cancellation of all their treaties with Russia; secondly, the cancellation of treaties between Russia and Mongolia, and, thirdly, the withdrawal of Russian troops from Mongolia. Up to the present M. Karakhan has failed to give convincing assurances regarding these matters, and it is not forgotten that Russia has a Minister at Urga and Mongolia, and Resident at Moscow.

The Soviet envoy has agreed to recognize China's sovereignty over Mongolia, but has failed to give evidence of Russia's intention to evacuate Mongolia. Until he satisfies the Chinese Government regarding these considerations, which the Government regard as being of vital importance to the Chinese people, resumption of normal relations between China and Russia will probably remain an open question.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Bleak Prospect of Immediate Recognition: The Cabinet's Hostile Attitude

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Mar. 16.

The recognition of Russia by China seems now to have been definitely blocked by the Cabinet. Meeting after meeting has been held since the initialling of the understanding between Mr. C. T. Wang and M. Karakhan and the prospect of immediate recognition grows bleaker with every meeting.

The latest development is the departure of Mr. Wang from Peking. He said that he feels the hostile attitude of certain Cabinet Ministers strongly. When the first signs of opposition manifested themselves, he absented himself from special meetings, and his departure now may be construed as a sign of the hopelessness of an immediate solution of the situation. Personal politics seem to be playing a big part in the attitude of the Cabinet.

M. KARAKHAN'S ULTIMATUMN.

Mar. 17.

No developments have been reported to-day regarding the Sino-Russian situation. Dr. C. T. Wang went to Tongshan yesterday and returned to Peking to-day.

The last communication from M. Karakhan contained the arbitrary announcement that China must reply within three days. It is not anticipated that this will be done.

The American and the Japanese Legations emphatically deny the reports that the American and the Japanese Ministers had made representatitions to the Waichiaopu in connexion with the proposed Sino-Russian settlement.

The Cabinet met this morning to consider the Note from M. Karakhan. Official circles assert that the situation has not been altered by to-day's discussion and that the Government are merely waiting for more convincing assurances from the Soviet envoy regarding the undertakings he is prepared to give in principle.

SUMMARY OF THE SITUATION.

According to an unofficial statement the situation may be summed up thus:—

The Chinese Government desire that the cancellation of all Russian treaties with China and with Mongolia and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Mongolia shall take effect from the date on which the settlement is signed, whereas the Soviet Government expect the recognition to take effect on that date but that the other questions shall be subject to official negotiations subsequently in accordance with the principles agreed upon in the settlement.

This statement is highly credible in view of the "convincing assurances" required by the Chinese Government.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Mar. 17.

Upon receipt of telegraphic instructions from the Moscow Government, requesting him to interview Premier Sun Pao-chi and to inform them as to the real intentions of the Chinese Government relative to China's ultimate attitude towards the Russo-Chinese agreement, as well as to the reason why Dr. C. T. Wang, who has already agreed to the fundamental principles for the opening of the proposed Russo-Chinese formal negotiations, is still hesitant to sign the agreement in question, M. Karakhan, Soviet Envoy in the Far East, yesterday visited the Chinese Premier and asked the latter definitely to state his attitude. Mr. Sun Pao-chi, the Premier, however, is alleged to have replied that he would give his definite reply after receiving the decision of the Cabinet meeting.—Eastern News Agency.

The Resignation of Mr. Wang Cheng-Ting

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Mar. 17.

The Russo-Chinese negotiations have been virtually suspended owing to the opposition in the Cabinet to Dr. Wang Cheng-ting's agreement with M. Karakhan.

After the Agents' agreement had been initialled by both parties, Ministers Koo Wei-chun and Wang Ko-min raised objections on Saturday to two points, and instructed Mr. Wang Cheng-ting to reopen parleys with regard to these points. After the departure of the delegate, these objectors raised a third point and summoned him to return, whereupon he resigned the post of Head Commissioner. His resignation becomes effective on Wednesday and is the cause of the local rumour that M. Karakhan has delivered an ultimatum.

The chief parties on both sides refuse to be interviewed, but their subordinates believe that there is now no hope of a settlement and blame the Cabinet feud.

The "Far Eastern Times" reported to-day that Dr. Wang Cheng-ting had fled to Shansi, but this is untrue, as yesterday he went to visit the Tongshan springs and returned to-day to attend Cabinet meetings.

Mar. 18.

Though Dr. Wang Cheng-ting's resignation from the Sino-Russian Commission is effective from Wednesday, it is reported on good authority that the Chinese Commissioner, late last night, flatly denied that he had resigned, but without making any comment. A Waichiaopu *démenti* to-day is published by the Chinese Press, without definite authority, asserting that there is no Cabinet opposition nor jealousy towards Wang Cheng-ting, which the Chinese Press discounts.

The General opinion is that Dr. Wang is quitting, with the negotiations indefinitely postponed.

The Soviet Mission are now inclined to admit that their letter was a formal three day ultimatum, not an informal one as previously stated, which is foolish, as the Chinese are now disposed to agree to anything except an ultimatum. Locally, therefore, it is thought that recognition is a long way off.

Some Suggestions from Gen. Chang Tso-lin

Peking, Mar. 16.

Marshal Chang Tso-lin has telegraphically suggested to the Peking Government through semi-official channels that on the completion of the Sino-Russian negotiations a post of military commissioner for frontier defence would be inaugurated, basing on Marchuli and Hailar. Marshal Chang suggests that Gen. Hsu Lan-chow, former Tuchun of Heilungkiang, be appointed to this position.

In the same message Marshal Chang announces that he has contemplated the inauguration of an office in Peking to co-operate with the Government in carrying out the details of the forthcoming Sino-Russian Agreement. It is understood that the Government has no objection to the establishment of this office.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Threat Regarding Treaty Rights

Peking, Mar. 20.

M. Karakhan's ultimatum of March 15 that China must give a definite reply in three days regarding the settlement, the preliminary draft of which he and the Chinese negotiator initialled on March 14, having elapsed, M. Karakhan yesterday sent a note to the Chinese Government stating that, in accordance with instructions from Moscow, the negotiations must be considered concluded and warning China that she has committed an irretrievable mistake which will affect future relations; that Russia reserved the right to establish conditions for future treaties with China; and finally that China will not be able to resume negotiations until she has unconditionally established formal relations with the Soviets.

In view of the former threats from M. Karakhan, who has constantly endeavoured to intimidate China, the Chinese Government do not consider the negotiations ended and the Cabinet this morning is further considering the matter.

Peking, Mar. 20.

Dr. Wellington Koo and M. Karakhan discussed the Sino-Russian situation at length last night and a special meeting of the Cabinet considered the whole position this morning, after which Mr. Sun Pao-chi and Dr. Koo waited on the President.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINESE TARIFF REVISION

Sir John Jordan's Firm Letter on Iniquity of Using Surtax to Pay Off Petty Debts

London, Mar. 20.

Sir, John Jordan, in a letter to the "Times" on the subject of the Chinese request to the Powers for a preliminary tariff conference, opposes the suggested waiving of the conditions underlying the Washington Conference and granting the Peking Government the 2½ per cent. increase in the tariff, saying that Chinese consumers and British manufacturers are alike interested in seeing that taxation of foreign goods is not utilized merely as an expedient for settling accounts between the debtor country and its importunate oreditors and patching up an arrangement, which could at best be only a temporary palliative.

He advocates insistence on the terms of the Treaties and of the Washington Agreement as the only solution which will prove satisfactory in the long run to Chinese and foreigners alike.

The letter adds that no one would grudge China increased Customs revenue if she would only make proper use of it and do something towards reforming her fiscal system, which has gravely impeded trade for more than half a century and become an intolerable burden.—Reuter.

ADMINISTRATIVE AREA IN KIAOCHOU

Kiao-Tsi Railway's Fight to Control Its Own Finances: Commission of Inquiry Appointed: The Appropriations for the Navy: Japanese Naval Squadron in Port

Tsingtao, Mar. 14.

Indicating the critical position of the Kiao-Tsi Railway in its fight to control its own finances without further interference by the Militarists, the Railway Administration announced to-day that the Board of Directors, of which Dr. C. T. Wang is Chairman, has appointed a commission to inquire into the railway's financial condition to ascertain whether it can support Admiral Wen's fleet and at the same time do justice to itself.

The commission will arrive within a week and begin work at once.

The members are Mr. Ken, Managing-Director of the Kirin-Changchun Railway, chairman; Mr. G. E. Baker, Adviser to the Ministry of Communications; Mr. Sun, Technical Expert of the Ministry of Communications; Mr. Griffith Assistant Manager of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway; Mr. Chow, Traffic Manager of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

Although Governor Hsiung Ping-chi, of Shantung, has officially resigned his concurrent post as Director-General of Kiaochou Territory and, it is understood, his resignation has been accepted by the Central Government, there is a movement on foot, started by the Provincial Parliament at Tsinan, to restore the Governor to the directorship.

Yesterday several members of Parliament wired to Peking asking that the Government decline to accept the Governor's resignation.

The telegrams state that as Tsingtao is a part of Shantung it should be under the jurisdiction of the province. There is reason to believe, however, that so far as political lines are concerned Tsingtao shortly will cease to be a part of Shantung. Gen. Chen Kan, admitted to be Marshal Wu's mouthpiece here, told Reuter's correspondent that, according to present plans, Tsingtao and surrounding territory of the old German leasehold will be a separate administrative area under the direct control of Peking and not answerable to the Shantung Administration.

The report is that Mr. Lao Chi-chang, former Vice-Minister of Communications under Mr. Kao En-hung, will be Vice-Director-General here under his old superior officer in succession to Gen. Kun Chi-ping, who, it is reported from Tsinan, has been named Minister of Finance in the Provincial Administration. This was the post he formerly occupied.

JAPANESE NAVAL SQUADRON.

The Japanese First Squadron, comprising 26 powerful men-of-war, is anchored in Kiaochao Bay. There are three super-dreadnoughts, three battle cruisers, eight submarines, two mother ships and ten destroyers in all.

The fleet steams out of port tomorrow and will skirt the Chinese coast in a southerly direction, proceeding to Amoy.

More than 16,000 officers and men man the 26 boats, the commander being Admiral Suzuki. His flagship is the Nagato. The squadron came here from Sasebo and will return there about May 1.

THE BROKEN CABLE.

The seat of trouble with the Tsingtao-Kobe cable line has been discovered 335 miles from this city and will be repaired at once. The forced interruption of service has inconvenienced shippers, shipping lines and the general public for the past two months. Divers found a clean break, but are now working on the repairs and they should be completed within a week.

The foot and mouth disease has attacked many cattle in this neighbourhood and there is danger of a general epidemic and the contamination of milk.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

NORTHERN EXPEDITION AGAINST CANTON

Peking, Mar. 14.

Reports from military circles indicate that Gen. Ma Chi, former Chief of Staff in the Hunan expedition, has announced his arrival at Yungchow on the Hunan frontier, where he expects to meet Gen. Lu Yung-ting, but that owing to uncertainty with regard to the attitude of Gen. Shen Hung-ying there will be delay in starting the expedition against Canton.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE NORTHERN ARMY IN SZECHUAN

Peking, March 14.

Yesterday it was announced that the President had despatched one of his aides-de-camp, Gen. Mei Hsin, to Szechuan to report upon the conditions there. To-day it is learned that Marshal Wu Pei-fu has informed the Government that he has detailed Gen. Chien Ping-chin to proceed to Szechuan to investigate the conditions of the Government troops in that province and report.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MARSHAL WU'S REQUEST FOR RELIEF OF COMMAND

Peking, March 11.

Marshal Wu Pei-fu has asked the Government to relieve him of the command of the 3rd Division and to nominate a successor to that command. Marshal Wu recently objected to Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan retaining command of a division in addition to the posts of Tuchun and Inspector-General of Hunan and Hupeh. Gen. Chang Fu-lai, Tuli of Honan, was recently relieved of the command of the 24th Division at his own request. The Government has telegraphed to Gen. Chang suggesting that he should nominate an officer to command the 24th Division, and it will leave the choice of the command of the 3rd Division in the hands of Marshal Wu.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE 2½ PER CENT SURTAX

Vickers and Marconi Loans

London, Mar. 14.

The "Times," referring to the Chinese Government's present request to the Legations of Powers signatory to the Nine-Power Treaty for a preliminary conference to discuss matters relating to the 2½ per cent. increase in Customs duties, suggests that the opportunity might be taken to press home the need for a settlement of the claims of noteholders of the Vickers and Marconi loan, on which the interest is in default and the question of redemption will shortly arise.—Reuter.

According to the "Eastern Times" Gen. Wang Yung-chuan, Associate Director of Military Affairs in Fukien, who has just been ousted from that post by his chief, Gen. Sun Chuan-fang, is on his way to Shanghai.

The Civil Governors office at Hankow has received instructions from Peking to see that land outside the concession does not pass into foreigners' hands in violation of the treaties. It is pointed out that land in the interior is constantly being sold secretly to foreigners who as well as erecting quarters, plant "trees and flowers" on it.

Commenting on the negotiations between China and Russia, "New Shanghai Life" says, in the course of a long article on the subject, that the unanimous desire of the two countries to come to an agreement in the matter of the Chinese Eastern Railway is bound to meet with obstacles. By way of example, there is the reported remark of the French Minister who, in a note to the Chinese Government, has warned China not to forget that other Powers have an interest in the railway—a remark which clearly shows the desire of the Powers to retain what they have acquired during the unsettled stage of the Chinese-Russian relations.

soldier of 1922 who neither understood nor cared for politics. What plans he may be revolving nobody, it seems, even among his nearest intimates can guess. But while Marshal Chang Tso-lin's letter to us today excludes the idea of a monarchical restoration as a part of immediate prospects, it certainly does not rule out the possibility that Marshal Chang anticipates an attack from Loyang and will be ready and willing, if circumstances require it, to do his own attacking first.

The moral from the foreign point of view is that Peking as the seat of Government is, if possible, even less worthy of respect than it was, and certainly not worthy of anything in the way of concessions, like the surtax, or considerations like the Trademark Law. China is to-day in the grip of greater forces than she has known for many decades. No Chinese general hitherto has commanded armies like those of Mukden and Loyang, whose chieftains, moreover, appear imbued with the deadliest mutual hostility. From so much explosive material, a great upheaval may result at any moment, which might change the whole trend of internal politics. Nobody can tell what is likely to happen, but nobody can ignore the patent facts of the general situation. More than ever it behoves the Diplomatic Body to stand rigidly aloof, not to be beguiled by any party, to stand firmly on treaty rights, to postpone all talk of concession, above all of financial assistance, until the warlords have fought it out and the people of China at last assert themselves to say that there shall be no more fighting.

The Russian Government has been invited to send representatives to the world conference on cremation to be held in London this year. There seems to be a burning haste to recognize Russia.

Rear-Admiral Frochot, Commander-in-Chief of the French naval forces in the Far East, has written to M. Wilden, Consul-General for France, expressing his gratitude to the French colony for entertaining sailors from the cruiser Jules Ferry. Their reception was such, says the Admiral, that they might have thought they were in France.

The Hankow Chinese Chamber of Commerce has received a document from the Ministry of Commerce which instructs the merchants who make the mahjongg boards not to use bad Ningpo varnish to paint them, as people in America have lately blamed importers of the sets for an epidemic of the well-known rash caused by the varnish. An outcry against this evil would be much more sensible than the recent strictures passed upon the game by a missionary.

Quite a number of Chinese dealers in Hongkong were victimized last week by sailors on an American ship which recently left the harbour. In the belief, and assured by purchasers of their wares, that they were tendered good American paper money, they accepted in payment so called silver certificates issued by a concern known as "The Mechanics and Farmers Building and Loan Association of Richmond County, South Carolina." The certificates, which on their reverse state that they are certificates of deposit issued to the members of the association in acknowledgement of money received, bear the date of Columbia, S. C., August 1, 1873. They are in one, two and five-dollar denominations.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A Shanghai Museum

A year ago considerable publicity was given to the hopes—one scarcely can say the plans—of a number of scientific people, prominent amongst whom was Mr. A de C. Sowerby, for a public museum, art gallery and reference library worthy of a city like Shanghai. Latterly very little has been heard of the idea, for it must be admitted that its advocates unfortunately did not get a great deal of support more tangible than good wishes, but the scheme still is very much alive. Some of those most interested, realizing possibly that they are asking for a somewhat startling sum of money in these hard times, now have evolved a suggestion which is practical, reasonable and easy in working, whilst it will not empty anyone's pockets. It is estimated that the initial cost, including the purchase of land, would be Tls. 400,000 and the running expenses would be Tls. 50,000 per annum. Assuming that the money was raised by a Municipal loan, interest and the repayments would absorb another Tls. 50,000 per annum, so that the total yearly expenses on a scheme allowing for the repayment of borrowed money would be Tls. 100,000. Now the originators of the proposal argue that such an institute properly should be a public possession, so that the financial part would be an item in the Municipal Budget and they point out that the adoption of the plan as outlined would mean an addition to the rates of only one-third of one per cent., in return for which the community would secure a valuable property. The additional burden is so trifling—only a few cents—that the argument would appear to be ended. Yet the cost can be further reduced. Most of the organizations who formerly had their home in the Town Hall now have other quarters and, when there are so many better floors, it is not even popular as a dancing hall. There is an ideal site already in the Municipality's possession, saving the item for the purchase of land, and the lecture hall which it is proposed to include in the museum could be adapted for use as a concert hall also: as a dance hall as well, if it is considered essential. The suggestion is worthy of serious consideration.

The Bessell Outrage

While Mr. Rodney Gilbert with the true instinct of a literary artist refuses to gild refined gold by commenting on the preposterous story told to the British Legation that General Chen Kuo-hsien, author of the outrage on Mr. Bessell, had been sent to prison for 10 months, we cannot resist expressing heartfelt thanks that the British Foreign Office has taken an active interest in the matter and is insisting that General Chen shall be made to stand his trial properly, with foreign witnesses present. In these days when violations of treaty are of so common occurrence and when, if report speaks truly, Dr. Wellington Koo, in his intercourse with foreign Ministers, blandly poohpoohs the Treaties as very old out-of-date things to which of course nobody attaches any importance, the telegram on Saturday reporting the Foreign Office instructions to the Legation were as a ray of sunshine. For it suggests that some one at Home has at last woken up to the condition of things in China. And if for one case, why not, perhaps, for another? Why not even for the purpose of getting something done about Lincheng? As has been said before, this paper does not advocate anything remotely connected with a gunboat policy: but it does ask that foreigners who have brought enormous wealth and prosperity to China shall be protected in the rights secured to them by treaty and that they shall be treated not less reasonably than they are in any civilized country. It is no part of true civilization, which Chinese writers and speakers claim so loudly for themselves that unoffending foreigners should be manhandled by soldiers, missionaries carried off by bandits, ships fired upon, property looted —and not a soul be brought to justice. The case of Col. Chen will be closely watched. Adequate punishment in this matter will have far-reaching and salutary results.

The Cotton Surtax

About the beginning of the year details were forthcoming of a proposal to institute an export surtax on Chinese cotton, this to be used for the purpose of improving the staple grown in China. Owing to the manner in which the proposal was made—the proceeds all to go to the National Southeastern University, leaving the University of Nanking, where the work of improvement had been started, out in the cold—the idea was looked upon without enthusiasm in various quarters, and when Nanking reported that the Diplomatic Body had practically given its consent, it was felt that there was the possibility of a grave injustice being done to one scheme which has already accomplished much good in the country. This Nanking report, however, is now found to have been more of a pious aspiration than intelligent anticipation, for it is learned that the Diplomatic Body has done nothing of the sort that has been imputed to it. The matter came before the members, and it is understood that the general feeling was that an export surtax was economically unsound, and it was turned down. At the same time the Diplomatic Body is fully alive to the importance of the work of cotton improvement in China, and it is believed that it would give sympathetic consideration to such a proposal as a grant from the Customs for the purpose. This is a suggestion which has much to commend it, and the only difficulty is that as the Customs is generally regarded as the milch cow of China by all and sundry, the I. G. may not be able to see his way to the allocation of the required revenue.

The Fire at Choutsun

We thank Mrs. Smyth for giving us the correct facts of the recent fire at Choutsun. As readers of this paper are aware, we attach special importance to our news service from the interior of China and when one of our correspondents is misinformed we are not more anxious than we are sure the original writer is, to have the mistake corrected as soon as possible. We are happy to think that such mistakes are not frequent, as we believe readers generally will testify. But we also venture to suggest that Mrs. Smyth might have been a little more charitable in her comments on our correspondent if she had read what he wrote more carefully and considered the general situation more dispassionately. Our Tsingtao correspondent did not send the news of the fire first: as it did not happen within the range of his ability to make a personal inquiry, he waited to make as sure of his facts as possible. Even then his letter clearly indicates that what he heard might be wrong.

> It appears (he wrote on March 4) that early on February 29, fire broke out in the central district of Choutsun, . . during. . . which all the principal shops and warehouses were destroyed.
>
> The death roll is estimated at 300 *although this may be an exaggerated figure* but *all are agreed* that during the height of the conflagration the town was looted.

The italics are ours. Most of our correspondent's letter was taken up with two current stories explaining the fire. Now further, Choutsun is roughly 150 miles from Tsingtao as the crow flies, more by rail. In German management days the journey took not less than five hours if we rememebr rightly; it is probably more now. It is not permissible for a correspondent to start off for such a journey without authorization from his head office, even if, for other reasons, it were practicable for him to do so. He must do the best he can where he is, and Mrs. Smyth probably knows that events as near as from one house to the next are liable to get distorted in the telling, even through a foreign medium. How much more when they happen 150 miles away? Finally there is no inherent improbability in a fire breaking out at the Feast of Lanterns and devouring half a town, in an antiquated province like Shantung, where fire-fighting machinery is, perhaps, nil; nor in bandits taking advantage of the fire to loot. Our correspondent was, with others, misinformed. But he was not vicious.

The Late Gen. Pelle

The death of General Pellé, the French Commander at Constantinople, brings vividly to mind the events of September and October, 1922. Turkey had just succeeded in defeating the Greeks and was already on the way to resume her position in Europe, completely ignoring the sanctity of the Straits which had been one of the leading pacts in the treaty of peace. The British commander, Sir Charles Harington, proceeded to defend them, relying upon French support, which was given up to a point by General Pellé. Then, unhappily, it was withdrawn, and General Harington had also to withdraw his troops from the exposed position on the south side of the Straits in which they found themselves. In mentioning this act we are happy to think that General Pellé had little to do with it, but that it was almost solely dictated by the politicians. While these military operations were going on M. Franklin Bouillon was busy negotiating a separate Franco-Turkish agreement, and the military part of the organization simply had to conform. In all that he did General Pellé was an admirable ally, and with Sir Charles Harington used his influence with the Turks, then inflamed with victory, to bring about a *modus vivendi* in regard to Constantinople. It was all through an unhappy period, but at least the military men had nothing with which to blame themselves.

Bureau of Foreign Affairs

While offering our felicitations to the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs on entering into his new premises, residents of some years' standing in the port must heave a sigh of regret upon the passing of the Bureau in Bubbling Well Road. A great many foreigners who come to Shanghai see little of China beyond the Treaty Ports, and have few opportunities of noting the grandeur of her people. In the circumstances the Bureau right in our midst was a place almost to conjure with. In the days of the Manchus there were receptions there which to the foreign mind could not fail to conjure up thoughts of the "Arabian Nights." Then mandarins in their most gorgeous robes assembled, with the richest embroidery overladen, and the most beautiful feathers lying back from their hats. It was all very wonderful to the newcomer, and it was a great disappointment when these tableaux disappeared with the coming of the Republic. It is impossible to produce Oriental magnificence in a morning coat and tile hat, but the Bureau adapted itself to the new state of affairs and many a time has one gone to meet there people who have represented China with credit in every part of the world. There could be seen the change in the nation. Previously it may have been superficially ornamental, but now it had become matter-of-fact and the politicians whom one met seemed to have got down to business and did not concern themselves with anything that was not China's business. The proximity of the Bureau enabled the resident to note these changes, which might have escaped him had the Bureau been farther distant. If, however, we regret that it has thus gone, we may hope that its new position may lead us to a better appreciation of Greater Shanghai.

Auxiliary Air Power

The Labour Government in Great Britain is doing what has been advocated ever since the end of the war—the creation of an air branch of the Territorial Army. Considering the pre-occupations of politicians since the armistice other Cabinets can hardly be blamed for their failure to put into practical effect the suggestions which from time to time have been forthcoming on the subject, and it is a great pity. For one thing a large number of the airmen who fought in the war will by now have become rusty on their old job, and in such a condition they must necessarily go warily when in the air. It may be remembered, for instance, that when Sir Ross Smith was killed on the very eve of his projected flight round the world, the theory was advanced that his judgment was probably at fault owing to the fact that he had been for some time out of practice. Although this may interfere with the Territorial Air Force attaining its highest efficiency for some time, it does not lessen the value of the policy now to be put into force. It must always be remembered that the Territorial Force proved its value to the full during the war, in all its branches.

A Daily Round Indeed

In case there are any persons still under the delusion that up-country missionaries lead a leisured existence the following extract from a letter from one of our correspondents, who is going Home on leave, may undeceive them. He says that he found the writing for us a pleasant task

> —if task it could be called, it has been a pleasant hiatus to the continual and multifarious duties of a missionary who for more than a year of his time as your correspondent has had to act as principal of a college of over 200 students, teaching several hours therein every day of the week, besides occasional Sunday work, superintending over 270 churches, paying and keeping the accounts, with several tens of preachers, presiding over the annual and some of the District Meetings of that large number of churches, conducting numerous examinations, filling the chairmanship of the district, acting as district secretary at the Foreign Executive Meetings, and in addition had to shoulder the heavy work entailed in obtaining funds for the rebuilding of 10 churches totally destroyed in the 1922 typhoon and getting a start made with their re-erection.

The subsequent apology, "if the quantity of my correspondence has not come up to your usual standard," makes one blush.

The Three-match Superstition

It is possible there will be many replies to the reader who asked for information as to the origin of the superstition that it is unlucky to light three cigarettes by the same match. Of course, a very common story is that really there is no bad luck about it at all, but that it originated with a clever sales manager in the employ of some leading makers of matches. When one thinks of the hundreds of thousands of people who, buying matches so cheaply as they do—or getting them free in clubs and hotels—say that they do not lose much by lighting another match and therefore there is no sense in risking the possible bad luck, the firm probably have sold many million extra boxes of matches because of the superstition. There is another explanation of a grim nature, but it only goes back to the time of the last Boer War and it would be interesting to know if the superstition was alive before that date. Our men on the veldt, it is said, had good reason for declaring that it was unlucky to light three cigarettes by one match. They found that on the flash of a match a Boer sniper's Mauser cracked and as a rule the bullet missed. During the lighting of the second "Tab" the bolt was going home again and before the third smoker had taken a draw, such wonderful shots were the Boers, the sniper had got the exact range and one of the three would be dropped. It is a possible explanation. Incidentally, a veteran of the sailing ship days once asked why most sailors—especially the old ones—always lit up with a twist of paper if near a fire, even when there were plenty of matches about. It was explained that it was an old precaution, because a sailor never knew when he would be cast away in conditions when one match to light a fire might mean life or death to him, so he never wasted them. For a similar reason, sailors seldom cut cordage of any sort: the piece cut off some day might make all the difference.

amount that would be needed. At the same time we understand that a statement is to be made this afternoon showing that the desired residence is possibly nearer than is generally supposed, which will be of great interest to members. Meanwhile they may congratulate themselves on having headquarters, both commodious and comfortable, a club of which they may well be proud. It is in connexion with these headquarters that a proposal is to be brought forward to-day to increase the annual subscription from three to five dollars. There is much to be said on both sides and it is certainly no place of ours to offer an opinion. On the one hand, it may be thought that even five dollars a year is a small sum to pay for the advantage of having such club quarters in the centre of the town as those in Kiukiang Road. On the other, the subscription was purposely fixed at its present figure so that practically no British woman in Shanghai should be debarred by expense from joining. And this is a very great consideration not only for the benefits that the Association may bring to individuals, but for what they may do for the Association by joining freely in the greatest possible numbers and thus increasing its prestige and usefulness.

CHINA TEA

Mar. 20.

Trade circulars inform us that the 1923-24 China tea season may be considered definitely at an end. It has been generally satisfactory, and apparently the worst point about it is that Chinese dealers who had speculated on a continued strong demand find themselves with at least 40,000 packages of poor quality black tea for which no buyers can be found. How they got themselves into this position is worth explaining. Good prices were current at the beginning of the season and profits were being made all round, and it appeared to the speculators that the demand from foreign countries was so strong that, with short crops in India and Ceylon, even indifferent qualities would readily be absorbed. In the circumstances they made purchases of tea which ordinarily would have been used solely for domestic consumption, and this they prepared for foreign shipment, thus incurring heavy expense. As it was, the tea they had thus dealt with proved quite unmarketable abroad, being probably regarded as undrinkable, and so has been thrown back upon their hands. This is by no means a new feature of the [illegible] but experience does not seem to have convinced the Chinese speculative element of the unprofitableness of it. As such has happened this year we can understand the fears expressed in the foreign branch of the trade that as a result of the present good season the growers will follow their customary inclination and increase output during the coming year. This is not a question of planting, for as a bush requires from three to five years to come into maturity, anything done now in that line would have no effect on the coming season's production. The evil will arise if the planters go in for coarse picking, which means that the plant will be stripped of every leaf that can possibly be removed as well as twigs of the smaller variety. It can only be hoped that they will abstain from such a course.

After a bad year or two following upon the close of the war, the tea trade now seems to have returned to what was previously regarded as its normal condition. In the case of black tea the export in the 1923 season amounted to roughly 29 million pounds, being made up as follows:—To United Kingdom fourteen millions: to America and Canada ten millions: to the Continent four millions: to Russia one million. The fact that Russia is once more in the market and gradually expanding her consumption of tea is a gratifying feature, and it is believed that any extension of the planted areas in China will be fully justified by the steadily increasing quantities which Russia will require in the future. While we in China regard the export trade in tea as one of considerable importance, it has to be pointed out that in comparison with the world's trade it is a very small matter. For instance in 1925 London handled by way of import no less than 457 million pounds of tea, and of this China contributed only 23½ millions. The exexports of tea (all classes included) came to 64 millions, while the Home consumption of China tea was 10½ millions. This, it is interesting to note, was 40 per cent. more than the previous year, which may be accounted for by its use in blends as a make-weight to cheapen the cost. While this increase is gratifying, it brings its dangers with it. As we have pointed out above Chinese speculators have been left with a considerable quantity of undrinkable stuff on their hands, and they must bear in mind that there is no market abroad for such a product. A continued expansion of exports can only be secured through a maintenance or betterment of quality.

Attention is again called to the unsatisfactory application of the United States Government standard test to fermented teas, and it is pointed out that the admission of a large quantity of tea of doubtful quality has caused a slump in some cases as well as reducing the price of the better grades. The test here referred to is made in New York and probably elsewhere by experts who decide whether the tea is of sufficiently good quality to pass the standard laid down, and owing to the fact that it is not a chemical test that is made, as in the case of other food stuffs, it is impossible to eliminate the human equation. Exporters of tea are therefore almost always in a dilemma in meeting orders from America for low grade tea. If it is found on examination to be below standard, the consignment will be rejected. On the other hand if the merchant here exports a grade which it is certain will be up to standard, he may find that a competitor has succeeded in getting a cheaper quality accepted by the examiners, and the business of his client in the United States must accordingly suffer. Apparently during the past season the examination has not been so rigorous as on other occasions, and the trade has suffered through the presence of quantities of tea seemingly of an indifferent quality. It is a great pity, but so long as the present system of examination obtains it is difficult to see how phases of this nature are to be altogether avoided. It might help matters if the examination were conducted on this side, but in view of the many sources from which America draws her tea supplies this might be found impracticable. It seems likely that if there was only the ordinary chemical test, the tea interests would see to it that only imports of at least passable quality were allowed on the market as cheap tea. Such a result would be brought about in their own interests.

SUTTEE IN CHINA

Mar. 21.

That was a gruesome story told in our columns a few days ago by our Kaifeng correspondent. A tale of the daughter of General Pang who was betrothed to the son of General Tang and who, when her betrothed died, insisted, against her father's wishes, on going to the home of her dead fiancé's parents with her wedding trousseau. She went through the wedding ceremony at the grave of her dead bridegroom and returning home committed suicide that she might be united in death with the man she had never met in life. Her father-in-law gave the dead bride a magnificent funeral and is to ask the Government for permission to erect a memorial arch in memory of this filial daughter which will, incidentally, reflect honour on his own family since this paragon of virtue died for love of his son. There is an, apparently less authenticated, addition to the tale which states that the father of the dead girl went mad when he heard of her death, massacred some twenty-five of his servants, concubines, etc., and then took his own life.

This is a typical Chinese story and is, unfortunately, possibly true. We can even understand the tragical insanity of the old father who was crazed when he heard that his daughter had sacrificed herself to the spirit of her betrothed and determined in his madness, that if she died to accompany her lover, he would die to be with his daughter. Chinese opinion will applaud the action of the girl and the permission to erect a memorial arch to her memory will likely be granted. These things are common enough; we have the widow's monument on the Race Course which probably was erected to commemorate an act of dedication to perpetual widowhood on the part of some young woman, early bereaved of her husband. These arches and the gorgeous funeral rites accorded to a young person who immolates herself, as did the young bride at Kaifeng, have an intoxicating effect on the unbalanced minds of immature girls and lead to the perpetuation of this perverted ideal of female virtue, as in India similar causes led to the practice of suttee long after it was prohibited by law. For a perverted ideal this undoubtedly is and its practice is a disgrace to public opinion in China. It is, in fact, nothing more nor less than an atavistic throw-back to barbarism. Sinologues tell us there is abundant evidence that in early times the Chinese, like many other uncivilized peoples, were in the habit of burying the wives and retainers of a chieftain in his grave. The historian Sze Ma-chien relates that a multitude was buried in the elaborate, concealed tomb of Tsin Shih Huangti, the builder of the Great Wall. In later days figures moulded in clay were substituted for living victims and there is a remarkable collection of these figures, taken from graves of the Han and Sung dynasties, in the museum at Toronto. In Shanghai we are familiar with the paper effigies of prominent men. These are reminiscent of the barbarous practices of earlier times now, happily, forbidden by enlightened public opinion.

Rumour has it that in many cases the young bride, a stranger in the home of her deceased husband's family, is coerced into making the sacrifice, which fulfils the double purpose of ridding the house of an unwelcome inmate and reflecting glory on her dead husband's clan. There is no suggestion that anything of this kind took place in Kaifeng, but sinister stories are often told of similar cases and the mad action of the dead girl's distracted father rather implies that he was dubious of the *bona fides* of his daughter's immolation. Be that as it may, it remains certain that something should be done to discourage a practice which casts a slur on womanhood and presupposes that the chief reason for a woman's being is that she should minister to the wants of her destined mate.

That monuments to virtuous women should be common in China is a cause for congratulation, but these monuments should be set up only in a worthy cause. To some woman who, like Florence Nightingale, has nursed the sick or fed the poor or contributed in some way to alleviate the misery or add to the happiness of those less fortunate than herself. A faithful wife and gentle mother—and China is rich in such women—is infinitely more worthy of honour than a crack-brained girl who dies for a chimera, a gorgeous funeral and an imposing tombstone. It would be a good thing if this case could be taken up and representations made to the Government by Chinese women students or the Y.W.C.A. Instead of permission being given to the family of the deceased girl's father-in-law to erect a monument in her memory they should be held responsible for her death and be called upon to prove that they had no share in its instigation.

CHANG TSO-LIN AND CHIHLI

Mar. 22.

The letter that we publish today from Marshal Chang Tso-lin, in answer to the report that he is coming to Peking to restore the monarchy, is of more interest than most of the similar letters which men in his position have developed the habit of addressing to foreign papers, because it is much more frank. To go back a little way, the question why Marshal Chang is building up the large and well equipped army that he has in Manchuria has evoked three possible answers: (1) that he dreams of becoming a king-maker and restoring the ex-Emperor; (2) that he means to "have another smack" at Wu Pei-fu; (3) that he fears that Wu Pei-fu means to attack him and he is therefore making ready to protect himself. The first suggestion his letter emphatically repudiates. Vulgar-minded readers may possibly "wink the other eye" at Marshal Chang's asseverance of his faith that "the power of government shall rest in the people," of which laudable ideal it must be confessed that his own provinces afford no very striking example. But the times are not so propitious for a monarchical restoration that a practical man like Marshal Chang should waste time scheming for it, even if it had his favour. In passing, there is no earthly reason why he should not favour a monarchical restoration, which could certainly be no worse than the Republic that never has been a republic and the shameless exploitation of China by a minority of profiteers posing as democracy. However, Marshal Chang says that he does not believe in a monarchy, and we certainly would not doubt his word.

Then, in his letter, comes the stereotyped protest that he has no wish to make war on anyone and that his army exists only for defence. But Marshal Chang is more honest than some: "If as a last resort," he writes, "we are compelled to pass south of Shanhaikuan and kick out the illegal Government in Peking, we shall do so, but we shall immediately return to Mukden for the satisfaction of the people." In other words the notion of self-defence does not exclude the idea of an offensive, which, of course, any number of military writers have pointed out is the best kind of defence.

> Thrice armed is he that hath his quarrel just,
> But four times he who gets his blow in fust.

Later on the statement is attributed to him that he has no idea of making peace with any of the Chihli party. He describes the whole Chihli faction as illegal. Which opens up vistas of interesting, though profitless speculation as to whether there exists any government in any part of China whose claims to technical legality would stand examination. But the importance of Marshal Chang's statement is that there is actually one wing of the Chihli party which, alarmed at the growing power of Marshal Wu Pei-fu, is actually discussing the possibility of calling in Marshal Chang Tso-lin to overthrow him. Somehow one does not see the Lord of Manchuria in the rôle of catspaw for the Tsao Jui clique.

The outstanding factor of Northern politics to-day is undoubtedly the growing ascendancy of Marshal Wu Pei-fu, whose power, supported on the Yangtze, now extends right across China from Szechuan to Tsingtao. To some extent that power is only on paper: lieutenants of Chinese warlords in distant provinces are not always the surest foundation. Wu Pei-fu's domain is more extensive than Chang Tso-lin's, but it is less compact. On the other hand, he has the advantage of being on the right side of the President, the recognized of foreign Powers, and even it is said, of being able to dictate to his old patron. Peking, as Mr Rodney Gilbert put it the other day, is a useful screen between him and the Diplomatic Body, but all the real authority is centring in Loyang. And it is a matter of the most vivid concern, what Marshal Wu means to do with it. He is the one Tuchun in China who flatly refused to do even lip-service to Sir Robert Ho Tung's round-table conference scheme; and his mental development has certainly advanced a long way from that of the plain blu

20,000 SOLDIERS IN KIATING

Szechuan Troops that Are Well Behaved: Paid Regularly: Recruits Flocking In

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kiating, Sze., Feb. 19.

Gen. Chen Hong-fan has probably the best paid, best fed, best dressed army in China. Protecting Kiating and the immediate neighbourhood he has something between 10,000 and 20,000 soldiers. Gen. Chen's large army has a creditable reputation for good order and good behaviour. The roads to and from Kiating are quiet and free from brigands and this no doubt greatly facilitates the enormous traffic that passes through this port. Kiating is the terminus for the larger junks which ply between this province and Hupeh; in summer it is also the steamer terminus from Shanghai. Chen and his large army have made themselves secure here and by doing so have greatly facilitated trade in this part of China.

At the present time the most conspicuous thing in Kiating is a soldier: you see him every where; the tea-shops are crowded with soldiers and on the street the casual visitor would get the impression that he was in some great military camp. Bugles are blowing from daylight to dark: Confucian Buddhist and Taoist temples are all packed tightly with men in light and dark grey uniforms. Boys three feet high and men six feet high are all enlisted in this great army. I was much impressed with these soldiers when we passed through here two years ago and more so on the present occasion. There is an air of plenty about them and arrears in pay is quite unknown. Regularly, month by month, Gen. Chen sees that his large army is paid, fed properly and dressed.

RICHEST TOWN IN RICH PROVINCE.

One would naturally ask, How is he able to do it? Chen Hong-fan has wisely, or carefully, or fortunately selected the wealthiest place in this wealthy province. Within 10 miles of Kiating and extending two days from the city are the salt wells of Szechuan. The monthly revenue from the wells at Ninhuachi and Chukentan, 10 miles below Kiating, is said to be $100,000. This is only one source of revenue and in this wealthy centre there are at least 100 others. With this enormous revenue at hand Gen. Chen equips and maintains this well trained army.

At first sight, the maintenance of nearly 20,000 men in one centre, seems an enormous, useless, and uncalled for expense in time, money, and energy. But this is not so. It is simply the old theory over again—the conservation of energy. Financially it amounts to this: the wells produce the salt, the salt produces the revenue, the revenue maintains the army, the army spends the money, the money comes into the hands of the merchants, the merchants put it in circulation. Financially nothing seems to be lost: the money is produced locally and as far as one can observe spent locally. The shops along the principal thoroughfares of the city are in a flourishing condition: the business houses are well built and well stocked.

NOT CONCERNED IN SZECHUAN WAR.

One other point is well worthy of note: there is a keen desire among all classes of people to get into this well paid, well fed, well dressed army. This seems particularly so with young scholars. After graduation from school they enter the army as officers or are connected in different ways with the various staffs. Quite frequently when inquiring after an old scholar I was told he had entered the army. So far, Chen Hong-fan has taken very little interest in the actual fighting in Szechuan, and has been able until quite recently to maintain a neutral position. His policy has been to protect Kiating and the immediate neighbourhood and facilitate commerce out of the province. He has let the others do the fighting and the quarrelling and has only helped financially as demands have been made on him.

Locally he is behind many philanthropic institutions and movements and is what might be termed an accommodating soldier. Confucian, Christian, Buddhist, Taoist, all find in Chen Hong-fan a sympathetic, willing and ready supporter. He has a love for his country, for quietness and order and as long as he is left alone is quite prepared to leave others alone.

His army is entirely unconnected and while north and south fight each other Gen. Chen keeps his army fit and trim and ready for any emergency.

Chen Hsia-lin on the other hand has taken a very active interest in the present situation and with his poorly fed, poorly paid army is fighting for the northern cause in Szechuan.

WUSIH LETTER

Daily Launch Service Between City and Huchow: Grand Canal Widened

From Our Own Correspondent.

Wusih, Ku., Mar. 15,

Beginning with the coming silk season, a daily launch service will begin between Wusih and Huchow. The boats have a capacity for 600 passengers. It is proposed that the service shall continue in operation when the silk season is over.

The Coccoon Guild proposes to launch an educational campaign for the purpose of teaching the farmers how to get the best possible results in raising silkworms, in other words to produce the largest possible quantity of coccoons with a given weight of leaves.

Mention has been previously made of the widening and dredging operations on the Grand Canal south of the city. As this part of the canal had not been cleaned out for 60 years, it was decided to clear out the bottom for a space of about 2,000 ft. The work began on February 7, and was completed on March 7. It was rumoured that a large incense burner had been thrown into the Canal during the Taiping Rebellion and that boats were foundering on account of this obstruction. Instead they found that the trouble had been cause by a stone Buddha only two feet high. This Buddha has now been put into a temple.

Before the dredging begun seven stone pillars were erected along the bank. On these pillars are carved the names of seven Buddhas and for a week daily religious services were held at these pillars, by crowds of women burning incense and imploring Buddha to protect all boats which should hereafter sail on these waters.

Among the articles of value found while this work was going on were oz. sycee of silver weighing five each and small pieces of money amounting to about $70. Mud and débris have been removed to a depth of five and a half feet, and it is to be hoped that the tale of wrecks is now complete.

EARTHQUAKE IN SAGHALIEN

Tokio, Mar. 18.

A severe earthquake is reported from Toyohara, Saghalien, as having occurred there on March 15. The earthquake caused several buildings to collapse and it is feared that there were a number of casualties.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ANOTHER MODERN BANK BUILDING FOR TIENTSIN

Chartered Bank's Enterprise: Work to Be Started Shortly on Three-Storey Building on Site of Old Home

Tientsin News Service.

Tientsin, Mar. 15.

The Chartered Bank of India Australia & China is not behind her sister institutions in anticipating the expansion and demands of this rapidly developing treaty port, for within two weeks the bank will move out of its old premises in Ewo and Victoria Roads to permit operations on demolition of the old and construction of a new and imposing edifice on the same site.

The bank will remove to temporary quarters, in the old Carlowitz building, Consular Road, recently vacated by the defunct Asia Banking Corporation, there to remain until the new building is completed.

Messrs. Hemmings & Berkley who have gained an enviable reputation under the direction of their local representative, Mr. W. Gordon Parkin, are architects of the new edifice, which, when finished, will be a notable contribution to the many new and modern buildings which are beginning to characterize Tientsin. The Chartered Bank has earned a distinct popularity in Tientsin for its courteous personal attention to all depositors, whether large or small, and this pleasant feature of its public service has, if anything, been accentuated under the capable management of the present head, Mr. R. W. Robertson, and his obliging staff. For this reason alone many will welcome the bank's decision to replace its present antiquated and cramped offices with something more adequate to its needs and more befitting its dignity.

REINFORCED CONCRETE.

The new building will be of three floors, altogether 60 ft. high with a frontage of 150 ft. on Victoria Road and the same on Ewo road. The architecture is classical design with Ionic columns on both frontages. The main entrance will be in Victoria Road, to which approach will be made by shallow, broad steps of Peking Green stone. The principal material in walls and frontages will be pre-cast blocks composed of fine granite and cement mixture, which in certain places will be internally faced with bricks. Floors, roof and vaults will be made entirely of reinforced concrete, thereby rendering the building fire and water-proof. Most of the internal wood-work will be of teak, especially panellings, counter and the like, all window sashes will be made of steel.

The bank will occupy the entire basement and ground floors, the upper or first floor to be leased for offices, special provision being made to accomodate the desires of tenants. The whole ground floor will be given over to the general office, public space, Agent's office and Compradore offices. The general office will have a floor space of 7,000 sq. ft. and the Agent's office will be 33 by 23. The public space will be approximately 3,000 sq. ft. A long counter will enclose two sides of the general office and will be surmounted by an artistic bronze grille. The main entrance for foreign clients will be in Victoria Road, the steps leading up to a wide doorway directly through into the public space and general office. The Chinese entrance will be from the Ewo side, directly into the public space adjacent to the Compradore offices. On either side of the main entrance steps which are on the street line, will be a small lawn and on either side of the main door will be artistic bronze lamps.

LIGHTING AND VENTILATION.

Good lighting and ventilation are features of the building, the general office being lighted in day by direct light from the windows and at night by specially designed inverted electric illumination. The height of the main office, 26 ft., with ventilation windows just below the ceiling level, ensures rapid change of air throughout the day. In winter the building will be vapour-heated.

The basement floor will be occupied by the strong room, reserve and safecustody rooms, lavatories and heating chambers. The upper floor will be rented out as offices, partitions of which will be built in according to lessees' requirements. Entrance to this floor will be made from both Victoria and Ewo roads.

Altogether the building will be a remarkable advance on many similar constructions in Tientsin, both from the point of view of architectural beauty and accommodation and much credit is due to the architects Messrs. Hemmings & Berkley, and to the Manager, Mr. Robertson, for the careful consideration being given to minor details of construction, minor in some but nevertheless important when considered in relation to the comfort of clients and the facilitation of business.

THE BESSELL CASE AND COL. CHEN

The Assault at Fengtai: A Deliberate Official Untruth to British Legation: British Government's Welcome Demand for Proper Trial

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Mar. 12.

Just a week ago to-day most of the English language papers in North China printed a Japanese news agency report to the effect that Colonel Chen Kuo-hsien, who perpetrated the outrageous assault upon Mr. Bessell at Fengtai nearly six weeks ago, had been court-martialled and sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment. This report appeared to come from the Ministry of War, on Mr. Lu Chin's authority, was assumed to be official and was therefore generally accepted as fact by the foreign community. On Saturday last it was rumoured that this Colonel Chen had actually been sentenced to 28 days' imprisonment, but this seemed so absurd, following on the heels of what purported to be an official statement, that none of the correspondents took the trouble to investigate it. On Sunday the writer heard the same story from a more reliable source and since then he has been able to confirm the fact that Colonel Chen was sentenced to 28 days' imprisonment and that the British Legation has official knowledge of it.

A DELIBERATE FALSEHOOD.

The report that this upstart, a brother of Tsao Kun's concubine, who interfered with railway traffic at Fengtai, threatened the station master with a revolver, encouraged his men to make a particularly brutal assault upon a foreigner in railway employ with the chief engineer of the railway present, was sentenced to ten months' imprisonment, was simply a formal, deliberate official lie.

It is not the first one that has been told in this case. When the British Legation asked for the punishment of this Colonel Chen, in the first instance, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China announced that this gentleman was a likin officer or something of the sort, in Hupeh, while all Tientsin knew that he was in Taku boasting on the streets that the Powers would not be able to touch a brother of a member of the President's harem.

It is a real pleasure to be able to report that the British Legation did not accept the story of the 10 months sentence and did not pretend to believe it. The matter was refered to London and it is still a greater pleasure to report that the Foreign Office of the British Labour Government returned very prompt instructions to the Legation to demand a real trial of the President's concubine's brother and to insist, under treaty right, that British official witnesses be present at this trial.

GILDING THE LILY.

The writer has hitherto refrained from comment upon this Bessell case because he felt that the bare facts as reported by the various news agencies would elicit stronger expressions of opinion from all foreign readers than could possibly be printed. A frame often diverts attention from a picture and spoils an otherwise perfect effect. Like comment upon a Sun Yat-sen interview, comment upon such Chinese doings as the assault upon Bessell or Feng Yu-hsiang's adventure in the Legation Quarter also spoils a perfect effect.

When the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of War of the Republic of China descend to petty prevarication to shield from justice a Taku coolie who happens to be a brother of a minor member of a high militarist's household, they are telling the world what the Chinese Government is and how fit it is to govern a member of the society of nations a hundred times more eloquently than any poor weary scribe could do it. The writer therefore feels entirely relieved of the necessity of reminding the readers of this paper that the Legations recognized Tsao Kun so that they might have a strong man within easy reach through whom they could put a check upon outlawry in remote provinces. It is superfluous to state that Fengtai is three miles from the outer wall of Peking or that Feng Yu-hsiang bawled his defiance and contempt for law within the sacred diplomatic precincts and within pistol shot of the residences of half a dozen plenipotentiaries.

THE CHINESE REACTION.

The foreigner does not need to make any comment upon such events anyway. The Chinese will do it for him. When they have clearly understood what has happened they will make more vociferous demands for a conference to increase the Customs duties. They will make fresh assaults upon Japan's position in Kuangtung. Foreign extraterritorial jurisdiction will become a burning shame. They will demand that Mr. Bessell kowtow to Colonel Chen and apologize for sharing the same sunlight with him. They will insist that the Diplomatic Body go to Nanyuan and make amends to General Feng for having a Legation Quarter at all. It is a waste of words, paper and ink to attempt comment upon such cases when the Chinese react so surely to them and advertise their significance so clearly.

British Foreign Office Taking Strong Stand: Trial of Col. Chen Demanded

Peking, Mar. 14.

The Far Eastern Times says that the British Foreign Office yesterday instructed the Legation to demand the retrial of Colonel Chen Kuo-hsien, who was in command of the soldiers who attacked Mr. Bessell at Fengtai, stating that Britain refused to recognize the court-martial proceedings since no British observer had been present. Accordingly the Legation sent a note to the Waichiaopu asking for the trial of Colonel Chen at an early date and that two British observers be allowed to attend.

It has been no secret for some time that a court-martial was held on Colonel Chen at Taku, at which no witnesses for the prosecution were called, and that Colonel Chen was sentenced to twenty-eight days' imprisonment and cashiered, while the soldier on whom the blame for the actual assault was placed, was given two years' imprisonment at a separate trial in Peking. It is understood that a report of these trials was sent to England for instructions with regard to the attitude which the Legation should take.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE RUSSIAN REFUGEES IN CHINA

Europe's Attention Called to their Desperate Plight

London, Mar. 18.

A correspondent has written to the "Times," calling attention to the dire straits of the thousands of Russian refugees in China, as instanced by the fact that some of them are applying for licences as ricsha pullers at Shanghai, and urging the Government to draw the attention of the Russian Government to the matter.—Reuter.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

WU PEI-FU'S HOURLY GROWING POWER

His Opponents in Presidential Palace Ready to Make Terms Even with Chang Tso-lin to Defeat the Loyang Chieftain

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, March 11.

It is said that mandates are being prepared appointing Ch'en T'iao-yuan, of Hsuchow, Pangpan (assistant Tuchun) of Anhui, appointing Wen Shu-teh to supreme command of the Pei Hai Squadron, and removing Wang Yung-ch'uan from office.

Ch'en T'iao-yuan's appointment will be a favour to the Kiangsu governor, Chi Hsieh-yuan, and will give him an even stronger hold upon Anhui. Admiral Wen Shu-teh's appointment to an independent command with his base at Tsingtao will record a victory for Wu Pei-fu in Shantung and will seem to Governor Hsiung Ping-chi to be the beginning of the end. This man's elimination will not be popular because he is one of the most efficient and straightforward Chinese in high office. There are several reasons however why Wu Pei-fu and his staff will work relentlessly towards his ruin. They owe him an old grudge for the high-handed way in which he dealt with them when they were established in Paotingfu after the fight with Chang Tso-lin two years ago. Also, his business-like control of the situation in Peking just before Tsao Kun's election, when every one else was making a mess of the situation, made that election possible, decidedly against Wu Pei-fu's plans and wishes. Finally the Shantung concessionaires of the group which includes Pan Fu, Chin Yun-peng and Chang Chih-tan, hold their interests in the Kiaochou district and the railway zone under Hsiung Ping-chi's patronage. These interests Wu Pei-fu wants to control through his fellow townsman Kao Enhung, former Minister of Communications in the Wang Chung-hui cabinet, and these persons he wants to embarrass as much as possible because of the influence which they bring to bear upon President Tsao through the now notorious Wang Yu-chih.

THE PUZZLE OF FUKIEN.

The sensational happenings in Fukien still puzzle the majority of observers in Peking. The Chinese press has no adequate explanation to offer. It has only been a few days since it was generally assumed here that General Sun Chuan-fang, finding his position in Fukien untenable, had decided to work with Governor Chi Hsieh-yuan of Kiangsu, to ignore Wu Pei-fu, and to operate in his own and General Chi's interest by invading either Chêkiang or Kiangsi, to Wu Pei-fu's embarrassment, and cutting out a new kingdom for himself. His spectacular return from Yenping to Foochow and his overthrow of Wang Yung-chuan, indicate clearly that he intends to stay in Fukien and strengthen his position there. And since Wu Pei-fu is already wiring busily to Peking insisting that Wang Yung-Ch'uan be outlawed, it would appear that Sun Ch'uan-fang's latest enterprise was carried out under Wu Pei-fu's direct instructions and that his seeming anxiety to get out of Fukien was chiefly a blind.

DOUBLE CROSSING.

Many Chinese who have been watching Fukien have assumed that Wang Yung-chu'an was more an Anfu than a Chihli partisan, and they are now at a loss to explain how Wu Pei-fu can go ahead with his cautious advances towards friendship with Tuan Chi-jui and Lu Yung-hsiang and at the same time instruct Sun Ch'uan-fang to force Wang out of Foochow and ask Peking to outlaw him. The truth of the matter seems to be that Wang Yung-ch'uan was working for himself alone, was chronically disloyal to both the Chihli and Anfu leaders, and had not even the sense to seek local support but abused the Fukienese most mercilessly. It is within the writer's limited knowledge of this tangled situation that last summer when Wang was pretending to make war upon Chang Chih-ping of Amoy, he was sending almost identical reports of his doings to both the Chihli leaders and to Marshal Tuan Chih-jui, pledging each party his unswerving fidelity. He is a Fengtien man by birth, was a *protége* of the former Tuchun, Li Hou-chi, and as commander of the 16th Mixed Brigade, turned against Li at the instigation of the notorious Little Hsu. The latter was disowned both by Lu Yung-hsiang and the leading Anfuites in the North at the time and Wang Yung-ch'uan's subsequent explanation that his campaign against Chang Chih-ping was all make-believe and that he was really fighting the bandits, the Min Chun or "people's army," never deceived any of the astute persons who surround Marshal Tuan in Tientsin. It is not likely that Governor Lu Yung-hsiang of Chêkiang was at any time deceived by Wang Yung-ch'uan and it has often been said that when he bought over the shipment of Russian arms which were sent a year ago from Nanking by Chi Hsieh-yuan and Tu Shih-kuei he was more intent upon throwing a wrench into Wang Yung-chuan's machinery than in spoiling the plans of the Chihli party.

Under such side-lights as these, it would appear that Sun Chuan-fang's unexpected coup in Fukien, ordered by Wu Pei-fu, would please, rather than antagonize, Governor Lu and the Anfuites in Tientsin. A prominent local politician to-day informed the writer that he thought the only highly placed person who would be surprised and displeased would be Chi Hsieh-yuan, who had hoped to use Sun Chuan-fang in Chêkiang or Kiangsi to distress either Lu Yung-hsiang or Wu Pei-fu. This is only a surmise, of course, but it sounds likely.

WU PEI-FU'S SPECIAL AGENTS.

Intelligent guessing is the essence of wisdom in what are called politics in China, and the guessing in Peking all leads the observer to believe that Wu Pei-fu is getting everything worth while into his own hands with celerity and an adroitness which do great credit to someone on his staff. The general assumption is that the master mind is that of Pai Chien-wu, better known as Hsing-ya, who has the distinction of being the direct descendant of the famous Tang Dynasty poet Pei Chü-yi and of a long line of aristocratic scholars.

In spite of the public advertisements, published by Marshal Tuan's son to the effect that his father would not receive guests on his birthday, which the local press interpreted as repulses of the Chihli party's friendly advances, it would seem that General Wu's delegate, the elderly Mr. Ch'ih Yun-p'eng, has been received in Marshal Tuan's household and is *persona grata* there. This Mr. Ch'ih was one of the young student officers in the first units of the Peiyang modern army who were sent to Manchuria during the Chinese-Japanese war as technical advisers to the pig-headed Manchu commanders who held modern notions of warfare in contempt. He was thus associated very early in his career with Yuan Shih-kai, Marshal Tuan, Feng Kuo-chang, Wang Shih-chen and all the military men who have since held supreme commands in China. Not long after the Chinese-Japanese war he resigned his commission and entered the commissary department where he made a generous fortune. As he comes from Penglai, Wu Pei-fu's home town, he knew the Loyang chief in his youth, and has emerged from retirement to act as his major domo and adviser and to run diplomatic errands for him. This Mr. Ch'ih has power because of his ancient associations with highly placed men of the old *régime* and also owes much to his amazing fund of humour and a large stock of genial guile. His relations with the Anfu folk will be watched with much interest by the enemies of the Chihli party, but with still more interest by Wu Pei-fu's enemies within the Chihli party, particularly by the palace advisorate which is being discomfited by Loyang's inroads upon Shantung.

CHANG TSO-LIN INVOKED.

Their most effective but most desperate policy now would be to make peace with Chang Tso-lin and bring him into the fold as an ally against General Wu and this many Chinese think they will do. A Japanese news agency to-day reports that the Fengtien attitude towards the Chihli faction has changed radically and that Chang Tso-lin is now more than ready for an understanding. Private reports from Mukden, coming through both foreigners and Chinese, indicate, however, that Chang's detestation of Wu Pei-fu only ripens with age and that he cannot possibly consider an alliance of any sort with the man who made his magnificence ridiculous in Peking. The common assumption therefore is that, seeing Loyang coming into the ascendency in so many quarters, he is ready to accept as his allies against Loyang those elements in the Peking Government and in the Chihli party at large which are hostile to Wu, believing that to split the Chihli party effectually and make half of it his ally would do more to secure his position than to enter into a binding agreement with any of the party's tottering enemies.

The Japanese press agencies are usually better informed upon the trend of opinion in Chang Tso-lin's court than any other publicists and, since they say that Chang Tso-lin is ready to make peace with Chihli, it is fairly safe to assume that an important understanding is imminent. It will be an understanding between Chang Tso-lin and the Tientsin and Paoting cliques, including General Wang Ch'eng-ping and probably General Feng Yu-hsiang, to control Tsao Kun and to interrupt Wu Pei-fu's triumphal processions into the East, West and South. Such a development would be a much more serious menace to the peace of North China than independent Manchuria is now and would give Governor Chi Hsieh-yuan in his position astride the traditional Nanking fence reason for furious, concentrated thought.

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN FUKIEN

Protection of Missionaries: The Attack on Gen. Wang: Lawlessness in Amoy

Peking, Mar. 13.

Telegrams from Foochow report that on the 12th instant the British and American Consuls called on the General commanding the troops at Foochow and made representations to him regarding the dangers to which missionaries might be exposed by the intended military operations against Gen. Wang Yung-chuan at Hsinghua and Chuanchow. The General promised to make every possible effort to protect missionaries belonging to the two countries in the neighbourtoods mentioned during the operations there. Apparently a movement designed to dislodge Gen. Wang from Hsinghua has commenced.

Later.

Despatches from Amoy describe a state of lawlessness existing there in which the chief offenders are Formosans. They are said to have recently set fire to several houses and bombed the Chinese police and fire brigade when they appeared on the scene, preventing them from taking any steps to subdue the flames.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

The latest expedient to raise money for the Tsingtao squadron is the threatened increase of fishery taxes along the coast of China. The suggestion, made by Loyang, is said to have been approved by the Ministry of Navy.

RUSSIA, CHINA AND C. E. R.

Status of Railway Strictly Governed by Washington Conference Decision

By Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, March 13.

One of the most important subjects under discussion between Mr. Karakhan and Mr. C. T. Wang is that of the disposition of the Chinese Eastern Railway. The Chinese press has been making much of it for weeks past and all hands including the negotiators seem to be working on the assumption that the only difficulty in the way is the division of control between the Russian and Chinese Governments.

It is wholly forgotten in local circles that among the provisions passed at the Washington Conference, to which Chinese agitators are for ever appealing, is one which recognizes that the Russian title to an interest in the Chinese Eastern Railway is vested in a private company (not in the Russian Government), that the Powers recognize no Russian political interest in the line, and that China in assuming control of the railway is simply acting as trustee of the private company which should control the Russian share. Until all the Powers which signed this agreement recognize Russia formally and grant her the right to make what disposition she likes of the private company, some of them are in honour bound to hold China responsible as trustee and to object to the nationalization of the Russian interest in the line. Though the issue is only a technical one, it is one which France, America and Japan, to mention no others, cannot possibly ignore if they have any respect for the seals which they put upon the various Washington pacts.

THE PRIVATE COMPANY.

In common equity it must be admitted that the Russian Government has a much bigger claim to the Chinese Eastern Railway than the private company which holds the shares and which is now represented by the Russo-Asiatic Bank under French protection. The Bank in the first place was only a shield for a political investment on the part of the Imperial Russian Government in Manchuria. The line was never run, before the Revolution in Russia, as a commercial line but as a political thoroughfare. The private company's share holdings amount to Rls. 5,000,000. The Russian Government's investment in the railway and the zone are supposed to total Rls. 300,000,000. The Russo-Asiatic Bank in Paris now holds the shares, amounting to Rls. 5,000,000 and the Soviet Government is supposed to hold debentures amounting to Tls. 300,000,000. In ordinary business when a house, or a property or a company changes hands, the holders of debentures or mortgages take precedence over the owners and shareholders. If China or the recognized Russian private company were disposed to transfer the railway or throw it into bankruptcy, there is no doubt that the Russian Government, holding the debentures would have to be satisfied in some way before the bargain could be sealed and before the Russian private company could be paid in any way for its shareholdings.

A BETRAYAL OF TRUST.

At the same time it is equally true under common equity that the title to a property cannot be taken from an owner and turned over to the holder of mortgage or debentures until the owner has been given an opportunity to pay interest on his debts or to redeem them in one way or another. The Russian private company represented by the Russo-Asiatic Bank holds the real title to the Russian share in the Chinese Eastern Railway by virtue of the shares deposited in Paris and by virtue of the international recognition of this title put in documentary form in Washington in 1921. China therefore cannot agree to assume responsibility for the debentures issued to the Imperial Russian Government until it has been clearly shown that the private company which issued them refuses to be responsible for them. China cannot transfer this private company's interest in the line to the Russian Government for the repurchase or buy it back in instalments without giving the shareholders a chance to assert their claim and make arrangements for the redemption of the debentures. As trustees for a private company the Chinese would be violating their trust and forfeiting the confidence of the Powers if they came to any agreement with the Soviet Government for the repurchase of the debentures to which the Russo-Asiatic Bank was not a party.

These technicalities may seem very remote from the real issue and to have little relation to common equity, but since the Powers have endorsed the technical title of a private Russian company to the Russian interest in the Chinese Eastern Railway, they cannot very easily evade the responsibility of defending it against a Chinese betrayal of trust.

SITUATION IN THE SOUTH

Further Reports of Troop Movements: Constitutional Troops Threatening Kochow

From Our Own Correspondent.

Pakhoi, Feb. 15.

After about five months of peace and quietness, there are again rumours of trouble in the near future owing to dissensions which are said to have broken out in the camp of our present rulers. At present it is all very vague and people seem disinclined to talk. It is also said that a pro-Sun force under the leadership of Leung Hung-kai is approaching and has already reached the neighbourhood of Kochow.

The long-talked-of scheme for a motor road from here to Limchow has been revived again, and it is asserted by a local merchant who has a hand in the scheme, that it will be available for use in a few months time. As to that, we must wait and see. The idea is to cut an entirely new road a little to the east of the existing track, and to provide a service of motor-cars, the returns from which are to recoup the original outlay; anyone wishing to use the road for their own vehicles will be charged a toll. It will certainly be a great boon to the neighbourhood if it can be accomplished, for there is considerable traffic between the two places even under the present lack of facilities.

The long-awaited doctor for the C.M.S. Hospital has at last arrived and a well attended meeting was held in the Memorial Hall of St. Luke's Church to welcome Dr. and Mrs. Watson.

Thieves have been working overtime at their nefarious jobs lately, and have not confined their unwelcome attentions to foreigners, though these are generally regarded as fair game.

CHINESE NEW YEAR IN LONDON

Celestial Beauties at a Banquet

The London Chinese celebrated their New Year with a banquet at the Chinese Café, Oxford Street.

The Chinese and Japanese Ambassadors, students and business men wore evening dress suits, but the scene was made brilliant by the national silk costumes of the women, seated at tables decorated with yellow and white chrysanthemums. One Celestial beauty was a striking picture. She wore a red rose in her hair and a dress of green silk starred with white flowers.

It took the guests two hours to eat the meal, which comprised the following dishes:—

Bamboo skin Awabi soup.
Fried sole with rich gravy.
Steward chicken with mushroom.
Steamed whole duck in soup stuffed with mushroom.
Roast and steamed pork and bamboo shoot.
Chinese pudding
Rice.
Tea.

THE BAROMETER OF DOMESTIC BONDS

Increasing Popularity with Investors While Sir Francis Aglen Is Responsible for Them

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, March 11.

There is no problem so intricate and so difficult to solve as the determination of what makes China's domestic bonds rise and fall. Superficially it has appeared for many months past that neither political nor economic conditions had any bearing whatever upon the bond market and that bank speculation, particularly in Shanghai, was the controlling influence. Foreign investors and speculators, observing that the worse political and economic conditions in China got the higher the bonds went, have long since come to the conclusion that the market was wholly controlled and manipulated by the Chinese banks and that they were playing a consistent game, pushing the bonds up whenever conditions seemed to warrant a fall, and pushing them down whenever there were hopeful signs of improvement in general conditions.

THE RULE OF CONTRARIES.

Some speculators have operated in a small way upon this assumption and have made money and so have some Chinese, but the Chinese bankers trace what seems to be the contrary course of the bonds to causes other than manipulation and try to show that there is a fundamental economic urge behind the bond movements which can be little influenced by speculation. They point out that in the first place Sir Francis Aglen's staunch defence of the various issues, whether in or out of the consolidated group, has given the Chinese investor, whether in or out of banking circles, great confidence in the security of the bonds. Secondly, the banks started not only gambling but investing in bonds because other investments were hard to find. The Chinese banks pay an average of 7½ per cent. on fixed deposits and a very generous rate on current accounts. They have to turn their money over pretty frequently to make a profit. Commercial and industrial securities are increasingly hard to find and are less and less secure as conditions in China get steadily worse. Lately the gold exchange has been so stable that it has offered few temptations and little profit to the gambler. Not only the banks, but the investors in the interior have bought bonds therefore as the only safe security easily available. Many of the banks have bought them in the hope of manipulating the market and of making big profits on quick turnovers, but an increasingly large number of Chinese investors have bought them to hold. The bonds are now more widely held and have gone more deeply into the interior, for purely economic reasons, than ever before; and the more widely they are scattered among investors the less chance is there of bank manipulation. This is one reason that political rumours, deliberately circulated by gamblers to influence the market, such as the story of the death of Sir Francis Aglen and the more recent story of the death of President Tsao Kun, have had so little effect upon the market value of the bonds. It explains also why, as conditions get worse, and other sound domestic investments are scarcer, there is a greater demand for bonds; and why, whenever there is promise of improvement and therefore a chance of putting money into other lines, commercial or industrial, the bonds drop.

SPECULATORS DISAPPOINTED.

Local speculators, who were looking forward to a sharp rise in market quotations when it became generally known that there were to be amortization drawings of the 8 per cent. military loan and the 7 per cent. 10th year loan, are inclined to believe that the Shanghai banks were responsible for the series of rumours of Tsao Kun's death, that these rumours brought about the fall, and that the banks were waiting for it to buy in before the drawings were publicly announced. The biggest banks here repudiate this theory. They say that the slump came simply because the market was for the moment saturated, that they will recover now that the drawings are in sight and that they will then find a level, and a fairly high one at that, from which speculators and gamblers will be unable to move them and which will be influenced very largely by economic conditions. If there are better investments available they will go down. As conditions get worse and investments are scarcer they will go up, almost to the point where they cease to bear interest and afford only a little better way of disposing of money than burying it.

FROM WUCHANG TO HANKOW

Up-to-date Launches, but Where to Land?: Hankow's Signs of Growing Wealth

From Our Own Correspondent.

Wuchang, Hup., March 9.

Our means of communication with Hankow across the Yangtze River have recently been increased by a new line of launches, which run from the Hanyang Gate of Wuchang to the First Ma-t'eo by the new Customs House in Hankow. There are now three lines of launches running between the two cities. The two older lines run to Lung Wang Miao in the Chinese city, at the corner where the River Han joins the Yangtze, and to the Sixth Ma-t'eo on the Bund just opposite the British Consulate.

The new launches are painted a smart-looking blue, and their engines run steadily, instead of with the clanking sound of the older boats, which makes one wonder every moment whether a crank or a piston-rod is going to give way suddenly. Originally, the landing-place was right upon the hulk of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire; but this has been forbidden, and the company have now moored a small pontoon of their own just below the hulk. Even their right to do this is being disputed, and it is a question whether they will be allowed to occupy this position permanently.

Similarly, the right of the older company to have their pontoon at the Six Ma-t'eo is being threatened. A British gunboat is in future to be stationed permanently in Hankow, and the space opposite to the Consulate is obviously a convenient anchorage for it. If both these landing-places are forbidden, the consequence will be that passengers from Wuchang will be forced, either to take a launch which lands them somewhere in the Chinese city, or else to return to the old precarious method of crossing the river by sampan. The same inconvenience will be imposed upon anyone who wishes to cross from the Hankow side. The B.M.C. have been deriving an annual income of 5,000 in rent from the single company alone, for the privilege of landing passengers at the Sixth Ma-t'eo; so that even from a financial standpoint, there is something to be said against taking away their landing on the bund.

OUR MODERN ARCHITECTURE.

One cannot cross the river now without being struck by the immense progress in building which has been made by Hankow even in the last two or three years. The fine, granite-fronted Hongkong & Shanghai Bank building no longer stands alone, but is challenged on the one side by two still newer bank buildings, and on the other by the recently completed and very fine offices of the A.P.C. The whole Bund now is dominated at one end by the new Customs House, which is another fine structure of grey granite.

The newest building in Wuchang is the new Temple of Loyalty which has been erected by the Military Governor next to the experimental garden inside the Great East Gate, and which is not quite finished. This temple consists of two courts, each faced by a low hall built of well-pointed red bricks. The roof is of Chinese design, but made with modern tiles, and the floors are of well-laid portland cement. Close by, an old Buddhist temple has been endowed and renovated by the Governor. Its centuries-old name of the Yu Huang-koh, Pavilion of the Jade Emperor, has been changed to the Temple of Southern Hill and the priest in charge is also appointed the teacher of a day-school, from which the babel of the scholars bawling their books can be heard as one passes along the road in front.

GOOD WORDS FOR ALL.

In all parts of the city, there are now posted up neat white sign-boards, with mottoes written upon them in clear black characters. Their object, apparently is to give good advice to the people; for they bear such legends as, "Idleness is the root of crime," "Riches are not carelessly got, and must not be carelessly spent," "Virtue is more important than wealth," etc. They have been put up by the Hupeh Educational Association. One may question the advantage of spilling all this wordy counsel before the eyes of a largely illiterate population; but at least they are preferable to the "Buy no Japanese goods" with which the city was placarded three years ago, and which still disfigures the walls outside nearly all the shops.

Rather significant is one motto which is posted up not far from the Civil Governor's yamen. It reads "If you are on the earth for only one day, for one day be a good man; if you are in office for only one day, for one day be a good official." In view of the fact that we have had several Civil Governors during the last few years, and that for a considerable period we have been without one, one cannot help wondering if the obvious irony is designed or accidental.

THE WAR IN SZECHUAN

Remnants of Southern General's Forces Rounded up by Yang Sen

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tzeliutsing, Sze., Feb. 29.

The military situation had been very quiet here till a few days ago when there were considerable troop movements, first from Suifu, apparently to head off the retreating troops of Hsiong Ke-wu. Now large numbers of Yang Sen's from the north fill every available shop and home.

It is said there are 10,000 troops here. No able carrier appears on the street. The soldiers seem to be made up equally of Kueichow, Yunnan and Szechuan men. Last week one of the large pawnshops was looted and the owners severely injured and taken to the Mission Hospital. There have been no battles near here. Most of the Canadian Methodist Mission hospital's military accounts have been paid without much difficulty.

There is a pressing demand for money orders on Shanghai, and other large centres, both far and near, much more than can be issued.

Many scores of foreigners have been travelling to and from yearly meetings, but we have heard of no case of incivility from the hordes of soldiers, though inconvenience is frequently encountered.

A Chinese has come from Chêngtu to establish an engineering School. Work is being continued on the $40,000 five-arch stone bridge which crosses the river here.

The beans, wheat and rape all look like a good crop, but rain is needed. Food stuffs are naturally very high. The dollar is 3040 cash.

MOROS DEFEATED IN MINDANAO

Manila, March 14.

Forty-eight Moros were killed and seven of the constabulary were wounded at Cotabiga, Mindanao. The Daeu Santiago, the notorious outlaw, escaped during the battle.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

MR. F. W. Carey, Commissioner of Customs at Ningpo, has been transferred to Swatow.

CHANG TSO-LIN'S RAILWAY SCHEMES

New Line to Taonanfu: Dreams of Waste Places to Develop: The Great War Question

From Our Own Correspondent.

Fakumen, Man., March 8.

The branch railway from Chengchiatun (Liaoyuanhsien) to Taonanfu, about 170 miles in length, was completed last autum. The regular schedule of trains began in January. The new section brings the mileage of the Szeupingkai-Taonanfu system up to 295 or thereabouts, and puts the vast northwest of Fengtien Province into immediate connexion with Mukden. Except for a couple of bridges over the Liao River, which is the main artery of South Manchuria, no engineering difficulty has been encountered. Flat, sandy steppes characterize the greater part of the routes, westward and northward.

A drawback to the efficient working of the Taonanfu line is the shortage of water, which just now involves rather long waits for replenisment at some stations. Indeed, between Taonanfu and the next considerable town beyond the railway to the westward, there is a stretch of some 20 miles of waterless prairie, which is a kind of no-man's-land. Soldiers from either end do not care to enter it and hence it is a happy hunting-ground for brigands.

The city of Taonanfu, at one time talked of as the possible capital of a new province, is an enormous enclosure within an earthern rampart, sparsely occupied. Busy enough as it is in the central thoroughfares, the empty spaces seem to have been intended for expansion. Or quite likely the wide enclosure was meant for future defence. At present the neighbourhood is peaceful. Former brigands, turned soldiers, are well-behaved. The General at the head of the Taonanfu garrison has a splendid reputation.

WILL THE SCHEME PAY?

The prospects of settlement and cultivation depend on the nature of the soil. Marshal Chang Tso-lin is said to be opposed to carrying the railway beyond Taonanfu northward to join the C.E.R. at Tsitsihar. His aim is to have a completely Chinese-owned line from Tsitsihar running to the west of the present S.M.R. and its branches, down south to the Peking-Mukden Railway. Although the Szupingkai-Taonanfu branch is nominally Chinese, it has been built on borrowed Japanese capital. The rolling-stock largely consists of surplus carriages from the S. M. R. and the Korean Railways. The Japanese would, we are told, be very willing to continue the Taonanfu line up to Tsitsihar. But Marshal Chang is an able politician, attentive to his own interests—or the interests of the Republic.

The country through which Marshal Chang's proposed railway would run is, indeed, largely unpopulated in the northern ragion. But as was reported by a B.A.T. man, who made a trip by motor from Tsitsihar in the direction indicated, the land has many good tracts suitable for cultivation. Moreover, the sources of the Liao River lie in the neighbourhood of the southern section. Hence there must be water somewhere. In Marshal Chang's tight situation just now, the railway seems a mere dream. He has no jurisdiction over Jehol, through which the route to some extent would run. And more than all, he can have the enterprises of peace or the delirium of war, but hardly both. Not that he is scraping up every penny to spend it on bayonets and bombs. The Northeastern University new buildings are rising from the pleasant meadows near the North Imperial Tomb. Even so, military ambition, or self-defence, eats up the resources otherwise available for peaceful development.

CHANG'S ARMY FOR DEFENCE.

When the question is mooted—"Will there be war in spring?" the Chinese look glum and shake their heads. Rumour changes from day to day. The practically universal opinion of the Chinese might be summed up in the dictum that, sooner or later, the enmity between Chang Tso-lin and Wu Pei-fu will issue in an armed conflict. Beyond that, they do not care to prophesy. There is, however, another angle from which the obscure situation may be regarded.

An observer of authority, with access to Government information, holds that Marshal Chang is only preparing for defence. He has no intention of starting a war. But he is well aware that, when the Chihli leaders have straightened out the rest of China sufficiently to take off their coats to tackle the last recalcitrant stronghold, then Chang's day of reckoning will have arrived.

Against that coming day he means to be ready. That is all. Meantime, his affiliations with Chêkiang and the South may lead to possible military demonstrations in their favour. Such demonstrations would not be intended as a declaration of war.

This view is comforting, especially when recruiting shows no sign of stoppage and when the Mexican dollar exchange into Fengtien paper notes continues high. The Chinese tend to be sceptical of the prospects of peace. Nevertheless, it is probable that this authoritative opinion may not be far from the truth.

WEALTHY ANHUI FAMILY'S PLIGHT

Carried off by Chekiang Brigands: Rescuers Killed

From a Correspondent.

Tunki, An., Mar. 9.

Three days ago a Dr. Ma (trained in Western medicine) rushed up to Chikihsien in response to an urgent call. He brings back an exciting tale.

Shitu is a beautiful and wealthy town 25 *li* north of the *hsien* city and not very far from the Chêkiang border. About four days ago 30 bandits from Chêkiang attacked the ancestral home of a very wealthy Mr. Hu. This gentleman is connected with a dozen large industries in port cities. The bandits improved the occasion of his China New Year visit to the old home to carry out a raid. About 20 were armed with pistols. No guns in the party. They seized this gentleman and 18 or 19 of his friends and household and carried them into the mountains. They hold them for $20,000 ransom. A rescue was attempted by local people, two of whom were wounded and two killed. Inquiries are proceeding by the local military.

HANGCHOW WATER-WORKS

Issue of $1,500,000 Worth of Shares

From Our Own Correspondent.

Hangchow, Mar. 11.

The Educational Association is meeting to discuss the National School Sports and sending of students to Hupeh to take part in the games.

The Waterworks Committee is stil functioning and are issuing shares, we are told, to the value of $1,500,000, but whether they will be taken up is another question.

Tuan Chizue's birthday is at hand, and the Tupan is sending congratulations by special messenger.

Four new launches for the Chientang Ferry are spoken of and the building of an adequate jetty is also projected.

Dr. and Mrs. Gray, of Peking, and Dr. and Mrs. Fearn are expected in the city to-day.

DR. C. C. Wang, President of the Chinese Eastern Railway, has returned to Harbin, where the situation is now reported as being quieter.

MR. ELLY WIDLER RELEASED

After Months of Imprisonment Without Trial and Abominable Ill-Treatment by Yang Sen

The [illegible] news reached Shanghai on Monday that Mr. Elly Widler, who suffered months of imprisonment in dirty Chinese military prisons and was twice told he would be executed, has been released.

It will be remembered that as far back as September 10, soldiers acting under Gen. Yang Sen's orders arrested Mr. Widler on a charge of arms smuggling at the Cosmos Club at Chungking and dragged him bound through the streets to the Magistrate's yamên. After a week in durance vile he was brought before the Magistrate and another official on a mock trial, at which he was threatened with bambooing and execution. The Magistrate said to him: "I can have you bambooed and have you shot. Do you understand?"

Then followed weeks of imprisonment for allegedly selling arms to the Southern forces, in the course of which he frequently was marched shackled through the streets from one yamên to another.

Then came the advance of the Southern troops against Gen. Yang Sen. He prepared to retreat, looting the Cosmos Club, of which Mr. Widler had been manager, and told his prisoner that he could buy his release for $200,000 or be shot.

At the time of Yang Sen's hurried flight in November, after spending weeks in a dirty military gaol, Mr. Widler was dragged out, fettered, and made to march with Gen. Yang Sen's retreating army all the way from Chungking to Wanhsien—10 days' march. He was laughed at, mocked and ill-treated by the rabble composing the Northern army.

Arriving at Wanhsien, he was flung into a public gaol, where presumably he remained until a few weeks ago.

Although he claims Swiss citizenship, Mr. Widler is not recognized as a subject of that country, which now enjoys extra-territorial privileges—hence this story of illtreatment and persecution.

MISSIONARY LADIES' HOUSE LOOTED

Dastardly Attack by Northern Soldiers on C. I. M. Premises at Chuhsien

Ichang, Mar. 8.

A distressing experience of three ladies belonging to the China Inland Mission at the hands of looting Northern soldiers in their advance against the Szechuanese is recounted by one of the ladies, who is passing through Ichang on her way home on furlough.

She, with the other two ladies, was stationed at Chuhsien, some five days' journey overland from Wanhsien, Szechuan. On January 15 the Szechuanese Army was forced hastily to evacuate the city as they were hard pushed by the Northern troops under Gen. Yang Sen. As the Szechuanese left the city, the advance guard of the Northern forces, consisting of two companies, entered at the other end. A party of soldiers, intent on loot, forced their way into the house occupied by the ladies announcing their coming by firing shots into the house. They demanded $5,000 as the price of security, but, though the ladies collected all they had, it did not amount to more than between one and two hundred dollars. This they handed over, but it failed to satisfy the looters, who demanded the full $5,000 on pain of shooting. Some stood over the ladies with their rifles pointed at them, while the others ransacked the whole house, turning out all cupboards, wardrobes and boxes. They even went so far as to search the persons of the ladies, robbing them of watches, spectacles and other articles. They carried away clothes, bedding, clocks and all useful things from the house. Some of them amused themselves by shooting at various objects all over the house, putting bullets through the pictures on the walls. One of the soldiers made a bayonet thrust at one of the ladies, but the bayonet was turned aside by her skirt and she was not injured.

The ladies, now at their wit's end, thought of the Chinese pastor, who was in the Church buildings in another part of the city, and sent there to see if they could get some help. This place, however, they learned, was also being systematically looted by other soldiers, who carried off all the clothes of the pastor and his family, as well as all the money on which they could lay their hands. It would appear that some of the Christians had considered the Church buildings a safe place to hide their money, for the soldiers got a large sum. Help, however, came at last in the shape of two soldiers, who informed the ladies that they were Christians, and stood by them, warning off other parties of looters.

Finally the gang left the house, after taking a parting shot or two at the ladies which fortunately missed.

It is understood that Bishop Cassells came to Chuhsien immediately and made representations to the military commander, who repaid the money taken. No compensation, however, was made for the many articles looted from the house.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

FATHET VAN PRAET'S ORDEAL

Saw 40 Fellow-prisoners Shot: His Ghastly Experiences While in Captivity

Some amazing information has come to hand regarding the recent capture by bandits and subsequent release of Dr. Thompson and Father van Praet, the story being told in a letter received by Mr. A. de C. Sowerby from the Trans-Asia Photo Scientific Expedition. At Paotou, where Dr. Thompson was captured, the expedition got into touch with Father van Praet, the priest recently released after having been captured by bandits about 340 *li* south of Kueihuacheng. Father van Praet was taken into the Ordos Desert and kept at the headquarters of the Northern Ordos Mongols, the band who held him prisoner being composed of men of this tribe, with a sprinkling of Chinese. He had a terrible experience before he was released, for the bandits summarily executed many of their Chinese prisoners and he had to witness the shooting of 40 of them.

The terms enforced for the release of Father van Praet included the enrolment of the chief of the district and 250 of his men in the Chinese army. Another remarkable and really ludicrous fact was that the ransom for Father van Praet's Chinese bodyguard was paid in cigarettes, which apparently the bandits valued beyond money. The bandits are said to be mounted on excellent horses and are well armed with Mauser rifles and pistols. The money raised for the release of Dr. Thompson is said to have been retained by the bodyguard.

FOLLOWING MARCO POLO'S ROUTE.

The quest of the expedition from whom this information has been obtained is most interesting, the object being to traverse the whole of the Central Asian route followed by Marco Polo on his supposed journey into India by Kashgar, on the way taking moving pictures and other photographs of scientific, ethnological and geographical interest, and collecting biological specimens. Despite the hardships and dangers of such an expedition starting in mid-winter, there is a lady amongst the travellers. Mr. Eugene Lamb and his wife, Mrs. Corinne Lamb, with a Chinese biologist, Mr. Wong Hai-cheng, made a start on the journey early in February, when they left Peking for Kalgan. The next stage was to Datungfu and thence to Shihyan, or Kueihuacheng, where they took a number of [illegible]. Here also, on February 12, they were joined by the other member of the expedition, Mr. Floyd S. Tangier Smith, who had been delayed in Peking securing various permits. The party continued on to Paotou, the terminus of the railway, where they ascertained the story of the bandits.

The expedition now is on its way across the Ordos Desert, travelling by camel caravan to Ninghsiafu, from which place a route will be taken southwest to Lanchowfu, on through Chinese Turkestan, and round the north of Tibet. The travellers report having seen a certain amount of game, etc., up to the present and they have passed through very cold districts, the temperature in places being minus 10 degrees.

KIAO-TSI RAILWAY'S FUTURE

Commission Appointed to Ascertain Possibilities of Future Development

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Mar. 13.

The Ministry of Communications has appointed a Commission for the purpose of making an extensive investigation into the present state of the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway as well as into its future possibilities. This Commission, composed of Mr. Kin, the Director-General of the Kirin-Changchun Railway, Mr. P. D. Griffith, Assistant General Manager of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, Mr. S. T. Chow, Traffic Manager of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway, Mr. G. E. Baker, adviser to the Ministry of Communications and Mr. Sun, Technical Expert to the Ministry will shortly arrive here, and will be assisted in the investigation by the various chiefs of the Railway Administration, headed by Mr. T. Ohmura, the Traffic Manager.

A report as to the results of the investigation will eventually be forwarded to the Ministry of Communications and will, in turn, be submitted to Marshal Wu Pei-fu. It is the aim of the Ministry of Communications and of the Managing Board of the Kiao-Tsi Railway to prove to the Marshal the impossibility of financing the squadron under Admiral Wen, or for that matter any other squadron, at the expense of the revenues of the railway.

The impression seems to be that the promise made to Marshal Wu Pei-fu by Mr. Liu Kuen, the Managing Director of the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway, to finance the squadron to the extent of $50,000 monthly was made entirely by himself without the sanction of his superiors.

INTEREST DUE TO JAPANESE.

According to Mr. Ohmura, the improvements which the railway so much needs if they could be carried out without interruption, would be the means of doubling the present revenues by 100 per cent. within the next six years, in other words, by 1930, the annual revenue of the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway should be in the neighbourhood of $20,000,000. As the interest due to the Japanese Government is fixed, namely, $200,000 monthly, Mr. Ohmura sees no reason why the amount due to the Japanese Government for the retrocession of the Railway should not be available upon maturity of the agreement arrived at in Washington. Mr. Ohmura says that the Japanese have no designs on the Railway at all, and that if they had, they would have allowed the Chinese militarists to go to work and convert the Railway into a second Kin-Han line until even the interest due to Japan could not be paid, when the Japanese would step in and seize the railway on the pretext of *force majeure*. That said Mr. Ohmura, was certainly not the line of action of the Japanese Government.

IMPROVEMENTS AT TSINGTAO.

The marines hitherto occupying barracks in Pacific Road have been removed to barracks far removed from the residential and business districts. Hitherto, they have made themselves a nuisance by constant blowing of bugles and beating of drums. This, together with road mending now visible everywhere, and cleaning of parks, indicate a true desire on the part of the Administration to encourage the coming of holiday makers for the summer.

WAYFOONG'S NEW TIENTSIN HOME

Foundation Stone Laid by Lady Macleay: Her Tribute to a Great British Financial Institution: "The Powerhouse of Trade" in the Far East

Tientsin News Service.

Tientsin, Mar. 9.

In the presence of a large gathering of Tientsin and Peking residents, including representatives of the Consular Services and Chinese Officialdom and Chamber of Commerce Lady Macleay, wife of the British Minister, laid the foundation-stone of the new branch office of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank here to-day. Sir Ronald Macleay was also present.

Mr. G. H. Stitt, after thanking Sir Ronald and Lady Macleay for the honour they had done the bank in coming to take the principal part in the opening ceremony, reminded his hearers that Tientsin was one of the largest ports in China, being second only to Shanghai, and the port of the Capital of the country. With an enormous and growing trade all its concessions were rapidly developing. In their growth the Hongkong Bank had shared and for their future development the bank was being prepared, they could well understand the old building, which had done service for so many years was no longer adequate. The new building, which would be erected on the old site, would be a credit to its architects, Messrs. Atkinson & Dallas, and he hoped would be a lasting tribute from the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation to the soundness and stability of the trade of the port and to the Concessions.

LADY MACLEAY'S SPEECH.

Mr. Stitt then read a telegram from the Chief Manager, Mr. A. G. Stephen, which said: "Following for Lady Macleay: The Directors and Chief Manager greatly appreciate your kindness in laying the foundation-stone and feel sure that the building begun under such gracious auspices will have a long and prosperous career." Another telegram from a former Tientsin resident, Mr. A. B. Lowson, read: "Success to the rising edifice. Shanghai staff."

In the course of her speech, Lady Macleay said:

Before declaring this stone well and truly laid, I must thank Mr. Stitt and the other dignitaries of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation for the honour they have done me in asking me to lay this foundation-stone and to give the first impulse of life to the magnificent building which will replace the former premises, and which, by the grandeur of its structure and the beauty of its architecture, will eventually arrest the attention of the passer-by and make him pause and reflect on what British enterprise and financial genius have achieved in the Far East.

Monuments to our commerce and industry, such as this imposing building when completed is destined to become, loom as landmarks not only in the vast portions of the earth covered by the Union Jack, but are to be found wherever British courage and foresight have established new markets and have secured a firm footing.

They represent the history and traditions of our race, they embody our national pride, they are an influence for peace and civilization and have a practical as well as a moral significance. They are the mainspring of business, the power-house of trade; and if we have encircled the globe with our commerce it is because there have been men such as the founders of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, who by their incessant vigilance, their just and loyal dealings, their faithful performance of duty and their careful methods of keeping abreast of the times, have succeeded in spite of early difficulties and temporary periods of depression, in building up a mighty financial institution, which has won the confidence and respect of British and Chinese merchants alike, who have now come to look upon "Wayfoong" as the trusted custodian of their wealth and the sturdy bulwark of their credit. I am not competent to pay a tribute to these men, which should be worthy of their merits. But of such is the British Empire.

Miss Betty Johnston, daughter of the Tientsin manager, handed Lady Macleay a magnificent bouquet, and Mrs. A. G. Stephen a silver trowel, suitably engraved. Mrs. Stephen said she felt it a great privilege on behalf of her husband, the Chief Manager, to say how grateful he was to Lady Macleay for her kindness in consenting to lay the foundation-stone.

With the trowel Lady Macleay then pronounced the stone "well and truly laid."

BRITISH COMMUNITY'S CONGRATULATIONS.

Mr. E. C. Peters, of Ewo and Chairman of the General Chamber of Commerce, said it was not difficult on an occasion like the present to find words to express the thoughts passing through the minds of the Tientsin British community to-day. The history of Tientsin was so interwoven with that of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, that they felt a pride equal to that of any member of the Corporation in to-day's ceremony. They saw the foundations well and truly laid, which reminded them of the pioneers of from 40 to 50 years ago, who dug deep, dug broad the foundations of British reputation and prestige. It was the great Cecil Rhodes who said "everything was too short in this world-life, fame and achievement." They envied those representatives of the old pioneers—he referred to their eminent citizens—Mr. James Stewart and Mr. J. M. Dickinson, who were there that day to see the flourishing and ever-growing city of Tientsin. They must not forget that in spite of floods, famine, plague and an occasional revolution, with all the chaos those things brought, Tientsin had never looked back. Surely this was great testimony to the wonderful recuperative powers of their Chinese friends and their great faith in the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation. The Hongkong Bank, like many others, had weathered bad times and come through those terrific gales, which periodically assail commerce, with colours flying and not a leak in her stout timbers. He liked to think of Wayfoong, however, not so much as staunch vessel, but as a wonderful lighthouse, the Eddystone, so to speak, of the China Coast. In calm weather taken for granted, but in financial storms of typhoon intensity, a source of much comfort to the weary mariner, and not less so should he have the misfortune to find himself on the rocks."

On behalf of the British community, Mr. Peters asked Mr. Johnston to accept their warmest congratulations, coupled with the hope that the Tientsin manager would still be with them when the noble edifice was completed.

In the cavity in the stone, Mr. Johnston then placed a sealed glass jar, containing local newspapers, bank-notes and coins. The playing of the National Anthem by the band of the Royal North Lancashire Regt. brought the ceremony to a close.

At the reception which followed, Mr. B. C. M. Johnston proposed the toast of the Tientsin branch, which was enthusiastically acclaimed.

Mr. Henry Edward Ranson Hunter, of Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W., late of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, a director of Hambros Bank, the Imperial Bank of Persia, the Yangtsze Insurance Association, the Anglo-Eastern Finance Corporation, and others, left estate of the gross value of £63,161.

The special auditing commission which is to examine the accounts of the Chinese Government, is reported to have appointed nine experts to do the work and to have asked the Ministry of Finance to prepare for the examination of the books. Definite dates will be set for the examiners to do their work.

NINGPO STEAMER WRECKED

Pingyang Piled Up on Haimen Rocks During Voyage from Wenchow: No Lives Lost

From Our Own Correspondent.

Wenchow, Mar. 9.

Since last writing telegrams have been received here announcing the loss of one of the Chinese steamers which has been trading with this port from Ningpo with great regularity every week for several years.

Said to be an old gunboat, the Pingyang was the most comfortable of the three Ningpo steamers for travel. About a month ago she left Wenchow for Ningpo *viâ* Haimen and Chusan as usual on the Friday. A few days after, telegrams were received reporting her loss in the vicinity of Haimen, one to the effect that 200 lives were lost, another that while no lives were lost, pirates had looted her cargo.

A young Chinese told me that his brother had been among the passengers at the time of the accident, and had returned home. His report was that the vessel ran on the rocks in a fog some four or five hours out of Haimen, on the way to Ningpo, that two hours later she slid back and sank losing all cargo and baggage, but that no lives were lost as a great many small boats came and took the passengers and crew off. This is the second mishap within a short time that has happened to Ningpo steamers.

Rumour was current recently that the str. Kwangchi was to resume her sailings which had been dropped before the New Year, between Wenchow and Ningpo, she having been chartered last year from the China Merchants' S. N. Co. for the trade by another Chinese company. Friday, however, her usual day of arrival here, did not witness her arrival and it was said that she had lost $20,000 last year, that if the other Ningpo companies would reimburse her to that amount she would not give up the trade, that the Yungchuan and Yungning companies were willing, but that the Pao Hua Co. refused. There has also been a rumour that a rival steamer of the China Merchants' was to start the run between Shanghai and Wenchow, but so far no such steamer has been forthcoming.

PIONEER WENCHOW MISSIONARY.

The str. Feiching which has been laid up in Shanghai for overhauling during the past six weeks has resumed her sailings, and among her passengers will be Rev. W. R. and Mrs. Stobie, and Miss Stobie, who are returning to England by way of Canada. At the kind invitation of the Commissioner and his wife a large party of the foreign residents met at the home of the Commissioner on Tuesday evening to bid them formal *bon voyage*.

The Rev. A. H. Sharman, who succeeds Mr. Stobie in the Chairmanship of the Wenchow Methodist Mission, will for several mouths look after nearly 170 churches, besides superintending the rebuilding of churches destroyed in the typhoon of September, 1922. It is 27 years since Mr. Stobie and 23 years since Mrs. Stobie first arrived in Wenchow, and the former has seen the Mission increase in that time from about 90 to 270 churches, the erection of a large hospital and of a Middle School which has now enrolled 242 students under the able principalship of T. W. Chapman, M.S., whose name as an educationalist is widely known among Chinese far beyond Wenchow and its adjoining prefectures. Over quarter of a century ago that middle school existed in embryo in the house of Mr. Stobie and consisted of a few Chinese boys gathered together to learn English among whom was a diligent and bright little fellow who is now Dr. Timothy Lear of Peking.

27 YEARS AGO AND TO-DAY.

To-day the appearance of the city presents a marked contrast to 27 years ago in the widening of considerable portions of the main street, erection of very many foreign and semi-foreign buildings, mostly occupied by Chinese, the more foreign appearance of many of the shops, the kind of merchandise offered for sale in those shops, foreign tinned goods, flour, foreign clothing and foot and headwear, foreign lamps, foreign tools, the large number of shops selling clocks and watches, and many another foreign articles which 27 years ago would have been "anathematized. "Hundreds of rickshas ply on its narrow streets, the electric light makes night more pleasant to the student of Chinese, telephone wires stretch through the air in all directions. Two different lines of telegraph now connect us with the world outside, so that no longer is it true to say, as an old resident said in those far off days of one who came to Wenchow describing the difficulty of getting away again, "One coming to Wenchow is as a frog in a well." Foreign style umbrellas too and even walking sticks are numerous, though there is still a good trade done in Kittysols. A merchant, who does a business in Kittysols of about 30,000 export annually told me yesterday that thousands of Kittysols are sent to America and that about 300,000 are exported annually hence.

One of the greatest changes is to be seen in the street where I live, a change which 25 years ago it seemed impossible would come about so soon. Whereas then that little street was crowded with opium dens, to-day not one is to be found, though also opium does still find its way here and some opium smokers are still to be met with. But to one who has seen such a change as this, who has seen and known what a frightful incubus, what a dreadful curse and bondage this one habit was, and sees things now there comes inevitably the feeling of certainty that China can and that China will sooner or later and probably sooner, throw off her other weights and snap her other fatters, and rise free and strong and kindly and noble to take the place that is awaiting her in the progress of the race to its destined heights of world-wide, liberty, brotherhood and righteousness.

PEKING DAY BY DAY

Dismissal of Gen. Wang Held Up: Police Partly Paid: Tsao Jui's Birthday

Peking, Mar. 16.

To-day being the anniversary of the birthday of Mr. Tsao Jui, former Civil Governor of Chihli, Admiral Wu Yu-lin and other Cabinet Ministers, left Peking for Tientsin last night.

The men of the Metropolitan Police force, but not the officers have reached an advance of their arrears of wages amounting to three dollars each, pending payment of the arrears.

A Chihling mandate was issued yesterday approving the proposal of Mr. Cheng Keh, Minister of Interior, that Major Chang Yu-lin and his men be withdrawn from the duties of parliamentary guards and that he be replaced by Major Tang Cheng-chang. Major Tang took over his new duties this afternoon. Supporters of Mr. Wu Ching-lian oppose this action on the ground that Major Tang was appointed by the House of Representatives and that there is no occasion for this mandate being issued in confirmation of this appointment.

There seems to be difficulty in reaching a decision in Government circles as to the dismissal of Gen. Wang Yung-chuan and the appointment of Gen. Chow Yin-jen as assistant director of military affairs in Fukien. The Cabinet has drafted a mandate dismissing Gen. Wang and appointing Gen. Chow, but it is being held up between the Military Council and the Presidency.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

FILIPINO'S FUNDS NOT TO BE WASTED ON MARE'S NESTS

Manila, Mar. 20.

Voluntary subscriptions to the Independence Fund, after weeks of soliciting, are under 9,000 pesos. It is generally felt that the Filipino populace are apathetic toward independence propaganda.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPAN INVADED BY JAZZ

Younger Generation in the Grip of Modern Craze: Dancing in Every Restaurant

From Our Tokio Correspondent.

The "*Miyako*" has just published a cartoon of kimonoed beauties "shimmying" gaily to the wheedling of the saxophone. The paper condemns this change, but the young men and women do not pay the slightest attention to the be-spectacled editor's laments over foreign "crazes."

Jazz has come into Japan and it has come to stay. It promises to invade Japan as completely as it has done Europe. Everybody now is learning to trip it gaily on the light fantastic toe. At many restaurants there is now dancing, a gramophone doing duty in the less pretentious places and a regular orchestra in the more fashionable resorts. Proprietors of cafés and refreshment houses find that, with the added attraction of dancing, their income is gratifyingly increased. Even the geisha is learning to jazz.

At a dance at any one of the bigger hotels can be seen young diplomats, university students and young women of all classes. Jazz tunes are popular and messenger boys will ride their bicycles whistling or humming bars from "Oriental" or "Yes, we have no bananas."

Tokio took the lead in launching the dancing craze, and now Osaka, Kioto and Kobe have taken it up enthusiastically. Husbands are becoming progressive, thanks to the influence of jazz, and permit their wives to dance with friends. This is dubbed by the "*Miyako*" as "dangerous" and the paper then proceeds cynically to conclude that "perhaps these husbands are looking more to the pleasure of being able to dance with another man's wife."

REVOLUTION IN SOCIAL CUSTOMS.

The Japanese have now grown to accept the new dancing as an old custom—that is those Japanese who have succumbed to jazz. These laugh at the criticism hurled by the more conservative element of the population. Changes are coming in a flood, and changes that, for Japan, are almost revolutionary. Young Japanese men now whisper sweet nothings to young ladies and most frequently at dancing parties, a thing that is supposed to be anathema according to strict Japanese etiquette. Thus jazz is even tending to change the customs of the nation. It certainly has been responsible for the passing of that rigid formality which was once a commonplace of Japanese social life.

Anxious comments are heard that jazz may definitely oust the ancient classical "*No*" dance—a dance that is a combination of religious dances and popular tales. An attempt was made to resuscitate the old measure, but the young men and women will not have it. The call of jazz is irresistible in Japan to-day.

NATIONAL SPORTS SUPERSEDED TOO.

English Association football and American baseball, working hand in glove with tennis, golf and boat-racing will soon supersede jui-jitsu, "*sumo*" (wrestling) fencing, and other national sports.

For physical exercise, Japanese are readily and enthusiastically taking to the imported games of the West, while in their amusements world the cinema leads the way.

Japan's own sports differ greatly from those of the West. Japanese sports must be played single-handed. They are contests between two persons and their effect, consequently, is the creation of a sense of individual superiority—a decidedly aristocratic feeling. Outdoor sports of the West, on the contrary, are based on team work. Co-operation takes the place of individual excellence. The psychological change that the games are bound to bring about, although it cannot be clearly discerned as yet, is bound to be intensely interesting. People are remarking that the younger generation of Japanese are much more sociable, especially in the bigger cities. This is attributed this to their changing taste in games.

Japanese youngsters were taught fortitude and Spartan stoicism when learning their games, whether the game was jiu-jitsu, fencing or "*sumo.*"

IS IT I CHANG F R THE BETTER?

To-day, they play baseball or football under the blue sky, amid laughter and cheerfulness, as against the oppressive atmosphere of jiu-jitsu or fencing within the four walls of a drab room. The result is that a feeling akin to emancipation enters into the lives of the youngsters. But if they are more, light-hearted, they are also more restless and less diligent. Two decades hence, these youngsters are bound to bring about a change in the country's business, politics and diplomacy.

YANG SEN'S TROOPS BESIEGED

Successfully Resisting Remnants of the Defeated Southern Forces at Luchow

From Our Own Correspondent.

Luchow, Sze., Feb. 21.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Methodist West China Mission, has just closed. All departments of the mission report a good year and look forward to another good one in spite of the chronic state of this province through warfare and brigandage.

The delegates from Chungking and below first attempted to come by steamer. They got within less than 100 *li* of Luchow, but owing to engine trouble and repeated attacks by robbers were forced to return to Chungking. They then started out by land and reached here without mishap.

The last delegates left here on Monday last and they only just got away in time, for we are now in the midst of another battle. I can hear the rattle of musketry and the whizzing of bullets as I write. The disturbers just now are the remnants of Hsiong Keh-wu's 1st. Army which were driven out of Chêngtu about two weeks ago by Yang Sen and his 2nd. Army. They are making a determined effort to get in, but Yang Chuen-fang's men are holding the city for Yang Sen, who is reported to be not far off. The battle began the day before yesterday at noon, and has been going on intermittently ever since, with the attackers across the little river and the defenders on the city walls and the hills just outside.

This morning about 3.30 we were wakened by a veritable barrage of rifle fire and some little gun fire. It recalled old memories of those early mornings in France, when suddenly at the zero hour, thousands of guns of all calibres belched forth their hell of fire and the land monsters and the death-dealers of the air moved forward to the attack, to accomplish what flesh and blood and nerve alone could not accomplish. This is but that in miniature but it is realistic enough to bring it all back.

Many stretcher cases have come into the Mission Hospital to-day, some besiegers, some defenders, and some civilians. One old lady of more than 60 years had one of her feet blown off while in bed. Another woman, a mother of four small children, was brought in, shot through the mouth. Her husband pleaded that something be done for her, but she was beyond surgical skill and she passed away shortly afterwards, another silent protest against this senseless warfare.

If the 1st Army succeed in getting into the city, they will bleed the long-suffering people once more before Yang Sen's men arrive to attack them and drive them out. One wonders when this giddy round will cease. The city has already been turned over five times during the past year, and apparently the end is not yet.

REPORTS have reached Peking, states the "Eastern Times," that Sun Mei-sung, a younger brother of the Lincheng bandit leader, has captured Tachushan (an important military stronghold) with 300 men.

PICTURESQUE SCENE IN KANSU CAPITAL

New Year Celebrated with Ancient Splendour: Myriads of Lanterns Under Full Moon

From Our Own Correspondent.

Lanchowfu, Kan., Feb. 27.

The New Year festivities were celebrated in Lanchow with a splendour unknown for 15 years. During the time of the Republic, the streets were not canopied, and the city lanterns not used. But Lanchow is rich once more, and its rulers are rich—with the ill-gotten opium gains to gloat over. So this year Governor Luh gave orders that the full glory of ancient days should be restored.

The merchants (out of whose pockets the funds must largely come) replied that in the face of much existing poverty, when hundreds attend the daily soup-kitchens, and many do not know how to make ends meet, it would be better to devote the money involved to charitable purposes. Also that the old-time lanterns were worn out from disuse and so forth. The Governor there upon lent them (mark the word — *lent* them) Tls. 10,000, so that they might purchase the cloth, prepare the lanterns, and make ready for the "15th." The merchants, unable to get out of it, made the requisite preparations. And the lanterns were lit, and the crowds admired, for several consecutive nights. The moon was about its full, hanging as a beautiful white lantern above the eastern sky. Even the astronomers of China had kindly arranged, it would appear, to prevent any dimming of the moon's brightness on the night of the "15th." The "15th" should of course be full moon. But the full moon was really February 20, and an eclipse was due that night. So the day before or February 19, was called full moon, or the "15th," and all that night long the moon shone with undiminished splendour. I suppose our people thought it was a lucky omen, to have no eclipse that night. But to my thinking there is something sad and portentous, in a sham joy, a happiness based on a lie. Is that what is coming over the great land of China?

HEAVIER OPIUM CONSUMPTION.

Opium is to be grown again throughout the parts of this province not under Ma Chi's rule this year. Prices, already high, are threatening to soar still higher. The rich grow richer, the poor are still poorer. The number enslaved by opium steadily increases. In many homes, opium is given to the guest much as afternoon tea is served with us. Lethargy among the wage earners, the farmers and merchants, is more pronounced than ever. Opium increases the cunning of those addicted to the drug but decreases their physical power, and his activities. The Moslems for the most part keep free of opium, growing ever more powerful, richer, more numerous. The Chinese at all these points are losing. What will be the end of it all?

OBITUARY

Prince Kwacho-no Miya

Tokio, Mar. 19.

The death of announced to-day of His Royal Highness Prince Hirotada Kwacho-no-Miya, at the age of 23.

The deceased Prince, after graduating frim the Peers' School and the Naval College at Edajima, joined the Imperial Navy and was in active service on board the cruiser Idzu, which returned to Sasebo on March 4, when he entered the Naval Hospital there, as his physician in charge pronounced his sickness to be acute meningitis. He at last succumbed to his illness on March 19 at 6.30 p.m. It is understood that he was engaged to Princess Akiko Kujo, aged 18, the sixth daughter of Prince Michizane Kujo.—Eastern News Agency.

THE Japanese Consul-General at Tientsin, Mr. Yoshida, has arrived in Shanghai. He is staying with Mr. Yada, the local Consul-General.

THE CHINESE TRADEMARK LAW

United Protest to Consular Body by All the Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Shanghai: Obnoxious Points in Law Tellingly Exposed

The following letter addressed by all the Chambers of Commerce of Shanghai to the Consular Body has been sent to us for publication. It sets out most tellingly the objections to the Chinese Trademark Law, the most obnoxious features of which are appended.

Mar. 7, 1924.

Sir,—The Chambers whose names appear at the foot of this letter, being apprehensive of the consequences likely to ensue from a recognition of the proposed Chinese Trademark Law in its present form, desire to lay before you and your colleagues on the Consular Body, the following considerations regarding the law.

Their main cause of anxiety is not merely the fact that the Law makes no provision for foreign participation in the administration of the Bureau but the further fact that, in case of dispute with the Bureau as to whether a trademark is registrable or not, articles 29 to 36 provide only for appeal to purely Chinese bodies, namely, in the first instance to three trademark judges, who are to be appointed by the Bureau, next to the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce and finally to the Administrative Court.

The articles in question are enclosed as an appendix to this letter.

PURELY CHINESE BODIES.

In asking the Consular Body to invite the attention of the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body to them we would ask you at the same time to lay before him the following considerations:—

1. In the event of dispute with the Bureau these articles preclude diplomatic assistance being given to foreign trademark owners until they have exhausted the remedies provided, that is to say until after the question in dispute has been before three purely Chinese bodies, the last of which is the Administrative Court in which the appellant is "to bring an action in conformity with the rules of law," whereafter it is expressly laid down in article 35 that "a decision having been given no person whosoever shall be permitted to ask for another hearing on the same facts and evidence." Diplomatic representations, necessarily stayed until the resources of the law have been exhausted, will then have to encounter the difficulty presented by this very categorical closure of the case.

2. Whereas in European, American and Japanese Law, appeal from the registrar of trademarks may be made to a Court of Justice, under the proposed Chinese Law no provision is made for appeal to any court of justice as that term is ordinarily understood. Thus the all-important quotation as to whether a mark is registrable or not, on which the right to use it will depend, is to be decided not by judges in our sense of the term but by bureaucrats. China has undertaken to protect foreign marks, yet the machinery which she is providing for their protection is in this respect greatly inferior to the protection which trademark owners enjoy in Europe, America and Japan.

A DANGEROUS LIMITATION.

3. It follows that when cases of infringement arise the scope of inquiry of Chinese Courts will be restricted to ascertaining whether or not a mark has been registered. Thus, while a foreign trademark owner, finding the sale of his goods is being interfered with by the appearance on the market of a mark similar to his own, will be able to bring an action against the owner of the infringing mark, he will not be able to get assistance from the Court if the defendant is able to prove registration. The foreigner's safeguard, it may be contended, lies in watching the advertisement of marks before they are registered. On the other hand the value of the safeguard will depend upon the efficient administration of the Bureau, which, as the law at present stands, is to be officered entirely by Chinese who can lay claim to no experience whatsoever in the registration of trademarks. In this connexion we would draw attention to the fact that the Trademark Gazette published by the Ministry of Commerce is published entirely in Chinese, a fact which increases the difficulty of watching advertisements.

DIFFERENCE IN TRANSLATION.

4. We desire also to draw attention to article 43. There is a discrepancy of considerable importance between the Chinese official translation of this article and the translation of it made by the British and American Legations. According to the former the judicial procedure provided by existing treaties is to come into force only when one of the criminal offences specified in articles 39—42 has been committed by foreigners. According to the latter it is to come into force whenever foreigners are concerned either as prosecutors or defendants in criminal proceedings. The legal remedy which foreigners will have when they are plaintiffs in civil actions against Chinese for infringement, or when Chinese commit any of the criminal offences mentioned in articles 39 to 42 is not in any way defined. This point appears to our Chambers to be of vital importance. The Law as it stands is open to the interpretation that foreigners, when plaintiffs in cases of infringement of foreign marks by Chinese, or in cases where Chinese commit any of the criminal offences mentioned in articles 39 to 42, can only have recourse to purely Chinese Courts, i.e. where there is no foreign representation.

EXTRATERRITORIAL RIGHTS.

5. It must also be observed that disputes with the Bureau regarding registration are likely in practice to turn on questions of precisely the same character as those which arise in cases of infringement, questions, for example, regarding priority of registration, priority of user, similarity of marks, and the nature of the business in which the marks concerned are employed. In cases of infringement all such questions are, at the present time, tried either in extraterritorial courts, or in the Shanghai Mixed Court or in Chinese Courts in which foreigners have a treaty right to be represented. Whatever the correct interpretation of article 43 may be, there is grave objection to the exercise of powers analogous to judicial powers by the Bureau, the three trademark judges, the Ministry of Commerce or the Administrative Court, none of which are properly speaking judicial bodies. The exercise of such powers by them, especially if foreign representation is excluded, will in our opinion constitute a modification of extraterritorial rights both in principle and practice.

NO GAIN FOR THE SACRIFICE.

6. We are unable to see what compensating advantages foreign trademark owners will obtain for the very serious sacrifices which the preceding paragraphs disclose. It is true that the new law supplies a code in a department of Chinese life where before there was none, but in the present disturbed state of China there seems to be very little reason for supposing that the new code will meet with readier observance than other laws promulgated by the Central Government.

7. A remedy for the objections detailed above appears to us to be essential if the rights and interests of foreign trademark owners are to be safeguarded. We submit as a legitimate and practical proposal that the suggested foreign assistance should include the same participation in the settlement of disputes regarding registration as is at present provided for in all other cases of disputes between foreigners and Chinese.

MODIFICATION INDISPENSABLE.

We earnestly request that representations be made by your Colleagues to the Diplomatic Body to use every possible endeavour to ensure that the rights and property of foreigners are not jeopardized by the recognition or acceptance of the new Trademark Law, without such modifications as will provide for adequate foreign representation in the Trademark Bureau, and on every Tribunal which may be called upon to give any decision affecting foreign interests in connexion with Trademarks.

The term Tribunal as used above includes

(a) the Courts which will try cases of infringement.

(b) the bodies which are to deal with disputes incident to registration.

There are many other serious objections to the Act in its present form, but foreign representation as indicated above is in our opinion vital if property worth many millions of taels is to receive adequate protection.

We are etc.,

J. Harold Dollar.
Chairman, American Chamber of Commerce.

A. S. Donnay,
Chairman, Belgian Chamber of Commerce.

F. R. Scott,
Chairman, British Chamber of Commerce.

E. Charlot,
Chairman, French Chamber of Commerce.

C. Fumagalli,
Chairman, Italian Chamber of Commerce.

T. Tanabe,
Chairman, Japanese Chamber of Commerce.

M. J. Herbschleb,
Chairman, Netherlands Chamber of Commerce.

Frithjof Hoehnke,
Vice Chairman, Norwegian Chamber of Commerce.

W. von Norman,
Chairman, Swedish Association in China.

E. C. Pearce,
Chairman, General Chamber of Commerce.

Com. G. N. de' Rossi,
Consul General for Italy,
And Senior Consul,
Shanghai.

ARTICLES NO. 29 TO 36.

Article 29.—A request for a hearing shall be made to the Bureau of Trade Marks in writing. In a hearing, the documents of persons concerned shall be duplicated and served upon the opponents by the Bureau in order that the party may be directed within the period allowed to present a rejoinder to the document presented by the other party; or an inquiry in writing may be forwarded to a party, and the latter may be directed to present a written opinion thereon.

Article 30.—A hearing is conducted by three trade mark judges consulting together, a majority vote being decisive.

Trade mark judges shall, for each case, be designated by the Director of the Bureau of Trade Marks.

A trade mark judge shall withdraw from a hearing if he is interested in the matter, or has previously taken any part in the matter.

Article 31.—A decision in hearing may be given upon the documents of the case; but, if necessary, a time shall be fixed to conduct an oral hearing.

If any party to a hearing fails to observe the legal or fixed period of time, the hearing shall not be suspended.

Article 32.—A person who is interested in the matter of a hearing may, before such hearing comes to an end, apply to intervene. Whether or not this intervention shall be allowed, shall be decided after the parties have been inquired and consultation of the trade mark judges has been made.

If the act of a person intervening in a hearing conflicts with the act of the party he purports to assist, the intervention shall have no effect.

Article 33.—A person who is dissatisfied with the decision in a hearing may, within thirty days from the date when such decision has been served upon him, demand a rehearing of the matter. The provisions governing hearing shall apply to a rehearing.

Article 34.—If a petitioner is dissatisfied with the decision in a rehearing, he may, in conformity with the rules of law, within sixty days, appeal to the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce.

Further, if the petitioner is dissatisfied with the decision in the appeal and considers such decision to be contrary to the law and regulations in force, he may bring an action in conformity with the rules of law before the administrative court.

Article 35.—When a decision in a hearing in the matter of a trade mark has been given, no person whosoever shall be permitted to ask for another hearing on the same fact and evidence.

Article 36.—When a decision in a civil or criminal action with regard to the right for the exclusive use of a trade mark shall be instituted until the decision in the hearing has been definitely given.

London, Mar. 18.

In the House of Commons at question time, Mr. Sidney Webb, President of the Board of Trade, stated that the Government were communicating with the Chinese Government with regard to those provisions of the Chinese Trademark Law, which would affect British interests in China.—Reuter.

Peking's Reply to Diplomatic Body's Note: Vague and Unsatisfactory

Peking, Mar. 20.

The Chinese Government yesterday afternoon replied to the Diplomatic Body's Note regarding the Trade Mark Law. The Givernment agrees to extension of the period for registration till June next year instead of six months after recognition of the Law, complies with the Ministers' request for phblication of an English supplement of the Trade Marks Gazette, and says that foreign expert assistance may be employed when necessary.

The Diplomatic Body have not yet considered the reply, but it is not anticipated that these vague assurances will be found satisfactory.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

OUTPORT PRIDE

There is a parable told of a man who had a horror of dying at Wuhu, which illustrates the pride and jealousy of outports.

A Chungking resident was on his way back from Shanghai and falling mortally sick had to be landed, to his intense chagrin at Wuhu, of all places! Before he died he begged the doctor not to put on his tombstone the bald statement "Died at Wuhu" but to add the words "*on his way* to Chungking" so that posterity might think better of him than to suppose it was anything but a mere accident that his bones came to lie in such a spot.

The doctor promised, but when the tombstone was ready, local pride caused his gorge to rise and the epitaph he carved was this "Died on his way to Chungking. The prospect killed him."

Chungking's pride was sorely wounded when they heard of this outrage. They sent and caused the following additional words to be carved "To him who dies in this place, oh Death! where is thy sting?"

The battle between the outports was now joined. Wuhu countered with "He took a short cut" carved below their first inscription, Chungking took the sting out of Wuhu's insinuation by adding "Heaven was his home."

The controversy vexed fast and furious. Wuhu continued, "He did not belong to us." Chungking replied, "He was glad to go," and again Wuhu "His work here was finished;" and again Chungking, "He had rather be a doorkeeper in the House of the Lord."

The tombstones of outports are very large. There is no end to this parable.

JAPAN AND SOVIET RUSSIA

Negotiations Again Delayed Owing to Soviet's Anti-Japanese Measures

Peking, March 11.

M. Karakhan visited the Japanese Minister again yesterday and the questions that have recently arisen between Japan and Russia were discussed. No appreciable progress was made.

Tokio, Mar. 14.

To-day's meeting of the Cabinet decided to instruct Mr. Yoshizawa, the Minister at Peking, to insist on a settlement of the recent issues in Vladivostok before the question of formal negotiations with Russia can be taken up.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Peking, Mar. 17.

The Japanese Minister, Mr. Yoshizawa, called on the Soviet envoy, M. Karakhan, on Saturday following instructions from Tokio to endeavour to reach a settlement in regard to the questions which have recently arisen between Japan and Russia, the settlement of which, it is understood, must precede any discussions relating to recognition of the Soviet Government by Japan.

At a previous meeting, M. Karakhan had expressed the opinion regarding the arrests of Japanese at Vladivostok that Japanese naval and military officers could not be recognized as officials as they were in Russian territory only to study the language, but he was prepared to recommend the release of the Vice-Consul and of the two Consular interpreters who were engaged on official duty.

On Saturday Mr. Yoshizawa asked for the release of all the arrested Japanese and M. Karakhan promised to telegraph to Moscow recommending the immediate release of the Consular officials at least.

The direct result of the recent Russian activities in connexion with the Japanese has thus been to set back informal negotiations which might otherwise have already led to an understanding on which formal negotiations could have been started.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Vladivostok Japanese Released

Tokio, Mar. 18.

A special telegram to the "*Asahi*" from Vladivostok reports that Captain Matsui and the other Japanese arrested by the Russian authorities have been released owing to insufficiency of evidence, but it is expected that they will all be deported.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPAN AND THE RUSSIAN FISHERIES

Reported Agreement

Tokio, Mar. 18.

It is reported from Vladivostok that an agreement has been reached by Russian and Japanese unofficial fishery representatives, the latter agreeing to pay immediately Y. 500,000 of the Y. 1,750,000 outstanding, the balance to be remitted in three annual instalments. The Russians agree to reduce the percentage of increase on future leases of the fishing grounds.

This indicates that the differences between Russia and Japan in this and other questions are gradually being smoothed out.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PHILIPPINES FORTIFIED ZONE

Manila, March 14.

The Tsudushima Maru has been fined 200 pesos for approaching too close to the Corregidor.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

The "Journal of Commerce" reports that as the result of a gambling party (a struggle for the gambling taxes?) an armed conflict took place between the Hunan and Yunnan troops in Canton. Many casualties are reported and martial law has been declared.

"THE SLOW AND PAINFUL PROCESS"

Bandit Cut to Pieces by Soldiers: Fresh Outlawry in N. Kiangsu

From Our Own Correspondent.

Suchien, N. Ku., March 12.

A week or two ago, fresh soldiers were brought to the city and every day detachments are out in the country fighting bandits. These brigands do not give in easily; and daily wounded soldiers are being brought into the Mission Hospital.

Last Sunday two men were brought some 20 odd miles, on a wheelbarrow, badly wounded. While the doctor was attending to the one that seemed more serious, the other died, evidently from internal injuries. Yesterday the people of a village about six miles from here left their homes and came into Suchien to escape from the bandits.

One of them, who had been caught with 80 guns in his possession, was heavily manacled and led through the streets by a band of soldiers before he was killed. He had been so beaten, to make him confess, that the man could hardly walk. Arriving at the place where he was to die, it seems the soldiers literally cut him to pieces. The report is, they first cut off his ears, then his arms, and legs and finally cut out his heart. Some of the "wiser heads," to quote the Chinese phrase, say the bandits will be revenged.

ELEVEN EXECUTIONS.

To-day other 11 were killed. As there was no firing heard to-day, one does not know how they met their death. In the country not far from here the soldiers surrounded the bandits and set fire to the house they were in, sending back into the flames, any who tried to escape. The cruelty both of soldiers and bandits is appalling. I saw the wife of a soldier drying quite a number of garments on the city wall, that her husband had taken off wounded or dead brigands. Last week end, four men were caught right in our midst. One of them had been seen with the end of his revolver peeping out from under his coat. These men confessed to having abducted a little boy who was taken out of his bed not far from the big street. They say the child is dead, evidently from exposure. These things make every one close his house doors very early. Our city soldiers are very much on the alert. In the towers which guard the big street, the soldiers stand by their posts with cannon ready.

Only to-night I heard of a man living quite near who is demented after his ordeal in bandit hands. He is a representative of one of the richest homes in Suchien. The bandits attacked his home in the country. If he goes out at all, it is at night attended by one or two followers, and he spends his days amusing himself striking matches!

CANAL DEEPENED.

The canal bed is being dredged by squads of men, but the work is going on very slowly. It is being deepened some three feet but as the canal here is broad, it will take a considerable time to finish.

RUSSIAN CIGARETTES

An Important Harbin Industry

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Mar. 8.

Harbin is steadily growing in its industrial undertakings, and undoubtedly must become the Chicago of Manchuria thanks to its excellent geographical position. Among other undertakings that is having the serious attention of those who are directly interested in the future of this vast territory must be mentioned the tobacco factories. The Kirin tobacco leaf has long been famous throughout China, so that it is but natural that modern plants have been put up in order to supply the great demand for cigarettes.

But this is not all. Thanks to the large Russian population in the Railway Area and the close vicinity of the Russian frontier, there is a big local demand for Russian cigarettes which are likewise finding approval among other foreigners and Chinese alike. The well-known firm of Choorin & Co., the universal providers of the Russian Far East and who have been established at Harbin ever since the C.E.R. was inaugurated, have now a model factory in operation which is specializing the manufacture of Russian cigarettes of the highest quality. One of the principal partners of this firm has recently returned from Soviet Russia, where he made arrangements for the shipping to Harbin of Crimean leaf grown from Turkish plants and famous for its excellence of quality. Notwithstanding the short time the factory has been in operation it already has made a name for itself, receiving the only gold medal reward at the recent exhibition of Manchurian products held at Harbin under the auspices of the Manchurian Research Society of which Dr. C. C. Wong, the president of the C.E.R., is the head, it being largely on account of his initiative that this Society was founded.

Thanks to the excellence of these Russian cigarettes, which according to experts compare favourably with the old established Russian tobacco manufacturers, Messaksoudi, Gabai and Vostandjoglo, Choorin's products are now being exported in ever increasing quantities into Eastern Siberia and even into China, where the demand for Russian cigarettes is becoming greater every year.

HOLIDAYS IN MANCHURIA

Little-known Resorts on the C.E.R.: Good Scenery and Gay Nights

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ertzintzansku, two hours from Harbin by rail, combines the attractions of a Continental seaside resort with the advantages of a spa. Situated in magnificant scenery it is certainly an ideal place for summer holidays; if its name could be changed it deserves to be one of the best known holiday centres for residents in northern China.

There is an up-to-date hotel, the charges at which are reasonable, situated in its own extensive grounds where are facilities for tennis, croquet and boating, on an artificial lake, in which people can bathe. The establishment may really be termed a sanatorium. It has its own doctor, whom people visit to drink the waters here which have been found efficacious for all kinds of stomach trouble. At the bathing place on the lake there are hot and cold douches, and at the hotel, under the supervision of the resident doctor, people take the waters inwardly as at the famous European spas.

Food is prepared under the supervision of a former chief of a famous Petrograd restaurant. There is electric light, hot and cold baths, music at meals and all the comforts of a good modern hotel.

At nights the grounds are prettily illuminated. During the season concerts and other entertainments are given by artistes from Harbin in the grounds of the hotel and in its splendid dance hall.

There are several good reasons why the summer resorts recently opened along the Chinese Eastern Railway should be patronized by holidaymakers. Harbin is now only 40 hours by rail from Peking. The journey can be made in perfect comfort. A good room can be obtained at the Ertzintzansku and other hotels for $100 per month, and finally there is no chance of a dull evening, as at watering places in China and Japan, for few if any of them can boast concerts, dancing to a good orchestra and other distractions every evening.

PEITAIHO police force is being increased this year, the "North-China Mail" is informed by a resident, who adds that a big inrush of visitors is expected at Eastertide. The old picnic days of Peitaiho are fast disappearing, several new up-to-date residences having been built at this resort.

DISASTERS IN JAPAN

Submarine Sunk in Collision: Naval Airship Falls in Flames

Sasebo, Mar. 19.

Submarine 43, with a crew of four officers and 40 men, suddenly sank 100 (?10) miles outside the harbour here to-day, while undergoing a speed test, as a result of a collision with the warship Tatsuta.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

The submarine, which had a displacement of 800 tons, was commissioned in 1921.

Very little hope is entertained for the rescue of the crew.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Tokio, Mar. 19.

Another disaster befell the Navy to-day, when a dirigible of the "S" type suddenly caught fire and fell into a forest in the Ibaraki prefecture.

It is believed that the crew of five perished. Hitherto only the body of the commander has been recovered.

CREW ALL KILLED.

Later.

The disaster is understood to have been due to an explosion. The crew were all killed. Their bodies have been recovered.

The dirigible, which was 51 metres long, was imported from England three or four years ago. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

It transpires that Lieutenant Takahashi, Sub.-Lieut. Kataagiri and three others who were aboard the airship were all burned to death.—Eastern News Agency.

Airship Explosion Attributed to Wireless Radiation

Tokio, Mar. 20.

The sunken submarine 43 is lying horizontally on the sea-bottom with a damaged conning tower and flooded forward compartment, the occupants of which, including the commander, are believed to be dead. Communications have been established by under-water telephone with the after-compartment and reveal that two engineer officers and 16 men are still living, but are facing a horrible death by slow suffocation. Rescue work is being hurried on to enable air tubes to be introduced.

The collision occurred as the vessel was coming to the surface, causing the breaking of a joint in the conning-tower.

In connexion with the explosion of the dirigible, which is one of the Navy, it is believed in some quarters that the disaster is to be attributed to radiations from Funabashi wireless station. A message received from the craft five minutes before the explosion stated: "Antennae of Funabashi in sight. Dirigible unsteady and threatens to overturn." If this is true, the accident is regarded as unprecedented, though possible.

Sasebo, Mar. 20.

The crew of the submarine which sank yesterday morning at first answered a signal, saying "Quick! We are gasping!", but since last night there has been no answer.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

THE world's oldest battleship will shortly celebrate her jubilee. This is the Vasco da Gama, the pride and glory of the Portuguese navy, which was completed at Blackwall on the Thames in 1876. The Vasco has a displacement of 2,422 tons and carries a collection of Krupps and small guns. As she can be rarely coaxed from her moorings, she is usually retained as a floating battery to overawe the revolutionary-inclined citizens of Lisbon.

THE JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE

Japanese Chamber of Commerce Fund

Below will be found the statement of accounts of the Japanese Earthquake Sufferers Relief Fund Committee of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce:—

Subscriptions Acknowledged.

Y. 62,092.21 (Bank interest included)
$ 221,246.06 " "
Tls. 41,975.36 " "

Disbursements.

$ 37,413.36
Tls. 27,381.52

Disbursements in Details.

	Tls.	$
1. 40,000 pieces of cotton blankets bought at Tls. 52,136.87, payment of which is as follows, payment in taels	26,950.00	
payment in dollars, (Balance of total amount viz. Tls. 25,186.57 at 7230)		34,836.19
2. Comfort bags to Chinese refugees	77.50	2,012.74
3. Salaries to clerk and boys		230.00
4. Miscellaneous expenses	354.02	334.43
Total	27,381.52	37,413.36

Balance as follows:—

Y. 62,092.21.
$ 183,832.70.
Tls. 14,593.84.

Remittances Made:—

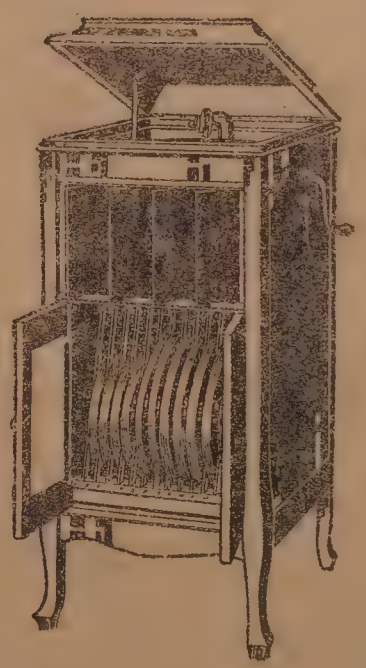
1st remittance (during October 1923) Y. 260,988.95
2nd remittance (during February 1924) 11,745.32
Total Y. 272,734.27

A Japanese steamer, the Peiha-Maru, a China coast vessel, is reported missing.

THE NEW

COLUMBIA GRAFONOLA

TRIBUTE FROM THE MASTER MUSICIANS



Sir HENRY J. WOOD

"I consider this instrument the greatest contribution to the advancement of music since the original invention of the gramophone itself."

Dame CLARA BUTT

"I feel that you have in this invention easily placed the Grafonola several years in advance of any other known gramophone."

Sir DAN GODFREY

"There is something about it which is different to all other gramophones, to my mind, very natural and satisfying in its fidelity."

Mr. HAMILTON HARTY

(*Conductor, Halle Orchestra*)

"Your instrument, by comparison, makes every other gramophone old fashioned and untrue."

Model No. 30a—270.

ROBINSON PIANO CO., LD.

TRADE FIGURES FOR TSINGTAO

Shipping and Business Statistics during February: Composition of Imports and Exports

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Mar. 14.

It has been ascertained that the total tonnage of cargoes shipped to the United States during the month of February was 4,906 tons, 82 per cent. of which went forward in Japanese bottoms. The shipments consisted of 3,018 tons of peanuts, 335 tons of groundnuts, 1,509 tons of groundnut oil, 25 tons of strawbraid and 19 tons of raw hides. These shipments were taken care of by three lines as follows:—

2,029 tons by Mitsui steamers,
1,385 tons by the Admiral Line,
1,354 tons by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

The total tonnage of shipments made to Europe was 10,587, of which 9,057 tons consisted of peanuts, 1,478 tons of groundnuts, 30 tons of strawbraid, 12 tons of human hair and 1 ton of raw hides. In the case of shipments to Europe, Japanese vessels only carried 37 per cent. of them, the rest being taken up by non-Japanese steamers. For example 3,569 tons were shipped in five German vessels, 2,241 tons in one Danish steamer, 1,681 tons in one Japanese steamer, 1,573 tons in two Dutch steamers and 1,422 tons in one British steamer.

RAILWAY THROUGH TRAFFIC.

In order to facilitate transportation of merchandise and produce by the overland route, the Kiao-Tsi Railway Administration is now negotiating with the Tientsin-Pukow Railway Administration for a resumption of the through-traffic arrangement in existence during the German regime, but which was discontinued with the Japanese occupation. It is proposed to run the train of one railway right through the line operated by the other without resorting to the process of unloading and reloading at Lokou or Huangtachiao as up till now. The freights will be intercollectable. This arrangement if carried through will be a boon to merchants.

SHIPPING ACTIVITY.

According to a report issued by the Kiao-tsi Railway Administration covering the receipts of the railway for the month of February, there has been an increase over the previous month both in freights and passage receipts. The receipts during February aggregated $638,000, being $237,700 for passage receipts, $399,773 for freights and $517 for miscellaneous items. This represents an increase of some 50 per cent. over the same month last year.

Since the commencement of March, the daily receipts in respect of passage tickets and freights have averaged $25,000, or an average increase of 25 per cent. over the receipts for the same period last year.

According to the report now issued of the Kiaochow Customs Trimonthly returns for the second 10 days of February, 43 vessels of an aggregate of 66,817 tons entered into and 46 vessels of an aggregate of 61,918 tons cleared from the port of Tsingtao during the period. There were 21 Japanese entries of 32,807 tons, 4 British entries of 11,231 tons, 2 American entries of 8,774 tons, one Italian entry of 4,798 tons, 9 Chinese entries of 3,591 tons, [illegible] and 2 Danish entries of 548 tons. The clearances were composed of 27 Japanese steamers of 35,722 tons, 4 British steamers of 11,231 tons, one Italian steamer of 4,798 tons, one American steamer of 8,517 tons, 9 Chinese steamers of 3,599 tons, 2 Norwegian steamers of 2,542 tons and 2 Danish steamers of 548 tons.

IMPORTS.

The principal imports were 33,240 pcs. of cotton goods comprising shirtings, sheetings, jeans, T-cloths, prints, Italians, Turkey reds, and flannels from Japan and 4,753 pcs. from Shanghai; 403 piculs of yarn from Japan and 189 piculs from Shanghai; 480 gross spools of thread from Japan; 31 piculs of cotton blankets from Japan and 3 piculs from Shanghai; 2 piculs of wool from Japan and 2 piculs from Shanghai; 1,765 catties of silk mixtures from Japan; 5,325 piculs of metals from Japan and 2,771 piculs from Shanghai, comprising wire, brass sheets, old iron and steel and galvanized sheets; 371 piculs of gunny bags from Japan, 382 piculs from India; 1,260 gross of buttons from Japan; Hk. Tls. 2,357 worth of crockery from Japan; 10,000 cigarettes from Japan and 1,200,000 from Shanghai; 162 clocks from Japan and 1 from Shanghai; 600 tons of coal from Japan; 5,058 piculs of raw cotton from Japan; Hk. Tls. 12,736 worth of aniline dyes from Hongkong and Tls. 2,877 from Shanghai; 600 piculs of artificial indigo from Shanghai; Hk. Tls. 621 worth of electrical materials from Japan, Tls. 1,044 from other countries, Tls. 830 from Shanghai; 2,290 dozen enamelled basins from Japan; 57 boxes window glass from Dairen; Hk. Tls. 4,432 worth of lamps and lampware from Japan, Tls. 1,905 from Shanghai and Tls. 34 from Dairen; 498 gross of safety matches from Japan and 50 gross from Shanghai; 7,970 pieces of straw mats from Japan; Tls. 10,412 worth of medicines from Japan, Tls. 763 from Hongkong, Tls. 800 from Shanghai and Tls. 3,049 from Dairen; 1,790,000 needles from Japan; 11,700 gallons of gasoline from Shanghai; 1,134,297 gallons of kerosene from the United States; 2,460 gallons of lubricating oil from Japan and 4,265 gallons from Shanghai; 096 piculs of paper from Japan and 13 piculs from Dairen; 234 piculs of sake from Japan and 13 piculs from Dairen; Hk. Tls. 1,192 worth of toilet soaps from Japan and Tls. 169 from Shanghai; 750 piculs of soda ash from Japan and 106 piculs of soda products also from Japan; 1,658 piculs of straw rope from Japan; 1,205 piculs of white sugar, and 4,600 piculs of refined sugar from Japan, 3,583 piculs from Hongkong and 3 piculs from Shanghai, 150 piculs of candy sugar from Japan, 922 piculs from Hongkong and 120 piculs from Shanghai; 44,816 sup. ft. of timber from Japan.

EXPORTS.

During the period under review there were exported 12,397 quarters of beef to Japan, 391 quarters to Dairen and 16 quarters to Shanghai; 10 dozen of beer to Japan, 1,920 dozen to Dairen, 2,000 dozen to Shanghai; 1,848 piculs of bones to Japan; 7,860 piculs of wheat bran to Japan; 5,137 tons of coal to Japan, 6,635 tons to Shanghai and 879 tons of coke to Japan; 3,068 piculs of cotton to Japan, 463 piculs to Dairen and 63 piculs of yarn to Dairen; 97 piculs of cuttlefish to Hongkong; 407 piculs of black dates to various Chinese ports; 3,266,000 eggs to Japan and 7,000 to Dairen; 40 piculs glassware to Shanghai and 479 piculs to other ports; 7,898 piculs of caked groundnuts to Japan and 8,364 piculs to various Chinese ports, 4,079 piculs of unshelled groundnuts to Japan, 975 piculs to the United States and 6,998 to other countries, 6,900 piculs shelled to Japan, 25,097 piculs to the United States, 18,480 piculs to Great Britain, 9,323 piculs to other countries and 2,226 piculs to Chinese ports; 14 piculs groundnut oil to Japan, 9,707 piculs to the United States, 2,501 piculs to Hongkong, 576 piculs to Dairen and 3,233 piculs to other Chinese ports; 48 piculs human hair to Japan; 12 [illegible] medicines to Hongkong; [illegible] piculs dried persimmons to Japan and 37 piculs to Dairen; [illegible] piculs of silk to Japan; 13 piculs of aprium seeds to Hongkong; 72 piculs of melon seeds to Shanghai, 65 piculs of skins and hides to Japan, 256 piculs to Dairen and 349 piculs to Shanghai; 1,394 piculs of straw braid to Japan and 125 piculs to Shanghai; 2,050 piculs of tallow to Japan and 13 piculs to Shanghai; Hk. Tls. 50,235 worth of timber to Japan; 2,502 piculs leaf tobacco to Japan and 3,950 piculs to Shanghai.

The "Harbin Daily News" of the 12th instant learns "authentically" that mobilization has been ordered in the Amur, for the purpose of bringing pressure to bear on China during the Sino Russian negotiations and to occupy the Chinese Eastern Railway.

OUR TOKIO LETTER

The Talk About Shifting the Capital: Rival Glories of Yedo and Tokio

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Mar. 3.

"Tokio shall not only reserve its position as the capital of the Empire, but shall also be restored to added prosperity."

Such was the announcement issued by the Prince Regent in September when, with Tokio or the greater part of it a heap of ashes and heart-breaking ruins, the thoughts of the people naturally formulated this question, desiring to know whether the city was to continue to be the capital of the Empire.

There was considerable talk of the capital being removed from Tokio to Kioto, and the past glories of Kioto, the ancient seat of the Government and of the Imperial Family, were brought formidably to the fore by powerful journals in Osaka and Kobe that the capital be transferred from the lowlands of Kwanto to the mountoins of Kwansai.

All speculation, however, was set aside when the message of the Prince Regent was issued, the message having coupled with it an appeal to the people to unite in aiding a better and finer Tokio to arise, phoenix-like, from the ruins of the old city.

RUMOUR AGAIN REVIVES.

The report that the capital of the Japanese Empire will be removed seems to have been revived again. An article in the London "Daily Telegraph" from the pen of Mr. Percival Langdon, the well-known correspondent of that English journal who is now in the Far East, declares that the thoughts of the authorities and of the people are veering towards shifting the country's capital most probably, to Kioto. A third serious quake, declares Mr. Langdon in effect, is all that is needed to send the institutions hurrying post-haste to the mountains of south western Japan.

I asked several influential Japanese to-day whether any such scheme was being contemplated, those with whom I spoke including officials attached to the Home Department and to the Foreign Office. Their reply, in substance, was almost a paraphrase of the announcement made in September by the Prince Regent to his subjects.

"But," I ventured to ask one, "suppose as some say a third quake should overwhelm this city and destroy it again including the Imperial Palace (a rather dangerous and almost blasphemous supposition to make) would not some change be desirable?"

The answer, almost solemn and laconic, was: "The capital will remain in Tokio. Such is the wish of the Prince Regent to whom his Majesty the Emperor has delegated authority. Such is also the wish of the people. If the palace is destroyed, it will be rebuilt again."

PEOPLE WANT TOKIO.

A Japanese journalist, who has represented some of the best papers in the Empire abroad for many years, told me that if any one seriously proposed changing the capital and the plan for removing it showed any signs of success, that man's life and those of his supporters would be in extreme danger. From conversations I have had with representatives of the various strata of life in the capital, conversations in the street, on the trams, in the parks, I am in a position to say that the people emphatically desire to see Tokio remain the capital and the city restored to even more than its former grandeur and dignity.

One of the most potent reasons for this is the sentimental chord the very mention of Tokio strikes in the sensitive Japanese breast, for it was Tokio that, as the capital of Modern Japan, saw this country emerge from a group of almost unkown islands and advance meteorically to one of the proudest poritions in the firmament of nations; it was with Tokio as the capital the Empire rejoiced that the country's voice was convincing enough to have London, Washington, Paris, Rome listen and pay attention when Tokio saw fit to talk.

CITY COUNCIL'S VIEW.

"Change the capital!" exclaimed one of the city fathers of Tokio indignantly. "Why, certainly not!"

He then reached forward to one of the little wooden boxes ranged alongside his desk and drew out a file from which he selected a paper. "This," he said, "is the message that Tokio City issued when a meeting of aldermen was called for the first time since the disaster smote us. It remains as true to-day as it was then."

The message of Tokio City, through the aldermen, to the rest of Japan reads:

"Our city has been almost destroyed and must be rebuilt in its entirety. Let us set aside the blemishes of the vanished Tokio, profit from the stern lessons we have learnt and rebuild a new Tokio, with wide avenues and safe houses, abundantly provided with the essentials of a modern city, with no more fire-trap alleys and side-streets, a city that should be worthy of being the capital of the Empire."

FOREIGNERS AGAINST CHANGE.

Foreigners generally do not favour the shifting of the capital—not that their opinion will carry very much weight if the Japanese authorities think the change ought to be made.

The British Embassy has already commenced permanent reconstruction of its brick and stone buildings, which occupy one of the prettiest and most picturesque portions of Tokio. While the fire did not wreak much havoc at the official residence of the representative of his Britannic Majesty in Tokio, the buildings were badly battered.

The French are planning a fine structure too—on the same site.

The Russian Embassy has been knocked about a bit, but was in a section of the city where the fires did not reach. No repair work has been taken in hand as yet, but this, so say many, will soon be done, for it is expected that before the end of this year a Bolshevik envoy and his retinue will be housed in this old Tzarist pile of buildings and the Red Flag will fly from the mast-head where, even to-day, without a representative, the Monarchist emblem of Imperial Russia flutters in the breeze.

RECONSTRUCTION WELL UNDER WAY.

On no hand are there signs of people hesitating to rebuild in Tokio for fear that the capital may be transferred elsewhere. The business centre, Marnouchi, which has some of the tallest buildings in the city, several of which were only partially damaged, has practically repaired all these and business is humming. New skyscrapers are being erected; half-completed ones are being hastened to completion to be ready for the prosperity everyone believes Tokio will enjoy within a decade.

JAPANESE SHIPPING

Seriously Threatened by American Preferential Tariff: Reprisals Discussed

Tokio, Mar. 20.

Execution of Article 28 of the American Shipping Law giving preferental railway rates on cargo carried to or from America by American vessels is regarded as seriously damaging to Japanese shipping in the Pacific.

The Japanese Ambassador at Washington has been instructed to protest on the ground that this Article violates Articles 1 and 6 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation of 1911.

In some quarters enforcing of the Law is considered impracticable in view of existing contracts.

It is understood that the question of reprisals is being discussed should satisfaction not be obtainable by diplomatic means.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A Tientsin telegram to the *"Shunpao"* states that the silver coins ordered by the Government in commemoration of the inauguration of President Tsao Kun have been minted and will soon be placed on the market for circulation.

LOYANG'S IMMENSE INFLUENCE

Sweeping Changes in High Official Posts: Honan's Civil Government

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kaifeng, Ho., Mar. 13.

Mr. Li, the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs here, whose transference to Loyang was mentioned in my last letter, has now departed. The Bureau is to follow shortly, after which the Commissioner will be represented by two "advisers" in the old Honan Waichiaopu.

The Chinese press reports the coming of a new Commissioner to take charge of the provincial Department of Finance. Mr. Liu Tsi-ching, who at present holds this office, is said to be on the point of taking up "a very important appointment"—nothing less than that of Civil Governor of the province. The question naturally will be asked, What will become of the present Civil Governor, Mr. Li Chi-cheng? It will be remembered that he has been holding office but a short time, was formerly Marshal Wu's chief-of-staff and that previous to his appointment as Civil Governor, he was sent to Kaifeng as Tupan in order that the Marshal might more effectively control affairs here. The assumption is that Mr. Li is to be transferred to Kiangsi as Tuli of that province. This step by step, say the political wiseacres, the Marshal is increasing his power.

THE NEW FINANCE COMMISSIONER.

The new Commissioner of Finance is a Mr. Chow, who at present is acting Chief Officer in Marshal Wu's commissariat department. Having had this training in providing the forces under the Marshal with all things needful, he will no doubt be well qualified to turn as much as possible of the provincial revenues into the military coffers. Of his immediate predecessor, Mr. Liu, it is said that he had a similar training in the army supply department, and for that very reason Wu Pei-fu had found him a thoroughly desirable Financial Commissioner.

When the present Tuli came to Honan, he was Commander of the 24th Division, which rank he no longer holds. Another of the Marshal's close, personal attendants is given this command, "as a reward for the death of Lao Yang-jen, and the dispersion of the brigands in western Honan." It is a reward for that meritorious action, no doubt, and incidentally it robs the Tuli of Honan of his greatest power, and adds that much to the immediate following of the Marshal.

MARSHALL WU OFFERED VICE-PRESIDENCY?

You had the news that Gen. Chang Shou-tseng, ex-Premier of China has been recently a guest at Loyang. From Loyang the ex-Premier came to Kaifeng and was the Tuli's guest for several days. There is a conviction here that Gen. Chang went to Loyang to make the Marshal a definite offer of the vice-Presidency.

Marshal Wu played coy with these advances, rejoining, so it is asserted that, "He would rather be deified in the temple of Kuan Yu, than follow in the train of the civil sage." This may be, but the opinion is firmly rooted in the minds of those who have had the opportunity of being close to him, that the Marshal is so trimming his sails in these days of comparative calm that he may sail triumphantly into the port of highest power when a storm eventutlly comes up.

At a military conference held in Canton under the chairmanship of Dr. Sun Yat-sen several days ago it was decided (1) to order several military commanders to start out on the expedition against the north; (2) to appoint several overseas Chinese to collect funds for the expedition; (3) to send several gunboats to aid Gen. Chuang Tsz-ping, Commissioner of Defence at Amoy, in an attack on Swatow; and (4) to urge the Diplomatic Corps to refrain from supplying Peking with money, arms or ammunition.—*"Sinwanpao."*

THE STEREOSCOPE IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Interesting Lecture on a Most, Fascinating Subject by Mr. G. Hummel

The fascinating subject of stereoscopic photography was presented to the Photographic Society in the Union Church Hall on Wednesday by Mr. Gerald Hummel.

In introducing the subject Mr. Hummel said that the meaning of "stereoscopic" was practically "solid vision." This meant that in a photograph the eye saw objects standing out in their true natural relief. In the early sixties this form of photography excited universal attention, and at the Photographic Exhibition held in 1862 it was the most popular form of souvenir. Then, however, interest in it seemed to wane, and the reason for this was probably to be found in the fact that while stereoscopic photography was simple and easy to understand it required great care in each of the operations connected with it, and this had probably not been given it. In recent years, however, interest had again revived, especially among amateurs, and as proof of this renewed popularity he pointed to the great number of patents which had been taken out for stereoscopic appliances.

A REFERENCE TO EUCLID.

Dealing with what was usually spoken of as the least interesting part of stereoscopic work, which was comprised in the theory of binocular vision, Mr. Hummel referred his hearers to the work of Euclid. Two thousand years ago Euclid studied and wrote on binocular vision, though naturally he knew nothing of photography with a binocular camera. He, however, demonstrated the fact that each eye saw differently when looking at an object, and that it was by the union of these dissimilar pictures that the eyes saw the object as a whole standing out as in nature. This was what stereoscopic photography aimed at.

This could not be accomplished by the ordinary single-lens camera taking one object only, for all objects were thus presented on one plane only. As it were the camera was looking with only one eye. As in the case of the eyes the camera had to have the means of taking two pictures about the same distance apart as the eyes and then there must be a means of superimposing them. This was achieved by the use of the stereoscopic camera and the stereoscope.

While Mr. Hummel recommended the use of a two-lens camera for steroscopic work, he mentioned that good pictures might be taken of absolutely still objects with an ordinary single-lens camera. The best method, of course, was when the two pictures were taken at exactly the same moment, and while this was the only method by which instantaneous work could be done it had the advantage in ensuring that the two exposures were taken by exactly the same light.

Dealing with the subject of the distance between the two lenses Mr. Hummel thought that the best method was to have an adjustable front so that the separation could be regulated to suit the object being photographed. Half an inch in the separation would make all the difference between naturalness or exaggeration of relief.

THE CHOICE OF SUBJECTS.

In reference to the choice of subjects Mr. Hummel mentioned that provided his technique was good, the success of a photographer depended upon his artistic ability, training, or capacity to select or arrange his subjects. The most suitable and effective subjects were those in which immediate foreground, middle distance and extreme distance were found, the most important of these being the first. There must be something in the foreground to give the requisite relief. Nothing made better or more effective slides than avenues, country lanes, suitable interiors colonnades and places where objects stood out in relief 10 or 12 feet away from the camera. Water made a good foreground especially if there was something floating on the surface, such as leaves or water lilies. Portraiture and still life studies were among the most successful branches of stereoscopic work.

Mr. Hummel illustrated a lecture of great interest by showing a number of stereoscopic slides.

ENCOURAGES THE MODERN BREED OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH.—
P.W.D.
THE GAS Co
FURNISHES NEW IDEAS FOR THE HARRIERS CLUB.—
ELECTRECITY DEPT
AND THE ALWAYS UP-TO-DATE
TELEPHON Co
KINDLY PROVIDES FOR FOOT PASSENGERS.—
HAS A BRILLIANT IDEA OF WHAT MOTORISTS NEED
BUT WOULD'NT WE ALL MUCH SOONER HAVE OUR STREETS AS THEY SHOULD BE ?—

Shanghai learns to adapt itself to the perennial state of its streets.

THE AERODROME AT LUNGHUA

Departure of Machines for Hangchow

Important developments are understood to have taken place in the local aerial situation within the past few days. Recently the aerodrome at Lunghua housed at least 20 aeroplanes—probably more—and a number were being flown with a certain amount of regularity. Now, it is understood, all except a very few have gone, and it is understood that they are at Hangchow.

This means that the centre of local aerial activity will for the future be at Hangchow. It is understood that the space available for landing, etc., at Lunghua, cramped the activities of the Chinese air force from the point of view of training, as there was always the danger of a machine on landing running into another machine on the ground. It is believed that a great deal more space is available at Hangchow and that accordingly the force hopes to make more rapid progress there with its instructional work.

WITH reference to the round-the-world flight by United States Army aviators, we understand that the flying men are due to arrive in Shanghai on May 1. They left Chicago on the 18th instant for Los Angeles, the first stop.

THE nominations to the Tientsin British Municipal Council for the ensuing year correspond with the number of vacancies, so there will be no contest. The British Concession, therefore, retains the services of Col. P. C. Young, Messrs. E. W. Carter, K. H. Chun, W. M. Howell, H. A. Lucker, E. C. Peters and A. E. Tipper, while the Council will have the assistance of Mr. H. F. Dyott, of Messrs. Wilson & Co., and Mr. James Turner, a well-known authority on many diverse subjects.

WEDDINGS

Miller-Chapman

The wedding of Miss Margery W. Chapman and of Mr. Herbert Frederick Miller of Griffith John College, Hankow, was celebrated in the Holy Trinity Cathdral on Saturday morning. The Very Rev. Dean Symons officiated.

The bride, who looked charming in a simple white satin gown, carrying a bouquet of white carnations, was given away by Mr. O. P. R. Beynon, while Miss Joan Huggett, of Shantung Road Hospital, acted as bridesmaid and little Miss Joan Berry as flower girl. The latter was dressed in white silk and carried a basket of violets and pink roses.

Dr. Austin performed the duties of best man.

Following the ceremony a small reception was held for the immediate friends of the family at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Beynon, 3 Shantung Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller will make their future home in Hankow.

Buijs-Bell

The wedding of Miss Ellen Edith Bell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bell, of Roseville, Sydney, and of Mr. Nicoles Buijs, of the Merchant Service, son of the late Mr. Buijs of Holland, was celebrated on the 13th instant at St. Andrew's Church following the civil ceremony at H. B. M. Consulate-General before Mr. Sidney Barton, Consul-General. The Rev. T. W. Hall officiated.

Miss Bell, who was given away by Mr. S. Kemp, a friend of the bridegroom, wore a charming dress of cream satin crepe which was daintily trimmed and carried a bouquet of white carnations and fresias.

Mr. A. Horne, friend of the bride, acted as best man. After the ceremony a reception was held at Shepherd's Hotel, where intimate friends, of both bride and bridegroom assembled.

Abily-de Liniewska

A very pretty wedding took place on Saturday morning in St. Joseph's Church, which was exquisitely decorated for the occasion, when Mlle. Emilie de Liniewska, the youngest daughter of Col. and Mme. W. de Liniewska, was married to M. Germain Abily, son of M. and Mme. G. Abily, formerly agent of the Messageries Maritimes in Japan. The Reverend Father Maumus, S.J., officiated.

The bride, who was given away by M. M. Darre, wore a handsome gown of white French charmeuse and lace, with white roses and lilies of the valley. The long embroidered lace veil was held in place by a coronet of white roses. The bridemaids, Mlles. Mireille, Xavière and Josette de Boissezon, wore exquisite white taffetas and carried baskets of pale rose carnations. In the absence of the bridegroom's mother, Mme. A. Fabre accompanied him to the altar. Witnesses for the bride were Messrs. J. Beudin and Ch. de Boissezon, those for the bridegroom being Messrs. H. de Boissezon and J. Donné.

A very pleasant reception was held at the residence of M. and Mme. Darre, 53 Rue Molière, which was attended by a large gathering of friends.

The civil ceremony took place on the previous day at the French Consulate, and was performed by Monsieur A. Wilden, Consul-General for France.

THE engagement of Miss Faith Chang, second daughter of the late Mr. Y. C. Chang, formerly of Shanghai Shantung Road Hospital, to Mr. Hugh Pao of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. (comprador's staff) was announced last Saturday at the residence of Mr. E. S. Ling, among the lady's relatives and intimate friends. Miss Chang is connected with the Beulah Academy on North Szechuen Road.

THE str. Callandria arrived in Shanghai on Tuesday after a voyage of 42 days across the Pacific Ocean from Vancouver, B. C. Very bad weather was experienced shortly after leaving port and the heavily laden vessel, with 8,550 tons of wheat in the holds, was practically at the mercy of the winds and seas. Then to add to her difficulties she was at first unable to get coal in Honolulu, for the usual merchant supply had been taken up by the large number of vessels which had just visited the port. Special cables to the Naval Department in Washington resulted in permission to bunker with navy coal and she proceeded to Shanghai.

CHINA'S WEAKNESS IN AN ANCIENT DAY

Dr. Ferguson on the Southern Migration of the Sung Dynasty

The troubles times of the Sung Dynasty formed the subject of a fascinating historical sketch by Dr. J. C. Ferguson, before members of the Royal Asiatic Society on Wednesday. The lecture was well attended and was followed with the closest interest.

Dr. Ferguson's theme was the causes which brought about removal of the Sung Dynsaty from Kaifeng in Honan province to Hangchow and he first pointed out that the period covered by the reigns of Che Tsung, Hui Tsung and Ch'in Tsung must be considered as one epoch. It was during this time that the waning fortunes of the Sung Emperors came to a climax, and the immediate cause of their decline was the controversy which grew up around the political theories of Wang An-shih (A. D. 1021-1086). Fierce discussion was engendered by Wang's revolutionary theories on private property, the relation of the citizen to the State, and public taxation, the methods he recommended being that the State could conscript labour, call upon the citizens to bear arms and compel a socialistic form of taxation. These political theories had been made necessary in order to provide funds to maintain the extravagance of the Court and to make possible the military expoditions against the Tartars who were pressing him from the north, and they were opposed by the Conservative party under the leadership of Ssu-ma, Kuang Ch'eng I, Su Shih and Liu Chih.

CORRUPT AND LICENTIOUS COURT.

The southern migration of the Sungs was thus brought about, its primary cause being the weakness and incapacity of the Emperors, coupled with constant submission to flattery and deceit by their couriers, such as T'ung Kuan and Ch'in Kuei. These rascals pandered to the expensive tastes and vicious habits of the Emperors. They also interfered with the succession, and in several instances younger brothers were placed upon the throne in defiance of the legitimate heir.

Although the Sung Emperors favoured art and literature and extended their patronage to artists and learned men, there was but slight restraint upon their own personal caprices or those of the Court, and the Government was constantly pressed for funds in order to satisfy the whims of Imperial favourites. Meanwhile, the Tartars frequently sent bands to ravage the cities on the Northern frontier and finally combined in an expedition against Kaifeng, in which the young Emperor Ch'in Tsung and his father Hui Tsung were captured and taken into captivity in Manchuria in 1127. One of the Princes, K'ang Wang, who was visiting Nanking at the time and who is known in history as Kao Tsung, was proclaimed Emperor and finally, after many years of wandering made his capital at Hangchow. These wanderings took the the new Emperor to Ch'i-chow in Shangtung, to Yangchow, Chinkiang, Changchow, Soochow, Kashing, and Ningpo before final establishment of the southern Sung Dynsasty at Hangchow in A. D. 1139. Thus it would be seen, Dr. Ferguson concluded, that the break-up of the country and its subjection to a stronger, hardier race such as that which came from the north, became inevitable.

A great crowd of Chinese assembled outside the Shang Seung Guild, Nantao, on Monday afternoon in anticipation of witnessing the execution of two members of a robber gang who attacked and wounded three or four Chinese police. Preparations for the event had been made by sand-bagging the guild house and placing a cordon of police round the square, but although the crowd waited patiently all the afternoon and well into the evening, the principal actors in the scene made no appearance. It was a disappointed crowd that went home when darkness fell.

SHANGHAI NEWS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BALL

Brilliant Success this Year at the Carlton: The Biggest Since Pre-war Years

Shanghai Irishmen were well content on Monday with their celebration of St. Patrick's Day, it being generally agreed that the festivities in every way were on a wider and more pleasant scale than ever before. The Irishmen one met coming away from the ball in the early hours of this morning all were demanding to know, with the fervour of their race, what nationality had organized a better ball than theirs, and, having attained so high a standard, it is unlikely that the St. Patrick's Society ever will be content with anything less.

Early in the day telegraphic greetings were sent by the Society to the Irish Societies at Hankow, Tientsin and Hongkong and cordial replies later on were received. Then at noon, Mr. L. M. ff. Beytagh (the President), members of the committee and several ladies assembled at the War Memorial, on which was deposited a handsome wreath in the shape of an Irish harp, 2½ ft. high, with the inscription in gold lettering on green ribbons:—"To the glorious memory of the Allied dead, 1914-1918, from the St Patrick's Society of Shanghai."

600 GUESTS AT THE BALL.

The big event was the ball in the evening at the Carlton Café. It was one of the biggest public functions yet held there and the most ambitious event fostered by the St. Patrick's Society for several years, so the greatest credit is due to all concerned with the arrangements, for it was in every way a great success. The Municipal Council and the police assisted by allowing the suspension of the closing order for as long as was required and Mr. Louis Ladow and his assistants did everything in their power to help, for which the committee wish to tender their cordial thanks. The Carlton Café proved to be an ideal place for such an event. The floor has its limitations, but the Committee met that by a strict censorship on the list of invitations, first ensuring that none of Irish nationality missed the opportunity of attending and then finally closing the list at 600 guests, a number large enough comfortably to fill the ball room without crowding. Then the café is better equipped than the Town Hall for a big ball. The balcony the space under it and the roomy corridors afforded plenty of space for all to sit out between dances and of course the fine dining room easily could cope with the wants of such an attendance, eliminating the scrimmages which occur round the supper room entrance at the Town Hall. Last night 350 sat down to the first supper in perfect comfort and the remainder at a second sitting.

CHERRY BLOSSOM AND SHAMROCK.

In another particular the Carlton Café also relieved the Committee of much worry, for it requires very little extra decoration. Indeed, it needs practically no more than just those touches essential on such an occasion to indicate the national character of the festivities. Arched bamboo foliage adorned the front corridor and the lower hall. In the ball room the pretty cherry blossom decorations had been left standing and on the pillars in between the trees there were hung shields of the coats-or-arms of famous Irish families and the various counties. In the centre of the stage curtain there was mounted the Society's framed portrait of St. Patrick, draped with the St. Patrick's Crosses and guarded on either side by the flags of the Irish Free State and the Northern Counties, with a big Union Jack in between. The Saint had undergone renovation and with a powerful spotlight thrown on him from the balcony he looked very well. A simple but pleasing decoration on the stage was the work of Miss T. Dunne, who had spent several hours during the day hanging the orchestra's music stands with curtains of interlaced shamrock and emerald green ribbons bearing little golden harps. It was a very pretty feature. The balcony was hung with various flags. In the corridors and the dining room more of the heraldic shields were employed, but there was little other attempt at extra decoration. Over the President's chair the Union Jack and Irish flags were draped. In fixing the decorations the Committee had the able assistance of a party of naval ratings from H. M. S. Diomede, so it goes without saying that everything was arranged neatly and quietly in the shortest possible time. The corridor leading to the theatre was arranged as a bar.

OFFICIAL GUESTS.

Mr. Beytagh opened the ball at 9.30, being played around the ball room by Mr. Kieran Begdon, official piper to the Society, who was dressed in the old Irish kilt and full piper's regalia. The official guests, most of whom then had been welcomed by the President were:—

Mr. [illegible] (H. M. Consul-General) and Mrs. Barton, Sir Skinner [illegible], Farmer, Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Murray Anderson, Judge Peter Grain, Mr. W. H. Trenchard Davis (President, St. George's Society) and Mrs. Davis, Mr. C. H. Rutherford (President, St. Andrew's Society) and Mrs. Rutherford, the Consul-General for [illegible] and Mme Wilden, the Consul-General for Italy and Mme de Ross, the Consul-General for the United States and Mrs. Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Lobingier, Mr. Stirling Fessenden, Mr. K. J. McEuen, Col. W. F. L. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. T. I. Vaughan and Mrs. Lavers.

"TH 'WEARIN' O' TH' GREEN."

Dancing then went on merrily for several hours and the official programme must have been nearly doubled. Excellent music was played by the Carlton orchestra and a pleasant feature was the introduction every now and again of famous old Irish airs, played to dance time, such as "St. Patrick's Day," "When Irish Eyes are Smiling," "Kathleen Mavourneen," "Killarney," "My Wild Irish Rose," "Come Back to Erin," "Tipperary," and "Th' Wearin' o' th' Green." Although the Committee had worked all the time on the idea that it should be a ball and not half a concert, they were unable to resist the introduction of just a few Irish numbers and these all proved to be very popular. Miss Dunne singing "The Meeting of the Waters" and "The Minstrel Boy," Mrs. O'Hara two Irish songs by Gough, and Mrs. Lavers playing some selections on the harp. There was also Piper Begdon again at supper time to arouse still greater enthusiasm with the bracing music of the pipes as he played the President and his party in to supper.

YE PUNCH-MIXER.

An Irish ball in Shanghai never is complete unless Mr. J. J. Sheridan attends in his particular role as official punch-mixer. This time he had the assistance of Mr. D. P. Griffith and they concocted a real Irish brew that appealed to the taste of all.

The President and Mr. T. P. Givens (hon. secretary) deserve special praise for the great success achieved, but it was not accomplished without a great deal of hard work on the part of all the members of the commitee, who divided the duties as follows:—

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. L. P. Ridgway. President's Table: Messrs. L. M. ff. Beytagh and H. P. Wilkinson. Music: Mr. J. J. Dunne and Dr. J. A. O'Driscoll. Decorations: Messrs. L. M. ff. Beytagh, J. J. Sheridan, J. F. Feely & G. L. Peet. Publicity: Messrs. L. W Hartigan and T. P. Givens. Refreshments: Messrs. J. J. Sheridan, S. W. Wolfe, J. J. Dunne & L. L. P. Ridgway. Ushers: Dr. J. A. O'Driscoll, Messrs. J. J. Murphy & E. H. Lynch. Stewards: Messrs. J. F. Feely and T. P. Givens. Punch: Messrs. D. P. Griffith & J. J. Sheridan.

Mr. Beytagh, President of St. Patrick's Society.

The Dresses: Some Bewitching Creations

As is usual at these national balls the dresses of the ladies present were handsome and original and the present vogue for bright colourings and rich materials made this occasion particularly brilliant. Mrs. L. M. ff. Beytagh, the wife of the president of the Society, received the guests in a charming gown of soft green, shimmering shot satin, cut with a round decolletage and sleeveless the skirt trimmed with deep bands of bandsome silver lace. A wide sash was knotted at the side and caught with a large pale pink chrysanthemum. Her green apera cloak from Liberty's demands special mention for its marvellous collar of Nile green and grey ostrich.

Mrs. H. P. Wilkinson, who assisted Mrs. Beytagh in receiving, wore a Parisian creation of blue and silver *lamé*, with silver slippers and a silver headband in the style of a Russian head-dress. Lady Pearce, in compliment to the occasion, wore a becoming gown of green georgette, cut on long, straight lines, with a band to match about her head. Lady Turner was distinguished in black velvet, cut on severely simple lines and skilfully draped at the side, the fulness caught by a jet ornament with long strings of jet beads. Her ornaments were crystals. Miss Turner was an effective contrast in a sweetly pretty white lace frock, with a silver sash and silver shoes.

Mrs. J. J. Sheridan wore a picturesque *robe de style* of blue shot taffeta, with a plain long-waisted bodice and an extremely bouffant skirt, shimmering with ruffles of silver lace, arranged in a panel down the front and edging the skirt. About the waist were set ermine tails and a large flower ornament completed the captivating picture.

Mrs. Murray Anderson, wife of Rear-Admiral Anderson, wore a striking gown of brown and silver brocade, cleverly draped with silver lace, and cut with a panel train. Miss Addis wore white georgette, richly embroidered with silver bugles, with a big bow at the side. Miss Fox wore a piquant red and silver brocade, cut perfectly straight and opening over a silver underskirt in front. Mrs. Brooke-Smith appeared in a handsome green and silver brocade, with the fulness drawn to the side and falling in graceful lines. Mrs. W. F. C. Gordon, wife of Colonel Gordon, wore Honiton lace artistically draped over a white satin underdress which followed the long, straight mode.

Mrs. D. P. Griffith selected a gown of gold lace over gold satin, trimmed with a chic multicoloured floral ornament. Mrs. H. Yorke Irwine presented the smart slim silhouette of the moment, in purple and silver, with which she loyally displayed the national emblem. Mrs. W. E. O'Hara wore an effective plum velvet, trimmed with silver lace and skunk fur, with a side train, and handkerchief back. Mrs. J. A. O'Driscoll wore a stylish bottle-green silk, heavily beaded. Mrs. J. J. Dunne wore black crepe de chine, modishly draped, and caught with a jet clasp, with black silk lace sleeves and a small train. Miss Dunne wore crimson, set off with cut steel beads and Miss Theresa Dunne wore a bouffant gown of green chiffon trimmed with silver lace. These represent but a few of the bewitching costumes which the evening brought out but are selected as representative bits of the picturesque *ensemble*.

SPANISH WAR VETERANS (SHANGHAI POST)

Charter Granted to Local Organization

That a charter will be issued to the local organization of Spanish War Veterans (American) shortly, is the information conveyed in a letter from Ralph H. Carroll, Adjutant-General of the Society, to Mr. William Van Buskirk, which he received in the last mail. The message also brought to Mr. Van Buskirk his appointment as Aide-de-camp to the staff of the Commander-in-Chief and empowers him to call the first meeting, institute camp and supervise details of organization, such as election of officers and transmitting the list of charter members to headquarters.

The movement was begun in December on the initiative of Mr. Van Buskirk, who was an active member of Lawton Egbert Post in Manila, prior to his arrival in Shanghai, where he is now Deputy U. S. Marshal. The following Shanghai men signed the application for the post:—Messrs. Whitney Essler, Charles Hannigs, Hubert S. Honigsberg, Clifford French, Dennis Carrol, Samuel L. Frost (deceased), James D. Sullivan, Chauncey P. Holcomb and Charles F. Long. There are in addition to these 33 more veterans in Shanghai known to the committee and it is urged that they all get into immediate communicaion with Mr. Van Buskirk at the American Court as well as any others newly arrived in the Orient. The fees are nominal, but G.$10 being necessary for the granting of the charter.

A special dispensation has been granted in connexion with the formation of the Shanghai Post because of the long distances involved and much of the red tape has been done away with, while a special time limit has been fixed to allow for the difficulties of communication.

Adjutant-General Carroll writes, extending his best wishes to the new Post—"Comradeship is less than than love but means a great deal more than friendship"—and urges all veterans to become associated at once.

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NEW HOME

Monday's Formal Opening Ceremony

A large and distinguished company on Monday attended the formal opening of the offices of the Yamên for Foreign Affairs, in the New West District, in Chinese territory beyond the creek at the far end of Route Ghisi. The guests were welcomed by Mr. Hsu Yuan, Special Commissioner for Foreign Affairs for Kiangsu, Gen. Ho Feng-ling, Defence Commissioner, and the staff of the Yamên. Amongst those present were all the foreign Consuls and many members of their staffs, Rear-Admiral Anderson, Mr. Stirling Fessenden (Chairman) and Mr. E. S. Benbow Rowe (acting Secretary), representing the Shanghai Municipal Council, officials of the French Municipal Council, Judge Sir Skinner Turner, Judge Peter Grain, Col. W. F. L. Gordon (Commandant of the S.V.C.), a number of foreign naval and military officers, the Very Rev. Dean C. J. F. Symons, Mr. John Prentice, Dr. D. MacGillivray, and others.

Prominent on a small dais in the room where the reception was held were a number of tablets, silver shields, cups and other gifts sent to the Commissioner, these including a tablet from the Consular Body and a silver cigarette box from Col. W. F. L. Gordon.

In welcoming the visitors, Mr. Hsu Yuan said:—It is a great pleasure for me to extend my heartiest welcome to the Consular Body, the Chinese local authorities and other foreign and Chinese friends here to day and I desire to thank you all for honouring me with your presence and also for the souvenirs you have so kindly sent on this occasion—the opening of the new offices of the Yamên for Foreign Affairs for Kiangsu.

Most of our friends, if not all, will remember that in the Ching Dynasty, the Shanghai Taotai's Yamên was situated inside the city and, in order to save our friends the irksome journey to the city in a sedan chair, a bureau, known as Yang Wu Chu, was established by the Taotai in Bubbling Well Road, where foreign visitors were received. With the advent of the Republican Government, a Special Commissioner for Foreign Affairs was appointed in the place of the former Shanghai Taotai, and the office known as Yang Wu Chu was then occupied by the Commissioner, where all matters concerning foreigners received attention. It has, however, been considered by my predecessors as a temporary office for the past 12 years.

When I was appointed Commissioner in 1920, I found there was vacant ground at the south end of the beautiful boulevard, Route Ghisi, on the other side of the Siccawei Creek which might be developed into a fine residential place. With the assistance of Gen. Ho, Magistrate Shen, and other colleagues, I have succeeded in carrying out my plan and starting this new Feng Lin Chow, linking up the French Concession, and the proper Ramên has been built up on this site. Although this new structure is not built with modern luxuries, it is a building of our own.

I am very glad to say that the Shanghai Taoyin, the Superintendent of Customs and the Deputy Salt Commissioner have also decided to build their offices in the locality. With these offices gathered together, I am sure matters can be arranged much easier. In a few years, I hope this locality will be developed to its fullest possibilities.

"LE VERTIGE"

Production at Cercle Sportif Francais

Henri de Cassel ...M. Jean Schlisler.
Le Comte Mihailoff .....M. Marcel Lambert.
Charancon .....M. Henri Dreyfus.
Louis .....M. René Mazet.
Petrov .....M. Léon Chollot.
Natacha Mihailovna ...Mme. Jeanne Beudin.
Madame de Jurieu ... Mme. Rita Fano.
Madame Laurens .. Mme. Lucienne Donné.
Francois .....M. X.
Le Maitre d'Hotel .....M. Badinier.
Un Domestique .....M. Jacquelin.

1ere Acte—Chez Henri de Cassel.
2e Acte—Au Café de Paris.
3e Acte—Chez Charançon.
4e Acte—A Nice chez le Général Mihailoff.

Décors de Mr. A. Nabias.
Ameublements de chez Weeks.
Appareils électrique de chez Larsen & Truck.
Objets d'Arts de chez Ulmann & Co.

We hardly know which deserves most praise—the pluck of amateurs attempting such a play as "Le Vertige" or the success which crowned their endeavours. The performance was a real success and held the interest of the audience from start to finish. It is a thousand pities that it cannot be repeated. The talented amateurs responsible for such a production may be glad to hear a few criticisms which are given by a sincere admirer. A synopsis of the play was inserted in the programme for the help of those who are not quite at home with their French. We do not reproduce it here as it was only a very brief explanation of the play and did not disclose dramatic events which really had to be seen and not to be told, for to have too lengthy an explanation would have spoilt many of the fine episodes of the drama.

Natacha, the daughter of a small merchant of Kiev, met in her young days, an officer named Dimitrieff. They fell in love. He hoped to win her; she had very little hope of marrying him, well knowing that his family would do their utmost to prevent the union of their son to the daughter of a merchant. Natacha's father failed in business and old General Mihailoff, attracted by the beauty and charm of Natacha, saved the family from ruin by marrying her. The General was of a brutal and jealous disposition. He treated his young wife as a slave. When Petrov, the General's servant, informed him that Dimitrieff and his wife were meeting and intended to elope, he violently accused Dimitrieff of treachery and shot him.

When the revolution started, the General and his wife managed to save the greatest part of their fortune and went to Paris. One day Natacha, coming from the Russian Church in Rue Daru, met on the street Henri de Cassel, a nobleman of merit and means. He was immediately attracted by her beauty, followed her and got into conversation. He asked her to tea at his apartment. She accepted and to his astonishment, gave herself entirely to him. Why? He did not say. Who was she? He did not know. Her name, her condition in life, he ignored entirely. She was an absolute mystery to him. The play begins at this point, Charançon, a member of the French Foreign Office, comes to see him and learns from Cassel's confession his love for the unknown; in a very witty dialogue, the story of the lovers is unveiled to us.

On Charançon's departure, Natacha calls and Henri de Cassel presses her for an explanation. He wants to know who she is. She refuses to tell him anything, but plainly lets him see that she loves him—the next minute only to try and finish everything between them; then changes her mind again and is ready to fall in his arms. She goes into another room to arrange her hair but leaves her bag on a sofa. Henri finds it and is tempted to look inside, where he finds her visiting card. He is dumfounded to find a photograph of a Russian officer who bears a very strong resemblance to himself, so much so that Henri thinks at first that it really is a photo of himself. After Natacha leaves, Henri telephones to Charançon and tells him that at last he has discovered who she is and gives name.

In his diplomatic *carrière*, Charancon has met the General and his wife; wishing to help Henri to meet Natacha again, he invites the General and his wife and two lady friends, Mesdames de Jurieu and Laurens to join them at a supper at the Café de Paris after attending a performance at the theatre. The General is struck by Henri's marvellous resemblance to Dimitrieff and also perceives the emotion of his wife on meeting him, After having indulged too heavily in champagne, followed by liqueurs, the memory of the past drama takes possession of the General who confuses Dimitrieff with Henri; Mihailoff acts like a maniac. During a short fit, which renders him unconscious, Natacha takes the opportunity to tell Henri about her former love affair. The General decides to leave for Nice, hoping to separate Natacha from Henri. They have a final and dramatic meeting at Charançon's apartment and to the despair of Henri, Natacha obeys her husband's command and follows him.

Henri completely smitten with "*vertige*" (madness) follows the Mihailoffs to Nice with the firm purpose of winning Natacha. The two men meet at Nice in the evening at the Mihailoffs' villa.

Henri suggests a duel which the General accepts. While Henri writes down the conditions under which the duel is to be fought the General tries treacherously to kill him. Natacha having previously unloaded her husband's revolver, the latter misses Henri who kills him on the spot.

The wave of "vertige" having subsided, Henri looks upon himself with horror as being a murderer. Natacha throws herself in his arms and they both run away, looking forward to a happier life.

THE PLAYERS.

The acting was very good all through the play. Of course here and there were some small inequalities which always happen in every production, even when given by professionals. But last night, two amateurs proved that they could compete with the best of the latter; Madame Jeanne Beudin and Monsieur Marcel Lambert as Natacha and General Mihailoff. There was never a moment of *defaillance* in the acting of Mr. Lambert who from the beginning till the end was and remained the aristocratic brute that the author means him to be, acting with strong passion and never falling into common melodramatic fits. Madame Beudin was simply grand, and one inclines to believe that no one amongst the French amateurs, past or present, has ever achieved so high a level in dramatic art, especially in the first three acts. However, in the last act, in our opinion, she could in her final scene with Henri de Sassel, have abandoned a little of that frigidity which was otherwise so plausible in the other acts.

Mesdames Fano and Donné, who appeared only at the supper party given at the Café de Paris, were two charming light-headed Parisiennes, able to engage in the most empty chatter with charm and conviction.

Mr. Jean Schlisler and Mr. Henry Dreyfus were quite at ease in the respective parts of Henri de Cassel and Charançon. Their dialogue in the first act, brilliant and witty, was thoroughly enjoyed as every word could be heard, so fine was their delivery. Their acting, in general was very natural, although Mr. Dreyfus could at times show a shade more of animation, as even in a budding diplomat too much restraint in the delivery of his lines fathers monotony. As for Mr. Schlisler, we cannot but admire his acting in the first and especially the fourth act; but in his scenes of violence with the General, he did not always show the elegance and dignity which could be expected from the interpetration and impersonation given previously by him to the character of Henri de Cassel. In the part of Louis, Mr. R. Mazet demonstrated once more that here was no small part for a good actor; tenue, diction, acting were, with him, always what they ought to be. All the minor parts were equally well filled.

The programme does not mention the name of the stage manager; if he wishes to remain anonymous, it is our duty to respect his desire; however, it does not preclude us from congratulating him on the setting of the four acts and of the success of the play.

The scenery was in the good hands of Mr. Nabias. Any one who knows the stage of the Cercle Sportif Français is bound to recognize the efforts of the anonymous stage manager and of the scenic artist in mounting a play of the importance of "Le Vertige" on such a diminutive stage. If they will allow us a small criticism, let us state that in the beautiful Chinese style drawing room of Henri de Cassel, the absence of any ceiling mouldings, the white crudeness of a ceiling unbroken by chandelier, as well as the flatness of the window jar with the gorgeous setting of the apartment.

J. EM. L.

THE ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIPS

The examinations were held on Thursday for the scholarships which the St. George's Society are offering for competition by English boys and girls of Shanghai schools, within a certain age limit. The object of these scholarships is to test candidates' knowledge of English, of English literature such as boys and girls of their age might be expected to be acquainted with, of English history and their general powers of knowledge, observation, thinking and expression. The papers, of which there were four, besides a test in reading aloud, were carefully designed to defeat anything like preliminary cramming. Altogether 30 boys and girls entered from the Public Schools for Boys and Girls, the two Cathedral Schools and the two Thomas Hanbury Schools. The examination was held in the "North-China Daily News" Building, and the candidates were entertained at lunch at the Palace Hotel, by the St. George's Society when Mrs. Symons, Mr. Trenchard Davis, President of St. George's Society and Mr. O. M. Green presided. It is hoped that the results of the examination will be declared before the end of this month.

AMONG those who left port on Tuesday on the str. West Orowa was Mr. J. E. Doyle. "Dinny," as he is known to all lovers of sport and members of the American Club, will be greatly missed. He was a familiar figure at the baseball matches acting as coach or umpire, while to the Japanese "rooters" his "Mr.—san will be pitcher, etc., arragato ball," brought screams of laughter. Mr. Doyle will probably return to Shanghai before the year is out.

THE CHAPEI STRIKE

Merchants' Demand Conceded by the Authoritics

What is described as a "merchants' strike" provided a minor diversion in Chapei last Friday.

For some time past the merchants of the district have nourished ambitions in the matter of reorganizing local government, their desire being to relieve the Nanking authorities of this duty and establish an independent Municipal Council. It is understood that Nanking agreed to this, and a definite step was to have been taken towards the innovation a few days ago, but it would seem that at the last moment the authorities went back on their word.

This disappointment apparently upset would-be local councillors and a number of them and their supporters closed their shops by way of protest. Banners were displayed with inscriptions not too complimentary to the Powers that be.

If the information reported on Monday in the Chinese press is correct, the Chinese merchants of Chapei have won the day in their agitation for public control of the water and electricity services. The "strike of merchants and shopkeepers" was continued on Saturday, and the only places open to business were the refreshment houses. A mass meeting was held in the afternoon, and amongst various resolutions passed was one determining to march in a body and take possession of the waterworks and electricity station if the authorities remained firm in their determination not to hand them over Processions were held, and order was maintained by a hundred or more "special constables" who wore badges inscribed "Chapei Public Bodies' Peace Maintenance Officers."

It was publicly announced on Sunday that the Civil Governor has ordered that the demands of the merchants be acceded to, and it is understood that April 30 has been fixed as the date for handing over the two services to public control. Representatives of the merchant bodies motored round Chapei publishing the good news, and the "victory" was celebrated by displays of fireworks and other public demonstrations. A start has already been made towards raising the necessary capital for new plant for the two concerns.

We understand that the Chapei merchants, in their efforts to secure control of the Chapei Water and Electricity Works, have raised $2,000,000 capital and expect shortly to double this sum. With this money it is intended to take over the Works from the Kiangsu Provincial Government and to improve its efficiency. An important meeting of shareholders will shortly be held to discuss matters relating to "their new company." It is also stated that they propose to purchase land facing the Huangpu River for the erection of a huge water tower, 180 ft. high and weighing 26,000 tons, with a capacity of 450,000 gallons. The intake and feed pipes will be 24 in. in diameter.

Col. Lu Yung-chien, Commissioner of Shanghai and Woosung Native Constabulary, has refused to grant an application made by a number of prominent local merchants for the release of an accountant who is being detained in connexion with the terrible fire which broke out in the Silk Filature in Chapei last week. Col. Lu states that the matter must be thoroughly investigated and the guilty parties severely punished.

MALE servants at sing song girl houses have organized a trade union, whose membership will include employees of houses both in this and the French Concession. They declare that the high cost of living makes it imperative that they receive an additional $1 per month, "plus 40 cents Union fees." Having themselves gone on strike they succeeded in getting the female workers in those houses to strike in sympathy last Monday. It is understood that servants in the second class resorts are not yet actively identified with the agitation.

STEAMER SUNK IN THE HUANGPU

Latest Misfortune to Befall Former U. S. Transport Warren: Cause of Accident Unknown

Further misfortune on Thursday befell the former U. S. Transport Warren, and she now lies sunk in the Huangpu off the International Dock, on the Pootung side. The vessel was built in Germany in 1889 and first came out here as the Scandia, owned by the Hamburg-America Line. About the time of the Spanish-American War she was bought by the United States Government and until recently she was worked as a government transport between the Philippines and China. Then she was again sold and became the property of Messrs. Madrigal & Co., of Manila.

A few weeks ago the Warren arrived in Shanghai with a cargo of lumber and various troubles beset her, including a fire, and she also went ashore in an upper reach of the river. The necessary repairs were entrusted to a number of local firms and she was brought down to the International Dock, off which she was moored to await her turn to go into dry dock.

CREW OF 50 SAFELY LANDED.

About an hour after midnight on Wednesday, the wireless operator noticed that the vessel had taken on an ominous list and he promptly reported this fact to the Captain. Further examination showed that she was taking in water very rapidly, whilst she had heeled over to a dangerous angle. There was only sufficient steam in the boilers for the heating and lighting of the ship and therefore it was impossible to move her. As nothing could be done, the men on board—over 50 all told—were ordered ashore and the ship then was in such a dangerous position that they were unable to save any of their personal effects. All got safely to shore and very shortly afterwards the Warren went down.

As she now lies on the bottom she is canted over to an angle of about 45 degrees, with only the top of her smokestack and masts and a small part of her deck above water at low tide, the masts resting on the dock wharf. She is well away from the dock entrance so that work there will not be interfered with and she also is clear of the channel. Pending an examination by divers, no reason can be given for the accident.

THE WARREN AT LOW WATER. MASTS ARE RESTING ON THE DOCK CO.'S WHARF AND HULL ALMOST TOTALLY SUBMERGED. FLAGS MARKS THE VESSEL.

THE STATELY HOMES OF SHANGHAI

Mr. E. S. Kadoorie's Beautiful House: An Artistic Architectural Gem: Transformation of the Jewish Club: Munificent Offer For the Assistance of Shanghai Charities

Though one must have been a resident in Shanghai for at least 15 or 20 years really to appreciate the enormous growth and changes in the Settlement, enough is happening every day for even the griffin to say, as one hears so frequently, "Shanghai is not what it was." All this development means that the Settlement now ranks with the great cities of the West in every particular and so, whereas men used to come here with the idea of making sufficient of a competence upon which to live in retirement in their own countries, nowadays many are almost forced by circumstances to recognize that Shanghai will be their home for life, or for the greater part of it. An outcome of this change has been the building of more permanent and comfortable private residences than once was the case, and it is not out of place now to refer to the "stately homes of Shanghai." Many of our commercial princes have done lasting credit to themselves by the beautiful homes they have built, surrounded by tastefully laid out estates. The houses of the late Mr. Edward Ezra, Mr. Moller, Mr. Parker, Mr. H. E. Morris and others would rank high amongst even some of the old country houses of England.

To the list of Shanghai's "stately homes" there now must be added Marble Hall, in Bubbling Well Road extension, the residence of Mr. E. S. Kadoorie, which must be regarded as the most beautiful of all, and for reasons which will be given later Shanghai will feel particularly proud of it. The original idea was that it should be a Jewish Country Club, but as the work progressed it was obvious that everything had been planned on too large a scale for the needs of that section of the community and so Mr. Kadoorie has taken the place for his own residence. The original building was designed by Messrs. Lafuente & Wootten, but this was gutted by fire and then Mr. Kadoorie commissioned Messrs. Graham-Brown & Wingrove to design the new place and they, together with Mr. G. Finocchiaro (the monumental sculptor), Messrs. Arts and Crafts, Messrs. Andersen, Meyer & Co. and others who have assisted, certainly have completed an architectural gem. It may seem a big thing to say for Shanghai, but it is probable that Hampton's or any other of the great London firms would concede that they could not do better, and this is but one more proof of the splendid work that can be accomplished in Shanghai in these times, in almost any line.

Mr. Kadoorie now has made up his mind upon another piece of princely generosity and his scheme is one that should appeal to all charitable associations. He has promised to place the whole of the house and grounds at the disposal of any charitable society, of any nationality or creed, for any worthy money-making purpose and he will pay all expenses so far as the house goes. Mr. Kadoorie will defray not only such incidentals as lighting, but says that, if any persons wish to organize a reception or a bazaar, or something of that nature, he will provide teas free, or, say, for a ball, he will give the dinner. All he asks is that it shall be a genuine effort for the good of some charity and that it shall be run on lines that will guarantee a reasonable profit. For instance, obviously it would be going too far to ask Mr Kadoorie to spend $1,000 on his side and then show a profit of $500, for he might as well give the money direct. The place is admirably suited for such purposes, with large and handsome salons, a wonderful verandah 225 ft. long, a ball room only a few square feet less than the Carlton Cafe, a kitchen capable of attending to the wants of a very large gathering, and outside, ground for six tennis courts, which are being specially laid, and other lawn games, besides a great flagged court which could be utilized for many purposes.

To describe the building itself, one can only say that it is palatial. It has been built on a lavish scale, yet at the same time it is not ostentatious. There is marble everywhere—150 tons of it altogether—but without a suggestion of vulgarity, the work having been executed with wonderful good taste, giving a most pleasing effect where it would have been so easy to overdo it. The grounds occupy nearly the entire block bounded by the Bubbling Well Road extension, Tifeng Road and Great Western Road. At the entrance are handsome iron gates with heavy brass balusters and brass enrichments in the architraves. Passing by the main east entrance to the lawns one has a magnificent view of the 300 ft. frontage. Raised several feet above the lawns, the building is a striking example of the free Renaissance style, with a suggestion of the Italian influence. It has a wide stone terrace further beautified by handsome bronze lamps, whilst sculptured sets are on their way for erection there, and then the fine glass enclosed verandah, 225 ft. long and some 30 or 40 ft. in width.

A MARBLE HALL.

At the main entrance under the *porte cochere* marble steps lead up to a Doric vestibule in oval form with a black and white marble floor and an alcove sheltering a beautiful marble Crouching Venus on a pedestal. Thence into the spacious main hall, which is treated in the prevailing style of Neo Grec, with a carved marble chimneypiece of refined and restrained design and marble pilasters leading up to a most effective coffered ceiling, from which are suspended extremely interesting electric fittings in the form of shallow bowls of leaded glass, elaborate chains and rams' heads ornamentation, designed and executed by Arts & Crafts.

Next one comes to the drawing room, which may lack the more striking attractions of some other parts of the house, but which really is the gem of all the rooms. Large and well proportioned, it has been handled in a masterly manner in the Adam style, the simple, tasteful beauty of which cannot fail to appeal. Square pilastered piers form bays at either end and there is a barrel ceiling with a faithful rendering on a graceful plan of the Adams's work, with all their fastidious care for detail, the centre being a panel of Cupids floating in clouds. The characteristic chimneypiece, the panelled walls surmounted with a fanciful frieze, the dainty furniture, the carpets and the hangings combine to make this room one of the most successful works of Arts & Crafts and they must be genuinely proud of it.

The Adam Drawing Room.

A MAGNIFICENT BALL ROOM.

Yet the wonderful ball room probably will appeal more to most people in this dancing city. Occupying the centre of the building, it is, as already stated, very nearly as large as the Carlton Café floor and it is only just under 50 ft. high, rising above pilastered walls and a heavily enriched cornice in double deeply panelled coves, imparting an imposing effect to a lofty and magnificant apartment, sumptuous and combining the happy freedom of the Italian Renaissance with the more severe and at present popular Neo Grec. Throughout there is perfect harmony and even the immense chimneypieces in grey, black and sienna marble, so big as easily to appear vulgar if not properly treated, under the clever hands of Mr Finocchiaro have been so dealt with that no fault can be found, but only praise. The same must be said of the elaborate fibrous plasterwork of Arts & Crafts. On the north side is a marble-framed stage large enough for concerts and dramatic entertainments, with fine acoustic properties and some truly wonderful lighting effects installed by Andersen, Meyer & Co. It is possible to arrange a blending of lights that is unique in Shanghai.

The panelled billiard room is an interesting apartment in which the Jacobean influence is pronounced, with a novel chimneypiece in artificial stone. The plasterwork follows the style popularized at Home by G. P. Bankart, and the fine oak wainscotting is that adopted by Sir F. Lorimer.

SALONS OF MANY STYLES.

The dining room is a dignified hall of the Stewart period, panelled, and with a chimneypiece of wide and generous dimensions. Indeed, throughout the house the architects and decorators seem to have specialized in artistic fireplaces, which are not the least beautiful features of the place. Mention should be made of two large sideboards, in the planning of which a new note is struck.

The library and card rooms are in the style of William and Mary, with wood-panelled walls in a happy shade of green and gold on the lines of an old house in Botolph Lane, London.

A Corner and Stage in the Great Ball Room.

The main staircase contains the only fault in the building, but already it has been noted and is to be corrected. There is a double flight on an oval plan under a beautiful Adam dome, with generous marble walls and steps, but the numerous spidery brass decorative rails, though works of art in themselves, are out of place. Something massive and grand rather than delicate is required.

The staircase opens out on to spacious lounge halls and small balconies giving views of the ball room from above and in two alcoves there are lifelike portrait busts of Mr. Kadoorie and the late Mrs. Kadoorie. The rooms, all in suites of three, are complete in every detail and most tastefully furnished and decorated, with different wall designs for each suite.

BEAUTIFUL LIGHTING ARRANGEMENT.

One cannot go into detail regarding the tremendous amount of artificial lighting installed in such a beautiful place, but at least it can be stated that it is fully in keeping with all the other work and the style of the fixtures, varying in each room according to the surroundings, is as artistic as the marble work, the panelling, or the ceilings. The material for the lighting, heating and communication services was supplied by the General Electric Co. of New York and all the magnificent lighting fixtures throughout have been specially designed and manufactured by Thomas Day & Co. of San Francisco, Andersen, Meyer & Co., Ld., being the sole agents for the Far East. Special mention must be made of the crystal tear chandeliers in the ball room, drawing room and top stair landing of the first floor, also the exceptionally fine design in the dining room of eight antique Verdi bronze finish 16-candle light chandeliers. All of this work was done by Messrs. Andersen, Meyer & Co. under the direction of Mr. K. V. Aagesen. Much of the lighting is secured by concealed lamps, so cleverly arranged as to give a uniform light, soft and without any of the glare that would destroy the general effect. The firm well may be congratulated on what they have done.

INGENIOUS FITTINGS.

Throughout the house there are fittings as ingenious as things previously described are beautiful. There is a refrigerating room of vast dimensions yet so wonderful is the machinery that it costs but 10 cents an hour to run. The great fireplaces, built seemingly only for forest logs, never will know either wood or coal, for each houses a Magicoal electrical fire which at a distance of five or six feet looks like a real coal fire. There is a marvellous vapour steam heating system in addition, supplied by the American Radiator Co., ensuring warmth everywwhere, and in conjunction with this there is an air cooling system to give comfort in summer. In cunningly concealed niches in all the rooms and corridors, hidden away so that they will not spoil the artistic effect, are numerous inter-communication telephones by the China Electric Co. Then, too, the Shanghai Waterworks have installed fittings of a nature well in keeping with such a place.

Liable to pass unnoticed amongst the larger beauties, save by the art connoisseur, are some fine specimens of the Royal Danish Porcelain, of which Mr. Kadoorie has secured a big collection through the Standard Products Co., the agents for the Far East. A guest at any of the functions in Mr. Kadoorie's house who carelessly flicks his cigarette ash into what he might think is an ordinary ashtray should take a second look, for these Danish porcelains are worked into commonplace articles, beautiful though they are.

In the basement there is a miniature gymnasium, the fittings of which include some clever electrical contrivances. In the grounds there is a range of well-appointed stables and a small but very pretty conservatory, with some beautiful fountains and a lighting arrangement which looks very well at night.

The photographs reproduced with this article are by the Rembrandt Photo Co.

It was reported in the Chinese press on Monday that the Street Unions' Association have addressed the following letter to the Italian Consul-General in Shanghai: — "We learn that Italian merchants are at present concerned in selling arms and ammunition to the militarists of the Chihli party. We all know that these militarists are a great menace to the welfare and peace of this country and that their wicked acts are prolonging civil strife. If these reports are true, then the Italian merchants have committed a breach of international law, and we hope you will make efforts to stop this trade in arms."

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Mar. 21.

Bank's demand selling rate for £1 at 3/2⅞=Tls. 6.17 at 7135=	$8.65
Bank's demand selling rate for G.$100 at 69¾=Tls. 143.37 at 7135=	$200.94
Mex. Dollars, market rate	715,875
Native Interest	04
Copper Cash	259,000
Bar Silver	33 1/16
Bank rate of Discount	4%
Paris on London	Frs. 84.20
New York on London	G.$4.29⅜

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/2¾
Demand	3/2⅞
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	69½
Demand	69¾
PARIS—	
Demand	1353
INDIA—	
Demand	231
HONGKONG—	
Demand	72¾
JAPAN—	
Demand	61¼
BATAVIA—	
Demand	193
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	72⅝

BANK'S OPENING BUYING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/3⅜
4 m/s. credits	3/4⅜
4 m/s. Docs.	3/5⅛
6 m/s. credits	3/5⅛
6 m/s. Docs.	3/5⅜
NEW YORK—	
Demand	71¼
4 m/s. credits	73
4 m/s. Docs.	73½
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1430
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/3 3/16
New York T.T.	70¼

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR MARCH.

Hk. Tls. 5.44 at 3/3⅜	£1
„ 1 at 1595½	Frs. 17.77
„ 1.26 at 71	Gold $1
„ 1 at 64½	Yen 1.73
„ 1 at 231½	Rupees 2.58
„ 1 at 1.50	Mex. $1.50
„ 1 at 16.275	It. Lire 18.13
Marks and Roubles	no quotation

Sino-Italian Bank Quotations

Selling Rates, Mar. 21.

It. Lire 16.00	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 4.00	Tl. 1
It. Lire 9.65	Y. 1

Week's Exchange Notes

Mar. 22.

At the close of business on the 20th instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 28,865,000 and $43,850,000.

These figures include Tls. 8,580,000 and $28,440,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 943 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—
232 bars from America.
Shipments were:—
nil.

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—
Tls. 400,000 small coins to be melted.
360,000 Mexican Dollars to be melted.

Tls. 760,000

Shipments were:—
nil.

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—
$1,250,000 from River Ports.
350,000 „ Kashing, Wusih and Soochow.
300,000 „ Ningpo.

$1,900,000

Shipments were:—
$500,000 to be melted.

SILVER.

The price yesterday was 33½d. ready and 33⅝d. forward, showing a rise on last week's prices of ⅛d. and ¼d. respectively. There has been little variation in the price during the week and the market has been reported generally as very quiet with very little business doing. India is reported as a small buyer.

Stocks of sycee and dollars have increased during the week by Tls. 9¾ lakhs and $14 lakhs respectively. Bars in stock, 1,935, including silver yen 10 lakhs.

The price of dollars has again been very steady during the past week, and was quoted yesterday at 71.5875.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange closed off last week with the official quotation at T.T. 3/2⅜d., where it has remained all the week—⅛d. under the parity of forward silver. There have been very few bills offering here. Chinese speculators are interested chiefly in the yen market at present. Their position is estimated at about £700,000, oversold, which includes about Y.5,000,000. At the moment the market is quiet and steady.

Quotations are T.T.3/3d. to December, Gold $ T.T. 70 ready and forward. 4 m/s L/C 3/4d. Mar./Apr.. 3/3⅞d. May forward and 4 m/s L/C Gold $72¼ ready and forward. There are sellers however at T.T. 3/3 1/16d. Mar./June, G.$ 70¼ ready and forward.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

A Dull Week in Everything But Yarn: Better Business with Mills

Mar. 22.

This has been a very dull week on the markets. Piece goods have been dragging along a weary course, business being almost entirely confined to the auctions. Except for silk, which has been bought for France, exports are almost negligible. Business in local yarn, however, shows an improvement, and the placing of orders for several thousand bales with the mills has resulted in heavier purchases of cotton, both Chinese and Indian.

PIECE GOODS.

While clearances are good and merchants with stocks in hand are able to sell readily, forward business in the piece goods trade is more or less at a standstill. Nor is the outlook promising at the moment, for dealers mention weaker advices both from Hankow and Tientsin. Apparently only actual trade demand is stirring in the market, speculation being for the time being eliminated. A further element of weakness is a drop in the price of Japanese Greys.

On the whole the auctions seem to have reflected the prevailing sentiment of the market. Dealers wanted cargo at cheaper rates than have recently been current, and in great measure they seem to have got them. In the case of Italians, which have experienced a very heavy drop since China New Year, it would appear that prices are being adjusted at the present lower level, but it is too early yet to look for any recovery. The probability is the fluctuations will in the immediate future be within narrow limits. With the exception of Greys practically no cargo is being allowed to remain in godown when once purchased.

In woollens the market continues quiet, with very little doing. The Home market remains as last reported.

COTTON AND YARN.

China Cotton—More activity has been shown in China cotton during the past week than for some time. The principal variety offered has been Shensi, of which considerable purchases are believed to have been made, while local mills have also been buying the Indian staple, which has almost reached a parity with China. Owing to the demand for yarn from the interior, it is reported on the China Cotton Goods Exchange that a bullish sentiment prevails in cotton. On the Exchange yesterday morning's closing prices were:—March 45; April 44.30; May 44; June 43.60; July 43.05; August 42.50. Spot quotations on the market are as follows:—Tungchow 46/47; Shanghai 43.50; Shensi 45; Hankow 42.50; Hokushi 44.50; Nanzu 44, Kashing 43.50.

Yarn—The yarn situation is better this week because of sales to the interior, while it is believed that about 10,000 bales have been booked with the mills. A number of the Chinese establishments, perhaps a dozen, have not re-opened since China New Year, while others are continuing on short time. This week's prices for yarn are between Tls. 2½ to Tls. 3 under the top figure secured after China New Year, but are Tls. 6 to Tls. 7 above the bottom since touched, while the position seems altogether healthier. A steady demand for local cloth continues and clearances have been brisk, some of the cloth having been taken up as soon as manufactured. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange a good demand is recorded from the interior, including Tientsin, Hankow, Szechuan and Newchuang, and stocks locally are mentioned as being very short. Accordingly the tendency there is on the bull side. Yesterday morning's closing Exchange quotations were as follows:—March 175.60; April 174.40; May 172; June 170.50; July 169.10; August 168.30.

SILK.

During the week there has been a fair demand from Lyons for silk, resulting in business to the extent of between 1,000 and 2,000 bales. The future tendency is uncertain, as high prices seem to have checked business.

New York is displaying no interest in the situation.

PRODUCE.

In produce there is little of interest to report. A few parcels of goatskins have been bought, but most markets continue lifeless, and such sales as are reported are mainly from earlier stock purchases.

GOLD MOVEMENTS

The Position of the United States

Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co.'s report on the gold market of February 6 contains the following notes:—

The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue on January 30 amounted to £126,254,435, as compared with £126,252,000 on the previous Wednesday.

India and the Continent have taken a fair proportion of the moderate supplies of gold offering this week.

Gold valued at $4,000,000 has arrived in New York from London.

The Southern Rhodesian gold output for December, 1923, amounted to 55,268 ounces, as compared with 54,937 ounces for November 1923, and 55,737 ounces for December 1922.

The "Financial Review" of New York has an article dealing with gold in which the following paragraph and tables appear:—

"Notwithstanding the appreciable increase in world's gold production, with the exception of the United States, this essential precious metal has become scarcer than ever before in history. It can truly be said that most of the world is starved for gold, which, in the opinion of competent authorities, is bound to hasten the utilization of some more easily obtained precious metal, i.e. this country now holds more than half of the entire monetary stock of gold in the world to-day. Our total now stands at $4,170,000,000, making our monetary structure the strongest of any nation."

U. S. GOLD FLOW.

Year.	Annua. Imports	Annual Exports.	Plus Balance	Minus Balance
1900	$66,750,000	$54,150,000	$12,600,000	—
1901	54,750,000	57,800,000	—	$ 3,050,000
1902	44,200,000	36,050,000	8,150,000	—
1903	65,250,000	44,350,000	20,900,000	—
1904	84,800,000	121,200,000	—	36,400,000
1905	50,300,000	46,800,000	3,500,000	—
1906	155,600,000	46,700,000	108,900,000	—
1907	143,400,000	55,200,000	88,200,000	—
1908	50,300,000	81,200,000	—	30,900,000
1909	44,100,000	132,900,000	—	88,800,000
1910	59,200,000	58,750,000	450,000	—
1911	57,450,000	37,200,000	20,200,000	—
1912	66,550,000	47,400,000	19,150,000	—
1913	63,700,000	91,800,000	—	28,100,000
1914	57,400,000	222,600,000	—	165,200,000
1915	451,950,000	31,400,000	420,550,000	—
1916	686,000,000	155,800,000	530,200,000	—
1917	537,850,000	371,900,000	165,950,000	—
1918	62,050,000	41,050,000	21,000,000	—
1919	73,550,000	368,200,000	—	291,650,000
1920	417,100,000	322,100,000	95,000,000	—
1921	691,250,000	23,900,000	667,350,000	—
1922	270,750,000	39,150,000	231,600,000	—
1923	*292,730,108	34,165,303	258,564,805	—

*11 months.

An analysis of the figures reveals that taking the period 1900/14, the U.S. gold movement was an outflow averaging about $5,000,000 per annum, that is to say, the U.S.A. exported that quantity from its own production, whilst, taking the period 1915/23, the movement was an inflow averaging about $233,000,000 per annum. In the former, period the average world production was $391,000,000 per annum; in the latter $382,000,000. Hence on a falling world production the United States swung over from the position of an exporter of some of its own production to an importer of about 74 per cent. of the rest of the world's production (i.e. $382,000,000 less $67,000,000 own production).

If the world be "starved" for gold—a debatable expression, for practically only India diverts from the United States any material proportion of the metal offered for sale in London—it is plain that the United States, which has accumulated, as the article states, more than half the entire monetary stock of gold in the world to-day, is solely responsible for the starvation. Let the United States purchase with the trade balance other commodities than gold and it will stimulate its own trade, and at the same time employ a powerful lever by which the debilitated currencies of Europe will pluck up strength, recuperate, and be assisted to the gold parity. The United Kingdom has always preferred trade to unnecessary stocks of bullion, and has not been without ultimate reward.

The world would evidently run the risk of food starvation if its chief creditor nation declined to be paid in anything but grain, but that would be countered more easily than a like policy with regard to gold, for more grain could be grown. Gold production cannot be increased substantially at will. Indeed the very scarcity brought about by the action of the U.S.A. makes production more difficult by raising the cost of mining.

CHARTERED BANK OF I. A. & C.

Half-Yearly Dividend

The local office of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China is in receipt of telegraphic advice from its head office in London as follows:—

At the approaching annual general meeting of shareholders the Directors will recommend that a dividend be declared for the past half year at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum and a bonus of 6s. 3d. per share free of income tax (equal to 20½ per cent. per annum), that £100,000 be added to the reserve fund, that £25,000 be added to officers' superannuation fund, that £50,000 be written off premises account and that £222,407-15-6 be carried forward.

Reuter's report the net profit last year as £782,707.

MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA

Dividend for 1923

The local office of the Mercantile Bank of India Ld. inform us that they have received cable advices from their head office in London of a final dividend for 1923 the bank's "A", "B" and "C" shares of 8 per cent., less income tax, making 16 per cent. for the year, less income tax. The amount carried forward is £157,811 and £50,000 is placed to reserve. The paid-up capital is £1,050,000 and reserve and undivided profits £1,407,811.

Measures to Steady the Yen

Tokio, Mar. 14.

Finance authorities and leading bankers are holding a conference this evening to decide on means for stemming the collapse of the yen exchange. Some of the experts, it is understood, are of opinion that lifting of the embargo on the export of gold is essential. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINA COTTON MILL STATISTICS

Details for the Past Half Year

The Chinese Cotton Millowners' Association with the co-operation of the Cotton Mill Owners' Association of China have prepared statistics showing the number of spindles existing in China, the quantity of cotton consumed for the half year ending on January 31, the stocks of cotton in spinners' hands on February 1 and the amount of short-time in force during the six months under review. By way of comparison figures for 1922 are given, the statistics being as follows:—

Number of Spinning Spindles.

	On 1/2/24	On 1/8/23	On 1/2/23	On 1/8/22	On 1/2/22
Ring Spindles	2,639,852	2,207,228	2,203,033	1,972,763	1,732,632
Spindles in course of erection	32,500	234,460	619,744	243,282	181,344

(It is estimated that there exist in the whole country about 3,380,000 spinning spindles.)

Quantity of Cotton Consumed. (in bales of 500 lb.)

	Half Year Ending.				
	31/1/24	31/7/23	31/1/23	31/7/22	31/1/22
Chinese Cotton	423,233	424,142	492,162	394,699	349,387
American Cotton	423,238	30,484	58,115	82,965	71,970
East Indian Cotton	109,272	153,453	135,330	187,971	110,314
Egyptian Cotton	280	900	2,569	703	505
Sundries	—	240	1,450	554	81
Total	557,117	609,219	689,626	666,858	532,257

Cotton Mill Stocks. (in bales of 500 lb.)

	On 1/2/24	On 1/8/23	On 1/2/23	On 1/8/22	On 1/2/22
Chinese Cotton	142,972	84,678	211,775	131,068	181,613
American Cotton	7,188	16,163	20,183	48,500	44,747
East Indian Cotton	19,963	72,902	50,857	96,792	40,087
Egyptian Cotton	—	390	330	1,190	1,860
Sundries	—	100	100	24	—
Total	170,123	174,223	283,250	277,574	268,307

Short Time.

	Half Year Ending.		
	31/1/24	31/7/23	31/1/23
Number of spindles stopped	2,546	1,820	1,472
Average number of hours stopped			
Number of weeks during which the spindles from which returns have been received were stopped	7.20	4.25	1.34

M. C. L. BAZAAR

Very Successful Afternoon in Charming Surroundings at the New Carlton

The young people of Shanghai who have given up some of their play hours during the last few months to make articles for the bazaar, the ladies in charge of the artistic stalls, the officers and committee members, and all who had contributed in any way to the aggregate of effort which made the bazaar of the Ministering Children's League so triumphant a success must have felt a thrill of satisfaction on Saturday evening on realizing how well their work had been rewarded.

The pink-bowered Carlton Café made a delightful picture with the tastefully arranged stalls and the throngs of children and grown-ups who filled the rooms all afternoon. The president of the League, Mrs. A. C. Clear, introducing Lady Stubbs, said as follows:

"Lady Stubbs and Fellow-members of the Ministering Children's League, this is our great day, our harvest, and we fondly hope the results of this day's harvest are going to maintain our splendid record of help to those pathetic little men and women—bruised human flowers, who throughout the world win our deepest compassion, and who, under better conditions, would be as healthy and happy as we are.

"Our Shanghai boys and girls are trying hard to help. We have a splendid new membership this year, and I confidently foretell that, good as to-day's receipts may be, next year's are going to be far finer, representing the united efforts of all Shanghai's young people." —

Lady Stubbs then spoke of the great honour she had felt the invitation to open the Bazaar had been. She had thought of explaining to the children what the Ministering Children's League meant, but as Mrs. Clear had done that so well already, she would only tell them to go on in the spirit of the League as they had done, bringing comfort into the lives of many by helping the poorer children. Again urging them to carry on the work as they had been doing she added that she had much pleasure in declaring the Bazaar open.

At the close of her speech 12 children, each carrying a flag with the name of the stall represented, came on the stage pulling a sledge completely filled with flowers, which they presented to Lady Stubbs. The youngsters' names, with the stalls they represented, are as follows: Susan Bolton, St. Joseph's School; David Edgar, Girls Public School; Nancy Neild, Cathedral School for Girls; Embgene Clark, Public School for Boys; Creighton Lacy, American School; Roberta Fryer, School for the Blind; Charlie Mackie, Home School and Nursery; Elizabeth Wright, Mothers' Union; Tubby Ford, Sports; Victor Toeg, Sweets, and Isobel Lowson, Mascots.

Strolling round the hall one was inclined to linger at every stall, for seldom has a more attractive display been arranged and the skill and originality of those in charge must have been taxed to set forth their wares in such alluring manner. The Sweets Stall in its pink and white setting, with carnations arranged between the luscious baskets, looked as toothsome as a cream puff. The Store Cupboard had a most tempting array of dainties, all in such dainty containers and so prettily tied up as to enhance their gastronomic charms. Jellies of every kind, honey, pickles, baskets of eggs, peanut butter—the list was endless and each better than the last.

The Public School for Boys handled the live stock of the show in a masterly fashion and also sold articles which they had made in their manual training courses, their masculine display contrasting effectively with the distinctly feminine appeal of the Home School room and Nursery Stall, in the charge of Lady Pearce, Mrs. C. G. S. Mackie, Mrs. O. M. Green, Misses Petersen and Hilda and Bonnie Calder Marshall, with its fascinating fluffs and furbelows, its dolls, prams and bassinettes, its golden baskets and candle sticks.

The tableaux arranged by Miss L. M. Hall, gave a realistic depiction of the unhappiness of child life in China which it is the object of the Ministering Children's League to relieve.

Appealing posters, "A Russian Refugee" and "One Kind Deed Every Day" marked the stall of the Public School for Girls, Boone Road and Yu Yuen Road, where a variety of fancy and useful articles was cleverly arranged. Many of these articles were made by the girls themselves. The Bran Pie was very realistic, and the Children's Stall in the centre of the room, devoted entirely to things which would delight young folks, had a multiplicity of gifts set out which would wheedle pocket money away from any child. The Tombola, managed by St. Joseph's School, was very popular and the Bank and Stamp Stall had individual appeals. The Stall of the Cathedral School for Girls with its purple setting was very effective, and the Mothers Union Stall was much admired.

HOUSEBOAT ON FIRE

Romola Nearly Burned to the Water's Edge: Interior and Furniture Destroyed

Fire broke out in the motor houseboat Romola on Monday afternoon and nearly burned the vessel to the water's edge.

The flames had got a good start and when noticed from the Bund were shooting high into the air.

Three of the coolies on the boat did valiant work at trying to damp down the flames over the roof, but could not really make any headway, as the timber appeared very dry and the flames, worked their way with amazing rapidity toward the fore part of the ship. It was impossible to get to the seacock, but a coolie got into a sampan and hacked at the hull in a vain attempt to make a breach and sink her before she was completely gutted. Before he had made any noticeable impression on the timbers, the Brigade were at work with three jets.

One light motor was run on to the bunding and the water tower got into action, but the lack of pressure and the distance from the flames prevented adequate results, so two lines were speedily got into sampans and taken over. A foreign fireman clambered into the rear of the vessel as soon as the deck flames had been partly got under control. Directing the nozzle into the cabin, he brought quantities of water into efficient action and soon a larger amount of steam than smoke was issuing from below.

Handicapped by adverse tides and lack of sampan men to control the boats, the men made the best of it and one Chinese fireman seized the yuloh and put the sampan into proper position.

The Romola is rather a large boat, being 55ft. over-all and 14ft. beam, with a draught of 3ft. 6in., tonnage 39.88. The hull is of teakwood, one and a quarter inches thick, and has a wheel house fitted with control levers for navigation. There was ample space forward for the crews and saloon, cabin and bath-room amidships. The entire vessel was completely equipped with chairs, settees curtains and carpets, circulating hot water system and cooking and dining supplies.

It is impossible to estimate accurately the damage done.

A burglar entered the house of Sir Edward and Lady Pearce in Hart Road on Friday night, fortunately, however, without stealing anything. Sir Edward and Lady Pearce had been at the theatre and on returning they found the servants much excited. One of the boys who had been sitting up realized a little before their return that some one was in dining room. He roused the other boys and they went to see what was happening, but the burglar realized that he was detected and had made off in the hall, through which he had got in. The room was in great disorder, but the only things missing were two silver teapots, which the burglar dropped in his flight through the garden, where they were afterwards found.

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

Excerpts from Minutes.

Police Reserve—Compensation to Acting Head Constable J. A. Rebsamen.—The Commissioner of Police recommends cash compensation to Mr. Rebsamen in addition to the hospital expenses and doctors, fees which the Council has already authorized as a result of injuries received by an armed robber whilst in the execution of Police duty. The Acting Secretary submits precedents in respect of compensation which has been paid by the Council. After discussion it is agreed to recommend issue of Tls. 5,000 as compensation.

Russian Refugees.

According to a report submitted by the Commissioner of Police, the number of Russian refugees in Shanghai is computed at about 7,000, of whom approximately 4,200 are adult males. Of the latter, some 2,430 are entirely dependent upon charity and a further 400 are supported by funds provided by former officers. In addition there are two groups of Russian Cadets, formerly members of the Omsk and Habarovsk Cadet Corps, together with their officers and tutors. These cadets, aged from 11 to 21, number approximately 500.

Of the female unemployed Russians, about 500 are dependent upon charity; this number includes 35 girls under 18 years of age who are accommodated in the Orphanage at Siccawei. The number of women working in bars, cafés, and other such places is estimated at about 400.

Over 2,200 unemployed Russians are supported from day to day by five charity organized soup kitchens, while others are maintained by unorganized charity.

In addition to the Russians in Shanghai, there are about 700 refugees on board the ships at Woosung.

It is noted that since October last some 300 refugees have arrived in Shanghai, including 100 from General Gleboff's ships, while during the same period some 300 have left, a few for Soviet Russia but the majority to work as lumbermen near Harbin.

Fire in Chapei.

The following is an extract from a report by the Deputy Chief Officer, Fire Brigade, on the subject of the recent fire in Chapei:—

March 13, 1924.

Although this fire was outside the Settlement, Hongkew Division, who turned out on a Watch Tower call, rendered all possible assistance to the Chapei Brigade, and the fire was confined to where it was found. This fire emphasizes the appalling death traps and fire menaces which exist on the Settlement border.

The Chong King Silk Filature consisted of two four storey brick buildings, approximately 120-ft. by 60-ft. each, about 8 feet apart, connected by a bridge on the third floor, and possessed no fire walls whatsoever. Terraces of Chinese houses are built on three sides about 6 feet from the Filature. The entrance to the compound in front is reached by passing under a gatehouse in another terrace.

In the Filature there was apparently only one wooden stair case, and all the windows were fitted with iron bars and wire netting, so that the employees who were unable to get down the staircase, were caught like rats in a trap, without any chance of escape whatsoever.

Lotteries.

Letter from Mr. C. Grosbois requesting permission to conduct a lottery in the Settlement, with reply:—

Shanghai, February 28, 1924.

Dear Sir,—Our Committee is conducting lotteries for the benefit of Russian refugees, since last October. The money is used for the support of 600 children of the Cadets Schools and for the sending away of the Russian refugees.

We expect to send the Cadets to Servia in May and we sent back already to Russia 250 men.

As you know the lotteries are authorized by the Consul-General for France and drawn at the French Town Hall.

Could the Shanghai Municipal Council give us permission to have the drawings in the Shanghai Race Club buildings, provided the stewards allow same. It would be much easier for us as Mr. A. W. Olsen who has accepted to supervise the drawings could attend more regularly.

Hoping the Shanghai Municipal Council will not have any objection.

C. Grosbois,
Chairman,
Relief Committee of Russian Orphans of the Great War.
E. S. B. Rowe, Esq.,
Acting Secretary,
Municipal Council.

Council Chamber,
Shanghai, March 10, 1924.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 28, requesting the Council's permission for the drawings of the Lottery which is conducted for the benefit of Russian refugees, to be held upon the premises of the Shanghai Race Club.

In reply, I have to inform you with regret that the permission sought cannot be accorded, inasmuch as the Council in pursuance of its general policy to prohibit the sale or distribution of Lottery tickets and/or the conduct of Lotteries in the Settlement, having already prohibited such sale or distribution of tickets for this particular Lottery within its jurisdiction, cannot consistently depart therefrom by permitting the Lottery to be conducted inside the Settlement.

E. S. B. Rowe.
Acting Secretary.
Charles Grosbois, Esq.,
Chairman,
Relief Committee of Russian Orphans of the Great War.

CHINA Journal of Science & Arts, edited by Mr. A. de C. Sowerby and Dr. J. C. Ferguson, is a bi-monthly, profusely illustrated magazine. It contains authentic articles written by experts on the Arts, Literature and Science of China. The annual subscription is $10.00 Shanghai currency, or $6.00 gold for U.S.A. and Canada. Office:—Room 102, the Ben Building, Shanghai. Central 3247.

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TO SOUTH AFRICA.
Sailings from DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN and BALTIC PORTS to CAPE TOWN, ALGOA BAY, EAST LONDON, DURBAN, DELAGOA BAY and BEIRA.

TO AUSTRALIA.
Sailings from DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN, HAMBURG and LISBON to FREMANTLE, ADELAIDE, MELBOURNE, SYDNEY and BRISBANE.

TO NORTH PACIFIC.
Sailings from COPENHAGEN, GOTHENBURG, CHRISTIANIA, HAMBURG and ANTWERP to ST. THOMAS (with transhipment to the GREATER and LESSER ANTILLES), CRISTOBAL (with transhipment to CENTRAL AMERICAN PORTS), LOS ANGELES HARBOUR, SAN FRANCISCO, PORTLAND (Ore.), SEATTLE, TACOMA and VANCOUVER (with transhipment to other NORTH PACIFIC PORTS).

TO SOUTH PACIFIC.
Sailings from COPENHAGEN, GOTHENBURG, CHRISTIANIA, HAMBURG and ANTWERP to ST. THOMAS (with transhipment to the GREATER and LESSER ANTILLES), CRISTOBAL (with transhipment to CENTRAL AMERICAN PORTS), GUAYAQUIL, CALLAO, MOLLENDO, IQUIQUE, ANTOFAGASTA, VALPARAISO, TALCHUANO and CORRAL (with transhipment to other SOUTH PACIFIC PORTS).

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SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SOUTHERN Rhodesia which was inaugurated as the youngest self governing Colony of the British Empire on October 1, 1923, and which had previously for 33 years been ably administered by the British South Africa Company possesses one of the finest climates in the world with long hours of sunshine, breezy temperate days and cool nights. For those who wish to take up farming or ranching in order to make the most they can of their capital, energy and technical knowledge, or for those who wish to retire from strenuous business or professional life and make a home, Rhodesia offers many advantages unequalled elsewhere. The business, social, sporting, educational and medical facilities bear favourable comparison with those of other countries. Native labour is plentiful and when properly managed is cheap and efficient. Taxation is light. Good land in healthy surroundings and amidst fine scenery is plentiful and not expensive.

Full information is obtainable on application to The Secretary, Southern Rhodesia Settlers' Board (attached to the Government of Southern Rhodesia), P. O. Box 372, Salisbury S., Rhodesia.

The giving of advice to prospective settlers will be facilitated if applicants will advise the Board in detail of their circumstances and the amount of capital they would be prepared to invest in a suitable venture.

be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Friday, April 4, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 31 to April 4, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Ziangbe Rubber Co., Ltd.—The 14th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, April 7, 1924, at 11.45 a.m.

A dividend of 25 candareens per share will be recommended.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 2 to 7, 1924, both days inclusive.

RUBBER AUCTIONS.

The following telegraphic advices have been received:—

Singapore, March 19, 1924.

Spot or March	40¾ cents
Apr./June	41½ ,,
July/Sept.	42½ ,,

Market opened firm but closes easier.

DEBENTURES.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
S'hai Municipal Council.	1903 6 to 20	26-9-22 T98½	c T490,500	6	June-Dec.
	1904 do.	11-1-23 T98½	c 214,500	6	do.
	1905 do.	12-5-22 T96½	d 320,000	6	do.
	1907 do.	24-4-22 T91	500,000	6	do.
	1908 do.	11-3-24 T99	650,000	6	do.
	1909 do.	15-3-23 T99	300,000	6	do.
	1910 do.	11-5-23 T99	313,800	6	do.
	1911 10 to 30	8-1-23 T95	350,000	6	do.
	1912 do.	3-1-24 T99	340,000	6	do.
	1913 do.	2-3-23 T100	755,300	6	do.
	10 to 50	8-5-22 T78	500,000	5½	do.
	1914 10 to 30	8-1-23 T91	900,000	5½	do.
	1915 do.	11-3-24 T91	800,000	5½	do.
	1916 do.	4-12-23 T99½	1,400,000	6	do.
	1918 10	18-10-23 T103	507,300	7	do.
	1919 10	4-12-23 T104	1,733,300	7	dc.
	1920 10	1-2-24 T105	2,240,000	7	do.
French Municipal Council	10 to 30	20-2-24 £105⅝	£750,000	6	do.
	1921 do.	18-2-24 $110	$1,000,000	8	do.
	1921 do.	17-3-24 T110	T5,096,400	8	do.
	1922 do.	20-3-24 T105	T8,000,000	7	do.
	1923 do.	15-3-24 T99	aT6,000,000	6	do.
	1911 do.	8-10-23 T96	400,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914 do.	12-2-23 T85	500,000	5½	June-Dec.
	1915 do.	6-3-24 T90	350,000	5½	do.
	1921 10 to 30	20-11-23 T103½	2,000,000	8	do.
S'hai Waterworks Co.,Ltd. S'hai Gas Co. Ltd.	1923 do.	17-12-23 T95	a T800,000	6	May-Nov.
	1921 do.	2-10-23 T113	2,000,000	8	June-Dec.
	1922 do.	6-6-22 T108	T500,000	8	do.
	1922 do.	2-10-23 T105	T1,000,000	7	do.
	1923 do.	29-11-23 T94	c 800,000	6	do.
S'hai Municipal Council	1905 5 to 20	31-8-22 T96½	T250,000	6	June-Dec.
	1909 do.	27-3-23 T98	750,000	6	do.
	1911 do.	26-9-22 T92	250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	,, do.	27-3-23 T98	250, 00	6	May-Nov.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.	1912 do.	3-4-23 T98	250,000	6	Jan-July
	1913 do.	3-4-23 T98	250,000	6	June-Dec.
	,, do.	11-1-24 T94	250,000	6	April-Oct.
	,, do.		250,000	6	May-Nov.
	1914 do.	22-3-23 T98	250 000	6	April-Oct.
	1916 5 to 25	21-8-22 T96	f 500,000	5½	June-Dec.
	1922 do.	12-2-23 T95	750,000	6	do.
	1922 do.	10-1-24 T98	500,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
Shanghai Club	1907 20	1-2-24 T93	450,000	6	May-Nov.
Country Club	1901 Perpetual		139,000	6	do.
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd.	1914 5 to 20		130,000	6	June-Dec.
	1915 do.		110,000	6	May-Nov.
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ltd.	1906 do.		250,000	6	Mar.-Sept.
	1911 do.	7-6-23 T98	300,000	6	June-Dec.
					do.
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ltd.	1923 10 to 20	27-2-23 T95½	h 270,000	6	do.
S'hai Race Club	1923 25	11-3-24 T100	1,200,000	6½	Mar.-Sept.
Culty Dairy Co., Ltd.	1915 10		50,000	7	Feb.-Aug.
Hall & Holtz Ld.	1914 5 to 20	14-10-22 $92	i 230,000	7	Jan.-July
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	1922 5 to 20	.. ..	T500,000	7	Jan.-July

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment.

a—Now Issuing; Redeemed or Unissued:—b—Tls.65,100; c—Tls.51,100; d—Tls.34,100; e—Tls.68,500; f—Tls.262,400; g—Tls.189,800; h—Tls.12,300; i—$18,90

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	1924: Jan.	1924: Feb.	Total output this fin.yr. to date
			lb.	lb.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	8.87d	..	22,000	21,000	25,000	22,000	18,000	108,000
Amherst (New)	,, 500,000	Oct.	72,442	80,692	90,751	*4.89d.	..	..	9,784	9,236	8,214	8,475	35,709
Anglo-Dutch	£200,000	Dec.	650,000	535,100	600,000	0/6.92d.	..	..	..	..	64,000	50,000	114,000
Anglo-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,521,711	183,000	1,550,000	6.95d	..	..	..	..	184,000	164,100	348,100
Ayer Tawah	Tls. 300,000	Sept.	369,447	58,042	360,000	†0.24.41	..	..	..	..			
Batu Anam	,, 400,000	Dec.	258,510	162,742	185,793	0/7.34d.	..	..	..	..	12,500	11,500	24,000
Bukit Toh Alang	,, 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,645	345,000	7.54d.	139,189	30,893	26,000	26,600	25,500	No.	248,182
Buto	,, 360,000	Dec.	230,067	174,350	159,516	10.11d.	..	..	..	..	17,500	16,600	34,100
Chemor United	,, 360,000	Dec.	340,794	246,412	246,192	0/7.15d.	..	..	..	..	27,200	23,300	50,500
Chempedak	,, £35,000	Oct.	145,760	163,063	..	1/5.42d.	..	..	14,000	16,700	14,050	4,100	49,100
Cheng	Tls. 675,000	June	151,923	145,338	..	11.09d.	52,730	18,010	16,574	15,700	10,500	9,700	122,214
Consolidated (1914)	,, 375,000	Dec.	669,899	653,038	574,660	0/6.58d.	..	..	..	..	53,000	56,779	104,779
Dominion	,, 350,000	Dec.	271,150	323,140	306,867	11.04d.	..	..	..	..	24,032	27,654	95,686
Gula-Kalumpong	£500,000	Dec.	1,113,000	933,000	1,215,000	1/0.74d.	..	..	..	..	88,000	78,000	166,000
Java Consolidated	£85,000	Dec.	675,800	630,400	..	7.08d.	..	..	..	..	65,300	60,000	129,200
Kapayang	,, 150,000	Dec.	189,239	146,710	..	†26.90	..	..	..	..	10,592	8,715	18,907
Karan	,, 250,000	Mar.	114,879	104,783	84,000	84d.	41,012	6,623	5,574	6,858	8,145	6,148	24,661
Kota Bahroe (1921)	,, 390,000	June	138,330	339,970	..	..	78,957	24,835	27,143	29,933	29,156	26,945	216,923
Kroewoek	,, £70,000	Dec.	449,000	583,881	540,000	0/7.24d.	..	..	..	..	59,000	55,093	115,000
Langkat	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	842,589	943,000	975,000	Gld.0.23	..	..	86,800	92,500	92,500	71,500	343,300
Padang	Tls. 500,000	April	209,711	229,232	..	10½d.	66,300	17,200	17,000	20,000	19,700	11,100	151,300
Pengkalan (1921)	,, 150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,253	176,088	†40.19	..	..	..	..	..	2,780	2,780
Permata	,, 250,000	Oct.	98,303	86,299	..	0/8½d.	..	..	9,012	8,573	8,080	6,923	31,668
Repan	,, 275,000	Dec.	68,584	217,185	240,000	1/5	..	..	..	..	17,100	8,700	26,100
Samagaga	,, 600,000	Sept.	361,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
See Kee (1913)	,, 100,000	June	179,665	142,000	115,183	11.37d.	97,613	..	10,896	12,000	8,500	11,000	110,009
Sempaga	,, 300,000	Dec.	161,105	245,596	158,364	0/9.37d.	..	..	..	..	13,100	13,700	26,800
Senawang (1921)	,, 375,000	Jan.	272,500	275,100	..	*†7.35d.	..	..	..	..	..	14,500	14,500
Shanghai Kedah	,, 400,000	Sept.	313,411	246,512	..	8.12d.	..	22,827	21,118	23,680	21,196	17,253	109,380
S'hai-Klebang	,, 315,000	Dec.	126,196	109,015	..	0/9.35d.	..	..	..	..	8,700	8,000	16,700
S'hai-Malay	,, 600,000	Dec.	373,111	289,136	392,000	..	..	..	..	..	22,782	21,174	41,256
S'hai Pahang	,, 325,000	Dec.	173,213	147,034	..	9½d.	52,721	20,430	15,618	12,204	16,432	14,175	121,880
S'hai Seremban	,, 600,000	Oct.	661,339	679,710	650,000	Gld.0.38	..	..	..	..	14,100	13,300	27,700
Sua-Manggis	,, 230,000	Dec.	114,880	27,700	..	..	..	..	50,239	61,102	61,110	51,170	223,621
Sungala	,, 100,000	Mar.	30,279	165,757	..	†7.20	6,126	..	..	7,884	8,892	..	22,902
Sungei Duri	£10,000	June	308,073	295,568	229,000	11.61d.	64,560	23,302	18,774	19,773	23,698	22,272	172,579
Taiping (1913)	Tls. 200,000	Dec.	107,011	103,689	99,000	*†30	..	..	..	..	8,184	..	8,184
Tanah Merah	,, 750,000	Mar.	415,000	395,000	..	7.92d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,800	21,900	22,200	279,000
Tebong	,, 750,000	Jan.	630,838	723,000	717,725	0/7.66d.	..	..	..	..	..	61,000	64,000
Ziangbe	£150,000	Dec.	514,566	523,600	600,000	7.24d.	..	..	..	..	67,500	58,200	125,700

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses † Straits $ cents;

Senawang Rubber Ests.(ord. Co. (1921), Ld. (12½ % Cum. Pref.	T	1.05	0.75			63)	300,000	T1	a	T10,122	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	15,100
Shanghai Kedah Plantations, Ld.	T	1.10	0.85	1		67)	100,000	T1	c	T20,000	Dec.		....
S'hai Kloang Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	0.60	0.50			34)	405,000	T1	a	T1,133	Jan.		....
S'hai Malay Rubber Estates, Ld. ord.	T	4½				131)	315,000	T1	a	T7,112	Sept	T0.05, 1919	15,750
,, 8 % cum. part. pref.	T	9					2,000	T10	a	T1,260	Dec.	Ord. T0.60 for 9 months ended 31/12/16	24-2-20
						22	55,000	T10	a	T19,124	Dec.	Pref. T0.40, for 6 months ended 31/12/22	2-5-17
													31-10-23
S'hai Pahang Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	1					396,000	T1		(Loss) T1,213	June	Final T0.09 (mkg. T0.10, 1916-17)	
S'hai Serembun Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	0.80					325,000	T1	a	(Loss) T247	Dec.	T0.04 for 10 months, ended 31/12/22	12-10-17
S'hai-Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ld.	T	100	97½			7)	30,000	T20	a	(Loss) 253,810			31-3-17
Sua Manggis Rubber Co., Ld.	T	3½	2½			30)	56,000	T5	a	T812,170	Oct.	T2, 1918-19	
Sungala Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	1½	0.80			‡5)	100,000	T1	a	T6,055			1-4-20
Sungei Duri Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	7½					40,000	£1 at T8.50	a	T25,000	Dec.	T0.25, 1919	
Taiping Rubber Estates (1913), Ld.	T	0.70					200,000	T1	a	T4,625			20-4-20
Tanah Merah Estates (1916), Ld.	T	0.50	0.50			32)	750,000	T1	a	T10,000	Mar.	T0.10, 1916-17	
									a	T22,766	June	T0.58, 1922-23	12-7-17
Tebong Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	1	0.97½			‡54)	750,000	T1	a	(Loss) T5,801	Dec.	T0.08, 1919	12-10-23
Ziangbe Rubber Co., Ld.	T	3½	2½	3½		6)	9,000	10s.	a	T31,851			20-5-20
									c	T3,737	Mar.	Interim T0.05 1916-17 (Final, Nil)	
									a	(Loss)T13,874	Jan.	....††	7-12-17
									c	T38,757			....
									c	T5,239	Dec.	T0.50, 1919	28-4-20
COTTONS, ETC.													
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. ord.	T	11.95	11½			15)	1,000,000	T5	a	T3,257			
,, (8 % cum. pref.	T	105	108			43)	10 000	T100	b	T1,400,000			
									c	T2,802,920	Dec.	Ord. T0.55, 1923	5-3-24
Laou Kung Mow C. S. & W. Co., Ld.	T	10					80,000	T10	a	(Loss)T56,057		Pref. T8, 1923	5-3-24
Oriental C. S. & W. Co., Ld. ord.	T	5		4.90		60)	500,000	T3	b	T120,000			
,, pref.	T					3)	5,000	T100	c	T7,512			
Shanghai Cotton Mfg. Co., Ld. (Shanghai Boshoku K.K.)	T	65 old 40new	60	62½			80,000	T50	a	(Loss) T98,590	Dec.	Final T2, (mkg. T4, 1921)	
			35	38			40,000	T50	b	T200,000			8-3-22
INDUSTRIAL.									c	T2,551,760			
British-American Tobacco (ord. Co., Ld. (5% cum. pref.	£		16 3/16	£5 6/8		66)	13,000,000	£1			Dec.	Final T0.50 (mkg. T1.50, 1921)	
							4,500,000	£1	a	T5,375			25-3-22
China Im. & Ex. Lumber Co., Ld.	T	350					5 000	T100	a	£3,531,846	Sept.	Final Ord. 1922-23, 9% (mkg. 25%) free of I/T	
									c	£2,251,649			11-1-24
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.	H $	282	280				20,000	H $100	a	T101,333			
Gordon & Co., Ld.	T	25				37)	6,000	T25	b	T300,000	Feb.	T8, 1922-23	
Green Island Cement Co., Ld.	H $	33½					400,000	H $7.50	c	T2,100,000			31-5-23
Maatschappij, &c., In Langkat	T	12					200,000	Gs.10	a	H $2,762			
									b	H $470,000	Dec.	H $10, 1922	
Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ld.	T	7½	6.10	(comb. T33)	(comb T28½)		250,000	T5	a	H $379,752			27-3-23
S'hai Exploration & Development Co.,Ld.	T	13½	12½	(comb. T			250,000	T5	a	T19,695		Div. T2.50 & Bonus T0.62½	
Major Brothers, Ld.	T	5				10)	6,000	T20	c	T130,015		1922-23	5-7-23
John Richards & Co., Ld.	T	10				11)	25,000	T10	a	H $98,634		Final H $1.50 (mkg. H $2, 1922)	
Shanghai Gas Co., Ld.	T	45		50		‡)	24,000	T50	c	H $1,000,000	Dec.	Interim H $0.50 a/c., 1923	24-2-23
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.	T	140				‡9)	60,000	£20	a	(Loss)T220,594	Oct.	T0.50, 1918-19	13-9-23
									c	T103,438			30-3-23
STORES.													
Hall & Holtz, Ld.	$	6.90	1			‡16)	28,000	$20		T35,698			
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ld.	$	30					1,200	$60	a	T300,000	Dec.	T0.50, 1923	
S. Mottrie & Co., Ld.	$	50				17)	10,000	$50	c	T300,000			5-3-24
Weeks & Co., Ld.	$	11				‡50)	30,000	$20	a	T29,505	Dec.	(Final 1922, 20s. at Exchg., 3/2½	
									b	T75,000		(Interim 1923, 10s. at Exchg., 3/0½	6-4-23
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ld.	$	102	104			‡)	2,500	$100	c	T1,680,295			31-7-23
MISCELLANEOUS.													
Culty Dairy Co., Ld.	$	13		12			10,000	T10	a	Loss)T26,956	Oct.	T0.60, 1921-22	
									c	T119,293			30-12-23
S'hai Electric Construction Co., Ld., "B"	T	17	16	16½					a	£17,022		(1st Int. 1923, 12s./- (Coupon 23)	
London	£1		£2:12:0	£2:14:6			40,000	£1			Dec.	2nd Int. 1923, 12s./- (Coupno 24) both less	
									c	£114,315		1/T at 4/7½ in £	1-10 23
S'hai Horse Bazaar & Co., Ld.	T	50					5,400	T50	a	T18,548	Dec.	T5, 1922	1-2-24
Shanghai Mercury, Ld.	T	25					3,000	T50	c	T215,257			20-4-23
Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. Ld.	T	73	73	74		‡19)	40,000	T50			Apr.	T1 50 1913-14	31-3-15
									a	T10,285	Mar.	T4.50, 1922-23	
Oriental Press (L'Imprimerie Francaise)	$	100					940	$100	b	T70,000			31-5-23
									c	T920,016			
									a	$109,513	Mar.	$10, 1922-23	
									b	$9,000			5-7-23
									c	$21,101			

For all Dollar shares quoted on the Shanghai Stock Exchange the Exchange rate is fixed at 73;

REFERENCES.

a Carried forward at last Ann. Genl; Meeting;
b Dividend Equalization Reserve.
c General and Other Reserves.
d Uncalled liability £6 per sh;
e ,, ,, £10 ,,
f ,, ,, H$150 ,,
g ,, ,, H $200 ,,
h ,, ,, H $ 89 ,,
i ,, ,, Tls. 25 ,,
v Working Account 1922
w Working Account 1921
x Working Account 1920
y Working Account 1919
z Working Account 1919 and former years;
† Registered; or Bearer (Idem. "B").
** Issued Capital: 7% Cum. Pref. 24,461 shares; Ordinary, 16,270 shares.

‡ Debentures Issues also.
‡‡ Subject to Estate Managers' Commissions
* Subject to E. P. D. and Corpn. Tax.
° Contingent liability for interest on 12% Cum. Pref. Shares of Tls. 5,989

1—14,000 sh' unls'd.
2—70,411 ,,
3— 5,000 ,,
4— 4,000 ,,
5—19,182 ,,
6—50,000 ,,
7—10,761 ,,
8—10,000 ,,
9—16,470 sh. unls'd;
10—500 ,,
11—15,230 ,,
12—50,000 ,,
13—1,187 ,,
14—3,063 ,,
15—100,000 ,,
16—1,662 ,,
17—3,832 ,,
18—5,530 ,,
19—184,668 ,,
20—15,000 ,,
21—100,000 ,,
22—10,000 ,,
23—5,000 ,,
24—70,810 ,,
25—125,000 ,,
26—60,000 sh' unls'd
27—8,121 ,,
28—100,000 ,,
29—4,683 ,,
30—2,000 ,,
31—1,000 ,,
32—50,000 ,,
33—125,000 ,,
34—102,570 ,,
35—200 ,,
36—180 000 ,,
37—1,413 ,,
39—7,695 ,,
42—290,000 ,,
43—1,000 ,,
47—500 sh. unls'd;
48—1,000,000 ,,
49—5,644 ,,
50—8,178 ,,
54—49,000 ,,
55—85,000 ,,
56—10,634,806 ,,
57—5,000,000 ,,
60—16,000 ,,
61—240,000 ,,
62—401,055 ,,
63—15,000 ,,
64—600 000 ,,
65—200,000 ,,
66—1,953,930 ,,
(Not to be issued for less than 950 ea.)67—66,057 ,,

In order to ensure accuracy of the above details, Agents and Secretaries of Companies are requested to notify Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co; of any alterations, errors or omissions;

COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

Naamlooze Vennootschap Maatschapij Tot Mijn-Bosch-En Landbouw Exploitatie In Lanekat.—The Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 1 The Bund, Shanghai, Friday, March 28, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 21 to 28, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of directors held on 6th inst. it was decided to recommend at the forthcoming annual general meeting, the payment of a dividend for 1923 of Tls. 4 per share, being at the rate of 8% on the paid-up capital.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Office of Messrs. Scott, Harding & Co., Ltd., 35 Peking Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, April 10, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 1 to 10, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Anglo-Dutch Plantations, Ltd.—At a meeting of directors held on 6th inst. it was decided to recommend at the forthcoming annual general meeting to be held on March 31, that a dividend of 20 candareens per share for the year 1923, be paid.

The 14th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, March 31, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 27 to 31, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.—The 18th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 2 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, April 2, 1924, at 4 p.m.

To pay a final dividend of Tls. 4½ per share (making 8% for the year.)

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 24 to April 2, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Seremban Rubber Estates, Ltd.—The 9th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Friday, March 28, 1924, at 11.45 a.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 26 to 28, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Repah Rubber and Topioca Estates, Ltd.—The 11th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, March 24, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 20 to 24, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Major Brothers, Ltd.—The 34th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 2 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, March 24, 1924, noon.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 17 to 24, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Batu Anam (Johore) Rubber Estates, Ltd.—The 11th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, April 10, 1924, at 3.30 p.m.

It was decided to recommend to shareholders a dividend of 5 cents per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 7 to 10, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ltd.—The 10th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 2 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, April 8, 1924, at 4 p.m.

To Pay a final Dividend of Tls. 0.15 per share (making 28 per cent. for the year.)

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 31 to April 8, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Chemor United Rubber Co., Ltd.—The 12th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, April 2, 1924, at 11.45 a.m.

It was decided to recommend to shareholders a dividend of 5 candareens per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 28 to April 2, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—The Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 69 Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, April 3, 1924, at 4.30 p.m.

A final dividend of 10s. per share @ Ex. 3/2½d. will be recommended.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 21 to April 3, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ltd.—The local Transfer Books will be closed

Share Report for Week Ending March 21, 1924.
No. 24/11

J. P. BISSET & CO.

Telegraphic Address: "BISSET SHANGHAI"
Codes in use A1 Code
A.B.C. 4th, 5th and 6th Editions
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Members of Shanghai Stock Exchange
Land, Estate & Insurance Agents.
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building,
12 The Bund.
Post Office Box No. 244, Shanghai.

During the past week attention has centered in transactions for March Settlement on the 25th instant, and little other business has been recorded. "Rubbers" have weakened further upon the report of the fall in price of the raw material, but close slightly firmer with more enquiry, and provided there is no further drop in the price of raw rubber, a firmer market is anticipated after March settlement. Cottons are easier with little enquiry from purchasers. Other stocks remain quiet but steady.

The tone of the market generally has been quiet but a firmer tone is expected after March Settlement.

London market quotations are a shade firmer, and the following are the latest prices cabled to us.

Chinese Govt. 5% Reorg. Gold Loan 1913, B.I.	£ 72. 0. 0	(Middle Price)
" " " " " " F.I.	69. 0. 0	" ex B.R.I.S.
" " " " " " R.I.	68. 0. 0	(Sellers) cum "
Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. "B"	3. 0. 3	(Middle Price)
" " 6% Debs.	97. 10. 0	(Buyers)
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ltd.	1 10. 3	(Middle Price)
Shanghai Electric Cons. Co., "B"	2 15. 3	"
Chinese 5% Shanghai & Nanking Rly. Bonds.	70. 15. 0	(Sellers)

Sterling Quotation.—The opening T.T. Rate on London to-day is 3/2⅛.

Shanghai, March 21, 1924.

Following is the official business recorded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange:—

MARCH	15th		17th		18th		19th		20th		21st	
	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar.	Cash	Mar
RUBBERS												
Gula Kalump. R. E. Ltd. .. Tls.	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanah Merah Rub. Est., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.50	..	1	..	..	..
Tebong Rub. Est. Co., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anglo-Java Est., Ld. .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.85	..
Kali Gludik Rub. Est., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	G	..
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS												
S. & H. Wharf. Co., Ld. .. Tls.	..	..	..	*33½	185	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Langkats (combined) .. .. "	..	..	..	31½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Sumatra fob. Co. .. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	..	..	..	100	..
Chinese Eng. & Mng. Co.. "B" "	..	..	..	..	..	..	20½	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Mutual Tel. Co., Ld. "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73	..
New Eng. & S. Wks. (Pref.) "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.95	..
COTTONS												
Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. (Ord.) .. Tls.	..	..	..	..	*11 80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
DEBENTURES												
S. M. C. 1923 6% Debs. .. Tls.	99	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" 1921 8% " .. "	..	..	..	110	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

*June Settlement

FORWARD SETTLEMENTS FOR 1924.

March 25, Tuesday. April 29, Tuesday. May 27, Tuesday.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS, MARCH 21, 1924.

STOCK		Last business done.	Buyers	Sellers	No. of Shares	Authorized Value	Reserve, etc.	Finan. year ended	Last Dividend, etc.	Paid or Due
BANKS.										
London	£	127½		130½						
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Cor.	$	1100	1110		61) 400,000	H $125	(a H $3,350,212	Dec.	Final $3 & Bonus $2 (mkg. $3 1922) less I/T	26-2-24
Chartered Bank of I., A. & C. ..London	£	19 3/16			600,000	£5	(c) H $56,123,831 (a £222,201 (c £3,800,000	Dec.	Final 7s. & Bonus 6s. 3d. (mkg. £1 0s. 3d.) free of I/T, 1922	5-4-24
INSURANCE.										
Union In. Society of Canton, Ld.	H $	240			55) 200,000	d $4	(av £437,386 (b £89,500	Dec.	Final 16s. (mkg. 40s.) ex 1921 Work. a/c., Interim 24s. & Bonus to Contributors, 20%,	26-5-23
North-China Insurance Co., Ld.	T	138			10,000	e $5	(c £5,571,351 (av T610,687	Dec.	Final 15s. (mkg. 30s.) ex 1921 Work a/c. and	
							(c T4,732,885		Interim 15s. ex 1922 Works. a/c. .. .	30-5-23
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Ld. ..	$	27	27		21) 250,000	$10	(av $1,921,096 (aw $2,408,636	Dec.	$2 (or T1.46) ex 1922 Work. a/c. payable in	
							(c $4,063,242		Taels at Exchg. 73	30-5-23
Far Eastern Insurance Co., Ld.	T	22			1) 50,000	T20	(av T518,346 (aw T204,093	Dec.	T1.20 ex 1922 Work. a/c.	30-5-23
							(c T9,301			
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.	H $	720	715		10,000	f H $100	(av H $2,172,375 (c H $5,515,892	Dec.	Final H $32 (mkg. H $40) ex 1921 Work. a/c., and Interim H $16 ex 1922 Work. a/c. ..	11-5-23
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld. ..	H $	550	555		8,000	g H $50	(av H $631,693	Dec.	H $32 ex 1921 Working a/c.	25-3-23
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.	H $	127	145		20,000	h H $20	(c H $3,576,355 (av H $1,328,926	Dec.	H $7 and Bonus H $3 ex 1921 Work. a/c. ..	26-3-23
							(c H $5,523,050			
Assurance Franco-Asiatique	F	500			14,000	F500	(a F101,368 (c F3,784,330	Dec.	None, Floated 1918	....
SHIPPING.										
Indo-China S.N. Co., Ld... (6% cum. pref.	H $	38	38½		2) 120,000	£5	(a			
(def. ord. ..	H $	140			2) 120,000	£5	£2,167 (c £2,103,182	Dec.	Pref. 6s. at Exchg.—$2/4 London Warrants less I/T a/c., 1922. Def. Ord. Nil	15-6-23
Shell T'sport & Trading (ord.	'B'				56) 30,000,000	£1				
Co., Ld. .. (5% cum. pref.	£		£4:11:3		28) 300,000	£10	(a* £2,029,050	Dec.	Interim 2s., free of I/T, Coupon 42	5-1-24
(7% cum. 2nd pref.	£				57) 10,000,000	£1	(c £5,000,000			
S'hai Tug & Lighter Co., Ld. (ord.	T	85½	84	86	20,000	T25	(a T23,576	Dec.	Final Ord. T4.50 (mkg. T7, 1923)	11-5-24
(7% pref.	T	51½	51½		10,000	T50	(c T410,000		Final Pref. T1.75 (mkg. T3.50, 1923)	11-3-24
DOCKS AND WHARVES.										
Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ld. ..	T	95	92½	95	47) 55,700	T75	(a T102,535	Apr.	T7.50, 1922-23	27-7-23
							(c T1,948,000			
Hongkong & W'poo Dock Co., Ld... ..	H $	158	155	157	‡ 60,000	H $50	(a H $583,580	Dec.	Final H $5 & Bon. H $3 (mkg. H $12, 1922) ..	27-3-23
							(c H $1,961,629		Interim 1923, H $4	29-10-23
New Eng. and Shipbuilding (ord.	T	5½	5.20	5.40	42) 500,000	T5	a (Loss) T13,076		Ord. T0.25, 1925	10-2-24
Works, Ld. .. .. .. (8% pref.	T	4.95	4.90	5	05) 500,000	T5	(a T300,000	Dec.	Pref. T0.40, 1923..	10-2-24
							(c T1,311,015			
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co., Ld... ..	T	137½	133½		‡31) 40,000	T100	(a T3,480 (b T200,000			
							(c T1,035,261	Dec.	Final T10 (mkg. T13, 1923)	4-3-24
H'kong & K'loon W. & G. Co., Ld: ..	H $	167½			80,000	H $50	(a H $290,819 (b H $360,000 (c H $59,240	Dec.	H. $6 & Bonus H. $3, 1923	23-2-24
MINING.										
Oriental Consolidated Min. Co., Ld. ..	£	12/-			24) 500,000	G. $10	——	June	G $0.50, 1920-21	26-7-23
Chinese Eng. & Mining Co., Ld. (Bearer).	T	20½	20½	21	†184) 2,000,000	£1	(a £10,537	June	Final 3½% (Coupon No. 23) free of I/T,	
London	£		£3:7:9	£3:10:9			(c £252,000		1922-1923	11-12-23
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld. ..	H $	5.05		5.05	200,000	£1	(a £23,613 (c £4,875	Mar.	1s. 2d., 1909-10	21-5-10
LANDS AND HOTELS.										
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld: ..	T	116	117xd		‡) 73,000	T50	(a T34,410 (b T275,000	Dec.	Final T3 & Bonus T2 (mkg. T8, 1923)	21-3-24
							(c T2,289,317			
H'kong Land Invest. & Agcy. Co., Ld. ..	H $	119½		119½	240,000	H $25	(a H $157,836 (b H $250,000	Dec.	Final H $1.50 & Bonus $2 on 200,000 shares (mkg. H $5, 1923) H $2.50 on 40,000 new shs.	28-1-24
(New Reg.)										
Humphrey's Est. & Finance Co., Ld: ..	H $	2½			150,000	H $10	(a H $158,299 (b H $50,000	Dec.	H $0.80 and Bonus H $0.80, 1923	9-2-24
							(c H $121,488			
Weihaiwei L. & B. Co., Ld:	T	6			2,674	T20	(a T2,948 (c T7,000	Dec.	T1.20, 1923	13-2-24
							(a T7,248			
Anglo-French Land Invest. Co., Ld. ..	T	120	121½		‡33) 18,000	T100	(b T20,000	Feb.	Int. Divid. T3½, 1923-24	21-9-23
							(c T350,000			
Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels, Ld. ..	H $	28	27		33) 500,000	H $10	(a H $85,238	Dec.	Final H $0.75 & Bonus H $0.50 on 275,000 shares (mkg. H $2 (old) & H $1.75 (new), 1923)	14-2-24
							(c H $4,953,767			
Carlton, Ld.	T	53			14) 10,000	T50		Mar.	Floated April 1, 1922	
Asia Realty Co., Inc.	G $	100			‡18) 10,000	G $100		Dec.	Incorporated under the laws of Delaware 1922, 7%	4-1-23
Raven Trust Co., Inc. .. .. (ord.	G $	10	12½		**100,000	G $10				
(pref.	G $	10	10			G $10	(		Ord. Pref. 1st gr. 1923, 1½%	4-1-23
PLANTATIONS.										
Alma Estates, Ld.	T	6½	5½	6	70,000	£1 at T9	a T28,940	Sept.	T0.50, 1922-23	19-12-23
								Oct.	....	....
New Amherst Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	0.50	0.20		‡62) 500,000	T1		Dec.	T0.30, 1919	7-4-20
Anglo-Dutch (Java) Plantations, Ld: ..	T	2.90	2.15	2.80	12) 400,000	10s.	a T32,505	Dec.	Interim T0.25 a/c. 1923	14-9-23
Anglo-Java Estates, Ld.	T	5.85	5.85	6.05	4) 500,000	10s.	(a T129,151 (c T378,570			
							(a T16,323			
Ayer Tawah Rubber Co., Ld.	T	23			27) 30,000	T10	(b T22,000	Sept.	T2.00, 1922-23	23-12-23
							(c T69,960			
Batu Anam (Johore) Rub. Este., Ld. ..	T	0.97½	0.65		400,000	T1	a T30,789	Dec.	T0.05, 1919	16-1-20
Bukit Toh Alang Rubber Este., Ld. ..	T	1.05	0.95		500,000	T1	a T20,402	Mar.	Final T0.25 (mkg. T0.50, 1916-17)	22-7-17
Bute Plantation (1913), Ld.	T	0.75	0.45		300,000	T1	a (Loss) T13,076	Dec.	Final T0.05 (mkg. T0.10, 1916)	29-3-17
Chemor United Rubber Co., Ld.	T	1.07½	0.85		400,000	T0.30	a T37,697	Dec.	Interim T0.05, 1923	6-11-23
Chempedak Rub. & G'bier Est., Ld. ..	T	6		39)	35,000	£1	a (Loss) T13,435	Oct.	2nd Interim, T0.50, (mkg. T1, 1916-17)	16-10-17
Cheng Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	1.40			135,000	T5	a T4,120	June	T0.20, 1916-17	1-11-17
Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ld..	T	2½	2.15	25)	500,000	2s.—T0.75	(a T33,102	Dec.	T0.10, 1922	20-1-23
							(c T30,000		Interim T0.06, 1923	15-10-23
Dominion Rubber Co., Ld.	T	2		19)	350,000	T1	a T13,813	Dec.	T0.40, 1919	18-5-20
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Este., Ld. ..	T	9	8½	†43)	750,000	(21;450,000 (5s;200,000	(a			
							(c	Dec.	2s. less I/T at 5s. in $1923, "B" Coupon 20)†† ..	23-3-23
Java-Consolidated Rubber & Coffee, Est., Ld.	T	14		8)	85,000	£1 at 2/3½	(a T54,465 (c T650,113	Dec.	Interim, T0.50, 1923	3-9-23
Kali Gludik Coffee Estates, Ld.	T	6	5.85		70,000	T5			Incorporated 1923	....
Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ld. ..	T	12	9	35)	15,000	T10	(a T6,977		T0.50, 1923	19-4-23
							(c T4,023	Dec.	Interim, 1923, T0.50	17-7-23
Karan Rubber Estate Co., Ld.	T	6			25,000	T10	(a T3,923 (b T30,000	Mar.	T0.60, 1922-23	1-6-23
Kota Bahroe Rubber Estates (1921), Ld..	T	1.05		1	390,000	T1	a (Loss) T38,263	June	....	....
Kroewoek Java Plantations, Ld.	T	13		20)	70,000	£1 at T8.60	(a T12,946			
							(c T62,599	Dec.	T1 (mkg. T1.50, 1923)	8-3-24
Padang Rubber Co., Ld:	T	6½			50,000	T10	(a T15,410 (b T45,000	Apr.	T0.05, 1919-20	6-3-20
Pengkalan Durian Estates (1921), Ld: ..	T	1.10	0.80	26)	160,000	T1	a (Loss) T8,791	Mar.		
Permata Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	2.70	2.10	29)	60,000	T5	a T18,127	Oct.	Ld. divd. T0.05 a/c., 1923-24	....
Repah Rubber & Tapioca Este., Ld: ..	T	0.85	0.65		275,000	T1	a (Loss) T36,158	Dec.	T0.30, 1922-23	11-12-23
Sdn. Java Rubber Co., Ld.	T	1.10	0.80		250,000	T1				

greatest enemies of distribution. It is particularly unfortunate that this irregular taxation should have been allowed to go unchecked just at a time when the Chinese Government had undertaken to take steps for the abolition of all likin under the Washington Treaty. The Powers who signed that Treaty cannot fail to ask whether the Government really has the power to control inland taxation in any way. It would certainly be a grave handicap to trade if higher import duties were imposed whilst the Provinces were left free to impose provincial taxes on trade at their own free will. China needs to develop her trade, and this policy of taxation is an enemy to her real welfare.

CHINESE CREDIT INVOLVED.

There is another aspect of this irregular taxation which we must bear in mind; it strikes a severe blow at the credit of this country. These irregular taxes have been imposed in defiance of treaties and agreements voluntarily undertaken by the Central Government. The breach of these agreements has attracted very great attention throughout the world. China's credit has gained much in the past from the belief in the money market that she does stand by her bargains. Her credit will certainly suffer from the disregard of existing agreements in regard to internal taxation.

TRADE-MARKS.

Much has been said and written in the Press on the most important subject of the new Chinese Trade-Mark Law but I feel that I ought to put the present situation briefly before you.

In 1919 the Board of Trade in England, after considering a draft Trade-Mark Law which had been drafted by a Joint Committee appointed by the China Association and the Shanghai British Chamber of Commerce, prepared a shorter and simpler draft Law. This Law, after discussion with the Board of Trade, was accepted by the said Joint Committee. It was then approved by the Shanghai American Chamber of Commerce and sent to H. M. Legation who handed it to the Waichiaopu. That was the last we heard of this draft, but on May 3 last year the Chinese Government promulgated the new Chinese Trade-Mark Law. As far as I am aware no opportunity was given to the Diplomatic Body, or any of the Foreign Legations at Peking to consider or discuss the new Law, and they were not consulted in any way prior to its promulgation although it seriously affects foreign interests and is clearly an attempt on the part of the Chinese to make an in-road into our extra-territorial rights.

The main objection we have to the new Law is the way in which the Chinese Government provides for its administration.

The Law provides for a Bureau of trade-marks in Peking where trade-marks may be registered. This Bureau is staffed entirely by Chinese, and the three bodies to which appeals therefrom may be made, consist of Chinese and Chinese only. According to the Reuter's telegrams which have appeared in the Press, the Diplomatic Body have told the Chinese Government that they are prepared to recognize the new Law subject to certain considerations and conditions. One of these considerations is a suggestion for foreign expert assistance in the Bureau. In the opinion of the leading foreign merchants here this suggestion is entirely inadequate. Not only is foreign expert assistance necessary but we consider that foreign control or supervision is essential in the Bureau, and in every tribunal to which appeals from the Bureau may be made, and our opinion is that this should have been made a condition precedent even to consideration of the Law by the Diplomatic Body. Although the Law cannot be made strictly binding on foreigners, who are nationals of Powers having extra-territorial rights, when they are defendants in their own Courts, until it has been recognized and accepted by their respective Legations, a Chinese Court of Appeal has already held that a subject of a non-Treaty Power cannot be convicted for an infringement of a foreign trade-mark unless such mark has been registered under the new Law. This was decided in what is now generally known as the "Harbin Case."

Article I of the new Law provides as follows:—

Any person who desires exclusively to use a Trade Mark in order to distinguish goods as having been produced, manufactured, worked, selected, sold, or dealt with in his business shall have such Mark registered in accordance with this Law.

Registration, or the right to register a Mark, involves the whole question of the ownership or the exclusive right to use such a mark, and as I have indicated, this is to be left entirely to the discretion of Chinese bureaucrats.

This is not only a distinct breach of Article 7 of the Mackay Treaty, under which China undertook to protect British trade-marks, and to establish Offices for their registration under the control of the Maritime Customs, but it also strikes at the root of the extra-territorial right of subjects or citizens of the Treaty Powers to have a representative of their nation on all tribunals or courts, before which any questions affecting their rights or interests may be heard or tried.

The Joint Committee appointed by the China Association and the Shanghai British Chamber of Commerce, are fighting hard for foreign control or supervision, in addition to expert technical assistance on the Trade-Mark Bureau and tribunals. They are also pressing for certain other amendments which time will not permit me to mention in detail here, but one of the most important of which is extension of the time for registration, under Article 4 of the new Law, to six months from the date on which the Law is formally recognized by the Powers. I think I can say that the Chambers of Commerce of all foreign Treaty Powers are fully in accordance with the views of this Joint Committee.

I cannot emphasize too strongly how vitally important it is for Foreign Trade-Mark owners to stand together, and use every possible endeavour to prevent recognition of the new Law until proper protection and safeguards are afforded to what is one of, if not the, most valuable forms of foreign property in China.

CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

We are all traders with and well-wishers of China and our business cannot I think increase, but will sadly diminish unless a properly recognized government is established and the practice of illegal taxation and of holding up foreigners for ransom peremptorily checked. The prestige of Westerners and Americans has regrettably declined in China, and since a firm government can hardly be set up without their help, it is very necessary to enhance that prestige of the foreign nations in the eyes of the Chinese masses while doing everything possible to assist the Central Government to be master in its own house and not too dependent on foreign control. The only way out of the present appalling impasse is, to my thinking, to extend the system which has worked so admirably by placing trained foreigners in the employ of the Chinese Government with administrative powers, similar to those excellent services the Chinese Customs, Chinese Postal Department and Chinese Salt Gabelle. With regard to the Salt Revenue, I would like to quote from Mr. Lang's speech at the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank's annual meeting in which he stated "that further inroads on the collections had been made by the Provincial Authorities, and in some cases the efficient organization established by Sir Richard Dane has been broken up and replaced by the nominees of the independent provinces in defiance of all international agreements." If the Powers at the Washington Conference who showed their forbearance and and good will towards China are driven eventually to the conclusion that moderation will not be properly appreciated, there will be regrettably no alternative, as suggested in a "Times" article last June, but to adopt more drastic methods.

RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL CHAMBERS.

My predecessor in the chair, Mr. G. H. Stitt, referred at the last annual general meeting to the necessity for closer relationship between this Chamber and the different National Chambers upon matters of general interest to the trade and commerce of the Port. During the past year several of the Chambers have consulted with each other on various matters and it has been possible to clear up existing differences of opinion and find a basis for mutual agreement in regard to subjects of considerable importance. Unity of action among the Chambers has been secured in cases where deemed desirable, a notable instance being in connexion with the new Chinese Trade-Marks Law.

I trust the various Chambers will continue to meet in conference on all matters where such procedure would be conducive to mutual understanding.

MEMBERSHIP.

The roll of membership totals 125 against 122 last year. Membership of the Chamber suffered during the years of the war and I should like very much to see a considerable increase in the ensuing year. Your Committee is called upon to deal with an increasing volume of business of vast importance to all branches of the commercial community and many of the business houses whose names are absent from the list of members would do well to accord the Chamber their support, more especially in view of the growing difficulties which are besetting commerce in China to day. The Chamber, formed in the year 1847, has seen many difficult situations arise during the 77 years of its existence, but it is doubtful whether there was ever a period when greater need existed for unity amongst the merchants and traders taking part in the enormous business of the port than exists at the present moment.

There were no questions or comments on the report, which was carried unanimously on the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Massey.

There were 12 nominations for the 1924 Committee, and a unanimous appointment was made as follows: Sir Edward Pearce, Messrs. A. Brooke-Smith, B. C. Haile, M. Nodaira, T. H. R. Shaw, N. Lees Smith, E. Sigaut, H. A. Wiley, G. A. Bena, E. T. Byrne, A. M. Cannan, and A. B. Lowson, the last four named being new members.

This was all the business of the meeting.

THE SMALL BORE RIFLE CLUB

The Annual Meeting: Three Competition Trophies Promised

Dr. S. A. Ransom (the Chairman) presided at the first annual meeting of the Small Bore Rifle Club of the Shanghai Rifle Association, held in the S.V.C. Lecture Hall on Wednesday, and there was a fair attendance of members.

In his report, Mr. H. W. Lambert, the hon. secretary, stated that they were in debt to the S.R.A. for $813, but they had assets more than covering this amount. The S.R.A. also had given them a loan of $2,000. The full scheme of contemplated improvements at the range would cost Tls. 900 and therefore had been shelved, but certain additional comforts would be provided. Small bore clubs were being formed at Hankow and Tientsin, so that Interport matches were hoped for. Arrangements also were being made for matches with Home clubs. Three handsome trophies had been promised for competition amongst the members. There were 62 members on the roll.

The report and accounts were passed.

Messrs. A. L. Mottu, T. Mitchell and J. Watson were elected on the committee, the other members of which will be nominated by the S.R.A.

The Chairman expresed the hope that during the ensuing year not only the membership but interest in the club would show an increase.

THE BRITISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting: A Brilliant Year's Working: The Question of Increased Subscription: Mr. Benjamin's Generous Gift

The annual meeting of the British Women's Association took place at the Lyceum Theatre on Wednesday. The theatre was full and the attendance an enthusiastic one.

Mrs. E. M. Gull took the chair, and was supported by Miss Ayrton, Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. Dovey, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Gull, Miss Hyland, Mrs. Irwine, Mrs. Matheson, Mrs. McMichael, Miss Murphy, Mrs. Symons, Mrs. H. P. Wilkinson, Mrs. McGillivray, Mrs. Burton Sayer, Mrs. Clear, Mrs. Craddock, Mrs. Bichard, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. Maitland, Mrs. Alister Campbell and Mrs. Snodgrass (secretary).

Mrs. Gull, after recalling that she had been out of China for most of last year, said in part:—

Let me first of all congratulate you on the results of a very exceptional year, a year which at the same time I pray may never be repeated in our history. The complication of carrying on the Fayre preparations under the shadow of that indescribable calamity in Japan must have been difficult beyond expression, and the manner in which the Association, under the able captaincy of Mrs. Green, pulled through must always command keen admiration and gratitude. The optimism, the pluck and the determination which enabled the Association to render such yeoman service in the relief work, and then on the top of that to go ahead and carry through the most wonderful bazaar, with Mrs. Stitt at its head, that has, from all I have heard, ever been seen in China, can never be forgotten.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITTEE.

In regard to the Association's membership, our position remains fairly stable. How many members are temporarily absent it is always difficult to estimate, and this fact makes our nominal roll almost impossible to estimate accurately. However, as a working basis we count 1058 members as our total and to 1058 did notices of this meeting go out. This, notwithstanding the fact that the financial statement shows only 817 paid up subscriptions. Those figures do not, I will say at once, compare quite favourably with those of last year, since they leave us over 100 members short. On the other hand, 238 new members have joined up in 1923, as against 190 in 1922. Of formal resignations there have been 25, 10 being accounted for in leaving Shanghai. I assure you that your Executive have spent many valuable hours in trying to solve the problem of getting in subscriptions promptly, and in trying to find out whether unpaid subscriptions are the result of carelessness, apathy or are an impolite way of relinquishing membership. The problem remains unsolved.

Your Executive Committee has held 21 ordinary and 2 special meetings during the year at which the attendance averaged 13.6., Mrs. Symons again topping the list in having sat at 21 out of 21 meetings. The acting chairmanship has three times changed hands during last year and in order to avoid misunderstanding I should like to be allowed to say that it was only under very considerable pressure that I agreed to remain nominally Chairman while I was away. Mrs. Simms' term of office was brief family afflictions in the shape of infections diseases, together with her impending departure from Shanghai, making it impossible for her to carry on. Her cheery presence and philosophic outlook on life are greatly missed by all of us. Mrs. Green, however, stepped into the breach, as arranged before I went away, and was acting-Chairman from the beginning of October until the end of last year; great is our gratitude to her for all she has done to complete an uncommonly arduous and difficult session. The fact that there were two changes in the secretarial department during Mrs. Green's term of office did not exactly facilitate matters for her, while to add to the complications a change of Headquarters had to be undertaken, a change indeed for the better, but nevertheless entailing a good deal of work both to Mrs. Simms, Mrs. Green and the House Committee, to all of whom our thanks are due.

On account of pressure of work and impending departure for home leave, Miss Cardwell has relinquished the duties of Hon. Treasurer, and has handed over to Mrs. E. T. Byrne. The Association's gratitude to its Hon. Treasurers is no mere formality. Most hearty thanks are due to Miss Cardwell for all her excellent work in the past.

SOCIETY AND PHILANTHROPY.

Mrs. Gull then dealt with the B.W.A.'s social activities, receptions flower shows etc.

The philanthropic side of the Association was of course, the main interest for very many members. British women who had fallen on hard times should feel that they might ask help from the Social Service Board and rest entirely assured that absolute secrecy would be maintained about their affairs. Mrs. Gull dwelt specially on the work of the Hospital Visiting Department, which had evolved during the past year under the guidance of Mrs. Burton Sayer. In the free wards of the hospitals here were discovered, only too often, Englishmen, who through drink, disease or misfortune, had become utterly destitute and sunk low in the social scale. In this regular visiting of the free wards by the right people, the confidence of these "down and outs" was often gained, and this was an admirable medium through which a work of great and constructive charity might be performed. To provide these men with decent clothing was to begin to rebuild their self-respect, while by getting interested in them, keeping in touch with them, when they left hospital, and if possible, putting them in the way of obtaining employment, was to give to many of them a genuine desire and determination to make good. Patience, perseverance, tact and a great understanding were the essential qualities for work of this kind. These who were interested in helping here could be of special service by telling the Committee of possible employment and by sending clothing, magazines, etc: in to them at Headquarters.

As well as this rather special work, numbers of other hospital patients, old-standing and hopeless cases, many of them, were visited, cheered and provided with such little comforts as are not to be found in free wards. "In so gay and friendly a place as Shanghai it is difficult perhaps to realize what a lot of friendless strangers, both women and men, find their way into hospitals here. I make no apology for stressing this work among the "down and outs," because it is reconstructive and seems to me to fall in with the best traditions of our country, and to be the very epitome of social service."

KINDERED SOCIETIES AND THANKS.

Mrs. Gull then dwelt on the cordial relations and cooperation prevailing between the B.W.A. and kindred societies. She expressed special thanks to the Press for the generous manner in which their columns had always been opened to them, and in this connexion would acknowledge how much they owed to the three leading women journalists of Shanghai, Miss Benedict, Miss Douglas and Miss Stops, of the "North China Daily News," the "Shanghai Times" and the "Mercury" respectively. To their assiduous care, energy and revotion the B. W. A. owe a vast amount of exceedingly valuable publicity.

Cordial thanks of the Association were due to their hon. legal advisors, to the hon. auditor and to the Chairman (Mr. Stitt) and members of the Men's Advisory Committee. Also to the Chairmen and Committees of the Country and Union Clubs, to the Chairman and Stewards of the Race Club, and to many other men, whose cooperation and sympathy had been invaluable.

Mrs. E. H. McMichael read

COMPANY MEETINGS

THE SHANGHAI LAND INVESTMENT CO.

Details of Prosperous Year's Working Given by Chairman at Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of shareholders in the Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday. Sir Edward Peacock presided and the others present were Messrs. C. H. Arnhold, J. W. Bardwell and G. L. Campbell, directors, P. Peebles, general manager, P. A. H. Chambers, J. H. Gordon, C. C. Stevenson, S. Yale and W. L. Atkinson.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the Chairman said:—

The report and accounts for the year ending December 31, 1923, have been in your hands for some days, and I will, with your permission, take them as read.

When last I addressed you I congratulated you on receiving the best working account the company had ever presented to its shareholders. This year, I am happy to say, your accounts again show a continued improvement, the balance of working account being Tls. 10,666.94 greater than last year. This, in spite of the fact, that we have carried out certain re-buildings with a consequent temporary loss of rent.

A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME.

During the year your Directors put into operation a staff superannuation scheme and in view of the many years' service of most of the staff, they made the scheme partly retrospective. Following the lines of certain other public companies, it was decided to allocate to the superannuation fund an amount equal to 5 per cent. of each employee's salary since the commencement of his service with the company and to credit the same with compound interest at 6 per cent. per annum. The sum involved amounts to Tls. 33,204 which your board considered advisable to write off to this year's profit and loss account rather than debit our reserves which it might legitimately have recommended. Future allocations to be on the following lines—that is to say, 5 per cent. is deducted from the salary of each employee and credited to the fund, the company add an amount equal to 10 per cent. of salaries and credit the fund with interest at 6 per cent. per annum. Needless to say, the scheme has given considerable satisfaction to the staff and your directors feel that not only was it well deserved, but also in the best interests of the company. When I tell you that our present small staff, none of whom were engaged for architectural work, have designed and carried out new buildings to a total cost of over three million taels with a corresponding saving of fees to the company, you will agree that this encouragement given to them by the board is well merited.

RE-DEVELOPMENT.

The re-development of Wills and Chwang Hoong Estates which I outlined in my speech last year was completed and the houses occupied during the summer. Satisfactory increases in rents were obtained for all the new houses the financial return being slightly better than our estimates. A further block of 150 Chinese houses on the Chwang Hoong Estate has now been taken in hand and as soon as this is completed another block of about equal size will be commenced. This gradual re-development will continue until the whole of our old properties have been rebuilt, a programme which will carry us over several years.

NEW FOREIGN HOUSES.

Except for the completion of the terrace of 15 houses on Dixwell Road mentioned in my last speech, we did not take in hand during the year any new foreign buildings. Small well built foreign houses are still easily let, but the demand for them is not nearly as keen as it was. The cost of well built foreign houses is still high, and we have in view only a restricted foreign building programme for the current year.

SALES.

The only sale during the year was Mohawk Road estate. This estate was purchased by the company in 1914 for Tls. 195,000. During the years we held it the rents gave a fair return on its cost and the land appreciated considerably in value and we were able to realize a considerable profit on the sale. The whole profit appears in profit and loss account this year.

PURCHASES.

We have purchased during the year two properties, the first on North Fokien Road at the junction of the Tong Dong Ka Lane. A part of this estate has been resold to the Municipal Council for the purpose of a market, and the remainder is now nearing the completion of its re-development with very well built Chinese shops and houses.

The second, a property developed with good Chinese houses near the junction of Wuchow and Hailar Roads. Both these properties are well situated and have every prospect of a steady increase in value.

ACCOUNTS.

I think I need take very little of your time in dealing with the accounts. We publish these in considerable detail, and the report contains comparisons with those of the previous year.

The increase in gross rents is, I think, satisfactory and the increase in outgoings is not more than we should reasonably expect in view of the steady increase in all fixed charges due to the growth and greater taxable value of our estates. All our properties have been kept in a good state of repair, and naturally each house we add to our property also adds something to the cost of our annual repairs. The interest on our mortgages has more than paid the interest on our bank overdraft due to the fact that for a part of the year, our overdraft was small. During the current year, however we shall be more heavily indebted to the bank and our credit balance of interest account will disappear.

There is nothing on the debit side of working account which would appear to need explanation and profit and loss account is, I think, equally clear. Our recommendations for the appropriation of the balance are set out in the report.

The balance sheet shows the financial position of the company clearly. If you pass the resolution as to the recommended appropriation of the balance standing at the credit of profit and loss account, our reserve for equalization of dividends will be increased to Tls. 275,000 and our improvements and renewals reserve to over Tls. 311,000. These with the steadily growing depreciation of building reserve now standing at Tls. 179,562.95 are eloquent testimony of the soundness of the financial status of the company.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

The good relations which have for years existed between the company and the native authorities have been to some extent marred this year by the high handed policy of the Chapei authorities in laying out and making up certain quite useless roads through our property in the Paoshan district, without giving us any notice or even offering us any compensation before taking possession of our land. The matter is now in the hands of the Consular authorities and will, I hope, be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, and I mention it now as a further piece of evidence of the growing attitude of Chinese to disregard and ride rough shod over foreign rights. The land in question is held under the usual British title deed granted by the Chinese Government, but neither contractual obligations nor Treaty rights would appear to carry any weight with Chinese authorities of the present day. I think there is nothing else on which I need comment, but should any shareholder wish for further explanations or information. I shall be pleased to supply the same as far as I can.

There were no questions the following resolutions were duly carried:—

That the report and accounts as presented be accepted and passed. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Arnhold.

That the directors be authorized to pay a final dividend for the year 1923 at 6 per cent. and a bonus of 1 per cent. on the paid up capital of the company to shareholders on the register at this date. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Arnhold.

That Mr. C. H. Arnhold be elected a director of the company. Proposed by Mr. Chambers, seconded by Mr. Gordon.

That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham & Matthews be reelected auditors for the current year at a remuneration of Tls. 750. Proposed by Mr. Chambers, seconded by Mr. Gordon.

An announcement by the Chairman that it was hoped to have the dividend warrants issued by the same afternoon's post concluded the business of the meeting.

ASIA LIFE INSCE. CO.

Annual General Meeting

The third annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Asia Life Insurance Company was held at the offices of the Company, No. 3 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday afternoon. The officers and directors of the previous year were continued in office without any changes or additions. They are as follows:—

C. V. Starr President.
Dr. F. B. Baldwin, Vice-President.
A. K. Taylor, Secretary.
C. L. Seitz, Treasurer.
C. H. Getts, Assistant Secretary.
H. A. Pan, Assistant Secretary.

Directors:—

C. L. Seitz.
F. J. Raven.
C. V. Starr.
Thomas L. Miller (Tientsin).
Hunter Mann (Hankow).
B. C. Sienkevitch.
A. K. Taylor.

The report of the Directors showed the Company's progress as is evidenced by its recently published financial statement. The shareholders recorded their complete confidence in the Company's present management and their satisfaction with the growth of the business.

A number of his friends entertained Mr. G. H. Stitt, manager of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, at dinner on Sunday night, the occasion being his departure on Home leave. Judge Peter Grain presided and proposed the toast of the guest, which was supported by Mr. A. W. Burkill, on behalf of the Stewards of the Race Club, Mr. S. Fessenden on behalf of the Municipal Council, and Mr. John Prentice representing the commercial interests of the port. Mr. Stitt suitably replied.

His Honour Judge Grain disposed of a number of small debt cases in H. M. Supreme Court, on Thursday, giving judgment for the Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels for $494.65 and $50 costs against G. W. Bicknell; for Rattan Singh for $50 down, $50 a month and costs against Saraj Din on an eight year-old I.O.U. for $150; and for Mrs. T. M. Wallace against Norman W. Bowler for $358 for board and lodging. Bowler said that he was willing to surrender his furniture held by Mrs. Wallace, but he asked to be allowed to have his private clothes. The Judge said that Mrs. Wallace was perfectly entitled to retain both furniture and clothes until the debt was paid. The case of S. M. Sopher v. A. Baptista, a judgment summons on account of overdue instalments, was adjourned on defendant's statement that he would clear the debt this month.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Exhaustive Review at Annual Meeting of Conditions and Events in China: The Trademark Law Described by Chairman as an Attack on Extraterritoriality

A full and interesting review of the principal matters affecting commerce in China during the year was given on Tuesday afternoon by Sir Edward Peacock, presiding at the annual general meeting of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce. Sir Edward was supported by Messrs. A. Brooke-Smith, P. W. Massey, B. C. Haale and E. Sigaut, members of the Committee, and there were also present Messrs. E. T. Byrne, P. A. H. Chambers, G. H. Sheppard, O. M. Green, B. dos Remedios, V. G. Lyman, G. A. Bena, Gavin Campbell, A. L. Dickson and W. Thomas.

The notice convening the meeting having been read:—

Gentlemen.—The report and accounts for the year ending December 31 last having been in your hands for some little time, I will with your permission take them as read. Before moving their adoption I will refer briefly to the more important matters which have occupied the attention of your Committee. The report as presented to you goes very fully into all the Chamber's activities during the year and leaves little for me to add.

Your thanks are due to the various Sub-Committees who have sat during the year, their work has been much appreciated and exceedingly helpful to the Chamber.

PILFERAGE OF CARGO.

Our recommendations as published in the report have been forwarded in a letter to the Senior Consul, a reply to which is still awaited. It is imperative that the river in future must have a larger number of police, which, due to the increase of shipping now calling at this port, is absolutely necessary. As a proof of the growth I would state that the total Shanghai Customs Revenue for 1922 was Hk. Tls. 21,932,807 as against Hk. Tls. 11,513,062 for 1912, Hk. Tls. 12,061,197 in 1914, Tls. 14,289,736 in 1919 and Hk. Tls. 18,833,046 in 1920.

CONGESTION OF SOOCHOW CREEK.

As far back as January 1923, more than a year ago, we made representations to the Consular Body, pointing out the appalling condition of this very necessary waterway not only within the Settlement limits but extending some three to four miles westward of the boundary, hindering as it does in its present state all means of traffic during low tide and causing endless delay and consequent loss of money to all factories bordering on the creek, whose only means it is of moving their supplies and products. A letter was also addressed to the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce asking for their cooperation in the urgent need for dredging, to which they replied that the people living in the eight districts with which the creek communicates are unanimously willing to contribute towards the expense of dredging the creek and as soon as contributions have been received they will request the Chinese Authorities to commence the work forthwith.

Furthermore, your Committee has reason to believe that the Whangpoo Conservancy is prepared at any time to undertake the dredging of that part of the creek which lies within the Settlement limits and to meet the cost of same out of funds already in their hands and available for that purpose.

All of us who have lived in China can draw our own interences from these facts.

PILOTAGE TARIFF.

During the year your Committee has been engaged upon the question of revision of the Shanghai Pilotage Tariff. The matter was first brought before the Chamber in November 1922 when it was submitted that the 50 per cent. surcharge which had been instituted as a temporary measure to compensate the pilots for decreased earnings due to the decrease of tonnage arriving at the port, during the War period should be withrawn.

In 1920 it had been agreed to continue the high tariff for a further period in order to provide for the cost of construction of the new pilot boat Lingkong but earnings have now increased to such an extent that after making due allowance for the provision of a new reserve pilot boat to replace Yangtze the tariff should be brought to a reasonable level. Special Sub-Committees appointed by the Chamber have investigated this question and obtained the opinions of the National Chambers. Their reports have been submitted to the Consular Body who, together with the Chambers of Commerce and the Harbour Master, form the Pilotage Authority of the Port. The Consular Body now have the matter under consideration.

In addition to tariff revision the Chamber has considered the question of travelling pilots. The opinion is held that it is desirable that this privilege should still be available for steamship companies particularly those maintaining an express service.

They have also discussed the general regulations governing the Pilotage service, the provisions with regard to medical examination and age limit and the period of apprenticeship before qualification for a pilot's licence.

THE LINCHENG BANDIT OUTRAGE.

We publish in our report a copy of the telegram despatched to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body on May 22, 1923 and the reply received. From the concluding paragraph you will observe that the Doyen informed us "that he has little doubt that the Powers represented at the Washington Conference will consider the measures necessary to guarantee the safety of the lives and property of their nationals in China and will take such steps as may appear to them desirable and practicable to prevent the recurrence of any similar outrage and to remedy the state of things which has rendered such an incident possible."

Since this Lincheng outrage, gentlemen, no less than nine members of friendly nations to China have been murdered and 25 kidnapped by bandits. This does not include cases in which foreigners have been fired on or had close calls and where only property has been seized or damaged. I have in my hand the appalling list of these outrages. This has all happened since the interchange of notes concerning the Lincheng affair when China gave assurances that immediate steps would be undertaken to eradicate banditry throughout the country, and the receipt of the telegram from the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body. We are indeed paying pretty heavily for the privilege of being guests in China, or should I say paying guests.

I think it only right to mention that so far the Chinese Government have evaded the payment of any compensation to those unfortunate people who underwent such a terrible experience.

In addition to the above I have a list of recent acts of piracies against ships in Hongkong waters, no less than three British and four Chinese ships being pirated in 1923, and another British ship as recently as last January.

PROVINCIAL SURTAX OF 20 PER CENT.

The Provinical surtax on cigarettes, imposed in the Provinces of Chekiang, Anhui, Hupeh and Honan, has created considerable disturbance in that particular trade and has attracted very wide attention not only in China, but in Europe, America and Japan. This surtax of 20 per cent. is a tax on goods and similar to the likin tax against which this Chamber, together with all the National Chambers, has made constant efforts to secure the abolition. As merchants interested in the free passage of goods about the country, we know that irregular taxation is one of the

the incoming committee will consider the question of an official ball for 1925. After a suggestion that possibly a re-arrangement of the order of the championships might be of financial benefit to the Association, the matter was left to the committee to arrange. The President announced that the use of the Hotel Majestic courts had been granted for another season, but after that the Association would have to consider the question of finding other courts.

Mr. Brown said that he had made inquiries regarding affiliation to the Lawn Tennis Association, but this was not feasible, because the rules were not very elastic and, though a club could join, an association of clubs could not.

Votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Whitamore for his work as secretary, to Mr. Reginald Brown for auditing the accounts, to the managers and directors of the Shanghai Hotels for allowing the use of the Hotel Majestic Courts, and to the Head Master of the Cathedral School for granting the use of the room for the meeting.

THE BOY SCOUTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting of Shanghai Branch

The annual meeting of the Shanghai branch of the Boy Scouts' Association was held at H. M. Consulate on Tuesday evening. The chair was taken by Mr. Sidney Barton C.M.G., supported by Sir Edward Pearce, Judge Sir Skinner Turner, the Very Rev. Dean Symons, Col. W. F. L. Gordon, C.M.G.; R.S.O., and Messrs. I. Tuxford, E. Moller, P. Fowler, H. S. Bartley, A. J. Stewart, C. Grosbois, J. P. Jones, W. J. Hawkings, H. Holgate, E. S. Wilkinson, R. E. Toeg, and Commissioner F. C. Millington, Assistant Commissioner S. Hore, Mr. N. S. Jacobs (Hon. Sec.) and Mr. H. G. Whitcher (Hon. Treas.)

On the proposition of Mr. E. Moller, seconded by Mr. Tuxford the report and accounts were adopted.

Officers were elected as follows:—Patron and President: Mr. Sidney Barton C.M.G.,; Vice Presidents: Sir Edward Pearce and Sir Skinner Turner; Hon. Sec.: Mr. Jacobs; Hon. Treas.: Mr. H. Holgate; Executive Committee: Messrs. Tuxford, Moller, the Commissioners, the Hon. Sec., and the Hon. Treas.

Some discussion ensued on the subject of the Association's by-laws for submission to the authorities at Home, and these were adopted as set out in the report, with a number of small amendments.

Commissioner Millington drew attention to the by-law imposing a subscription of $5 per year on each member. He explained that no fee had been charged for the past five or six years, but they now felt that it would be better to raise their funds for the jamboree, etc., inside the Association than to let the boys sell tickets and "tout" publicly in the streets.

A proposal was made to the Association by Mr. W. Trenchard Davis, of St. George's Society, on behalf of the Patriotic Societies, that the Scouts hold their jamboree in conjunction with the other Patriotic Societies, and the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for their consideration and decision.

Before the meeting concluded, Mr. Sidney Barton presented Mr. Fowler with the "Thanks Badge" as a token of their gratitude for the very valuable assistance he had rendered the scout movement in Shanghai during the past year or so.

Mr. Fowler expressed his thanks briefly and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The total strength of the Association to-day is 14 scout officers and 122 scouts, 5 Wolf Cub officers and 166 Cubs, and 14 Rovers, being a grand total of 19 officers and 302 boys, as compared with 13 scout officers and 140 scouts and 5 Cub officers and 150 Cubs at the time of the last annual meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

MORAL WELFARE.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The report given in last week's Municipal Gazette, and signed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, is very timely and illuminating, and it deserves careful consideration. It is not to be expected that all will view it in the same light, and individuals will select the items with which they agree, or disagree; but so long as serious thought is stimulated, the outcome will be salutary, even though opinions differ.

I should be glad to find myself mistaken, but it seems to me that the report is biassed against the elimination policy of the past three or four years. We are told that if among the aims has been "the improvement of public morality, then, of course, the measures adopted at the instance of the Ratepayers have been a failure." The "of course" is very significant, and it speaks for itself! The official mind seems to have been fully made up that the present policy is not a good one, and it is confirmed in that view because, among other things, it lessens the "control" so dear to officialdom all the world over, and it also breaks up "news centres where valuable information was often obtained by the Police."

Our Deputy Commissioner is, however, on ground of common agreement when saying "It is quite impossible to say how far present vice conditions in Shanghai are attributable to those measures and how far they are the outcome of events."

Considering the way the report opens, I am agreeably surprised to find how many indications it contains that things are not as bad as some had supposed, and that in fact the gains by the present policy outweigh the losses. It is frankly admitted that "commercialized vice" has diminished, and that there has been an automatic decrease of deliberate exploitation of prostitutes for profit. Also "from the humanitarian standpoint, the Council's measures have certainly effected an improvement." The girls who remain receive better treatment than they used to get; and we read of "emancipated prostitutes" whose conditions of living are better than those obtaining in brothels. These are results which must surely be gratifying to all who care for our less fortunate fellow-creatures; and they are results which would not have been seen apart from the measures which are said to have proved a failure. There is also less street rowdyism requiring the attention of the police, which is also something to be thankful for.

On the other side, we are told that prostitution in the Settlement has not decreased; but the official voice does not say it has increased during the past five years. Now, seeing that the population increases by over 100,000 during five years, and that no increase in the number of prostitutes is declared, (leaving aside for the moment foreign additions from other causes), there is justification for believing that things have actually improved. Further, as hundreds of brothels have been closed, and it is stated that some former inmates now take their customers to places outside the Settlement, and touts are found in Foochow Road offering to take men to distant places, instead of the girls being near by, it is open to us to believe that the probabilities are that prostitution *has* decreased in this Settlement. At any rate there is agreement that prostitution is less in evidence than it used to be, and soliciting has decreased in the most prominent places, while it is said to remain "about the same" in others. Our observations show a decided diminution in some of the less frequented places. It is a pity it has increased in places of amusement; but it was always there and it is doubtful if it has increased in anything like the way it has decreased on the streets. Arrests for solicitation are now fewer, and I have regarded that as an indication that things were improving, or that the police were less active, and my belief has been the former; does the police report want us now to believe the latter?

There is admittedly some risk as regards arrests for solicitation; but what can be said in excuse of clause 3, where it is openly admitted that it is known—through some 20 senior officers—that "prostitution is carried on to a greater extent on licensed premises than before"? The licence conditions forbid this, and yet appearently nothing happens. This defiance of law and laxity of action have nothing to do with the new policy, as they existed previously, and they are a standing reproach.

Much might be said about increased activities in public parks, referring to foreigners; but it may be sufficient here to regard them as largely "the outcome of events" in the words of the report. The new policy cannot be blamed for an influx due to quite other causes.

The Vice Commission's recommendations undoubtedly aimed at the improvement of public morality; to this end 16 recommendations were adopted, but the present report is concerned chiefly with only two of the items. Some of the other points have been attended to, but it would be interesting to know how far others are being carried out. To refresh memories, let me quote a few:—

3. That special notification be given to all registered owners of brothel property in order to endeavour to get their co-operation.
6. That the law against street soliciting be strictly enforced.
7. That the law prohibiting indecent advertisements by way of posters or in newspapers be strictly enforced.
11. That parks and other open spaces be well-lighted and policed in the summer months.
14. That propaganada be undertaken by the Health Department relating to the evils of promiscuous intercourse and the dangers arising therefrom.

I cannot trespass on your space to discuss all these, but they have a vital relation to the policy now questioned. If there in increased solicitation, or even if it is "about the same," it is strange, in view of point 6 above, that in this great city an average of less than two cases per night are charged. Then what has been done under point 14? As regards point 7, it is, of course, easy to quibble as to what is "indecent;" but to take a dictionary meaning of "offending against modesty or delicacy," it may be said that there are thousands of Chinese posters placarding our streets which, if translated into English, would be found objectionable and repulsive to people; they would not be tolerated for a day in London. Then, from the point of view of public morality, I believe hundreds of people are daily nauseated by the indelicate and suggestive advts. and pictures in our newspapers and on the hoardings; and what of the nightly revels the notices of which are daily thrust upon our attention, in language often bordering on the vulgar, to say the least, as the newspapers pass round our families? Street posters seem to vie with one another as incentives to passion. Are these things better or worse within the last five years, and do they come within the scope of the Council's "measures"? Can public morality be expected to improve while these things continue? Who raises a voice of protest against the downgrade tendencies, or what paper dares to stem the tide in its advertisements? There are many critics of those who try to make things better, and any plea or plan for improvement is frowned at or scouted by some, while the glaring incentives to folly and vice are passed by in silence—a silence which does us little credit as a community.

The police, and all who are honestly trying to improve things instead of letting them become worse, need the encouragement and help of those who care about morality at all, and I believe they are many. Just which are the best methods for our particular problems we shall only learn by experiments, and let us try these with faith and patience, and with mutual forebearance; along these lines we may still venture to be optimistic.

I am., etc.,
I. M.

Shanghai, March 14, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—Regarding the letter from "Laissez Faire" on Moral Welfare, did you fail to see that he was writing sarcastically? I imagine that it was a member of the Moral Welfare League who wrote thus, in somewhat bitter irony ridiculing the arguments of those who insist that because a law is violated, or is found difficult to enforce, it had better be withdrawn from the statute books.

The whole difficulty with this matter is, as with the enforcing of Prohibition, whether of liquor selling or of opium smoking, there is need always of an educated public sentiment to back up the law. As long as a large part of the community wants these things, and even thinks it their right to have them, the prohibition of them will not be completely enforced.

Progress whether in civilization, culture, or morals, does not come all of a sudden; the world will not grow better over-night; and all we need is patient endeavour, education, publicity, preaching, and the gospel of Jesus Christ in the hearts of men and women; and all will come well in time.

I do not agree with you that the Moral Welfare League's policy has been proved a failure. If you editors of newspapers will help as much as you reasonably can, it may yet prove a glorious success.

I am, etc.,
NIL DESPERANDUM.

Shanghai, March 12, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—There is nothing new about prostitution or the methods of those who indulge in extra-marital relations but the measures new to Shanghai and introduced with a view to lessening the evil trade have forced those who support it to adopt newer methods in order to come in contact with those they seek. The man who was wont to visit a brothel wherein resided many women, is now forced to look for one in the street and take her to a hotel or visit a small house wherein reside only one or two. As the Deputy Commissioner of Police has said and all clear thinking people realize there is just as much prostitution in Shanghai before the new order for suppression became active.

"Laissez Faire's" suggestion that we should wipe out all laws relating to suppression because it does not succeed is surely the utterance of a feeble mind. He might as well suggest that we should do away with pure food acts or laws because there is still a lot of impure food about or allow every vendor of milk to adulterate it with water because some do so.

Laws of suppression are always useful, but if it is worth while they will be evaded by some and it only remains that they should be made reasonable remembering always that laws are made for the people and not the people for the laws.

Drastic measures bring discredit and disorganization in their train and in this Model Settlement we want more than dispersal of prostitution, we want not to find it at every turn, but confined to limited areas.

I am, etc,
WAUNG MAU.

Shanghai, March 14, 1924.

THE FIRE AT CHOUTSUN.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In your issue of March 6, appeared an account of "an appalling fire near Tsinanfu,—Choutsun being destroyed by fire etc." March 8, you publish a further account.—this time from your "own correspondent," and in your issue of March 9, you again refer to the "destruction of Choutsun."

The first account amused us, the second amazed us; the third annoyed us. Eight days having elapsed between the fire and this third account, and as Choutsun is only a few hours journey by train from Tsingtao, surely your "own correspondent" might have ascertained the truth,—or otherwise,—of the reports. Having given such publicity to the false reports supplied by Tsingtao, I hope you will give equal publicity to the truth now supplied by Choutsun! I have been closely associated with the city for over 30 years and a resident for 20 years, and send you herewith facts.

I may say also I have been a subscriber to your paper for some 35 years, and rely on it to give me news of the outside world. After reading these most inaccurate and grossly exaggerated accounts, my confidence has received a rude shock, and I wonder now how much fiction of a similar sort I have swallowed during this time! I shall certainly discount any further news appearing under the heading "Reuter's Pacific Service" and "Your own correspondent" at Tsingtao!

I am, etc.,
E. M. SMYTH.

Choutsun, Sung. Mar. 12, 1924.

FICTION.

"Choutsun destroyed by fire.
200 shops and houses destroyed.
More than 300 people lost their lives.
Many roasted while asleep.
One eighth of population on the casualty list.
Thousands homeless.
Suffering from hunger intense
Corpses strew the streets
Bandits swooped down on the city
Colonel Mai arrested the Tuchun's son
Colonel Mai disbanded his troops and fled
His soldiers looted the town."

FACT.

About 40 shops were burnt out
Not one life was lost
Only caretakers sleeping on the premises. Not one was roasted.
Have only heard of one "bandit" here, and his head was off before the fire.
Broke out, and may be seen in a basket outside the North gate of the city
Nobody here knows anything about Colonel Mai arresting etc., etc.
The soldiers not only did Not loot the town, but kept splendid order, and
Guarded the property of the shopkeepers as it was got out of the burning buildings.
No looting whatever
Débris is being quickly carted away, and contracts being made for rebuilding by the people who, according to your "own correspondent" were killed, injured, roasted, stripped, looted, and famished!

Later.

Further to my letter of this morning Choutsun is not a "village," but a big city. There are 18 adult foreigners residing here. We have a fine modern foreign hospital, with two foreign doctors, and a staff of foreign and native nurses. As I live at one end of the city and the Hospital is the other, I sent over to ask how many patients had been admitted as a result of the fire! I enclose you Dr. Fleming's reply.

Wild rumours and false reports like those sent you by your "own correspondent" do a great deal of harm, and I hope you will either change your "own correspondent" or at any rate warn him (or her?) to be more careful.

E. M. S.

*** Mrs. Smyth omitted to enclose Dr. Fleming's reply. Her letter is referred to in to-day's Notes & Comments.—Ed.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The report which Reuters has been giving you regarding the fire in Choutsun are the products of either a wild imagination or of malice. I have just read the account in your issue of March 10, and aside from the fact that there was a fire in Choutsun on the date indicated, none of the other statements therein are remotely related to the truth.

I was in Choutsun shortly after the fire. About 30 shops in a busy street were burned out. No lives were lost so far as I could learn. Not one injured person

the report of the Social Service Board of which she is Chairman. The Board deals with the philanthropic side of the B. W. A. and consists of 20 members including officers. Funds are derived from various sources. The Race Club has twice during the year sent a generous donation of $1,500. The Dramatic and Gardening Sections have also made substantial contributions and donations have been sent by individual members of the Association. Financial help has been given during the year to distressed British women and children in the form of board and lodging, school and training fees, hospital fees and part payment of passages.

Part of the maintenance of an Englishman dying of tuberculosis was paid and a special contribution was made towards the cost of the Xmas dinner given to men of the Merchant Service by the Association.

Other nationalities have been helped by a contribution at Xmas to the Foreign Women's Home and the Soup Kitchen for Russians. The Foreign Women's Home was further assisted by the organization of a Gift Stall at the recent Linen Sale which realized the sum of $196.

Appeals for help from various institutions organised by foreigners for Chinese are constantly received and carefully considered but in the majority of cases financial help is withheld, as it is felt that the Fund at disposal is held in trust primarily for the benefit of distressed members of the British Community. Sympathy has, however, been expressed when possible by small contributions to such institutions as the Salvation Army Home for Girls in Peking, and the Mixed Court Home in Shanghai under the direction of the Moral Welfare League.

In addition to this the Board is in touch with the interests of Chinese through representatives on the Committee of the Institution for Chinese Blind, the Joint Industrial Committee of the Women's Clubs in Shanghai, the International Relations Committee, the Y. W. C. A. and the Moral Welfare League.

The Hospital Aid Department, which meets for a whole day every week at Headquarters continues to send out a regular supply of hospitals requisited to 49 Mission Hospitals throughout China. Eighty parcels have been despatched during the year containing 16,220 articles. Bandages of every sort, towels, sheets, pads and clothing have been sent, even blankets were obtained at special prices and sent to a hospital looted by bandits.

The Fund for materials is provided by a regular donation of $50. a month from the Social Service Board and by private contributions. Gifts in the form of old linen etc., have been gratefully received.

HOSPITAL VISITING COMMITTEE.

The British hospitals were visited regularly during the past year with the exception of a few weeks during the summer.

Fifty to seventy patients have often been visited in one afternoon and the patients without means were supplied with small luxuries such as fruit, biscuits, wine and cigarettes, also necessary clothing before leaving hospital. Flowers, books and magazines were greatly appreciated and gifts of warm garments, sweets and cigarettes were given to 147 patients on Xmas Day. Work was found for a number of men, and destitute British are kept in touch with as far as possible.

EMERGENCY CORPS.

A scheme is being prepared for the organization of women in the case of any emergency arising in Shanghai. The details of this scheme are not for publication but the Social Service Board was approached with a view to enrolling members of the Social Service League for domestic work should occasion arise.

Four staff were undertaken during the Fiscal by this Board and numerous contributions made both by members of the B. W. A. and friends outside the Association, including beer. The total amount raised was $5,159.

THE RESIDENCE SCHEME.

Mrs. H. P. Wilkinson then read a report on the progress of the Residence scheme. The "Fayre", the idea of which was originated by Mrs. Craddock and Mrs. E. E. Parsons, had resulted in a very handsome profit towards this project. The Residence Committee and Mr. Maurice Benjamin had recently held a meeting together, at which the possibilities of a residence had been fully explored. The main outlines had been laid before the Executive Committee, but it was as yet impossible to be explicit.

The accounts were passed by the meeting.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HEADQUARTERS.

Mrs. Gull then presented on behalf of Mr. Maurice Benjamin details of a scheme drawn up on the most generous lines imaginable for the advancement and betterment of the British Women's Association. She pointed out whereas in this central district one room similar, say, to their present tea room, would be assessed ordinarily at something like Tls. 55 a month, they were paying under Tls. 27 per month a room while they had the use of five or six attic rooms for nothing at all. Mr. Benjamin's present scheme (subject to constructional modification and alteration as occasion may arise) was as follows:—

Mr. Benjamin proposes to carry the B. W. A. Headquarters through into the adjoining houses on either side of the present quarters and thus to provide for us a magnificent hall for entertainments exhibitions, meetings, etc., measuring no less than 70 feet in length, access to which will be from our present lobby, which will be reached frim the street by means of a lift as well as by the present staircase. Where the attics now are, is going to be considerably transformed, the sloping ceilings to be made flat and the entire space over all three houses to be made into bedrooms, bathrooms, etc. It is just on the cards that another floor of bedrooms will be added, but that is by the way.

On the western side, corresponding with the entertainment hall, the 70 foot length will probably be arranged as a dining room or restaurant, available both for members and residents, as well as kitchen, serving room and scullery. The present tea room will perhaps turn into a cosy sitting room while the reading room will remain as such. The old Committee room is already converted into a secretarial office and a board room, thus bringing the working part of the organization on to one floor in a compact and convenient fashion. As to how many bedrooms there will be, we cannot yet tell; there may be 12 or there may be 15. The rent for the whole is, owing to Mr. Benjamin's munificence, to remain at the old figure of about $1600 per annum.

Owing to the princely generosity of Mr. Benjamin, we seem to be in a fair way to obtaining all that we have ever dreamed of for our Association.

A PRACTICAL TEST.

Mr. Benjamin's scheme will enable us to experiment under the favourable conditions in regard to residential headquarters. He has propounded a pretty considerable financial scheme which will, (if, after testing our residential scheme we avail ourselves of it,) ensure our future financial stability and independence. This scheme has the full and unstinted approval of our financial adviser, Mr. Stitt.

One point Mr. Benjamin particularly wishes me to make clear is that he may be obliged to modify and alter his plans from time to time and must retain freedom to do this as he sees fit. He has stipulated, as you have heard, for a small committee of the B. W. A. Chairman, Mrs. Green and Mrs. Wilkinson to assist him in consultation and has promised to report progress to the members at frequent intervals.

Mr. Gull then proceeded to deal with the work of the Sections in detail. These are too long to give fully and as regular notes on these have appeared through out the year a few notes must suffice.

The Gardening Section with Mrs. Craddock as its Chairman, ends the year with 161 members, less than at the termination of the last year. The Section shows an excellent record with 15 meetings and two flowershows held during the year, the lectures and demonstrations having been well attended.

The membership of the Sports Section, with Mrs. Bichard at its head, is about 100. The annual tennis tournament was played off in September. Hockey began in November and practices take place weekly at the Race Club, several matches, including one with the Men's Junior Hockey Club having been played. Some 15 members play Badminton at the Girls Public School in Boone Road on three afternoons each week.

The Literary Section, with Mrs. Hodges as its Chairman, remains stable with just over 100 members, and has held 12 meetings during the past 12 months, at which papers on current events and on Chinese subjects have been read.

One has to congratulate the Musical Section, with its membership of 123, under the able guidance of Mrs. N. G. Maitland, on an excellent year's work. The Section gives one musical afternoon a month at Headquarters, and they also provide an hour's musical programme for members of the Y.W.C.A. on the first Friday in each month.

There is a decided falling off in the membership of the Art Section, which last year numbered 82 members, against this year's 50. But numbers in this instance by no means represent vitality, under the capable chairmanship of Mrs. R. J. Roberts, the section is actually in quite as flourishing a condition as it has ever been. The recent exhibition of pictures at Headquarters was voted by everyone who saw it as being a great advance on previous shows, and no less than 25% of the pictures shown found purchasers.

Members of the Dramatic Section, numbering 124, have re-elected Mrs. Alister Campbell on her return from England, to be Chairman for the ensuing session. Mrs. Cochrane, after a most successful term, having relinquished this office on her departure from Shanghai. Financially, as well as artistically, the Section has had a distinctly successful year, the balance in hand at the end of December last being $933.34.

The Needlework Section makes up by industry what it lacks in numbers, 38 members, with an average attendance of 12.7 forming the total under the energetic chairmanship of Mrs. D. Lewis. The balance to its credit at the end of last year was about $740: and a donation of $30: was made to the B.W.A. Christmas dinner to merchant sailors at the Hanbury Institute.

No department merits higher praise than the Entertainment Committee, under the able leadership of Mrs. Craddock, they have reduced the running of tea-parties to a fine art. They have considerably added to equipment during the past year and now now own property to the value of about $360: Mrs. A. J. Stewart has been appointed Hon. Treasurer in place of Miss Thomson, resigned.

SUBSCRIPTION INCREASED TO $5.

Mrs. Craddock moved:

That the subscription to the B. W. A. be increased from $3 to $5 per annum.

She pointed out that the expenses of the Association were very much heavier than since its formation. Three years ago they had no rent to pay, no wages excepting those of the "boy," and most of their furniture was lent. To-day they had wages to pay, rent and furniture to provide. Had it not been for that 15 per cent. from the profits of the Fayre she did not know what they would have done: they would simply have been in a condition of bankruptcy. Expenses at Headquarters were very heavy indeed, and although the extra $2 per year from each member would not pay everything, yet it would go a long way. The plea would doubtless be put forward that many of their members would not be able to afford the extra demand on their pockets, but she would remind them that $5 was not very much spread over the whole year, especially when they considered the return they had for the money expended. It was up to them to become self-supporting, like their American sisters, and not to content themselves with remaining in a condition of perennial bankruptcy.

Miss Cardwell seconded the motion and identified herself with the remarks made by the previous speaker.

Mrs. McGillivray, leader of the opposition, warned the meeting that by increasing their subscription they would bound to drive some members from their ranks,—one of the last things they should wish to do. The association was formed originally with certain high ideals of service, and with the idea of providing a meeting place where every British woman, no matter what her position, could meet her British sisters on terms of equality. By imposing the $5 subscription they would prevent this and set foot on the road which led to the degeneration of the Association simply to a club for the more wealthy members. Some there were who said that the present system savoured of "charity," putting the accent on the word charity which had been the means of its degeneration to what it stood for to-day, and forgetting the three great principals of Life laid down in the Bible, "Faith, Hope and Charity,—and the greatest of these is charity." If they wished to make their Association into a club they would have to change its whole constitution. She thought possibly they were getting too luxurious and wanting too much. If they were to have these fine new premises with dining-room, baths, sleeping rooms, etc., they should he made to pay for themselves and the burden should not be allowed to fall on the members.

The subject was discussed at length, opinions being given freely on both sides.

When the resolution was put to the vote, however, it was carried by an overwhelming majority

THE COMMITTEE.

The following were elected to the Executive Committee:

Miss Ayrton, Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. Darroch, Mrs. Dovey, Mrs. Graham Barrow, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Gull, Miss Hyland, Mrs. Irwine, Mrs. Leslie, Mrs. Matheson, Miss Mayhew, Mrs. McMichael, Miss Murphy, Mrs. Alex Samson, Mrs. Symons, Mrs. R. E. Toeg and Mrs. H. P. Wilkinson.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

SHANGHAI RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Decision in Favour of Continuing in Existence Carried Unanimously

The annual meeting of the Shanghai Ratepayers' Association, adjourned from last month in order that the question of continued existence might be debated, was concluded at the Royal Asiatic Society Hall last Friday, when it was decided that the Association should be continued.

The chair was taken by Mr. A. J. Hughes, supported by Messrs. G. E. Peet, H. Browett, Campbell Henderson (hon. sec.) Isaac Mason and V. J. S. Rumble. The attendance was considerably larger than at the previous meeting.

The Chairman reminded those present that the last meeting had been adjourned in order that public opinion might form itself on the subject of the continuation or otherwise of their association. After very careful consideration the committee had come to the conclusion that they should continue. In spite of their apparently small membership the committee felt that they had no right to destroy an admirably conceived and properly constituted association of ratepayers such as their's was. It might in time become a factor of great importance in conserving and safeguarding the best interests of both ratepayers and residents of the Settlement. The very existence of the Association was undoubtedly having a salutary effect on the conduct of the affairs of the administration.—(hear, hear). As proof of this they could point to the tremendous improvement in Shanghai's deplorable traffic conditions after their representations. They had held many public meetings on the matter and recommended the forming of a traffic commission. The result was that more had been done during the past year than during the five previous years put together.

The Chairman went on to descibe the improvements in the way of the widening of Broadway and Kiukiang Roads, both on the advice of the Association. They never knew when their services would be needed to meet a crisis, and it was a great thing to have a properly constituted body of ratepayers, even though with a skeleton membership only on which to build, to meet the emergency when it should arise.

He proposed, therefore:

"That it be resolved that in the opinion of this meeting the Shanghai Ratepayers' Association be continued."

Mr. T. M. Yates seconded, and remarked that Mr. Hughes, in obtaining 288 votes in the Municipal elections, gave them encouragement to proceed.

CHANGE OF NAME SUGGESTED.

Mr. Shipway proposed as an amendment that the words "and that the name be changed to The Shanghai Progressive Society." be added. He expressed the opinion that their present title was misleading inasmuch as people who were not actual ratepayers would not join and asked what right they had, not being ratepayers, to interfere in Municipal affairs. Their Association admitted any resident whether he was a ratepayer or not. Then again, he thought there was much they could do, were they not so restricted by their present name. He had just returned from upcountry and it frequently struck him what terrible conditions the Chinese in some of the poorer quarters of Shanghai had to live in. With a rather wider name and increased membership they could do something to remedy that sort of thing, in such ways as restricting the number of people allowed to live in one room. It was appalling to peep into some of the dark and dirty dens the poorer class of Chinese occupied.

The Chairman, while agreeing with much that the speaker had said, was of opinion that by widening their activities they were apt to weaken themselves for the primary purpose for which the Association was formed.

The amendment was not seconded and the original resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

SUBSCRIPTION REDUCED.

The election of a committee was then proceeded with and the following were appointed:

Dr. Margaret Polk, Miss J. Ward and Messrs. A. J. Hughes, G. E. Peet, H. Browett, P. W. Goldring, Z. C. Chen, Isaac Mason, V. J. S. Rumble, Campbell Henderson, T. Sahara, T. M. Yates, N. A. Viloudaky and T. W. Bowern.

This concluded the business of the annual meeting and a special meeting followed for the purpose of making a number of small alterations in the constitution of the association, chief of which was the reduction of the annual subscription from $5 to $2.

THE SHANGHAI LAWN TENNIS ASSN.

The Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Shanghai Lawn Tennis Association was held last Friday afternoon at the Cathodral School for Boys. Sir Skinner Turner (the President) was in the chair and there were also present Mr. C. E. Whitamore (hon. secretary) and the following delegates from various clubs:—Messrs. M. B. Brown, E. G. Norman, C. G. Humphrys, J. L. Wade, J. Ebsens, F. A. Leitao and H. J. Jefferson.

The accounts, which were passed, showed that, although the Association had an overdraft, the amount was more than balanced by assets. Last year over $5,000 were taken in gate money. The recipts at the Roper Cup matches were particularly satisfactory, owing to the fine attendance at the matches with the Japanese.

Sir Skinner Turner was re-elected President, Mr. C. W. Atkinson Vice-President and Mr. M. B. Brown hon. secretary.

Miscellaneous matters were discussed. It was decided that the Slazenger ball should be the official ball for the season and

LAW REPORTS

COMPANY'S "DUAL EXISTENCE"

British-registered Co.'s Property Held by Chinese Court: Sued for Tls. 56,570

In H. M. Supreme Court, on Tuesday, before his Honour Judge Sir Skinner Turner, the Kiangnan Dock & Engineering Works brought an action against the Hing Wha Paste Manufacturing Co., claiming Tls. 56,570 balance due on a contract for the supply of machinery, interest at 8 per cent., Tls. 622 for the wages of watchmen, and a declaration that the machinery is the property of the plaintiffs. Mr. J. H. Teesdale appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. C. Mansel Reece for the liquidator of the defendant company.

Mr. Reece said he understood that there would be an application for judgment by default. The customary notice as to liquidation had been inserted in the local Press and it was assumed that after that the liquidation would go forward in the ordinary way, therefore he applied for a stay of proceeding so that the liquidation might pursue its course. The company was in voluntary liquidation. The matter had become rather complicated owing to the fact that the Chinese had stepped in and taken possession of the property, all of which was in Shanghai, although the proceedings for liquidation had been taken in Hongkong.

Mr. Teesdale said that the writ was dated April, 1923, but it was only served two months ago. Considerably more than a month had passed since the liquidator was given an opportunity to file a defence, but this had not been done, whilst Mr. Reece apparently had received no instructions whatever from the liquidator, nor had the latter taken any steps to protect the property in Shanghai. The company ought to be wound up here, as all the assets were here and there was no property in Hongkong.

Mr. Reece—We hold a power of attorney from the liquidator in Hongkong and we had instructions to apply to the Chinese Court for an order that all actions be stayed there. They refused to hear our application, so we appealed to Soochow, but there also they would not hear us. The Chinese Court is holding the property, which consists of two flour mills. The Chinese Court ordered that the property should be put up to auction.

JUDGE'S SURPRISE.

The Judge—How can they, if it is a British company?

Mr. Reece—That is what I should like to know. There is no foreign element and they are all Chinese, but it is a British company. There are various big creditors on a list which is recognized by the Chinese Court.

The Judge—How can they recognize it?

Mr. Reece—But what can we do? The Chinese Court refuses to hear us.

The Judge—I believe this is the company that previously was stated to have a dual existence, being registered in Hongkong and also in Peking.

Mr. Reece—I know I am out of time, but what can we do? I have been hoping to get some satisfaction out of the Chinese Court and further instructions from Hongkong. The company is in a very bad way and I do not suppose there is a chance of it paying more than 40 per cent. The Chinese Court holds the property and nothing can be done about it. I cannot make out what the procedure has been. There do not seem to have been any actions, but the Chinese Court simply walked in and took the property.

Mr. Teesdale—There is no seal of the Chinese Court on our property, whatever there may be on anything else, so our property is outside their jurisdiction. Our watchmen are in charge of it.

The Judge refused Mr. Reece's application and ordered that the case should proceed.

Mr. Kwong Kwok-wha, a director of the plaintiff company, said that a first instalment of Tls. 25,666 had been paid on the machinery, but nothing more. The machinery was in a mill beyond Ferry Road, in Chinese territory. It was in the charge of plaintiffs' watchmen and painted on the boiler was an inscription declaring that it was the property of the plaintiffs and must not be mortgaged to others. No claim to the machinery had been made by any other party and he had received a letter from the Chinese Court stating that they did not claim it as part of the property of the mill.

Judgment was given for the full claim, with costs. His Lordship said that he could not make a declaration as to ownership, for it seemed that the plaintiffs already had possession, but he directed that, if the judgment had not been satisfied in 14 days, the plaintiffs could remove or sell the machinery, it being understood that they would account for the first instalment paid by the defendants.

A DIRTY DINNER PLATE

And Angry Steward: Ship's Officer Assaulted and His Forehead Cut Open

An altercation between a ship's officer and chief steward over a dirty plate, in which both used bad language and the steward threw a plate at his superior, led to the appearance before Mr. G. W. King at H.M. Police Court, last Friday of an elderly man named John Edwards, charged with assault.

Prosecutor, Mr. Thomas Ferguson, Chief Officer of the str. Dundrennan, was represented by Mr. T. S. Lewis.

Mr. Ferguson's story was that he noticed that his dessert plate was dirty. He passed it up to the skipper for his opinion and the skipper agreed with him and called in the defendant. Then, "in a sarcastic voice" he said: "Mr. Ferguson objects to this plate." The steward picked it up, looked at it, proclaimed that it was not dirty and walked away with it. He added that he had washed it only that breakfast time, whereupon witness called him a liar, "or words to that effect." The steward retaliated by calling the officer a—"liar" and then walked out to his pantry. Ferguson followed and asked how he dared call him a liar. He had only put his head inside the pantry when something came hurtling at him. He afterwards had reason to believe the implement to be a plate but was not sure. His forehead was cut open, and he closed with his assailant till assistance came from the saloon. He was taken to the cabin of the second officer and afterwards the Water Police took him to hospital.

OFFICER'S INJURIES.

Dr. B. H. Stanley Aylward said he was called in to dress the officer's head at the General Hospital on Wednesday evening. He found him suffering from a long semi-circular and jagged cut over the left eye, which might well have been caused by a plate. He also had other small cuts about the head. He did not think the officer would be fit to go to sea for the next two or three weeks and he most certainly could not be allowed to sail with the ship. The wound was highly septic and should have medical attention for some time.

Asked by the Magistrate whether he had trouble with defendant before Ferguson said he had several times had to call attention to dirty crockery and dirty food.

Defendant called Capt. Robert Shadforth, master of the ship, as first witness. Captain Shadforth added little to the story of the Chief Officer, however.

Edward's story was that he went to the cabin on the Wednesday morning while the officers were being vaccinated. The doctor who was vaccinating dropped some of his cigarette ash on to the plate in question, and when he had gone witness laid the table again. He picked up the plate, wiped it with the towel and then set it down. It was true the ash smeared over the surface, but it was not true that he had not washed the plate since breakfast time. Had the officer pointed out the smear he would have washed it or brought another plate. He did not do that, but called witness a "d—liar" and witness retaliated by calling him a "b—liar." Then he went to the pantry where he was followed by Ferguson, in a towering passion. The officer asked him whether he would repeat that he was a liar, but before witness had time to reply struck him a violent blow which fortunately glanced off his forehead. He struck at him twice more, but missed and witness replied with three blows of the fist which did not miss. The injuries to the officer's head must have been received in contact with the mahogany plate rack. He would not have thought of hitting him first, because he was an officer of the ship.

Asked by the Magistrate why he thought Ferguson should take the trouble to go into the witness box and lie about him, Edwards replied in an emphatic tone: "Because he is bad." He added that when he thought it over quietly the Chief would realize his mistake.

The Magistrate came to the conclusion that of the two stories the officer's was the true one. Defendant would be fined $20 and pay $20 costs, or go to prison for a week in default.

DISOBEDIENT SEAMEN

Firemen in the Str. Misty Law Fined by British Magistrate

J. H. de Jonge, H. M. Pleydell, and A. Penders, firemen on the str. Misty Law, appeared before Mr. G. W. King on Monday charged with having refused to obey the lawful commands of the Master of the ship.

Captain W. Wright told the court that on Saturday morning the three men came to him and said they had finished and would do no more work on board, after which they all went ashore. They returned at 4.30 and demanded money but, in the circumstances, witness refused to pay them. They were all good men at sea and had not previously given trouble.

His Worship—Then why do you charge them?

Captain Wright—The whole crowd was in the same more or less drunken condition and, as discipline has got to be maintained, I must make an example of some of them.

The defendants, who denied that they had refused duty, spoke of a general demand from the stokehold for money, and of other men going off duty.

His Worship fined each of them two days' pay and gave a hint that further trouble might lead to imprisonment.

TWO SIKH GRANTHIS IN THE DOCK

A Charge of Appropriating the Ghee Fund: A Threatened Action Against S. M. C.

H. M. Police Court on Wednesday was again packed to the limits with an excited gathering of Sikhs, all anxious to hear the proceedings following upon the arrest of two former Granthis of the North Szechuen Road Gurdwara on a charge of fraudulently converting to their own use $910, the property of members of the Sikh police. Mr. E. T. Maitland prosecuted on behalf of the police, and the defendants, Sucha Singh and Amar Singh, were not represented by Counsel.

Mr. Maitland said that the defendants formerly were Granthis in the Sikh Gurdwara in North Szechuen Road and on February 1 they resigned. As part of their duties they were entrusted with a special Sikh police fund for the purchase of *ghee* a kind of purified butter. They collected $910.7 which was not paid in to the account. They had only to collect the money and were not concerned with how it was used. They had simply to pay it to the treasurer and cheques on the fund were drawn by a superior officer of the Sikh police.

Detective Sub-Inspector Yorke said that the defendants surrendered at the Central Police Station. They were looking for witness whilst he was looking for them and Sucha Singh telephoned to witness to say he would come to the police station.

Buddha Singh, Jemadar of the Sikh Police, said the defendants were Granthis from about December, 1921, until December 9 last year, when they were dismissed by the committee and they officially resigned on February 1. Members of the Sikh police committee collected money for the *ghee* fund. Every month about 200 tins of *ghee* were ordered from Calcutta and when a consignment arrived a senior Havildar would take it to the Gurdwara. Then the senior Havildar opened the cargo, branded the tins and divided them amongst the stations, leaving some at the Gurdwara to be sold through the Granthis. The money for these latter purchases was collected amongst the police and handed to the Granthis, who were supposed to give it to the treasurer. The Granthis did not have to make any payments themselves. Witness was the only person entitled to sanction payments and he personally drew cheques for the sums required.

Cross-examined — The defendants were engaged from India as permanent Granthis at North Szechuen Road Gurdwara. When they arrived, Sucha Singh temporarily was employed as Granthis at Gordon Road, receiving $50 per month paid by the Municipal Council. Then both were taken to North Szechuen Road at the same pay, $35 being paid by the Gurdwara and $15 by the Municipal Council.

The Magistrate interrupted a string of apparently irrelevant questions, upon which Sucha Singh said it all centred round the defendants' intention to bring actions against the Municipal Council and the Gurdwara over their dismissal.

The interpreter said Amar Singh wanted to ask a lot of questions but "he say no can without his liar."

The Magistrate—without his liar!

Mr. Maitland—I think he means a lawyer. I know the two terms sometimes are confused.

The hearing was adjourned.

THE ROWARTH TRIAL PERJURY CHARGES

Alleged Attempt to Defeat the Ends of Justice by Means of False Evidence: The Missing Amah's Evidence: Goulbourn in the Police Court

The young amah whose absence from the Rowarth trial was the subject of comment by the prosecution was an important witness on Thursday when W. H. Goulbourn, accountant, appeared on remand at H.M. Police Court, before Mr. G. W. King, on a charge of perjury. It is alleged that he knowingly and falsely swore in the Supreme Court that the then accused, Judith Rowarth, did not leave her daughter's house before 8.30 on the evening of May 4. The prosecution also charges Goulbourn, with others not yet in custody, with attempting to defeat the ends of justice by keeping a material witness in hiding and from appearing at the trial of Mrs. Rowarth on a charge of attempted murder.

Mr. E. T. Maitland conducted the prosecution and Mr. Mansel Reece appeared for the defence.

In opening the case, Mr. Maitland said the accused was the son of Mrs. Rowarth, and a Mrs. Maggie Davies, alleged to have been concerned in the conspiracy, was her daughter. The charge against Mrs. Rowarth was that, with persons unknown, she attempted to murder a Sikh money-lender named Pakha Singh, the crime taking place on May 4 and the trial on June 28. The story told at the trial was that on the evening of May 4, between 7.30 and 8 o'clock, Mrs. Rowarth and the Chinese amah went to Pakha's house and telling him they knew the address of a person who owed him money, persuaded him to accompany them to the place. The Indian was taken to a lonely spot near Ward Road Gaol and was there attacked by some Chinese and left for dead, Mrs. Rowarth and the amah running away. One Hassan Ali gave evidence that he was at Pakha's house when the two women called, but unfortunately this man had now left Shanghai. The amah was never found. The defence put up an *alibi* that on the evening in question Mrs. Rowarth never left her daughter's house except to go to the cinema after dinner. Mrs. Rowarth swore this herself, and so did Mrs. Davies, who went on to say: "There was nothing extraordinary about Mrs. Rowarth. She was there all the time up to and during supper, after which six or seven people went to the Isis." She said she had no doubt as to the date, and this was a very material and important statement. The police had now found the amah who went with Mrs. Rowarth, and the girl would tell the Court how she went into the country with the accused woman and the Indian, having been told to say that she knew where they were going. After the affair, she ran back to Mrs. Rowarth's house and found the old woman already there. A week later, Mrs. Rowarth and Mrs. Davies took the amah to a house in Chaoufoong Road Extension, where a room was rented for her, she being told that it was not good for her to go out too often because she was a young girl and should not be seen out too much. She was kept there in that room and was occasionally visited by Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Rowarth. They paid for her room, bought her rice and gave her sweets, and the police were unable to find the girl until quite recently. It was clearly a case in which perjury had been committed.

His Worship—How does the accused come into the charge of conspiracy?

Mr. Maitland—I do not propose to go into the case to-day.

Det.-Sub-Inspector Quayle, who at the first hearing gave formal evidence of arrest, was recalled and questioned as to the trial of Mrs. Rowarth in H.M. Supreme Court. On that occasion, Goulbourn gave evidence that Mrs. Rowarth never left the house of her daughter (Mrs. Davies) on the night the Indian was assaulted.

His Worship—Did he give the exact date?

Witness—The only date in question was May 4, the date on which the assault took place. Goulbourn further stated (witness continued) that Mrs. Rowarth never left between 7.30 and 8.30 p.m., and that at that hour dinner was served, at which Mrs. Rowarth was present. He added that he was sure about the date and could remember it because of some function which had taken place at the Portuguese Club.

Cross-examined by Mr. Mansel Reece, witness said that when calling at the Union Insurance Office to arrest the accused, he first spoke to the manager to let him know he was taking one of his men away, but did not discuss the case with him, and certainly did not say that he was going to "fix" Goulbourn and get him sentenced.

DATE OF THE ALLEGED PERJURY.

Counsel—In the summons the date of the alleged perjury is given as June 28, but the case for the prosecution had not been concluded on that date.

Witness—The trial started on June 28.

Counsel—Goulburn went into the witness box on the 29th.

Mr. Maitland said he would ask for the date to be amended, but not at the moment.

Mr. Mansel Reece—If you do not have it amended now I shall ask for the charge to be dismissed. It is perfectly simple.

Witness said he now remembered that the trial occupied three days.

Counsel—Can you be sure of the date on which he gave his evidence? Do you still stick to the 28th?

Witness—It was the 28th, the 29th, or the 30th.

Counsel—I must ask you to say definitely when it was.

could be found. The stories about bandits and looting are silly nonsense and could be ignored, were not the Chinese in this province already burdened with enough difficulty in making a good name for themselves. The property loss was serious for the few persons affected, but Choutsun is a city of at least 50,000 population, and the fire therefore was relatively a small matter. It is supposed to save bean started by an overturned lamp.

The lurid tale sent out by Reuter's, when contrasted with the insignificant facts of the case, makes me doubt the wisdom of letting such a news agency run loose in the world. Is this its usual method of serving up the world's events?

I am, etc.,
L. K. Hall.

Shanghai, Mar. 12, 1924.

THE ITALIAN ARMS DEAL.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—According to reports, arms to the value of over $5,000,000 have been sold to the Northern Government by the Italians.

The "Peking & Tientsin Times" has given much prominence to the sale, but unfortunately on the day previous to expressing its indignation the same paper lamented the fact, that, whereas Danish and German firms were able to tender for the erection and equipment of arsenals in China, British firms were not.

If my memory does not fail me, the Italians also supplied arms and ammunition for the 1920 war.

Sir Ronald Macleay in a recent Shanghai speech said, that foreigners were very much to blame for present conditions in China.

He did not, however, say, on account of our supplying them with arms. But do you not think, Sir, that our (the white man's) conduct in China calls for severe censure? In May last year, 16 Foreign Powers informed the Chinese Government, that the present state of affairs in China was a disgrace to China as a self-respecting Nation. That the Lincheng outrage was only one of many outrages. That the foreign Powers, unless satisfaction was obtained, would use all the means in their Power etc.

Similar diplomatic missives have without a doubt been sent along by individual Legations, whenever the necessity arose, I dare say, the Italian Legation protested, when Father Maloto was kidnapped and murdered. And yet the very same Legation now condones (that is putting it mildly) the sale of $5 millions worth of arms and ammunition to the Chinese. Everyone living in China knows, that bandits are for the most recruited from the ranks of unpaid soldiery. It is therefore not unreasonable to suggest, that further Italian subjects or other foreigners *plus* a good many Chinese may be murdered by some of the arms just sold.

Apart from all that, it seems to me marvellous, that the Powers most interested in trade in China Great Britain, France, America, Japan and Germany would allow this deal to come off, when the various Chambers of Commerce and the China Association have deplored civil war as the greatest factor in the present bad state of Trade?

When one knows that China (the Chinese Government) is practically bankrupt and fails to meet her foreign obligations and cannot even pay the salaries of her civil and military servants one wonders, where the $5 million are coming from?

One also wonders, what China's alleged friends of Washington Conference fame are going to do in the matter. Nothing I dare say, but sending the usual missile to the F.O.

In closing this letter I have in mind a young man I knew, when he was only a boy. He is now serving a sentence of three months hard labour in H.M. Gaol in Shanghai for being mixed up in the sale of a few revolvers. Compare that unfortunate youngster to the mighty in Peking, who probably still, in spite of the arms deal, enjoy the privileges of select society and their clubs.

My thoughts go back to Hongkong where a month ago three young Danish sailors were sentenced to 12 months' hard labour, not for being caught redhanded in selling arms, but for the simple reason, that revolvers were found in their cabin, and because it was *surmised* that they were to be sold at Hongkong.

There is then after all some truth in the story, that the small thieves are *hanged* and the big ones receive *honours*.

And last but not least, Sir, allow me as a personal friend of yours to call your attention to the fact, that your esteemed paper may be in court charged with being an accessory to gun running.

In the "North-China Daily News" dated March 3 there appears an advertisement (Page 13 column 7) to the following effect

Revolver. 45 for sale. What Offers?
Address Box 860.

Please do be careful, you know how watchful the Shanghai C.I.D. is.

I am, etc.,
Plain Speaking.

Up Country, March 14, 1924.

NEVER THREE.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—I notice that everybody, so to speak, objects to one match being used to light cigarettes for three persons. "Never three" they will say and even go so far as blowing the light off the match after the second person has used it.

This, I believe, is not a piece of news I am giving to any of your numerous readers for it is commonly known by any man in the street. But why there should be so strong an objection to this I do not quite realize.

It is said, however, that if the light of a stick of match is used for three persons, one of the three will die or meet with some misfortune of serious character. Why is it so and from whom this idea originated, I am at a loss to know.

I wonder if any of your readers has had any such experience and could kindly enlighten me on the subject. I have never had a chance to find out the truth of it if any.

I am, etc.,
Juannou.

Shanghai, Mar. 19, 1924.

THE WATERWORKS.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—The correspondence with the Waterworks recently on the proposal to take over the Waterworks makes interesting reading, as being a matter which will vitally affect the pocket of the the ratepayers ere long. It is to be noticed that as a result of this proposal which has been on the tapis for some months the shares of the Waterworks Company rapidly increased in value, and whatever the motive may be, it is evident that certain parties are only too anxious that the Council shall find $15,000,000 or so to buy out the Waterworks Co.

But what is it all for? Have the ratepayers not already got enough money to raise for their electricity works, for their roads, and their bridges, that they should contemplate such enormous outlay, also the inevitable increase of Municipal staff and consequent enhanced salaries of those already highly paid.

What we want is to have the money of good sound commercial concerns such as this in our Settlement—not to oust it? The Council will want to buy out the tramways next. I repeat what is it all for? I have followed the meagre information on the subject furnished to us during the past few years, and as far as I can see, apart from possible difficulties, between the directors and certain councillors, that never ought to have been allowed to affect the issue, the chief difficulties seem to be the reluctance of the Company to extend their mains on one or two outlying roads without a guarantee of reasonable return, and last but not least, a refusal to recognize that they had to increase the pressure to comply with the unreasonable requirements of the Chief of the Fire Brigade, and to put up fire hydrants free of charge at intervals of every ten feet or so. The Company contend and quite rightly that they exist primarily to supply water in quantity sufficient for ordinary requirements, and not to double their plant to meet the views of the Fire Brigade. In the meantime, if we are correctly informed, the Fire Chief has gone ahead and obtained his pressure with a splendid set of fire engines, so that the primary cause for compulsorily taking over the Waterworks is removed.

Add to the above the undoubted fact, that if the Council were to take over the Waterworks, they would at once have to increase the charges for water, to probably more than double within five years, we reach the present query.

Enclosing my card,

I am, etc.,
Pourquois?

Shanghai, March, 19 1924.

I. S. S. DRAWING.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—It seems to me that their system of placing the balls in the globe for drawing always starting with No. 1 and up to the last number is not quite reasonable. They might say that after each 5,000 balls placed in the globe several turns were rendered, yet in many cases the biggest numbers were turned out. I would suggest that a change should be effected every month. For instance, in January they start with ball No. 1, in February they should start with ball No. 5,000 and in March with ball No. 10,000 and so on until the last number is reached and then revert to No. 1.

I am, etc.,
Bond No. 3,958.

Shanghai, March 13, 1924.

Two lots of Crown land at Hongkong have just passed into Chinese hands. The land was sold at public auction last week for $197,910, the purchasers being Messrs. Gookchin, Chan U-tsing, Lai Man-sin and Chan Chan U-tsing, Lai Man-sin and Chan Chan-nam of the Wing On Company. The realized price works out at $1.10 per square foot.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

LAWN TENNIS

Draw for First and Second Rounds of the Davis Cup Competition

Washington, Mar. 17.

The draw for the Davis Cup competition was made to-day at the White House, President Coolidge drawing the first name. The Ambassadors and Ministers of the 23 entered nations drew for their respective countries.

The European zone comprised 17 countries and the American zone six countries. Owing to the odd number the European zone draw required 15 byes, the only first round match being the British Isles *v.* Belgium.

In the American zone first round, Cuba plays Canada and Australia plays China, Japan and Mexico having drawn byes.

The draw for the European zone second round, is as follows:—

Ireland *v.* France, Holland *v.* India, South Africa *v.* Argentina, Denmark *v.* Hungary, Italy *v.* Rumania, Austria *v.* Switzerland, New Zealand *v.* Czecho-Slovakia. Spain plays the winner of the British Isles *v.* Belgium match.

In the American zone second round, Japan plays the winner of the Cuba *v.* Canada match and Mexico plays the winner of the Australia *v.* China match.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Mar. 15.

Mexico has challenged for the Davis Cup, making the number of contestants a score, as compared with 17 last year. The draw will be held on Monday.—Reuter's American Service.

PROMISING JAPANESE TEAM.

Tokio, Mar. 19.

The members of the Japanese Davis Cup team, as announced to-day, comprise Mr. Shimidzu, Mr. M. Fukuda, Mr. T. Harada, the Keio University player, and Mr. Okamoto, who is at present in India.

The selection of the team is regarded as being very satisfactory.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINA TO MEET AUSTRALIA IN FIRST ROUND.

The China Amateur Athletic Union is in receipt of an official telegram from the U. S. Lawn Tennis Association stating that China is to meet Australia in the first round of the Davis Cup Competition.

INTERNATIONAL CHESS

New York, Mar. 16.

The International Chess tournament, in which 11 of the world's most famous players are meeting for $5,000 prize money, opened to-day.

Mr. Capablanca drew with Mr. Janowski, playing for the United States, after twenty moves in the first round.—Reuter's America Service.

New York, Mar. 19.

In the third round of the International Chess Tournament, Dr. Lasker brilliantly defeated M. Alechine in one of the best games of his career, sending M. Alechine to second place and half a game behind M. Tartakower. M. Capablanca drew with Mr. Edward Lasker.—Reuter.

FOUR NEW RECORDS BY WOMEN SWIMMERS

Miami, Fla, Feb. 9.

Four more records, three of of them world's marks, were made to-day in the Women's Association swimming meet being held here. Sybil Bauer, Illinois A.C. back stroke champion, broke the world's 200 metre and 200 yard record for back stroke. Helen Wainwright reduced the 300 metre world's record by more than ten seconds and Agnes Geraghty set a new American breast stroke record in the 100 metre distance. — Reuter's American Service.

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Heals WOUNDS & SORES HEAT RASH ULCERS ABSCESSES &c.
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The "Three Castles" Cigarettes were established favourites.

To-Day there is no finer Virginia Cigarette.

"Three Castles"

The Cigarette with a Pedigree.

This advertisement is issued by the British-American Tobacco Co., (China) Ltd.

Witness: I cannot give you the exact date.

His Worship pointed out that in a charge of perjury the date must be accurately ascertained.

Mr. [illegible], acting for Mr. [illegible], K.M. Supreme Court, produced the court records of the case which began on [illegible] and concluded on the 20th. Accused was committed for the case on the 26th, and was sworn as witness.

His Worship: What was the decision?

Witness: It was held that Mrs. Bowerth was not present at the time when the assault was committed. The case was dismissed and the prisoner was given back the money and goods.

In answer to further questions by the Interpreter, witness said he remembered a witness [illegible] by the Crown Proctor. He gave evidence that he saw Mrs. Bowerth and the man at the Indian's house and that subsequently he saw them going along the street.

The Indian mentioned, Pak Singh, was the murderous attack upon whom was the subject of the case, went into the witness box and repeated the story he told in the Supreme Court. It was to the effect that on the evening of Aug. 4 Mrs. Bowerth called at his house and said she had found out the address of a woman who owed her money and suggested [illegible]. Later [illegible] Mrs. Bowerth [illegible] to go out [illegible] by money. Witness [illegible] to go out [illegible] Mrs. Bowerth [illegible] to a place [illegible] they found [illegible] sitting [illegible] but not [illegible] the [illegible] witness [illegible] Mrs. Bowerth [illegible] witness [illegible] Mrs. Bowerth [illegible] witness [illegible] Mrs. Bowerth

EGYPT'S FIRST PARLIAMENT

Opened Amid Great Enthusiasm: Nationalist Ministry's Speech from Throne

Cairo, Mar. 15.

Egypt's first Parliament opened to-day in fine weather. There were scenes of great enthusiasm. Crowds were shouting continuousy, singling out for special applause the senators and deputies who had been imprisoned or deported, but everybody was cheered, including British journalists, who were greeted with shouts of "Sudan", apparently indicating that the crowds desire a union between the Sudan and Egypt.

Viscount Allenby, the British High Commissioner for Egypt, who was accompanied by Lady Allenby, was an imposing figure in Field-Marshal's uniform.

King Fuad, who was accompanied by Zaghlul Pasha, drove from the Palace in a State carriage and was incessantly cheered.

After the King had received the oath of Zaghlul Pasha, he read the Speech from the Throne which stated that the task of Parliament was to realize the complete independence of Egypt and that the Government was ready to negotiate with Britain with a view to realizing their national aspirations concerning Egypt and the Sudan, "free of all encumbrances."

The King and the Premier returned to the Palace amid renewed demonstrations. They appeared on the balcony in response to the plaudits of the crowds packing the Square.

Mr. MacDonald's Message.

Later.

The streets were very animated and the town was illuminated to-night. Thousands witnessed a fire works display.

The British Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, sent a message to the Egyptian Premier, Zaghlul Pasha, congratulating the Egyptian nation on the attainment of representation in Parliament and trusting that under it they would enjoy an era of happiness and peace. He expressed the opinion that Egypt and Britain were destined to be associated in close friendly relations. "It is our desire to see this relationship established on a lasting basis satisfactory to both countries and therefore His Majesty's Government is now and at all times ready to negotiate with the Egyptian Government."

Mr. MacDonald's message was splendidly received, Members of Parliament describing it as excellent. Apparently the bitterness in Egypt for the past three years is rapidly disappearing.

King George has telegraphed his congratulations to King Fuad.—Reuter.

THE INDIAN BUDGET REJECTED

Swarajists Still Obstinate Despite the Viceroy's Concessions

Delhi, Mar. 17.

Speaking on the Finance Bill in the Legislative Assembly to-day, Sir Basil Blackett, Finance Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council, said that the Viceroy had restored the demands on the revenue on account of opium, salt and Customs and taxes on income, which were refused last week by the Assembly.

Amid the cheers of the Swarajists, the Assembly rejected the Finance Bill by 60 votes to 57, after Sir W. M. Hailey had declared that obstruction would prejudice the Swarajists' case in the eyes of the British Parliament, which would view rejection as a demonstration of irresponsibility.

Note.—In the debate on the Budget proposals in the Legislative Assembly on March 10 the Swarajists refused the Customs grant of 75 lakhs of rupees and also rejected the Government's proposals regarding income tax, the salt tax and opium, as a protest against the British Government's reply to the demand for a responsible Government, which they considered wholly unacceptable.—Reuter.

Delhi, Mar. 19.

In the Council of State to-day a message from the Viceroy was read stating that as the Legislative Assembly had refused leave to introduce the recommended Finance Bill he certified it as essential to the interests of British India. The Viceroy recommended the Council to pass the bill.

Discussion of the bill was fixed to take place on Monday.—Reuter.

BOLSHEVIK AGENTS IN INDIA

Eight Natives Charged With Conspiracy and Spreading Communist Propaganda

Cawnpore, Mar. 18.

The trial opened to-day of eight Indians, alleged to be Bolshevik agents, charged with conspiring to establish a Communist international organization throughout India. Four of the accused were absent, two of them, Mahendra and Nath Roy, and another, residing outside India.

Colonel Kaye, the Director of the Intelligence Bureau of the Government of India, gave evidence that Indian revolutionaries convened a meeting at Moscow in 1921 which decided on and drew up a programme for furtherance of Bolshevik propaganda with Roy as the leader.—Reuter.

AN ACCIDENT TO THE PRINCE OF WALES

Another Nasty Fall: Removed on Stretcher Though Not Seriously Injured

London, Mar. 15.

The Prince of Wales rode in an Army point-to-point steeplechase near Wokingham to-day, his first public appearance since he broke his collar-bone in February.

His Royal Highness had a narrow escape in the first event, just steering clear of three horses who fell at a jump.

The Prince was thrown at the first fence in the last event, falling somewhat heavily on his head and hands, and was removed on a stretcher to a farmhouse with his face bleeding. His Royal Highness protested against being removed on a stretcher, saying that he was quite able to walk.

Prince Henry was thrown in another race at the same meeting but was not hurt. The Duke of York was a spectator.

Mar. 16.

The Prince of Wales's accident was not serious. He received a kick in the face from the horse, and bled freely from the nose. He also suffered slight concussion. The Prince was conveyed by motor to Aldershot and did not return to London.

Prince Henry's fall was due to collision with a cyclist who got on the course.—Reuter.

Satisfactory Progress

London, Mar. 16.

The Prince of Wales spent a good night and is feeling much better.—Reuter.

Mar. 17.

The general anxiety and apprehension caused by the Prince of Wales's eleventh riding accident, which might so easily have had a far graver sequel, are expressed by most of the morning papers, which, while recognizing the Prince's courage, strongly urge on His Royal Highness the duty of lessening risks in view of his position.

The official announcement states that the horse ridden by the Prince fell with him. His Royal Highness sustained slight concussion and some abrasions on the face. He spent a quiet day in bed and is progressing satisfactorily, but will not be able to fulfil any public engagements during the coming week.—Reuter.

Parliament's Grave Concern

London, Mar. 18.

The question of the riding accidents of the Prince of Wales was raised in the House of Commons to-day, when Lt.-Col. J. T. C. Moore-Brabazon, Unionist Member for Rochester, asked whether it was within the province of the House to represent to the Sovereign its grave concern at the repeated risks run by the Heir to the Throne.

The Speaker replied that personally he had no touque to speak there except as the House might direct him. The matter rested with the responsible Ministers of the Crown.—Reuter.

THE TROUBLE IN THE IRISH ARMY

Public House Raided by Troops: Several Officers Arrested: Gen. Tobin's Escape

London, Mar. 19.

Late last night troops surrounded a public house in Parcell Square, Dublin, where, it was reported, from 30 to 40 wanted men were assembled, including Gen. Tobin and Col. Dalton. A grave situation, believed to be the sequel of the recent army trouble, is indicated by the fact that several Ministers visited the scene of operations.

It was officially announced this morning that ten officers, who left their posts, had been arrested on the roof of the public house. It is believed that more men are on the roof. A search is proceeding.

Later.

The siege, in which a large force of military armoured cars with machine-guns participated, was raised at 10.30 this morning. No further arrests have been made. Gen. Tobin escaped, while Col. Dalton was not present. Those arrested include Col. O'Mally, three other Colonels and four Commandants.—Reuter.

Generals Forcibly Retired.

Dublin, Mar. 19.

It was announced to-day in the Dail Eireann that the Minister for Defence, Gen. R. Mulcahy, had resigned. The Government demanded the resignations of the Adjutant-General, Gen. O'Sullivan, of the Chief of Staff, Gen. McMahon, and of the Quartermaster-General, Gen. O'Muirthile.

The Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. K. O'Higgins, stated that last night's operations had been undertaken without authority from Gen. O'Duffy or consultation with the Executive Council.

The Home Minister said that the Executive Council were not satisfied that the menacing divisions and cleavages in the Army existed without the knowledge of the heads of the Army. General O'Duffy, who had been appointed Minister for Defence and Inspector-General of the Army would exact absolute discipline.

General R. Mulcahy, the resigning Minister for Defence, said that the Government in his opinion were condoning mutiny.

Later.

It is announced that President Cosgrave will undertake the duties of Minister for Defence.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 20.

It appears that the action of the Dublin Government in demanding the resignations of the staff of the Ministry of Defence is due to the fact that they considered that Tuesday night's operations conflicted with their policy of giving the mutineers until the evening of to-day to return the arms taken away.—Reuter.

FRENCH FINANCE BILL

Most Contentious Clause Now Conceded by Senate: Elections Fixed for May

Paris, Mar. 14.

The Poincaré Government has cleared the first and most difficult hurdle in connexion with the Finance Bill. The Senate, having rejected its own Finance Committee's amendment to Article 1 by 154 votes to 141, subsequently adopted this Article by 161 votes to 129. The Article temporarily delegates Parliamentary authority to the Government more particularly regarding the issue of decrees to carry out reductions in expenditure.

The President of the Finance Committee, before the votes were taken, suggested a compromise in order that M. Poincaré should retain office but the Premier rejected a compromise and insisted on the adoption of the Government's text as a vote of confidence.

(Note: M. Poincaré told the Senate Finance Committee on March 6 that he would resign unless it changed its view regarding the Government's Finance Bill, the three main provisions of which the Committee had rejected.)

M. Poincaré in the Senate today disclaimed any intention to extend the life of the Chamber of Deputies. The Premier said that a general election would be held before May 31.

Mar. 15.

In consequence of the Government's victory in the crucial division in the Senate early this morning, the remaining 108 articles of the Finance Bill will probably be quickly voted as M. Poincaré insists on avoidance of delay. The Opposition offered no obstruction this afternoon, when, after voting Article 2, the Senate adopted without a division the much-criticized Article 3, providing for an all-round increase of 20 per cent. in taxation.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 15.

The French franc was quoted at 90.65 and the Belgian franc at 110.25 at the London Exchange today.—Reuter.

Paris, Mar. 16.

The Senate, after rapidly adopting Articles 4 to 33 of the Finance Bill, lengthily discussed the controversial Article 34, providing for the abolition of the State match monopoly. The Minister of Finance pointed out that the measure was purely fiscal and not political. The Article was then approved by 136 votes to 119.—Reuter.

Recovery of the Franc.

London, Mar. 18.

Francs are continuing their improvement on the London market which closed to-day with the French franc at 84.65 and the Belgian franc at 101. A feature of to-day's market was the fall of Dutch florins which closed at 11.63¾.—Reuter.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN GREECE

Premier's Negotiations with Royalist Leaders: Terms of Draft Agreement

Athens, Mar. 16.

The negotiations of the new Republican Premier with the Royalist leaders, according to the newspapers, has resulted in a draft agreement, which has been telegraphed to the King.

Under its terms the King would abdicate voluntarily on condition that he should retain four-fifths of the Civil List and also most of the Crown domains, while internal peace would be obtained by a general amnesty, the reinstatement of capable officers and officials, the proclamation of a Republic by the Assembly, to be ratified by a plebiscite, the establishment of a Senate, with Royalists participating in it, and the holding of elections under an impartial Government.—Reuter.

RUMANIA'S CLAIM TO BESSARABIA

Strong Protest from Soviet Against Ratification of the Protocol

London, Mar. 16.

The question of Bessarabia, which was reunited to Rumania in March, 1918, after long incorporation with Russia, is coming to the fore in view of the Russo-Rumanian conference, opening in Vienna on March 24, at which Rumania will be principally concerned to obtain Russian recognition of the reunion, which is already recognized by Britain and other allied powers.

Rumania will also try to persuade the Soviets to admit responsibility for the Rumanian gold and Crown jewels which were sent to Moscow for safety during the German invasion of 1915.—Reuter.

Riga, Mar. 16.

The Bessarabian question is evoking very lively interest in Moscow, where numerous demonstrations are demanding Rumania's withdrawal. The Soviet press is also conducting a campaign, in which it particularly protests against the French ratification of the Protocol, recognizing Rumania's annexation of Bessarabia, as likely to ruin Franco-Russian relations.—Reuter.

Protocol Passed by France.

Paris, Mar. 16.

The Senate to-day passed the Bessarabian Protocol which has already been adopted by the Chamber of Deputies.—Reuter.

ITALY'S ANNEXATION OF FIUME

Remarkable Celebrations on the Occasion of the Proclamation

Rome, Mar. 16.

Many men-of-war have arrived at Fiume, which is gorgeously decorated with flags and triumphal arches. The King, with Gens. Diaz, Giardino, del Bono and Admiral Thaon di Revel in attendance, from the balcony of the town hall, proclaimed the annexation of Fiume to Italy.

On the occasion of the annexation of Fiume, King Victor Emmanuel bestowed upon Premier Mussolini the Order of Annunciata, the most important and most ancient of Italian Orders. It can be bestowed upon Italian and foreign princes, but only 12 Italian citizens are permitted to have this Order.—Italian Wireless through Reuter.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION

To Be Opened by the King on St. George's Day: A Unique Pageant

London, Mar. 19.

In the House of Commons today, when moving the estimate of £118,000 expenditure for the British Empire Exhibition, Mr. W. Lunn, Secretary of the Department for Overseas Trade, stated that it had been definitely decided that the King would open the Exhibition on St. George's Day, April 23.

With a view to capturing the imagination of visitors, the Government were embarking on the novel scheme of organizing a unique pageant depicting the birth and growth of the Empire and the Empire as it is to-day. The services of leading British artists had been secured.

Mr. Louis Parker, Sir Frank Benson, Mr. H. Granville-Barker and Mr. Rudyard Kipling will be responsible for the most of the libretto. Sir Edward Elgar will compose the music.—Reuter.

AMERICAN OIL LEASE INVESTIGATION

Appointment of Receivers for Teapot Dome Reserve and Further Work Halted

Washington, March. 13.

Senator E. F. Ladd, of North Dakota, succeeds Senator I. L. Lenroot as Chairman of the Oil Investigation Committee.—Reuter's American Service.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Mar. 13.

Judge Kennedy, of the Federal Court, has appointed Admiral J. Strauss of the United States Navy, who is the Government's nominee, and Mr. W. Watts, Vice-President of the Sinclair Oil Corporation, the defendants' nominee, as receivers to control the Teapot Dome oil reserve pending final disposition of the properties. The Judge also granted a temporary injunction halting further development of work at the Teapot Dome reserve.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, March 13.

While public interest in the oil investigations is perceptibly slackening, attention to-day was centred on the opening of the

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

PARLIAMENT'S HEAVY PROGRAMME

Whole Time of House of Commons Required for Government's Financial Measures: Opposition Acquiescent: Discussion of Army Estimates

London, Mar. 17.

The House of Commons to-day unanimously passed a motion that the Government take the whole time of the House until the end of the financial year.

Mr. J. R. Clynes, the Deputy Leader of the House, moving the resolution, emphasized that the taking of the private members' time was inevitable owing to the very heavy programme of financial business. The Government did not propose to take any legislation before the second reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill on March 26, except the Local Authorities Emergency Provision Bill, which was non-contentious.

Mr. Stanley Baldwin, intimating that the Opposition would not oppose the motion, pointed out that the objection previously was to taking the time of the Conservative and Liberal Members and not the time of the Labour Members.

Replying to Commander Bellairs (Conservative), Mr. Ammon, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, stated that the value of Empire trade in 1922 in Eastern waters, east of Africa, was £1,100,000,000 and the cost of maintenance of the British squadrons, including the ships of the Dominion Navies, in Eastern waters and the Pacific was £3,642,000.

The phrase, "Government according to Sermon on the Mount" did yeoman service in the House of Commons to-day at the discussion of the Army Estimates, when Mr. W. H. Ayles, Labour Member for North Bradford, moved a reduction in the gross personnel of 161,000 by 150,000. The amendment was supported by several other members of the Labour party, but was finally rejected by 347 votes to 13.

Mr. Ayles declared that the amendment was intended as a protest against the militaristic trend of Army policy. He stated that the nation that was brave enough to lay down its arms in the midst of an armed world would be the only safe nation.

Many members of the Labour party, however, eloquently opposed the resolution, notably Col. John Ward, Independent Labour Member for Stoke, who drew cheers by stating that a man who would not defend the "Grand Old Country" was not worthy of the name of Englishman. Mr. F. Montague, Labour Member for West Islington, wanted idealism to have its feet on the ground even if its head was in the clouds.

Labour Conditions in China.

Mr. W. J. Baker, the Labour Member for East Bristol, asked what steps the British Government proposed to take in the extraterritorial districts in China under British control to support a request by the Chinese Government that the International Labour Conventions should be applied to territories under non-Chinese sovereignty.

Mr. Macdonald replied that no such request had been received.

The Muitsai of Hongkong.

This afternoon Mr. H. Snell, Labour Member for East Woolwich, asked, "Was the Secretary of State for the Colonies aware that it was part of the duties of a Government official at Hongkong to pass young girls into brothels in the Colony, and whether the House proposed to take any action in the matter?"

Mr. J. H. Thomas, Secretary of State for the Colonies, replied that the object of the practice was purely protective. (Cries of Oh!).—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S NAVAL ESTIMATES

Reduction of £2,200,000: Naval Base at Singapore Definitely Abandoned

London, Mar. 18.

Introducing the Naval Estimates in the House of Commons to-day, Mr. C. G. Ammon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty emphasized the reduction of £2,200,000. He testified to observance of the Washington Agreement and the Government's desire to reduce armaments. The personnel had been increased by 1,000 men. Only 1,400 men would be recruited to man the two battleships and other ships now being constructed instead of the 3,200 normally required. The remainder would be obtained from other ships.

The progress of the battleships Nelson and Rodney had been seriously affected by the boilermakers' lock-out last year and it was very doubtful whether the time lost would be regained during the succeeding contract building period. Mr. Ammon anticipated that three light-cruisers would be completed in the next financial year and a fourth in July, 1925.

The visits of the Special Service Squadron had hitherto been very successful.

Arrangements had been made to maintain an adequate oil reserve for the needs of the Fleet. The Admiralty felt more secure in this connexion owing to the Government's decision to retain control of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. and to maintain their contracts.

The number of cruisers for the protection of trade was below the requirements. Replacement construction of five new cruisers could no longer be delayed in view of the large number of light-cruisers which during the next few years would reach an age at which they could no longer be efficient. Out of 48 light cruisers in the British Empire, ten would be over the efficient age this year. Practically all the remainder had been built in war-time for the North Sea and 18 of them were unsuitable to operate on long ocean trade routes. By the time the proposed five cruisers had been completed, 11 of the 16 now in commission would have been scrapped or placed on the reserve.

The Singapore Naval Base.

The Government had closely and earnestly considered the question of Singapore as involving questions of much wider implication than naval strategy. After fully considering all relevant facts and consulting the Dominions, the Government had decided not to proceed with the Singapore scheme. (Loud Ministerial cheers.)

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald repudiated the suggestion that the Government's action was in any way cutting ourselves off from co-operation with the Dominions or making it impossible to carry on co-operation under different circumstances and perhaps different plans. He stated incidentally that the Singapore scheme would in no way violate the Washington Agreement and, moreover, the position of Singapore was second to none if we were driven to create a new Fleet in the Pacific, but after careful consideration the Government had decided that the scheme would detrimentally affect the Government's foreign policy, aiming at the creation of international confidence and facilitating a comprehensive agreement for the limitation of armaments.

The Prime Minister stated that the Australian Commonwealth cordially sympathised with the Government's international policy and desired better international understanding and an advance towards reduction of armaments, but considered the action of his Majesty's Government would jeopardize instead of assisting that policy. (Opposition cheers.) The Singapore scheme, the Commonwealth declared, was for defensive not offensive purposes. Gen. Smuts described the policy of the Imperial Government as a bold move towards enduring peace and wholeheartedly agreed with it. (Liberal and Labour cheers.) He felt that the great cause of peace and conciliation would be seriously undermined by the construction of the base.

In conclusion, Mr. Macdonald said that Australia had expressed willingness to contribute a substantial sum for the development of the base and New Zealand had already offered a first contribution of £100,000.

A Conservative Threat.

Mr. L. C. M. S. Amery, the former First Lord of the Admiralty, said that when the Conservatives came into power, they would not lose an instant in resuming the Singapore scheme.

The debate on Singapore concluded after Mr. Stanley Baldwin had stated that the Conservatives reserved the right to speak fully and demand the decision of the House on the report stage.

Mr. Hugh Seely, Liberal Member for East Norfolk, thereupon moved the non-necessity of constructing five cruisers, which was defeated by 304 votes to 114 and the House adjourned.

Views of the Dominions.

In the House of Lords to-day Viscount Chelmsford, First Lord of the Admiralty, communicated a summary of the replies of the Governments of the Dominions regarding Singapore. Canada and Ireland preferred not to give their advice. The Prime Ministers of Australia, New Zealand and Newfoundland urged that the scheme should be proceeded with, while Gen. Smuts approved the Imperial Government's policy as tending towards enduring peace.

The First Lord, defending the Government's policy, quoted as an apposite example of foreign susceptibilities in naval matters the stir caused by the choice of the Mediterranean for the naval manœuvres of the combined Atlantic and Mediterranean Fleets, which evoked a storm of criticism in France. Viscount Chelmsford said that this "was a perfectly innocent act on our part," and pointed out that similar exercises had been carried out in the same neighbourhood in 1922 and would in the same way have taken place last year but for the situation in the Dardanelles.

The House carried by 56 votes to 19 a motion by Marquess Curzon, regretting the Government's action in abandoning the Singapore scheme, "believing that the development of the naval base at Singapore, as approved by the Imperial Conference, is urgently required for the protection of commerce, the security of the Dominions and the future maintenance of peace."—Reuter.

Expenses Up to Date and Cost of Closing Down

London, Mar. 19.

In the House of Commons today, replying to Sir Frederick Hall (Unionist), Mr. C. G. Ammon, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, said that the expenditure in connexion with the Singapore base up to the present was £70,000. A further sum would be incurred in connexion with the closing down of the scheme. The Government whips would be put on when the Government's decision was discussed on Tuesday. The reports of the naval experts who advised with regard to the matter would not be circulated. With regard to the question as to whether such steps would be taken as (? not) to necessitate starting the work afresh if the Government's successors reversed the decision, Mr. Ammon said that the details with regard to the closing down of the work were being considered.

Mr. Geoffrey Drage, the well known writer on naval affairs, in a letter to the "Times" in connexion with the Singapore base, dwells on the policy and needs of Japan, which, he declares, completely controls the West Pacific and now aims at mastery of the islands in that area and the continent adjacent to them. "Japan would be ready in 1930, if not before. Peace can be maintained if it is perfectly clear what our Far Eastern policy is and that we mean to stand by it; otherwise we shall drift into war because Pacifists would be again taken as speaking for Britain. The naval base at Singapore is the test of our revolution."—Reuter.

Australia's Anxiety.

Melbourne, Mar. 19.

Mr S. M. Bruce has made available his cable to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, laying stress on the necessity for the Singapore base and pointing out that without it the existence and prestige of the Empire would be endangered. The Commonwealth considered that imperilling the Empire would strike a fatal blow at the League of Nations. It was obvious that without the base Britain would be unable to maintain the quota of capital ships which the Washington Conference permitted. Finally, Mr. Bruce urged the Imperial Government to reconsider its decision, and promised to submit to Parliament proposals for a substantial contribution towards the cost of the base.—Reuter.

Satisfaction in Tokio.

Tokio, Mar. 20.

The announcement of the abondonment of the Singapore base is hailed with satisfaction by the morning papers, which pay tribute to the moral courage and loyalty to principles displayed by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and the Labour Party of Great Britain. They consider Britain's example in regard to the international peace policy an important contribution to world settlement.

Other quarters are of opinion that in view of the strong attitude and demands of the Dominions the abandonment of the scheme is only temporary. For instance, Vice-Admiral Baron Sakamoto, who ridicules the idea that the Singapore base was aimed at Japan, declares in an article in the "*Nichi Nichi*" that such an outstanding feature of Britain's national policy cannot be so easily dropped. The Pacific will be very important in future world affairs, and to the Pacific, he says, Britain must preserve her entrance, which, naturally, is Singapore.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY BY-ELECTION

Four Candidates in the Field: Earl Balfour Supporting Mr. Winston Churchill

London, Mar. 16.

The by-election for the Abbey division, Westminster, the polling for which will take place on March 19, is attracting unusual interest not merely owing to Mr. Winston Churchill's candidature, but owing to the variegated condition of the electorate, which comprises interests so conflicting as Clubland and Soho, Covent Garden and Pimlico.

That political apathy has been characteristic of this electorate hitherto is indicated by the fact that 60 per cent. did not vote in the last contest. With four candidates in the field, however, two of whom, Brig-General J. Nicholson, the official Conservative candidate, and Mr. Winston Churchill (Independent Anti-Socialist) are splitting the Conservative vote and the other two, Mr. Scott Duckers (Liberal) and Mr. William Brockway (Labour), were conscientious objectors during the war, the present contest proves to be very lively. Mr. Churchill, who is working most energetically, has been especially subjected to interruptions at his meetings, not merely on the part of the Socialists, but on the part of Conservative extremists as well, who fear that his return to the House of Commons may disrupt the Conservative party.

A week-end sensation has been the publication of letters addressed by the Earl of Balfour and Mr. Stanley Baldwin to Mr. Winston Churchill and Brig. General J. Nicholson, respectively wishing them success. The Earl of Balfour says that Mr. Churchill's return would be warmly welcomed by men of moderate opinion Mr. Stanley Baldwin expresses the hope that Brig.-General Nicholson will triumph, and says that only a strong and united Conservative party can successfully combat Socialism and its attendant dangers.—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S NATIONAL DEBT

Appointment of Financial Committee of Inquiry: A Lady Member

London, Mar. 19.

A representative committee of 13 financial authorities has been appointed by the Government to inquire into the National Debt. Baron Colwyn will be the chairman of the committee. The members include Mr. W. L. Hichens, Sir Charles Addis and Sir Josiah Stamp, but the most noteworthy member is Mrs. Barbara Wootton, a member of the staff of the Joint Research Department of the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party and a former director of economic studies at Girton College, Cambridge.

Mrs. Wootton took first class honours in economics with special distinction at Cambridge. She is only 26 and is the widow of an officer who was killed four days after landing in France.—Reuter.

THE COAL MINERS' CONFERENCE

Decision Postponed Pending Result of Minimum Wage Bill Discussion

London, March 13.

The miners' delegate conference has adjourned until to-morrow after a discussion which revealed considerable opposition to the owners' offer.

Mar. 14.

The miners' delegate conference met again to-day. It decided that the owners' terms were inadequate and inacceptable and urged the Government to pass the Miners' Minimum Wage Bill, but the delegates also decided to refer the owners' terms to the districts.

The conference will meet again on March 26 to arrive at a decision.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 14.

In connexion with the meeting of the miners' delegates conference to-day, it was officially stated that it would be open to the districts to consider the owners' terms during the interval before March 26 if they desired, but, as far as the conference was concerned, there was no official reference to the districts as it had decided that the terms were inadequate.

The adjournment of the conference till March 26 is for the purpose of seeing what can be done in the meanwhile to secure an improved wage for the miners by legislation and, if the Minimum Wage Bill, which will come up for discussion on March 21, is not proceeded with or defeated, there is little doubt that the delegates on March 26 will decide to take a ballot of the coalfields with regard to a national strike after the present agreement expires on April 17.

It is understood that the Government has decided to introduce its own Miners' Minimum Wage Bill at the end of the financial year.

The Government's Pledges.

Mar. 15.

The miners' decision yesterday to invoke the aid of Parliament in settling the wages question places the Government in an awkward position. The Minimum Wage Bill, to which the resolution referred, being a private bill, must be withdrawn under the Government's decision to take the private members' time till the end of the financial year, and if the Government, which is bound to the miners by pledges, introduces its own Bill on the subject, it would be more fiercely attacked than ever on the ground of interfering with the industry and would possibly even be forced to appeal to the country. This probably explains an announcement to-day that yesterday's resolution does not mean that the negotiations have ended. Mr. Shinwell, the Secretary for Mines, proposes to ask both sides to meet him next week.—Reuter.

PHOENICIAN ALPHABET

Parent of Greek, Roman, Hebrew and English Letters from B. C. 1200

Philadelphia, Feb. 8.

Dr. George A. Barton, Professor of Semitics at the University of Pennsylvania, has received a letter from Palestine stating that two French archæologists, have discovered the oldest form of the Phoenician alphabet yet found. It is declared to date not later than 1200 B.C., and from it Greek, Roman, Hebrew and English alphabets can be traced.

The earliest inscriptions that were previously known in the Phœnician alphabet were upon the Moabite stone found in 1859, dated 850 B.C., according to Dr. Barton.—Reuter's American Service.

NEW CALIPH'S PLANS

World Moslem Conference to Be Summoned

Jerusalem, Mar. 19.

King Hussein has decided to establish an advisory council to the Caliphate and to summon a world Moslem conference to consider questions of universal Moslem interest.—Reuter.

INTIMIDATION AND TRADE UNIONISM

Union Funds Useable for Political Aims Unless Workmen Expressly Dissent

London, Mar. 14.

The House of Commons to-day by 211 votes to 129 rejected the second reading of the Trade Union Act of 1913 Amendment Bill, which provides that, when a trade union has passed a resolution in favour of political action, the members desiring to contribute to the support of its political objects shall indicate their desire in writing and shall not as heretofore be automatically included as supporters unless they contract out.

Captain Charles Ainsworth (Conservative), moving the second reading, said that the object of the Bill was to prevent trade unions from insisting on members paying contributions for political purposes in which they did not believe. He asserted that members seeking to contract out were intimidated.

Mr. Tom Smith (Labour), moving rejection, declared that the reason for the Bill was that the Conservatives were anxious with regard to the progress of the Labour Party. He denied the allegation of intimidation and declared that, if the political activities of trade unionists were hampered, they would be compelled to rely more on strikes.—Reuter.

INDIAN TRAIN STRUCK BY CYCLONE

At Least 40 Killed, 53 Injured

Delhi, Mar. 15.

It is estimated that at least 40 persons were killed and 53 injured in a railway accident to-day, three miles from Bareilly, when a mixed train, passing a bridge, was struck by the full force of a severe cyclone. Five third-class bogie carriages in the rear of the train were overturned, three carriages fell into the river and four were completely reversed and the passengers imprisoned in the *débris* beneath. Most of the casualties were among the third-class passengers.—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S AIR DEFENCES

An Auxiliary Force

London, Mar. 16.

With a view to developing the home air defence scheme on the lines laid down by the last Government, a bill has been introduced by the Government, providing for an auxiliary air force, based on the lines of the Territorial Army and also for an Air Force Reserve. It authorizes the forming of County Associations, the members of which would undertake liabilities for home defence duties in the event of attack, the officers carrying out training each year.—Reuter.

THE INSURRECTION IN HONDURAS

A State of Anarchy

Washington, Mar. 19.

Honduras, where two rival revolutionary factions have been fighting for weeks, has been in a state of anarchy since the death of President Gutierrez on March 11. The disorders culminated, according to a report from the American Minister, in a serious outbreak in Tegucigalpa where drunken soldiers fired on the American Legation and Consulate. Many innocent people were shot in the streets. Looting is rampant. The damage is estimated at $400,000, principally to British, American and Chinese merchants.

Mar. 19.

It is reported from San Salvador that the Honduran revolutionists have captured Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, and Comayagua.—Reuter's American Service.

MUNICH TREASON TRIAL

The Court's Gentle Way with Distinguished Offender

Munich, Mar. 15.

General von Lossow yesterday was fined 10 Rentenmarks for contempt of court after walking out from the treason trial following an outburst by Herr Hitler, who accused him of breaking his word.

General von Lossow did not appear to-day and sent a curt letter refusing to testify "for reasons clear to all those present yesterday."

The solicitors for the defendants demanded the issue of a warrant against General von Lossow.

The President ordered Gen. von Lossow to pay a fine of 50 gold marks with the alternative of five days' imprisonment. Nothing was said about compelling him to appear.—Reuter.

REVENUE FROM THE RUHR

M. Poincare's Expectations

Paris, March 13.

Reviewing the results of the occupation of the Ruhr in the Senate to-day, the Premier, M. Poincaré, said that the receipts for 1924 were estimated at Frs. 4,000,000,000 and the expenditure at Frs. 1,000,000,000 leaving Frs. 3,000,000,000 available for reparations. He said that no one any longer dreamt of asking them to evacuate the Ruhr.—Reuter.

JAPANESE IN CANADA

A New Agreement to Control Immigration

Ottawa, Mar. 19.

The Premier to-day announced in the Dominion House of Commons the terms of the new agreement with Japan for the control of Immigration of Japanese into Canada.

The Japanese Government intimate that the number of domestic servants and agricultural labourers coming to Canada will not exceed 150 annually, these being the main class of immigrants now admitted.—Reuter.

GERMAN RECOVERY ON CURRENCY IMPROVING

Berlin, Mar. 14.

A remarkable economic recovery since the stabilization of the currency was disclosed by the Chancellor to-day who stated that there were only 130,000 short-time workers in unoccupied Germany, as compared with nearly 2,000,000 in November. The number of persons unemployed was recently decreased by 300,000.

President Ebert has fixed the Reichstag elections for May 4.—Reuter.

AEROPLANE FLIGHT ROUND THE WORLD

Santo Monica Cal., Mar. 17.

Three army aeroplane cruisers started this morning on their 30,000 mile trip round the world. Major Frederick Martin is commanding the flight, which will begin with a 400 mile sail to Sacramento.—Reuter's American Service.

Sacramento, Mar. 17.

The three aeroplanes taking part in the world flight have arrived at Sacramento.—Reuter's American Service.

Eugene, Ore., Mar. 19.

The three United States' Army air-cruisers, which are attempting a world flight, left here on the third lap this morning.—Reuter.

Manila, Mar. 20.

Lieutenant Malcolm S. Lawton of the United States Air Service is sailing for Peking shortly to confer with the Military Attaches concerning the world flight.

Twelve United States destroyers will sail for China in April and will probably patrol the coast during the flight.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

REICHSTAG DISSOLVED

Berlin, March 13.

Owing to the Opposition's insistence on altering the Government's emergency decrees, President Ebert has dissolved the Reichstag. The date of the elections has not yet been fixed.—Reuter.

RUSSO-SWEDISH TREATY

Stockholm, Mar. 15.

A Russo-Swedish Treaty providing for immediate resumption of diplomatic and commercial relations was signed here to-day.—Reuter.

EMIGRATION FROM CANADA TO UNITED STATES

Montreal, Jan. 28.

Measures to reduce emigration from Canada to the United States were urged by Mr. Arthur Meichen, Conservative party leader, in an address to-night before members of two Conservative organizations.

"The figures are not only distressing," Mr. Meighen asserted, referring to southward emigration, "they are startling."—Reuter's American Service.

AKALIS' SUBMISSION TO ARREST

Jaito, Mar. 15.

A second band of Akali fanatics arrived yesterday and were met outside the town by seven legislators, including the Pundit, Malaviya, who had previously had a long conference with the administrator of Nabha State.

They requested the leaders to await the instructions of the Sikh shrines committee, but the band refused to halt. Afterwards the administrator of Nabha met the band and offered concessions, including admission to a shrine for the purpose of performing rites for three days, but the concessions were rejected, whereupon the band quietly submitted to arrest.—Reuter.

SHIPYARD DISPUTE AT SOUTHAMPTON

London, Mar. 17.

The Shipbuilding Federation threaten a national lock-out unless a speedy settlement is reached in the unofficial strike of engineers at Southampton, who are demanding an increase of 17s. 6d. a week to bring them into line with the London dock workers. The Federation has summoned a full joint meeting at Carlisle on March 20.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 20.

The engineers on strike at Southampton for an increase of 17/6d. a week to bring them into line with the London dock-workers having refused the leaders' advice to return to work, it is expected that the shipbuilding employers will declare a national lock-out on Saturday, involving 100,000 men.—Reuter.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

WESTMINSTER ABBER BY-ELECTION

An Exciting Culmination: Mr. Winston Churchill Defeated by Narrow Margin

London, Mar. 20.

The following is the result of the by-election of the Abbey Division of Westminster:—

	votes.
Mr. Otho Nicholson (Conservative)	8,186
Mr. Winston Churchill (Independent)	8,153
Mr. William Brockway (Labour)	6,155
Mr. Scott Duckers Liberal)	290

A re-count has been ordered.

Later.

The excitement of the by-election culminated in an erroneous announcement of the result. Early editions of the evening papers were rushed to the streets with the statement that Mr. Churchill had been elected, which was cabled to all parts of the world, but this was immediately cancelled. The figures later showed that the voting was very narrow. Mr. Churchill's demand for a recount was granted, but this resulted in increasing Mr. Nicholson's majority to 43. Mr. Scott Duckers forfeits his deposit owing to the fewness of his votes, but he had declared throughout that he would be satisfied if he kept Mr. Churchill out. Mr. Brockway failed to secure election, as anticipated, on the split Conservative vote. The official Conservative machine again proved its power in one of the strongest Tory strongholds.

An Unfortunate Blunder.

Later.

The excitement in the counting-room was intense. Just before the figures were announced it was intimated that Mr. Churchill had been elected. He was warmly congratulated by his supporters and, smiling happily, went to his wife on the platform and told her of the victory. A few minutes later there was a sudden silence when the returning officer pointed out that there had been an error and that Mr. Nicholson headed the poll. This was confirmed on closer examination of the papers. Congratulations were showered on Mr. Nicholson, while Mr. Churchill, looking very perturbed, walked up and down the hall biting his lips.—Reuter.

BRITISH SQUADRON IN AUSTRALIA

Plain Speaking at a Banquet: The Desire to Promote the Peace of the World

Melbourne, Mar. 20.

The Commonwealth Government gave a banquet to-night to Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Field and the officers of the Special Service Squadron.

Mr. S. M. Bruce, the Prime Minister, in a speech said that Australia realized her obligation to assist in Imperial naval defence, but she was resolved that her aid should take the form of an Australian Navy, completely autonomous in time of peace and co-operating as a unit of the Imperial Navy in time of war. The abandonment of the Singapore base was very deeply regretted by the overwhelming bulk of Australians, but, while deploring the decision of the Imperial Government, Australia was prepared to continue to explore with the Imperial Government all the ways whereby the peace of the world might be ensured and armaments reduced.

Rear-Admiral Sir F. L. Field, responding, advised Australia to build cruisers to help in the defence of the trade routes and also to build several overseas patrol submarines, which would delay the enemy until the arrival of a superior British force. He recommended Australia to seek a base on her own shores, especially on the northwest. He considered that Port Darwin was meant by Providence for a base.—Reuter.

HUGE NEWSPAPER TRUST

Hulton's Properties Bought By Berry Bros.: "Daily Dispatch" Acquired

London, Mar. 21.

It is officially announced that the directors of Sir Edward Hulton & Co., Ld., have accepted the offer of Sir William Berry and Mr. J. Gomer Berry for the sale to them of the Manchester branch of the company's business, including the "Daily Dispatch," the "Manchester Evening Chronicle," the "Sporting Chronicle," the "Empire News," the "Athletic News" and a number of other periodicals. A new company will will be formed to take over the above-mentioned properties and also to acquire the "Sunday Times."

It is understood that on completion of the purchase of the above properties debentures valued at approximately £4,000,000 out of those issued by the "Daily Mail" Trust in October last year will be redeemed.—Reuter.

BOOSTING AMERICAN SHIPPING

Japanese Protest Against Preferential Rlwy. Rates for American-borne Cargo

Washington, Mar. 20.

It is understood that the protest of the Japanese Government against the decision to allow preferential railway rates on American goods shipped in American vessels will be followed by similar action on the part of the Dutch Government. Other countries are expected later to make representations to the Senate Department which has up to the present only intimated that the complaints will receive careful consideration.

The case of Japan may be complicated by the fact that certain Japanese steamship companies have contracts with certain railways, which, it is contended, entitle them to the same benefits as would accrue to American vessels under Section 28 of the Merchant Marine Act.—Reuter's American Service.

THE BRITISH NAVAL ESTIMATES

Scene in the House of Commons

London, Mar. 20.

Commander C. D. Burney caused a scene in the House of Commons to-day in the course of the debate on the Admiralty vote by referring to the Liberal opposition to building new cruisers as an attempt to murder British sailors. The Liberals shouted "Withdraw!" and a Labour member said that four Labour members had been expelled from the last Parliament for a similar accusation.

Commander Burney eventually withdrew his remark, explaining that what he meant was that in the event of war we might have to send against Japanese cruisers with 8-inch guns cruisers with 6-inch guns, which would result in the murder of British sailors.—Reuter.

IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN

London, Mar. 20.

Improvement in the relations between Britain and Afghanistan is indicated by a telegram from Reuter's correspondent at Delhi reporting that it is understood that his Majesty's Government has consented to release the rifles, machine-guns and ammunition consigned to Kabul, which have been detained at Bombay for months in connexion with the delicate Anglo-Afghan situation arising with regard to the murderers of the British officers on the Northwest frontier of India.—Reuter.

Government's suit for cancellation of the oil leases in the Federal Court of Cheyenne, Wyoming. There was an imposing array of counsel on both sides. Mr. Sinclair announced that the suit would be fought to the bitter end.—Reuter's American Service.

Allegations Now of Bribery in Connexion with Standard Aircraft Prosecution

Washington, Mar. 14.

Mr. Gaston Means, a former secret agent of the Department of Justice, created a sensation when giving evidence before the Teapot Dome investigation committee to-day. He testified that in February, 1922, in Washington, he received from a man representing a large Japanese firm $100,000 to end the Government prosecution in the Standard Aircraft case. Witness handed over the money to the late Mr. Jess Smith, a friend of Attorney-General Daugherty.

Witness described himself as money-carrier in the transaction for Mr. Smith and others. He related that while making an "under-cover" investigation, which he believed was made at the instance of the late President Harding, he questioned Mr. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, in connexion with permits for withdrawals of liquors "and got him." Mr. Means declared that he had questioned Senators Carraway and La Follette, after the latter had agitated for an investigation of the Teapot Dome affair. Witness, who admitted of having been employed as a German secret agent and having been tried for murder, declared that he had learned of the source of the $100,000 from Mr. Smith.

A member of the committee reminded his colleagues that the records of the Daugherty impeachment case contained the allegation that Mr. Daugherty had failed to prosecute in the aircraft case and also that overpayment of $6,500,000 had been made by the Government.

Mar. 15.

Attorney-General Daugherty publicly and categorically denies the insinuation contained in the testimony of Mr. Gaston Means before the Teapot Dome investigation committee yesterday.—Reuter's American Service.

New, York, Mar. 15.

The Mitsui Company to-day issued a formal denial of Mr. Gaston Means's statement before the Teapot Dome Committee.—Reuter's American Service.

Further Officials Implicated

Washington, Mar. 18.

The Teapot Dome Inquiry Committee has subpœnaed Mr. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Weeks, Secretary of War, in order to ascertain the manner in which confidential information had been exchanged between their departments and the Department of Justice.

According to accountants who testified to-day before the Senate Oil Committee, Attorney-General Daugherty, Senators Curtis and Elkins, and also Mr. Slemp, Secretary to President Coolidge, are among the officials who had transactions in Sinclair or Doheny oil stocks about the time when the naval oil reserve was leased. Mr. Slemp was then a Member of the House of Representatives. Other Members of the House dealing in the same stocks included Congressmen A. B. Rouse, W. Goodykoontz and Thomas J. Ryan.—Reuter's American Service.

THE ORDUNA CASE

Five of the Crew Plead Guilty to Smuggling: Allegations of Long Misuse of the Ship

New York, Mar. 14.

Five members of the crew of the Orduna were tried to-day on a charge of smuggling liquor and narcotics. They pleaded guilty and were remanded for sentence until Wednesday. Two other members of the crew, who had previously admitted their guilt, were also remanded.

Assistant District Attorney Clark asserts that the Orduna has been used ever since the passing of the Prohibition Act as a vehicle for smuggled liquor. He claims that she has carried $100,000 worth of contraband into New York. Officials of the liner, however, declare that any violation of the laws, if committed, was without the knowledge of responsible officers and deny all the charges.

Later.

Mr. Edward J. Berwind, the well-known American coal-owner, has furnished the $1,000,000 bond, enabling the Orduna to sail tomorrow according to schedule.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Mar. 14.

The British Embassy has furnished the Foreign Office with a report on the Orduna case and will not take further steps unless instructed from London.—Reuter's American Service.

Further Seizure of Whisky.

New York, Mar. 15.

The steamer Orduna sailed today on the $1,000,000 bond. The hearing of the Government suit for confiscation has been postponed until the vessel's return.

Federal agents have this morning seized 12 quarts of whisky aboard the steamer Orduna, over and above the 42½ gallons allowed for medicinal uses under the Customs regulation.—Reuter's American Service.

Lenient Sentences a Sequel to Prisoners' Promises

New York, Mar. 19.

Seven members of the crew of the str. Orduna received sentences to-day varying from a fine of $10 and seven days' imprisonment to a fine of $100. The fine of $100 was imposed on the chief steward, whose seven days' remand in prison was considered sufficient imprisonment.

The lenient sentences are due to a promise which the Judge extracted from the prisoners "to become missionaries and preach the word throughout the British mercantile marine that it is a serious matter to smuggle contraband into American ports."—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. NAVY EXPANSION

Proposed Development of Mare Island and Alameda at Cost of $26,000,000

Washington, Feb. 5.

Approval of the proposed naval base at Alameda, on San Francisco Bay, was expressed today by Rear Admiral Eberle before the House naval committee.

Admiral Eberle said the plans of the Navy Department in developing Alameda base contemplated the expenditure of $20,000,000 and included a sixfold purpose, which would embody a naval base, an oil fuel base, a general supply base, facilities for submarines and destroyers, and vacant land to meet possible war expansion.

The Department, he added, intended to maintain the Mare Island navy yard and would expend an additional $6,000,000 there to keep the yard equipped to meet shipbuilding needs that might be required.

A naval base at Mare Island, Admiral Eberle continued, would mean the taking over of the San Francisco front in time of war, and a base at Alameda would fit in much better with the Navy's war plans.

An air station in the Mare Island channel, the witness said, would be forced to contend with approximately twice as much fog as at Alameda.

Greater water space at Alameda also would eliminate a congestion of aircraft, which, he said, would undoubtedly exist in the Mare Island channel during war.—Reuter's American Service.

Manila, March 17.—Two landlords were killed with revolvers and five tenants shot and killed in Pampanga province yesterday in agrarian troubles there.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Warsaw, March 15. Among a number of international instruments ratified by the Chamber today are a treaty of commerce and navigation with Japan and The Hague Convention regarding conduct in land warfare.—Reuter.

THE MEXICAN REVOLT

President's Charges Against British-owned Petroleum Corporation

Mexico City, Mar. 16.

President Obregon, in an interview, declared that high officials of a certain petroleum corporation belonging to British interests had actively aided the Vera Cruz revolt by the provision of money and ships and at the same time obstructing the Federal Government's attempts to suppress the movement. He intended to submit the matter to the Attorney-General for investigation.—Reuter's American Service.

Vera Cruz, Mar. 17.

On publication of the official charges against the petroleum corporation which President Obregon declared to have actively aided the Vera Cruz revolt, Federal inspectors to-day examined the company's accounts here and announce the disappearance of 8,000 cubic metres of oil, which is not accounted for, and other alleged irregularities. The report of the investigators has been forwarded to Mexico City.—Reuter's American Service.

Mexico City, Mar. 17.

The Vice-President of the Elaguila Petroleum Corporation, in a letter to the newspapers, most emphatically denies President Obregon's changes.—Reuter's American Service.

AMERICAN IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS

Protective Measures Advocated Against Foreign Monopolies: Legislation Requested

Washington, March 17.

Mr. Herbert Hoover, the Secretary of Commerce, has sent a letter to Senator Capper giving a list of raw materials imported from abroad, which he says are controlled by monopolies at an aggregate cost of $500,000,000 to United States consumers.

Mr. Hoover advocates protective measures such as stimulation of production elsewhere and encouragement of synthetic manufacture in the United States, but particularly legislation designed to create common purchasing agencies abroad, similar to existing selling agencies.

The Secretary of Commerce contends that the following products are monopolized by British interests and are often aided by legislation in their country of origin; nitrates and iodine in Chile, and rubber in British and Dutch colonies. Tin is controlled by British producers.

Senator Capper will introduce a Bill on this matter.—Reuter's American Service.

POLAND AND VILNA

Russia's Last Hour Objections to Treaty Claims

London, Mar. 13.

Just when the League of Nations appears to be on the way to a solution of the future of Memel, Russia has intervened by despatching a Note to Poland protesting against a settlement of the question by a third party as a violation of the Russo-Lithuanian Peace Treaty.—Reuter.

Warsaw, Mar. 13.

The newspapers are most indignant at what they consider the hostile tone of the Note from Russia and are particularly incensed at the passage questioning Poland's right to Vilna and at the hint of possible rupture of diplomatic relations between Russia and Poland.—Reuter.

Leaving for Hongkong yesterday on the Pacific Mail str. President Wilson were:—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Botelho, Mr. W. Curman, and Dr. E. W. Scott, formerly an official at the American Consulate-General at Yokohama.

HOLLAND AND SOVIET

Commerce Opened Up but Recognition Dependent on Russia Herself

The Hague, Mar. 18.

In the Second Chamber to-day, in the course of a debate on the foreign estimates, several Members urged the conclusion of a commercial treaty with Russia.

The Liberal, M. Dresselhuys, criticized the negative attitude of the Foreign Minister towards the suggested treaty of guarantee. M. Marchant (Democratic-Liberal), however, contended that adhesion to such a treaty would mean the end of Holland's independent existence.—Reuter.

The Hague, Mar. 20.

In the Second Chamber last night, replying to the debate on the Foreign Office estimates, the Foreign Minister, Jkhr. van Karnebeek, said that the Government did not see the necessity of any important alterations in the Rhine Navigation Act, as they were of the opinion that the Rhine should be subordinated to the economic interests of world traffic and not made a political instrument.

The Netherlands, he stated, was already taking an important part in commerce with Russia. The question of *de jure* recognition depended on the good-will of Russia and her respect for Dutch political institutions. He hoped that the day was not far distant when Russia would be again admitted into the family of European nations, but that depended primarily on Russia's good faith.

M. van Karnebeek declared that the Government considered the tenour of Viscount Cecil's Mutual Guarantee Pact opposed to the most fundamental feelings of the Dutch people. Small States would become the military reserves of powerful ones, which would stultify the League so far as small States were concerned.

The leaders of the Catholic, Socialist and Historical Christian parties expressed agreement with the Government's attitude on this matter.

M. Ravensteyn, Communist, introduced a motion demanding recognition of the Soviet Government.

The sitting was adjourned.—Reuter.

OBITUARY

Mr. R. S. Gundry, C. B.

London, Mar. 15.

The death is announced of Mr. Richard Simpson Gundry, C.B., at the age of 85 years.

Mr. Gundry was the Editor of the "North-China Daily News" and the correspondent of "The Times" in China from 1865 to 1878. He was Honorary Secretary to the China Association in London from its formation in 1889 to 1901 and was the President of the Association from 1905 to 1908.—Reuter.

Mr. Gundry was well known here, not only in his capacity as editor of the "North-China Daily News" but also in social and athletic circles. He was an active Volunteer in those early days when volunteering was a matter of extreme necessity to the foreign community and during his stay in Shanghai was a most active protagonist making whole-hearted endeavours towards the advancement of the corps.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hickley Gundry, of Hillworth Cottage, Devizes, Mr. Gundry was 85 years of age. During his youth he was privately educated in Brussels. Early in his career he displayed ability as a journalist and went to India, where he became editor of one of the leading English journals. Upon the resignation of Dr. Jamieson, then Mr. Jamieson, he accepted the post of editor of the "North-China Daily News" in 1865 and continued in that position until 1878, when he went Home.

Author and Traveller.

Always a foremost champion of China, he became Hon. Secretary of the China Association upon the formation of that organization in 1889, serving as such until 1901. Between 1905 and 1908 he acted as President and on the retirement from that post was nominated a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

Mr. Gundry led a very active life in the Orient and travelled much of the neighbouring territory on exploring and shooting expeditions. He visited Japan, Pootoo, the Ming Tombs and other districts on which he has written descriptive commentaries. He was author of "China and her Neighbours" and "China, Past and Present," and contributed to widely circulated journals, principally on matters relating to China.

Mr. Gundry is survived by his son, Captain George Gundry, a retired member of the Shanghai Licensed Pilots' Association, and two daughters.

Gen. Pelle

Paris, Mar. 16

General Pellé, French High Commissioner at Constantinople, died to-day.—Reuter.

Sir Frederick Bridge

London, Mar. 18.

The death is announced at the age of 79 of Sir Frederick Bridge, King Edward Professor of Music at London University.

Sir Frederick was for 33 years organist at Westminster Abbey, retiring in 1918 with the title of Emeritus Organist. He was also the conductor of the Royal Choral Society. His published works include cantatas and oratorios.—Reuter.

FATAL SEARCH FOR DIAMONDS

Canadian Explorers' Terrible Adventures in Swamps of British Guiana

Toronto, Jan. 30.

At the peril of death, a party of Canadian adventurers which entered the jungle two years ago has found a diamond bed along the Eping River, in British Guiana, from which they have taken many thousands of dollars worth of gems. Several members of the party died; others were shattered in health.

The fate of the party was revealed in a letter received to-day from Lester McGillvray, of London, Ont., by his friends, telling of numerous escapes from death and of ultimate discovery after mutinies of their native helpers and battles with jungle diseases, which cost the lives of three of the whites and scores of the natives.

Alfred Harvey, a young Englishman prospecting by himself, died of dysentery soon after the arrival. Isador Berenbaum, president of the Export Diamond Company, of Antwerp, was the next victim. Upon the first advance into the interior D. K. Stokes, a graduate of Toronto University, died.

Dysentery overtook most of the party. They lost their fresh foods when their boats were swamped in storms in the jungle rivers and the natives deserted. The Canadians returned to Georgetown, where some of them remained in the hospital for weeks and a few were sent home to convalesce.

The prospectors under McGillvray reorganized and headed to the Meamu River district. They failed to find any gems and then penetrated to the Red Hill district, near the junction of the Eping River, where they met an American named Oliver, of New York City.

Oliver had been ill, McGillvray wrote, and offered to sell out to the Canadians. He was unable to produce legal proof of the claim and they took it.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Mar. 15.—President Coolidge to-day receive Anton Lang and other well-known Ober-Ammergau passion players and welcomed them on behalf of the American nation.—Reuter's

Paris, Mar. 15.—The report that M. Sarraut, the Minister of the Colonies, has been appointed French Ambassador in Washington in succession to M. Jusserand is denied in political circles in Paris.—Reuter.

that Ramsay MacDonald's advent to the Premiership means another to the list of First Ministers who have made golf their pastime. "J. H." says that he has had the honour of playing with five British Premiers devoted to the Royal and Ancient. He adds a word of regret that Earl Balfour has recently "backslid" from golf to tennis.

The power of golf in politics must now surely be recognized when we find the French press catechizing Mr. Lloyd George for the proselytizing of M. Briand on the links. That was the occasion, I may add, when "L. G.," looking back over the devastation of French territory caused by M. Briand's agricultural display, remarked "This looks like another case for the Reparations Committee!"

MISCELLANEA.

By the orders of Lossiemouth Town Council, a bonfire was lit on the Coulard Hill, a commanding height overlooking the fishing quarter of the town, where Mr. MacDonald's house is situated. One result of the Labour leader's rise to power is the sudden conversion of almost the whole of the fishing community, which used to be Liberal, but has gone over in a body to the newly-formed local branch of the Labour Party.

Many people south of the Border seem to be not a little puzzled over the Christian name of Ishbel, which is owned by the new Prime Minister's eldest daughter and future hostess at No. 10 Downing Street. The name—a variant of Elizabeth—is by no means uncommon in Scotland, and in the North-East and Moray Firth neighbourhood bearers of it are to be found in almost any village. It is the Christian name of the present Marchioness of Aberdeen.

Scottish literature is moderately well represented among the legislators who have been making history at St. Stephen's. Mr. James Welsh, M.P. for Airdrie and Coatbridge, has won fame as the Scottish miner poet (not minor, be it noted), and Mr. Robert Murray, the Labour member for West Renfrewshire, has also published a volume of poetry, and is a frequent contributor of verse to the magazines. Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald himself, in early life, dabbled successfully in fiction-writing and Mr. Frank Rose, the particularly independent Labourist who represents North Aberdeen, is dramatist as well as journalist.

During the adjournment of the House of Commons 11 of the Parliamentary representatives of Scottish Socialism came North by sea to Leith and then motored to Glasgow. Their choice of travel was a deliberate boycott of the railways on account of the strike. "We did not want indirectly to blackleg the men who are refusing to work the railways," was how one of them put it. Ministers may come and Ministers may go, but it is still the same old sea, as most of the Red Clydeside men showed only too plainly; but David Kirkwood seemed to have escaped easily; he was an outstanding figure on the deck of the steamer as he ostentatiously cut up "strong black" for his pipe.

A MUSIC TYPEWRITER

M. Fortoni, who is musical director at Prince's, gave a private demonstration at the Æolian Hall of the new musical typewriter that he has invented. Under M. Fortoni's fingers, this machine produced the most astonishing results. A line of Tchaikowsky's "Chanson sans Paroles" was transcribed in a few minutes and was transposed in as many more. The instrument can be used for copying out any kind of music and for any score that does not consist of more than 12 staves. Its utility is so obvious, indeed, both for obviating the necessary of engraving for the more ephemeral kinds of music and for duplicating band parts that the wonder is it has not been invented before. M. Fortoni's machine, which is covered by several patents both here and in America, is the result of 10 years' experimenting. It is very little larger than the ordinary typewriter, though it is, of course, much more intricate, having 40 arms and each arm possessing six different symbols.

OUR PARIS LETTER

The Gradual Restoration of Peace Between France and the Vatican

From Our Own Correspondent.

Paris, Jan. 25.

An important step towards the complete restoration of peace between Church and State in France has been taken. The Pope, after long deliberation, has authorized the formation of diocesan associations to provide for the maintenance of the clergy and, in general, the material side of the Catholic religion in France. The right to set up organizations of this kind was inserted in the Act of 1905, which brought about the formal separation of the two powers, but hitherto it has been absolutely rejected by the Holy See. The Act was voted without any reference to the head of the Church. France at that time was not represented at the Vatican, her envoy having been withdrawn in consequence of the trouble that followed the action of President Loubet in ignoring the Pope during his official visit to Rome.

Pope Pius X objected to the abolition of the Concordat by one of the parties, and it did not seem to him that the clauses in the Act concerning the transfer of the churches and other property were in accordance with the rights of the Church. Although the Act provided that the diocesan associations could be formed only "in conformity with the rules of general organization of the religion of which they (the associations) propose to ensure the practice," the Pope was afraid that some elements of insufficient respect for the Catholic hierarchy might find their way into the new organization. Moreover, the Church being eternal, there was no need for precipitation.

Pius X accordingly forbade the faithful to form such associations "until it was absolutely certain that they did not affect the divine constitution of the Church and the immutable rights of the Roman Pontiff and the bishops over the necessary property of the Church, and especially the sacred buildings," Pius X thus abstained from closing the door to any future reconciliation.

THE POSITION LEGAL.

After diplomatic relations between France and the Vatican were restored, the question was reopened, and it was pointed out on the French side that the French courts of law had invariably held the view that no association could be legal which was not endorsed by the ecclesiastical authority. For a long time, the Pope was convinced that a new law was necessary. He viewed the question from the point of view of canon law, which gives the legislator power to interpret the law. It was proved to him that in France the interpretation of the legislator's intentions is a matter solely for the courts. The Pope then asked if the regulations suggested for the creation of diocesan associations were in conformity with French law and did not infringe the rights of the Church. A formal opinion to this effect was obtained from three eminent legal authorities, but while the question was still open, several French prelates only expressed themselves against conciliation. One of them, the Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux, Mgr. Andrieux, declared that the legal opinion was unsound and alluded to the "partisans of religious peace at any price." M. Barthelémy, Dean of the Paris Faculty of Law, one of the three experts, published a refutation of the Archbishop's arguments. The Conseil d'Etat, the highest authority in the country, also declared that the associations would be perfectly legal. This seems to have at last satisfied the Pope.

Some of the bishops have already expressed their intention of forming associations, but Cardinal Andrieux, when asked by an interviewer if he intended to do so, evaded the question, though at the same time professing complete filial obedience to the Pope's advice.

SIX FOOT OF MOTHER EARTH.

An Act just passed by the French Parliament gives us a grim reminder of the overcrowding of some portions of the little ant-heap which we call the earth. It would appear that, here and there, the living are being cramped by the dead, and that to leave ordinary people's bones undisturbed for ever is barred by "considerations of space" as the editorial formula has it. It should be explained that a burial plot in a French cemetery can be either rented for a period of years, usually ranging from five to 30, or bought outright, in which case it is called a "perpetual concession." Under the new Act, this perpetuity becomes limited in certain cases. When a grave or family vault has been left untended for 75 years, the mayor is now empowered to certify the fact, and if the plot is still neglected for another 25 years, the local authorities will be entitled to resume possession of the ground so that it can be used for other interments, the assumption being that the relatives of the original occupants will have all died out and that no one is left whose feelings could be injured.

So much space is now occupied in cemeteries by "perpetual concessions" which have been left untouched for many years that the authorities will have to enlarge the existing cemeteries or make new ones; hence the present legislation for the future. The new Act also institutes 100-year concessions, which will no doubt eventually supersede those of the perpetual type. These will be sold at such high prices that only the wealthy will be able to afford the luxury of a permanent resting place for themselves and their family, and even this permanence, as we have seen, will be only conditional. It is one of the few vanities which the state cannot afford to encourage.

THE LATE PRINCE D'ARENBERG.

Prince Auguste d'Arenberg, who has just died at his large, old-fashioned house in the Rue de la Ville l'Evêque, in his 87th year, was one of the leading figures in Paris society. The d'Arenbergs, a very old family who took their name from a Rhineland estate between Cologne and Juliers, formed two branches, one French and the other Belgian. A d'Arenberg was a protector of Jean Jacques Rousseau and corresponded with Voltaire. Another fought against the British on the side of the Americans in the War of Independence and was the friend and executor of Mirabeau. A third d'Arenberg was among the senators appointed by Napoleon. Prince Auguste was the son of one of another batch of senators, Prince Pierre, who died in 1877. He fought against the Germans in 1870 and sat in the Chamber from 1877 to 1881 as a monarchist. He retured to Parliament in 1889, by which time he was considered as a *"rallié,"* that is to say, a monarchist who accepted the Republic. He was the possessor of a considerable fortune, as fortunes go in France. For many years he was president of the Suez Canal Co. and he was a director of several other large companies. He was interested in art and in sport, was vice-president of the Jockey Club and was made a member of the Academy of Fine Arts in recognition of his position as a collector and patron of the arts.

"RAY OF SUNSHINE"

Lord Kinnaird's Daughter as Salvation Captain

The Hon. Anne Barbara Kinnaird, eldest daughter of Lord Kinnaird, has just taken up her residence in Barking as a captain in the Salvation Army.

The enthusiasm and energy that other girls of her class devote to dancing and golf she is using to bring happiness and help to the poor in the district where she now lives. "A ray of sunshine" the women whose home she visits call her.

A "Daily News" representative met her yesterday during her rounds in the company of two sister officers. Fairhaired and fair complexioned, she is modesty itself. "I am just one of thousands of Salvation Army girl officers," she said. "Why should I be different?"

Captain Kinnaird has spent two years as a cadet and officer. Her appointment to Barking coincided with her promotion to the rank of captain.

MUTINY MEMORIES OF LORD ROBERTS

Between the judgments of the subaltern engaged in operations and the judgments of the old campaigner looking back over a long vista of years a great gulf is fixed. How great one may realize by perusing "Letters Written During the Indian Mutiny" (Macmillan & Co., Ld., 10s. 6d.), by Fred Roberts, and contrasting their contents with the record of "Forty-one Years in India," penned by Field-Marshal Lord Roberts.

The Commander-in-Chief in whom Lord Roberts could see "no hesitation or delay" was to the view of Lieut. Roberts in May 1857 "most dilatory and undecided." Some harsh criticisms, subsequently modified, are to be found in this packet of 30 letters which, labelled by "Bobs'" own hand, were found after his death.

In them we are told, more than in the later volume, which reviewed his Indian career as a whole, of personal experiences in the years 1857-8. Written to a father whom he revered, a mother whom he worshipped, and a sister, Harriet, there are many unconscious revelations of character.

SPUR OF AMBITION.

Ambition spurred him on. "I'll work hard and I have no doubt get on," was the pledge he gave his mother, and, when inactivity before Delhi was beginning to fret his nerves, he confided to her: "What I want most is the Victoria Cross. If I can only manage that, how jolly I should be."

He was ready to be ruthless. Writing of the execution of mutineers he says: "The death that seems to have most effect is being blown from a gun. It is rather a horrible sight, but. . . . had they begun this *régime* a little earlier one half of the destruction and mutiny would have been saved." And when news of the Cawnpore horror reached the camp—"nothing has ever happened in the world like this"—he records that in his mind it

> excited such a feeling of horror that I would undergo cheerfully any privation, any amount of work, living in the hopes of a revenge on these cruel murderers.

Even when, after nine months in the field, he admitted to his sister that he "wished most sincerely this horrid war was at an end," he hastened to add:—

> You must not think that I pity the blackguards who are rebelling against us. On the contrary, few are more unrelenting than I am. When a prisoner is brought in I am the first to call out to have him hanged, knowing that unless the severest measures are adopted we shall have no end to our war.

Roberts was not lucky in the matter of horses. In a "small scrimmage" in September he had his horse shot under him. "However, my horse I did not value much, and by-and-by will get compensation for it," he remarked philosophically. On his 25th birthday, when in pursuit of the Delhi mutineers:—

> I had the misfortune to have a very fine charger shot right between his eyes—lucky his head was in the way or I should have caught it. Early in the day the old charger had a very narrow escape. A round shot came lobbing along and passed between his legs. Rather close.

On the road from Delhi to Cawnpore a round of grape "knocked over my orderly's horse and wounded me slightly in the face, very nearly carrying off my whisker!!" The same day another horse of his was wounded by a sabre cut.

Some time later the Empire came within an ace of losing "Bobs" when, as he mounted his horse after attending to some gun limbers, he was shot in the back "just where my waistbelt goes. Most fortunately, through God's mercy, I had a small leather pouch on my belt. There is little doubt what the result would have been had I not had the pouch on. Fortunately, the ball just missed my spine." The wound kept him on the sick list for six weeks.

A DREADFUL PICTURE.

Through the letters runs an under-current of deep-seated horror at the atrocities committed, and here and there war is revealed in all its naked ghastliness.

When the Highlanders and Sikhs stormed the Sekundarbagh at Lucknow—

> before half an hour was over nearly 2000 Pandies (rebels) were on the ground, dead or dying. They were literally in heaps, and when I went in were a heaving mass, some dead, but most wounded, and unable to get up from the crush. You had to walk over them to cross the court.

Little wonder that a day or two later he writes: "I have seen battles now in every shape, and shall not be sorry to have a rest."

In February 1858 Roberts was able to tell his mother that his dream of the V.C. had come true. "Is not this glorious?" he asks. A month later he was detailing his plans for 15 months' sick leave, and there the letters end.—"Evening Standard."

"HELIGOLAND OF THE PACIFIC"

Faralone Is. and Defence of America's Pacific Coast

Washington, Feb. 9.

Fortification of the Faralone Islands would make the defence of San Francisco Bay more secure but would not eliminate the necessity of the proposed Alameda base, said Admiral Eberle, Chief of Naval Operations, giving evidence before the House Naval Committee.

The Faralone Islands, Representative Miller (Republican, Washington) said, seemed to be the Heligoland of the Pacific and he was "astounded" they had not been fortified.

Admiral Eberle replied that he was in favour of fortifying the islands.

Representative Curry (Republican, California) questioning the witness, asserted that there apparently was some confusion regarding the current in the Carquiens Strait and off the Alameda base. He read a coast and geddetic report which gave the currents to be of equal velocity.

Representative MacLafferty (Republican, California) asked if it would not be possible for an enemy to sink a merchant ship in the Pinole Channel and block access to the Mare Island yard. The Admiral said this would be possible.

Admiral Eberle, replying to a question by Representative Britten (Republican, Illinois), said he understood there was no competition between Mare Island and Alameda for the base, as it would be located either at Alameda or not at all. He added that, regardless of where the base might be, anchorage would be in San Francisco Bay.—Reuter's American Service.

THE AMERICAN DRAMA

An Organization to Develop Native-born Talent

New York, Jan. 28.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is included among the 45 members already belonging to an organization to be known as "The Founders of the American Theatre," which is intended to back the Equity Players in their efforts to stimulate native American drama by the production of plays written and acted by Americans.

The organization, it was announced yesterday by Mr. Frank P. Gillmore, executive secretary of the Players' Association, will consist of 100 members, each to contribute $1,000.

Plays will be produced not only in theatres here but also in Chicago, San Francisco and other theatrical centers. The aim of the founders is to pattern it after the Moscow Art Theatre.

Announcement of a prize of $2,500 from an anonymous donor for the best American play submitted or produced before October 21 was made by Mr. Gillmore.—Reuter's American Service.

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

OUR SCOTTISH LETTERS

Ireland Invades Clyde Belt: Ultra-Scots Alarmed: Huge Socialist Vote Explained: Demand for Deer Forests Fallen Off

From Our Own Correspondent.

The large emigration of Scots from the Highlands and Lowlands and the still larger influx of unskilled Irish labourers, is greatly regretted in many quarters. Ultra Scots say that there are now over 600,000 Irish people in the Scottish industrial belt, and they multiply so much more rapidly than the Scots that in 50 years they will form the majority. We are not sure whether this is calculation or prophecy. But one fact is beyond question,—namely, that the Irish population in the Clyde belt is largely responsible for the return of Socialist representatives for that area. Indeed, we should be inclined to go further and say that not a single Socialist representative in Scotland would have been returned if the Irish vote were subtracted. This is a serious matter for the Scots, whose political mind is being misrepresented by the growth of a non-Scot element.

A London writer replies to the grievance of some of the extremely patriotic Scots by pointing out that "the Scot emigrates to benefit himself, and he can scarcely be allowed to argue that while he leaves his native country another race, regarding Scotland as more desirable than he does, shall not be allowed to take his place. Somebody must run the country if it is not to waste away." The conclusion of the Southern writer is—"Should Scotland decide on a campaign to convince everybody of the advantage of living in his native country, there will be no opposition, but rather enthusiastic endorsement from England, even though we be thereby deprived of a Prime Minister."

The vague uneasiness excited by the alarmist statement as to the extent of the Irish invasion of Scotland is reduced to its proper proportions by some details of the last census figures. These show that in 1921 there were fewer Irish-born people in the country than in 1911. The decrease was 15,695, and over a period of 20 years there was a decrease of 46,044. All the people of Irish birth in Glasgow (65,689) could very comfortably attend a football match at Hampden Park without the rest of the city being aware that the streets were any less crowded than usual. In point of fact, there are more English-born people in Scotland than Irish-born. The ratio is 3.88 of the total population, as against 3.26 for the Irish-born. Now that Scotsmen are firmly assured by these official figures that they still rule their own roost, they can complacently go on with the business of controlling Great Britain as well.

SLUMP IN DEER FORESTS.

The case of the Duke of Westminster's application for reduction of the annual valuation of a Highland deer forest of which he is the proprietor is of considerable interest both in a social sense and from the point of view of rating authorities in the Highlands. There are many signs that the demand for deer forests has fallen off. Grouse moors apparently, retain their popularity, owing in some measure to the easy motor run to the butts, the lunch cart, the bevy of ladies at lunch, and other features which may alternatively be described as abominations or amenities. But apparently chasing the deer and following the roe is rather too strenuous an occupation for the majority of the new rich. At all events, the pleasure to be derived from it does not appear to be held commensurate with the huge outlay involved. One contributory cause is, of course, the large increase in the cost of the upkeep of shootings. But the chief drawback of deer-stalking would seem to be the difficulty of conveniently combining it with motoring. Nowadays, also, the possession of a deer forest no longer confers the same social cachet as it did in the days when the majority of sportsmen were aristocrats. Taken on its own merits, as a form purely of amusement, it is found wanting when compared with pursuits that involve rapid movement and a quick succession of social distractions. The new rich will never be at a loss for ways of getting rid of their money, and it does not seem likely that they will have to fall back upon deer-stalking to an extent sufficient to maintain in the future the present values of deer forests.

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.

A memorial has been sent to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, recommending that the Nobel Peace Prize this year be given to Mr. E. D. Morel, M.P., who represents Dundee in the House of Commons. The memorial thus describes his works:—"From 1900 to 1912 E. D. Morel conducted his great campaign against the Congo atrocities. Until the publication of his book, 'Red Rubber,' in 1906, his struggle against one of the subtlest of European monarchs was almost single-handed, and his final success, when the reforms of 1912 were secured, was recognized by national and international tributes. From that time he devoted himself to the study of international questions, and in his published works from 1922 onward he described the dangers he saw threatening the peace of the world, and especially the perils growing out of the exploitation of Africa by the great European Powers. From the outbreak of war in 1914 he worked determinedly, and in the face of bitter opposition and persecution for a means of securing a lasting and an early peace, doing his utmost to make known the truth about the war as he saw it, and the principles upon which peace would be founded. From the black days of the war he has now emerged to occupy a foremost place amongst those members of the House of Commons whose work for world peace is acknowledged and honoured." The signatories to the memorial include Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald, Lord Parmoor, Mr. C. P. Trevelyan, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Philip Snowden, Professor Raymond Beazley, of Birmingham University; and Mr. Arthur Ponsonby.

DEMOCRATIC RUGGER.

The composition of the Welsh Rugby team which met Scotland at Edinburgh presents an interesting contrast to that of the Scottish team, and provides evidence, if any were needed, of the democratic nature of Rugby football in Wales. It is noteworthy that, while the members of the Scottish team are mostly ex-public school and University men, the representatives of Wales include two miners, a labourer, a dock worker, a steelworker, and four policemen.

There is likely to be a "steer" over the resolution passed at the Scottish Students' Conference in Edinburgh, which strikes at the F. P. Rugby teams in the Capital and elsewhere. Students are expected to offer their services first to their Universities. This means that the lads from Watson's, Heriot's, Daniel Stewart's, etc., will be compelled to play against their own schools which gave them their training so that the Universities may get their pick of players. It is doubtful if the University authorities will interfere, as suggested, with the liberty of the students. When an outstanding game is on the card,—say with Oxford or Cambridge—the University makes a call on its students who play for other clubs, and they always willingly respond.

MISCELLANEA.

In pleading at the Presbytery of Edinburgh for aid for the distress in the Highlands and Islands, the Rev. Dr. Norman Maclean referred to the bad weather conditions last autumn. A friend of his had told him that he spent a month in his native island in August last year. He had one shower of rain, and that one shower lasted 28 days.

In Lady Norah Bentinck's "Wanderings and Memories" there is a passing glimpse of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. In the course of a conversation she told him that she was trying the Coué system on her little boy—she goes beyond this, and is a believer in the "supernormal"—by repeating to him slowly and distinctly when he is sound asleep. "You must be Lord Chancellor"; the only result, however, so far, being that he murmured when half-awake, "No; I'll be a chauffeur." "He (Mr. MacDonald) wondered why I had chosen Lord Chancellor rather than Prime Minister. Did I think it a more important post? and I said that I did."

During Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's recent visit to Edinburgh his host was Mr. Alexander Grant, the biscuit manufacturer, who has recently offered to provide funds for the erection of a Scottish National Library. Like Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Grant was a humble Moray "loon," and started at the bottom of the ladder. When he came to Edinburgh his first call was at the bakery door of Messrs. M'Vitie and Price. He was informed that no new hands were required, but the persistence of the young man from the North at last brought the query—"Well, what can you do?" "I can make a better biscuit than you," was the prompt reply. He was invited to show his skill, and that the loon was as good as his word is borne out by his position to-day and the reputation of the firm as biscuit makers.

Not many people have read Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's beautifully written life of his wife, Margaret Ethel MacDonald, and this short extract may be given as a sample of his style—"Where has love walked more tenderly with death than in the Tweed dales, or where have brave hearts fought against fate more grimly and chivalrously? The songs of the valleys are the defiant lilts of the soldier and the heart-broken croonings of the maiden. A brief romantic life and an untimely pathetic death, that was the fate which made the hills and dales of the Tweed country sonorous with ballad and song."

Mr. William Adamson, M.P., the new Secretary for Scotland, has a hobby that would not appeal to all Ministers of the Crown. He takes a very deep interest in the religious welfare of children, and when he is in Dunfermline he conducts a Bible class every Sunday afternoon.

A new Socialist M.P., "probably a Scot," was the guest of a provincial Chamber of Commerce and sought to show that members of the new Government were not lacking in business ability. One of them, he said, came into the smoke room of the House of Commons, and announced that he had drawn his 4s. 6d. "Where did you get it?" asked several other members who were sitting round. He explained that it was interest on his election deposit, and his comrades made a note of it.

A "Dry" Burns Nicht: This Year's Celebrations of the Immortal Memory

Edinburgh, Jan. 30.

It is safe to say that more people celebrated the anniversary of Burn's birthday throughout the English-speaking world than had ever been the case before, for every year adds to the number of Burns Nichts. Not indeed that all the celebrants are Scots, either by birth or descent. A Burns Nicht, especially of Scotland, is becoming, like other Scots festivals, a rallying point for English-speaking people generally, whether in our own farflung Commonwealth or in America.

A similar change has taken place in regard to the keeping of Hogmanay, which, but a few years ago the monopoly, in London, of some hundreds of rather noisy Scots youths in front of St. Paul's Cathedral, now affords a lucrative form of merrymaking for most of the big West-End hotels, where thousands of Englishmen try to sing "Auld Lang Syne" (*sic*), if they have not always a clear knowledge of what has become a hymn of widespread significance in the art of saying good-night. At many of the Burns celebrations the immortal memory was proposed by distinguished men who were not Scots—an innovation which does not always please "thrawn commentators sweir to gree." Last year Mr. Chesterton, who, despite the Scots "Keith" in his name, is one of the most typical Englishmen living, held forth at the monster dinner of the Burns Club of London, and was broadcasted far and wide. This appreciation, however, is inevitable, for Burns is not only national but international, his metre, helped enormously by its musical setting, making an appeal to a wholly non-literary public far greater than that of any other writer, for people who never even open a book can quote Burns.

THE "GLORIOUS HAGGIS."

In modern times the haggis has become the typical Scottish dish, particularly identified with the festivals of St. Andrew and Robert Burns, but it is a surprising fact that for many centuries, while popular in Scotland, it was also an English favourite. Recipes for its making were given in more than one cookery book of the 15th century, and we find this description in one of the 17th., "The English Housewife":—"That pudding which is called the haggas or haggus, of whose goodness it is vain to boast, because there is hardly to be found a man that doth not affect them." Yet this popularity dwindled, and seems to have faded away about the beginning or middle of the 18th century. In the middle of the 19th a writer promulgated the now prevalent notion:—"There is something transcendentally Scotch about a haggis." To have known haggis, and its fragrant lusciousness and to have forgotten it!

Another interesting point about the haggis is its cheapness, combined with its food qualities. For a small sum it may be purchased—drab, bulging, hideous—but with what worth, what cheer within. The fruit of the oat—that grain, with its large content of albuminoids, which has sustained hundreds of thousands of hardy Northerners; the onion, ancient of history, with its nutritive and stimulant properties; the fat, even as used by King Arthur's Queen in that famous bag pudding; the rich and savoury meat, the very heart and core of noble mutton.

The derivation of the name, which has been variously spelled, baffles the dictionaries. There is an old verb, "to hag," meaning to hew or chop. But the same word signified "to trouble, as the nightmare!" Well, we have known it happen when haggis was indulged in not wisely, but too well. But Grose gives, though without etymology, a word nag, haggus—for the lower part of the body. And here, doubtless, we have the immediate derivation. They were wont to call a spade a spade in old days and a haggis and its container, being what it was, was simply a haggis.

BURNSIANA.

An American paper contains an effort by a local bard to produce humorous Braid Scots verse. One bloomer is the rhyming of "picked" with "nicht." The poem is entitled "Hunting the Haggis," and the first verse is:—

My heart's in the Highlands; it's there by its lane,
A-hunting the haggis o'er bracken and stane—
The wild whustling haggis, wi' lang bristling beard,
That bids in the gorse bushes, dreeing its weird.

A number of the Burns Clubs have special rituals of their own. I know of one where it is demanded of the orator of the evening that he drink a glass of whisky neat before signing the Visitors' Book. In another case each diner on the "Twenty-Fifth" must furnish for the chairman's menu-card an appropriate quotation from the works of the bard and sign it. Then out Dunfermline way there is a club that expects the proposer of "The Immortal Memory" to don a Tam o' Shanter and Shepherd tartan plaid provided for his adornment. The request makes even the strongest of men quail.

A ladies' Burns supper, held in Ayr under the auspices of the "Eastern Star" struck a new note. Mere man was allowed to attend, but the "Immortal Memory" was proposed by a lady. And the evening was a "dry" one!

MR. MACDONALD AS A NEIGHBOUR.

"The Prime Minister is of goodly stature, tall and well-proportioned, with a well-turned leg which his knickerbocker suit shows to advantage. He has a straight, boyish figure, and his eyes are boy's eyes too, brown and merry. I particularly like his smile, which includes his eyes as well as his mouth. His brindled hair and bronzed face remind one a little of Andrew Lang." So writes Isabel Cameron, the authoress describing a visit which Mr. Ramsay MacDonald paid to her home. "He asked me how the 'Doctor' was getting on, and whether I had made my fortune yet. 'Not so as to buy a motor car,' I replied sadly, and hoped he would not notice the hole in the seat of the chair whereon I sat."

A Celt he is, possessing to the full all the glamour of his race. To such a man Scott's novels make an irresistible appeal. He is continually reading them. "Ivanhoe" was the favourite last Christmas. Addison's essays and old history interest him, particularly the story of Oliver Cromwell; for that old Ironside the new Prime Minister has an especial fondness. To the "Old Dominie," as Mr. MacDonald calls the late Mr. George MacDonald, schoolmaster of Drainie, he owes his love for good literature. When this old teacher died Mr. MacDonald wrote a letter of such deep sympathy and fond appreciation that the mere reading of it brings tears to one's eyes. He speaks of his debt to the old dominie, which he can never discharge. One cannot help thinking that this same old dominie must have found his young pupil teacher a scholar after his own heart. In Morayshire, with all its historical associations and history, the future Prime Minister had many schools and schoolmasters. To hear him speak of the Caves of Covesea is to hear him speak of something he loved well!

A wonderfully strong bond of affection exists between Mr. MacDonald and his five good-looking young offspring. His eldest daughter, Ishbel, spent a year in Lossiemouth School, and all the young MacDonald's are fond of their Morayshire home, "The Hillocks." When their grandmother was alive she found all her delight in looking after her stirring grandchildren. The youngest girl's birthday fell about the days of the General Election. "What would you like for your birthday?" one of the others asked her. "That Daddy would be returned at the head of the poll," was the reply of this staunch young politician.

Of their mother, a beautiful and gracious lady, Lossiemouth still speaks with loving respect. Her care for children, her interest in all that was for the betterment of humanity, have left a wonderful memory, and her influence surely can be traced in Mr. MacDonald's own love for children and concern for their future.

SCOTS-AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL.

A communication has been made to Lord Provost Sleigh, by Mr. John Buchan, LL. D., the well-known author, as to a Scottish-American memorial in Edinburgh. Mr. Buchan has been approached by a Scotsman resident in America, on behalf of a number of Scottish organizations in that country, with the suggestion that a memorial of Scotsmen's part in the war should be erected in Edinburgh as a tribute from Scotsmen in America. The suggestion—subject to variation in all details—was that a piece of statuary, probably the figure of a Highlandman, should be erected in Princes Street. If the proposal were approved, the writer of the communication on the subject was prepared to get in touch with the various Scottish societies throughout America. A difficulty is that suitable sites for statues in Princes Street are already occupied. It is understood, however, that local views on the form such a memorial might take would be open to consideration on the part of the originators of the proposal.

PLAYED WITH FIVE PREMIERS.

J. H. Taylor, the five times champion, notes with satisfaction

none but British films are to be exhibited. Its promoters are likely to do more harm than good if they are not careful. There are not enough good British films to go round in one large town, leaving out the rest of the country. Such a demonstration might be possible in five years time. If held this year there will be many cinema patrons in the future who will give any picture house showing "Wholly British Production This Week" a very wide berth until the Americans are back again.

THE CHARM OF MEI LAN FANG

Personal Impressions of China's Great Actor-Actress

By Achilles.

Successful men are said to be ruined by success. With Mei Lan Fang the adage "Nothing succeeds like success" is much more apt. He is gloriously free from those ailments so frequently created by prosperity: Yet he is undoubtedly the most famous Chinese actor; his name is known across the world, in China it is always mentioned when superficial reference is made to the stage, or when Chinese make explanatory remarks to uninitiated foreigners about the Chinese theatre. Stray books by tourists and others on matters general appertaining to China, contain reference, however slight and inaccurate to Mei Lan Fang. When he visited Japan he received such an unsurpassed ovation. Japanese girls went "Mei-mad" over him, as Mr. M. T. Z. Tyau remarks in passing commentary on the Stage in the East in one of the chapters of his book "China Awakened." He has played before, met, and been fêted by presidents and generals. He has received 150 medals from leading lights as tokens of their esteem. All this praise, expressed implied, has left him untainted by pride.

"HOU T'AI": BEHIND THE SCREENS.

The other morning at 1 o'clock, after the performance of "Lo Shun" one of his best pieces, was over, Mei Lan Fang gave the writer a delightful reception behind the screens. The greeting, nay welcome, which he extended to this foreigner could not have been more friendly or charming.

Although Mei had been acting before some 3,000 people for nearly two hours, winning the usual quantity of hushed attention and enthusiastic applause, he was as fresh as if he had newly completed a gentle game at tennis. The green room of the Kung Wu T'ai, the theatre in which he was appearing (situated on a side road just off the Rue du Consulat) was cold, but roomy. It was reached by a longish walk, known only to the initiated: a climb down a sort of fire-escape ladder, a fifty-yards progression along a kind of private lane, and an entry up a sloping passage way. The show had just ended, and Mei had to remove his gaudy garments, but in four minutes he turned up, jauntily throwing on his jacket-waistcoat as he did so, and advancing in a mild hail-fellow-well-met manner. He shook hands first *à la Chinoise*, then in foreign style. He has two or three good interpreters and secretaries, and it was the full intention of the writer to engage him, suitably and humbly, in conversation through them. But as Mei was so exceedingly willing to be friends, and spoke in such easily distinguishable, tones, there was no question as to whether he was to be answered in English or Chinese. So the conversation was a very cheerful one. Mei was naive enough to inquire whether he acted well or not. He was sufficiently unoriginal to remark that the foreigner spoke good Pekinese. Mei had seen the Italian opera, but this proved a tall topic and one was glad to be off it. It is rather hard for an Englishman who cannot fathom more than a word or two of the Italian opera nor much more of the Chinese to conduct a conversation with the foremost Chinese actor on the former subject. In parenthesis, it is to be noted that three-fourths even of Chinese who go to the Chinese theatre cannot understand or even hear a great deal of what is being said. This is due to one of four causes or to all:

1. The discrepancy between dialects.
2. The din of the orchestra.
3. The high falsetto employed, and
4. The poor accoustics.

This may seem a remarkable fact, but the maxim that when you go to the theatre you must leave your mind behind is fairly reasonable. It is not necessarily the mind that must be appealed to at all times. There is something soothing about the Italian opera, and similarly so with the Chinese theatre, provided of course in regard to the latter that the *'lo,'* or gong, remains silent, which is certainly a difficult condition to get unless some bright member of the audience contrives to steal it or have it mislaid! In this connexion it should be said that, much as foreigners hate the noisy clanging

MEI LAN FANG.

In the Engrossing Sword Dance with the Clam in his 'Lien Chin Feng'

of the theatre gong, sometimes the Chinese in the audience hate it more. He will close his ears with his hands, and mutter words regarding the superior attractions of a cinema.

VISITING EUROPE.

Mei Lan Fang intends to visit America next year. The writer told him he ought to go to England. He grew enthusiastic over the idea, and seemed to think the writer might help to boost the project by suggesting it in the press. It is worth boosting.

If audiences in Europe were given the chance to see Mei Lan Fang in his graceful stage-parts, their interest in China would be stimulated. He would act the rôle of an Ambassador. Good feeling between the East and West would be assisted. Surely this is inevitable: anybody who saw Mei during his recent visit here would probably endorse this view.

He possesses so many of the attributes of the best Chinese. His decorum on the stage and off is perfect; his cleverness is obvious; his good will is evident in his various attempts to give the utmost possible satisfaction at all times when he is acting.

"The humble enjoy continual peace, but in the heart of the proud is envy and frequent indignation." There is not much of the latter with Mei but a great deal of the former. He appeared on that occasion in the Green Room a model of self-respecting humility far removed of course from emphatic self-depreciation, which would have been completely out of place. Characteristic of him was his action in personally dashing for a cigarette and lighting the match for his guest. None of the numerous attendants who were at beck and call were summoned to procure them. His manners, as has been said, are without fault, and his natural shyness, even if it is not now very pronounced, is sufficiently apparent to increase ones interest in him.

HIS FEMALE IMPERSONATION.

His part, as all who know his name are aware, is that of impersonator of feminine roles. For this he is well qualified by his build. The Apollo type of man is often regarded as what he frequently is, rather flabby. This Mei is not. His smooth countenance and appearance of being on the stage unrecognizable from a fascinating Chinese damsel are considerably assisted by paint and powder, as is inevitable. Behind the screens he is a most pleasant Chinese gentleman with a masculine air pronounced enough to absolve him from being considered effeminate. His attitude is one of keenness, wide-awakedness, and especially sympathy. Of the latter he has much: many sums have been devoted by him to the relief work in Japan and to other charitable funds: his determination not to appear in any way conceited is another evidence of his sympathy, which is in no small measure conveyed by his which are large, mobile and animated.

An opinion exists that the profession of acting is a degraded one in China. Sir Henry Irving being knighted is quoted as an example of what would not happen in China. Actors the world over are usually of a poor and lowly origin. This much one may admit, but not that they are lower than in the West when it comes to a discussion of "stars." There is just as great a tendency to write panegyrics about actors in China as in England. Mei Lan Fang, for example, had a father, grandfather, and uncle all of whom made themselves well-known by their theatrical skill.

OTHER NEAR THE THRONE.

The second greatest actor in China, also a female impersonator, who is obviously cut out to be Mei's successor, is Ch'êng Yen Ch'iu (程艷秋). He is only 21, and is of the fifth generation of the family of a high high Councillor of Chien Lung, one of China's greatest Emperors.

After Ch'êng Yen Ch'iu has had his period of supreme rule among popular actors, it will probably be Lu Mu Tan who, in turn, will step into his shoes. This Lu Mu Tan (綠牡丹) is still only about 17 or 18, and is the son of a retired official. Mei Lan Fang has expressed much approval of the manner in which this young actor performs. He is smaller than Mei, but there is time for him to grow. His humility is not yet so wonderful as that of Mei. But all these three most celebrated actors have a much greater humility than the actual Chinese actresses seen as a rule. The chief Chinese actresses in Shanghai perform at the Kung Wu Tai. It is the only one of the seven big Shanghai theatres (there are of course numerous smaller ones) in which actresses appear. Fen Chu Hua, Chang Wen Yen and Lu Lan Chun (Chinese characters 粉菊花,張文艷,露蘭春, respectively) seem to have a too high appreciation of their importance, if one can judge from their pouting expressions exhibited on the stage, and their less spontaneous smiles.

Suficient, however, has been said to show that it is absurd to claim that Chinese actors all enjoy a mean status.

STUDYINN THE CHINESE STAGE.

Foreigners in Shanghai who care to study the Chinese stage are lucky: it is the second best place for doing so, Peking of course being first. Take the three actors named above, for example. None is at present in this city, but all have been within the past six months. Mei returned to Peking on January 22, Ch'êng about three or four months ago, and Lu went from here to Tientsin some time in the autumn. All will probably return ere very long, although Mei certainly will not come back for a while, except perhaps to act here on his way to England or America. Lu Mu Tan is the one most likely to return first. He is to be watched. He acted for several months last year in the Ch'un Hua (Spring Flowers Theatre) Wu T'ai in Chapei, and may do so again. It is not very easy to find it, but it is not far, and a nice, roomy, new place.

The seven largest theatres in Shanghai are the following:—

T'ien C'han Wu T'ai (天蟾舞台) Near Wing On
Tan Kuei Ti I T'ai (丹桂第一台) Foochow Road
Ta Wu T'ai (大舞台) Hankow Road
I Wu T'ai (亦舞台) Hoopeh Road
Hsin Wu T'ai (新舞台) Native City
Ch'un Hua Wu T'ai (春華舞台) Chapei
Kung Wu Tai (共舞台) French Concession

The first of these seven is the enormous building just behind Wing On's, which everybody at that busy crossing can hardly help noticing, distinguishable by the large cigarette advertisement looking down towards Nanking Road.

Mei Lan Fang acted in the Kung Wu T'ai, Ch'êng Yen Ch'iu in the Ta Wu Tai and Lu Mu Tan in the Ch'un Hua Wu T'ai. The largest theatre of all, that behind Wing On's, does not, for one reason or another, get the most notable performers, although it has an enormous seating capacity.

MEI LAN FANG'S COMPANY.

The chief members of the great actor's caste, recently here, were the following:—

Yen Chu P'eng 言菊朋
Hsiao Kuei Hua 小桂花
Wang Feng Ch'ing 王鳳卿
Chiang Miao Hsiang 姜妙香
Chou Rui An 周瑞安
Chu Kuei Fang 朱桂芳
Yao Yu Fu 姚玉芙

Of these the three first are bearded-rôle performers, *i.e. lao sheng*; Chiang Miao Hsiang, my friend of the green room always plays the part of a young man, *i.e. hsiao sheng*; and of the three others, the two first are militarists whose office is always to be warriors, *i.e. wu sheng*; while the last is a Hua Tan (female Impersonator) like Mei.

Special mention must be made of Ch'en Yen Heng (陳彥衡) who is the most celebrated living

LU MU TAN.

A future Mei Lan Fang Here disguised as a Girl

huchin (fiddle) player and who can earn two or three thousand monthly. His playing was much applauded in Shanghai.

Mei was here altogether 40 odd days. No one play was presented more than six times, and this occurred only in the case of Lo Shun, his best, already mentioned. His most noteworthy plays, in their conventional order of merit as seen by dramatic critics, were the following:—

1. Lo Shun 洛神
2. Pa Wang Pieh Chi 霸王別姬
3. Lien Chin Feng 廉錦楓
4. Hsi Shih 西施
5. Hung Hsien T'ao Ho 紅線盜盒
6. T'ien Nu San Hua 天女散花

And, of course, standing in rather a class of its own, the unusual T'ien Ho P'ei (天河配) which is supposed to be played only on one special day in the year but was given by special request.

Mei's plays are mostly of an historical or fairy-tale nature. He seems to prefer the latter. It suits best his capacity for imitating a winsome maiden who performs wonderful deeds: his sword dance or fight with a clam in Lien Ching Feng is engrossing. He pirouettes about the stage engaged in imaginary combat with this mysterious habitant of the underwaters. Another beautifully dressed "girl" hidden behind the great shells which she holds before her in her part as clam, endeavours to snap up Mei by catching him between her large forceps. The sword is imprisoned several times but always escapes again. Mei retreats to the back of the stage in a zig-zag direction, gradually vanishing and ever growing dimmer through a maze of thin gauze hung from the roof in layers, followed by the clam. Fishes bob about across the stage and the under-sea aspect is well represented. Both return slowly and the clam is mortally wounded at the last while Mei plucks from behind the now open shell encasements an elixir (which is symbolized by a pink silk handkerchief) which is to save her mother's life. It is a very pretty dance.

LAST WORDS.

Mei is now nearly 30. He has a little daughter who has inherited good looks from her father, when in Shanghai he stayed with several others of his troupe in a large foreign house in Rue Lafayette. His profits were very great as his houses were so good. It is said he made $5,000 on his best nights, and seldom less than $3,000, but these figures cannot be guaranteed. His expenses, of course, are enormous.

A large crowd was assembled at Shanghai North Station to see him off to Peking piped by a military band. He was in highest spirits, enjoying the bustle and excitement. Two thousand dollars was the cost of railway tickets alone for the large company to Peking.

In Peking Mei usually acts in the Chen Kuang Tien Ying Yuen (眞光電影園).

The Englishman or Scotsman who will come to terms to invite Mei Lan Fang to London to perform there will be a wise and sound person, and will earn vast reward and gratitude from artistic Britons.

CUI BONO?

"Each sufferer says his say, his scheme of the weal and woe:
But God has a few of us whom he whispers in the ear;
The rest may reason and welcome: 'tis we musicians know."

On the wall of the Musicians room the violin hung with broken strings.

That same night in the great concert hall the violinist had played to a thousand listeners.

A thousand souls had followed its echo through the realms of ethereal sound to mingle with the silence.

It seemed as though the spirits of the Old Masters had conspired to touch with magic that artist's bow. That together they conversed in soft caressing notes, unutterably sweet, or in deep and solemn organ tones of unknown melodies and divine things. . . .

Yet he seemed unconscious of the almost unearthly harmony he had invoked, of the spiritual atmosphere he had created.

It warmed the hearts of the aged, it soothed and comforted those who sorrowed, and their sorrows crept away, and the young dreamt of the future and "saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be."

It was his first concert, and as the people streamed from the hall, one heard whispers of 'the greatest artist' . . . . 'what a future' . . . . 'the world at his feet.'

The young violinest went home. He knew he would never play again. Music was an essential part of him; he lived for his art alone. Having attained the summit, he realized that he had lost that all-important factor—Desire.

He had wandered beyond the ken of man, and from those illusionary heights he knew not the way back.

That night the musician lay dead in his room, and the violin, his beloved toy, hung mutely on the wall.

N.T.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

LESSONS IN GOLF

I.—Some Advice on Driving

(By Harry Vardon Six Times Open Champion)

Below will be found the first two of a series of articles by Harry Vardon, the famous golfer. We have obtained the exclusive local rights for these articles, the others of which will appear in due course.

A very large proportion of the unsuccessful golf that one sees everywhere is due to the fact that the perpetraters of it have never taken the trouble to master certain essential — and quite simple — principles. Many of these enthusiasts may have had lessons early in their careers but forgotten them long ago, and joined the great army whose habit it is to declare that they have "no opportunity for quiet practice; only enough time to play the game for diversion and exercise."

I have known very few people who played golf without being keen to do well at it, whatever they may have said, in periods of frustration, about being content to get recreation out of it. That is its way at any rate, in 99 cases out of every hundred. It is either a passion or nothing. Consequently, I would ask the reader who thinks that he sees any light in the hints that I offer, to make an opportunity for occasional practice. If he can devote only 20 minutes to it whenever he visits the course—the 20 minutes before he sets out on his round—he will find it well worth while.

THE UNSUCCESSFUL PLAYER.

Let us assume that our subject is one who, for a fairly considerable period, has been pursuing the game more or less unsuccessfully—either because he has never achieved a tolerable degree of proficiency at it, or, having once attained a condition which he was well satisfied to call his "form," has since lost it.

In these circumstances we may deem him ready to consider afresh the question of his swing. For the present, we will leave his grip alone, convinced as his grip is the real cause of the trouble, and it is the detail that I always study first in a pupil. Where, however, it has possibilities of producing the desired results and it is more or less ingrained in his golfing constitution, I do not believe in altering it.

To become accustomed to a new way of holding the club is, for many people, a long-drawn out trial. If the player finds after a period of experimentation that, however faithfully he seems to be observing the correct principles of the swing, his shots are still unsatisfactory, it will be of the first importance for him to pay heed to his grip.

STARTING THE SWING.

We will begin with the driving swing. Assuming that the player is not obtaining much joy from his tee-shots, I would ask him at the outset to put away his driver and substitute, for it his brassie—the only provision being that the length and lie of the two clubs must be exactly the same.

By the "lie" I mean the angle which the shaft makes with the ground when the club-head is placed behind the ball in the natural position for striking. Similarity between the driver and the brassie in this detail—and also in regard to its length—is important, so that when the one club is exchanged for the other, the player feels to be playing exactly the same kind of shot.

The advantage of the brassie to a man who is not driving well is that its slightly stiffer shaft and its element of loft on the club-face combine to breed confidence. When that has been acquired, the driver can be reinstated.

THE PROPER DRIVE.

For the proper hitting of a golf drive—which should make the ball rise into the air and accomplish most of the distance by "carry" instead of flying low and finishing with a long run, possibly into a hazard—I believe in standing a trifle open. That is the left leg should be a little behind the right. Let the ball be within comfortable reach of the club-head and rather nearer to the left heel than to the right heel.

Be sure, too, that there is a sense of ease and relaxation in all the joints—not sheer looseness, but, above all things, not tightness. There is a happy medium in this matter. Many players brace themselves up as firmly as a trussed chicken from the instant they start to address the ball. I suppose they think they will be able to hit the harder for it, whereas; in point of fact, they so constrict the body that it is deprived of the chance to swing the club in the way that produces power.

There is no doubt that the golf swing begins with a straightening of the left arm. Slow motion film pictures of my own swing show that this action causes the left wrist to push the right wrist straight back for about three inches, without, however, any resultant movement of the club-head.

It is simply that the wrists recede three inches behind the club-head, which then starts to move until it catches up the hands and, turning away from the ball, leads the hands from that stage till the finish.

CONSCIOUS ACTION.

Naturally, the hands are merely guides at the outset (they should exercise only a light, though non-slipping, grip) and this retreat of the wrists in what is virtually a straight line for three inches behind the ball no doubt causes the club-face to follow also in a straight line for three inches and thus helps to produce a straight shot.

Personally, however, I feel sure that it would be useless to try and teach a golfer to perform such an action. In most cases it would only result in his wrists becoming locked at the end of the three inches. I still believe it is the soundest plan to teach him that the first conscious movement must be that of turning the club-face away from the ball by turning the left wrist gently inward towards the body at the beginning of the swing.

In this manner, the left arm will tend naturally to straighten and cause both wrists to recede. The action seen in the slow motion film, but not visible in life, is the involuntary result of the first principle turning the club-face away from the ball.

As the club rises remember above all things to keep the head still. Doing this, the body will have to turn at the hips to allow the arms to take the club up, and the player will rise on to the ball of the left foot, or, at any rate, on the inside of that foot, from the big joint to the end of the big toe. He must not let the left heel shift outwards lest he allow the effect of the screwing round of the body at the hips to escape at the heel.

Having thus wound up the body at the hips—and still keeping the head still—he has now to unwind it. The first thing he should do is merely to recover the club from behind his head, which should be its position at the top of the swing. Instead of starting it down with a snatch, let him urge it gently out towards his right. Now it is in the proper position to begin the real hit.

Let it gather speed for all it is worth from that stage. Just before the impact the left heel returns to the ground and the left leg straightens, this braces up the body for the blow—and the result, let us hope, is a worthy drive. At any rate, it ought to be.

II.—Mid-Iron Shots

The average golfer, struggling for proficiency, is well advised at the start to study and master a few certain shots in the game, played with a few certain clubs.

I have already dealt with driving, and it seems to me that the next department calling for attention is that of shots accomplished with the mid-iron. On the whole, the mid-iron is probably the most useful all-round club in the bag.

Its lie, and the depth of its face in each case a happy medium make it the easiest of the irons with which to hit the ball accurately. It is, indeed, just the sort of club which a novice might pick out instinctively as being adapted to its purpose.

When a golfer is in doubt as to whether to take a mashie or a mid-iron for a shot up to the pin, I would advise him every time to select the mid-iron—the longer range club—and play the shot within himself, which is another way of saying without forcing for distance, as he might feel compelled to do with the mashie. In a competition in which everybody had to use one club—and one only—my choice would most certainly be the mid-iron.

THE SIMPLE STROKE.

The simple shot with it is sufficient to consider by way of a beginning: that is, the shot which does not attempt to apply back-spin to the ball. This latter is the supreme joy of the game, since once it is conquered, it fills the player with the great expectancy of being able to control the altitude, the length of flight, and the run.

He may not always be able to achieve these things, but when the shot has come to him, nothing gives him such pleasurable anticipation as the effort to execute it.

Still, he has first to be fairly sure that he can strike the ball truly, and so he may be recommended to concentrate his attention for a time on the plain mid-iron shot which sends the ball up into the air to fall just about where he wishes, and run—as he hopes—the right distance.

CONCERNING THE STANCE.

The first thing to remember is that he must stand appreciably nearer to the ball than when he is using the driver. This closing in on the ball is courted by the fact that the mid-iron is, as a rule, some four inches shorter than the driver, but there are thousands of players who do not stand near enough.

The golfer needs to be just so comfortably over his work that the head of the club reaches the ball without imposing on him the necessity of stretching his arms in order to get at it. In short, every muscle and every joint should be easy and relaxed during the address.

I do not believe in establishing exact measurements, because every golfer is different, and my own stances for the same type of shot are not always the same to an eighth of an inch. At a rough estimate, however, I should say that, taking the stance for the driver as a standard, the player needs to have his feet about 14 inches nearer to the ball for the mid-iron. This will give a fair idea of the difference.

FEET CLOSER TOGETHER.

Thus closing in on the ball, his feet will—or ought—to be closer together than for the driver shot. They will be some six inches closer together. Also, his stance will be slightly more open; that is to say, the left foot—with the toes turned slightly outwards—will be a little more behind the right than it was for the full bang with the wooden club.

Being thus disposed in such relation to the ball that the arms just have room to swing through comfortably without being cramped or stretched, he may be advised to grip the club a little more firmly than for a tee-shot.

I want particularly to warn him against a really tight hold—a clutching hand—even with the iron clubs. It only retards the swing. But as the sole of the club is now coming into contact with the ground, which one prays to goodness it will not do in the case of a tee-shot, there is a chance that it may turn in the grasp when this contact takes place. The best way to guard against such a contingency is to increase the firmness of the hold with the thumb and fore-finger—not with the other fingers. This slight increase of pressure will serve the purpose.

OVER-SWINGING.

The swing with a mid-iron should naturally be shorter, more upright, and more compact than that with a driver.

In the ordinary way there is no need for the golfer to worry himself to produce these effects. They are a corollary of the fact that he is using a shorter club and standing nearer to the ball than for a full drive.

Still, there are a good many players who, in the back-swing with the mid-iron, take the club back too far, with the result that they lose control over it and their shots go to perdition. In fact, the commonest mistake of all with the mid-iron is overswinging. It promotes flatness of swing—which is one of the worst possible things where this club is concerned—and although now and again it produces a long shot, nobody can tell where the next one is going.

I recommend the average golfer to practise a half swing, which will do well for shots of about 150 yards. It is the safe swing. As confidence grows, it may be extended on occasion to a three-quarter swing.

The turn of the body at the hips and the importance of keeping the head still are the same as for the drive. Aim about half an inch behind the ball; at just that space which you see when you ground the club in the final address.

That is the simple mid-iron shot. At some future time, we may engage in the low-flying, back-spin shot which goes by the name of "the push," and which is the most scientific shot in the game.

BRITISH FILMS

Why They are Where They Are: The Passion for Stereotyped American Models

By Our Labour Correspondent.

Sir Oswald Stoll addressing a meeting of his shareholders a few weeks ago said that the British picture house proprietors were obsessed with the American film but the British public were not. As a result of this he alleged that many of the exhibitors were in danger of going bankrupt. Sir Oswald was at the time boosting British films. While we share the British public's growing weariness of the American product we think there is something to be said for the British film exhibitor. The average American film is a machine-made sort of production, but it has qualities far superior to the bad British film. The latter has a quite unredeemed badness. The photography is bad, the story is worse, and the acting is poor. The bad American film has an equally thin scenario, but the photography is usually good and the acting just passable. It has also such qualities as a free expenditure of money can give, a factor that counts for little in the production of master-pieces, but which is capable of saving the American film from falling to the drear depths of its bad British rival.

THE BIG BUSINESS BLIGHT.

It is curious that a country so generously dowered with imaginative writers as Great Britain should be so behindhand in the film producing business. The most common explanation heard of this fact is that our atmosphere is not suited to film photography. This is not good enough. There have been British films quite as good in photography as the best American productions. The cause has to be sought elsewhere. It probably lies in the habit of Big Business always to play for what it imagines to be safety, by under-estimating the intelligence of the general public. This tendency in journalism has given us our present day popular press. In cheatreland it has ruined the stage with insipid musical comedies and inane revues. And in filmland it has placed us among the "also ran." From such successes as we have had in the past it would seem that our genius does not lie with the great spectacular film. It is sometimes said that there is not enough capital to be found in England to produce them but Germany's example should prove how groundless that objection is. The sets in the new German productions entrival the greatest efforts of Griffiths.

Our publishers are usually men of some culture and when MSS. are sent them they give them to capable readers to judge whether to take for publication before deciding to accept or reject. To a lesser extent the same course is followed with plays. But what would happen to a budding genius with a scenario for a film in Great Britain? With one exception our producers are of the schools. One of these is slavishly imitative of American methods and would only accept a scenario of the conventional American pattern. As might be imagined its productions are always a little worse that those on which they are modelled. The other produces such works of art as appeal to its financial backers, either dramatized versions of old-fashioned books that are household names, or stories that appear to be rifled from back numbers of the "Family Herald," or "Horner's Penny Stories."

It was our good fortune to meet one of these wealthy patrons of the arts a few months ago. Twenty years ago he was the proprietor of a twopenny bioscope booth, before which he had been a commission agent. In the early days of the cinema he converted a disused chapel into a picture house. It prospered and he was enabled to erect several of the old-fashioned stucco fronted cinemas. When we were introduced to him he was the proprietor of seven super-cinemas, six smaller houses, and a film producing business.

A ROUND AND READY PRODUCER.

Three not unsuccessful, or rather, not unprofitable dramatizations of popular old stories were already to his credit and he was engaged on a third. After hearing the story we had been previously warned he told to everyone on first meeting them—it was to the effect that the first book he dramatized was the first book he had ever read—we were invited to sit down and wait while he finished the chapter. He sat at a table with a pad of paper before him flanked by a bottle of whisky and a syphon of soda water. His secretary, an ex-bookmaker's clerk, was sitting opposite him slowly reading aloud the work of fiction in process of transmutation. At every paragraph he stopped. Sometimes his employer said, "Go on George, there 'aint any bally punch in that," sometimes he said "Alf a tick, we must shove that in." And that was how British films were being made in Anno Domini 1923.

It is surprising to note that the film when completed was not unsuccessful. Most of the scenes were "shot" in busy city streets, although the date of the story was 1870 or thereabouts. The actors were extraordinarily competent compared with the shortcomings of the adapter.

OUR CLASSIC FILMS.

There are, of course, exceptions to this rough and ready kind of producing. Hepworths occasionally turn out films that only just fall short of classics like "Tolloor David." George Cooper, the best of our producers easily surpasses the better known American George Pearson nearly equalled him at one time, but his recent Betty Balfour productions are too imitative of the Americans. There are no American films so popular in Great Britain as these Betty Balfour pictures; "Love, Life and Laughter" and the "Squibs" series. Adaptations of Jacobs stories are also more appreciated than wearisome American pictures featuring mining camps, and New York's bright lights.

A typical example of the virtues and shortcomings of the better British film is to be seen in "Lily of the Alley," a Hepworth production without any subtitles. It is a story of the slum dwellers in the courts and byways of a great English city, with scenes in the hopfields of Kent. The acting by Henry Edwards, Chrissie White, and Mary Brough, easily surpasses that of much better known American film stars. The photography is masterly. The story is natural and interesting although the action is marred by an unnecessary fire scene. The whole production seems extraordinarily fresh and convincing when contrasted with the soulless work the Americans are turning out.

DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT.

There is talk of a great British Film Week during

THE WOMAN'S PAGE

SHANGHAI BIRDS

Ornithology at the Carlton

By Elizabeth Pepys.

The dissipations of the canaries who warble their canzonettas, arias, or recitatives whatever it may happen to be from their cages which sway from the pink paper cherry tress in the Carlton have aroused much comment. Time was when all good little birds tucked their heads under their wings as the shadows lengthened and sang no more till dawn, more or less rosy, streaked the sky. At one time the poet Hurdis advised all: "Rise with the lark, and with the lark to bed" but now, under the insidious influences of Shanghai's hectic whirl, these wild little birds are feeling their liveliest around midnight.

One cannot but wonder what Mama and Papa Bird would think if they could see their fledglings so altered. We know what a few human parents have felt on the subject. It is hard to revise all our habits of thought in the light of this new development. "Early-to-bed birds" have been the rule and not the exception and "night owls" have not been received into the best society, albeit there are those who say that these are the real "wise birds."

THE EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENT.

Are these companions of the Midnight Follies the rare birds, or will all the birds of China finally so change their feathers, or at least their habits, so as to flock together with them? Will they serve as awful examples or will all the others want to emulate them, until a bird in a cage will be more to be envied than two on a bush? At all events we think we have at last discovered the little birds who tell all the secrets to our aggravatingly omniscient friends.

The Carlton is a great place to overhear the gossip of the town and the old birds who can't be caught with chaff doubtless have a wonderful time learning the worst about everybody. How they must enjoy looking down on the human birds beneath them, the rare birds, the birds of passage, the birds on the wing, and as they take their turns in the choruses how glad they must be that they are in the Carlton and not in last year's nests! In the logic of events these human birds who keep such late hours are transformed into early birds again, and as they wander out at three or four a.m. how curious the birds they leave behind in the cages must be as to the worms they find.

One might apostrophize these songsters as Gilbert did the tomtit:

"Is it weakness of intellect, birdie?"
I cried,
"Or a rather tough worm in your
little inside?"

though it might be more appropos to inquire:

Is it right you should alter the night
into day?
For working late shifts, do you get
extra pay?

As soon as we settle all the moral problems of the Settlement, or possibly even sooner; we may have the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals taking up the case of these birds, and making sure that their interests are properly safeguarded. We understand, however, that at present their cages are duly darkened during the day and that they take long naps while the dancing world is at work or play elsewhere, just as good children who are promised an evening treat.

SPRING HERALDS

Signs of the Vernal Season

In Boston when March winds show any sign of relaxing their blustery sway all the inhabitants begin to think about crocuses and daffodils. Up and down Beacon Hill in the shadow of the old State House walk spring-hungry citizens closely examining the tiny patches of grass which are all the aristocratic lavendar-windowed houses have for gardens, eager to discover the first brave crocus. Its advent, is celebrated in the "Transcript" and fittingly heralded in the other papers.

In Shanghai we do not stroll along Nanking Road hunting for crocuses and all the daffodils burgeon in the flower shops. Nevertheless, in passing a certain window our heart gave a mad hop, skip and a jump of delight and we knew instantaneously that spring was only round the corner. We will not keep the discovery to ourselves. Doubtless we could not if we would, because you too have seen the happy harbingers of spring in Miss Nelda Ring's window. Didn't the green dance frock and the jaunty little summer printed crepe, with its organdie collars and cuffs make you feel festive at once?

Inside it's even better. There are summer frocks all ready for your trip through Suez and travelling togs for that same voyage or spring suits that you must be paying attention to immediately—or if you cannot believe that it is ever going to get warmer there are fascinating dance frocks for this very time of year. We should like to describe in detail the pleated white crepe with bands of almond green, the stunning black and white, also pleated, the hemstitched brown with all the latest cachet of Paris, selected by the smartest of New York buyers, but why waste time on words when you can look-see for yourselves?

A CHINESE GIRL'S VIEW OF INDIA

Shanghai Y. W. C. A. Secretary Only Chinese Representative

Miss Grace Yang, national student secretary of the Y. W. C. A., returned recently from a trip to India where she went to attend the first All-India Christian Women Students Conference, held in December at Bishop College, Calcutta. Miss Yang enjoyed the distinction of being the only Chinese woman at that conference, and of having travelled the longest distance to get there.

Speaking before a group of Y.W.C.A., secretaries in Shanghai, Miss Yang gave her impressions of the people, their customs and dress as foreigners write home from China after they arrive. Miss Yang saw with the added comprehension that comes with experience of a western education. She is a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, and her comments are a blend of both reactions.

"My first impression as we left Colombo and travelled through southern India, was the bright colours. The country seemed full of colour not in the landscape for that was just sand and trees without much foliage but in the vivid dress of the people. The material of their dresses was very coarse, however—cotton instead of silk. As I saw more of the people, I noticed how very sad they all were. Even the children do not laugh and play in a natural way. The men work very hard; in southern India the women as well as the men work hard. Then I noticed how very straight the working people were, and I realized it is because they carry everything on their heads of swinging from a bamboo pole or on a wheelbarrow, as coolies do in China.

"My first Indian meal was very simple, with few dishes. You are taken out into the courtyard and a servant pours cold water over your right hand and you are ready to eat. There is little furniture in their houses, and they sit and sleep on the floor. When you eat, you sit on the floor in front of a plantain leaf, which is your plate. A pot of rice is brought in and two spoonfuls are served to everyone, then another dish with curry is passed and no matter what it is, it all tastes the same because of the curry. Last of all, you put a vegetable of some kind on your rice, and start to eat.

"The rice is cooked differently from the Chinese way—the water is poured off, and it is not sticky. Everything is very greasy. I had always thought it was easy to eat with your fingers, but now I think the Indians are very clever. The next course is some fine kind of macaroni which is also very hard to eat with your fingers. That is usually about all you have. They don't seem to have feasts, as the Chinese do—only three or four dishes at the most. At the end, you have cold water poured over your hand, and that is all.

RELIGION AS DIVIDING FACTOR.

"The three big divisions are by language, religion and caste. They have as many, or more, dialects than we have in China but no common written language and that is why so many of them speak English. Religion is the greatest factor that divides the people. Each person who worships a certain God has a distinct mark on his forehead or a certain distinction in dress. People of different religions cannot eat together; they have different cooks, different dining rooms, or if the people are willing, the cooks are unwilling to cook for a mixed company. This is very different from the tolerant way that Buddhists, Taoists, and Confucianists mingle and join in ceremonies in China.

In China each religion has its different burial custom. The Hindus burn the bodies and throw them into the Ganges. They also bathe in the Ganges so their sins may be forgiven. Of all the dirty creeks I have seen in China, no nothing is equal to the filthy water of the Ganges. The caste system is almost inconceivable. No one seems to have any idea how many castes there are, and there is absolutely no way of getting out of a caste. It is a unit of society, and the family has no control as in China. If one of the family is decreed by the laws of the caste to become an outcast for some thing done, the family is powerless to help him. People who have lived there and know conditions well told me there is no hope of India abolishing the caste system for centuries to come.

TWO SPORTS OUTFITS

ANTI-FOREIGN SPIRIT.

"The people are not exactly sure what they want or why they are anti-foreign, but they are. They received me with great friendliness, and not as a foreigner. They think Chinese and Indians are more alike, and indeed, I was much closer to them than to the Americans when I was in America where people regarded me as a sort of curio. All the students speak English, they have to learn it, and in some of the government schools it is compulsory. The average person has the attitude that everything foreign is bad and therefore everything Indian, even the caste system, is good. They are earnest, but not logical or consistent as a whole.

"If a woman is not educated she has nothing in life except the jewelry which she wears,—great numbers of bracelets, necklaces, anklets, and ear and nose rings. Her husband owns everything else, but no one has a right to take her jewelry from her even if she is an outcast. She has no place in the home until she is the mother of a son.

"For the educated woman, the question of marriage is a serious one, for the average educated man is not the equal of these educated women who have extraordinary advantages in the Christian school. The students did not seem better educated than Chinese girls, and I felt that some of our best high school girls might have attended that conference. China may be slow, but I think they are slower in India."

The Conference to which Miss Yang refers drew students from as remote districts as Burmah. It was held at Bishops College, which is this year celebrating its centenary. The principal, Bishop Paton-Walsh, was in attendance with Mrs. Paton-Walsh and the assistant principal, Rev. R. L. Pelley. Others among the leaders at the conference were Miss Zachariah, who will be remembered as a delegate to the World's Student Christian Federation meeting in Peking, in May, 1922. Miss Zachariah has since been married and her work as national student secretary of the Y.M.C.A. for India has been taken by Mrs. Data, formerly Rena Carswell, of the British Student Movement and now the wife of Dr. S. K. Data of the Y.M.C.A. Miss Elizabeth Wilson, a pioneer in the Y.W.C.A. movement in United States and now head of an Industrial Normal School at Serampose was also at the conference.

While in India, Miss Yang visited Dr. Rabindranath Tagore at his home near Bolpor. Dr. Tagore talked of his coming trip to China to deliver lectures under the auspices of the National Education Association of China and spoke of his pleasant acquaintance with Chinese students whom he met in America.

CHINESE WOMEN AND WORLD PEACE

Representative of International Federation of University Women Now in China

How best to forward the cause of peace has long been the concern of university women. With this object in mind they have formed an International Federation of the University women of the nations of the world, and by this means hope to further their common interests and develop between their countries sympathy and mutual helpfulness. They meet with no political object but on the common ground of university life and work which gives them a starting point for understanding each other's minds. It is hoped that the Federation will grow into a permanent institution which will keep the nations in touch with one another and universities are suitable agencies through which to work, being permanent institutions.

CHINESE FEDERATION IN PROSPECT.

Particular interest in the Federation has been awakened in Shanghai at the moment by the invitation extended to Chinese university women to form a Chinese Federation of University Women to be affiliated with the International body. Miss M. Lumsden, for some years a member of the Council of Girton College, Cambridge, was asked by the International Federation to bring to Chinese college women a cordial invitation to affiliate themselves with the main organization, and was also asked to report back upon the present number of graduates, and educational opportunities.

The invitation has now been presented to different groups all over China and while a decision has not yet been reached it is hoped that a representative will be present at the conference to be held in Christiania in July. She will not have a vote in the meeting but will be able to report upon it. There are already enough Chinese women graduates both from foreign and native institutions to form a considerable membership and this number will be increasing rapidly as the Chinese colleges grow larger. Roughly estimated there are something like 20 in Peking, 10 in Tientsin, 15 in Nanking, 4 or 5 in Soochow, 10 or more in Canton, a few in Amoy and perhaps 40 in Shanghai.

China is in quite a different position from other countries inasmuch as college education for women is quite a new thing and her own universities have only just begun to graduate classes. All over the country colleges are springing up and the problem of securing adequately trained professors will soon become acute since years of special research or post-graduate study are requisite for university teaching.

ADVANTAGES OF AFFILIATION.

This is where affiliation with the International Federation would be of great advantage to China as her graduates would then be eligible to apply for the many fellowships offered all over the world and the residential club found in many of the large cities would be open to members. Besides this of course there is the fundamental desire of closer cooperation among trained women everywhere, for, as Lord Haldane says: "The Universities are the guardians of knowledge and all over the world they speak a common language because they think high thoughts. The higher learning leaps over frontiers and boundaries."

Eight nations sent voting delegates to the Federation Conference held in London in 1920; in 1922 in Paris there were 17 voting delegates and the Christiana gathering will doubtless see more. To promote good will and understanding between university women and so between their nations three methods have been adopted. First comes the interchange of teachers and students, mainly through cooperation with the large number of existing organizations.

RESIDENTIAL CLUBS.

Next comes the international residential club. America already has four, one in Philadelphia and Washington and two in New York and also has a woman's club house in Paris. In Belgium members may stay at the Women's institute. The University Club of London is open to these international guests on special introduction and now the English Federation is arranging to purchase the famous Crosby Hall, built in London in the 15th century, a magnificent example of Tudor architecture, with a marvellous roof.

In the expansion of London it was found necessary to move this historic hall to Chelsea where it has been carefully reconstructed. It is proposed to add a modern wing in the style of the main building and use this as a hostel. No more appropriate building could be found than this mansion about which so many traditions linger and which has entertained so many eminent men from Richard of Gloucester to Sir Thomas Moore and his daughter Margaret, a blue stocking of her time.

The third path to better acquaintance lies through the international fellowships for post-graduate work. When the British Federation came into being in 1910 it immediately provided for fellowships for foreign research work and America and the other nations have cooperated. Besides the women of many nationalities who come to England from other lands to study, British women go all over the world and the list of the numerous fellowships and the women who hold them makes a significant story in itself. The exchange, of course, is not limited to England and America as a Swedish Fellow went to France, and there are many similar examples.

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

The [illegible] "Atlantic Monthly," a Canadian professor asserts that between the year 1200 and the year 1882, only two women were really distinguished in art, none in music, and only 38 in literature, most of whom are writers on contemporary life. From these facts the professor concludes that "art is a manly virtue." In science, philosophy, and religion only two women [illegible] Mme Curie and Mrs. Eddy, an amazing combination, by the way. Women have been more successful as organizers and managers, the professor mentioning with approval Queen Elizabeth, Catharine de' Medici, Florence Nightingale, and Joan of Arc, another quaintly assorted lot. As a matter of fact, Catherine de' Medici was anything but a successful manager. She was an unscrupulous lady who consistently failed in achieving her purpose, while Queen Elizabeth can be fairly described as an unscrupulous lady who always succeeded in achieving her purpose.

∴

The "Newspaper World" has printed some interesting extracts from a lecture on book reviewing delivered by Mr. Robert Lynd at the London University. Mr. Lynd says that no man should be a reviewer who does not possess "a rich background of literary knowledge," for without it [illegible] material for forming a sound judgment." All good critics are steeped in great literature. You can criticize Mr. Arnold Bennett's "Riceyman Steps" better if you are already acquainted with the miser in Balzac's "Eugénie [illegible] Mr. [illegible] says "You will be a better critic of Mr. D. H. Lawrence if you have read Strindberg and of Miss Katherine Mansfield if you have read Tchekov. A distinguished writer said recently that he was appalled by the fact that hardly any of the critics of Mr. David Garnett's 'Lady Into Fox' realized that Mr. Garnett had taken his method and style from Defoe." From book reviewing a writer can learn many of the essential characteristics of his craft—preciseness, compression, surprise, and apt allusion.

∴

Mr. Cecil Roberts, whose recently-published novel, "Scissors," is now in its third edition, has completed another novel dealing with life in and around Venice. The title of the book is "Sails of Sunset." He is the editor of the "Nottinghamshire Journal," the paper on which Sir J. M. Barrie began his literary work.

∴

Miss Amy Lowell, the American poetess, is busy writing a new life of Keats, in which it is said she is including some entirely new and most important information.

∴

Sir James Marchant, the biographer of Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace and others, is engaged on a biography of the late Dr. Clifford.

A BOOK OF VERSE

"Queen Bess in Borrowed Plumes," and Other Poems. By Alice Masters Balean. John & Edward Bumpus, Ld.

This book has been "privately printed." There is a portrait of the authoress as frontispiece. Underneath the portrait is her name and the date of her death—quite recent. These things give the reviewer pause. Not out of respect for the precept "*de mortuis nil nisi bonum*;" but, more especially, out of respect for the surviving relatives who had the book printed. It is not possible, humanely, to criticize the work. For one can but feel that the invitation of criticism is a desire to add that also to the memorial. It is with regret one says that praise cannot be given. These are not real poetry. They are written by one who probably had a great appreciation of poetry but who evidently had not the creative gift.

J.L.

LUCKY AND UNLUCKY

The Miscor Book—By Elizabeth Villiers. T. Werner Laurie. London.

This is a most fascinating book, scarcely to be read straight through, but to be browsed in from page to page with the utmost delight. We are all in theory agreed that superstition is illogical and absurd, but there are few of us who do not succumb to it in one way or another and the past, as these pages show, is not much worse than the present in this respect. A good many of the entries are of purely antiquarian interest. For example, gemmel rings, the forerunner of our modern engagement ring:—

> Each gemmel consisted of three rings, so made that they were held together by a clasp, the upper and lower rings being richly ornamented or jewelled, the middle one quite plain. At the betrothal the clasp was removed and the three rings taken apart over an open Bible. The first was placed on the hand of the bride elect, the other jewelled one on that of her future husband, while the third, the plainest of the three, was given to the witness who was present at the ceremony. On the wedding day the three rings were joined by their clasp again and placed on the hand of the bride—her wedding ring.

In quite recent years, one recollects, engagement rings were often made in triple form, doubtless a survival of the gemmel. But among modern ideas of mascots we find mention of one so up-to-date as Billiken—the origin of which the author has wholly failed to trace—and many of the old superstitions flourish as vigorously as ever. In Italy, for example, belief in the evil eye is almost universal and the charm for protection against it—a hand with first and fourth fingers stretched out and the two others and thumb doubled up—is sold everywhere. There are, as our author tells us, almost innumerable charms against the evil eye. Some of the most interesting pages deal with the signs of the Zodiac and their supposed influence on the characters of people born under them. This is, of course, astrology. Miss Villiers reprints here all the characteristics supposed to be derived from the Ram, the Bull the Heavenly Twins *et al.* And, as she says, in reading them over and thinking of one's acquaintance whose birthdays we know, it is certainly curious to see how often their temperaments fit in with the old astrological beliefs. The predominant thought in reading this book is, Why are these things So? For what cause did the human race invent them all?" Hamlet's observation to Horatio, about more things in heaven and earth, etc., is the only answer.

WHERE THE MUEZZIN CALLS

A Traveller in the Land of Islam

A Vision of Morocco. By V. C. Scott O'Connor. Thornton Butterworth. 25s. net.

Mr. Scott O'Connor has a style, a charm. It were ungrateful, perhaps, to complain that it is somewhat conscious. For that must be true of all writers. Ruskin, and, in our generation, Gilbert Chesterton, became so conscious of their gift of happy phrase that they deplored it as an impediment, or at any rate affected so to deplore it. Certainly a facile expression does give rise in the mind of the average simple English reader to a suspicion of, not quite insincerity but superficiality. He is apt to feel that thoughts rising easily to neat expression cannot come from any great depth. It is vastly unfair, of course, to push the English worship of the "strong silent man" to the length of demanding inarticulateness in a writer. But it almost comes to that. The special gift of such men as Ruskin and Chesterton and, in a lesser degree, V. C. Scott O'Connor, is not appreciated to the extent that it deserves.

Mr. Scott O'Connor is not only a born traveller but also a born narrator of travel. The reader feels not to be reading but to be listening to the traveller telling his tale. That is the great art in this kind of writing,—the art that rose to perfection in the work of W. H. Hudson. But whereas Hudson was utterly simple, apparently oblivious of the beauty of his words, Mr. Scott O'Connor seems to be very sensible of the felicity of his phrasing.

He starts his book in England on a summer evening, feeling the peace of it.

> '.....No need to wander..... None.
>
> Yet wander one does.....I close my eyes upon the benediction that lies about me, and in its place I see:—Camels swaying over trackless sands; the earth a circle, the sun its only arbiter; immensity enshrouds me; Africa blazing in black and gold; Pillars of Hercules that rise up into the sky, whispering the myths and visions of a bygone age.
>
> I see the Phoenician creeping with his bales along the blue-lined coast; the Greek, his brain full of luminous fancies, his eyes opened wide upon the wonder of the world. I hear the cry of the Meuzzin calling the Faithful to prayer; the hoof beats of Islam riding out from her deserts to the conquest of the world. The voice of Mutamid King of Seville, poet and exile, whispers lamenting in my ear, and Granada, long unvisited, beckons to me in the twilight from her bowers.
>
> Yes! I must go; and *Insh'allah* it shall be the last voyage—until, until, that other breeze comes blowing to fill the hanging sail."

That extract from the opening of his book is a fair sample of the way he tells his tale. It is a fine tale he has to tell, some of it of country never before visited by an Englishman. The Far West of Islam lives for us in his words. And if the words seem at times not simple enough for our English ears, neither are the places and peoples he tells of simple. It is a good story very well told.

John Lofting.

FACTS AND FIGURES

China's Great Field for Social Study

Peking. A Social Survey. By Sidney D. Gamble. George H. Doran Co., New York.

This useful book was first published in 1921 and was reviewed in these columns at the time. The survey, conducted under the auspices of the Princeton University Centre in China and the Peking Y.M.C.A., resulted in the compilation of hitherto unpublished statistics and information, the author being assisted in his work by Mr. John Stewart Burgess and by several Chinese. A very wide field, indeed, is covered by the survey, most important chapters being devoted to Population, Health, Education, Commercial Life, the Social Evil, and Poverty and Philanthrophy. With praiseworthy foresight, there has also been included a list of the questionnaires issued by the compilers — information which should prove of great value to societies working on similar lines in other parts of the country. But one must not overlook the fact that, especially in a country such as China, statistics cannot be altogether depended on—no matter how careful their preparation. Apart from this, those who have made themselves responsible for the enormous amount of work in the volume deserve the very sincere thanks of all who have the vast problems of China at heart, for this survey forms an admirable groundwork for the study of these problems. And undoubtedly it is only after exhaustive study of the sets of facts presented that any attempt can be made at improvement.

The question naturally arises as to the advisability or otherwise of preparing surveys of other cities in China. The task is no light one but, fortunately, volunteers would doubtless come forward to render assistance in the routine work of preparation of tables of figures. In the past, however as mentioned above—statistics on things Chinese have not been looked at with any great favour, and not without reason. In the belief that any figures are better than none and that discretion can always be used as to their dependability the wish may be expressed that some Shanghai organization may undertake the work of covering the immense local field. Over a year was spent in the preliminary work for the Peking survey. Shanghai investigators, it is quite safe to compute, would require to allow at least double that time after they do set their hands to the plough. It will be no easy work to accomplish: on the other hand many agencies have been established in recent years which should be very glad to help on the good cause. "Fac's are chiel's that winna ding" as the Scottish poet wrote: and only from facts such as are presented in "Peking. A Social Survey" can the work of reform be commenced.

J.W.F.

TIMOTHY RICHARD

A Life Story of Absorbing Interest

"Timothy Richard of China." Seer, statesman, missionary and the most disinterested adviser the Chinese ever had. By Wm. E. Soothill, M. A. Oxon., Hon. M. A. Cambridge, Professor of Chinese in the University of Oxford. Formerly President of Imperial University. Author of the Student's Chinese Dictionary, etc., with Foreword by the Right Hon. Sir John Jordan, Bart., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.C.I.E.

The title of this book is arresting. Of what other missionary could it be said that he was Soand-so "of China." But if the reader starts prejudiced by the greatness of the claim made for the subject of these memoirs it is certain that he will end by conceding its justice. Beyond doubt, Timothy Richard was a great as well as a good man. He was endowed with a keen and fertile brain and he spent his life in thinking out schemes for the welfare of his adopted country, with the result that he has written his name deeper in the hearts of the Chinese than any other missionary who has laboured amongst them.

This biography traces with great perspicacity, the development of Dr. Richard's mind in regard to missionary methods. He came to China as a teacher. He believed that he had a treasure in an earthen vessel and he longed, with a passionate desire, to show the Chinese the beauties of the gospel he was entrusted with. But he began by being a learner. He studied the religious and ethical systems of the people he was sent to, and admired in them everything that was admirable. He modified his own opinions and adapted his methods in the light of the new knowledge thus acquired. Of course he was an idealist. Many of his plans failed, and some could only have been carried out by a legion of angels; but some succeeded, and it is better to have a plan that fails than never to plan anything original at all.

He got some of his most practical ideas from a re-study of the New Testament in the light of his missionary experience. Thus, confronted with a crowd of starving people to whom he was about to distribute famine relief, and foreseeing that as soon as the maddened people saw food they would rush upon it and a tragedy would surely result, he adopted the method used by his Master when he fed the hungry. 'Make them sit down in companies" said Jesus. Richard followed this example; he made them sit down to receive the welcome grain and the people "were as quiet as at a communion."

From the New Testament, too, he got the fruitful idea of seeking out "those who were worthy" and telling them his message. He found, as hundreds of others have found, that preaching to a crowd at a Chinese fair is like pouring water from a tub into a narrow necked bottle. But by the new method he found many whose minds were already attuned to the search for truth. He learned from these "worthy" men as much as he taught and this was, perhaps, the secret of his success.

Dr. Richard has been fortunate in his biographer. The story of this man's life is so set forth that it is fascinating, not only to the missionary, but to the ordinary reader. These pages show in detail what life was like in China 50 years ago, the China that is rapidly passing away. Glimpses of great Chinese Officials are seen in its pages, Tso Chung-tang, Li Hung-chang and many others are sketched with a master's touch. We are introduced here to the real China and to real Chinese. Dr. Richard really loved the Chinese but he knew their faults as well as their virtues and, realizing that we all have faults he loved them still.

No one can read this book without being benefitted by its perusal. It is full of absorbing interest and at the same time gives a vivid and uplifting picture of a great soul.

J.D.

HIGH LIFE FROM BEHIND THE MASTER'S CHAIR

What the Butler Winked at—by Eric Horne, for 57 years in service with the nobility and gentry. T. Werner Laurie. London.

Those who read this book with the idea that they are going to find a sort of divorce court revelation without the trouble of going to Temple Bar will be disappointed. The title strikes one as having been invented in the publisher's office, and it is the only unnatural thing in the book. Mr. Eric Horne's reminiscences are always interesting, told in a very breezy and readable way and, for the picture they give of a style of English society now rapidly disappearing, really valuable.

> One used (he writes) to see about eight o'clock in the evening gaily comparisoned (*sic*) pairs of horses and carriages, with footmen powdered and breeched, silk stockings and a lot of pomp and show. Two matched footmen would get down, march up to the door, and if a double knocker, both would knock (which they had practised beforehand) then march back to the carriage in a stately fashion, let down the steps and hand out the ladies. Now, everything is all hurry and scurry. They order out the car, tell the chauffeur to drive to some place; when they get there they want to be somewhere else; all is unrest; they keep the chauffeur at it sometimes for 15 hours at a stretch, go to some restaurant and get a snack and then on again. It does not matter if the chauffeur gets time to get his meals or not; the engine does not get tired, neither must the chauffeur.

It must, however, be added that even in the good old days of "butling" a servant's job in a big house must have been no sinecure. Entertaining of all kinds would go on to the small hours, and then the staff were expected to have the house in order for breakfast at whatever time any of the guests desired. It is hardly surprising that the scale of tipping in such houses is generally reputed to have been enormous.

One sincerely hopes that noble families are not universally as exacting, tyrannical and inconsiderate as Mr. Horne depicts them. But through all these pages, one only comes upon two reasonably lovable characters, the one a real "gentleman of the old school," who kept a large establishment not far from Crewe, was strict and particular, but treated his people in a human and open-handed way; the other a baronet nicknamed Sir Henry Cayenne, on account of his superheated language. He was one who would "crack on all sail in the day of judgment," a perfect bully to all appearances, but his servants liked him. "It was just simply bluster (says Horne) and his bark was worse than his bite. He was a good sport and played the game." One of the most amazing passages details the time sheet to which Horne was required to work in a single-handed butler's place which he took after the war. It covers every minute of the day from 6.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. and calls on him to understand all about electric bells, lights and fuses, lavatory balls, lights and the essentials of carpentry and painting.

Horne was quite a sportsman, a good boxer and cricketer, a keen fisherman and an expert photographer. Late in life, when places for butlers were few, he took to driving a taxi, but could not stand the exposure. The last pages find him out of work, but undismayed.

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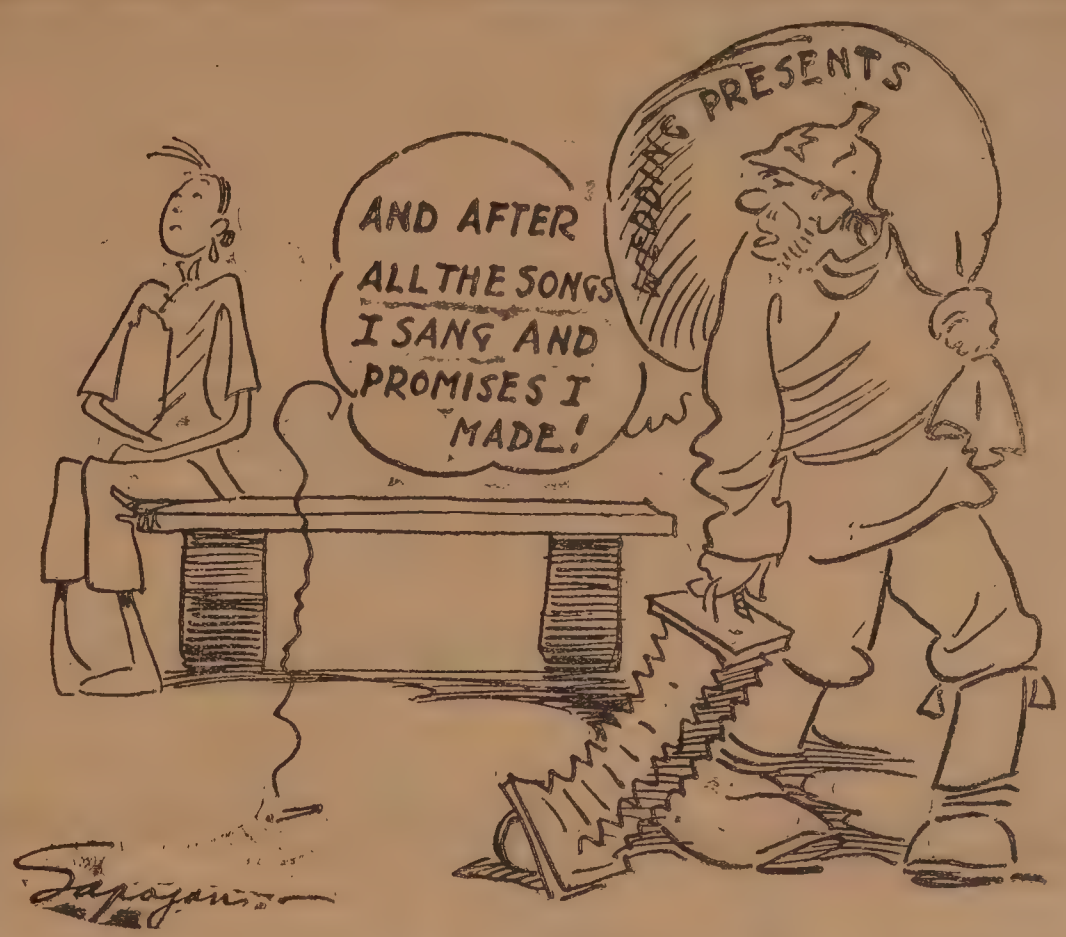

A RIFT IN THE RUSSO- CHINESE LUTE

THE COMPLETE BREAKDOWN IN SINO-RUSSIAN NEGOTIATIONS

Karakhan's Inexperience: The Fatal Ultimatum; Neither Side Now Able to Reopen Discussions Without Loss of Face: The Onlooker's Point of View

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Mar. 20.

What appears to be the complete breakdown of Sino-Russian negotiations leading to China's recognition of the Soviet Government has been received by practically every journal in Peking with unfeigned surprise, disappointment and, in some cases, with what appears to be consternation. Until the Soviet Mission last night published through the Rosta news agency Mr. Karakhan's personal letter of the 16th to Dr. C. T. Wang and his formal note of the 19th to the Chinese Government, there were very few persons in Peking who surmised that negotiations would be so abruptly and so finally broken, and certainly few official Chinese who desired such a climax. The Chinese press laments it in chorus and, in the expression of a great variety of opinions, is trying to show how it happened and who is responsible. Dr. C. T. Wang of course comes in for his share of the blame and the Cabinet is vigorously scolded in most organs, but all papers, with the exception of those known to be closely allied with the Russian Mission's interests, hold Mr. Karakhan responsible for what they believe to have been a needless breach of nearly successful relations.

KARAKHAN'S ULTIMATUM.

It is difficult to comment upon what has happened until the actual text of the repudiated agreement is available from some source and until other facts are definitely established which are still subject to much dispute. It is not yet clear, for instance, whether Dr. C. T. Wang signed the document which he and Mr. Karakhan completed on March 14. Dr. Wang is quoted on good authority as denying it flatly, while Mr. Karakhan has insisted publicly that it was signed. Dr. Wang, in denying that he signed the document, may be withholding the fact that he initialled the completed document, putting his personal approval on it, and that Mr. Karakhan misinterpreted this act either innocently or purposely and regarded it as the final signature of a plenipotentiary signing for China. In diplomatic circles here it is said that Dr. Wang would have been perfectly within his rights had he initialled the document with Mr. Karakhan as a token of their mutual agreement upon the terms but that neither could expect such a procedure to be binding upon the other's Government until the authorities, with the constitutional right to pass upon it, had authorized their plenipotentiary to sign in his country's name. Whatever the circumstances were, Mr. Karakhan's action is regarded in local diplomatic circles as evidence of his inexperience; and his subsequent attitude, being unduly impatient and irascible, would indicate that he certainly is not qualified for diplomacy in China.

Mr. Karakhan's letter of March 16, setting a three-day limit to the Cabinet's discussion of the preliminary agreement, was first described in both camps as a sort of informal chit, a written request specifying no penalties if unfulfilled and inquirers at the Russian mission were certainly given the impression that it was in no sense an ultimatum. Yet, in his note of March 19, in which he says that the draft agreement is no longer binding and that there will be no more negotiations pending full and unconditional recognition, he certainly gives his previous note all the force of a formal ultimatum delivered formally to the Chinese Government. This looks like bad faith. It would appear that Mr. Karakhan wrote the ultimatum in a personal form and in a restrained tone before he knew whether or not his Government would endorse a formal ultimatum and, having got such endorsement, chose to regard his letter to "Dear Dr. Wang" as an official document.

RUSSIA'S TAIL UP.

It is easy to understand why Mr. Karakhan was annoyed by the Cabinet's quibbling. The Russian goose now hangs high and a Russian diplomat to an Oriental country does not feel called upon to make concessions or trifle with quibblers. Early in his relations with Dr. Wang he made the flat statement that there would be no formal bargaining before full recognition of his Government. In condescending to discuss a preliminary agreement which should define the "general priciples" that would govern a subsequent conference, he naturally felt that he was good-naturedly weakening his position to coax China along.

It was of course Dr. Wang's job to win from Mr. Karakhan and embody in this preliminary document as many pointed and detailed concessions as he possibly could and the Russian's task was to adhere to general principles, keep the language of his assurances as vague as possible and hold all vital questions open for discussion after recognition when his Government would be the legal heir to all Imperial Russia's rights and properties in China. The text of the agreement has not yet been given out, but it would seem that while Karakhan contrived to keep details out of it, Dr. Wang did pin him down to so many definite assurances that at the end he was glad to find a good excuse for cancelling the agreement altogether. The attitude which Moscow has taken towards China's refusal to give the agreement immediate force also indicates that the Soviet Government, like Mr. Karakhan, was getting more and more annoyed by the assurances upon which China insisted and was not loth at the end to scrap the negotiations and the document and reiterate the former position of "no recognition, no bargaining."

This the Peking Cabinet should have foreseen and the negotiations should not have been allowed to come to a head. China's wisest policy, pending the British-Russian negotiation which begin shortly, would have been to drag out negotiations, watching developments in England and America and not to have allowed things to come to the point where Russia could say, "Sign or quit."

TWO VERY HIGH HORSES.

It is impossible to believe that a diplomat of Dr. Wang's experience affixed a final and formal signature to his preliminary agreement with Mr. Karakhan without making sure that the whole Cabinet approved of its contents and it is still less likely that Mr. Karakhan would have been permitted by his Government to sign such an agreement the moment it was completed without reference to Moscow. The only reasonable explanation of what has occurred therefore is that, while the Cabinet was acting within its rights in discussing the document and suggesting modifications, either Mr. Karakhan himself or Moscow disapproved of the terms and used the ultimatum to put the onus of rejecting the agreement upon China.

The Chinese press is to-day very timid about speculating upon what will come next. There seems to be no ground for the rumour that Mr. Karakhan will now leave for Canton. He says that he has no orders and that, so far as he knows, he will stay here. Both China and Russia are now on such very high horses that neither can climb down without making a tremendous descent. The Chinese nationalistic spirit certainly would not endorse unconditional recognition of Russia now and Russia could not, after yesterday's note, expect Mr. Karakhan to reopen negotiations before recognition. This would entail a loss of face which in China would be fatal to his cause. Recognition by China now would mean unconditional surrender to a very haughty domineering Power. Further negotiation on Russia's part would put her in the position of a defeated enemy seeking a renewal of relations.

IT'S AN ILL WIND.

It is obvious to-day that yesterday's developments are by no mean regretted in the foreign community. Faith in the revival of a strong, responsible Russian Government dealing with other Occidental Powers in good faith is certainly deeper now than any existing faith in the Chinese Government. It is felt that the existence of a strong Power on China's frontier, able and inclined to take a strong hand with the undisciplined Chinese official classes, would be of great advantage not only to all foreigners in China but eventually to China's advantage as well. Every other diplomat in Peking knows that easy-going and lenient diplomacy with the Chinese Government as it is constituted nets neither the Powers nor China herself anything but more anarchy; so there is some satisfaction in seeing Russia learn the same lesson and act with decision upon it. Those who have no sympathy whatever with the Bolshevist theories or with the present administration of Russia share this satisfaction no less but rather more because China has been so rudely dealt with by the new Power which she hoped to cultivate as an ally against her other "aggressors."

*** A further very interesting article on what China demanded of Russia, and the Cabinet's secret share in the negotiations will be found on page 478.

SOVIET'S THREAT OF WAR.

London, Mar. 20.

It is reported from Riga that the Moscow Government announce that in connexion with the tension with China they are undertaking a series of preparatory steps in the nature of war measures. The Red command is con-

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INWARD.

Per P. & O. S. Naldera, March 13. From Kobe. Mr. F. E. Colchester, Mr. W. D. Blatch, Mr. C. Bailey.

Per M.M.S. Amazone, March 13. From Marseilles. Mr. Strejevsky, Mr. and Mrs. Debaut, Messrs. Porphyris, Sherrer, Oswald, M. Hein, Rog, Vlady. **From Port Said.** Miss Lacarian. Messrs. Zimmermann, A. Koussis, Rabinovitch, Camakaris. **From Saigon.** Messrs. Rumeur, R. d'Epenoux. **From Hongkong.** Mr. Girard, Rev. P. Lunnarse.

Per str. Kanchow, March 15. From Hongkong and Amoy. Mrs. O'Brien Twigg, Messrs M. V. Wise and Corrit.

Per str. Luchow, March, 16. From Hongkong. Mr. and Mrs. J. Johnston.

Per M.V. Glenogle, March 16. From London. Mr. and Mrs. R. Goodman, Misses Goodman (2), Mrs. L. M. King, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Mitchell. **From Singapore.** Mr. and Mrs. Simon.

Per str. Kungwo, March 16. From River Ports. Mr. R. H. Mallet, Miss Marshall, Messrs. A. C. Fleming, R. P. White, J. Ferguson, O. Pierrey, W. H. Leslie, Mr. and Mrs. G. V. T. Marshall.

Per str. Suiyang, March 19. From Hongkong. Mr. E. R. McReynolds.

Per str. Chengtu, March 19. From Hongkong and Swatow. Mrs. Moller, Mr. Clarke.

Per str. Suiwo, March 19. From River Ports. Messrs. Crews, Buttond, C. Replay, Hill, Rev. Maguire, Misses N. S. Howan, Mitchere and Mr. H. W. Robtchn.

Per str. Tingsang, March 19. From Tientsin. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Mr. J. F. B. De Conrsay.

Per str. Luenyi, March 20. From River Ports. Mr. T. W. Towns.

Per str. Hsin Kiangteen, March 20. From Ningpo. Mrs. H. E. Fitzsimmons, Miss Latimer.

Per str. Tuckwo, March 20. From River Ports. Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Cleghorn, Mr. Burnett, One Naval Rating, Dr. and Mrs. Buswell and child, Master Sharples, Mrs. Sharples, Mr. A. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Osland-Hill and child, Mr. A. Winther.

OUTWARD.

Per str. Ngankin, March 14.—For River Ports—Mr. Lincoln, Mr. R. Conrady.

Per str. Soochow, March 15.—For Tsingtao—Miss Patersen, Miss Quin, Miss Dawe, Mr. C. W. Glass.

Per str. Shantung, March 15.—For Hongkong—Mr. C. C. Roberts, Miss [illegible], Mrs. M. Lebna, Miss E. H. Bailey.

Per str. Woosung, March 15.—For River Ports.—Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Jackson, Mr. S. H. Clarke, Mrs. W. D. B. Miller and child.

Per str. Shuntien, March 15.—For Tientsin.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith and two children, Mrs. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Stock and child, Mr. F. V. Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. G. Vierna and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. Nelson and two children Mrs. Carr and three children. **For Chefoo.**—Mr. B. C. Sims, Mrs. W. Hendry, Mr. G. N. Courtney.

Per str. Luchow, March 16.—For Hongkong.—Mrs. J. D. Denby, Messrs. W. Shaw, T. Perkins.

Per str. Kiangwah, March 18. From River Ports. Messrs. Barry, Williams and Harris.

Per str. Tungchow, March 18.—For Chefoo.—Messrs. J. O. Andersen and Heaton.

Per P. & O. S. Naldera, March 18.—For London, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Dixon, Mrs. A. C. B. Craddock, Master J. B. Craddock, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Ridgway, Mrs. C. Kliene, Dr. and Mrs. C. Noel Davis and child, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Taylor, Master Taylor, Mr. M. P. Ferguson, Mrs. W. P. Lambe and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Stephens, Mrs. L. H. Lawford, Masters Lawford (2), Miss Prideaux, Messrs. J. Watson, J. MacKinney, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Walker and child, Messrs. G. McRobbie, E. J. Ling, R. W. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Levbn and two children, Master N. Begley, Mrs. A. E. Collins, Mr. A. Hobson, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Reynal and child, Misses E. M. Reynell, Champion, Mr. S. W. Rowland, Miss E. A. Drew, Messrs. A. Gollins, V. Sharman, P. E. Marshall, B. Hemingway, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Duff and child, Messrs. H. Arthur, G. W. M. Snow, Misses E. Salter, E. Lewitsky, Mrs. B. Rothschild, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Saker, Miss M. Saker, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Beddington and child, Mrs. W. B. Mackay and child, Miss Mathers, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Brotherton, Master Brotherton, Mrs. E. C. Norris, Mrs. L. H. Monk, Miss Monk, Messrs. W. C. D. Tayler, W. H. Spradley, Mr. and Mrs. D. Mactaken, Miss M. E. and Master J. D. MacCraken, Mr. J. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Donne, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Richardson and child, Mr. W. J. Larter, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Richardson, Master W. Richardson, Mr. C. B. Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Warren, Misters W. and A. Owen Warren, Misses I. and S. Owen Warren, Capt. W. R. Elders, Mr. R. Hennessy, Mrs. J. Ross, Miss M. and Master I. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. G. V. T. Marshall, Miss Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Stitt, Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Newman, Miss M. Newman and two children, Mrs. E. Beale, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Archibald Dr. and Mrs. G. D. Cray, Mr. A. Shearer, Mrs. W. K. Kirkpatrick. **For Marseilles.**—Mr. H. H. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Craig Martin; Mr. A. C. B. Craddock, Mr. T. G. Drakeford, Mrs. M. B. Sawyer, Dr. and Mrs. W. M. Nairn, Messrs. A. Hutchison, H. B. Wilson, W. E. Beckley, L. H. T. B. Cate, Mrs. N. H. Bolton and child, Master Bolton, Misses Viss, A. I. Griffin. **For Bombay.**—Mrs. J. M. Talati, Miss J. Talati, Messrs. B. Firth, A. W. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Dastoor, Mr. A. F. Antia, Miss B. Mistry, Mrs. C. M. Hormusjee. **For Colombo.**—Messrs. B. L. D. Sassoon, W. S. Ryde. **For Singapore.**—Mr. J. Gardner, Mrs. H. W. Lester and child, Masters Lester (2), Miss Scorman, Messrs A. Y. Tait, H. H. Willis, S. H. MacMurray, Mrs. and Miss Ritchie. **For Hongkong.**—Mr. W. P. Lambe, Lt. E. W. Grace, Messrs. F. O'Hare, J. R. Hosley, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Fleischmann, Miss C. B. Grant, Mr. H. J. Collar, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Haslam, Mrs. C. G. S. Mackie, Master Mackie, Messrs. A. C. Young, M. Hoskins, A. E. Collins, Mr. S. Barker.

Per str. Sunning, March 19.—For Swatow. Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Cassels and child. **For Hongkong.**—Mr. R. A. Donaldson.

Per str. Poyang, March 19.—For River Ports.—Messrs. O. L. Courady, H. B. Scott, J. L. Wade.

Per str. Hsin Peking, March 19.—For Ningpo.—Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Mercer, Messrs. Forsyth, J. R. Foster, Tichenor and E. Jacob.

BIRTHS

BEDONI. On March 16, 1924, at the "Maternité Hospital St. Marie, Shanghai," to Mr. and Mrs. C. Bedoni, a daughter.

BICKERTON.—On March 13, 1924, at Hale, Cheshire, to Mr. and Mrs. H. Bickerton, a son.

GENSBURGER.—On March 14, 1924, at No. 107 Rue Massenet, Shanghai, to Dr. and Mrs. F. M. Gensburger, a son.

STEWART.—On March 10, 1924, at Dr. O'Neil's Nursing Home, to Mr. and Mrs. A. C. G. Stewart, C. M. Customs, Tientsin, a daughter.

TAPPENDEN.—On March 14, 1924, at St. Marie's Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tappenden, of the Chinese Maritime Customs, a daughter.

WEDDINGS

BEGDON—DIXON. On March 8, 1924, at St. Joseph's Church and H.B.M. Consulate, Shanghai, Kieran Begdon to Dora Marjory Dixon.

BERTENSHAW — KING. — On March 15, 1924, before Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., at H.B.M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, William Turner Bertenshaw to Edith Winifred King.

DEATHS

BOERNER.—Laut Kabelnachricht ist Herr Hermann Boerner am 17. Maerz 1924 in Hamburg entschlafen. Innigst betrauert von seinen Angehoerigen, Mitarbeitern und Freunden.

GUMLEY.—On March 16, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, Harry Harold Gumley, of C. M. Customs, Wuhu, aged 35 years.

HYDE.—On March 20, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, Frank Harry Hyde (Crest Hotel), aged 52 years.

TOEG.—On Monday, March 17, 1924, at 147 Weihaiwei Road, Shanghai, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Toeg. Deeply regretted.

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SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month	Barometer 9 a.m.	Barometer Att'ed Therm	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather conditions
Mar. 14	30.61	47.9	N N E	1	41.5	34.9	50.4	27.0	B. O.
„ 15	30.64	48.4	N E	1	45.2	36.9	53.6	32.7	B.
„ 16	30.61	48.8	E	1	43.2	39.1	47.9	39.9	O.
„ 17	30.64	48.2	N E	2	42.6	39.4	44.4	40.6	O.
„ 18	30.61	47.3	N N W	1	40.5	36.2	52.2	29.1	B.
„ 19	30.51	48.2	Calm	0	44.8	38.5	58.5	29.8	O.
„ 20	30.24	48.5	E S E	2	45.2	42.2	56.5	40.3	C.

Explanation

B—blue sky D—drizzle H—hail M—misty (hazy) R—rain T—thunder
C—clouds F—fog L—lightning O—overcast (dull) S—snow Z—calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date	Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Rainfall Inches 1923
Mar. 14	33.0	39.0	46.6	47.0	Nil.	Nil.
„ 15	37.0	44.2	50.0	55.0	Nil.	Trace
„ 16	42.0	40.8	46.8	60.4	Nil.	0.67
„ 17	40.6	43.0	44.4	55.2	Nil.	0.49
„ 18	32.2	41.8	50.4	51.4	Nil.	Nil.
„ 19	36.0	49.4	54.6	52.8	Nil.	0.04
„ 20	41.6	39.0	55.4	57.2	0.09	Nil.

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CHINA'S SUPREME COURT

Mar. 24.

A nation has reached a high stage of political development when it has a wise and comprehensive system of laws, when the judges and magistrates are competent, fearless and incorruptible, and when all do homage to the law, "the very least as feeling her care, and the greatest as not exempted from her power." Judged by this standard China at the present time is in a lamentable plight, for lawlessness is rampant everywhere and among all classes. Of course with the overthrow of the monarchy and the accompanying political and social changes there was bound to be a weakening of ancient law and customs, but it is now time that the law, revised to meet modern requirements, should be firmly re-established and there are hopeful signs that this is being accomplished; at least, a promising start has been made.

Towards the close of the Manchu dynasty, when it was found that the Chinese legal system was unable to cope with the complex and novel questions which were being raised by increasing contact with Western civilization, a code of laws based on Western systems was drawn up and a Chinese Supreme Court created. As in those days a knowledge of the Chinese classics was deemed adequate for any office, whether it was the government of a province, the command of an army or a battleship, or the construction of bridges and highways, it followed that judges were appointed whose knowledge of law was very limited. Under the Manchus the court had little influence. When the Republic was formed the court was made independent, and judges were appointed who had received a proper legal training. The court, as now constituted, consists of a Civil Division, with three chiefs of divisions and fourteen judges: and of a Criminal Division with two chiefs of divisions and seven judges. Its jurisdiction extends not only to ordinary civil and criminal cases but also to contested election returns and to impeachment proceedings against high officials initiated by the Chinese Parliament. Very wisely the functions of the court do not conform slavishly to those of similar institutions in other countries, but are more in harmony with the customs and traditions of the Chinese people. China has as yet no complete code of modern laws so the work of the Court is creative as well as interpretative. As stated by a Chinese contemporary, "civil cases are decided first according to the provisions of law; in the absence of express provisions then according to customs; and in the absence of customs then according to legal principles." Through the medium, therefore, of this Court the fundamental principles of law accepted in most countries are being introduced into China. The method is said to be somewhat roundabout, but it has the advantage that it familiarizes the people with the idea of modern law step by step, since every principle introduced has been tested by actual experience. All this is most commendable. It is also gratifying to know that, on two occasions at least, the Supeme Court vigorously asserted its independence and inherent power, once against Yuan Shih-kai, and later against the Chinese Parliament. The practical creation of this court is one of the very few things of which the Chinese Republic may be justly proud.

From the foregoing it may be argued that the time has now surely come for the abolition of extraterritoriality, a word so disliked by some of our American friends that they have shortened it to the elegant and expressive form of "extrality." But foreigners generally will still confess to grave misgivings at the prospect of such a change. One swallow does not make a summer. At the present time how can there be confidence in the rectitude of those who make the laws and of those whose office it is to uphold or administer them? The President of the Republic, it is well known, was elected to his high office by means of open bribery. Yet according to the Constitution of the Chinese Republic it is his duty to "promulgate laws and supervise as well as secure their enforcement." Members of Parliament openly received the bribes. Yet according to the Constitution, "the legislative power of the Republic shall be exercised by Parliament." Speaking generally, the officials throughout the country acting as judges and magistrates are corrupt and oppressive; the yamên has not in the least lost the evil name which has been attached to it for generations. Grant that here and there a judge is upright, is he able to control his assistants, underlings, and the hangers on who aid and abet litigation? To quote the "Sacred Edict,"

"It is just because of the existence of this class of pettifogging villains and because yamên underlings from the highest to the lowest make common cause and act in connexion with them, becoming their accomplices as prosecutors and witnesses, stopping short at nothing, that the judge not infrequently becomes their dupe and gives a wrong decision against innocent persons, or flogs or tortures them."

Moreover, to judge by the experience of foreigners in other Oriental countries, particularly those who have tried to obtain redress for infringement of copyrights or trademarks, it seems almost too much to expect that the scales of justice shall be held evenly in a law suit between a native and a foreigner. The recent protest by British firms in China against the trade-mark law promulgated by the Chinese Government openly expresses the conviction felt by nearly all residents here that in matters of this kind Chinese officials are not just and impartial.

It will be doing a greater service to the Chinese to encourage them to persevere and build their new system of law upon firm and equitable foundations than to throw suddenly upon their courts tasks and responsibilities for which they are not ready. Further developments of the Chinese legal system will be watched with great interest, for commercial prosperity will depend in no small degree upon the protection granted to the rights of foreign merchants.

THE SINO-RUSSIAN DEADLOCK

Mar. 25.

IT is quite impossible and would be just as profitless to try to follow in detail all the events leading to the breakdown of negotiation between China and Russia. The broad outlines are, however, easily grasped and are instructive. On the one hand, Dr. C. T. Wang, the officially appointed Chinese delegate, found himself continually hampered and his position made difficult by opposition within the Cabinet; on the other hand, M. Karakhan, increasingly restive under the condescending Chinese attitude, which clearly assumed that recognition by China would be worth any material advantage that she might ask, and probably feeling that Dr. Wang had got much more out of him than Moscow would care to grant, fired in his ultimatum of the 16th instant, as the easiest way of getting out of an awkward corner. Dr. Wang resigned, but the Waichiaopu, we are told, does not consider the discussions at an end, will now take them over from Dr. Wang and has informed M. Karakhan that it is quite ready to recommence negotiations with him whenever he likes. It does not strike one as a particularly dignified course to take, after the bullying tone of M. Karakhan's ultimatum. But public opinion in Peking was much upset by the breach, and it would hardly pay China to let the Soviet envoy leave in a huff.

If the preliminary agreement was indeed as published on the 14th, one may very well understand that M. Karakham wished to get out of it. A more one-sided arrangement it would be difficult to imagine. All the Tsarist treaties were to be cancelled and new ones concluded "in the spirit of the Russian declarations of 1919 and 1920" (which, generally speaking, repudiated all the imperialism of old Russia and breathed an atmosphere of general benevolence, not, by the way, realized); Outer Mongolia was to be handed back to China and all Russian troops withdrawn; the Boxer indemnity was to be remitted and used for education; the Chinese Eastern Railway was practically to be under Chinese control; there were to be no Russian concessions in China nor extraterritorial rights. All this in return for an empty recognition, which would not even have had the advantage that it might have held two years ago of embarrassing other Powers by being the first recognition of Moscow accorded. But that this statement of the preliminary agreement is near the truth we can see from the interview "with a high official of the Waichiaopu" reported by Mr. Rodney Gilbert yesterday. This high official (otherwise presumably Dr. Wellington Koo) emphasizes with great firmness and variety that "all the old wrongs arising from infringements of China's sovereign rights" must be remedied, "tho inequitable treaties (of Tsarist days) must be abrogated," the treaties concluded between Russia and Outer Mongolia must be cancelled and all Russian troops withdrawn instanter, or there can be no hope of genuine friendship between China and the Soviet.

The outcome of this tussle between two of the most grasping Powers in existence will be awaited with interest. Chinese officials, always endowed with a full share of the Oriental faculty for driving a hard bargain, have had their heads completely turned by the sending of yet a second Soviet envoy to sue for their favours, after the ignominious failure of the egregious Joffe, and in their infatuation appear to imagine they can get anything: while the Soviet has already shown itself at least as imperialistic and land-grabbing as the Tsar's Government was and, having been recognized by Great Britain and Italy, will hardly give away everything for nothing to a bankrupt, unprofitable Government like China's. There are points in the controversy on which the outsider may sympathize with both parties. Russian extraterritorial rights were only suspended on the breaking off of relationships with Prince Koudacheff; they were never cancelled and there is no reason why they should be. It would indeed be most derogatory to the dignity of the Russian people, if Moscow were to consent to such a sacrifice and, with the last three years' practical experience before her of submitting Russian affairs to the tender mercies of Chinese officials, we cannot think that she will. On the other hand, China has an excellent case in respect of Mongolia. Twice Moscow has voluntarily promised to hand back the dependency to China, but never a sign has there been of any fulfilment of the promise. Unhappily, Chinese diplomacy has a fatal proclivity for spoiling a good case and overreaching itself. It has certainly done so in the present instance.

THE EDUCATION OF CHINESE

Mar. 26.

THE question Mr. Lockwood raised in our correspondence column yesterday has never yet, we think, been put so directly. But it was bound to demand an answer some day and the sooner ratepayers make up their mind about it the better. To the extent that we all desire the Chinese to be educated, everybody will sympathize with Mr. Lockwood's ideals. But the usual discrepancy between ideals and realities applies at least as much in this as in other questions. In his enthusiasm Mr. Lockwood has overlooked several facts and has not been fair to the Educational Commission. Among other facts which he ignores is that Shanghai is not a colony nor a domain, but an international settlement, a reservation for foreigners, whose Municipal Council has no sovereign powers but only a strictly limited authority. New York and Chicago are no analogy for Shanghai. They can compel people to pay an education rate, can force parents to send their children to school (neither of which could the Shanghai Council do) and are, moreover, concerned to educate the children of their own country. In respect of the Educational Commission, anyone would think from reading Mr. Lockwood's letter that they had "turned down" flat the whole proposal to have municipal schools for Chinese. This is emphatically not the case and Mr. Lockwood might well have spared some space in his long letter to save it from giving so misleading an impression.

At the outset of its report the Commission emphatically dissents from the stated assumption that "it is the duty of the Council to see that primary education is within the reach of the children of all ratepayers." Nothing can be found in the Land Regulations to support this view, nor would they enable the Council (as said above) to force parents to send children to school. All this, be it observed, applies equally to foreign and Chinese children. What the Council has done in providing education to a limited extent has been purely an act of grace, though with the ready acquiescence of all ratepayers. Then, turning to the question of Chinese alone, the Commission say:—

The Council would be justified in making some experiments with regard to assisting in the education of the very poor, provided that they receive assistance and co-operation from the Chinese ratepayers.

It is suggested to the Council that their aim should be to make good citizens of the Chinese, that by so doing they would not only be helping towards the general good government and order and prosperity of Shanghai but would also be conferring a benefit on the Chinese nation by showing a good example and assisting the Chinese educational authorities who have the education of their nationals at heart in their difficult task.

Later on, after the report has noted that at present only Chinese boys are educated by the Council, we find this also:—

The Commission are strongly in favour of the institution of a school for Chinese Girls, a school of Higher Primary and Middle Grade. The object being that as schools for Chinese Boys have been instituted and stand as models for future schools that may be instituted by the Chinese themselves, it is desirable that a Chinese Girls' School should also be established as a model, provided that the Chinese themselves cooperate with the Municipality as they have already done in the various schools for Chinese boys and that they assist in establishing and maintaining such school for girls.

The apparent assumption of Mr. Lockwood's letter that the Commission have not taken thought for the Chinese is in no way justified by the report.

Furthermore, the Commission think it safe to say that the number of Chinese children not receiving education in Shanghai is 150,000; it may well be double that. We admit that that is no very welcome thought. But we would also emphasize that it puts the question of their education by Municipal means wholly out of court, unless there is to be a very considerable increase in the rates; and we shrewdly suspect that Chinese would be the first to kick against that. The important fact which must be kept in view is that the Municipal Council is not as its *confrères* in other lands. Its powers are in many ways less than theirs, while its responsibilities are much greater—in the matter of defence for example, and the protection which has attracted so many thousands of Chinese to live within its sphere of action. Spontaneously it has instituted a number of "model" schools—we do not know why Mr. Lockwood sneers at this qualification of their functions, for as models

contrating considerable troops of all arms on the frontier of Manchuria at Nikolsk-Ussurisk. Trains with troops and military supplies are being sent to the frontier from Chita.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BRITISH PRESS COMMENT.

London, Mar. 21.

Commenting on the strained relations between China and Russia, the Diplomatic Correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" says that, if Moscow should attempt to carry out its threat to invade Manchuria and other Chinese provinces on a substantial scale, a serious international situation might be created, having regard to the principle of Chinese territorial integrity laid down by the Powers and endorsed at the Washington Conference.

The "Daily Mail," in an editorial article, charges the Bolshevik envoy, M. Karakhan, with systematically plotting against the peace of China and attempting to stir up trouble of every kind. It declares that Bolshevik control of the all-important Chinese Eastern Railway, as demanded by the Soviet Government, would mean the destruction of its business and efficiency with the result that the Japanese lines to Port Arthur and Korea would lose their Manchurian traffic and cease to pay. Japan would, therefore, be certain to give quiet support to China in case of a threat of war. It does not seem probable, the "Daily Mail" says, that China is in any serious danger.

The Diplomatic Correspondent of the "Daily News" is of opinion that it is not likely that the Russians will resort to military measures in Manchuria, but, if they do, the Western Powers will undoubtedly take action.—Reuter.

Negotiations to be Carried On by the Waichiaopu

Peking, Mar. 21.

A mandate issued at midnight says that the Sino-Russian negotiations are a matter of vital importance. The negotiations have hitherto been carried out by Dr. C. T. Wang and, although no great divergence in views has been revealed, no material conclusion has been reached. These negotiations henceforth will be carried out by the Waichiaopu, which has been instructed to go on with them, so that negotiations in future will be conducted by a Department which is fully empowered to act on behalf of the Government.

It is still uncertain whether Mr. Karkhan will resume negotiations, but the above mandate is considered interesting, as it emphasizes that Dr. C. T. Wang's initialling is not considered binding by the Government and the Soviet in future must deal with Dr. Wellington Koo.

Russia Not Ready to Resume Discussions: The Draft Agreement

Peking, Mar. 21.

Many telegrams of inquiry have recently been received by the Government regarding the nature and progress of the Sino-Russian negotiations. It is reported that the Government has now sent a circular telegram to the provincial authorities stating that it fully realizes the importance of these negotiations. The Government, therefore, is handling the matter with due care. No direct result can yet be reported, but the provinces will be informed as soon as a final settlement is reached.

Nothing has transpired to indicate that the Russians are ready to pick up the threads of negotiations cast down by Mr. Karakhan, but there seems to be a possibility of resumption at some future date. Mr Karakhan's action is still being widely discussed in Peking. The general trend of comment is that, as Mr Wilson failed to have his signature of the Versailles Treaty ratified by Congress, and as the initialling of a document is never accepted as final in international diplomacy, Mr. Karakhan either gave way to anger or had other reasons for choosing to consider the signing of a draft agreement, which had to be referred to the Cabinet, as binding upon the Chinese Government.—Reuters Pacific Service.

Waichiaopu's New Memorandum Alleging Misunderstanding

Peking, Mar. 22.

The Waichiaopu late this afternoon sent a memorandum to M. Karakhan replying to his note of March 19, pointing out the misunderstanding on M. Karakhan's part regarding the signing of the agreement, stating that no other Powers had interfered in this matter and asserting that if such interference had been attempted, which it was not, China would have been uninfluenced thereby. The memorandum then refers to the mandate issued on March 20, announcing that the negotiations would henceforth be carried on by the Waichiaopu, and in conclusion states that the Chinese Government is ready to resume negotiations with M. Karakhan so that an early and satisfactory conclusion may be reached.

Reuter's correspondent is authoritatively informed that the draft agreement was not dated, so that the correct date could be inserted when the Chinese Government approved it, and, moreover, no seals were attached, while the signatures of M. Karakhan and Dr. C. T. Wang were not followed by their titles as negotiators.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Cabinet's Circular Telegram: Matters Still in Dispute

Peking, Mar. 23.

The following is a translation of the circular telegram sent out by the Cabinet concerning the Sino-Russian negotiations:—

To the Military Governors, Civil Governors, Inspectors-General, Director-General of the National Army, Tutungs, etc.

Sino-Russian affairs have been repeatedly discussed by the Director-General, Dr. C. T. Wang, with the Russian representative, Mr. Karakhan. The main principles of unsettled questions between the two countries, as well as a preliminary agreement concerning the administration of the Chinese Eastern Railway, have been brought to a conclusion and presented to the Government, which has given them its serious consideration at various Cabinet meetings. Such matters as the abrogation of old treaties and their replacement by new ones, cancellation of extraterritorial rights, the restoration of concessions, remission of the Boxer Indemnity, and Customs revenues, have already reached mutual agreement. Those articles deemed by the Government to be acceptable have been carefully revised.

There still remain in dispute, however, the following important questions:—

1.—In the opinion of the Government the treaties made between Russia and Outer Mongolia should immediately be cancelled. The Russian representative, however, only admitted that such treaties as were made with old Russia and those with a third country should be cancelled if harmful to China's sovereignty. He did not recognize cancellation of treaties between Soviet Russia and Outer Mongolia. In view of the fact that these treaties consider Outer Mongolia as an independent country, and that a Minister has been sent there by the Russian Government, this is quite contrary to the sentence "respecting the sovereignty of China," and this, of course, is of great importance.

SUPPRESSION OF THE WHITES.

2.—The Chinese Government is of opinion that the Russian troops in Mongolia should be withdrawn immediately. The Russian representative, however, insisted that this would not be done until certain conditions (immediate suppression of the Whites) had been settled in the formal conference. Further, the Government intended to change the wording to "the Russian troops shall be fully withdrawn, the time limit for withdrawal and the question of peace between the two countries' borders to be settled at the forthcoming formal conference." The reason for this is that the invasion of Russian troops is an act against China's sovereignty, and the troops should be withdrawn immediately, with no conditions to follow, so that no hindrances might be created.

3.—The Russian representative demanded that Russian properties such as churches and immovable property should be handed over to his Government. The Chinese Government, fearing that this might be followed by other countries and thus interfere with the buying and selling of properties owned by foreigners in China, considered it an improper request.

These three points have been repeatedly revised at Cabinet meetings and handed back to Dr. Wang for negotiation with Mr. Karakhan.

ONLY A PRELIMINARY MEASURE.

We are now surprised that the representatives of the two countries have signed the preliminary agreement without instructions from the Government being given to Dr. Wang as Director-General. This was done on the 14th instant and not until two days later was the Government advised by Dr. Wang that the signature was affixed only as a preliminary measure, which differed from a formal signature. The Russian representative, however, thought it a formal signing and thereupon gave a three-days limit for a decision. Furthermore, the Russian representative declared that "if the Chinese Government will not recognize the signed agreement within three days the Russian Government will not be bound by the terms agreed to. And if there is any difficulty as the result of the breaking-off of the negotiations the Chinese Government must bear the responsibility for the trouble thus created."

Having had a full report of the circumstances from Dr. Wang, we were much surprised at the attitude of the Russian representative. After a Cabinet meeting the Government deemed it improper to have a three days limit set by the Russian representative, while the former hoped to have these main points revised. It was then decided by the Cabinet that the Chinese Government would not acknowledge such a limitation of time in giving its answer.

The negotiations were thus broken off, and the Russian authorities must be held fully responsible. This office has sent a reply to Dr. Wang, who was instructed to forward the same to Mr. Karakhan. This general summary of the case is specially telegraphed to you for your information. Further details will follow.

(Signed) THE CABINET.

The Russian Ultimatum

March 20, 1924.

A second telegram was sent by the Cabinet as follows:—

We hope that our telegram of even date has reached you. The Cabinet has received a letter from the Russian representative, Mr. Karakhan, to the Waichiaopu. It reads as follows: Last year Dr. C. T. Wang was appointed by the Chinese Government as Director-General for negotiations with Soviet Russia. The negotiations between the Chinese Director-General and this representative were concluded and the agreement signed. But as the Chinese Government did not acknowledge the signature of their Director-General, thus making the agreement invalid, I, acting on instructions from the Soviet Government beg to bring to Your Excellency's cognizance: 1.—That the Soviet Government considers the negotiations with the official delegate of the Chinese Government as concluded. 2.—That it rejects resolutely any attempt at reverting to the discussion of the agreement already reached and signed. 3.—That it warns the Chinese Government against committing an irretrievable mistake, which will not be without a bearing on future relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Republic of China. 4.—That upon expiration of the time limit set in the letter of March 19 to the official delegate it will not consider itself bound by the conditions of the agreement signed on March 14, and will reserve the full right of freely establishing the conditions of future treaties with China. 5.—That after expiration of the said time limit the Chinese Government will not be able to resume negotiations until it has without any agreement and unconditionally established formal relations with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

As to this matter the Government has always desired to have it settled as quickly as possible. But since it is of such great importance, the Government feels impelled to bestow much thought and care upon it. On reading the letter from the Russian representative, the Chinese Director-General, Dr. Wang, as a matter of course was not able to continue his negotiations with the former. Hence the order was issued transferring the matter to the Waichiaopu, and that department has been instructed to take up the negotiations and continue the discussion.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

KARAKHAN UNCOMPROMISING.

Peking, Mar. 26.

Replying to the Waichiaopu's Note of March 22, M. Karakhan in a Note yesterday evening refuses to discuss the powers of the Chinese delegate, which, he considers, is a matter of Chinese concern. He disputes the Chinese assertion that there has been no foreign interference, quoting the French Minister's Note regarding the Chinese Eastern Railway as an example. Finally, M. Karakhan maintains that China shall either approve the settlement as drafted or return to his original proposal for unconditional recognition and subsequent negotiations.

The Chinese authorities at Harbin have reported to the Government that the Soviet Agency there has promulgated an order for all Russians, both Red and which will register at the agency, which will then give them certificates for residence. The report expresses the opinion that such action on the part of the Bolsheviks should not be permitted until relations have been restored between Russia and China. Accordingly they had informed the Soviet Agency that the practice must not be carried out for the present.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

M. KARAKHAN'S NOTE.

Peking, Mar. 27.

Dr. Wellington Koo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, attended the Cabinet meeting this morning and reported M. Karakhan's note, on which there was some discussion but no important development.

The Chinese press and Parliament and also Loyang are showing desire for the recognition of Russia, but the Government do not appear inclined to alter their attitude.

It was reported yesterday that M. Karakhan would probably have to leave Peking as a result of his Note, but this view is officially deprecated and it is emphasised that the Government will spare no efforts towards the resumption of negotiations and that, if these are unsuccessful, it will not be the fault of the Chinese Government.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Another Explanation

An interesting comment on the Russo-Chinese negotiations appeared this week in "New Shang hai Life." A message dated Moscow, the 20th instant, is quoted as follows:

"In connexion with the present situation, the Rosta News Agency correspondent has been informed by the Russian Mission that the three days' limit was wrongly stated to be an ultimatum. The Soviet Government only wished to give a warning that it considered itself under an obligation to sign the agreement of March 14 within three days. Actually, however, the Soviet Government waited six days as from March 14. It is only natural that it would be unjust to expect the Soviet Government upon signing the agreement with the official delegate of the Chinese Government to wait until all contradictions, demands, shameful intrigues and personal interests in the sphere between Washington and Paris, including Peking, had been smoothed over and satisfied. To wait until all this had been done would be similar to waiting for the institution of a united all-China government and the national freedom from foreign imperialism."

ACCORDING to the Chinese press the Soviet Government is sending a number of women spies to different parts of China. The activities of these agents are especially noticeable in Kirin province.

FRANCE AND SINO-RUSSIAN NEGOTIATIONS

Insistence on Due Regard for Washington Arrangements in Respect of C. E. R.

Paris, Mar. 21.

It is reported that the French Legation at Peking has played a preponderating part in the Sino-Russian negotiations exerting strong pressure on the Chinese Government to reject the Soviet terms in connexion with the Chinese Eastern Railway.

It is stated that the French attitude is based on international rather then national considerations. France desires a collective *démarche* to Peking on the lines of the resolution of the Washington Conference on February 4, 1922, insisting on China's responsibility for the performance of obligations towards the foreign stockholders, bondholders and creditors of the Chinese Eastern Railway and that the possession and administration of the railway constituted a trust in China's hands.—Reuter.

THE CUSTOMS SURTAX

Prospect of Conference Dimmed by Anarchy and Unfriendliness of China

London, Mar. 24.

Replying to Mr. Chapple (Liberal), who is Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary group looking after Chinese affairs, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald stated that the Chinese request to hold a preliminary conference to discuss matters relating to the increase of 2½ per cent. in the Customs duties in accordance with the Washington Treaty had just been received and was being inquired into.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 25.

The Diplomatic Correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" says that the Powers are at present exchanging views on the Peking Government's request for a conference on the subject of increased Customs duties, provision for which is contained in the Nine Power Treaty, but the reigning anarchy and chaos throughout China and the unfriendly attitude of Chinese officialdom towards foreigners militates against granting the request.—Reuter.

CHINESE NAVY DISPUTE

Probability of Settlement

Peking, Mar. 22.

It is semi-officially reported that the mission of Gen. Chow Yu-keh to Nanking to discuss naval matters with Admiral Tu Hsi-kuei has been successful. Gen. Chow returned to Peking yesterday and has informed the Government that Admiral Tu has agreed to the appointment of Vice-Admiral Wen Shu-teh as commander of the Peihai squadron under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Forces, Admiral Tu.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Mar. 23.

As expected, a mandate was issued last night appointing Admiral Wen Shou-teh Commander of the Pehhai Squadron (Chihli Gulf).—Reuter's Pacific Service.

JAPANESE MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

Peking, Mar. 18.

A report in the vernacular papers stated that the Japanese Minister was about to present his credentials to President Tsao Kun. This most probably refers to the fact that the letter from the Emperor of Japan acknowledging receipt of the communication from President Tsao Kun, announcing his inauguration of the post of Chief Executive, has been received by the Japanese Minister, who has been in communication with the Waichiaopu relative to its presentation to the President.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

of the world, is allowed to go to wrack and ruin, her rivers and creeks silt up and flood the land, drowning hundreds, and her politicians are left to make hay with the remainder. Assuredly it would seem, China does not take care. But it may be that we judge superficially, not perfectly understanding what the Chinese care for most. Politics, they might say, is an unclean trade at the best of times, in which a man sells his soul to the party whips for the illusory advantage of a handle to his name: why worry because it is a little uncleaner in one place than in another? As for great walls, there is now no longer any danger of the Tartar invasions they were built to keep out: and floods and pestilence are Nature's safety valve in a country where there are far too many people. But of the things that a Chinese really values he takes very particular care. His ancient philosophy is still unscathed by the learning of the West; his sense of family duty in both directions is as acute as ever; and his manners, which are the most manifest part of his immemorial training, are still the best in the world.

Why do we haste to rise up early and so late take rest and *eat the bread of carefulness*? If the East have anything to teach the West, it is surely that we disquiet ourselves in vain and that the secret of existence lies along the lines of wearing one suit until it is worn out, then throwing it away and buying another. "Why, why *do* anything?" exclaims Postlethwaite in Du Maurier's skit. "Why not be content simply to *be*? To remain for ever existing beautifully?" But it is to be feared that Postlethwaite's notions of divine reposefulness presupposed an assured income. Which is the case with all of us, and hence the downfall of Stoic superiority to mundane matters and subservience to the Mammon of taking care of things.

Peking telegrams to the Chinese press refer to a regrouping of power within the Chihli leaders' ranks. It is rumoured that Marshals Chi Shieh-yuan (Governor-General of Kiangsi, Kiangsu and Anhui), Wang Cheng-ping (Governor of Chihli and Associate Governor-General of Chihli, Shantung and Honan) and Feng Yu-hsiang (the "Christian General" who is Inspector-General of the Chinese Army) have entered into a secret pact with a view to limiting the rise of Marshal Wu Pei-fu. Meanwhile, Marshal Wu has telegraphed to Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan (Governor-General of Hunan and Hupeh) announcing that he is sending two brigades to the south to "rescue Kuangtung."

Local Chinese labourers' organizations have sent a letter to Britain's Labour Premier, hoping to enlist the sympathy of the British working man. The letter is typical of such communications: "After working hard for a whole (it states) day the Chinese labourers earns barely enough to keep himself from starvation. The capitalists, who care only for profit-making and their own interests, are doing their utmost to oppress the labourers, whose numerous appeals for relief have been turned down by them. The labourers for relief have been turned down by them. The labourers are not only forbidden to hold meetings, but are oppressed should they attempt to go on strike. In short Chinese labourers are given no freedom and are ill-treated. We send you this in the hope that you will take us into consideration, and to devise ways and means of improving the terms of freindship between Chinese and British labourers. Hoping you will extend us a helping hand."

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Trademarks and Monopoly

The well-founded nature of merchants' resistance to the Chinese Trademark Law, if any proof were needed, was proved up to the hilt by the disclosures in Mr. Rodney Gilbert's telegram on Saturday. One of the clauses, No. 10, permitted the Registration Bureau to reject whatever applicant for registration of a trademark it sees fit. The Diplomatic Body objected to this clause, at first, we are told, merely because of its impertinence. But now a graver reason has come to light. Mr. Rodney Gilbert says:—

The fact has been established that several firms of local Chinese lawyers have applied to the Trademark Bureau for monopolistic franchise, but want guarantees that *through themselves alone can application for registration be made.*

It is reported that the reply of the Bureau to this demand was in one case that while diplomatic negotiations were pending, it was impossible to give an assurance of a monopoly in writing, but that *upon payment of a large fee, franchise could be issued with a verbal promise for discrimination at a later date.*

To-day it is said that *one legal firm has paid the price asked and received the franchise.* The inference in this case is that as soon as the Powers recognize the law, the required monopoly will be given the franchise-holders, while all independent applicants will be refused under Article X. *Thus they will be forced to pay big fees to monopolists.*

The italics are ours to emphasize the facts which reveal this iniquitous law in its true colours. We may add that news to this effect had reached us through very trustworthy channels on the day on which Mr. Gilbert telegraphed, and we had wired to him for confirmation. That the Trademark Law opened an easy way to illicit profits was obvious from the first. The exact *modus operandi* was not known. Now it is. The abuses to which the monopoly will give rise are endless. Unless the person registering a trademark pays a heavy fee to the monopolists, registration may be altogether refused, at best will be subjected to endless delays. And be it remembered, there will be no appeal except to Chinese courts. It is to be hoped that this revelation of the true purpose of the Trademark Law will at last arouse the Diplomatic Body to take the only proper course regarding it. It is a flagrant violation of the Treaty of 1858 and of the Mackay Treaty. There is only one way of dealing with it and that is uncompromising rejection.

Treaty Observance

The statement received from Paris to-day, evidently official, that "the French Legation in Peking has played a preponderating part in the Sino-Russian negotiations," is distinctly cheering. France, we are told,

desires a collective *démarche* to Peking on the lines of the resolution of the Washington Conference on February 4, 1922, insisting on China's responsibility for the performance of obligations towards the foreign stock-holders, bond-holders and creditors of the Chinese Eastern Railway and that the possession and administration of the railway constituted a trust in China's hands.

This is a fact which, as Mr. Rodney Gilbert recalled the other day, is beyond dispute, but which the Waichiaopu has blandly ignored, doubtless in harmony with Dr. Wellington Koo's normal assumption that treaties between China and foreign Powers are old-fashioned, out-of-date things, which nobody pays any attention to nowadays. We are not specially interested in the C.E.R. But all foreigners are vitally interested in remembering and in seeing that China remembers, that the Washington Treaties not only granted concessions; they did also contain stipulations. In this way one was heartily glad to see Sir John Jordan's letter to the "Times" last week protesting strongly against the proposed 2½ per cent. surtax being granted merely for the paying off of China's unsecured debts and urging that it should not be acquiesced in except in return for real and much-needed fiscal reform. What Sir John Jordan says deservedly carries great weight with the Foreign Office. In this connexion, it may be recalled that the Washington Treaty carefully stated that the surtax was only to be imposed "from such date, for such purposes and subject to such conditions as (the international commission) may decide." Every forcible reminder to Peking that treaties are not old-fashioned and negligible is indeed welcome.

Where Economy Flourishes

Since assuming office Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the Labour Prime Minister, has shown a very strict interest in the exercise of national economy—occasionally his opponents, especially in reference the Singapore base, think that his Government might lay a looser hand on the purse strings. A writer in the "Glasgow Herald" now points out that Mr. MacDonald comes from Lossiemouth, a place already famed for economy, and mentions one outstanding instance from history. He writes:—

If Mr. Ramsay MacoDnald knows the minor incidents of the history of his native place and follows the example of its public men, he may accomplish much in the way of debt reduction, even without a levy on capital. In February, 1834, there appeared in an Elgin paper, headed "Unexampled Economy. Worthy of Imitation," in which it was stated that the two Senior Bailies of the burgh went on behalf of the town to Lossiemouth to meet the gentleman appointed to stake off the ground for a proposed new harbour. The worthy Magistrates walked the whole distance five miles out and five miles home, and only spent one shilling. This expenditure consisted of sixpence for whisky and the other sixpence to the waiter.

This modesty in expenditure is wholly gratifying, only it will strike a great many people that the donation to the waiter savoured somewhat of extravagance. Still it was better than making a capital levy on the gentleman which a subsequent Lossiemouth generation had apparently in mind.

Aerial Ambitions

The year 1924 promises to be the most ambitious of all hitherto in aerial enterprise. One British and one American flight round the world is to be attempted, in fact within a day or two the airmen will have left their jumping-off stations on their perilous quest. While the American airship Shenandoah has been ordered to relinquish her Arctic flight, Amundsen is to make one more effort to guide aeroplanes over the ice-bound Polar regions, and the year is accordingly full of wonderful possibilities. While we hope for success, we must remember the disappointments of the past and, if achievement falls short of expectation, not be too unduly despondent. When the Italians set out from Rome on their aerial voyage to Tokio, the public, unfamiliar with the difficulties of the task, expected something in the nature of a rush over land and sea, and it was matter for surprise that months elapsed before the journey had been completed. But when Captain McMillan was overcome by disaster after leaving India on a similar venture, it was realized that they who would be successful pioneers, must venture warily. So far the air has only in part been conquered. Aeroplane construction and aerial science, however, are steadily advancing, and even the lapse of a year or two should improve the chances of bringing about a successful flight. It has already been shown possible to fly by short stages from Europe to Australia and the east of Asia, and interest in the forthcoming ventures will be largely centred in the difficult task of crossing the Pacific. If that can be successfully accomplished a definitely new stage in the mastery of the air will have been reached.

The Famine Centres

The reports so far received from the former famine centres of China are encouraging. Agricultural work is proceeding along normal lines, and granted reasonable weather in the summer there ought to be good harvests. It is, of course, too soon yet to attempt definite conclusions, but at any rate it is satisfactory to learn that there is every prospect of the districts that were so sorely stricken by famine two, three and four years ago, assuming their former prosperity. Not quite, however, for the incidence of opium cultivation is deteriorating the land for ordinary crops. The poppy appears to take an enormous amount out of the soil in the way of its fertility, and so succeeding crops are of poor quality until there has been a chance for the earth to recover from the drain to which it has been subjected. This very point was noted in a cotton report published by us this week, and it is further proof of how much China's material prosperity is being damaged by opium cultivation. The country is not yet so far removed from the menace of famine with which it is familiar that its soil can be so misused, and all protests against opium growing should be supported energetically. One or two recently appointed officials are understood to have pledged their future reputation on success attained in extinguishing the evil, and if reputation counts for anything in China they have a great field for enhancing theirs.

The Art of Duelling

The fact that a duel should have serious consequences, as in this week's case of the encounter between two officials of the Argentine when both were badly wounded, is something almost surprising in modern days. We leave out the German duel in which people, especially students, hacked at each other with swords—the thrust being barred—and gloried in the number of scars they could show. What the majority of people have read about is usually comprised in meetings with pistols, usually on French soil, and for years there has been apparently a monotonous regularity of both parties missing or managing to fire in the air and then a reconciliation on the ground. Very likely the public has, however, only been given a modified selection out of the present records of duelling, for ever and anon reports have been current in England of gentlemen settling their differences after a trip across the Channel with much more serious results than have usually been suggested. A challenge which occasioned quite a sensation in England rather over a quarter of a century ago was that issued by a member of the House of Lords well advanced in years to a political opponent, but which was declined. The most recent sensation in the way of duelling came from M. Poincaré who as late as a fortnight ago challenged a Royalist deputy to combat. It failed, however, to go beyond a challenge, the seconds deciding that the quarrel was not big enough to call for actual hostilities. Probably just as well, for courts of law ought to be competent to settle any dispute which arises out of political controversy.

Children from the East

Very few parents, of those who are fortunate enough to be able to send their children Home to school, are also so lucky as to be able to meet with confidence the question, "What is to become of them during the holidays?" And upon that follows the equally poignant problem, "Shall the mother go to England to make a home for them, or should she stay in the Far East and leave the children to strangers?" It is possible that both father and mother may have plenty of relations at Home. But it is by no means certain that that fact will dispose of the difficulty. We cannot help feeling that few indeed of our sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, our cousins, uncles and aunts are so wisely endowed by nature as to bring up their own children in the way that we would have our own brought up: and even if they can pass the test, we have a misgiving that they might not jump at the charge of additional and exotic olive branches. For all these reasons there should certainly be an opening for the sort of school at Home which is forecast to-day in an advertisement on our front page. It would be managed by a headmaster who has long personal experience of the Far East and is thus fully qualified to win the confidence of parents and holiday time would be catered for as well as the school terms. There is, in this scheme, no apparent provision for girls, but we imagine that arrangements might be made in that direction, without trenching on the co-education system which some of us are still old-fashioned enough to dislike. Altogether the project seems to offer a welcome escape from the uncertainties of guardianship by relations on the one side and the terrors of another edition of "Baa Baa Blacksheep" on the other.

Harbin Rumours

In its present condition a city such as Harbin must naturally be a fruitful spot for rumours, but those now said to be current are surely too extravagant. A visitor from there who has just arrived in Peking is reported as saying that a rumour is about that Red troops, brought from European Russia, are being massed at Manchuli and Suifenho with the intention of marching into the Chinese Eastern Railway Zone from either end and taking forcible possession. It was impossible to obtain confirmation of the news, but Harbin was none the less unsettled thereby. While in its negotiations with the Chinese the Soviet has shown a singular capacity for trying to grasp everything within its reach, we are not yet prepared to believe that any such master stroke as this is yet contemplated. In the first place the railway facilities between Moscow and the Far East are so limited that the massing of an army sufficient for this enterprise would require a considerable time, and in the next it is tolerably certain that, were anything of the kind now in progress, more or less full details of it would be known by the authorities. Modern armies with all their impedimenta cannot concentrate in secret, even though frontiers be scrupulously watched and the ordinary avenues of information closed, and sufficient is bound to be known to put the other side on its guard. A concentration such as is reported would be to all intents and purposes a *casus belli*, and no government would allow it to be pursued without the usual diplomatic course of asking for explanations and assurances.

Swaraj in Shanghai

A curious document has reached us which deserves publication. It is as follows:—

The Hindustan Association of Shanghai met in a meeting and passed the following resolution unanimously:—

Whereas it has come to our notice through the columns of Navayuga that Mrs. Besant, in her paper "New India," has suggested to the Government of India to close the Schools, Hospitals, Dispensaries, imprison the Swarajist members of the C. P. (Central Provinces) Legislative Council, dismiss the Police and menial staff unless they accept the verdict of the Government Minority in the council,

and whereas this suggestion of Mrs. Besant is malicious, spiteful and detrimental to all Indian aspiration, be it resolved that this association views it with feelings of horror and loses all confidence in the universal brotherhood movement started by her and appeals to the people of India to boycott her paper.

Mrs. Besant is the head of the Theosophical movement in England; she founded, some years ago, a college for natives at Benares; at the beginning of the Great War, the Governor of Madras thought it advisable to put her under restraint on account of the supposedly subversive nature of her teaching; and later Mr. Edwin Montagu, Secretary for India, gave the Governor of Madras a public slap in the face by letting her out again. Generally speaking, she has not been popular with the people who realize that a strong British Raj is indispensable for the saving of India from political chaos and corruption and probably civil war. The statements attributed to her by the Hindustan Association are thus as startling as they are welcome. If she really made them she deserves a statue as much as she once appeared to deserve incarceration.

they undoubtedly have served and have found imitators—and if it decides to act on the Educational Commission's recommendations we are sure the ratepayers will agree. But further than this we cannot see that it is called upon, or indeed has any business to go.

In conclusion might we urge that if proposals to spend large additional sums in education are being canvassed, the claims of foreign children be not forgotten? We would not have a penny less expended on Chinese schools; rather, we are in wholehearted agreement with all that the Education Commission recommends. But there is a danger that in the long run the interests of white children will play a very second fiddle to that of the Chinese. This has been the case in the Levant and in India and it may easily occur in China where, as in the two regions named, a large white population is growing up which has not known and never will know any other country. It is comparatively easy in India to get money and the best brains from abroad to teach in native schools, where the element of missionizing and pioneer work is an incentive. But it is not so easy to provide for the proper equipment of schools for white children. Already it is to be seen that money for the education of Chinese is easily raised abroad. In no sense whatever would we have it otherwise. The white man has introduced the yeast of his own restless ideas so deeply into the once passive nature of the Oriental that it can never now be eliminated, and he is morally bound to assist at the working thereof. But let him not forget his own children, in the enervating surroundings of a land which he himself and not nature has willed that they shall inhabit.

THE RATEPAYERS' MEETING

Mar. 27.

To-day's Municipal Gazette announces April 16 as the date fixed for the Ratepayers' meeting, and therewith an important innovation: the hour of meeting is to be 4.30 p.m. instead of 2 as usual. Nearly every meeting that we can remember for the past decade has been followed by letters of complaint from our readers that unless the hour of meeting can be changed, it is impossible for the generality of ratepayers to be present. Some have even suggested meeting after dinner: it would be truly interesting to see how many people would take the trouble to attend. But we shall also be curious as to how far the hour of 4.30 may make the meeting attractive. The change is an experiment not necessarily to be repeated if it does not succeed. Until the last two years it would hardly have been feasible, owing to the length of the "set" speeches on the annual report and the budget. But with the greater publicity now weekly given to affairs, in the Municipal Gazette, these heavy items in the parochial bill of fare have undergone a welcome cutting down: last year they were all disposed of in rather less time than one would have taken in previous years.

Excited by the possibility of actually obtaining a sufficient quantity of ratepayers, the Municipal Council is emboldened to undertake also a special meeting, at the same time as the annual, in order "to deal with matters which have accumulated in recent years and have not been previously passed owing to the absence of the necessary quorum." The principal of these are the increase of wharf duties, the licensing of exchange shops and—dare we say it?—the registration of the press. The wharfage dues question appeared at the special meeting, which failed for the usual want of a quorum in 1922, together with the licensing of exchange shops: neither of these is controversial. But the Press By-Law was first brought before the public as far back as in 1916. Flagrant and one is forced to think deliberate misrepresentation killed it in the earlier stages: and so skilfully did the opposition inflame the Chinese, that every subsequent appearance has caused heart-burning and clamour. In 1922, however, a very carefully worded explanation by the Council, published beforehand in the Gazette, did much to reassure Chinese publishing houses and to convince them that the By-Law was in no way different from the practice in western countries and in no manner whatever infringed the liberty of the Press. However, there was no quorum at the meeting. Nine being a lucky number, it is possible that there may be better fortune this year—though we must confess that we remember saying that of the seventh essay in 1922. But there is certainly no reason why ratepayers should not be able to get to this year's meeting and it is earnestly to be hoped that they will do so, if only to confound the pessimists who aver that the civic sense of Shanghai is dead.

OUR TELEPHONES

Mar. 27.

We have become more or less accustomed to the occasional yet delightful vagaries of our local telephone service (vagaries which, at times, lend a little spice to our otherwise uneventful and halcyon office life); to the complaints, reproachful and mild, vituperative and gentle, that so frequently are made by exasperated subscribers (or those making use of subscribers' telephones) to the ever-obliging, mystic and elusive voice that lives (as an actual fact, we typed "loves" but fortunately discovered the error immediately) at "499"; and to the anathema and contumely that some of us, tried and tested beyond endurance, are wont to cast on our telephone operators, their lineal ancestors mate and female, their friends and their relations, their heirs and their successors. However, this screed is not intended to deal with the faults and failings, the idiosyncrasies and inaccuracies, of our friend the operator, but rather to indulge in a gentle knock at some of ourselves and to give a little prominence to a telephonic fault of which all of us, more or less, at times can be held guilty. We refer to the prevailing custom—when one who is busy wishes to make a telephone call—of instructing the boy or coolie in the office to obtain connexion, and taking up the receiver when the call eventually is through. Admittedly the practice is a necessary one in Shanghai, where telephones of the cinema variety decidedly are not: it is the abuse of the custom that calls for comment. We will quote a concrete example to bring home our point. A few days ago the writer was in a local office and the gentleman to whom he was talking gave the boy a number and a name and told him to get through. The call was through within half a minute (possibly the particular operator concerned is a friend of the boy) and the "callee" was duly waiting at the other end. The boy informed his employer who, however, still carried on his conversation with the writer and after at least two minutes strolled over to the 'phone. The bird had flown. Our friend then turned the handle furiously and accused the operator of having cut him off. His actual remarks were better out of print. He then rang up "499", complained strongly (though this time in normal English) and again was put through. And yet only he was at fault. With a congested telephone service such as is ours, such incidents do not tend to greater efficiency; in fact they detract from it, and we suggest, for the benefit of telephone subscribers, individually and collectively, that those who make a practice of putting on the boy to get through a call for them shall not waste the time of others, and make our telephone service worse—or less efficient—than it is, by a thoughtlessness that amounts to little less than neglect and passive obstruction.

CONGESTION IN THE HARBOUR

Mar. 28.

Various events have conspired to bring about a considerable degree of congestion in the harbour, which to say the least is causing worry to shipping firms. A good instance of how difficult is the position is that a ship from the Pacific coast with a cargo of lumber has only been able to find a berth in the extreme upper reaches of the harbour, whereas for convenience and facility of unloading her cargo her natural berth would be almost at the other end, six or seven miles away, near where the lumber yards are situated. The fact that she is so far away must inevitably increase the cost of handling the lumber, but considering how congested the harbour can at times become, she may very nearly be said to be lucky, for cases have occasionally occurred in the past when the absence of any berth at all has caused steamers to discharge their cargoes at Woosung. The present congestion seems curious at a time when most firms are complaining of the dull state of trade, and rather suggests that the complaint is overdone. It is certain that a considerable amount of import is taking place, otherwise these ships would not be here. But this is not the same thing as a condition of brisk business. Exports are by no means commensurate with the volume of imports, and the result is that outward bound vessels are not carrying the cargoes which in a state of real prosperity they would expect.

Several reasons may be adduced for the present shortage of berths in relation to the amount of shipping in port. In the first place the Japanese destroyer flotilla has happened to pay its visit at the very time when merchant ships are arriving in considerable number. They are occupying berths which would ordinarily be available for the usual run of shipping. It also so happens that, through one of those accidents from which no port can ever be quite free, a further couple of berths are out of commission at the moment, the mooring chain of a buoy having been broken. These are contributory causes for the time being, but the fundamental cause for congestion is that more and larger steamers are using the port, and except in one or two cases, all berths are privately owned. We see steamers between five and six hundred feet in length now coming right up into the harbour, and of course they are occupying the space which accommodated two of the type of vessels which formerly traded here. Then, as practically all the buoys and wharves are private property, the owners are naturally mainly concerned with ensuring that steamers of their own lines have the preference, and where there is any possibility of overlapping between the departure of one ship and the arrival of another, they are not prepared to let out their berths to other companies. Thus while this congestion is a fact to-day, it is none the less true that a number of berths are also unoccupied. They will, however, be occupied within a very few days by new arrivals, and between now and then there would not be sufficient time for another steamer, should it be berthed there, to discharge and load again.

In Home ports where all berths are owned and under the control of the port authority, a great deal can be done to obviate such a state of affairs. The authority is able to allot any berth it chooses to a steamer, and if necessary to have it shifted at any time to another berth when room has to be made for a new arrival. This is, of course, the ideal way of having things done, and no prospect of seeing it in Shanghai exists. A colossal sum would be required by a harbour board, if one were constituted, to acquire from the private owners the possession of their berths, and anything of the kind seems out of the question. Much, however, could be done in the way of bringing about an improvement were the necessary money available. In parts of the river where lines of mooring buoys do not yet exist they could be established, and once in being would be sufficient to cope with the requirements of the case for a considerable time to come. So far, however, the necessary funds are lacking, and in the present state of China's finances, with every department in the country begging for doles from the Customs, it is not easy to envisage any immediate relief in this respect. It must be borne in mind that the laying out of a berth is a very expensive matter, so much so that until a generous allotment of money is made for the purpose little progress can be made towards the desired betterment.

The ghastly ending is reported of the family of Chao Wen-kuang, a former Manchu officer, who had lost his income and was in desperate circumstances. Last week he prepared a poisonous mixture of 10 boxes of sulphur matches in a bowl of water and compelled his family one after another to drink, finally following them himself.

ON TAKING CARE OF THINGS

Mar. 29.

The piano tuner gave it as his unbiassed opinion that the climate in Shanghai had really less to do with deterioration of pianos than the way in which people treated them. "Take this one now", he said, laying his hand on the particular instrument which was engaging his attentions. "As good as ever it was. I know one lady with a piano of the same make but half the age, and it's already going to pieces. She puts it right on top of the radiator. When I told her she ought to move it, she said it would spoil the look of the room. What does she think it is—a piece of furniture? If people would only take a little care of their pianos, we shouldn't have the complaints we get about piano-manufacturers not making instruments like they used to do."

Such is the invariable burden of age's advice to youth—if people would only take care of things. It is the foundation of half our proverbs. A stitch in time; take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves; *si jeunesse savait.* And the latter part of the sentence, *si vieillesse pouvait*—far truer really than the first, for youth knows a great deal more than it is usually credited with—shows for how little the wisdom of our seniors counts. Even when we do take care of things, it is usually in the wrong way. What real use to us are the Crown Derby and Dresden that we put in glass cabinets, where we hardly ever look at them? Our great-grandmothers, to whom they originally belonged, used them to drink out of daily; but when breakfast or tea was finished, the same ladies put on a bib and tucker and washed all the china themselves. Plenty of beautiful things are made nowadays, but how many of them, if they are in daily use, shall we hand on to our descendants?

Yet taking care of things is the least applauded of the virtues. Of course anyone who buys an expensive piano and, having any respect for music at all, puts it where the wood will warp and the tone grow "tinny", is a lunatic. But prudence is an inhuman and rather repellant quality. In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, if it be not actually the foolish who command our sympathy, the coldblooded carefulness of the wise puts them completely out of court. Anybody who has earned a decent income since he went to work would probably be, at forty, within sight of a competence, if he had always preferred a bus to a hansom, the pit to the stalls, and had never listened to the voice of the siren nor "looked upon the bitter when it was brown." But how exceedingly unpopular he would have been as a youth and how deservedly disliked in middle age. And there is another thought. In La Fontaine's fable, it looks as if the grasshopper, *"ayant chanté tout l'été,"* while the ant worked, were in for a bad time when the cold weather begins. But what if the ant's savings bank breaks or her trustee skips to Guatemala? She has not even a happy summer to look back on.

The most conspicuous example of not taking care of things, it might appear, is China. The Great Wall, one of the wonders

POWERS' OBJECTION TO TRADEMARK LAW

Amazing Revelations Concerning Art. X: Loophole for Trademark Lawyers' Squeeze

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Mar. 21.

The Chinese reply to the Diplomatic Body's protest against the application of the Trademark Law without the concurrence of the Powers was received by the Doyen of the Corps on Wednesday.

The text is not yet available for publication in full, but all the diplomats have pronounced the reply as unsatisfactory, and it is known that their demands have been rejected in part. Four conditions upon which they said they would recognize the Law and Bureau were laid down by the Body. Article X, giving the Bureau the right to accept or reject an applicant for registration as the representative for a trademark was to be deleted. A foreign technical expert, it was stipulated, should be employed by the Bureau in an administrative post.

Since the concurrence of the Powers to the new law has not been received, they require that past registrations shall be cancelled and that a six months' period for registering existing marks shall begin from the date of the Powers' recognition of the law.

According to the Chinese press, the Government's reply to the Diplomatic Body was as follows:—What is meant by Article X is that manufacturers would be safeguarded against misrepresentation. A foreign technical expert may be employed later on, or as soon as the Bureau is of opinion that one is essential. Preparations have already been made by the Bureau to issue bulletins covering foreign trademarks in English. Six months' extension has already been granted by the Bureau until June and not from the date of the possible concurrence of the Powers to the measure.

The *"Shuntienshipao"* says that the reply is regarded as satisfactory by the Japanese Legation, which is now prepared to recognize the Bureau.

Originally the Powers' objection to Article X was that it was impertinent, inasmuch as foreign firms had a right to choose and judges their own representatives, but in view of fresh revelations made on reliable authority a much more serious view of this clause is now taken.

The fact has been established that several firms of local Chinese lawyers have applied to the Trademark Bureau for monopolistic franchises as trademark lawyers. These are offering very large sums for franchises, but want guarantees that through themselves alone can application for registration be made.

It is reported that the reply of the Bureau to this demand was in one case that while diplomatic negotiations were pending, it was impossible to give an assurance of a monopoly in writing, but that upon payment of a large fee, franchise could be issued with a verbal promise for discrimination at a later date.

To-day it is said that one legal firm has paid the price asked and received the franchise. The inference in this case is that as soon as the Powers recognize the law, the required monopoly will be given the franchise-holders, while all independent applicants will be refused under Article X. Thus they will be forced to pay big fees to monopolists.

The Diplomats have not yet met to discuss what reply they will send to the Chinese Government, but a stronger and less friendly attitude will probably be the imminent outcome of the meeting.

Scheme for Sale of Franchises Exposed but Monopoly Not Cancelled

Peking, Mar. 24.

Since the Trade Mark Bureau is aware that the scheme for selling franchises to legal firms, giving a monopoly on the right to register, is now known to the Legations and has been discussed by foreigners, all applicants for such franchises have been notified privately that no more can now be issued, but the one already sold has not been cancelled.

The following important correction is issued by Reuter:—

In the report of the Chinese Government's reply of March 20 to the Diplomatic Corps' Trade Mark Note, it was erroneously stated that an extension of the period for registration until June *next year* had been agreed to.

The extension is only until *June, 1924*.—Reuter.

CHANG TSO-LIN AND HIS ARMY

No Thought of Restoring Monarchy: Self-defence Unless Compelled to Turn Out the Illegal Government in Peking

We have received the following letter from Mr. Chang Pei-feng, secretary to Marshal Chang Tso-lin (Governor-General of the Three Eastern Provinces), in, connexion with an article which appeared in these columns a short time ago. It gives a first hand statement of the views of the Mukden leader:—

To the Editor of the

"North-China Daily News."

"Sir:—Our attention has been drawn to a Shanghai Chinese press translation of an interesting article which appeared in the columns of your valuable paper and contained serious allegations to the effect that the Commander-in-Chief (Marshal Chang Tso-lin) was striving to restore a monarchy in China. These allegations are astonishing as well as astounding.

MARSHAL CHANG'S VIEWS.

"It is not difficult to outline the Commander-in-Chief's views in connexion with the present political situation in China. He does not attempt to hide the fact that he is opposed to the so-called Central Government in Peking. He is frank in his opposition to the centralization of power in a few men known as the Central Government and is open in his advocacy for the distribution of power amongst the different provinces and districts. He urges a people's government and demands that the power of government shall rest in the people and not in a few men in Peking, known as the Central Government.

"The Commander-in-Chief not only admits that a monarchy cannot by any means be restored, owing to the people's opposition, but also declares that the centralization of power must no longer exist.

WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE.

"He is doing his very utmost to work for the benefit of the people, because he realizes that their success is his success. We have decided that we shall work for the defence (protection) of our territory only and to maintain peace and order for the good of our people so that they will not have any cause for alarm. If, however, as a last resort, we are compelled to pass to the south of Shanhaikuan to kick out an illegal government we will do so, but we will return immediately afterwards to Mukden, in accordance with the wishes of the people.

"The policy of the government should, we hold, be vested in and decided by the people; and no central government can make decisions involving the whole country without the people's confirmation. Hence the Commander-in-Chief and his son (Gen. Chang Hsiao-liang) urge the distribution of power amongst the provinces and districts. This is their present aim and they will work until they attain their goal.

CHIHLI'S ILLEGAL POSITION.

"The Chihli party, in its illegal position, is carrying out a large propaganda programme against us with the hope that such attacks will cause our downfall. No one with a little common sense will believe these rumours and will not be deceived. You and your honourable paper are the leaders of public opinion in China and you are all men of common sense, but, we know, you are in a strange position and find it difficult to distinguish between right and wrong in Chinese politics, truth and untruth, and propaganda and fact.

"In view of the fact that your article gives an unfair and incorrect statement of the Commander-in-Chief's aims and aspirations we would request you to be so kind as to publish this letter in order that all may know the real aims and aspirations of the Fengtien party.

NEW LAMPS FOR OLD.

"In closing I might mention that the Commander-in-Chief has for the past two years been selecting men of the new class, with new brains and with new ideas, to work with him. These men are better educated and better fitted in all respects to those in the Chihli party, and do their work with greater efficiency.

"Where then is such an idea of the restoration of a monarchy conceivable?"

CHINESE PRESS VIEWS.

In connexion with the above letter, the Chinese press last Friday published the following report:

Marshal Chang Tso-lin, in an interview with the representatives of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Marshal Tuan Chi-jui and Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang, stated that apart from foreign affairs, which he referred to Peking, he was not interesting himself in internal politics. He certainly would not agree to conclude peace with Chihli, but just the same he would devote all of his efforts and his entire energy for the betterment of the Three Eastern Provinces. If attacked, he would naturally resist and fight if necessary.

In an interview with President Tsao Kun's representative, Marshal Chang stated that although he (Chang) and Tsao were related to each other there must be an understanding as to what were personal and what were public affairs. Private affairs must be treated as such, and public affairs with due consideration to the public's wishes. They might congratulate each other on family happiness, but they must not talk politics.

DISMISSAL OF GEN. WANG

Peking, Mar. 18.

A mandate bearing yesterday's date was issued early this morning stating that, according to report from Gen. Sun Chuan-fang, Tuli of Fukien, Gen. Wang Yung-chuan, assistant director of military affairs of Fukien, military commissioner at Chuanchow, and chief of the 24th Mixed Brigade, had failed to prevent the soldiers under his command from disturbing the peace. Gen. Wang is consequently dismissed from his several appointments.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PIRACY ON CHINA SEAS

Question in House of Commons

London, Mar. 26.

Replying to Mrs. Hilton Philipson (Conservative) on the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Ammon, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, pointed out that vessels on the China Station were continually patrolling with the object of checking piracy, but stricter supervision of passengers at the port of departure was the only effective preventive. He understood that Mr. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was awaiting the report of the Governor of Hongkong on the subject.—Reuter.

JAPAN'S NEW SUBMARINES

Tokio, Mar. 20.

Construction of the two submarine mine-layers, each of 1,500 tons, will be begun for the Navy before the end of next month at the Kawasaki Dockyard, according to an announcement by the dockyard officials.

Both vessels, which follow the lines of the German type of submarine, but with certain modifications, are to be completed by the middle of November.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CHINA'S INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Another Up-to-Date Flour Mill in the Interior: Chihli Merchants' Venture

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsangchow, Chi., Mar. 13.

In new Tsangchow on the banks of the Grand Canal, one has to report a notable commercial venture in the erection of a flour mill, five stories high, provided with the latest American machinery, close to the grand Canal, and about 10 minutes walk from the city. The site of this towering building was formerly devoted to profitable market gardening, but since the land changed ownership, the price of adjoining property has increased 100 per cent., and the farmer is now bewailing his hasty transaction.

The capital asked for by the promoters of the concern is $200,000, of which some $150,000 is already subscribed by wealthy men of the district. I was told at a feast in the city last week that the chief shareholder is Gen. Wang Yuan-chuan (42th Division) now in Fukien, a Chihli man, whose home is in this region. There are some five similar mills in Tientsin, the first of which made huge profits, and it is thought that this local undertaking will bring fat dividends to all concerned. It is proposed to open the mill in June.

MORE BAPTISM.

Last week we had a distinguished visitor in the person of Brig. Gen. Chang Tzu-chiang, Commander of the 7th Mixed Brigade, now stationed in Tungchow. The General hails from a little village not far from the sea coast, some 50 *li* east of Tsangchow, but owing to his military duties it is four years since he was last in his home *hsien*. He is a keen Christian, as are 95 per cent. of his officers, and only a month ago 1,100 of his troops were baptized on the parade ground at Tungchow. A heavy programme of meetings had been arranged for him during his brief visit of three days, and he addressed a variety of audiences. He spoke twice to crowded gatherings of gentry, and merchants in the city, and on another occasion to the staff and pupils of the Government Middle School outside the North Gate.

The General mentioned in one of the meetings that the pay of his soldiers was 17 months in arrears, a remark which called forth the comment from a prominent citizen that the troops of any other commander would have revolted long ago and helped themselves freely to loot.

A SPRING REVIVAL.

After an unusually long winter and a cold snap in the latter half of February, the ice in the Grand Canal here broke up early last week, and by Saturday (8th), junks heavily laden with cargo for the South from Tientsin passed through. Even the unmusical shouting of the trackers toiling upstream was a welcome relief after the stagnation of 10 or 12 weeks. To us who live within 200 yards of this great and once famous water-way, linking Peking with Soochow, the resumption of traffic is always a cheerful sight, and the first indication of spring, though according to the Chinese calendar we bade farewell to winter a month or more ago.

BONES!

There appears to be a great demand for bones in Tientsin, judging by the boat loads of this unsavoury cargo which have been making their way these many days from the interior. One flotilla, with every available inch of space both above and below decks, scientifically packed with relics of slaughtered animals, was bound from Taokou in Honan, and had already been more than a week on the journey. That it is a lucrative business is proved by a sight I witnessed the other day when travelling through the ruined city of old Tsangchow, 40 *li* away. Several bands of lusty yokels were hard at work digging deep pits by the road side, and on a waste patch not far away. Never having met with any Chinese who are keen on archeological exploration, my curiosity was aroused, and I soon discovered that they were all after bones, this particular spot having been the site of a slaughter yard in some bygone age, when a flourishing city stood where now there is an "abomination of desolation."

The only feature in the landscape is the very striking "Lion of old Tsangchow," a massive cast iron beast which has weathered the storms of centuries. No one among the scholars of the district is able to give an explanation of the origin of this extraordinary animal. Rather it is a matter for surprise and suspicion that a foreigner should trouble himself to make inquiries about such a useless inheritance from the distant past. One or two worthies have referred me to the well known topographial work which is supposed to deal with antiquities, in every province and *hsien* but this musty tome only devotes two lines of tantalizing brevity to our local "lion."

The wide area enclosed by the crumbling walls of the original city of Tsangchow would doubtless yield many objects of surpassing interest to antiquarians, but the probability is that such an enterprise would encounter every kind of obstacle, raised by the ignorant and superstitious villagers.

UNDER A RETREATING GENERAL'S HEEL

Miseries of Fukien: Pillaged and Oppressed by Sun Chuan-fang's Troops

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kienning, Fu., Mar. 15.

Again the whole district is being terrorized by barbarian hordes. Sun Chuan-fang's soldiers after being hurried to the Kiangsi and Chêkiang borders, for reasons few have fathomed, are now being rushed back to Yenping because Gen. Wong seems to have turned traitor again. A battle has been fought and Gen. Sun's men have captured much ammunition, etc.

For 10 days the whole district has been in panic, everywhere men have been seized to carry loads, and pillage and extortion has been the order of the day!

At Kienyang three men were murdered by the soldiers in cold blood, because they did not obey immediately some tyrannical order. Here a man was beaten to death because he could not carry the load these monsters had put upon him. I passed a boat on the river from which the soldiers had just stolen five bags of flour, six tins of oil, and a bag of sugar. All travelling except for foreigners is held up, and trade at a standstill, while these military leaders gamble with their country!

Many of these coolies captured at a moment's notice never return to their homes, many die on the road, of cold and starvation. Cannot the Peking Government do anything to save their country's honour? No other people in the world would tolerate all this excruciating suffering, which is not doing a whit to help the country; a reckoning day must come.

The soldiers themselves are for the most part in an awful plight. A man dying of consumption was hurried out of the hospital to leave with his regiment.

CHINESE MARCONI LOAN

The Arrears of Interest

London, Mar. 26.

In the House of Commons today, Mr. E. C. Harmsworth (Conservative) drew attention to the fact that British holders of the Chinese Marconi Loan had not received interest since August, 1921, and suggested that pressure be brought to bear upon the Chincse Government in that connexion.

Mr. Ponsonby, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, replied that the default had been the subject of repeated representations to China.—Reuter.

NEWS FROM THE OUTPORTS

PEKING CABINET AND SOVIET OFFERS

C. T. Wang Obstructed in His Negotiations with Karakhan by Waichiaopu's Demands for Cancellation of All Treaties and Return of Mongolia

From Rodney Gilbert.

Peking, Mar. 18.

It has been assumed here for some days that Mr. C. T. Wang's efforts to bring his negotiations with Mr. Karakhan to a satisfactory conclusion were being strenuously opposed by other branches of the Peking Government and that the Foreign Office was largely responsible for the difficulties thrown in the way of an endorsement of the Wang-Karakhan preliminary agreement by the President and the Cabinet.

The following news agency statement, which is translated from one Chinese paper but which appears in identically the same language in all but the pro Soviet organs, throws much light upon Mr. C. T. Wang's difficulties and is generally believed to represent the Foreign Office attitude as opposed to the Sino-Russian Commission's attitude. The "high diplomatic official" in question is is of course supposed to be Dr. Wellington Koo.

AGENCY AND OFFICIAL.

According to information received by the "*Hsin Wen Pien Yi She*" News Agency, the Chinese Government has not been able to secure the acceptance by the Soviet Government of three conditions necessary for the recognition of the Soviet Government by the Chinese Government. On this account the negotiations have not, up to the present time, been concluded. Yesterday a representative of this Agency called upon a certain important diplomatic official and obtained from him an unofficial announcement. This announcement is of the greatest importance in connexion with Chinese-Russian relations and it is therefore set down as follows:—

The high diplomatic official in question said that since the Chinese-Russian negotiations had not been brought to a successful conclusion there had arisen a report that the President's Office and the Cabinet were seeking to evade their responsibility and that there was discord between two of the official organs of the Government. This report is concerned with subjects entirely apart from the main question and must emanate from persons not conversant with the real features of the case. The Government in no way seeks to evade its responsibility, but on the contrary is exerting itself to the utmost and assuming its full responsibility in order that these negotiations may be concluded at the earliest moment. The Government, however, does not desire to take any action which, by a too precipitated manifestation of its good will toward Russia through the recognition of the Soviet Government, may in the end react unfavourably on the friendly relations between the two nations. Nor does it desire to make use of the present question of recognition to extort any unwarranted advantages. Therefore the Government wishes to adopt a moderate policy which, after recognition has been effected, may in reality tend to a clearer mutual understanding between the two countries and closer friendship. Considering that the recognition of the Soviet Government by the Chinese Government constitutes the laying of a foundation for the future relationships between the two countries the Government considers that it is imperatively necessary that all the old wrongs arising from infringements of the sovereign rights of China should be rectified in order that the foundation having been made thus firm, and Russia having clasped hands further misunderstandings shall not arise.

THE THREE ESSENTIALS.

On this account the Government considers that there are three points involved in the understanding arrived at by the Chinese delegate, Dr. C. T. Wang, that from first to last require the most constant attention. These subjects are:

(1) that the inequitable treaties of former times between China and Russia should be totally abrogated.

(2) that the treaties between Russia and Outer Mongolia should all likewise be cancelled,

(3) that the Russian troops should be withdrawn from Outer Mongolia at a given time and without conditions.

Although Dr. C. T. Wang discussed these questions fully with the depresentative of the Soviet Government the latter has not, even yet, indicated his acceptance of the conditions.

For instance, in relation to the first demand (the one for the abrogation of former treaties) it is simply provided that these treaties may be abrogated in the course of future conferences. In respect to the second condition above noted it is merely provided that if the Imperial Government of Russia in times past concluded any treaties with third parties in violation of the sovereignty of China, such treaties shall be abrogated. It is obvious that the Soviet Government is unwilling to cancel any understandings it may itself have come to with Outer Mongolia. In regard to No. 3, the withdrawal of Russian troops from Outer Mongolia is still linked with conditions.

TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY.

These three subjects are of the greatest importance to the territorial sovereignty of our country. Condition No. 1, in agreeing to an abrogation of old treaties during the course of future conferences, cannot be considered a dependable assurance. It must be noted in reference to condition No. 2 that the treaty between the Soviet Government and Outer Mongolia recognizes the latter as an independent country. That Outer Mongolia has a Minister resident in Russia is an actual fact known to the world. The Kiachta Convention concluded by the old Russian Government recognized Outer Mongolia as a portion of the territory of China. The recognition of Outer Mongolia by the Soviet Government as an independent country is something that from the standpoint of our national sovereignty we cannot tacitly recognize. The Russian representative protests against the open repudiation of the treaty between the Soviet Government and Outer Mongolia on the ground that it would be "selling one's friend" (thus acknowledging Outer Mongolia as Russia's friend). Outer Mongolia being an integral part of the territory of China, may be regarded in the light of a son or younger brother in a family, and if Russia is unwilling to "sell a friend" can it be said that China would be willing to sell a son or younger brother? Although it may be professed that there exists no intention to execute the terms of the treaty in question, China is unable to leave the question in a state of uncertainty as a source of future complications.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

The withdrawal of Russian troops from Outer Mongolia is a manifest duty on the part of Russia. The stationing of Russian troops in Outer Mongolia is illegal and China has a manifest right to demand their withdrawal. It should be recalled that at the Washington Conference when the subject of the withdrawal of foreign troops from China was raised, it was expressly recognized that the troops stationed along the Peking-Mukden Railway from Peking to the sea were there by virtue of a treaty arrangement and that their withdrawal should on this account be deferred, while troops in the localities ought to be withdrawn. When it was proposed at the Washington Conference that the countries concerned should first send representatives to report in regard to the withdrawal of troops, the Chinese Government opposed this measure. The reason behind China's protest was that where foreign troops have been stationed in China without the sanction of treaty their withdrawal by the Governments concerned is a simple duty devolving upon those Governments. The question of the Russian troops in Mongolia is an exactly similar question. Although it may be necessary in conducting the actual withdrawal of the Russian troops to arrive at a mutual understanding, a statement of principles cannot be allowed to include any conditions for the withdrawal.

The three conditions in question cannot possibly be regarded as additional demands presented by China. All Chinese, official and unofficial, heartily welcome the repeated announcements issued by the Russian Government. On this account China has shown a desire to compromise in regard to all other subjects in the earnest hope of an early conclusion of the negotiations. But with reference to the three conditions discussed above if the desire is to place the new relations between China and Russia on a firm basis it is essential to eliminate all the wrongs embodied in the former treaties. If this were not to be done it would be as though two friends had shaken hands and, sitting down to discuss matters of mutual concern, illimitable complications should arise between them. Can this be considered a course actuated by a desire to plan for future closer relations?

RESPONSIBILITY NOT CHINA'S.

The responsibility, therefore, for the deferred settlement of these questions cannot be laid at China's door. Therefore, the communication received from Representative Karakhan yesterday demanding a reply within three days cannot be considered consistent with a hearty desire for friendship with China.

Italy has but now recognized the Soviet Government, the treaty effecting this recognition having been laid aside for some months, but we have not heard that the Soviet Government on this account at any time presented a demand to the Italian Government that recognition should be effected within three days. What then is the justification for the sudden adoption of this attitude in regard to China?

In a word, therefore, the determined insistence by China upon the three conditions in question can in no sense be regarded as being without reasonable ground, nor can it be regarded as the utilization of the question of recognition as a means of exerting improper pressure by China upon Russia. The situation may be epitomized in a word—at this time when the two countries are laying their plans for future friendship the rectification of all those instances in which China's sovereignty has been impaired is self-evidently proper and necessary.

DR. WANG'S RESIGNATION.

At this point our representative inquired of the high diplomatic official in regard to the position taken by Delegate Dr C. T. Wang and particularly with reference to the report that the latter had handed in his resignation.

The diplomatic official replied that the results of Dr. Wang's repeated negotiations and the draft undertaking he had concluded were being reported for discussion and that difficulties were unavoidable. Dr. Wang, however, was especially deputed as the representative of the Chinese Government and, if the Government had any additional views on the subject of the negotiations, Dr. Wang was entirely in a position to present these to the Russian representative, thus continuing the negotiations. There was nothing in the report of Dr. Wang's resignation. Dr. Wang as delegate had been working arduously in his mission for a year and had reached the point where it was within a very little of fulfilment. His views and those of the Government were not dissimilar and the latter would be most unwilling to have him resign. The numerous misapprehensions on the part of the public bear no relation to the actual facts of the case. The Government naturally had its responsibilities in respect to foreign nations in relation to those matters affecting the sovereignty of the nation, and these responsibilities it could in no way ignore.

SENDING HOME THE REFUGEES

Dr. Greig's Difficulties in Harbin: Politics Hindering Work of Committee

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Mar. 13.

The outcome of the visit of Dr. Greig, the League of Nations delegate, concerning the Russian refugee question has been the forming of a local international committee which includes representatives of Great Britain, America, France, Japan and China, who will collect all necessary information required.

Though Dr. Greig is most impartial in his views, favouring neither Whites nor Reds, whether the committee will be equally impartial has still to be proved. It is stated that one or two of the members have been on very friendly relations with White organizations in Harbin and perhaps will not be impartial. If this is so the result would be that only refugees who wish to emigrate to foreign lands would be found, even if many of the latter were scarcely desirable aliens.

That there will be no co-operation on the part of the Soviet authorities unless Russia is admitted to the League of Nations or unless Dr. Nansen and the Geneva Advisory Committee come to some understanding with Moscow, is pretty certain, for the attitude taken by the local Soviet authorities is that the Russian refugee question is a "home matter," not one for outside interference.

As has already been stated the Soviet authorities mean to start an organization of their own to take up this question with the Chinese authorities; thus we shall find the Chinese authorities will have to deal with two distinct bodies, which will have nothing in common with each other. The consequences mean a good deal of friction which will handicap the solving of this important question.

AMERICAN GUNBOATS IN CHINA AND THEIR INEFFICIENCY

Consternation in Local Community on Budget Estimate Being Reduced from Six to Two: American Intersts Jeopardized

Peking, Mar. 19.

Unofficial information has been received in Peking to the effect that the naval estimates presented by the Navy Department of the United States for construction during the fiscal year beginning on July 1, which included the construction of six river gunboats for use in China waters, have been reduced by the Budget Committee, with the result that only three river gunboats are approved for operation on the rivers in China.

This intelligence has created something like consternation amongst Americans in China, as it has long been recognized that the American naval smallcraft have been unable to perform the duties for which they were assigned. The six river gunboats set down in the estimates were considered the minimum requirement and it is further pointed out that these were replacements, not additions, as most of the American small craft in China waters are of obsolete type and ineffective.

A TYPICAL CASE.

In support of American opinion in China as to American naval requirements here, may be mentioned the particular experience of the American Presbyterian Mission at Shecklung in Kuangtung. In December last this Mission was invaded by bandits who kidnapped a number of students. Protest was made by the American consular authorities to the Canton Government and a request was made that steps should be taken to effect the rescue of the students and accord protection to the Missionaries. Nothing tangible resulted, but on February 12 the bandits returned to the mission with one of their captives, whom they placed against a wall at the entrance and shot and killed him, afterwards leaving a notice threatening to burn the mission if arrangements were not made within five days to ransom the captured students. The American-Consul-General, on receipt of intelligence of this additional outrage, again took the matter vigorously up with Dr. C. C. Wu, Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the Canton Administration, and the Canton Government undertook to detail troops to protect the mission.

BRITISH AID INVOKED.

This apparently was not regarded as satisfactory, for as the result of an understanding between the American and British Consuls H. M. S. Robin was sent up the East River on February 18 because no American vessel on the South China Station was able to proceed to Sheklung.

The foregoing incidents illustrate the need for river gunboats in China to protect American residents, and give point to the arguments in favour of a minimum of six river gunboats.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

BANDIT SUPPRESSION IN SHANTUNG

Undoubtedly Good Work Done by Police Patrols in Railway Area

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Mar. 19.

I have just completed a round trip between here and Tsinan for the purpose of investigating the bandit situation in the former leased territory and can safely state that except for certain small, free-lance gangs operating in villages not patrolled by the police, bandits in the territory are conspicuous for their absence. Under the present system of railway police patrol along the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway, and of armed guards in the trains themselves, there can never be a duplication of the Lincheng outrage anywhere between Tsingtao and Tsinan. Farmers along the line are all smiles over this absence of bandits although from time to time they have cause for complaining against the officiousness of the soldiers, but inasmuch as everyone acknowledges the fact that the soldier is as much of a human being as the rest of mankind and, therefore, cannot be expected to carry on for no remuneration indefinitely, and must of necessity raise money somehow, their demands for food and fuel for nothing, made from time to time, have been accepted with good grace. Between the soldiers and the bandits the farmers undoubtedly prefer the former for the reason that they usually keep their demands within a limit whereas the latter used to swoop down as sudden as a whirlwind, kidnapping, pillaging and, not infrequently, committing wanton killing.

TRAVELLERS REASSURED.

This absence of bandits along the Kiaochow-Tsinan Railway ought to set at rest the fear so far entertained by would-be travellers over the Kiao-Tsi Railway. During the return trip from Tsinan I had the good fortune of having for a fellow-traveller the representative of a great American tobacco corporation. He has traversed extensively along the line and has even penetrated out of the way hamlets but has never come across any gang of bandits.

All this is received with glee by local hotel men for last summer a large number of people were kept away from Tsingtao through the bandit scare. It is felt that if residents in the outports were assured that Tsingtao and the districts for miles around are immune from depredations, there would be an influx of vacationists this coming summer.

So long as the Railway Police maintain their efforts in keeping the bandits off the railway zone, so long will Tsingtao be immune from a bandit invasion.

Up till recently, the bandit menace has been greatly exaggerated. In Tsingtao it has been reported that bandits were prowling about the railway zone and in connivance with the soldiery. On the other hand, Tsinan residents have heard that the hills around Tsingtao were being used by bandits for their headquarters. Both reports have been conclusively proven to be untrue. Many Tsingtao residents have walked all over the hills but have never come across a single cut-throat or, for that matter, a bag-snatcher.

THE CHOUTSUN SCARE.

All this shows how events and news are apt to be exaggerated here. No wonder, therefore, that by the time the report of the Chaotsun fire reached Tsingtao, it had assumed a sensational proportion. The report which I submitted to you was retouched from a report submitted to me by an employee of the Railway. I accepted it in good faith, as did Reuter's correspondent accept a similar report handed to him by another source. I have since forwarded you the original report from which you will see I have invented nothing. In other words, I have been more sinned against than sinning.

CHENGTU UNDER NORTHERN RULE

A Change for the Better: Disappearance of Robbers, Paper Money and Disorder

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chêngtu Sze., Mar. 1.

After the taking of Chêngtu by Yang Sen's victorious troops, what next? The question at first was not easy to answer because it was known that Yang Sen, Liu Hsiang, and Yuan Tsu-ming with their allied forces had among them about 20,000 troops in which were included several reputed robber bands who had attached themselves in order to wreak vengeance on Hsiong Keh-wu. Yang Sen could not be blamed for using all the troops he could find that would fight and assist him in obtaining his great objective, but the real question was what to do with them after the Capital was taken, and all were clamouring for the rewards of victory. The situation was rendered serious by a portion of the attacking force belonging to the Kuiechow force scaling the walls immediately Liu Yu-chiu's troops were withdrawn. These men looted for part of one night previous to Yang Sen marching in. All questions were soon settled by the prompt action of Gen. Yang. He instructed the Chen Feng Si-ling to take vigorous action, with the result that martial law was at once proclaimed, the looters captured, and in many cases beheaded on the spot. In two days 120 men were executed.

The street in front of the Chen Feng looked like a shambles. The heads were hung by the ears on handy telephone poles with an account of the crime on red paper pasted over it. It had the desired effect. Law and order were restored immediately. Then there seemed to be some conflict between the leaders themsleves as evidenced by six men being appointed for a magistracy and four men being appointed Director of the Mint. This was soon taken in hand, and Generals were appointed as robber-clearing directors, and sent out in all directions after the enemy, who in many cases were keeping within striking distance of the Capital. Gen Yuan Tsu-ming took the road towards Kuiechow. Liu Hsiang went north. Chen Kue-tang and Den Chi-heo went east.

Very soon the city was cleared of superfluous troops, and Yang Sen remained to organize the city defences with his redoubtable Second Army. The military and civil offices were soon filled, and the new officers began to function with an alacrity and dispatch not seen for many moons in Chêngtu.

THE REFORMERS.

The new Chief of Police, Wu Kai-ruh soon found the police force was a negligible quantity, below strength and unreliable. They were protecting opium dealers and gambling everywhere, and fattening off the proceeds. Of course the extenuating circumstances were that they were never paid and had to make a living somehow.

Chief Wu quickly disbanded the lot and set about reorganization. He opened a police school and very soon had a bright lot of recruits who were keen to learn the real duties of the job, and already the city shows the difference. Yang Sen is noted for his reform measures and they were soon noticeable in Chêngtu. Streets are being cleaned, opium dens closed, gambling is on the decrease.

Last week a "Good Roads" meeting was held attended by Yang Sen, the Chief of Police and other reformers. Paul King, a representative of Dr. Wang Chen-ting and the National Good Roads Association, was present and a branch organization started for Szechuan. The organization is already well under way. The Kuanhsien road will be completed, then plans made to finance and construct the Big Road to Chungking.

This week three days have been given over to celebrating Yang Sen's birthday. Great crowds came out and the city presented a gala appearnce. The Y.M.C.A. also put on a four days entertainment that was well patronized. The people seem glad again to have the opportunity to enjoy life. The paper money of Hsiong Keh-wu has gone with him. Many have lost heavily but the future looks brighter and they do not complain. Yang Sen has promised a bigger spring fair than ever. This will soon be on and run for 40 days. Hsiong and his crowd have retreated to the Kuichow border.

OO-HOO WUHU!

Ceaseless Excitements of the Queen of the Yangtze

From a Correspondent.

Of recent years Wuhu has played but little part in the history of the world. The foundation of the "Weary Workmen's Home of Rest," the opening of a feather-cleaning factory, the battle between the Academy Wanderers and the Ya Hong Hotspurs, which ended in a tie through the referee disappearing in the middle of the second half and eventually being discovered with a pained expression on his face at the Club bar, the universal excitement when Mr. Spott, the popular Steward of the golf-course, did the long 5th (348 yards) in five by sinking a fortunate mashie-shot, all these events and many others have been allowed to pass unrecorded.

Perhaps a short description of some of the outstanding features of life in Wuhu will not be taken amiss and may serve to show that thought it dare not compete in social activities with such busy centres of commerce as Ningpo, yet Wuhu must not be forgotten altogether by those who are so unfortunate as to reside in other parts of China.

SPORTS.

As usual, Association football has roused most enthusiasm during the winter. The Wuhu team, under the talented leadership of Mr. Poynton-Schmidt, is to be congratulated on an unusually successful season and its record of not having sustained a single defeat throughout the interport matches can be regarded with the utmost satisfaction. It is rumoured that the Sports Club has paid half a case of Five Star Beer to the Recreation Club for the services of Abe Stilton next autumn.

Many pleasant week-ends have been spent on the golf-course and it is a tonic for shattered nerves to see the brave display of crimson jumpers and canary cardigans on any fine Sunday. The course is now looking its best, and, owing to ingenious hazards on almost every green, is not so easy as one might think; indeed, the niblick is the accepted club for any distance up to 10 feet from the pin. Among the many players of note mention must be made of Mr. Irving Dublin who is showing promising style; but he must get out of the common mistake of looking at his back trouser-buttons when on the point of hitting the ball.

GENERAL.

It may not be out of place to say a few words here in correction of a popular belief that finds expression in almost every guide-book; Wuhu is described as "the granary of Central China" and any casual reader might be led to imagine that the place is chiefly famous for its rice; whether or not there is any rice here, this article does not pretend to be able to say, but as any old resident will tell you, Wuhu's chief claims to fame are its pigs and dirt.

The aspect of the surrounding country is spoiled by a hill, or perhaps two, which prevent it from being a perfectly flat plain as far as the eye can see; it would otherwise afford a singularly pleasing view for sea-sick river-boat passengers on a misty day. This defect of nature is fortunately remedied by two or three architectural triumphs which have been erected in such a cunning way that they distract attention from the rising ground.

SOCIAL.

The entire community is saddened at the rapidly approaching departure of one of its most prominent residents, Mr. Joe Kumble, who is going on home leave in a few days' time. For his skill with the hockey-stick and spillikin-hook, for his prompt attention to business in office and club alike, for his pleasant manner and his genial smile, Mr. Kumble is well-known throughout the Yangtze ports; but to those who have known him more intimately, he has endeared himself as much for his untiring efforts on behalf of the various homes of rest as for his admirable qualities as host and companion. It is not so generally known that Mr. Kumble is an excellent lay-preacher. We all wish him a very pleasant holiday and hope that he will return before long to carry on the good work he has started.

WEATHER.

There is nothing printable to be recorded under this heading.

GOLD-MINING ON THE AMUR

American Prospector's Concession from the Bolsheviks: Stringent Conditions

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Mar. 15.

It is generally known that the Amur district is very rich in gold but that thanks to the Russian revolution this industry had suffered considerably and operations are made only on a very small scale and principally by illegitimate means. On the establishment of the Far Eastern Republic, several foreigners interested in gold-mining proceeded to Chita with the object of obtaining concessions from the government authorities. Among these were Mr. James Vint, an American mining man with 20 years experience on the Alaska goldfields, who was successful in getting a concession situated near the Semitack river, a tributary of the Amur. The agreement obtained by Mr. Vint from the Far Eastern Republic, which ceased to exist after Vladivostok was taken by the Red Army, has now been ratified by the Council of People's Commissars at Moscow. The concession is for 20 years and the concessionaire is bound to place on the concession as many dredgers as may be required for the normal working, the placer mines to be fully equipped by him not later than June, 1925.

The working programme provides that a quantity of not more than 7,500 sagines of auriferous sand shall be worked each season. The concessionaire will pay a certain rental for each decatine of land besides a share of the gold extracted, the Government reserving for itself the exclusive right to purchase the whole output of the mine. The methods of miners and employees by the concessionaire as well as their maintenance, supply of food and other commodities, medical attendance and in general all relations between employer and employed shall be regulated by existing law and government decrees which may be issued in the future and also by contracts to be closed between the concessionaire and the various professional Unions.

The concessionaire must submit to the government drawings of the dredgers to be set up, specifications of required additional equipment, lists and plans of the mines and all technical descriptions. The concessionaire as a guarantee of good faith and for fulfilment of contracted obligation shall deposit with the Government immovable property of the value of Gold roubles 35,000. Any dispute that may arise between the concessionaire and the Government shall be referred to the law courts for decision. The actual term of the concession is 25 years after which it is be turned over *in toto* to the Government without any compensation to the concessionaire.

Miss Mary Robina Stevens, who was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn on January 28, appeared in Mr. Justice Eve's court on February 1 on a motion for the appointment of a receiver and manager. This was the first instance of a woman barrister appearing in the Chancery Division. Gray's Inn has three ladies on its roll of counsel.

MANCHURIA'S TRADE WITH THE AMUR

The Absolute Necessity of Opening up the River Traffic and Removing Impossible Regulations

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Mar. 15.

What are the prospects of Harbin being able to trade with the Amur as soon as navigation reopens this year? This is a vital question for Harbin business circles as well as for steamship owners on the Sungari. What is going to become of the Sungari tonnage during the coming season if the routes to Blagovestchensk, Habarovsk and Nikolaievsk-on-Amur remain so firmly barred as they have been during the past few years.

The export of soya beans *viâ* Nikolaievsk attracts first of all one's attention. The first experiments in this direction were made by the Amur Steamship & Trading Co. as long ago as 1910 when some 750,000 pouds of beans from various river places on the Sungari were exported. After the first experiment the riverine export of beans showed, year by year, a constant increase, amounting in 1914 to 2,100,000 pouds notwithstanding the fact that special competing freight rates were introduced by the Chinese Eastern Railway, who by their own steamers brought beans from the lower Sungari, transhipping them by cars at Harbin and quoting inclusive water and rail freights to Dairen. From 1914, owing to the World War followed by the Russian revolution, there was a sudden decrease in exports of beans.

Last year a new exports movement was initiated by the Russian Government Amur Fleet, but unfortunately in the very height of the navigation season it had a sudden stab owing to the Russo-Chinese conflict at Aigun.

The Russian revolution has driven many riverine craft from the Amur to the Sungari, and the total amount of tonnage of the latter is stated to be 587,600 pouds for steamers and 2,795,000 for barges. The estimated amount of cargo available for the coming season is 15,000,000 pouds. Last year with the exception of the C. E. R. steamers and the fleet owned by Soskin & Co. all steamer owners suffered severe losses and many vessels remained idle the whole of the season. The Chinese company Su-tung which owns the largest fleet on the Sungari was hit harder than any other concern and was forced to rent out some 10 of its steamers at an absurdly low figure, finding only work for four of its fleet which were engaged in carrying firewood from the lower reaches of the Sungari to Harbin at cut freight rates. It is imperative that if commercial relations are to be restored with the Amur district and if the resumption of the natural export route for cereals *viâ* Nikolaievsk is to take place this year, the Chinese authorities should excercise the required initiative, without further delay, otherwise the coming navigation season may hurt Harbin commercial circles even more heavily that they were hurt last year.

THE SMUNGLING BOOM.

Though the Chinese merchants living on the Chinese bank of the Amur during the height of navigation were at variance with the Soviet Government owing to high taxation introduced by the latter, and the Russian Amur districts were actually boycotted by the Chinese, thanks to the activities of smugglers large quantities of goods both entered and left Russian territory. The high cost of commodities sold by the Soviet commercial departments and the cooperative societies drove the Russian population into the hands of the smugglers. This was soon realized by the Chinese merchants who, after starting the boycott and having strict supervision against selling goods to smugglers, saw that their policy was actually playing into the hands of the Soviet Government who were able to expand the activities of their own stores as the Russian people had no other source from which to obtain necessities.

The Chinese tactics underwent a sudden change and smugglers was actually encouraged and facilitated in every direction. Chinese merchants extended considerable credit to smugglers and goods were given on consignment, the illegal trade soon deluging the Amur districts. Tea, sugar, printed calico and all sorts of other dry goods were smuggled into Russian territory and sold at 50 per cent. less than was being charged by co-operative stores. The smugglers united themselves into several organizations, keeping careful watch over the movement of the Russian frontier guard, and carried on their operations at a minimum risk, not more than 5 per cent. of the smuggled goods falling into the grip of the Customs guard. Contraband trade moved from the right to the left bank of the Amur and *vice-versa*. From Russian territory were smuggled grain and live stock into China, especially horses. The number of horses on Russian farms is said to have been reduced to 50 per cent. of the stock held up to the time of the introducing of the new farm tax in Russia. As only 60 per cent. of the estimated tax was collected in order to cover the remainder of the tax live stock and grain had to be sold.

TRAFFIC WITH MONGOLIA.

The Soviet Government have decided to establish direct traffic with Mongolia and link up connexions between that country with points in the Russian Far East. For this special purpose the Amur River Government Transport together with the Chita Railway is about to open an Agency at Urga, and will accept cargo for direct river and railway transportation at exceptional freight rates. Cargo is to be accepted at Urga for Vladivistok as well as at different points along the Selenga River, which links up Mongolia with Verkhne-Oudinsk. It will be carried from here to Stretinsk by rail and then by the riverine route to Habarovsk and thence by rail again to Vladivostok, or even to Nikolaievsk should shippers require it. This government transport concern will likewise arrange for transfer of cargo to ocean steamers at shippers' request and will accept cargo for Russia and even to Europe. One of the most important features of this scheme is the full responsibility for delivery and safety of the cargo taken over by the above-mentioned Transport Company.

SHANTUNG MINE FLOODED

Eighty Lives Lost

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Mar. 19.

A section of the Lutai Mining Company's mine at Fang-tze was flooded on Monday as a result of which 80 lives were lost. Every possible effort was made to effect the rescue of the unfortunate people but to no avail. It seems that the miners in the section affected dug into another section which has previously been flooded and that the terrible inrush of water overwhelmed them and made escape impossible.

KORNILOFF'S APPEAL

Lodged in Tribunal of Last Resort

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Mar. 13.

The Korniloff appeal to the Senate at Peking has been forwarded by the accused's lawyer, Mr. A. A. Widder, from Peking.

The condemned man's sister is on her way out from Moscow *en route* for Peking, where she will personally intercede on her brother's behalf, bringing with her important documents bearing on the case from the Soviet Government.

SEQUEL TO DAUGHTER IN-LAW'S SUICIDE

Whole Family Bambooed: "Mutually Responsible" as Under Old Laws

From a Correspondent.

Chowkiakow, Ho., Mar. 14.

The other day a young wife committed suicide. A common enough occurrence in China, but somehow the district official got word of it.

The father and mother-in-law, the uncle, the four neighbours, and, of course, the local constable were all brought to court.

The neighbours were severely beaten for not interfering on behalf of the young woman, whose body was bruised all over by the harsh treatment that had forced her to take her life. Her uncle pleaded that he lived in an adjoining yard and should not be involved, but the magistrate would have it that he must have heard cries of the victim and ought to have taken her part, so the uncle was punished. Both the father and mother-in-law were bambooed. They were asked why their sons and daughters did not commit suicide.

The constable lived in a village two miles away, but he must have known of such cruel people, and should have reported the affair. For not doing so he had 1,000 blows, was dismissed from his post, and put in prison. Such official action is so uncommon, that the gossip of the town ran that the magistrate must have had some family history of painful memory thus to make him so hard on the offenders.

"When the old plaster comes off the wall it is replaced by new" is a common saying. New wives can take the place of the family drudge. And it is astonishing how even notoriously cruel people negotiate new victims without much difficulty if possessed of money.

On the very evening of the day on which the above case was dealt with, a mother-in-law either ignorant of what had happened, or too mad to be restrained, was starting to beat her hapless young daughter-in-law when her neighbours at once interfered, fearing they would be involved if trouble resulted.

GHASTLY CRIME NEAR SHAOSHING

Bandits' Unparalelled Cruelty

From Our Own Correspondent.

Shaoshing, Chê., Mar. 14.

A shocking bandit outrage took place near here yesterday, resulting in the murder of two women, a baby boy, and an adult male.

About 40 bandits descended upon a village within 20 li of Shaoshing, on the main canal to Mosan.

The first victim was a man who opened the door of the house attached! He was shot by the brigand who crossed the threshold. Inside the house, a woman was next fatally shot. Efforts were them made to secure the young son of the family. His poor mother, who was a graduate of the Baptist Girls' Boarding School and a woman of noble character, made frantic efforts to save her offspring. She was first of all struck in the face and cruelly beaten. Finally, with wanton cruelty, the bandits fired at her. The first bullet struck her in the hand and the second in the stomach.

Still conscious, she saw the bandits carry away her boy, aged five, together with a youth of 19.

Another baby boy was taken from its mother's breast. When they got outside, however, the bandits decided that such a mite would not be worth much in the way of ransom, so threw the child into the canal. Its dead body was picked up later.

The unfortunate mother who had been shot through the abdomen was taken to a Christian hospital. It was found possible to remove the bullet in the early hours of the following morning, but the shock proved to be too much for her and she died the same afternoon.

These bandits came from Chenghsien, the district which furnished the horde whose raid was reported by me on March 4.

SHANTUNG BEEF

Exporters to Japan Alarmed at Increased Railway Charges

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, March 19.

The Kiao Tsi Railway is considering an increase in the transportation rate for cattle of one dollar a head. The beef dealers are, consequently, much perturbed. Beef from Harbin *viâ* Vladivostok has recently been imported into Japan and in order to encourage the business, the Osaka Shosen Kaisha recently placed the Kagi Maru on the run between Japan and Vladivostok in place of the Hozan Maru, the former having refrigeration facilities and the latter none. It is felt that, should the Kiao-Tsi Railway eventually carry out its project to raise the transportation rate on cattle, the beef trade between Harbin and Japan will flourish at the expense of the Shantung business.

The Railway Administration on the other hand belittles the idea that the increase of merely a dollar a head would affect the business in Shantung beef. The Administration contends that the old rate has been much too low.

HONGKONG MILITARY LANDS

Award Accepted: The Best of a Bad Bargain

"I can only say, gentlemen, that after spending a considerable time in dealing with this matter and after writing many despatches, which I should like to produce to this Council but am unable to do so, but in which I can assure you I have placed the Colony's point of view somewhat forcibly before His Majesty's Government—I say that after considering all these things, I am strongly of opinion the bargain is one the Colony should accept, and I think in the future it will be very pleased to reflect that it has taken this opportunity of removing an obstacle to progress."

These were the concluding words of the speech of the Governor (Sir Edward Stubbs, K.C.M.G.) delivered in reply to the criticisms of the unofficial members in the Legislative Council on the resumed debate on the resolution approving the acceptance of Sir John Oakley's award in respect of the military lands of the Colony.

The unofficial members severely criticized the figures of the award, which they regarded as unwarrantably high, and assented to the resolution under protest.

HUPEH GOVERNOR'S BIRTHDAY

Marshal Hsiao Yao-nan Feted at Wuchang

From Our Own Correspondent.

Wuchang,, Mar. 20.

The city is *en fête* to-day, to celebrate the 50th birth-day of the Military Governor of Hupeh, Gen. Hsiao Yao-nan.

The Governor himself has protested that, in the present unsettled condition of China, this is no time for excessive congratulations or extravagant entertaining. Nevertheless, a good deal is being made of the occasion.

During the past few days, presents have been pouring in from the leading merchant guilds, schools, and other organizations. Last night a big feast was given at the Yamên to a number of officials and leading citizens of from a distance with congratulatory messages from other provinces will be feasted royally.

HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Anti-Piracy Measures: Need for Naval Patrols: Storm Signal Service

Hongkong, Mar. 24.

At the annual meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce to day, comenting on the proposed anti-piracy meaures, the Chairman said that the first essential was an adequate number of Naval patrols which would make attacks more hazardous and thereby act as a deterrent.

Referring to the storm signal service, the Chairman urged very close co-operation between Hongkong and Siccawei. He said that months had gone by and nothing seemed to have been done.

Mr. W. S. Bailey, speaking on piracy, remarked; "It is with feelings almost of shame that we must admit, in spite of the undoubted efforts of our authorities, our failure to bring to justice any of the perpetrators of these murders and robberies or to safeguard the lives of the captains, officers and crews of vessels trading in our watera."—Reuter's Pacific Service.

OPIUM SUPPRESSION IN CHINA

Anti-Opium Association's Views on Control and Cure of Addicts

Peking, Mar. 22.

The International Anti-Opium Association has handed the following to Reuter:—

As frequent reference has been made recently in Chinese newspapers concerning the recommendations sent by the International Anti-Opium Association to the Opium Suppression Board, it is evident that the information has reached the press through channels other than our own and some statements are not quite clear. The facts are as follows:—At a recent conference of the Opium Suppression Board the General Secretary of the International Anti-Opium Association was courteously invited to express the views of the Association and to offer any advice on the question of control. The General Secretary spoke to the Board for over an hour and gave a *résumé* of opium conditions as revealed by over 100 foreign reports from various provinces. After discussion with the Board on the Articles already drawn up by them for the purpose of opium suppression, only two suggestions were offered by the International Anti-Opium Association to supplement these, namely: 1. The curing of opium smokers; 2. The prevention of smuggling.

THE CURE OF ADDICTS.

As thousands in the northern provinces have developed the opium habit in recent years, prohibition could only be effective if means were taken to cure opium smokers. The province of Shansi was quoted, where 51,000 smokers have been treated in "Cure Houses" during the last two years. If thousands are suddenly deprived of their opium by local suppression of poppy cultivation, smuggling from neighbouring provinces will inevitably follow, unless the addicts can be cured.

With regard to smuggling, it is obvious that with unrestricted and even compulsory cultivation in the south and western provinces, markets must be found for their surplus tons of opium which, unless a very extensive prevention service is established, will inevitably find its way to the north. To stop cultivation in the north and not prevent opium traffic from the south would be only changing the name and not lessening the evil itself.

Beyond these two suggestions the Association strongly urged the eradication of poppy and suppression of opium traffic in the northern provinces owing allegiance to the Central Government, and the Association is convinced that nothing will reaffirm the confidence of Foreign Powers more than the certain knowledge that Kansu, Shensi, Anhui, Hunan and Chihli are clear.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Berne, Mar. 25.

The National Council to-day adopted the International Opium Convention.—Reuter.

HONAN TROOPS' MUTINY

Kueiteh Yamen Looted by Men of the 24th Division

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kueiteh, Ho., Mar. 22.

The hopes we entertained that all our soldier defenders of the 24th Division had turned over a new leaf since last year received rather a bad shock last night when some of them commenced looting at about 10.30, but fortunately most of the soldiers stood true to their duty and the actual damage done was not great. Several of the more flimsy thatched buildings in Gen. Wang's yamên were burnt and one or two looted. The chief sufferer is a Mr. Meo, who, in addition to having his house robbed, was shot through the body and is now lying in a serious condition in the Canadian Church Mission Hospital.

It is difficult to ascertain what has happened to the mutineers. Some say that they have fled into the country and others that they are still on duty in the army. Gen. Wong is away just now, probably in connexion with the reported change of leadership of the 24th Division.

Responsible military leaders, however, seem to be doing their best to protect mission property here, for when the trouble started last night Chang "Tuan Chang" immediately mounted a guard of his own 93rd "*Tuan*," who have a good reputation, at the Canadian Church Mission buildings in the city throughout the night.

TROOPS TO GUARD RIVER CRAFT

Detachments from Hongkong Garrison and Lewis Guns Against Pirates

Hongkong, Mar. 21.

As from March 24 special guards composed of British soldiers armed with rifles and Lewis guns will be placed on board river steamers as extra protection against pirates.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ANOTHER LAUNCH SEIZED

Latest Canton Incident: Foreign Sailors Intervene

A report reached the "Hongkong Telegraph" on the 18th instant from Canton of the commandeering by a number of soldiers of another steam launch flying a foreign flag.

It is stated that on the 16th the launch was lying off the East Bund, near the Great Eastern Hotel, when a score of soldiers came aboard and took possession of the vessel. The coxswain could get no satisfactory statement from the troops as to why the launch was seized, and consequently he went ashore and telephoned to the foreign Consul concerned.

About an hour later, a number of foreign soldiers arrived on the scene and cleared the launch of Chinese troops, later handing back the craft to the coxswain.

THE AUTONOMY OF HUNAN

Peking, Mar. 18.

According to report, Marshal Wu Pei-fu has despatched Gen. Chow Chen-lin to Changsha to endeavour to induce Gen. Chao Heng-ti to cancel the autonomy of Hunan.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

CATTLE PLAGUE IN SHANSI

50 to 90 Per Cent. Mortality from Rinderpest: Animals Slaughtered Wholesale

From Our Own Correspondent.

Kiangchow, Sha., Mar. 20.

The cattle disease now diagnosed as rinderpest continues unabated. We hear of villages all round and far afield where from 50 to 90 per cent. of the cattle have died.

The flesh of these diseased animals is invariably sold for human consumption. Outside the south gate of this city and in villages we pass through, the unrestricted public slaughter and sale goes on in a most disgusting and loathsome manner, despite protests by more enlightened Chinese. Last week even some chair coolies turned away from their usual eating house, protesting that the utensils of this food shop were too redolent of bad beef to permit enjoyment of their meal.

CHILDREN D ING.

It is encouraging to know that the Middle School here has now added hygiene to its curriculum, but this is not likely to impress the butchers.

The usual epidemic diseases are this year claiming a very large proportion of children, and fatal cases of measles and other childish complaints are exceptionally common in several neighbouring *hsiens*.

Mr. Hsu, the local official, died suddenly last Saturday a few hours after his arrival from the capital, where, we understand, he had just obtained permission to continue in office here, instead of departing to take up an appointment elsewhere. Like a good number of Shansi officials, he was one of the old type, trying hard to adopt the new style, and keep abreast with the Republican phraseology and fashions though little success attended his efforts.

CONSERVANCY OF THE MIN RIVER

Silting of the Fairway Below Foochow: Purchase of a Suction Dredger

Peking, Mar. 24.

Advices from Foochow state that the Min River Conservancy, of which the British Consul is Chairman, recently signed a contract with Messrs. Duncan and Company of Shanghai, the agents of Messrs. Lobnitz & Co., Ld., of Renfrew, Scotland, for the purchase of a suction dredger with an excavating capacity of 200 cubic yards an hour and 2,000 feet of pipe-line.

The new dredger will cost £27,395 and will be delivered early in the autumn. Its employment is expected to go far towards solving the difficult problem of controlling the heavy silting action of the Min River in the fairway below Foochow.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

A RACE CLUB IN MACAO

Hongkong, Mar. 26.

A contract has been signed whereby the Macao Government grants a concession to a Shanghai Chinese syndicate, represented by Messrs. Chun Kuee-ho and Wong Wo-ching, for 30 years to form and conduct a race and recreation club at Macao.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Manila, Mar. 24.

A report to the Constabulary states that the inhabitants of Babuyan Island, who are mostly fishermen, are believed to have been killed by a volcano eruption on March 1. The island is sparsely inhabited and is at the northern extremity of the Luzon volcanic area. The volcano which erupted is known as Stith's Cone.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TSINGTAO POLICE AND THEIR PAY

Superintendent Threatening to Resign: Navy Also in Deplorable State

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, March 19.

The Chief of the Tsingtao Police has warned the Administration that unless the Finance Department is more prompt with disbursements for the settlement of the wages of the police, he will resign.

Superintendent Cheng Wei-djen has had to borrow money from a Bank in Tsinan over which he has a good deal of influence through being a principal shareholder. The policemen here are only two months in arrear in the matter of wages and are, therefore, better off than their *confrères* in other parts of the country, but the community fully appreciates the fact that the chief of police here cannot be expected to be able to raise funds for ever on his own. In his warning to the Administration, Superintendent Cheng points out that when he accepted the post vacated by the former chief he had no idea he would have to act the part of the philanthropist.

The former chief of police has had a similar experience in the matter of not getting funds from the Administration, only in his case he was unable to raise money on his own with which to pay his men and probably had no intention to. When the present chief took over the control of the local police, he found the wages had been in arrear for some five months. In other words, almost from the outset of Chinese Administration, the Finance Department has given little attention if any to the question of providing the police with funds regularly. In this connexion the community is highly incensed. It is felt that the indifference shown towards the welfare of such an important institution is nothing short of disgraceful.

THE NAVY ALSO.

It is reported that the Ministry for the Navy will conduct an investigation into the real conditions of the ships forming Admiral Wen's squadron. It is furthermore reported that the squadron will be placed under the direct control of the Central Government and that Admiral Wen will be given a job ashore as an advisor for "face pidgin." This latter report is considered highly interesting, if true.

Admiral Wen has been in a quandary lately over the matter of funds. Although Wu Pei-fu promised a fixed sum monthly, he has done nothing himself and has confined his efforts in the direction of obtaining the money necessary for the upkeep of the squadron from the revenues of public utilities. The levy of $50,000 monthly which was put on the Chamber of Commerce soon after the arrival of the squadron here has never been met, likewise the $50,000 monthly levies on the Administration. True, $150,000 have been obtained from the Railway through the efforts of the Managing-Director but in view of the Japanese opposition that later arose, the Railway has since not parted with a single cash.

Admiral Wen is now reported to be after the Chefoo-Weihsien automobile service. "When will the Government get rid of Wen?" is the question freely asked here.

ELECTRICITY CUT OFF.

The local Electric Light Company, sick of pestering the Administration with bills for electricity supplied, has now cut off the supply to the Harbour Department and the Pu-tsi Hospital. The Harbour Department has been particularly extravagant in the consumption of electricity.

It is reported that Mr. Hu Hai-yun, formerly the Chief Accountant of the King-Sui Railway, has been appointed to fill the post of Finance Chief. He is a Wu Pei-fu man and a friend of Kao En-hung.

MR. W. J. Morrison, Accountant, Chartered Bank, Kuala Lumpur, is going to Delhi on transfer.

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS IN SZECHUAN

Peking, Mar. 18.

The Government has delayed the several important appointments in Szechuan for some time in the hope that it could be arranged that these appointments would not provoke strife, but apparently the rivalry among those who hope to receive appointments has not yet been dissipated. The President sent a delegate to the province to make investigations and report. Marshal Wu Pei-fu did likewise, and, according to the report of the latter's representative, Gen. Chien Ping-chien, neither Gen. Liu Tsun-hiou, nominal Tuchun of Szechuan, nor Gen. Liu Hsiang are interested in any appointments at the moment, as they are still engaged in military operations, preparing against a rally on the part of the enemy. Gen. Liu Tsun-haouis is now at the Chien-yang front, while Gen. Liu Hsiang is assisting.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

ICHANG LETTER

Chief Engineer's Exploit in 13-ft. Boat: Fewer Hong Changes This Spring

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ichang, Mar. 11.

The other day there was an accident which might have resulted in the loss of a foreign life. Mr. H. Kingswood, chief engineer of I.-C.S. Kingwo recently installed a new engine of 40 h.p. into a 13-ft. boat, expecting to get at least 25 knots out of her.

Speed trials were carried out at a place about three miles down river, and the ship's captain and Mr. Kingswood went down there to carry them out. Mr. Kingswood ran the boat first at a speed of 27.06 knots per hour. The Captain then did a run, and though none too experienced with such craft he being a lighter man, achieved 27.27. Unfortunately on turning about he ran into some fishing floats. In a moment he was in the water and the boat had disappeared. Luckily he had a life-belt on, and was picked up after being a few minutes immersion.

The raising of the boat has been put into the hands of native divers, but it may be difficult to locate as she lies in deep water.

Springtime usually brings a greater number of staff changes at the foreign hongs. So far, however, the only transfers mentioned are the approaching departures of Mr. Denniston, of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, who goes to Ningpo, and Mr. Walter, of the Asiatic Petroleum Co., who is going on home leave, Mr. Millar, who has just returned from furlough, will relieve Mr. Denniston here, while Mr. Walter's place will be taken by Mr. C. A. Butland (from Shasi) and Mr. H. B. Dickson.

The A.P.C. are in future to supervise their business at Shasi from Ichang.

Messrs. Mackenzie & Co. are closing up their Ichang branch at the end of this month, but Mr. N. Ellis, their agent here, is remaining in the port. He is about to run a commission agency.

The river is beginning to show signs of rising, and soon there will be less risk for ships that have managed to keep going during the lowest water in facing the rapids, while others that have been anchored here for over two months will again get under way.

THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE

Capt. Robinson's Gallantry Recognized

Ottawa, Mar. 20.

The Silver Medal of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem has been awarded to Captain Robinson, of the Canadian Pacific liner Empress of Australia, for gallant action on the occasion of the earthquake in Japan. This is only the second time that this medal has been awarded to a Canadian. — Reuter's American Service.

JAPAN'S BURNT BOOKS

Treasures Which Will Never Be Replaced: The Jesuit Book of Martyrs

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tokio, Mar. 10.

While it is possible, as time rolls on, to repair the enormous damages that fire and quake wrought in Tokio and Yokohama, the country has suffered an irretrievable loss in the destruction of valuable manuscripts, records and libraries which can never be replaced.

The destruction of the Tokio Imperial University Library is one of the greatest losses that Japanese culture has sustained, the majority of the 700,000 odd books having been burnt to cinders. Among the precious manuscripts that have been lost are the "Richo Jitsuroku" or the annals of the Yi dynasty of Korea; the "Yeiraku Taiten" or the records of the Yung Lu era in China; the Narvana Sutras in Sanskrit and in one of the Manchurian dialects; and the famous "Jesuit Press."

The most precious of all these is the "Jesuit Press" which faithfully mirrored the policy of the Shogunate Government towards foreigners and especially towards Christianity. The "Jesuit Press" consisted of reports submitted by Portuguese padres who were engaged in the propagation of the Christian gospel in the 16th Century. The cruelist measures were resorted to by the Shoguns to exterminate Christianity and Christians from the land. No Japanese historical records were permitted during a period of 300 years to make the slightest mention of Christianity or the attitude of the authorities towards it. The "Jesuit Press," therefore is the only available source of information.

CRUCIFIXION OF CONVERTS.

The "Press" records the greatest severities practised against Christians by Hideyoshi, the Japanese feudal lord. About this time quakes and fires were constantly assailing the country. Buddhist and Shinto priests said that these holocausts were due to the wrath of the Japanese deities against the new religion which had gained so many converts. Hideyoshi at first refused to listen to these superstitious suggestions, but unrequited love led him to massacre many Christians and missionaries in Japan. He was attracted by a beautiful Christian woman who spurned his advances, and suggestions that she should be added to his already numerous household of wives. Enraged he stabbed her to death and ordered the crucifixion of 26 "invaders" —missionaries and converts. The crucifixion took place on Tateyama Hill, near Nagasaki.

THE SHIMABARA MASSACRE.

One of the worst massacres of Christians took place at Shimabara on January 15, 1628, and was followed by the promulgation of the famous Seclusion Law against Western "barbarians."

The "Jesuit Press" describes the massacre graphically thus:

"Torches were burning at the scene of execution and effensive odours assailed the nostrils of the bystanders, odours from the chimney of the crematory. Women in white were dangling from pillars by their hair. Flames were gradually wrapping around them.

ENGLAND'S AID.

Two Japanese professors have left for England in connexion with the generous offer of the Earl of Balfour and other eminent British scholars to do their utmost to replace the losses. In the Earl of Balfour's words, England will do for Japan what she did for the library of Louvain.

MISSIONARIES who were motoring recently through Tondo, a district of Manila, in which there are many small Filipino and Chinese shops, were surprised to see the word "dammit" on several signboards. One of the women of the party expressed astonishment that the Filipinos had adopted English profanity to such an extent as to use it in their signs. It was then explained that "dammit" meant clothing in the Tagalog dialect!

UPPER YANGTZE STEAMER ON THE ROCKS

Ichang, Mar. 24.

The Yangtze Rapids Navigation Company's str. Chiping, whose agents here are Messrs. Gillespie & Sons, on her maiden trip to Chungking struck the rocks at the Kungling Rapid at 8.15 on the morning of March 21. There is about eight feet of water in her forcholds and the cargo is seriously damaged. Salvage gear was despatched this morning. The steamer is reported not to be in any immediate danger.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SOOCHOW UNIVERSITY

Annual Memorial Service

The Rev. D. L. Anderson, D.D., first President of Soochow University, died on March 16, 1911. Every year following, a memorial service was held on that day until 1921, when it was decided to broaden the scope of the annual memorial service so as to include consideration of the work done by others who had contributed to the founding and development of the institution.

Since March 16 fell on Sunday this year, the annual ceremony was held on Monday morning, March 17 at nine o'clock. The whole student body of the college and middle school No. 1 attended in uniform, the service being held in the University chapel. The principal speaker of the day was Mr. L. G. Lea, a graduate of Buffington Institute, one of the three institutions out of which Soochow University has developed. Mr. Lea was intimately associated with Dr. Anderson in the Anglo-Chinese School at Kunghong, Soochow, and was for 18 years Proctor of the University. Mr. Lea gave an intenesly interesting review of the development of educational work in the Southern Methodist Mission, calling attention especially to the share in the founding and development of this institution by the Rev. J. W. Lambuth, D.D., the Rev. Young J. Allen, D.D., the Rev. A. P. Parker, D.D., the Rev. D. L. Anderson, D.D., and the Rev. T. Z. Tsao.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

In the afternoon a convocation of the College of Arts and Sciences was held in the University chapel for the recognition of good scholarship during the autumn term. Professor Z. M. Pan gave an interesting address in which he impressed upon the college students the great need for sound scholarship as a preparation for the intellectual leadership of the country.

The Registrar, Professor J. W. Dyson read the honour rolls. Seven students had won places on the second class honour roll, which requires all grades to be above 80 per cent. Thirty-four had won places on the third class honour roll by attaining a weighted average of 80 per cent. Three others were given honourable mention as having a general average of 80 per cent.

A very impressive item on the programme of this convocation was the signing of the college pledge by the new students who had entered at the beginning of the spring term.

THE SCIENCE HALL.

The new science hall is rapidly nearing completion. The cement stucco finish is all on and the scaffolding has been removed. A visitor, intimately acquainted with academic buildings throughout the country, has recently declared it the most beautiful and best planned of all the science halls recently erected in this country.

FIRE ON MANILA ESCOLTA

Manila, Mar. 23.

A fire broke out last night on the Escolta, the principal business thoroughfare, and enveloped the whole square. The loss is estimated at between P.500,000 and P.1,000,000. The fire raged for three hours. Its origin has not yet been determined. Traffic in a portion of the business section was paralysed.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SCHOOLBOY'S BARBAROUS TREATMENT

Falsely Accused of Abduction: Rescued from Prison by Chinese Christian

From a Correspondent.

Chowkiakow, Ho., Mar. 8.

During the winter recess one of the little missionary schoolboys in Chowkiakow was suddenly arrested and taken off to the county prison at Shanghai six miles from here.

A rumour of the strange arrest came to the ears of a Chinese evangelist who has charge of the church in that town. He went and asked to see the boy, who burst into tears, but could not explain the cause of his trouble. The Chinese stood surety for the boy and was permitted to take him to the Mission House and then made inquiries into the case.

It appears that the wife of a soldier had hired herself out as a nurse in the absence of her husband. In the course of her duties she had nursed the scholar's little baby brother for about a month during the mother's illness.

From there she had gone to help on a boat. After that she disappeared. Her own brother, who is supposed to have sold her, accused the boy in order to throw the blame elsewhere. The evangelist informed the official of this, and called his attention to the extreme youth of the accused.

The rogue had evidently got the name of the boy without having any idea of his age, and the warrant for arrest had been issued on the presumption that the child was an adult, for when the official was informed, he dealt with the case at once. When the accuser saw the accused he admitted that he did not know the boy.

A fine of $100 and brief detention in prison for the false accuser was the decision of the Court, but no compensation for the nine-year-old innocent. Even then the court minions wanted to get money from the boy. Had the Chinese Christian not been on hand they would have taken some of his garments, seeing the boy had no money to give them.

THE JAPANESE SUNKEN SUBMARINE

Little Hope of Rescue of Imprisoned Sailors

Tokio, Mar. 20.

The latest reports from Sasebo hold out little hope of effecting the rescue of the sailors imprisoned in the submarine. Telephone communications have been interrupted. The divers report that there is now no evidence of life.

Mar. 21.

Though salvage work is being continued it is believed that the imprisoned crew of Submarine 43 are dead. No response to communications has been obtainable since Wednesday evening.

Attempts to raise the stern of the submarine have failed and it is now proposed to tow the vessel to more shallow waters.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

"HURRAH FOR THE EMPEROR."

The Naval Department to-day issued the following *communiqué*:—Up to the sunset of March 19, telephonic communication was possible between the rescuers and the electric-motor compartment in the stern of the sunken Submarine 43, and at 7.35 p.m. that day, "Hurrah for his Majesty, the Emperor of Japan," were heard by telephone, but since then no answers were made from within. Judging from the above fact, it is likely that about this time, the electric-motor compartment, too, began to be submerged, water thus flooding every compartment. It is inferred that there is not a single survivor in the submarine. The floating operation is rapidly progressing. —Eastern News Agency.

CAPT. W. D. Brymer, well-known on the China coast, who commanded the A.P.C. str. Ahkwong, died at Hankow on Sunday afternoon from pneumonia.

A TEST OF CHINESE LAW COURTS

Lady's Appeal Against Wrongful Imprisonment at Tsingtao: Important Extraterritorial Bearings

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Mar. 22.

The way in which the Chinese judicial authorities here will handle a case over the wrongful detention of a Russian woman which will shortly be filed against the Public Procurator who caused the detention will show conclusively whether the former leased territory has been run on model lines, as promised by the Chinese delegation at the Peace Conference.

This is a case in which the lady will seek compensation for having been lodged in gaol for a fortnight and treated as a common miscreant for an offence committed by another. This was in November-December of last year. The facts of the incident are as follows.

The plaintiff started a boarding house here last year and, when she was obtaining provisions from a local establishment (Chinese), a boarder stood as guarantor. Business being bad, plaintiff was unable to settle her account as promptly as she had wished, with the result that the proprietor of the store sought the assistance of the Court, had the boarder's room sealed and his property attached, he having in the interval left Tsingtao on a short trip. When the Court officials accompanied by the police came to the boarding house, plaintiff was not in but her daughter was. The young lady was told to open all the rooms in the house for the Court officials' inspection. There would seem to have been some heated exchange of words over the young lady's refusal to do anything in the absence of her mother, which eventually led to a scuffle between her and the Court officials. Eventually the latter left, but in the evening returned and took both the mother and the daughter into custody. The charge preferred against them was that of assaulting Court officials in the discharge of their duty, and this despite the fact that the mother, being absent, had done nothing of the kind. Both mother and daughter were consigned to a filthy cell and given food such as a common coolie is accustomed to having. In due course, friends came to their assistance, one of whom, let it be said, was a Chinese.

In his final decision, a fortnight after the detention of the two, the presiding Judge imposed a sentence of a month's imprisonment upon the daughter, the case against the mother being dismissed, and, in the written decision, no mention at all was made of the mother, an admission that the lady had been wrongfully detained.

Sympathetic friends have now come to her assistance and with the aid of an attorney, a test case will be filed in a few days to ascertain whether the judicial authorities here are capable of putting aside the question of "face," and settling a grave case impartially, thus earning for themselves an honourable reputation.

It might be mentioned in passing that unpleasant pressure was brought to bear upon the Chinese gentleman referred to for his taking an interest in the case.

WHAT'S IN A NAME.

Foreigners here are occasionally given a chance to ponder over the efficiency of Chinese judges. A case heard not so long ago had a very amusing sequel. A young lady by the Christian name of Elizabeth, who had been previously charged with assaulting a policeman, was at a later date charged with having assaulted some-one else. When the second case came up for hearing, her name was set down in Chinese as "Li-tsu" (the nearest approach to "Lizzie"), in the previous charge sheet her name having been set down as Li-tsu-be-tsu." The presiding judge questioned the defendant for about half an hour as to her name. Defendant stated that her Christian name was Elizabeth.

"That cannot be" replied the Judge. "In the former case against you which I tried, the official register gave your name as Li-tsu. Evidently this present case is against a defendant named 'Li-tsu-be-tsu.' I cannot try this case with you as defendant." And his Honour dismissed the case forthwith, to the discomfiture of the complainant.

C. E. RLWY. WORKERS' UNIONS

Friendly Soviet Protest Against Their Closure by Chinese

From Our Own Correspondent.

Harbin, Mar. 14.

M. Kubak, a member of the Dalrevkom (Far Eastern Revolutionary Commitee) the governing body of the Russian Far East, has arrived at Harbin from Vladivostok. He is staying here for a few days, to make himself acquainted with conditions in the railway area. A banquet has been given in his honour by the Administrator, Gen. Chu, which was attended by all the leading Chinese officials. The two questions which are interesting M. Kubak most are the closing of the Railway Workers' Unions along the railway line and the repatriation of Russian refugees in the railway area to their homes in Russia.

Gen. Chu informed the Soviet representative that the reason of the closing of these branches of the Workers' Unions was due to their engaging in politics. He was asked by M. Kubak to reconsider his decision, providing Russian members of these organizations undertook to leave politics severely alone.

As regards the repatriation of Russians, there is no hindrance on the part of the Chinese, but M. Kubak pointed out that it was necessary that the Soviet authorities have some special organization to co-operate with the Chinese authorities. M. Kubak informed Gen. Chu that such an organization would shortly be formed and no doubt would be quite satisfactory to all parties concerned. The reception given by the Chinese authorities to the Soviet representative has been most friendly.

MINE DISASTER AT TONGSHAN

53 Miners Entombed with Small Chance of Extrication

Tientsin, March 26.

A sudden inflow of clay and sand in a number of galleries of one of the Tongshan coal mines entombed 53 miners. Digging continued all last night but fresh falls of earth occurred as fast as the obstructions were removed. A message from Tongshan this evening states that there is no hope for the entombed men.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

DONATIONS TO THE TOKIO UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

London, Mar. 24.

The British committee organizing the movement to help to replace the English books in the Japanese Imperial University lost through the earthquake writes to the press stating that British publishers have already made a very generous response and inviting cash donations in order to provide other valuable books.—Reuter.

NEW INDO-CHINA STR. FOR NORTH CHINA

Hongkong, Mar. 26.

The steamer, Lienshing, built to the order of the Indo-China S. N. Co., Ltd., by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., for service between Shanghai and Tientsin, was launched this morning. —Reuter's Pacific Service.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN CHINA

Claim Against Marconi Company for Commission on Government Contracts

London, Mar. 26.

In the King's Bench Division to-day, in the action of Mr. James A. Malcolm against Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ld., for commission in connexion with proposed wireless telegraph supplies to China, Mr. Justice Acton decided that defendants had succeeded with costs, contingent upon payment to the plaintiff of commission on £66,000 when received from the Chinese Government.

Mr. Malcolm, with a Mr. Birchal, now deceased, obtained the sole agency for China from Marconi's, who undertook to pay five per cent. commission on all business done by themselves with the Chinese Government.

Mr. Malcolm claimed commission on three contracts, or alternatively claimed damage on the ground that the third contract between defendants and the Chinese Government was a breach of the contract giving him the sole agency for China.

Marconi's admitted that commission was payable under the first contract, denied that it was payable under the two later contracts, and alleged that the breach of agreement, if any, had been waived by plaintiff.—Reuter.

THE DEATH OF MR. GILLARD

Peking's Need of a Hospital for Infectious Diseases: A Distressing Case

Peking, Mar. 23.

In connexion with the sad death of Mr. Gillard the Medical Officer of Health for the Legation Quarter states that there are no signs of any epidemic of smallpox among the Chinese in Peking. In fact, cases of smallpox among children have been fewer than usual this season. Mr. Gillard resided at Mentoukou and his wife and nurse as contacts are being quarantined at Mentoukou and not in the French Hospital as originally intended.

This distressing case revives a pressing need in our midst, namely, that there is no infectious disease hospital in Peking to which a foreigner can be taken, either inside or out of the Legation Quarter. It is true that there is a Chinese Infectious Diseases Hospital, but it has no accommodation for foreigners. Thus if a foreigner contracts an infectious disease arrangements have to be made for treatment at home, with the attendant risk to other members of the household. It is doubtful whether any other foreign community in the world is in such a helpless condition as the residents of Peking in this respect. How long they will remain apathetic over the matter is a question for their own consideration. The matter has been discussed over and over again, without definite result. Some years ago the Rockefeller foundation offered, if the Central Hospital could raise a certain sum, that such would be supplemented by the China Medical Board. The Central Hospital found the undertaking impossible.

Two years ago the question of an emergency isolation building was discussed by the authorities of the Diplomatic Quarter. It was proposed to erect a small isolation building of four wards, on the old German Glacis at a cost of $10,000, which were available for an approved purpose inside the Legation Quarter. The project was turned down by the adverse vote of one Minister, who contended that it was too close to the Legations. Later on this Minister stated that he would withdraw his objection if the scheme were approved by the Legation Medical Officers. The question was duly referred to them and the Medical Officer of the objecting Minister showed fatal opposition. Since then nothing has been done in the matter, and the Legation authorities are not inclined to hold the $10,000 indefinitely while improvements in the Legation Quarter are almost imperative.

It appears that the Legation doctor who opposed the isolation building attended Mr. Gilliard and proposed to send the two contacts to the French Hospital for observation, but the request was refused. The French Hospital is technically outside the Legation quarter, but it is much nearer to the Legations than the German glacis, which was opposed as the site of the Isolation building on the ground of dangerous propinquity to the Legation residence.

AN URGENT NECESSITY.

Since the foregoing was written it is reported that a member of one of the Legation staffs has contracted scarlet fever, while a foreign lady, a patient in the Peking Union Medical College, has developed smallpox. The lady will have to be taken back to her home, while there is no hospital to receive the other case. These deplorable facts should bring home to the opposing Legation the necessity for the isolation building, and to all foreign residents the need for an infectious diseases hospital in Peking. If general subscriptions were called for and the proceeds of future amateur productions devoted to a fund for the erection and maintenance of a hospital such as is required, it would not take many years to secure the $100,000 which is quoted as the minimum necessary. Every physician in Peking will endorse the necessity for such an institution, and nearly every doctor would sign a petition for the isolation building on the glacis to be constructed as soon as possible as a temporary measure.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

SOOCHOW'S ELECTRICITY ENTERPRISE

A New Company to Buy Out the Old: Fear of a Monopoly

From Our Own Correspondent.

Soochow Mar. 26.

We are getting better service since the old and new electric lighting plants combined about a month ago. The old company started operations about 15 years ago and in 1919-20, during the Japanese boycott, it was alleged that the company was partly owned by Japanese. The company lost some 90 per cent. of the private lighting and had it not been for the street lighting it could not, financially, have kept its head above water. The service became so poor that in many parts of the city the supposed 220 volts dropped to scarcely 40 volts Scores of small private lighting plants started up all over the city—small kerosene, fuel oil and producer gas engines sent up a great volume of "pop, pop, poppings," as soon as the sun went down!

Several leading men in our Chamber of Commerce organized a new electric lighting company. They bought one of the two old copper cent mints which 20 years ago were proving to be a gold mine, as well as a mint, for our Kiangsu Provincial Treasurer here in Soochow. The high chimney, engine house, furnaces and some of the old boilers of this old mint outside the Hsü Mên were used by the new company. In 1922 the new company obtained the street lighting franchise, but at the same time the old company regained much of its lost private lighting, in part by improving its service, but chiefly by lowering its rate from 20 cents per unit to 16 cents. Since the new company has taken over the old plant the rate goes back to 20 cents and now with a monopoly we may perhaps expect in the future to see the rate raised to 22 cents, the old company's rate in 1918.

It is reported that the old plant in the Chang Mên suburb is to be dismantled and the machinery moved to the new plant in the Hsü Mên suburb. It is also reported that in the future we are to have a day current, but at present the demand for power does not justify a day current. It was rumoured some time ago that a plan was on foot to build a large power station on the Grand Canal and the railway, half way between Wusih and Changchow.

MARRIAGE OF GEN. LU YUNG-HSIANG

Director-General of Chekiang Wedded to Shantung Official's Daughter

More than 10,000 of his friends visited the yamên of Gen. Lu Yung-hsiang, Director-General for the Reorganization of Military Affairs in Chêkiang, on Wednesday morning, to offer to him their congratulations upon the occasion of his marriage to Miss Waung, the daughter of a Taoyin (Prefectural Officer) in Shantung. A sprinkling of foreigners were seen amidst the dense crowd of Chinese officials and merchants present.

Although very simple, the ceremony was a most impressive one.

The bride, who had left the Shanghai North Station by a special train at 10 o'clock on Tuesday night, passed the night at Kashing, guards of honour and military bands meeting the party at each station. The train arrived in Hangchow promptly at 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning, as it was the Tupan's order that it should reach Hangchow station very punctually. Accompanied by her parents and relatives, the bride was met by four officials and two lady relatives of Gen. Lu. Immediately the train approached the station, Gen. Lu's military band struck up, and a band of young boys in gorgeous attire began to play on their Chinese musical instruments.

Steppping into Gen. Lu's private sedan chair, which was prettily decorated with red and green silk, the bride was carried to the yamên, preceded and followed by a score of cavalry officers and the band. At the yamên gates, over which hung the Chinese national flag and a Chinese army banner, a dozen officers and a score of servants stood, ready to welcome the guests. A little further inside were about 50 local officials, acting as ushers. Over their heads flew a double row of bunting.

Gen. Lu's private office was transformed into the hall of ceremony and within were as many people as could find standing room. Two large gold figures, representing long life and happiness, stood on the shelf.

The firing of crackers and a buzz of excitement announced the arrival of the bride, and four ladies immediately waited at the door to receive her as she stepped out of the sedan chair. Escorted into the hall, the bride was placed in a standing position facing the two golden figures. A few seconds later, the Tupan was standing by her right side. And then the ceremony commenced.

Mats were laid on the floor and the pair knelt upon them four times, offering kow-tows to each other. Arising, they bowed twice to each other and then thrice to those inside the room. The pair then entered another room where they were met by a number of relatives. Here wine was drunk and the relatives of both sides were introduced.

Gen. Lu was thereafter kept busy for the whole day, going from place to place, bowing thrice to his guests and thanking them for their presence. He stated that he would accept no presents and urged all his friends to contribute their money to charitable institutions.

Dinner was then served and the fête ended.

THE JAPANESE CAPTURED BY BRIGANDS

Peking, Mar. 27.

The Japanese Consul and a delegate from Peking have met General Tan Hsi-mou at Hokiang near the Szechuan-Kweichow border and discussed the question of liberating the two Japanese officers, captured from the Yiyang Maru. As a result of the conversations, it seems likely that the release of the captives will soon be effected.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Mr. John R. Putnam, U. S. Consul, who officiated at Foochow during the absence of Mr. E. B. Price, is in Shanghai *en route* for Chefoo. There he will succeed Mr. Stuart K. Lupton, who is going to Sofia.

THE BATTLE OF THE RED WALL

A Stirring Episode in Chinese History

By Our Wuchang Correspondent.

One of the most famous episodes of Chinese history is the Battle of the Red Wall, which was fought somewhere in the present Province of Hupeh in the year A.D. 207. In this battle Ts'ao Ts'ao, the usurper of the Kingdom of Wei, north of the Yangtze, was defeated, and his fleet burned by Chou Yu, the general of Seng Ch'uan of the southern Kingdom of Wu, whose capital was the present city of Nanking.

The army of Seng Ch'uan is said to have numbered 830,000 men. His camp was on the north bank of the Yangtze, and his ships were collected in a mass upon the river and fastened together with chains. Some say that he did this because of the sea-sickness of his soldiers, who were not used to living on boats, others that he intended to make a bridge of his boats over which he could transport his army.

On the eve of battle Ts'ao Ts'ao held high feast with his captains. His tables were spread outside his tent in the open, and standing upon a high hill he could command a wide view in the brilliant moonlight. At his feet, the river flowed like a broad ribbon. Eastward, he could descry Tsai Sang on the southern bank, where Chou Yu had his headquarters. Westward, he looked to Hsia K'eo (the present Hankow). In front of him to the south was Linn Ping Shan. Northward, he looked on Wu Linn (Black Crow Forest)—a name of evil omen for the succeeding day.

AN ILL-OMENED DEED.

The feast was high, and as the wine went round Ts'ao Ts'ao spoke in vaunting words to his captains. He had made himself master of all the land north of the river. The morrow would make him master of the south. Even as he spoke, the Black Raven the Ho Lao Ya, bird of evil omen, flew over his head. Other faces grew pale; but Ts'ao Ts'ao recked naught of omens. In drunken glee, he seized a lance, and brandishing it in the air he chanted a song in boastful words. One of the captains, Liu Fu, was bold enough to remonstrate with his general for his foolish pride. In drunken fury, the spear was hurled, and Liu Fu was slain—a deed repented of and requited on the morrow.

Meanwhile Chou Yu, the general of Seng Ch'uan, remained inactive in his tent. His plan, inspired by the wily Chu Ko-liang, was to send fire to burn the boats of the enemy. Ts'ao Ts'ao himself had been warned of this danger; but the prevailing winds at that time of year were from the north and west, and for Chou Yu's purpose a southeast wind was needed. Ts'ao Ts'ao was confident that no southeast wind was possible. Day by day the wind kept steadily in the northeast, and Chou Yu was in despair.

But Chu Ko-liang, or K'ung Ming, as he is more commonly called, was quite equal to tackling the wind. On Lan Ping Shan a big altar was erected by his orders. It was made in three stories. The lowest storey was decorated with the 28 zodiacal signs. The second bore the 64 variations of the Pa-Kwa, the mystical diagrams used in divining. On the highest storey were posted four sentries, who watched day and night for the wind. Three times daily, K'ung Ming ascended the altar, to burn incense and to study the aspect of the heavens.

THE SOUTHEAST WIND AT LAST.

On a day and hour which K'ung Ming had already promised to Chou Yu, the southeast wind arose and blew steadily. All preparations had been made beforehand. Six divisions of soldiers, each consisting of 3,000 men, had been sent to different points on the north bank of the river to intercept the flight of Ts'ao Ts'ao's army. Chou Yu's navy advanced upon the river in four divisions, each formed by 300 boats pushing 25 fireships before them.

The ships of Ts'ao Ts'ao, massed together and united by chains, were unable to escape from the burning galleons of flame which bore down upon them. His land-forces, completely surprised, were seized with panic and fled northwards through the Black Crow Forest, only to fall victims to the ambushed warriors who lay in wait for them. Ts'ao Ts'ao made his escape with a small band of 300 followers in the direction of Lan Chuen.

Of two roads, the defeated general chose the nearer but rougher track which led by Hwu Yung to the city of Lan Chuen. All through the night they rode, with the beacon-fires of the enemy burning on the hills on every side of them. Heavy rain fell, and his men and horses were faint with hunger. Staggering through the mud, many fell, and were left by the roadside. Even here, K'ung Ming's marvellous foresight was able to forestall his foe. Unable to struggle on any longer, Ts'ao Ts'ao with his small band was forced to bivouac by the side of the road, and wait for the morning. They were overtaken by a small troop of horsemen under Yuin Ch'ang, specially sent for the purpose of pursuing and making them prisoners. It was only by the clemency of Yuin Ch'ang that the general himself was allowed to escape—clemency for which his benefactor afterwards paid dearly. Ts'ao Ts'ao reached Lan Chuen accompanied by 27 men, the remnant of his great army of 830,000.

OLD LANDMARKS RECOVERED.

There is always an interest in trying to find out the past scenes of historic events in places known to the present. In a land like China, where records have always been kept with some care, and where historic monuments abound this is often not difficult. In the present case, certain identifications are not difficult: Hsia K'eo is Hankow; Tsai Sang is Kiukiang; Hwa Yung is Chienlih; and Lan Chuen is Chiangling, or Chingchowfu. But where is the Red Wall?

According to the story, Ch'ih Pei (the Red Wall) ought to be somewhere between Kiuniang and Chingchowfu, and on the southern bank of the Yangtze, with Wulinn opposite upon the northern bank. There are five counties in Hupeh which claim the distinction of having been the spot where Ts'ao Ts'ao met with his great defeat at the hands of Chou Yu. They are, Huangchow, Chianghsia (Wuchang), Hanyang, Chiayu and Hanchuan.

Of these, two may be ruled out at once, for Hanchuan is not near the Yangtze at all, and Hanyang is on the northern bank. Hanchuan makes its claim on the ground that there is a small market-village, quite near the western border of the county and some 120 li from the hsien city, named Ch'ih Pei Kiai (Red Wall Street.) In Hanyang-hsien there is a hill called Ling Chang Shan, of which the southern peak is called Wu Linn, and is also said to have once borne the name of Ch'ih Pei Shan. But Ch'ih Pei and Wu Linn are obviously different places in the story, so that this does not seem to help matters.

Huangchow also boasts a Ch'ih Pei Shan; but unfortunately this is the "pei" of "nose", and not the "pei" of "wall," or "cliff." There remain Wuchang and Chiayu. Now on the southern bank of the Yangtze, in Chia Yu Hsien, there is a "Ch'ih Pei Shan", and opposite to it on the northern bank is a "Wu Linn". The road from this place to Chingchow-fu naturally leads through Chien Lih. This is in all probability the spot were Ts'ao Ts'ao met with his defeat.

INCREASED TELEPHONE RATES IN JAPAN

Tokio, Mar. 20.

In order to provide the necessary funds for the rehabilitation of telephone communications throughout the devastated areas, the ordinary call charges will be increased by 50 per cent. from next month, while the price paid for the installation of an instrument will be raised from Y.500 to Y.900.

In future each user of the telephone will have to pay three sen for his call instead of two.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

TSINGTAO'S TRADE STATISTICS

Increasing Tonnage of British Steamers Using the Port:

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, Mar. 24.

The noteworthy feature in the 10 days reports of the Kiaochou Customs Returns is the gradual increase in British tonnage entering into and clearing from the port of Tsingtao. It is now always second to the Japanese and is from time to time not far behind, although in number British vessels are behind ships flying the Chinese flag. The latter are, however, coasters for the most part and many do not exceed even 100 tons net. American tonnage is usually third and is an important factor in the export of produce to the United States.

The number of foreign ships trading with Tsingtao is ever on the increase and for this reason it is regrettable that loading and unloading facilities are so meagre. Shipping companies have been clamouring for an all-round improvement, and the respective Consuls have lodged protests on their behalf, but with the present disorganized state of the Administration, it is doubted whether steps will be taken at an early date to remedy the present conditions. To illustrate the slackness in the Harbour Administration, its 10-day reports are always a month behind your correspondent's, and the business community here wonders why this should be so.

During the final 10-day period of February, 39 vessels of an aggregate of 59,801 tons entered and 39 vessels of an aggregate of 63,603 tons cleared from Tsingtao. In arrivals there were, 20 Japanese steamers aggregating 28,310 tons, 5 British steamers of 14,422 tons, one Dutch steamer of 3,924 tons, one Norwegian steamer of 3,544 tons, 9 Chinese steamers of 3,111 tons, one Polish steamer of 1,991 tons and one Danish motor-vessel of 274 tons. In clearances there were 19 Japanese steamers of an aggregate of 29,061 tons, 5 British steamers of 14,422 tons, one American steamer of 4,225 tons, one German steamer of 3,924 tons, 9 Chinese steamers of 3,915 tons, one Norwegian steamer of 1,032 tons, and one Danish motor-vessel of 274 tons.

IMPORTS.

There were imported during the period under review, 25,153 pieces of cotton goods from Japan, 25,184 pieces from Shanghai, 30 pieces from Dairen and 31 pieces from other ports, together with 1,440 spools of cotton thread from Great Britain, and 21 spools from Shanghai, as well as 1,272 catties of silk mixtures from Japan, and 831 catties from Shanghai. Under metals there were imported 107 piculs from Japan, 17 piculs from Great Britain, 2,249 piculs from Hongkong and 8,336 piculs from Shanghai. Under sundries the following items were brought in:—1,612 piculs gunny bags from Hongkong, 26 piculs from Japan; 2,064 gross buttons from Japan and 564 gross from Shanghai; 6,140 piculs raw cotton from Japan; Hk. Tls. 9,360 aniline dyes from Europe, Hk. Tls. 2,798 from Shanghai and Tls. 40 from Japan; Hk. Tls. 8,480 electrical materials from Japan, Tls. 499 from the United States, Tls. 5,888 from Shanghai and Tls. 59 from Dairen; 24,415 piculs of flour from the United States, 368 piculs from Shanghai, 52 piculs from Japan; 200 boxes window glass from Shanghai; Hk. Tls. 5,332 lamps and lampware from Shanghai, Tls. 2,528 from Japan, Tls. 274 from other countries and Tls. 120 from Dairen; 101,000 gallons of Kerosene from America and 10,000 gallons from Shanghai; 20,864 gallons of lubricating oil from America, 4,494 gallons from Shanghai and 280 gallons from Japan; 1,323 piculs paper from Japan, 10 piculs from Great Britain, 1,099 piculs from Shanghai; 1,035 piculs rice from Japan, 3,830 piculs from Hongkong; 750 piculs soda ash from Japan, 8,400 piculs from Great Britain, 255 piculs soda products from Great Britain and 24 piculs from Japan; 3,276 piculs brown sugar from Hongkong; 3,955 piculs white sugar from Hongkong; 1,963 piculs refined sugar from Japan, 2,345 piculs from Hongkong, and 1,153 piculs candy sugar from Hongkong; and 77,334 sup. ft. timber from the United States and 7,344 sup. ft. from Japan.

EXPORTS.

There were exported 12,066 quarters of beef to Japan and 39 quarters to Dairen; 1,200 dozens beer to Dairen and 300 dozens to Shanghai; 2,000 piculs bones to Japan; 11,270 piculs wheat bran to Japan; 3,861 tons of coal to Japan; 5,945 tons to Shanghai and 1,270 tons to other ports as well as 669 tons of coke to Japan; 7,395,000 eggs to Japan; 604 piculs caked groundnuts to Japan, 2,860 piculs to Chinese ports; 5,597 piculs unshelled groundnuts to Japan, 3,225 piculs to America, 1,932 piculs to Great Britain and 8,251 piculs to other countries; 26,296 piculs unshelled to U.S.A., 28,477 piculs to other countries, 4,158 piculs to Chinese ports, 3,136 piculs to Japan, and 960 piculs to Shanghai; 15,352 piculs groundnut oil to U.S.A., 308 piculs to Hongkong, 671 piculs to Dairen, and 999 piculs to other Chinese ports; 33,600 piculs salt to Japan; 741 piculs hides to Japan, 8 piculs to America and 191 piculs to Shanghai; 7,225 piculs tobacco leaf to Shanghai; 1660 piculs tallow to Japan and Hk. Tls. 37,164 clog wood to Japan.

BUILDING BOOM IN TIENTSIN

Modern Edifices Everywhere: Land & Investment Co's. Palatial Quarters

Tientsin News Service.

Tientsin, Mar. 24.

The rapidity with which new buildings are being erected in Tientsin is little short of amazing. One after another they are discovered in various stages of development, some being planted, other proudly emerging behind intricate scaffoldings.

The Tientsin Land Investment Co.'s building in Taku Road, British Concession, is the latest—a four storied edifice with a frontage of 155 feet and depth of 44 feet. Its architecture is English Renaissance and it is built to accommodate five suites of offices and three residential flats. Each office space has a floor space of 2,860 superficial feet, and consists of a central hall, general office, managers' offices, accountants' office, strong room, typists' office, sample room, compradore's offices, messengers and servants' rooms.

Two of the flats have a floor area similar to that of the offices and provide the following accommodation: Lobby, hall, dining, drawing, study, two bed, two bath, pantry, kitchen and two servants' rooms. The third flat is even larger, giving three bed, three bath and four servants' rooms.

The foundation of the building is reinforced concrete, built on piles, and each floor is strengthened by the same material. The walls are of brick faced with cement. The heating, sanitation and lighting will be modern in every respect. It will be the second building in Tientsin to have a lift, a four-passenger Otis elevator. The reinforcing metal is supplied by the J. E. Hayes Engineering Corporation, the Sanitary Installation by the Eastern Engineering Works, Electric Fittings by the General Electric Co. (China) and the lift by the Pacific Trading Co., Inc.

Behind the building area are four large reinforced concrete godowns, two of which have a floor space of 8,000 superficial feet, and two of 9,000. The floors and roof are designed to carry a load of 350 pounds per square foot, and the godowns are generally supplied with fire-proof doors and steel windows.

The entire building will be ready for occupation in July next. The ground floor space has already been taken up, one half by the Investment Co., itself, and the other half by the Deutsche-Asiatische Bank.

What purposes to be an experiment on the part of the Tientsin Land Investment Co. to provide reasonably priced residential accommodation is their new 17 house-terrace now being erected in Wellington Road, in the Extra-Mural Area of the British Concession. They will be rented at Tls. 60 without, and Tls. 75 with, central heating. They will have four large and one small room with the usual subsidiary accommodation as follows: Basement containing servants quarters, which will be effectually insulated by sound proof ceiling and ventilating flues. Ground floor consisting of hall, dining and drawing-rooms, pantry, kitchen and servants' lavatory. First floor containing two bed, one bath and one dressing room, with small porches, one in front and one at the back of the house. Each house will have a small garden in front and a small servants' yard at the back.

They will be ready for occupation at the end of October next.

TRADE UNIONISM IN JAPAN

Government Arsenal Workers' Federation Shortly to Be Established

Tokio, Mar. 20.

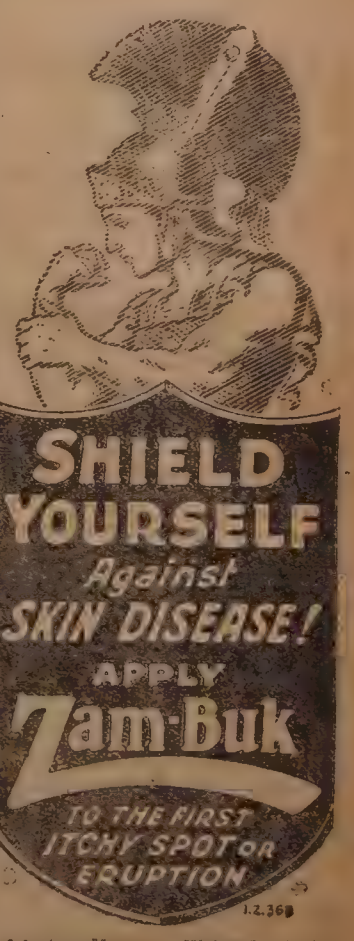
Workers in the Government Arsenals have decided to form their own federation, according to a resolution approved by the executive committee which met recently in Osaka.

More than 50,000 workers are expected to enrol themselves as members of the federation, which will thus become the largest labour organization in Japan.

The inaugural meeting of the new federation will be held in Tokio on May 1. The name of Keisaburo Moriyama, a retired Vice-Admiral, is being mentioned in connexion with the presidency of the union.

A similar union that will also be inaugurated on May Day is that decided on by the employees of the various electric railway companies operating within and in the neighbourhood of the city of Osaka.—Reuter's Pacific Service.

PEKING, Mar. 21.—A mandate issued last night relieved Gen. Chang Fu-lai, Tuli of Honan, of the command of the 24th Division. The President has rejected the resignation of Mr. Chiang Tien-tah, Director of the Waterways Bureau and Vice-Chairman of the Yangtze Survey Commission. Mr. Wu Chen-nan, Counsellor of the Ministry of the Navy, has been appointed Chairman of the Constitution Committee of that Ministry.—Reuter's Pacific Service.



Agents: Messrs. Wakefield & Co. (China), Ltd., S. Y. Sheng Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

SIX PLANKS ACROSS THE LAMAISTIC STYX

The Strange Philosophy of Eastern Tibet

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tachienlu, Sze., Feb. 5.

In lamaistic parlance there are six planks across the stream of time to the shore of rest—Nirvana. Some of these planks are rather precarious; some are fairly solid, and some are absolutely safe. These planks are also known as the "six" means by which the patient devotee crosses this sometimes peaceful, sometimes turbulent stream. Old Mortality, on a plank all his own—safer perhaps and surer than the others—crosses this not too certain current.

We shall get a very clear conception of popular lamaism if we bear firmly in mind the insurgent motive in the life of every lama. Stated very simply it is this: the lama is "here" and his one ambition is to get "there" and between "here" and "there" flows a stream and across this stream lies the realization of all his hopes and fears. "Here" in the lama's mind is a very bad, wicked, sinful place; "there" is unalloyed, rest, peace and satisfaction. In the every-day life of every lama there is every inducement to prolong his stay in this wicked, sinful place. In the study of lamaism—as in the study of any religion—we must bear in mind its two phases, the popular and the ascetic. We saw him dying when he prayed and praying when he died, is only a particular application of lamaism.

The ascetic phase is confined to the very, very few; the popular side has many devotees. While "here" in this wicked place, the lama's mind, like that of the follower of any other religion takes only very furtive glances "there." As we see it daily practised here in eastern Tibet, however, lamaism is both wealthy and religious and as a system, is quite prepared to make the best of both worlds. How the idea or desire, so often characterized by painful and protracted application originated, philosophical lamaism, as far as we know, is silent. The lama, born into this mundane world, finds himself at a very early age obsessed by a peculiar desire to seek a better country somewhere across the stream of time and having, as he imagines, things which this world cannot give nor take away.

AN ACCOMMODATING PHILOSOPHY.

The first plank or "means" across this stream is common to all religions—in fact is common to all mankind—namely, the "doing of good deeds." "You help me," says the Tibetan lama to the Tibetan layman, "And I'll help myself." The simple dictum "It is more blessed to give than to receive" is wretchedly abused by these desperate lamas. They have brought up to a very fine science the philosophy of the "Twice blest gift" and apparently the principle works, as the giver and receiver both seem to be blest and happy. In a land like Tibet the system of doing good deeds is absolutely necessary. Thousands of lamas gathered in large lamaseries won't work but are not ashamed to beg, and this begging bears the gentle name of "blessing."

How, why and when did this system begin? Is it possible it began in this way? Centuries ago the lama appeared and his appearance necessitated the art of living and to live without doing a very great amount of work, he was suddenly and fortunately struck by the following ingenious system, namely—"if I can only get someone to work and supply [illegible] butter, tea, tsamba, and clothes, I don't mind praying and praying very hard, if by that means we can both get across the stream of time, to the land of [illegible]-Nirvana." They say that all great religions have very simple beginnings and it is quite [illegible] of lamaism.

[illegible] are no less than 20,000 lamas in [illegible] Tibet. Suppose every one of them is bent on crossing from this wicked world to that better land, what unbounded opportunities the lay population have for doing good deeds and getting across too. For sheer accommodation this lamaistic invention of the "twice blest gift" is unsurpassed. There is considerable elasticity in the means available for getting across the first plank and the good deeds fall under three heads. First, the bestowing of goods. Our experience forces us to the conclusion that the wealthy lamas and opulent lamaseries in Eastern Tibet suffer much inconvenience in this way! To make the crossing sure the layman invests the lamasery with all his worldly goods and the lama encourages him to do so. The Tachieh. Litang and Kanze lamaseries have 9,000 names on the lama roll and into these lamaistic receptacles flows the great wealth of Eastern Tibet. The layman considers it, however, money very well spent as the blessing it brings is more than money can buy. Doing good deeds is the simplest and most convenient means used by the Tibetan in gaining the land of rest.

CASTING OUT DEVILS.

Second, the affording of protection. The Tibetan is surrounded at all times and in all places by eight peculiar dangers; a little kindly gift and the omnipotent lama will immediately deliver the terrified layman. Real or otherwise these eight "fears of life" have a tremendous influence over every Tibetan. They are, however, quite peculiar to the layman

A TIBETAN HOSTESS

and the power to expel them is in some inexplicable way peculiar to the lama.

Third, the giving of moral instruction. How much is moral and how much is instruction depends very largely on who gives it and who receives it. The lamas we have met throughout Eastern Tibet are quite prepared to give *ad infinitum* all the moral instruction the people are able to pay for. The moral reader is known by the name of Amcho and the Tibetans wisely take the precaution to remove their valuables before he comes to read his moral instructions. Most of the Amchos here recite their readings from memory, in this way they are able to use their eyes very profitably while giving moral instruction.

MORAL GIFTS TO MANKIND.

The second plank across the stream of time to the land of rest—Nirvana—is the careful observance of the moral law. In Tibetan this is known as the Gan Jur and contains no less than 100 volumes and the second is like unto it, known as the Dan Jur. The first is the original and the second is the explanation thereof. [illegible] all [illegible] are spending their lives trying to observe this multitudinous, voluminous, religious treatise. [illegible] is nearly impossible. While people in other parts of the world are amassing fortunes, building empires, and enjoying life, the lonely lama in his solitary cell somewhere on the Roof of the World is daily turning his prayer wheel, reading his sacred book, counting his precious beads, and bending his mind patiently on a land where such things are unnecessary and unknown. Fortunately the contents of these 100 volumes are very little known otherwise the Forbidden Land would become one gigantic asylum filled with men spending their days and nights vainly working

A PORTRAIT OF AN AMCHO

out their own salvation. The method followed is that adopted by other religions, namely, a careful selection of parts likely to be of material benefit to the general public. The lamas during different periods of history have made these selections and it would seem that they cover almost everything but prayers for those "in peril on the deep."

In Tachienlu there is a lama procession every year and the carrying of these sacred books forms part of it. Over 150 Tibetans carry these ponderous volumes on their backs, and it takes 40 yak to move them from one place to another. If the poor burdened lama had only these 40 yak loads of sacred books to contend with, his lot might not be so difficult after all, but when you add to these 40 yak loads the "Traditions of men," the poor lama groans beneath an unbearable burden. It is now difficult to know where lamaism begins and ends; what is sacred, what is tradition and what is otherwise.

THE PATIENCE PLANK.

The third plank across the stream of time is "The exercise of patience." Job is not a solitary sufferer in the afflictions of life. In the land of the lamas many a lonely lama suffers untold hardship and pain in the pursuit of his ideal. The patient exploration of the four truths or four realities demands the exercise of unbounded patience. The four realities are, pain, the origin of pain, the annihilation of pain, and the way of annihilating it. The pain of obsession—deliver me from this—is his daily cry. As he sits in his lonely cell, mumbling the words from the sacred page, the thought must oftimes come into his mind—why pain? And the lama's only answer to this question is—Nirvana—the absolute cessation of all motion and excitement, both of body and mind which is necessarily connected with personal existance; absolute rest, which by the lamas is thought to be the highest degree of happiness, imagined by some as perfect annihilation of existence, by others, more or less, only as a cessation of all that is unpleasant in human existence.

To the lama, existence is pain: life with all its joy and buoyancy is pain; denying the heart and mind their simple pleasures is pain. There is only one sweet and holy thing in life and that is hope and hope is absolute rest, found only across the stream of time. It is most unfortunate that lamaism should have cast this awful shadow over this land of eternal mountains and snow. The patient follower of this mystic cult rigorously denies to himself anything and everything that makes glad the heart of man and in doing so fights against Nature's instincts—this is pain indeed and this is lamaism. The patience plank is, therefore, necessary as the lama's heart beats just like the nigger's. Is it conceivable that such a religion could exist in any other country? The land—surrounded on all sides by high eternal snow mountains—the people, dark-robed brooding lamas—the religion, mysterious lamaism.

SALVATION BY INDUSTRY.

The fourth plank across this wretched stream is diligence. If the lama would make his calling and election sure, zeal and diligence are of course necessary. He cuts himself off severely, or is supposed to do so, from the women of Tibet and the women of this Forbidden Land are just as pretty and as handsome as the natives of any other country. Zeal and diligence in his monastic life are his only hope—steady adherence to his books and prayers and meditations, his only saviour. Therefore

A TIBETAN BRIDE

to keep some pretty face from disturbing him and his devotions he seeks refuge in some lonely cell or rockbound cave..

In a recent journey we were impressed by the number of laymen we met who had formerly been lamas. The pretty face, with all its charms, had conquered and the priest became a layman, a husband, and a father—but hope, the bright hope of Nirvana had gone out of his life. Apparently he had not been watchful enough or perhaps the tempest was too fierce for his frail barque.

PROJECTING ONESELF INTO HEAVEN.

Plank five across the stream of time, takes us very high in lamaistic adventure—contemplation. To have reached this distance in his high and holy aspiration, the lama has left behind him a blood-stained trail. There is only one thing between him and the realization of his highest hopes and that is his own contemplation. The other day my Tibetan teacher defined contemplation, as having your body on earth and your mind in heaven. What a tremendous task therefore the aspiring lama has put upon his mind—using it as a mighty lever to move him to the land of peace and rest. It reminds me very much of the manipulation of the huge cumbersome rafts on the Poyang Lake. This unwieldy pile of wood would move in whatever direction the anchor was cast. In the lama's contemplation it is somewhat difficult to discover whether the push or the pull works the harder. Between Dante's Inferno and Milton's Paradise the poor lama has a wretched time. The lama's hell has shades, departments, and tortures *ad infinitum* and his heaven is pictured as an elysium incomparably peaceful and quiet. If therefore contemplation will keep him out of one and get him into the other, he is prepared to work pretty hard and very steadily. What will happen when Labour touches this grinding system is still a matter of conjecture

LAST PLANK OF ALL

The last plank across this imagined stream is great knowledge. There is something peculiarly interesting about the tense of this last plank. The lama by his own exertion has acquired all the available knowledge in the world and having acquired it, he has put himself "there" though his body is still in the flesh "here." By wisdom, knowledge and learning he is beyond deception, above temptation, and past any possibility of falling away. He is indeed the superior man, assured of his inheritance and therefore placidly satisfied. Some books mention 10 planks or "means" by which the stream of time is crossed, we have confined ourselves simply to six and their popular interpretation.

Old Mortality moves slowly across the high Asiatic plateau in search of what are known as Mani mounds: these are piles of stones on which are placed stone slabs with the strange device, "O mani padme hum." Weather tells severely on these stone slabs and sometimes the strange device is hardly discernible. Old Mortality spends his life moving from one Mani pile to another making clear and plain the sacred words "O mani padme hum."

A GROUP OF LAMAS.

SPREADING THE RED GOSPEL

Reorganization of Soviet Rebel Factory

A new move by the Soviet, designed to enable Moscow to speed up the work of revolution and at the same time disclaim official responsibility, was reported in yesterday's "Russia Abroad," which obtained its information from a Moscow newspaper. The report states that in connexion with revolutionary activity in Great Britain and Italy, a new organization, known as M. O. P. R., (International Society for the promotion of revolution) has been formed at Moscow. In addition to strengthening the Soviet's hold at home, the new society will establish communistic centres abroad wherever Soviet Missions have been admitted. The Communistic Internationale will continue to function as general director in all official conferences, while the M. O. P. R. will deal with "practical matters." Thus, all allegations as to violation of treaties can be referred by the Soviet Government to the M. O. P. R., the latter being an organization in which no member of the Russian Government will take official part.

The same newspaper reports that the greatest revolutionary activity is at present being carried on in Germany, Italy, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Jugo-Slavia, Turkey, Esthonia, Latvia, and Spain.

THE AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE

Forthcoming Introduction to Shanghai Public: First in the Eastern District

Shanghai will soon be introduced to the automatic telephone, for the local company is bringing them into active service within a fortnight. No longer will the fluent foreigner utilize his slender command of Chinese to curse the operator over the telephone, when something goes wrong, nor will he find any recourse to 499 necessary, as long he himself takes proper precautions with calling, nor will readers of the correspondence columns of the "North-China Daily News" chuckle to themselves over the real or imagined plight of another.

It is the intention of the Company to bring into harmonious union with the other exchanges of the Settlement, Central, West, and North between 700 and 1,000 automatic phones of the Eastern district which have been in the process of installation for the past months. The management has long realized that the human element is a more vicious problem in Shanghai than elsewhere, that with dozens of different nationalities attempting to use the many languages common to the vicinity and, in addition, the many Chinese dialects, brought by travellers, there is more confusion for the operators than the users of the instrument.

COMMERCE AND EFFICIENCY.

But the plant engineers throughout the world are continually studying progress of the telephone and are cognizant that the manual system, now common, is gradually being displaced in the various metropolises of the world. For the commercial world demands the most efficient service obtainable. So it was resolved to make the first step in the transition, beginning in the Wayside district, where the least number of phones would be affected, and from which the elimination of the manual and the universal adoption of the automatic system will be accomplished.

Although Manila has already this system in complete working order, Shanghai will have the largest automatic arrangement on the Asiatic Continent when all is finished and with the exception of Dairen will have the first on the mainland. Tokio, too, whose telephones were destroyed in the earthquake and fire of last September has determined to replace the old system with the most modern machine possible, while Bombay is following in the same path.

A PERFECT AUTOMATON.

The automatic telephone as now being installed is constructed by Messrs Ericsson & Co., a Swedish firm. It differs from the manual system in that the subscriber possessing one, actually does all the calling himself, by means of a dial on his instrument, having no recourse to central at all. The numbering system differs from the manual in that instead of having a name as East or Central before the number, another digit is set ahead. The rest is simple. He disengages the receiver from the cradle, inserts a finger into a slot numbered and brings it toward him until it will go no further. He then releases it and goes through the same procedure with the entire five digits, permitting in each instance the slotted dial to return to rest before proceeding. He is immediately connected automatically with the party desired, at whose home or office the bell rings.

Several ingenious mechanical (electrical) devices have been attached to the phone, informing one as to the condition of the line, whether busy, broken or ringing. Firstly, if the receiver is lifted and he hears a steady low toned buzz, he will know that the line is in working order; secondly, if he has got his number, long buzzes resembling telegraphic dashes will inform him that the bell at the other end is working, as, — — —, and thirdly, if the number is engaged he will hear short buzzes.

Under the proposed system if the caller has made a mistake in using the dial or desires to change for any reason, he must replace the receiver, otherwise the connexion will not be broken, and he must not hang up the receiver while awaiting a call or the connexion will be broken. In other words, the machine registers continually as long as the receiver is off its cradle. Jangling and shaking the receiver up and down will not bring him the slightest benefit, as a matter of fact, unless he, himself makes a mistake there will not be the slightest need for such procedure, because the automatic does not make mistakes, it is a perfect automaton; nor will one be forced to shout to someone to get off the line, because no one can get on while one is using it.

With the entire complement (Eastern District) in working order, subscribers there will be able to call each other on their own telephone and not call Central at all, but those in the other districts calling each other will not be affected, nor will they be affected when calling the section in question, for their operator will get into communication with the eastern exchange, where the automatic process will be done for them and, *vice versa*. Those in Yangtszepoo will call on their dial subscribers in the Central, Western or Northern districts, but the manual process must be used to complete the connexion. Numbers to 20,000 have been reserved for the Central section, between 20 and 30,000 for the Western, 30 to 40,000 for the Northern and 40 to 50,000 for the Eastern. When Shanghai has outgrown these 50,000, the numbers up to 99,999 can then be adduced with no material changes. A letter such as A. B. C. or D can be used for a prefix when the 100,000 mark has been reached as a letter and five numerals can be more easily remembered than six digits.

HOW IT WILL WORK.

The "North-China Daily News" will publish before the actual transfer a rather more detailed account of the new system, elaborating the finer and more technical points of the system, including the complex machine in the exchange, with its "make," contact points and the circuit breakers, made possible by induction coils, as well as a description of the automatic device for regulating the humidity of the exchange room, which does not allow the percentage of moisture in the air to go above 70.

The Telephone Company is to be complimented on its introduction of the most modern machine to Shanghai.

THE CUSTOMS CLOCK

An Old Servant Takes Leave of the Bund

By Mainspring.

It is not often a clock addresses a newspaper editor, but I, the Customs Clock, feel that the present critical moment in my history warrants a few words to the public.

The occasion is this: They tell me that in two or three weeks' time people called "housebreakers" are coming to pull down the Customs House, in which case it appears extremely likely that I shall have to part company with the Tower, in whose roomy quarters I have lodged comfortably for more than 30 years. What is going to happen to me then I really don't know. There is a strong rumour that the blighters are going to sell me for a paltry sixteen hundred taels or so, but I hope this is'nt true. It would be rather a mean trick, don't you think, after so many years of faithful service?

It is an unhappy thought that I may now be taking my last look down on the Bund, but anyway, there is the consolation of knowing that my removal will be regretted by many friends in Shanghai who have for years looked up to me and admired me for my uprightness, fidelity to duty, and the useful characteristic of saying what I mean in plain language everyone can understand. I have never minced my words, that's one thing, and generally have managed to say the right thing at the right time, which is more than most public servants can do. Moreover, I have always tried to address the public in the cheerful, inspiring manner of my brother Ben, of Westminster, (another well-known public character, by the way). In fact, I may mention that we are all famous, and come of a well known Greenwich family.

As I say, I had hopes that my services would be retained, but I hear another member of the family will be brought out and installed in the new tower, his chief recommendation being, I believe, that he will have a face three feet bigger than mine, and "face" as you know is an important matter in this country.

I have no idea where they are going to send me. Not to "Breezy Ningpo," I trust, or any outlandish outport of that sort. If I must be transferred to another station I would much prefer to be put on one of the posh new buildings in Nanking Road. I should then have the satisfaction of watching how the new-comer does his work, and also get in communication with the other big fellow coming to the Chinese Post Office on the other side of the creek. This one is a fine chap, they tell me, but talks rather too loudly, and very possibly will have his tongue cut out so as not to disturb patients in the General Hospital.

Well, sir, wherever they send me I shall no doubt continue to do my duty as heretofore. I am a young man yet, with a fine constitution and, like some of the young bloods of Shanghai, capable of doing great things when thoroughly wound up. I must confess, however, that at the moment I am feeling a bit run down.

I thought I would just write a word or two, in case it means saying good-bye to Shanghai, though I still have hope of being able to chime in now and again.

MAHJONGG AND MURDER

Mysterious Crime in Haining Rd.

A quiet game of mahjongg being played by four Chinese at a House in Haining Road Thursday night last week was sensationally interrupted by mysterious visitors, and two of the players met their death.

Shortly before 11 o'clock, these armed men knocked at the door of No. 495, a private house, and upon being admitted by a servant, went straight to the room where the game was in progress. Addressing a member of the party, one of the men said: "So you are Mr. Vung," straightway drawing a revolver and firing. Four shots were discharged and all took effect, the unfortunate Mr. Vung expiring almost immediately. One of the company who went to his assistance at the moment of the attack was also fired at, and received a fatal wound.

At present, the motive for the crime is a mystery, and nothing is known about Mr. Vung Tsangpiau except that he is connected with the stage, is a member of the Actors' Association, and arrived in Shanghai from Shaoshing a few days ago. The other man who was killel is a Mr. Li Fujen.

The three assassins bolted from the house immediately after the shots had been fired, and nearly half an hour passed before any alarm was raised or word given to the police. When the room was inspected later, the police found the empty cases of five .32 automatic pistol cartridges, and a spent bullet in the courtyard.

An inquest on the deceased was held at the Mixed Court last Friday, and a verdict of wilful murder was recorded.

EMPRESS LINERS IN SHANGHAI

Advantages of Coming Up River. Canada and Australia to Remain Outside

The experiment of bringing the Empress boats up river, a matter of some anxiety in view of their size, has been attended with complete success and the C.P.R. service to Shanghai instead of to Woosung may now be regarded as established.

For the time being, however, only the Empress of Russia and the Empress of Asia will be brought up to the Shanghai and Hongkew wharf, their length and tonnage being considerably less than those of the Canada and Australia, which will continue to disembark passengers at Woosung. The first two vessels have a length of 590 ft. and gross registered tonnage of 16,850, while the Canada's length is 650 ft. and the Australia's 615 ft. and their tonnage about 22,000, a difference in bulk which makes them more difficult to handle in the river. The other two vessels have been brought up without difficulty, and their berthing at the dock has been very greatly to the convenience of all concerned, three hours alone being saved by elimination of the tender service, to say nothing of the discomfort and delay experienced in rough weather.

Another improvement to the service which travellers will appreciate is that there is now through booking to Manila and, travelling from Shanghai, passengers will be able to remain with the boat during the two days' stop at Hongkong.

WEDDING

Green—Dewar

A very pretty spring wedding was celebrated on Saturday afternoon in Holy Trinity Cathedral, which was effectively decorated with blossoming boughs, when Miss Violet Baxter Dewar, daughter of Captain and Mrs. John Dewar, became the bride of Mr. Albert Edward Green, son of Mr. E. C. Green of Ardmore, Sudbury, England. The Very Rev. Dean Symons performed the ceremony, which was fully choral, with Mr. Young at the organ.

The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. J. G. B Dewar, owing to the illness of her father, was a picturesque figure in white charmeuse, cut with three circular flounces, and embroidered with crystal beads, with a spray of orange blossoms on the right shoulder. A long lace veil, held in place by a wreath of orange blossoms, fell in soft folds, forming a train. The bridal bouquet was of roses, sweet peas and orchids.

The bridesmaids, the Misses Anne and Jean Dewar, sisters of the bride, and Miss Doreen Holgate were dressed alike in mauve georgette with frilled skirts in three shades, and panels of silver lace. They wore hats of black crinoline with flowered rosettes and carried baskets of violets and heliotrope. The bride's mother was gowned in fawn georgette crêpe, with an overskirt of matching lace, and a georgette panel. She wore a brown hat and carried sweet peas.

The bridegroom was attended by Mr. W. R. Davison, as best man, and the ushers were Messrs. T. R. Banister, A. M. Bourne, W. S. Harvie and H. E. Jones.

A reception, attended by a large number of friends of the popular young couple, was held at the house of the bride's parents, 74 Avenue Road, which was artistically decorated with spring flowers. Dr. Ivy proposed the health of the bride. Among the numerous and handsome presents was a silver mounted blackwood tray suitably inscribed, the gift of the No. 1 Ranger Company of Girl Guides, of which the bride is a popular officer.

After receiving the best wishes of their many friends Mr. and Mrs. Green left to spend their honeymoon in Hangchow, the bride wearing a fawn silk knitted costume with ribbon hat to match.

SATURDAY NIGHT'S FANCY DRESS BALL AT THE CERCLE SPORTIF

Star Photo Co.

THE CERCLE SPORTIF BALL: MME. DU PAC DE MARSOULIES AND A VENETIAN ATTENDANT AT THE LEFT HAND CORNER

Numbers were not the most notable feature of the masked ball held at the French Club on Saturday night, but those who attended enjoyed every moment of the frolic. The floor was just comfortably filled with dancers and the orchestra was never more popular. Between dances, the floor space was utilized by guests masquerading as schoolboys, apâches, and so on for such antics as kept the spectators in roars of laughter. Of course, there was the usual tango during the course of the evening and it was particularly enlivened by one inspired performer in beef-eater costume who whirled his partner through glides and turns of remarkable intricacy to the extreme delight of everyone. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Meise, dressed as maids, were highly diverting as were also two unknown gentlemen disguised as rag dolls. The apâche group, which included Mme. Watrin, was also very good. M. Brault, as a Turk in bath towelling was most amusing.

Though the clownishly costumed provided the hilarity, there were also many beautifully apparelled and from behind protecting masks flirtations were carried on in the atmosphere of the "Bal Masque." Among the most beautiful dresses were the Venetian costumes of Mme. Du Pac's party in green and silver. This group received first prize in the award, while second prize went to Mme. Premet's group of white Pierrots. For ladies' costumes, Mme. Howell wearing a black costume sprinkled with stars received first prize. Mme. Nouveau as Columbine received second prize. For originality, Mlle. Lemière received first prize. She was dressed to represent a white rabbit with long flapping ears, pink eyes and mouth and white pom-pom tail. The first prize for couples went to Mr. and Mrs. Barraclough.

After the grand march at 12 o'clock, supper was served in the supper-room and the guests began to thin away at the psychological time when the pleasure of the evening was not yet dimmed by weariness.

SHANGHAI NEWS

WATERWORKS CO. AND THE COUNCIL

The Annual Report: Company's Offer to Sell and Council's Counter-Offer: Further Question for Ratepayers: Company's Complaint of 1905 Agreement

We have received from the Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld., the report and statement of accounts which the directors will present at the annual meeting of shareholders on April 3, as follows:—

It will be seen from the accounts that the gross revenue for the year from all sources amounts to Tls. 1,366,056 as against Tls. 1,255,217.85 in 1922. and that the balance of Working Account transferred to credit of Profit & Loss Account is Tls. 573,375.74 as against Tls. 611,041.21 the previous year.

After writing off Tls. 110,732.01 for depreciation on permanent works, paying interest on debentures and sundry other items, the nett profit for the year is Tls. 167,866.45. To this must be added Tls. 29,594.85 brought forward from 1922, making a total Tls. 197,461.30.

An interim dividend of 10/- per share at exchange 3/0⅞ declared and made payable on July 31 last absorbed Tls. 109,485.71; to the balance of Tls. 87,975.59 it has been decided to add Tls. 40,000 transferred from Equalization of Dividend Fund, making the amount available for distribution Tls. 127,975.59, which the Directors recommend be disposed of as follows:—

	Tls.
To pay a final dividend for the year 1923 on 33,530 shares of 10/- per share = £16,705 at Ex. 3/2⅞	103,500.96
Carry forward to New Account	24,474.63
Tls.	127,975.59

The Directors regret the unsatisfactory result of the year's working, but as has been repeatedly pointed out, the Company is unable, at the rates fixed by the Agreement of 1905, to collect revenue commensurate with the increased cost of providing an efficient supply of water. Hitherto the balance of Working Account has been increased by the profit derived from the Fittings Department, but this year's result has been disappointing. The profit from the sale of water shows an increase over that of 1922.

COMPANY'S OFFER TO COUNCIL.

On April 13, 1923, the Directors informed the Municipal Council that they were prepared to recommend the shareholders to sell the Company's "business and undertaking and all the lands, buildings, plant, machinery and effects belonging to the Company," as at December 31, 1922, for the sum of Tls. 14,947,780.00 (subject to certain conditions), to which would have to be added further capital expenditure up to the date of purchase.

At the Ratepayers' Meeting held on April 19, 1923, the following resolution was passed:—

"That the Council be and it is hereby authorized:

(1) To take such action as may be requisite to exercise the powers of purchase vested in the Council under Clause 9 of the agreement made between the Shanghai Waterworks Company, Ld., and the Council, dated July 1, 1905 And, in the exercise of such powers, to purchase the business and undertaking of the said Company and all the lands, buildings, plant, machinery and effects belonging to the said Company, and

(2) To raise, upon terms and in such manner as the Council may, in its discretion, think fit, such sum as may be required to complete the purchase hereinbefore authorized, and following upon such purchase

(3) To carry on the business so purchased as a municipal undertaking on the general principles laid down in the report of the Special Electricity Committee 1915 and adopted by the Ratepayers Provided always that the Council shall not exercise the authority hereby granted until it shall have laid its views thereon before the ratepayers in a meeting assembled for this purpose by public notice, given 14 days in advance, and shall have taken the directions of such meeting thereon, whether or not there shall be a quorum of ratepayers present, as is required by the Land Regulations in the case of a Special Meeting of Ratepayers."

COUNCIL'S NEW PROPOSAL.

On January 18, 1924, the Municipal Council informed the Company that it was advised that the effect of passing the resolution stated above, with the proviso contained in Sub-section 3, was that the Municipal Council could not exercise the powers entrusted to it except with the authority of a Special Meeting of Ratepayers at which a quorum would be present and that under the circumstances it might be necessary to lay the whole matter *de novo* before the ratepayers at their next annual meeting. The Municipal Council stated further that it was prepared (subject to the ratepayers' approval to be sought at the next annual meeting) to purchase the Company's business and undertaking, etc., at a price to be arrived at on the basis of 15.3846 years' purchase of the profits earned during the year 1922 (i.e. capitalized at 6½ per cent.) and suggested that its letter be accepted by the Directors as an intimation of its intention to purchase, subject to confirmation at the next meeting of ratepayers. The Directors replied on February 22, 1924, stating that they were unable to agree that the price to be paid should be arrived at on the basis suggested by the Municipal Council, and that if the Municipal Council persisted in adhering to that basis, they saw no recourse but to appeal to arbitration. They suggested further that some compromise might be arrived at on the basis of a profit-sharing arrangement in lieu of purchase.

DEBENTURES AND EXPENDITURE.

Of the Tls. 300,000 debentures bearing interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum offered for issue at the end of 1922, Tls. 100,000 debentures were taken up at the price of Tls. 107 per cent. and Tls. 200,000, debentures at the price of Tls. 105 per cent.

Capital expenditure during the year amounted to Tls. 236,087.61; details will be found in the Engineer-in-Chief and Manager's Report.,

A small piece of land on Wetmore Road, Yangtszepoo, has been sold.

Tls. 12,000 has been transferred from Stocks Reserve Fund to Working Account to make up for the loss on certain fittings sold at less than cost.

Directors:—Mr. A. W. Burkill resigned from the Board on his departure from Shanghai on leave, and Mr. C. R. Burkill was appointed a Director in his place. Mr. A. W. Burkill was reappointed to the Board on his return, and Mr. C. R. Burkill resigned. Mr. L. J. Cubitt was reappointed a Director on his return from leave when Mr. L. E. Canning resigned. Mr. C. G. S. Mackie has resigned from the Board.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Mr. A. W. Burkill retires from the Board, but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Auditors:—The present Auditors, Messrs. Lowe, Bingham and Matthews, retire from office, but offer themselves for re-election.

H. MARTIN LITTLE,
Chairman.

∴ This report is accompanied by a pamphlet giving a record of all negotiations between Company and Council from 1922 to 1924, far too voluminous to deal with today.—Ed

THE NEW BICYCLE RICSHA

Ingenious Device to Increase Speed Comfort and the Driver's Dignity

Residents in the French Concession in the vicinity of Route Doumer and of the roads near by in the Model Settlement, as well as pedestrians on some of the central highways, have been surprised, to say the least, at a new form of vehicle, rubber-tyred with four wheels, but with motive power furnished by a coolie, riding astride what appeared to be a bicycle.

To the casual roamer of Shanghai roads, with their high-power motors, brokers' traps and ricshas, this was indeed a strange sight, for it seemed to be a combination of a reduced old style, big front wheel bicycle with a rather swanky-looking, but low-swung ricsha attached behind. The puller, or in justice we may say, pusher, for the energy was supplied by a downward pressure on pedals, did not seem to be ill at ease, but rather looked as if he enjoyed his task, not because of the novelty of the arrangement, but perhaps because of the quiet, easy sedate movement, and still more from a sense of superiority over his fellow workers.

After some little persuasion the coolie permitted a test to be made as to the riding qualities and a representative of the "North-China Daily News" got into the seat, after which he calmly mounted the bicycle, stepping right over the saddle; it is a ladies' type of cycle with no cross-bar. He slowly applied his feet to the pedals and the ride was begun. There was no jerk at all and the motion was smooth and forward with not the usual up and down motion so common to the ricsha as it is trotted along, but there was a sinuous side-to-side motion until the ricsha was well under way. The passenger sits lower than in an ordinary ricsha and one seems more at ease with nothing before one but the strong back and pedalling limbs of the coolie.

THE MODUS OPERANDI.

The vehicle is the first of the pedicabs which are now being considered by the authorities for use in Shanghai streets. A closer inspection at the garage in which it was kept showed it to be a simple mechanical machine—two wheels in a line, the forward one 26 in. in diameter and the other, where the traction is applied, 18 in. To the rear are two more 26 in. rims upon the axle of which is set the body swung on inverted elliptical, three-leaf, springs. The centre of gravity is thus very low. A detachable top is attached for summer or winter. Although the machine is constructed in two parts, the ricsha and bicycle, a very ingenious swivel joint is provided and a lock-pin is inserted into openings to connect them, while the swivel allows for plenty of action laterally. On either side of the pin have been placed springs, probably two inches wide and three inches long, which act as shock absorbers, so that the passenger gets none of the jolts that come to the puller, while the springs permit the coolie to overcome the inertia of his own portion before effort is required on the other part.

The nine-and-a-half foot vehicle is easily controlled by the foot-brake, which reacts just as the usual bicycle brake does, but for emergencies still another brake is provided, by means of a lever just under the fingers gripping the handlebars, which, when applied, sets two cleats in the grooves of the rim of the front wheel. On the other side of the handlebar is another lever which alters the gear of the transmission to make the coolie's work easier over hills and upgrades.

TRY IT YOURSELF.

A personal test was made and though 12 years had elapsed since our representative had ridden a bicycle, and all overcoated as he was, he had no difficulty in managing the mechanism, the only difficulty experienced being in negotiating the curves, for which a double joint is provided, the swivel in the centre and the fork under the handlebars.

We have been informed that an ordinary test run was made from Route Doumer to the Astor House in 20 minutes, while on another occasion the run from the same place to the Municipal Building was completed in just over 12 minutes. This is the 12th model constructed in Brussels and it seems, with the central traction wheel and double joint, to overcome the difficulties of the previous experiments.

Captain Vadim J. Polynine, the sponsor, has just arrived in Shanghai, after a world tour, and comes direct from Belgium and Paris, where the tests were completed.

TO HONGKONG IN FIVE HOURS

Chinese Report of Southern Aeroplane Service

It was reported last Friday in the "Shanghai Journal of Commerce," that a Chinese interested in aviation is about to raise $200,000 capital for the establishment of an aeroplane passenger and postal service between Shanghai and Hongkong.

The scheme, as outlined by this report, provides for two daily services, express and ordinary. The express service will have one stop, at Yenping in Fukien, in the course of the 750 miles of journey, while five stations are proposed for the ordinary service, *viz.*, Ningpo, Wenchow, Foochow, Amoy and Swatow, the express doing the run in five hours and the ordinary in 8½.

It is suggested that, at the outset, $150 will have to be charged for the single journey, a fare which would be reduced if the venture proves a success. The Chinese credited with this enterprise is a Mr. Dun Nan, who lately came to Shanghai from America and has returned there for the purpose of arranging details of the scheme.

FIRE ON JAPANESE STEAMER

Cargo Reported Damaged

Wireless messages were received in Shanghai last Friday morning stating that fire had broken out in the hold of the T.K.K. str. Korea Maru, just outside the mouth of the river.

The fire, which was confined to the No. 3 hold, filled with tobacco, had got a good start and was not noticed until the smoke was seen oozing from between the hatch combings, whereupon steam was turned into the affected area from the engine room. These methods, however, did not prove at all sufficient and while the vessel was still outside, the Deputy Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade with 15 men proceeded by launch at 10.15 to Woosung to meet the burning vessel. At 2.30 in the afternoon, the Customs fire float proceeded to the scene but was informed that assistance was not necessary.

The cargo is reported damaged. It is thought that the fire may smoulder for a considerable period without being completely extinguished, but with absolutely no danger to the vessel or crew.

OBITUARY

Mr. N. B. Leighton

We regret to announce the death, which took place on Wednesday at the General Hospital following an operation for appendicitis, of Mr. N. B. Leighton. He was only 24 and had not been in Shanghai long, joining the firm of Hall & Holtz last September, and remaining with them until taken to hospital. He belonged to the Field Artillery Battery, in which he was a popular figure and an enthusiastic Volunteer. His brother, Mr. E. C. Leighton, arrived in Shanghai on Wednesday evening from Tientsin to learn the sad news.

PRESIDENT TSAO KUN has promoted Admiral Tu Shih-kuei, Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Navy, to High Admiral of the Seas.

RESCUE BY THE I. C. S. KWONGSANG

Crew of Lights-Tender Saved After Two Days Without Food and Water

On Friday last the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.'s str. Kwongsang, *en route* from Swatow to Shanghai, when 35 miles southwest of Ockseu came upon a dismantled rudder-less junk, exhibiting signals of distress.

The Kwongsang was manœuvred alongside and the distressed vessel was found to be a Lights Department tender of the Chinese Maritime Customs. Twelve men and a dog were taken off in a more or less exhausted condition, having been for two days without food or water.

The vessel had left Tung-yung lighthouse, bound for Foochow with mail, etc., on the morning of March 17. She lost her rudder and mast in a strong gale the same evening and had drifted and sailed under jury rig 140 miles to the southwest in the four days that passed before she was picked up.

After receiving every care and attention on the Kwongsang, the rescued men, with their dog, were transhipped, on March 21, to the Japanese str. Kaju Maru, which was bound for Foochow, where their homes are.

Captain W. F. Bichard is master of the Kwongsang, a vessel he has commanded for many years.

AMERICAN INSURANCE

Another Company Begins Business in Shanghai

Another American insurance company has begun business in China, viz., the International Life Insurance Co., of St. Louis, who have set up their offices in the "North-China Daily News" building, No. 17 the Bund. From information supplied to us by the company (whose representative is Mr. A. K. Taylor) we understand that for some months past the company has been in operation here, re-insuring the excess liabilities of the Asia Life Insurance Co. It will undertake all the usual forms of insurance, from whole life to endowments. The International Life Insurance company is rated as one of the most enterprising and successful of the younger American companies. It was organized in 1908, under the insurance laws of the state of Missouri, said to be among the strictest in the country in supervisory insurance legislation, and has made steady progress. The International Life was one of the first of the American companies to deposit with its State pledges of approved securities to cover legal reserves on all outstanding contracts. Last year the company wrote business amounting to over G.$60,000,000, an increase of 65 per cent. over the previous year, and one of the best showings made among the American companies. The insurance in force now totals G.$165,000,000. The company has a paid up capital of $787,000, assets $20,703,424 (1922), and a surplus of $1,904,239 (December 31, 1922). The company has offices in 32 of the American States, and in Hawaii, and the new step in China is said to be the first move in a general expansion in the Orient.

THE Chinese Ratepayers' Association has once more addressed a letter to the provincial authorities requesting that their annual subsidy of $12,000 be paid as usual. The financial commissioners at a recent conference struck out this item from the provincial budget.

THE Chapei Silk filature calamity continues to agitate the Chinese of the district, and the latest proposal is that the Military Governor should step in and appropriate the insurance money on the building—said to amount to $110,000—and distribute it among the families of the victims. A full list of the dead is being got ready with this object in view.

THE PURIM BALL

Attractive Gathering at the Carlton

The annual Purim Ball which was held on Wednesday at the Carlton Café under the auspices of the Hebrew Relief Society and the Jewish Women's Benevolent Society was highly enjoyable and successful in its two-fold purpose of giving pleasure to those participating and providing assistance for the less fortunate. At the end of the ball room the six-pointed Star of Solomon blazed out over the stage, with an illuminated "Welcome" beneath, while the initials of the societies H.R.S. and J.W.B.S. stood out on either side of the archway behind whose curtains were concealed the mysterious beauties of the Turkish Café. The stage itself and the steps leading up to it were banked with potted plants and narcissi tastefully arranged.

Mr. E. S. Kadoorie, who has recently returned from a lengthy trip to Europe and America, was the evening's guest of honour, and shortly before ten o'clock declared the ball open, saying that he thanked the committee for inviting him to open the ball and appreciated the honour paid him. He added that he hoped those present would remember the character of the Purim festival, a season of good-will and happiness for all, but an anniversary which could not be fully enjoyed without thinking of those less fortunate, the poor and needy for whose benefit that evening was arranged. Many destitute refugees had come to Shanghai seeking work which they had been unable to obtain and it was for those present to remember their sufferings in the midst of their merry-making.

Mr. Kadoorie went on to say that everybody knew of the good work being done by these relief agencies and that their future work depended largely upon the financial success of the entertainment so that he hoped every one present would do his best to make the evening all that could be wished for. The speaker closed with words of appreciation for those who had worked so hard in the preparations for the ball and wished them the success they so richly deserved. After these words the Jewish National Authem was played and following that, Mr. Kadoorie opened the ball with Mrs. Hoorin.

TURKISH ATTIRE.

The ladies of the committee were attractively costumed in 18th century garb or in Turkish attire, the last group attending in the picturesque Café where Turkish coffee, cigarettes and sweetmeats were served. Mesdames Shainin, Holper, Lipkovsky, Samsonovich and Podpakh were among the Turkish group in the coffee room which rich Oriental rugs, handsome brasses, softly shaded lights and luxurious cushions made very attractive.

During the evening musical numbers and special dances added to the pleasure of the audience. Mrs. Julius Rosenfold sang "Vilanelle:" Mme. Karinskaya gave Russian songs in costume; two numbers were contributed from the ballet of the Midnight Follies, under the direction of Mr. Holt; Mr. Harmon sang "Roses of Picardy" and "My Hero"; and Mrs. O'Hara sang "Kiss Me Again" and "Sweetest Story Ever Told."

Alluring raffles found many patrons, as did the sweets, kewpies, and flowers offered for sale. The prizes offered for the most handsome and original costumes were: for the ladies a Venetian glass perfume atomizer and a beaded hand bag; for the gentlemen a crystal clock and leather pocket book. Many clever and artistic fancy costumes were seen.

The profits of the evening were most satisfactory and included a gift of $1,000 from Mr. E. S. Kadoorie. The prize for the most beautiful costume, gentleman's, was awarded to Mr. Peter Li, who wore an English costume of the 18th century, further decorated with electric lights which twinkled on and off. The prize for the lady's costume went to his partner, a young Chinese girl in a costume of the same period. The most original costumes were voted to be those representing a sewing machine, the hat being a perfect representation of the head of a "Singer" with representations of the other parts scattered over the suit; and a pretty "sun flower."

VISIT OF JAPANESE NAVAL SQUADRON

A Week of Entertainments

Officers and men of the Japanese naval squadron, which arrived at Woosung on Saturday morning, and is now at anchor in the river, are having a busy week of entertainment and sightseeing.

The squadron is composed of 13 destroyers, headed by the Kitakami, the flagship of Rear-Admiral Iida. On Saturday afternoon, the Japanese Consul-General (Mr. S. Yada), and leading Japanese residents, visited the flagship to welcome the squadron, the reception being also attended by commanding officers of all the foreign men-of-war in port. The compliment was returned on Sunday morning, when Rear-Admiral Iida and members of his Staff visited the various men-of-war. In the afternoon, he paid a visit to the Defence Commissioner, Gen. Ho Feng-ling, Admiral Lin, Commander-in-chief of the Chinese Navy, and Mr. Hsu Yuan, Commissioner for Foreign Affairs. In the evening, the Japanese Consul-General gave a banquet at his residence, the function being attended by the commander and officers of the squadron and various Chinese Naval, Army and civil officials.

On Monday morning there was a special parade of 1,500 sailors and officers, who marched to the Japanese naval cemetery, which is situated near Hongkew Park, to pay a tribute to comrades who are buried there, and the rest of the day was spent in sightseeing, various parties being arranged to visit various places of interest. Soochow was visited by a large party of officers. In the evening, the Admiral and officers were entertained by Japanese residents at a dinner, held at the Nippon Club, and on Tuesday night a similar function was held on board the flag ship, leading Japanese residents and Chinese officials being guests.

RECEPTION ON THE FLAGSHIP.

A reception was given on Wednday afternoon by Rear-Admiral Iida, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese squadron now in port, on board the flagship Kitakami and was attended by upwards of 150 prominent Japanese and Chinese residents, including Mr. Yeh Wei-chuen, director of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Zee Pin-we, manager of the Foh Tah Co., and Mr. T. K. Yung, general manager of the Sung Sing Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Admiral Iida, welcoming the guests said, briefly:—

In making a trip to Shanghai and Hankow, we have no special mission whatever; we have merely extended to China our yearly cruise which we have hitherto confined to the waters of Japan. That during our visit here, short as it is, we have been daily cordially welcomed and entertained by various quarters, foreign, Chinese, and Japanese, is a matter for which we are grateful from the bottom of our hearts. The fact, in particular, that there seems to be no misunderstanding on the part of the Chinese public about our present visit to this country is most gratifying to me and is what I have heartily hoped, for we, as Japanese subjects, with the people of Japan in general, are always endeavouring to promote friendship not only with the people of China, but also with all the nations in the world. It is in fact most encouraging and satisfactory to note that the agreement reached at the Washington Conference in favour of the restriction of armaments has completely dispelled our apprehensions about the probable occurrence of another war. Indeed, it is gratifying to see, for the sake of world's peace as well as for humanity, that all the Powers are faithfully living up to the Washington Agreement with the lofty idea of avoiding hostilities among them so that peace and order may be maintained.

CORRESPONDENCE

EDUCATION AND CHINESE CHILDREN.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Does the report of the Educational Commission recently published meet squarely the question as to the responsibility of the Municipal Council for the education of Chinese children living within its jurisdiction?

The report of the Education Committee of 1911 is clear in this regard. It states that (1) the Council has no absolute duty to undertake the education of Chinese children; (2) the Council should aim at a model training of a limited number rather than a general scheme of education; (3) that as regards elementary education Chinese should have the same facilities as those outside but no more; (4) that in respect of secondary education the Council should regard it sympathetically, assist where the Chinese were themselves willing to assist, and also assist the Polytechnic School.

Does the Educational Commission of 1923 accept this policy or does it feel that this policy should be altered?

Speaking for ourselves, we would like to see the Council definitely recognize its responsibility for the education of Chinese children within its jurisdiction, particularly as regards the need for primary education.

We understand that several influential Chinese bodies including the Chamber of Commerce, the Ningpo Association and the Chinese Y.M.C.A. have recently addressed the Council asking that special attention be given to the subject of primary education. The Shanghai of to-morrow is dependent upon the generation that is now growing to maturity. The future of the Settlements depends upon the preparation that the children of to-day are given. Every civilized government is doing its utmost to eradicate ignorance which is recognized as a curse and blight, to be tolerated only as long as necessary.

Some one should speak a word in behalf of the thousands of children who will grow up without the opportunity of an education unless something is done by us to-day to prepare the way.

For this necessary education we cannot depend upon private initiative. The Commission does not give figures showing the growth in number of private schools since 1911, but we venture the opinion that the number of such institutions has not kept pace with the growth in population.

It is our pride that so much is done in the Settlements to make it a "model" from the standpoint of good roads, and sanitation. We spend money, lots of it, upon these. In addition we have the police department and the volunteers and a band and orchestra. Are we doing our duty in the education of Chinese boys and girls?

We have heard much said lately about Shanghai's being the second largest port in the world. Great plans are afoot to increase the harbour facilities. We are to become a *bigger* Shanghai. Will we also become,—can we become a *better* Shanghai, if we do not have larger plans for the training in schools of the future citizen?

We do not know the practice in other countries, but we do know that, in America, education—particularly primary education—is accepted generally as an essential function of municipal government fully as much as road upkeep, sanitation, police and public utilities. No municipal government in that country would dare to ignore its responsibility for educating the rising generation. Do we want to be known as neglecting this responsibility, or, to put it better, of missing this opportunity to give the children that are living in our midst that education which will equip them for life?

It may not be possible to do all that we would like in the immediate future. The task is a great one, and will cost money. Yet, even now, is it not possible to lay foundations for a scheme of education that will make it possible in the future for every deserving child to have an education at least through the primary grades? Is this not the duty of the Council, rather than to continue to build up a few expensive middle schools which only the well-to-do can attend? The schools, as far as they go, are excellent except that a school can hardly be called a "model" which is expensive and subsidized from municipal funds far beyond what any other institution can afford.

Shanghai does not spend as much on the education of the Chinese as it does for the Volunteer Corps, only a little more than half the cost of the fire brigade and only one-third more than is required for the orchestra and band.

The municipality of New York in 1914 spent 28 per cent. of its annual current budget on education. The figures for Chicago are 27 per cent. and for Washington, D. C. 21 per cent. In comparison the figures in our budget are pitiably small.

We are not presuming to say that the situation in Shanghai is analogous with the cities above mentioned. What is done in those cities is the result of growth of public sentiment in favour of education. What we do urge, however, at this time, is that the Municipal Council take into its purview the whole educational task and begin at once to lay the foundations of a plan which will culminate in the ideal at some time in the future. Anything less that this is unworthy of the best aspirations of this community which is set in a position where its influence is large among the peoples of Asia.

The report of the Commission does not point the way to this goal. It seems to have taken for granted that the ratepayers are not prepared to spend money on education as one of the functions of municipal government. We do not feel proud of this implication. Nor do we feel proud that we have only 1,281 Chinese in municipal schools and a current budget of Tls. 181,900 in the Settlement with a population of nearly a million.

We think it only fair that the question should be raised for discussion in the columns of the papers and at the annual ratepayers meeting.

I am, etc.,
W. W. LOCKWOOD.

Shanghai, Mar. 24, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—Mr. W. W. Lockwood opens a discussion in your columns with the following question:—

> Does the report of the Educational Commission recently published meet squarely the question as to the responsibility of the Municipal Council for the education of Chinese children living within its jurisdiction?

The conclusions of the Commission on this subject were expressed in these terms:—

> "There appears to be no absolute obligation on the Council, certainly no legal obligation under the Land Regulations, to undertake the education of the children of Shanghai."
>
> "The Council is not compelled to educate the children, nor can the Council compel parents to educate their children."
>
> *"In discussions on education in Shanghai it seems to be frequently forgotten that Shanghai is an extraterritorial Port and not a Colony."*

In any discussion that may take place it is to be hoped that participants will bear in mind this essential factor in the situation, viz., *"that Shanghai is an extraterritorial Port and not a Colony"* and, I would add—*not a place in the U. S. A., or in Europe, or in any other land*, except that Shanghai is a place *in China!*

I think the Education Commission met this question both squarely and fairly and the answer to Mr. Lockwood's query is distinctly in the affirmative.

Throughout his letter I notice he uses the pronoun "we" in preference to the personal pronoun "I," therefore I gather that he is writing on behalf of the Chinese Y.M.C.A. organizations which he represents.

Now most people will be willing to acknowledge the varied activities of those whose personal interests lie in the direction of that vast organization dealing with the "Commerce of Uplift" known as the Y.M.C.A., and many of us have an admiring wonderment for the admirable and most efficient publicity methods which, it almost seems, regard the Universe itself as subsidiary to the "Y" and the wherefores of such industrious and busy people.

So efficient are these methods of publicity that a short time hence I verily expect to read the chronicle of the mere passing from one side of the street to another of distinguished and even lesser distinguished officials and members of the male and female "Y" organizations which abound in our midst.

I dwell on this aspect of "Uplift" for a moment because it is an interesting phenomenon in modern life.

The constant Conferences of Universal, World, International, National, and Local Committees held at the four corners of the earth and the constant peregrinations of the Uplifters in rushing from one place to another are recorded in the columns of the daily press with an industry and precision that do the utmost credit to the Publicity and Propaganda sections of these enterprises.

I can bear witness myself to the ubiquitous diligence of "Uplift" for, when I published a letter some time back dealing with the rickshamen of Shanghai I was immediately pursued by a charming virgin from the Y.W.C.A., who, when she caught me, presented me with a "questionaire"—a long list of questions about the rickshamen, their wives, their children, their family affairs and much else beside, which she desired me to answer. On inquiring of my delightful interrogator the "Y" and the wherefore of her curiosity she informed me that my letter about the rickshamen had stimulated the interest of her Committee—(I forget whether it was a World, International, National, or which species of Committee it was, but no matter)—and that they wished to gather a docket of information about the ricsha in Shanghai to forward it to the League of Nations at Geneva where, no doubt, it would be on the agenda for discussion when the next World's Conference of Corresponding Secretaries of the Federated Sections of the National Committees of the International Bureaux of the Young Men and Young Women's Christian Associations of Both Hemispheres should meet.

I do not know what happened but, for me, life is too short and precarious to begin the task of answering the questionaires of "Uplift," but I asked that charming lady to convery my respects to the National Secretary of the International Committee of the World's Conference and my satisfaction at knowing that any humble words of mine should have been the medium for bringing to their attention, and under their purview, the matter of Shanghai rickshamen.

One has to be careful when writing to the papers nowadays for any stray word may incontinently disclose a fresh "Need" of mankind to be heeded by those worthy people who engage in the Commerce of Uplift.

They seem always on the lookout for "Needs"—in fact, "Needs" are needed as the daily bread of Uplift much as bread needs kneading by the common or garden and industrious baker.

Thus when Mr. Lockwood opens discussion about the education of Chinese children in these Settlements and tells us that the Council must begin to spend millions in achieving this new "ideal" that he discovers, I enter the lists in direct opposition to his views.

He is entitled to go to the U.S.A., and start a "drive" for as many millions of their excellent gold dollars as he can get and bring them back to Shanghai and commence to teach every Chinese child in the Settlements the rudiments of Business Systems and the intricacies of Basket

DISASTROUS FIRE IN "SHANGHAI TIMES" OFFICE AND SILK GODOWN

The Building Completely Gutted: A Difficult Fire to Fight: Sheets of Greasy Flame and Smoke: Several Firemen Nearly Suffocated

One of the worst fires that has ever occurred in Shanghai broke out on Thursday night in the "Shanghai Times" building at the corner of Soochow and Museum Roads at 7.20 o'clock and completely gutted the entire structure, consuming the silk goods stored in the three upper floors and damaging beyond repair most of the expensive printing presses and linotype machines on the ground floor, as well as destroying a new supply of paper which had been just brought in.

Five firemen were overcome with smoke and the pulmotor had to be resorted to in order to bring them back to consciousness, two of them being brought from the ruins on stretchers by their comrades. One of the foreigners slipped from his post on the ladder just above Chief Officer Pett and fell on to his shoulders and was carried down by his superior, who himself was later affected by the smoke, but who returned in a few minutes to direct the fire fighting operations. Two of the Chinese, though restored by the motor, had to be taken to hospital where they are doing nicely.

The building was a blazing furnace within a few minutes after discovery and flames shot through all the windows in an oily mass, baffling the firemen and driving them down from the extension ladders placed alongside the fiery cavern. But they returned again, lines in hand, only to retreat once more. Towers then had to be erected in the roadway and the high pressure jets run to the top, where a single man directed the nozzle, lashed at the highest point. It was a valiant struggle and shortly after 9 p.m. it appeared as though the battle was done. However, with renewed fury the flames burst out again more intensely than ever and great fears were entertained for the walls themselves. The upright ladders had to be moved back, for it seemed as if even iron and steel could not resist the heat of the raging fire. With an additional motor adding its strength and with the application of another line from Chapoo Road run all the way across the Chapoo Bridge and yet one more from a distant hydrant in Museum Road, 300 yds. distant, everyone thought that the Brigade must win. But the silk in the building burned like gasoline itself.

THE ROOF FALLS IN.

Although at this stage the flames seemed to have eaten themselves out it was but for a few moments, and a tremendous gas pressure, growing from underneath the glowing mass of silk, burst out and the heavy iron fire shutters, clamped and looked over the windows, burst out with resounding crashes and the revived mass of fire streamed out, lighting the sky all round. This was shortly followed by the expected collapse of the roof, through which aperture showers of sparks shot into the heavens. Increased activity by the Brigade centred on the seething mass now. Seven streams were directed from the roof of the Eastern Garage and the alleyway between and additonal jets from behind and from Museum Road until not less than a score were flowing steadily.

Shortly after midnight the bare walls of the building remained, though the heavy wooden beams obstinately burned on, while the contents which had dropped to the bottom as successive floors gave way, were ultimately precipitated to the ground floor. The oxygen sucked in below fed the fire and it rose through the upper storeys.

THE FIRST WARNING.

The first warning of fire came from Miss Lucille Douglas, society reporter attached to the "Shanghai Times," who was returning from the Linotype room at the rear of the building and saw the flames burst down through the ceiling from the floor above. The office boy dashed for the telephone and the Brigade was on its way within the minute, but it was much too late to salvage anything at all. For the flames, it seemed from all reports, had begun in the godown above and had already gained a strong hold when they burst through below. As a matter of fact the Soochow Road Fire Station just over the way not 30 yds. distant, were not aware that anything was wrong until the telephone call came through.

Everyone set to hurriedly to save what he could and a few records from the lower front office were carried out, and even after the arrival of the engines a few files came to safety, but the smoke grew so thick that it was impossible to see through it and further permission to enter the building was refused.

FIREMEN NEARLY SUFFOCATED.

It was in the early stages of the catastrophe that the firemen were hurt, one foreigner and one Chinese in particular being so badly overcome that stretchers were utilized to carry them down the ladders. The minute they were got to the ground they were hurried to a rear corner, the intersection of Museum and Hongkong Roads, and first aid given. Before it was known that they had been hurt, a call had been sent in for the Rescue Van, S.F.B., which has two pulmotors for such emergencies. Blankets were thrown on the sidewalk and the men placed on them. The hood of the motor was quickly attached to the bridge of the nose and the machine began to pump clean air into the lungs. Within a few moments the men opened their eyes. After an hour of fire fighting another man went under, but the pulmotor was barely attached when he got up and pushed the mask away. Dr. O'Hara was called in and superintended the reviving. The others recovered without the external assistance.

EASTERN GARAGE AND LYCEUM.

Luckily the flames were confined to the building in question, for had the slightest assistance been given them by the wind, they would have made short shrift of the B.-A.T. building opposite on Museum Road, which is now undergoing extensive remodelling and the dry lumber and unfinished state of the walls being reconstructed, would have made proper food for the blaze. A very bad backdraft sucking round behind the burning structure and coming to the front through the Eastern Garage nearly ruined the eyes of the men below not equipped with masks. As far as the Szechuen Road Bridge the acrid, oily and acid-laden smoke made it almost impossible for the spectators, who thronged to the scene, to get through. The Lyceum Theatre directly behind but separated by a 15 ft. alleyway, was not in the path of the flames. The entire force of coolies, chauffeurs and staff at the Eastern Garage had a few anxious moments until the cars were all removed.

Masses of people crowded round near the building; but when some danger of falling walls threatened, with the exception of the police and press representatives they were forced either over the Bridge or on to the lawn adjacent to the Rowing Club. Another added danger lay in the fact that high tension wires strung near by, might break and some one be electrocuted.

In consequence of the fire the Quaints could not give their performance at the Lyceum.

Many of the large number who came to attend "The Beggar's Opera" by the artistes went inside and assisted members to remove their belongings, all of which were brought out, with no damage excepting by some smoke and water.

We have been informed that the building is the property of Mr. E. S. Shahmoon, while a portion of the silk stored within belongs to Pohomull Bros. A well-authenticated rumour has it that a short time ago cargo to the value of Tls. 3,000,000 had been placed within. Mr. E. A. Nottingham is proprietor and manager and Mr. G. Burton Sayer, editor of the "Shanghai Times." Insurance will cover a portion of the loss.

UNDER CONTROL.

The flames continued to burn fiercely until half an hour after midnight, by which time the building was gutted, scarcely more than the shell remaining, the iron guards at the windows glowing red with the tremendous heat. There appeared to be no danger of the structure collapsing, or of the fire spreading to adjoining buildings, but the Brigade had to remain in attendance for the greater part of the night.

FIRE IN COUNTRY CLUB

The placid pastures of the Country Club were disturbed on Thursday between 7 and 8 p.m. by the unusual excitement of a fire. Some of the members were playing billiards when, through the ventilator grating of the coffered ceiling in the extreme west end of the room, they noticed a light. It soon became evident that a fire had broken out, doubtless through a short circuit. The ceiling is high, there is no way into the roof and accordingly the Brigade were called up. They responded with their usual despatch, under the command of Deputy Chief Officer Dyson. But they, too, were for some time hampered in getting at the seat of the fire. Presently the flames burst through the roof, quite a brilliant display. They did not, however, penetrate to the billiard room. Now the Brigade had the roof well open and the fire was soon out. A good deal of water came down into the billiard room, but luckily not on the tables which had been carefully covered. Beyond the damage to the roof no great harm was done.

ARMED GANG IN THE FRENCH CONCESSION

Eight Robberies and the Murder of a Two-Year Old Chinese Girl During a Raid

The arrest of nine men by the French Concession police is believed to have laid by the heels a gang which has been busily engaged in crime not only in Shanghai but in Soochow and Hangchow as well. So far as the French Concession is concerned eight acts of armed robbery are alleged against them as well as the murder of a two-year old girl, while farther afield it is thought that they were engaged in piracy on boats using the creeks in the vicinity of the towns mentioned.

Th activities of this gang first came under the notice of the police in December last when an exchange shop in the Concession was raided. The robbers escaped with the money they had taken on that occasion, and they followed this act by further attacks on cigarette and other money-changing shops. The last occasion proved fatal to their designs, while this was also the worst of the crimes. As they were departing the alarm was given, and by way of intimidating the people in the place one of the men turned and fired a shot from an automatic pistol. A Chinese girl two years of age, was sitting in the shop at the time nursing in her arms a baby—her recently born sister. The bullet struck the girl in the forehead and killed her, but the baby escaped unharmed. The police were soon hot on the trail of the gang, and they were promptly rounded up.

Two automatic pistols, one of German make, were captured along with the men and there was also a revolver of heavy calibre. The fact of their possession of the latter weapon is held to indicate that these may be the men who have been practising piracy in Soochow and Hangchow. It is a larger weapon than the armed robber who confines his attention to cities usually carries, being hardly so convenient as an automatic, and, bearing in mind recent reports as to piracy on the creeks, the police are now communicating with the other centres for evidence which may possibly be used against this gang.

THE Peking Government has telegraphed to Mr. Hsu Yuan, the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, instructing him to prevent the secret sale of the Russian ships at Woosung.

THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE LOBINGIER

His Services Acknowledged by American Bar Association

Members of the American bar gathered at the U. S. Court for China on Wednesday afternoon to pay a tribute to the fine work accomplished by the Hon. C. S. Lobingier during his record 10 years' of service as Judge of the Court. There was a good attendance, and special apology was made for the unavoidable absence of Mr. S. Fessenden, President of the Bar Association, who was away at an important Council meeting. In his absence, Mr. C. S. Franklin, vice-President of the Association, presided.

A presentation from members of the Bar was made to his Honour by Mr. P. M. Linebarger, the gift taking the form of a handsome embossed silver shield, with this inscription:

"To Charles Sumner Lobingier, First Judge of the United States Court for China to serve a full period, and the only Judge whose decisions were never reversed, this testimonial is presented in grateful acknowledgement by the members of the Bar of said court."

In making the presentation, Mr. Linebarger recalled hearing in 1904 of the appointment of "a man from Nebraska," (Judge Lobingier), to the Philippines' court, and a discussion as to why a man of such attainments and qualifications had been sent there. He arrived in the Islands towards the end of the revolution and, in addition to the exercise of his high legal knowledge, was soon seen to have the qualifications of a peacemaker. On one occasion he went out into the midst of the insurrectionists, and to this day suffered from the effects of the wounds he then received. In those days the Manila Court was a centre of intrigue and disagreeable gossip, and no Judge wanted to go there, but, by his straightforwardness, clear-headedness and diligence Judge Lobingier held this most difficult office as its senior for a very long period, consummate in the exercise of all the qualities required of an active legal mind. He had exercised the same strong influence for good in the U. S. Court for China, and had successfully and gloriously served his full term of service, with still the best years of his life before him. He had scientifically built up and established a system of law for the Court, and his record of not having had a single decision reversed would stand, the speaker concluded, as long as the court itself.

BLAZING THE TRAIL.

Mr. C. S. Franklin, in an appreciation of his Honour's work, said that, having himself occupied a similar position he could very well appreciate the difficulties under which Judge Lobingier had laboured. He thought there was no judicial position in the U. S., or probably in the world, equal in difficulty with that of the U. S. Court for China. Deprived of the assistance of a jury—upon whom so much responsibility could be shifted—the Judge of that court had himself to bear the burden of unravelling intricate questions of law and fact and traverse the entire field of extra-territoriality. Judge Lobingier had not only threaded this intricate maze without a reversal, but had plotted his course, blazed a trail for those who were to follow, and as long as there was an extraterritorial jurisdiction anywhere existing, his opinions and authority would be cited with approval.

Major C. P. Holcomb also expressed high appreciation of the work done by his Honour, and observed that there was a feeling not only of regret but almost of distress when it became known that he was not going to be re-appointed.

PROGRESS OF THE AMERICAN BAR.

In acknowledging the gift, and the expressions of appreciation—(all of which were very cordially applauded)—

Judge Lobingier said:—Mr. President and members of the Association: I am reminded this evening of the meeting held in this room nearly 10 years ago to organize the Far Eastern American Bar Association. I look back upon that event as one of the most important and gratifying during the whole period of my connexion with the Court. Previously, the Bar, which was then much smaller than now, was unorganized and therefore inarticulate and also incohesive. But by forming the Association it was provided with an authoritative organ for the expression of professional opinion, and by adopting the National Association's canons of ethics it established definite standards of professional conduct. Meanwhile, the Bar and the Association have grown, not only in numbers but in quality, and their continued support through this long period has been a source of strength for which I cannot find words adequate to express my gratitude.

In saying that the Association has grown in quality, I am glad to be able to add that steps have recently been taken which ought greatly to facilitate that line of growth. Some time ago the Bar Examining Board recommended to me that office study be no longer accepted for admission to the Bar, but that a Diploma from a recognized law school be required of each applicant. This recommendation was directly in line with the resolutions adopted at the Conference of Bar Association Delegates held in Washington two years ago last month at which I had the honour of representing this Association. Then, too, in common with others here, including, evidently, the Bar Examining Board, I had felt for some time that we have been somewhat lax in our requirements for admission and that we need the professional ideals, the standards, and the *esprit de corps* which accompany law school training. I had come to realize along with others that conditions would have been much better had we adopted such a requirement long ago. And so I was glad to give my approval to the Board's recommendation, and to make it a part of the rules for admission to the Bar. I feel sure that it will prove helpful to the Court and will insure a higher standard on the part of future members of this Association.

And I am very hopeful of the Association's future. It stands unique among the organizations in this part of the world and I feel that its career of usefulness is just beginning. For its loyal support of the Court and myself and for this superb expression of your confidence and esteem, I return my profound appreciation (applause).

PASSENGER STEAMER LAUNCHED

New Vessel for the Tsungming Island Trade

The Hong Dah, a steel, single-screw steamer specially designed for the Tsungming Island trade, was successfully launched on Saturday at the yard of the Société Franco-Chinoise de Constructions Metalliques et Mecaniques, the christening ceremony being gracefully performed by Miss Loh, daughter of Mr. Loh Pa-hong, a Director of the Chinese Tramway Co., in the presence of a large number of Chinese and foreign guests.

Amongst the guests, who were received by M. Sigaut, managing director, were:—

Messrs. Loh Pa-hong, Nicholas Tsu, M. and Mme. du Pac de Marsoulies, M. and Mme. Lebocq, M. Soulange, the Captains of the Amazone, Hsing Shu Tong and senior engineer officer of the Colmar, Mr. Simmons, the Rev. Frs. Scellier de Geulis, Piet, Bouvet and Gauther and representatives of Gen. Ho Feng-ling, the Chief of the Chinese Constabulary and Bureau of Foreign Affairs.

The vessel, which is a sister ship to another at present under construction at the yard, was built to the order of Mr. Loh Pa-hong. She is 213 ft. long, has dead-weight carrying capacity of 1,000 tons and accommodation for 6 first class European passengers, 36 first class Chinese passengers 42 second-class Chinese passengers, and 138 third-class. She will carry a total of 304 persons.

Propelling machinery consists of one Scotch boiler and one set of triple expansion surface condensing engines, which were also built at the same shipyard

COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Money and Exchange

OFFICIAL RATES.

Shanghai, Mar. 28.

Bank's demand selling rate for £1 at 3/2⅞=Tls. 6.17 at 71.35	
Bank's demand selling rate for G$100 at 69¾=Tls. 143.00 at 71.35	
Mex. Dollars, market rate	71.6
Native Interest	09
Copper Cash	261,000
Bar Silver	33½
Bank rate of Discount	4%
Paris on London	Frs. 78.95
New York on London	G.$4.30⅜

BANK'S OPENING SELLING RATES.

	Per Tael
LONDON—	
Telegraphic Transfer	3/2¾
Demand	3/2⅞
NEW YORK—	
Telegraphic Transfer	69½
Demand	69¾
PARIS—	
Demand	1273
INDIA—	
Demand	231
HONGKONG—	
Demand	73
JAPAN—	
Demand	61
BATAVIA—	
Demand	193
SINGAPORE—	
Demand	72¾

BANK'S OPENING BUYING RATES.

LONDON—	
Demand	3/3⅛
4 m/s. credits	3/4⅜
4 m/s. Docs.	3/5¼
6 m/s. credits	3/5¼
6 m/s. Docs.	3/5⅜
NEW YORK—	
Demand	70¾
4 m/s. Credits	73
4 m/s. Docs.	73½
PARIS—	
4 m/s. Docs.	1350
Closing business done at	
London T.T.	3/3
New York T.T.	69⅞

CUSTOMS EXCHANGE RATES FOR MARCH.

Hk. Tls. 5.44 at 3/3⅝	£1
,, 1 at 1595½	Frs. 17.77
,, 1.26 at 71	Gold $1
,, 1 at 64½	Yen 1.73
,, 1 at 231½	Rupees 2.58
,, 1 at 1.50	Mex. $1.50
,, 1 at 16.275	It. Lire 18.13
Marks and Roubles no quotation	

Sino-Italian Bank Quotations

Selling Rates, Mar. 28.

It. Lire 15.95	Tl. 1
Swiss Frs. 4.00	Tl. 1
It. Lire 9.50	Y. 1

Week's Exchange Notes

Mar. 29.

At the close of business on the 27th instant the stock of silver in Shanghai was Tls. 31,015,000 and $44,510,000.

These figures include Tls. 8,630,000 in Chinese banks in which there were 933 bars.

BAR SILVER.

Arrivals were:—
1582 bars from America
Shipments were:—
190 bars to Anhui
10 ,, ,, Hongkong

200 bars

SYCEE.

Arrivals were:—
Tls. 770,000 Mex. Dollars to be melted
Shipments were:—
Nil.

DOLLARS.

Arrivals were:—
$880,000 from River Ports
450,000 ,, Ningpo
330,000 ,, Kashing and Soochow
200,000 ,, Amoy and Swatow

$1,860,000

Shipments were:—
$1,100,000 to be melted
100,000 ,, Dairen

$1,200,000

SILVER.

The price yesterday was the same as a week ago, 33⅛d. ready and 33⅜d. forward, after having been down to 33 5/16d. and 33 3/16d. on Wednesday. During the week the market has been reported as quiet and steady. Both India and China are reported to have bought.

Stocks of sycee and dollars have increased during the week by Tls. 21 lakhs and $6½ lakhs respectively. Bars in stock, 2,745, including Silver Yen 10 lakhs.

Stocks of sycee and dollars are Tls. 310 lakhs and $445 lakhs, compared with Tls. 239½ lakhs and $349½ lakhs on the corresponding date last year.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange has remained unchanged at T.T. 3/2⅛d. for a fortnight—⅛d. under the parity of forward silver to-day—with very little merchant business going on. Chinese speculators continue to centre their interest in the yen market: their position is estimated to be oversold about £1,300,000, which includes yen 10 million.

Quotations are T.T. 3/2¾d. to June, 3/2½d. to December, T.T. Gold $69½ ready and forward. Buying quotations are 4 m/s. L/C 3/3¼d. and Gold $71¾ both ready and forward. Some banks are selling T.T. 3/3d. March/June, and even up to September has been offered, and Gold $T.T. is quoted 69⅞ ready and forward, with buyers 1/16d. and ⅛ cent higher.

LONDON BULLION

Samuel Montagu & Co.'s Report

Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co.'s report on the London bullion market dated February 21 is as follows:—

The Bank of England gold reserve against its note issue on the 13th instant amounted to £126,259,895, as compared with £126,256,975 on the previous Wednesday.

There has been a moderate demand on Indian account for the fair supplies of gold available this week.

Gold valued at $5,500,000 has arrived in New York from London.

Last week the Imperial Bank of India raised its rate of discount from 8 to 9 per cent.

The "Financial Review" of New York dated January 12, 1924, has the following remarks regarding the gold output of North America during 1923:—

"In the United States, there was a smart recovery in output to approximately $50,000,000. This was largely attributable to increased copper production, with consequent by-product gold yield, as well as the stimulating influence of reduced mining costs and increased labour efficiency. Evidences of a substantial revival at Cripple Creek, Colorado, where spectacular ore finds prove of great depths, are particularly encouraging. In the Oatman district of Arizona, the shrinkage in production is growing acute. However, to offset this decline, California is gradually enlarging the scale of its gold output.

"To the north, in Canada, new discoveries and rapid developments give rise to the hope that increased production there may make up for the indicated impoverishment and decline of the great South African gold mines. The prolific Kirkland Lake gold zone has been followed for 40 miles eastward, into Quebec, where the Rouyn district holds great promise. The Larder Lake area is another important new accession. At Kirkland Lake the ore values have steadily increased with depth, so that the permanence of this bonanza district is now assured.

"In Porcupine, the 'Big Three'—Hollinger, Dome, and McIntyre—are steadily increasing their scale of operations, with ore reserves indicated ahead past the 2,500 foot level. Hollinger is now third leading gold mine of the world, exceeded only by Crown Mines and Government Gold Mining Areas, in South Africa. However, as these two are really giant consolidations of other mines, Hollinger may therefore be regarded as the actual world leader. With the accomplishment of capacity increases now in progress, first position will soon be wrested from all other competitors."

SILVER.

The market has not been so robust, chiefly owing to easier exchange rates in China resulting in sales on account of that quarter. These have not been much in the way of fresh commitments, but have consisted mostly of purchases made since the Chinese New Year. Indian inquiry has been slight; America has been a fair seller, but the movement of the U. S. exchange has retarded American selling with freedom and has even rendered an occasional purchase possible. The Continent is inactive. On the whole the tone of the market is not very promising at the time of writing.

Mail advice from Bombay under date of the 2nd instant states as follows:—

"The principal feature of the Bombay silver market this week has been a heavy off take. This demand has been created by the commencement of the marriage season and some silver is also held with a view to take a chance of duty on silver as the Budget is now drawing near. The January 26 settlement has progressed satisfactorily. There was good forward business doing in the bazaar on some days as the bulls have commenced buying. upcountry demand for the metal being very good."

Mocatta & Goldsmid's Report

Reporting on February 21 Messrs. Mocatta & Goldsmid state:—

During the end of last week, the market was dull and inactive, with very little business doing. This week, China has been a steady seller, and there has been little buying except bear covering. At the lower level, India showed more interest in the market, and unless China sales continue, we think prices are about low enough.

Gold. The inquiry from India and the Continent has been small this week, and the bulk of the arrivals has been shipped to New York.

The price has varied between 95/9d. per ounce fine and 96/2d. per ounce fine.

Siamese Government Loan

London, Mar. 26.

It is understood that the new issue to-morrow of the Siam Government Loan of £3,000,000 at 8 per cent. interest, will appear on Friday, the price to be 95½.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 28.

The Siamese Loan, which closed yesterday, has been largely oversubscribed.—Reuter.

City of Amsterdam Loan

London, Mar. 27.

The issue has been arranged in London of a City of Amsterdam £2,000,000 to £3,000,000 5½ per cent. loan at a price below par of 50 years' currency, with borrowers' option to redeem wholly or partly after 10 years. The purpose of the loan is housing and extension of the floating debt.—Reuter.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT

A Dull Week in Most Departments Though a Brightening up of the Auctions

Mar. 29.

The past has been an uninspiring week in business. While the piece goods auctions have shown firmer prices, the trade as a whole continues in a dull and uninteresting condition. No further business is reported in local yarn, while exports are of little moment, except in silk in which Lyons is still interested.

PIECE GOODS.

The most satisfactory feature in piece goods this week was the improvement in prices registered at the auctions and the better demand there experienced. This, however, is not to say that the market generally is in a better state, for the improved auction prices are more or less only in the nature of a reaction after the sharp drops experienced during the past two or three weeks. It has to be noted that in the case of some private chops there has this week actually been a decline, and very little inclination to operate forward is displayed. It may safely be said that seldom has so dull a spring demand been experienced. This is principally accounted for by the state of the country, but a contributory cause is the renewed fall in American cotton.

The cold weather is affecting the Spring trade in woollens, and no new business is reported. Deliveries, however, continue good. The wool sales held in London this month have registered an advance of from 5 to 15 per cent. in spite of the increased quantities sold, and this is expected to have an appreciable effect on the price of locally held stocks.

At the auctions more trade orders were in evidence, and distinctly more optimism was shown on the part of speculators. This resulted in firmer prices and generally proceedings were very brisk. The dealers report encouraging sales from the interior, and clearances have been very satisfactory. In respect of Italians, which have shown the most pronounced drop since China New Year, dealers seem to have concluded that prices must have been at about bottom last week, and that if they desire to replace cheaply it must be done without delay. Looking at the position generally, one important factor is that compared with previous years the amount of cargo which has been placed on the market during the first quarter has been very small, and this must influence dealers accustomed to replace at this stage. Consequently the tone of the auctions has again become brisk, and several useful recoveries have been made in prices. Korea has been a dull market, this on account of the heavy shipments which have recently taken place. It is pointed out that a certain amount of Whites have been booked for May, and their arrival should exercise an affect upon this branch of the market later on, but as supplies are in the meantime short there is little reason to look for any drop during April.

COTTON AND YARN.

China Cotton—Owing to careful holding on the part of dealers, China cotton keeps steady, notwithstanding the continued drop in the American staple. It is interesting to note also that neither Egyptian nor Inidan cotton has followed American. The Indian staple is now very much on a parity with the local product, and a certain amount of import is proceeding. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the quotations for China cotton are:—April 44.50; May 43.90; June 43.50; July 42.90; August 42.40. Spot rates on the market are:—Tungchow 47.50; Shanghai 44; Shensi 44/46; Hankow 43.

Yarn—Following upon the recent good demand from the interior, requirements seem to have been satisfied, and the yarn market has accordingly become much quieter. Clearances continue fairly good. There has been a fair business in local cloth both for north and south China and for the Straits. On the Chinese Cotton Goods Exchange the yarn quotations are:—April 173.30; May 170.70; June 168.60; July 167.50; August 166.40.

SILK.

Owing to the improvement in the franc rate demand for silk is reviving on the Lyons market, and up to the time of writing continues fairly active.

As regards the New York market there is very little news of interest. Speaking generally the market is stagnant, buyers there believing in still lower prices. A few orders have arrived but at prices which do not allow merchants to connect.

PRODUCE.

The produce market continues inactive, with little or no business passing. There are no price movements of any importance to report.

SHARE SETTLEMENTS IN HONGKONG

Record Turn-over Negotiated Fairly Satisfactorily

Hongkong, Mar. 25.

Considering the record magnitude of the turn-over, which is estimated at $100,000,000, the Stock Exchange settlement to-day appears to be being negotiated on the whole satisfactorily. It is at present known that some speculators have defaulted, the differences varying between $10,000 and $80,000. The heaviest losses were on dealings in Cements, Ropes, Docks and Wharves, all of which show a wide disparity from the peak prices of the January boom. One sharebroker states: "Several firms of brokers have suffered from defaulters and big inroads have been made in our brokerage."—Reuter's Pacific Service.

Lancashire Cotton Industry

London, Mar. 25.

The Federation of master cotton spinners has reported at Manchester that, in conformity with resolutions adopted by all but one per cent., the mills spinning American cotton have restricted their working hours to 26½ hours a week. The change has effected a wholesome improvement in the condition of the industry.—Reuter.

U. S. Steel Corporation

New York, Mar. 24.

The annual statement of the United States Steel Corporation for the year ended December 31 shows that the net earnings were $123,177,000 and the surplus net income $54,260,000. A dividend was declared of 7 per cent. on preferred shares and 5¾ per cent. on common shares.—Reuter's Amedrican Service.

A Slump in Tin

London, Mar. 24.

Tin this morning slumped £20 to £239 on heavy American selling.—Reuter.

SHANGHAI'S HIGH COST OF LIVING

The following table of comparative prices of some common domestic things appears in the Municipal Council's report for 1923:—

			1875	1880	1885	1890	1895	1900	1905	1910	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Beef	lb.	$	.07	.08	.07	.07	.08	.13	.17	.19	.18	.19	.19	.19	.19	.19	.23	.22	.30
Fowls	lb.		.11	.11	.12	.10	.10	.14	.16	.16	.19	.19	.20	.20	.20	.23	.24	.27	.30
Eggs	doz.		.07	.07	.08	.08	.09	.13	14.	.15	.17	.18	.18	.19	.19	.21	.24	.26	.33
Snipe	each		.10	.11	.12	.12	.12	.14	.17	.19	.16	.15	.15	.15	.15	.16	.17	.14	.17
Sampi	lb.		.10	.10	.10	.14	.16	.20	.40	.40	.35	.37	.42	.45	.40	.37	.53	.57	.[illegible]
Potatoes	picul		1.60	.90	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.50	2.00	2.15	2.08	2.09	2.40	2.20	2.32	2.72	2.35	3.40	3.40
Milk	bottle		.10	.10	.10	.11	.11	.13	.14	.18	.20	.20	.20	.20	.20	.20	.22	.25	.25
Rice	200 lbs.		2.80	2.90	3.00	3.00	3.10	3.50	4.80	7.50	7.00	7.76	7.10	7.34	7.40	10.26	10.44	12.00	12.45
Barley	114 lbs.								2.40	3.45	3.00	2.87	2.66	2.76	2.65	3.13	3.54	4.45	4.17
Laundry	100					2.50	2.50	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	4.00	4.00
House Coal	Ton	Tls	9.00	9.25	9.25	11.00	11.00	12.00	9.00	9.70	9.78	9.70	14.83	19.30	19.00	18.00	18.00	17.00	17.00
Exchange	Tael=		5/7½	5/2⅞	4/9⅞	4/4⅞	3/8⅝	2/8 1/16	2/8¼	2/4⅞	2/3½	2/11	3/9¾	4/8⅜	5/6½	6/6¼	3/6½	3/4⅛	3/1¼

Ball, but, for my part, I will oppose most strenuously the doctrine that any responsibility rests upon the foreign residents of this Settlement for providing primary or universal education for the masses of children of the Chinese masses dwelling here under our rule.

Mr. Lockwood is one of those good people who consciously or unconsciously undermine the position of the foreigner and his extrality in China.

The reason why we live under the protection of extrality in this country is the self-evident one that the Chinese themselves cannot govern even themselves.

The Chinese have had Tsingtao given to them. Tsingtao was really a model place and an object lesson of German Municipal genius for the whole world to gaze upon, and admire.

The Chinese have been given this ready-made jewel of the Orient in thorough working order —and what have they done with it, and, what are they doing with it?

I am bold enough to tell my fellow foreigners that no obligation rests on us to use revenues, or raise revenues, for "educating" the children of the Chinese masses.

An obligation rests on us to provide them with water, and Chinese and foreign merchants will sell them soap if they want it, and in our governing of those Chinese who choose to come and dwell under our banner our only "ideal" that we need concern ourselves about is to give them a fair and square deal under the explicit conditions they must accept if they wish to dwell under extraterritorial rule in the port of Shanghai.

Mr. Lockwood quotes figures of the municipalities of New York, Chicago, and the capital, Washington, showing that upwards of 25 per cent. of the revenues of those cities are spent on education.

I accept his figures and their obvious inference that the inhabitants of those cities doubtless need education to that extent.

The Chinese inhabitants of this Settlement do not need such a proportion of our revenues to be spent on their education as Mr. Lockwood tells us his people require, and one important reason for my pointing this out is that a large proportion of our revenues must be spent on various forms of armed protection, not only for foreigners, but also for Chinese residents of the Settlement.

New York, Chicago, and Washington, D. C., do not live under this perpetual threat, nor do the municipalities of those cities have to cope with, *and provide for*, such an ever present contingency. We have!

It is not my business to criticize those engaged in the Commerce of Uplift or how they choose to spend the enormous sums in *their* budgets, but when one of the leaders of such enterprises invites discussion and advocates a policy diametrically opposed to my interests I take up his challenge and make no apology for the length of this opening shot in the conflict.

I am, etc.,
W. Bruce Lockhart.
Shanghai, March 25, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—Unless Mr. Lockhart has to keep up his reputation as a clever writer, I fail to see why he must interpolate his arguments with irrelevant travesties on the work of the Y.M.C.A. and with the conventional story of China's inability to govern herself. The "Y" may be most exasperating in its ceaseless efforts to "uplift" us when we are quite content to stay where we are. China may be rotten to her core. But both these have have nothing to do with the point raised by Mr. Lockwood in his letter to you two days ago.

Granted that Shanghai is not a colony but an extraterritorial port. Granted that the foreign residents are the only ones that should be considered. Granted also that the Chinese living in the Settlement have to be satisfied with what they can get, being not able to get anything so good in the territories governed by their own people. Granted that the Chinese have every right to pay but no right to demand anything in return. Granted all these, and still Mr. Lockwood is not wrong in pointing out, as one foreign resident to other foreign residents, that the Council's provision for the education of 1,350 Chinese boys in a population of over one million is inadequate. The Council may not have the funds to provide for more. Or the Council may be doing something which is not its business to do. But since the Council has started to educate the Chinese, maybe, out of charity, and has done good work in that way, there is nothing in a request to the Council to do more in the same way to warrant Mr. Lockhart trying to ridicule and burlesque the workings of the Y.M.C.A. Still less reason has Mr. Lockhart for making it a text to "boost" his all-impotant extraterritoriality and cry out in all triumph as if it were a new discovery that China cannot govern herself as a republic.

Will he kindly keep to the point and leave China and the Y.M.C.A. alone China as a nation and the Y.M.C.A. as an institution can exist without his cleverness.

I am, etc.,
K. C. K.
Shanghai, Mar. 26, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—As an individual, may I say that I personally feel that, if we are not responsible for the education of all the Chinese within the Settlement, we are at least responsible for spending the same proportion of the taxes received from Chinese sources, on Chinese education, as the sum now spent on foreign education bears to that contributed by the foreign community to the general revenue; and that this education should be as widely available to the poorer classes as the funds will admit. I also feel strongly that the cost of special benefits exclusively enjoyed by the foreign community, such as the Band, Parks, Library, etc., should be made up to the Chinese taxpayer in other ways. Perhaps made available for the Child Welfare work, made necessary by the advent of Western factory life for which we have been responsible.

I am, etc.,
Gilbert E. Peet.
Shanghai, Mar. 26, 1924.

*** It would be interesting to know exactly on what figures Mr. Peet bases his calculations, because the figures published by the Municipal Council do not show exactly what is paid in rates by Chinese and what by foreigners. There are items headed "Foreign" which, upon analysis, will be found to include Chinese contributions, and *vice versa*, and in order to ascertain the precise total paid by Chinese and foreigners the Municipal accounts would have to be gone through item by item, an impossible task in view of their immense number. According to the best estimate we have been able to obtain, there is no gross unfairness in the proportion spent on Chinese education and the proportion spent on foreign education, the amounts being relatively about the same to the amounts of rates paid by Chinese and by foreigners.—Ed.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—Every attempt to express views on Municipal matters seems always to be met by the objection, that we are not in a position to judge because we are not in possession of full information on the subject. In reply to your comment on my letter in yesterday's issue, I quote the following figures roughly taken from the Municipal Financial Report for the year 1922. To me these figures give the broad facts of the case and I must use them till better ones are produced.

Statistics Summary (1922) page 105A

Population	Foreign	Chinese
	26,000	814,000

General and Special Municipal Rate
(1922 page 43C).

Foreign.	Chinese
Tls. 1,378,726	Tls. 1,434,763

This correct to summary of four foreign schools and four Chinese, and grants in aid of other schools pages 59/62C

Foreign	
Public School Boys	Tls. 76,490
Public School Girls	,, 80,593
Thomas Hanbury Boys	,, 61,003
Thomas Hanbury Girls	,, 61,929
Grants Foreign Schools	,, 3,500
	Tls. 283,195

Chinese.	
Public School Chinese	Tls. 33,004
Ellis Kadoorie School	,, 31,779
Nieh Chih Kuei School	,, 29,474
Polytechnic for Chinese	,, 15,255
	Tls. 109,512

I am, etc.,
Gilbert E. Peet.
Shanghai, March 27, 1924.

∴ Mr. Peet did not read yesterday's footnote carefully enough. The important point was that "there are items headed 'Foreign' which, upon analysis, will be found to include Chinese contributions, and *vice versa*, and in order to ascertain the precise total paid by Chinese and foreigners the Municipal accounts would have to be gone through item by item." The belief that "there is no gross unfairness in the proportion spent on Chinese education and the proportion spent on foreign education, the amounts being relatively about the same to the amounts of rates paid by Chinese and by foreigners," was based on what should be very sound judgment.—Ed.

THE SINGAPORE NAVAL BASE.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—I think the majority of Britons will be proud of the decision of their Government definitely to abandon the scheme for a Naval Base at Singapore.

From a purely nationalistic and selfish viewpoint such altruisim on our part may appear to be very unwise, but from the viewpoint of "the creation of international confidence" surely Great Britain's aim is a noble one and therefore one to be admired.

All nations alike can defend military plans on the plea of "defensive" purposes. They all alike can say they intend nothing "offensive"; that nobody need have fears about trusting them, but that they much regret their inability to trust anyone else! A Briton may be wholly assured—and of any nation who has more right?—of his good intentions in his relations with the rest of the world, but surely he cannot be very surprised if those of other nationalities are not so easily convinced of those intentions.

Anyway, the world has tried this "self defence" plan long enough now, and we all know how it has failed; so why not try another plan? Has it not usually been found that those who prepare, most for war get the most war! (not an original expression of mine by the way).

Indeed and in very truth such noble altruism does involve risk to the nation that will embark on such an unusual policy, but it is worth it. The strong man who is generous has been altogether a too unfamiliar figure in the past history of the world; we may well take pride in the knowledge that Great Britain is trying to make him less unfamiliar, and is thus setting a chivalrous example to the world.

What, Sir, have you to say on the subject? Surely it is at least worth a "leader," as marking a notable step in promoting the brotherhood of man.

Enclosing my card.

I am, etc.,
Spectator.
Shanghai, March 20, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—Whatever may be the British plea for construction of Singapore Naval Base, it is pure and simple a menace to Asiatic nations, and inasmuch as Japan has been cited in the British Parliamentary discussions regarding the Base, it may be taken for granted that Japan is chiefly aimed at and consequently the impression among the Japanese is that her old ally is now preparing against Japan and it is not only those Japanese who remember the utterances of Lord Northcliffe at Peking a few years ago will be bitterly convinced that the racial war will eventuate at the initiative of British Imperialists whatever pretenses parties interested might make laying stress upon distance of 3,00 miles or such like vulgar platitudes in this connexion, deliberately ignoring the records of rapid strides made in speed of crafts both waterborne and aerial with far more prospect for future developments.

However, it is a sign of relief on the part of the Japanese to note that the scheme has been shelved and what is more gratifying for them locally is to read in your correspondence column today under the heading of Singapore Naval Base by "Spectator" who will surely win for his opinion a very high regard of the saner section of the Japanese nation.

Believing myself to represent the majority of Japanese sentiment in this respect and with a view to promoting deeper amity between the two nations I have taken trouble to bring a Japanese view in nakedness into limelight for British consideration.

Trusting you will be kind enough to let me enjoy the hospitality of your valuable space for the sake of peace and amity,

I am, etc.,
T. Shinohara.
Shanghai, March 22, 1924.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—According to your correspondent "Spectator," in your issue of the 22nd instant, the abandoning of the Singapore Naval Base by the present government is a sure sign of inspired forethought.

Forethought, I regret to say, has seldom appeared on a British political menu, so far as preventing war by being prepared for war; as, for instance, the Danish War of 1864, when we treated our Treaty with Denmark as "a scrap of paper," owing to unpreparedness. In conjunction with the pro-German leanings of our late "Good Queen," their unpreparedness gave Prussia her first military start. Then came the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. In this case I would remind "Spectator" that over one year before that catastrophe, William Ewart Gladstone went to the country with the cry of reducing the national debt, and when he got into power closed down recruiting.

The memorable speech of Disraeli is worth recalling when he denounced this procedure as "a sin against God and humanity"; that instead of stopping recruiting the Queen's bounty ought to be doubled and recruiting for the Army should be intensified, as two of the most powerful European nations were looking askance at one another. Six months from the date of that speech, France declared war against Prussia, and Bavaria ratted from France, mainly because we dare not help France.

UNPREPAREDNESS: Instead of our being the means of preventing war by being prepared, we had to sing very small and salve our consciences by sending flour and sticking-plaster to poor, shattered France! Thus again our unpreparedness for war was directly the prime factor in building a German Empire by bringing into existence the Germanic Federation.

Again, for two or more years before the World War, General Roberts was preaching a similar gospel to Disraeli, but was scoffed at by the pacifists and passed over as a dotard. Had he been listened to, had we had an army of, say, a million, would William Hohenzollern have plunged the world in blood? Therefore, the saying that those who prepare for war get the worst of it is not a good saying and worthy of acceptation.

Now comes the Singapore Base: Arguing on the same premises, is it not possible that if a strong naval base is built at Singapore, it may be the means of preventing war and, again, causing untold misery, especially after the letter appearing in your issue of the 21th over the signature of T. Shinohara?

Thanking you for the hospitality of your columns, and apologizing for the length of my letter.

I am, etc.,
W. V. Carmichael.
Shanghai, March 25, 1924.

BLACK TEA.

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—In your leader on China Tea in your issue of March 24 you state that the export of black tea during the season 1923-24 was as follows:

About 14 million pounds to the United Kingdom.

About 4 million pounds to the Continent.

About 10 million pounds to America and Canada.

These quantities are misleading and entirely wrong. The correct figures of black tea shipments for the Season 1923-24 are as follows.

From Shanghai to the United Kingdom	14,301,783
From Hankow to the United Kingdom	7,390,791
Total	21,691,549
From Shanghai to the Continent	4,319,864
From Hankow to the Continent	2,689,957
Total	7,008,821
From Shanghai to U.S.A. and Canada	10,018,320
From Hankow to U.S.A. and Canada	1,985,050
Total	12,003,370

I am, etc.
Excusez Moi.
Shanghai, Mar. 20, 1924.

*** The figures we quoted were supplied to us by one of the leading tea firms in Shanghai. The fact that the exports from Hankow were not included hardly affects the purport of the article in question.—Ed.

Some few days ago the house of a Chinese doctor living in a lonely spot on the Pootung side was attacked by a gang of robbers and the doctor, in putting up a defence, received a number of knife wounds His wife, who went to his assistance, was also wounded, and the two unfortunate people were bound with ropes while the robbers searched the house and spent a comfortable two hours there. Whilst they were carousing, the doctor's wife contrived to loosen her bonds, crept from the house and, despite her wounds, crawled to the nearest village police station, some three *li* distant. A number of police were got together and set for the house, but by the time they arrived the robbers had vanished Such is the story which appeared in a Chinese newspaper this week. It probably is correct, but sounds uncommonly like a cinema tale.

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SHANGHAI.—The East Asiatic Co., Ltd.

day, April 9, 1924, at 11.30 a.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 5 to 9, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Chartered Bank of I. A. & C.—At the approaching annual general meeting of shareholders the Directors will recommend that a dividend be declared for the past half year at the rate of 14 per cent. annum and a bonus of 6s. 3d. per shares free of income tax (equal to 20⅞% per annum).

The Kapayang Rubber Estates Co., Ltd.—The 15th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 23 Peking Road, Shanghai, on Monday, April 7, 1924, at 12 noon.

To pay a final dividend of 6% per share.

RUBBER AUCTIONS.

The following telegraphic advices have been received:—

Singapore, March 26, 1924.

Spot or March	41⅜ cents
Apr./June	42⅛ ,,
July/Sept.	43⅛ ,,

Market quiet and may go lower.

DEBENTURES.

LOANS	Term in years	Last business recorded	Loan Amt.	Int %	Payable
S'hai Municipal Council 1903	6 to 20	26-9-22	T98½	b T490,500	6 June-Dec.
S'hai Municipal Council 1904	do.	11-1-23	T98½	c 214,500	6 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1905	do.	12-5-22	T96½	d 320,000	6 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1907	do.	24-1-22	T94	500,000	6 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1908	do.	11-3-24	T99	650,000	6 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1909	do.	15-3-23	T99	300,000	6 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1910	do.	11-5-23	T99	313,800	6 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1911	10 to 30	28-3-24	T99	350,000	6 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1912	do.	3-1-24	T99	340,000	6 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1913	do.	3-5-23	T100	756,300	6 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1914	10 to 50	8-5-22	T78	500,000	5½ do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1914	10 to 30	8-1-23	T91	900,000	5½ do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1915	do.	11-3-24	T91	800,000	5½ do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1916	do.	24-3-24	T99	1,400,000	6 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1918	10	18-10-23	T103	507,300	7 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1919	10	4-12-23	T104	1,793,200	7 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1920	10	1-2-24	T105	2,240,000	7 do.
S'hai Municipal Council ,,	10 to 30	20-2-24	£105½	£750,000	6 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1921	do.	18-2-24	$110	$1,000,000	8 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1921	do.	17-3-24	T110	T5,096,400	8 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1922	do.	23-3-24	T105	T8,000,000	7 do.
S'hai Municipal Council 1923	do.	26-3-24	T99	¤16,000,000	6 do.
French Municipal Council 1911	do.	8-10-23	T96	400,000	6 May-Nov.
French Municipal Council 1914	do.	12-2-23	T88	500,000	5½ June-Dec.
French Municipal Council 1915	do.	5-3-24	T90	350,000	5½ do.
French Municipal Council 1921	do.	20-11-23	T108½	2,000,000	8 do.
French Municipal Council 1923	do.	17-12-23	T95	a T800,000	6 May-Nov.
S'hai Water-works Co., Ltd. 1921	10 to 30	2-10-23	T112	2,000,000	8 June-Dec.
S'hai Water-works Co., Ltd. 1922	do.	6-6-22	T108	T500,000	8 do.
S'hai Water-works Co., Ltd. 1923	do.	2-10-23	T105	T1,000,000	7 do.
S'hai Gas Co., Ltd. ...	do.	29-11-23	T94	c 800,000	6 do.

*Plus interest accrued since last half-yearly payment.

a—Now Issuing; Redeemed or Unissued:—*b*—Tls.65,100; *c*—Tls.51,100; *d*—Tls.34,100; *e*—Tls.68,500; *f*—Tls.262,400; *g*—Tls.189,800; *h*—Tls.12,300; *i*—$18,90

RUBBER OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Company	Authorized Capital	Financial yr. closes end of	Output last 2 fin. year: Year before	Output last 2 fin. year: Last Year	Estimated output present fin. year	All in cost per lb.	Output from end last fin. year to 30-9-23	1923: Oct.	1923: Nov.	1923: Dec.	1924: Jan.	1924: Feb.	Total output this fin. yr. to date
			lb.	b.	lb.	d.	lb.	lb	b.	b.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Alma	Tls. 630,000	Sept.	292,500	259,100	246,648	8.87d	..	22,000	21,000	25,000	22,000	18,000	108,000
Amberst (New)	,, 500,000	Oct.	72,442	80,692	90,751	*4.89d.	..	..	9,784	9,236	8,214	8,475	35,709
Anglo-Dutch	£200,000	Dec.	650,000	540,000	600,000	8.45d.	..	..	..	..	61,000	50,000	114,000
Anglo-Java	£250,000	Dec.	1,524,711	183,000	1,550,000	6.95d.	..	..	..	..	184,000	164,100	348,100
Ayer Tawah	Tls. 300,000	Sept.	359,417	58,042	360,000	†0.24.41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Batu Anam	,, 400,000	Dec.	258,510	217,822	185,793	9.01d.	..	..	..	..	12,500	11,500	24,000
Bukit Toh Alang	,, 500,000	Mar.	309,254	305,845	345,000	7.54d.	139,189	30,893	26,000	26,600	25,500	No.	248,182
Buto	,, 300,000	Dec.	230,067	174,350	159,516	10.11d.	..	..	..	..	17,500	16,600	34,100
Chemor United	,, 360,000	Dec.	340,794	267,627	..	8.40d.	..	..	..	..	27,000	23,500	50,500
Chempedak	£35,000	Oct.	145,760	163,063	..	1/5.42d.	..	..	14,000	16,700	14,900	4,400	49,100
Chenz	Tls. 675,000	June	151,923	145,338	..	11.09d.	52,730	18,010	15,574	15,700	10,500	9,700	122,214
Consolidated (1914)	,, 375,000	Dec.	609,399	615,773	761,500	7.47d.	..	..	..	..	53,000	58,779	104,779
Dominion	,, 350,000	Dec.	271,150	324,140	360,887	11.04d.	..	..	..	..	28,032	27,554	55,586
Gula-Kalumpong	£500,000	Dec.	1,113,000	955,000	1,215,000	1/0.74d.	..	..	..	..	88,000	78,016	166,016
Java Consolidated	£95,000	Dec.	675,390	620,100	..	7.08d.	..	..	..	..	63,300	60,800	129,200
Kapayang	,, 250,000	Mar.	114,379	104,783	84,000	8½d.	41,012	6,623	5,574	6,858	10,592	8,315	18,907
Karah	,, 300,000	June	138,330	339,970	..	..	78,967	24,886	27,143	29,933	8,118	6,448	74,651
Kota Bahroe (1921)	,, 670,000	Dec.	449,000	583,881	540,000	0/7.24d.	..	..	..	..	29,156	26,319	216,923
Kroewoek	Gs. 2,500,000	Oct.	842,580	913,600	975,000	Gldn.0.28	..	..	..	..	59,000	55,000	114,000
Langkat	Tls. 500,000	April	209,711	229,232	..	10½d.	66,300	17,200	17,000	20,000	19,700	11,100	134,300
Padang	,, 150,000	Mar.	172,022	135,253	176,088	†40.13	..	..	86,800	92,500	..	71,500	343,300
Pengkalan (1921)	,, 250,000	Oct.	98,303	86,299	..	0/8½d.	..	..	..	..	..	2,780	2,780
Permata	,, 275,000	Dec.	68,584	217,087	..	..	..	..	9,012	8,573	8,080	6,003	31,668
Rapah	,, 600,000	Sept.	361,816	250,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,100	8,700	26,100
Saungagan	,, 100,000	June	179,665	142,000	115,188	11.37d.	97,613	..	10,896	12,000	8,500	11,000	140,000
Sea Kee (1918)	,, 300,000	Dec.	164,105	245,596	158,364	0/9.37d.	..	..	..	..	13,400	13,400	26,800
Semamu	,, 375,000	Jan.	272,500	276,100	..	*17.35d.	..	..	..	..	..	14,500	14,500
Senawan (1921)	,, 400,000	Sept.	315,414	246,542	..	8.12d.	..	22,827	21,118	23,080	21,100	17,259	109,280
S'hai-Kelebang	,, 315,000	Dec.	128,108	109,015	..	0/9.35d.	..	..	..	..	8,700	8,000	16,700
S'hai Malay	,, 600,000	Dec.	373,111	289,156	392,000	..	..	..	..	..	22,782	21,474	44,256
S'hai Pahang	,, 260,000	June	209,881	188,016	..	9½d.	52,721	20,430	16,618	12,204	16,432	14,475	131,880
S'hai Seremban	,, 325,000	Dec.	171,213	147,112	..	9.82d.	..	..	..	..	14,400	13,300	27,700
S'hai-Sumatra	,, 690,000	Oct.	661,339	679,710	650,000	Gldn.0.38	..	..	50,239	61,102	61,110	51,170	223,021
Sua-Manggis	,, 230,000	Dec.	114,880	27,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sungala	,, 100,000	Mar.	30,279	105,757	..	†7.20	6,126	..	..	..	7,884	8,892	22,902
Sungei Duri	£40,000	June	308,073	296,568	229,000	11.61d.	64,560	23,302	18,774	19,773	23,698	22,272	172,379
Taiping (1913)	Tls. 240,000	Dec.	107,011	103,889	99,000	*30	..	..	..	..	8,184	..	8,184
Tanah Merah	,, 750,000	Mar.	415,000	395,900	..	7.82d.	162,200	27,500	23,400	21,800	21,900	22,200	279,000
Tebong	,, 250,000	Jan.	630,838	723,000	717,725	9/7.66d.	..	..	..	..	..	61,000	64,000
Zangbe	£750,000	Dec.	514,566	523,600	600,000	7.24d.	..	..	..	..	67,500	58,200	125,700

*Excluding Depreciation and Shanghai Expenses † Straits cents.

See Kee Rubber Estates (1918), Ld.	T	0.75	0.75			100,000	T1	(a	T26,650	Sept.	T0.05, 1922-23	..	..	..	..
Semambu Rubber Ests., Ld.	T	1.10	1.10			300,000	T1	a Loss	T32,626	June	..	..	..	..	12-12-23
Senawang Rubber Ests., ord.	T	0.75			63)	300,000	T1	(a	T10,429	Dec.	(T0.10, 1922 ..	..	..	..	20-4-23
Co. (1921), Ld. (12% Cum. Pref.					87)	100,000	T1	(c	T20,000		Interim T0.05, 1923 ..	..	..	..	30-10-23
Shanghai Kedah Plantations, Ld.	£	0.75	0.75		34)	400,000	T1	c Loss	T20,075	Jan.	..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Klebang Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	0.50	0.50		19)	315,000	T1	a	T1 183	Sept	T0.05, 1923 ..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Malay Rubber Estates, Ld. ord.	T	3				23,000	T10	a	T7,112	Dec.	T0.08, 1919 ..	..	..	..	27-12-23
,, 8% cum. part pref.	T	9			22	50,000	T10	a	T10,124	Dec	(Ord. T0.30 for 9 months ended 31/12/16 ..	..	..	..	21-2-20
											(Pref. T0.40, for 9 months ended 31/12/23 ..	..	..	..	2-5-17
															31-10-23
S'hai Pahang Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	0.75				200,000	T1	(Loss)	T1,213	June	Final T0.09 (mkg. T0.10, 1916-17) ..	..	..	..	..
S'hai Serambau Rubber Estates, Ld.	T	0.60				325,000	T1	a (Loss)	T10,352	Dec.	T0.04 for 10 months, ended 31/12/22 ..	..	..	..	12-10-17
S'hai-Sumatra Tobacco Co., Ld.	T	100	100		7)	30,000	T20	a (Loss)	325,510		..	..	..	..	31-3-17
Sua Manggis Rubber Co., Ld.	T	3	3.10		30)	56,090	T5	(a	T812,170	Oct.	T2, 1918-19 ..	..	..	..	..
Sungala Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	0.80	0.75		‡5)	100,000	T1	(a	T6,055		..	..	..	..	1-4-20
Sungei Duri Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	7½				40,000	£1 at T8.50	(c	T25,000	Dec.	T0.25, 1919 ..	..	..	..	..
Taiping Rubber Estates (1913), Ld.	T	0.50				200,000	T1	(a	T1,625		..	..	..	..	20-4-20
Tanah Merah Estates (1916), Ld.	T	0.50	0.55	0.60	32)	750,000	T1	(c	T10,000	Mar.	T0.10, 1916-17 ..	..	..	..	..
								a	T22,766	June	T0.85, 1922-23 ..	..	..	..	12-7-17
Tebong Rubber Estate, Ld.	T	1.05	1		‡54)	750,000	T1	a (Loss)	T5,801	Dec.	T0.08, 1919 ..	..	..	..	12-10-23
Zlangbe Rubber Co., Ld.		3		3	56)	0,000	10s.	(a	T31,551		..	..	..	..	20-5-20
								(a	T5,737		..	..	..	..	..
								a (Loss)	T13,574	Mar.	Interim T0.05 1916-17 (Final, Nil) ..	..	..	..	7-12-17
								(a	T38,757	Jan.	....††	..	..	..	....
								(c	T5,239	Dec.	T0.50, 1919 ..	..	..	..	28-4-20

COTTONS, ETC.

Ewo Cotton Mills, Ld. ord.	T	11½	11½		15)	1,000,000	T5	(a	T3,257		..	..	..
,, (8% cum. pref.	T	105	106		43)	10 000	T100	(b	T1,400,000		..	..	..
								(c	T2,802,920		Ord. T0.55, 1923 ..	..	..
Laou Kung Mow C. S. & W. Co., Ld.	T	8				80,000	T10	a (Loss)	T80,057	Dec.	Pref. T8, 1923 ..	..	..
								(b	T120,000		..	..	..
Oriental C. S. & W. Co., Ld. ord.	T	5			60)	500,000	T3	(c	T7,612	Dec.	Final T2, (mkg. T4, 1921) ..	..	..
pref.	T				3)	5,000	T100	a (Loss)	T98,500		..	..	..
								b	T200,000		..	..	..
Shanghai Cotton Mfg. Co., Ld. (Shanghai Boshoku K.K.)	T	62 old / 36 new			(	80,000	T50	c	T2,551,760	Dec.	..	..	..
					‡	40,000	T50	(a	T50,375		Final T0.50 (mkg. T1.50, 1921) ..	..	..
								(c	T1,270,000	June	T3.50 1922-23 ..	..	..

INDUSTRIAL.

British-American Tobacco (ord.	£		15 3/16	£5 9/16	66)	18,000,000	£1	(a	£3,531,846		..	..	..
Co., Ld. (5% cum. pref.						4,500,000	£1	(c	£2,251,610	Sept.	Final Ord. 1922-23, 9% (mkg. 25%) free		
China Im. & Ex. Lumber Co., Ld.	T	350				5 000	T100	(a	T161,333		of I/T ..	..	..
								(b	T300,000		..	..	..
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.	H $	280	280			20,000	H $100	(c	T2,100,000	Feb.	T8, 1922-23 ..	..	..
Gordon & Co., Ltd.	T	25			37)	6,000	T25	(a	H $2,762		..	..	..
Green Island Cement Co., Ld.	H $	33				400,000	H $7.50	(b	H $470,000	Dec.	H $10, 1922 ..	..	..
Maatschappij, &c., In Langkat	T	10¼				200,000	Gs.10	(c	H $379,752		..	..	..
								(a	T19,690		..	..	..
								(c	T130,015		Div. T2.50 & Bonus T0.62½ ..	..	..
								a	H $93,634		1922-23 ..	..	..
								(c	H $1,000,000	Dec.	(Final H $1.50 (mkg. H $2, 1922) ..	..	..
								a (Loss)	T138,433	Oct.	(Interim H $0.50 a/c, 1923 ..	..	..
								(c	T190,164		T0.50, 1918-19 ..	..	..
Shanghai Loan & Investment Co., Ld.	T	6½ (comb. T50)	6.40 (comb T	6.60 (comb. T		250,000	T5	(a	T35,698		..	..	..
								(c	T300,000	Dec.	T0.50, 1923 ..	..	..
S'hai Exploration & Development Co., Ld.	T	13				250,000	T5				..	..	..
Major Brothers, Ld.	T	5			10)	6,000	T20	a (Loss)	T13,341	Dec.	..	..	..
John Richards & Co., Ld.	T	10			11)	25,000	T10	(a	T6,941	Dec.	....	..	..
								(c	T70,000		....	..	..
Shanghai Gas Co., Ld.	T	45			‡)	24,000	T50	(a	T3,136	Dec.	10%, 1921 ..	..	..
								(c	T30,000		..	..	..
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.	T	140			‡9)	50,000	$20	(a	T23,781	Dec.	T3.50, 1922 ..	..	..
								(b	T50,000		..	..	..
								(c	T666,891		..	..	..
								(a	T29,595	Dec.	(Final 1922, 20s. at Exchg., 3/2½		
								(b	T75,000		(Interim 1923, 10s. at Exchg., 3/0½ ..	..	..
								(c	T1,680,295		..	..	..

STORES.

Hall & Holtz, Ld.	$	7	7		‡16)	28,000	$20	(a	$116,937	Feb.	$2, 1917-18 ..	..	..
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ld.	$	30				1,200	$60	(b			..	..	..
S. Moutrie & Co., Ld.	$	50			17)	10,000	$30	(a	$10,697	Dec.	$6, 1922 ..	..	..
								(c	$26,000		..	..	..
Weeks & Co., Ld.	$	11			‡50)	30,000	$20	(a	$26,282	Mar.	(Final $2 & Bonus $4 (mkg. $9, 1922-23)	..	..
								(c	$323,195		(Int. 6%, 1923-24 ..	..	..
								(a	$37,633	Feb.	$1.60, 1922-22 ..	..	..
								(c	$210,000		..	..	..
Lane, Crawford & Co., Ld.	$	102	104		‡)	2,500	$100	(a	$5,539		..	..	..
								(b	$20,000		$8, 1922-23 ..	..	..
								(c	$250 000		..	..	..

MISCELLANEOUS.

Culty Dairy Co., Ld.	T	13		12		10,000	T10	(a	Loss)	T26,956	Oct.	T0.60, 1921-22 ..	..	..	..
								(c		T119,293		..	..	..	..
S'hai Electric Construction Co., Ld., "B"	T	16	16	16½				(a		£17,022	Dec.	(1st Int. 1923, 12s./- (Coupon 23) ..	..	..	..
London	£1		£2:12:0	£2:15:0		40,000	£1	(c		£114,315		(2nd Int. 1923, 12s./- (Coupno 24) both less			
								f				I/T at 4/7½ in £ ..	..	..	..
S'hai Horse Bazaar & Motor Co., Ld.	T	50				5,400	T50	(a		T18,548	Dec.	T5, 1922 ..	..	..	1-2-24
								(c		T213,257		..	..	..	..
Shanghai Mercury, Ld.	T	25				3,000	T50				Apr.	T1.50 1913-14 ..	..	..	20-4-23
Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. Ld.	T	73		74	‡49)	40,000	T50	(a		T10,285	Mar.	T4.50, 1922-23 ..	..	..	31-3-15
								(b		T70,000		..	..	..	..
								(c		T920,016		..	..	..	31-5-23
Oriental Press (L'Imprimerie Francaise)	$	100				940	$100	(a		$100,513	Mar.	$10, 1922-23 ..	..	..	..
								(b		$9,000		..	..	..	..
								(c		$21,101		..	..	..	5-7-23

For all Dollar shares quoted on the Shanghai Stock Exchange the Exchange rate is fixed at 73.

REFERENCES.

a Carried forward at last Ann. Genl. Meeting.
b Dividend Equalization Reserve.
c General and Other Reserves.
d Uncalled liability $6 per sh.
e ,, ,, $10 ,,
f ,, ,, H $150 ,,
g ,, ,, H $200 ,,
h ,, ,, H $ 80 ,,
i ,, ,, Tls. 25 ,,
w Working Account 1922
w Working Account 1921
r Working Account 1920
y Working Account 919
z Working Account 1919 and former years.
† Registered: or Bearer (idem. "B").
** Issued Capital: 7% Cum. Pref. 24,161 shares; Ordinary, 16,270 shares.

‡ Debenture Issues also.
‡‡ Subject to Estate Managers' Commissions
* Subject to E. P. D. and Comm. Tax.
• Continencl. liability for Interest on 12% Cum. Pref. Shares of Tls. 5,939

1—14,000 sh' unis'd.
2—70,411 ,,
3— 5,000 ,,
4— 4,000 ,,
5—19,182 ,,
6—50,000 ,,
7—10,761 ,,
8—10,000 ,,
9—16,470 sh. unis'd;
10—500 ,,
11—15,200 ,,
12—50,000 ,,
13—1,337 ,,
14—3,063 ,,
15—100,000 ,,
16—1,662 ,,
17—3,832 ,,
18—5,580 ,,
19—181,668 ,,
20—15,000 ,,
21—100,000 ,,
22—10,000 ,,
23—5,000 ,,
24—76,810 ,,
25—125,000 ,,
26—60,000 sh' unis'd
27—8,721 ,,
28—100,000 ,,
29—4,683 ,,
30—2,000 ,,
31—1,000 ,,
32—50,000 ,,
33—125,000 ,,
34—102,570 ,,
35—200 ,,
36—180,000 ,,
37—1,443 ,,
39—7,695 ,,
42—230,000 ,,
43—1,000 ,,
(Not to be issued for less than $50 ea.)
47—500 sh. unis'd;
48—100,000 ,,
49—5,644 ,,
50—8,178 ,,
54—40,000 ,,
55—80,000 ,,
56—10,634,850 ,,
57—5,000,000 ,,
60—16,000 ,,
61—240,000 ,,
62—401,055 ,,
63—15,000 ,,
64—600 000 ,,
65—200,000 ,,
66—1,933 920 ,,
67—60,067 ,,

In order to ensure accuracy of the above details, Agents and Secretaries of Companies are requested to notify J. P. Bisset & Co. of any alterations, errors or omissions.

COMPANIES' NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

The Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd.—At a meeting of directors held on 6th inst. it was decided to recommend at the forthcoming annual general meeting, the payment of a dividend for 1923 of Tls. 4 per share, being at the rate of 8% on the paid-up capital.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Office of Messrs. Scott, Harding & Co., Ltd., 35 Peking Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, April 10, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 1 to 10, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.—The 18th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 2 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, April 2, 1924, at 4 p.m.

To pay a final dividend of Tls. 4½ per share (making 8% for the year.)

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 24 to April 2, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Batu Anam (Johore) Rubber Estates, Ltd.—The 11th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, April 10, 1924, at 3.30 p.m.

It was decided to recommend to shareholders a dividend of 5 cents per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 7 to 10, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Consolidated Rubber Estates (1914), Ltd.—The 10th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 2 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, April 8, 1924, at 4 p.m.

To Pay a final Dividend of Tls. 0.15 per share (making 28 per cent. for the year.)

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 31 to April 8, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Chemor United Rubber Co., Ltd.—The 12th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, April 2, 1924, at 11.45 a.m.

It was decided to recommend to shareholders a dividend of 5 candareens per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 28 to April 2, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—The Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 69 Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, April 3, 1924, at 4.30 p.m.

A final dividend of 10s. per share @ Ex. 3/2½d. will be recommended.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 21 to April 3, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates, Ltd.—The local Transfer Books will be closed from March 24 to April 11, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Shanghai Klebang Rubber Estate, Ltd.—The 9th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Friday, April 4, 1924, at 4 p.m.

The Transfer Books will be closed from March 31 to April 4, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Ziangbe Rubber Co., Ltd.—The 14th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, April 7, 1924, at 11.45 a.m.

A dividend of 25 candareens per share will be recommended.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 2 to 7, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Anglo-Java Estates, Ltd.—The 14th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Monday, April 14, 1924, at 4 p.m.

A final dividend of 30 candareens per share will be recommended.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 7 to 14, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Java Consolidated Rubber & Coffee Estates, Ltd.—The 14th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Thursday, April 17, 1924, at 4.30 p.m.

A final dividend of 75 candareens per share, making Tls. 1.25 per share for the year will be recommended.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 12 to 17, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Bute Plantations (1913), Ltd.—The 11th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 2 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, April 15, 1924, at noon.

The Kajang Rubber Estate, Ltd.—The 11th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, April 15, 1924, at 4 p.m.

It was decided to recommend to shareholders a dividend of 5 cents per share.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 8 to 15, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Kuala Kubu Rubber Estates, Ltd.—The 11th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, April 15, 1924, at 4 p.m.

A final dividend of 30 candareens per share will be recommended.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 8 to 15, 1924, both days inclusive.

The Kuantan Rubber Estates, Ltd.—The 11th Annual General Meeting will be held at No. 10 Canton Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, April 15, 1924, at 4.30

LAW REPORTS

EX-GRANTHIS CHARGED WITH FRAUD

Local Politics Barred: Magistrate's Warning to Defence

There was again a full attendance of Sikhs at H. M. Police Court last Friday, when the two former Granthis at the North Szechuen Road Gurdwara, Sucha Singh and Amar Singh, appeared on remand charged with having fraudulently converted to their own use the sum of $910 belonging to members of the Skih police.

When before the Court on Wednesday, the accused were not represented by counsel, but Mr. R. C. Faithfull now appeared on their behalf and applied for a further remand, saying that he had only received instructions on the previous afternoon and had had no time to go fully into the case.

Mr. E. T. Maitland, for the prosecution, made no objection, not wishing to embarrass the defendants in any way, and the Magistrate granted a remand until Monday. "You must make it clear to your clients," his Worship observed to Mr. Faithfull, "that we do not want the time of the court wasted by discussion of local politics."

Mr. Faithfull—I shall not touch on politics. It is no part of the defence.

His Worship—Well, a statement has been made that the charge is brought as an attempt to prevent the defendants from being successful in an action against the Municipal Council for wrongful dismissal.

Jemadar's Evidence

Further evidence was heard by Mr. G. W. King at H. M. Police Court on Monday.

Sirdar Sahib Buddha Singh, Jemadar of Sikh Police, was put into the witness box to be cross-examined by Mr. Faithfull.

In the course of cross-examination witness said the two defendants were dismissed from the Gurdwara for thieving on December 9.

The Magistrate.—Dismissed for theft—then why did you not prosecute them then?

Sirdar Sahib—It was Gurdwara business. The committee did not wish to bring it into the Courts.

Further cross-examined witness said the two men were employed as policemen after their dismissal from the Gurdwara.

The Magistrate: What, after December 9?—Yes Sir.

When they had been discharged from the Gurdwara for dishonesty?—Yes Sir, they were paid $19 per month as 5th class constables and given an allowance of $15 each for their services as granthis.

Indar Singh, treasurer of the Sikh ghee account was next called and spoke to handing over the ghee, etc., to the granthis at various intervals. No receipts were taken from the men.

The witness delved into figures at some length. Various totals were given to his Worship. The treasurer appeared to be in an extraordinary muddle, and after he had been in the box for about three-quarters of an hour the magistrate adjourned the case until next morning.

Capt. Barrett and Ghee Accoun

The accused came before Mr. G. W. King again on Tuesday afternoon.

Indar Singh, treasurer of the fund, was put into the witness box again and continued to go into the account books with the Court.

Captain E. I. M. Barrett, Assistant Commissioner of Police, told the Court that the defendants were appointed Granthis to the Gurdwara in 1921. They received $15 per month from the Municipal Council and $35 per month from the Gurdwara. About December last Amar Singh informed witness that he and his companion had been dismissed by the Gurdwara. He wrote to the Gurdwara Committee asking them by what right they dismissed men who were on the Municipal pay roll without reference to the Council, and asking for details of the charges brought against them. The committee replied setting forth certain reasons and affirming that their decision could be reversed by no man for it was, in fact, the "word of God," a decision of the "sunghat," therefore irrevocable. Not being satisfied with this he enlisted the two men into the police force and gave them duties as Granthis at the Gordon Road Gurdwara. He discovered a feeling of resentment among his own men at the appointment and called a mass meeting of Sikh police at the Central Station to deal with the matter. He there learned that the majority of the men felt that these Granthis were not fit and proper men to act as priests or Granthis for their Gurdwara. With that he gave the defendants the opportunity to resign and advised them to do so. They accepted his advice and he secured deferred pay for them and their passages back to India from the Municipal Council. One man had accepted the pay but neither accepted the passage. Captain Barrett added that he once kept the *ghee* accounts himself.

The case was again adjourned.

Both Men Sent for Trial

Amar Singh and Sucha Singh, the two ex-Granthis of the Sikh Gurdwara, North Szechuen Road, were committed for trial by Mr. G. W. King, at H.M. Police Court on Wednesday.

Amar Singh, in evidence, said he took the *ghee* fund over from Sucha Singh on October 10, 1923, since when Sucha Singh had nothing to do with the fund. He denied that he owed anything of the $910 concerning which he was charged. Actually the police owed him $10 expenses. He denied, also, that he had ever resigned his position, as stated in evidence by Capt. Barrett.

Cross-examined by Mr. Maitland, witness denied telling the police they could keep his deferred pay on account of what he owed on the *ghee* account. He denied that he spent any of the money in connexion with the Imperial Hotel.

Mr. Maitland.—You are connected with that hotel?

Amar Singh.—I refuse to say.

Mr. Maitland altered his tactics.

"Do you remember" he asked, "going round to the hotel so drunk you had to be put out?"

Witness—I don't know.

Do you remember coming into this Police Court because it was alleged you were drunk on those premises?—I don't know.

You don't remember saying you were entitled to go into your own house?—I remember that,—but (after a pause) my house is the Gordon Road Gurdwara.

Witness then continued to delve into the figures as shown in his books. He said 31 Sikhs to whom he had sold *ghee* had gone away without paying and that accounted for over $520 of the missing money.

PARTNER IN THE IMPERIAL HOTEL.

Sucha Singh also gave evidence. He denied resigning from the police force and denied that he owed the $910.

In the course of cross-examination he stated that he was a partner in the Imperial Hotel; Amar Singh was not. He put $1,500 into the hotel himself.

Mr. Faithfull, in his address to the Court, submitted that the whole question was one of accounts, and was not a case for a jury. Other people had been selling the tins of *ghee* as well as the defendants. He did not think a jury would thank the Court for sending a case of this sort to them, probably to take up two whole days going into a mass of figures and accounts which did not agree. He very much doubted whether the Crown Advocate would go on with the case even if it were given to him.

The Magistrate said the case had been a wearisome one in that Court, but considerations as to whether the jury would thank him or whether the Crown Advocate would carry on if he committed the prisoners could not affect him in any way. The accused would be committed for trial in the higher court. Bail was allowed.

THE ROWARTH CASE PERJURY CHARGE

Accused Committed for Trial

The prosecution of W. H. Goulbourn, who is alleged to have committed perjury in the Rowarth trial, was continued at H. M. Police Court on Saturday, and at the close of the proceedings Mr. G. W. King committed the accused for trial.

The charge framed against the accused is that on June 29 last, being a witness at the trial of Judith Rowarth, he falsely swore that Mrs. Rowarth did not leave the house of her daughter before 8.30 on the night of May 4.

Mr. E. T. Maitland prosecuted and Mr. Mansel Reece defended the accused.

Upon the Magistrate reading over the charge and cautioning accused, Goulbourn answered that he was not guilty and wished to give evidence. He was then sworn, and stated that he was the son of Mrs. Rowarth, and was employed by the Union Insurance Society of Canton.

Concerning his evidence given at the trial, Mr. Reece asked: From what you have heard of the Chinese amah's evidence and that of the Inspector, have you any wish to change what you said?

Witness—No.

Counsel—Are you satisfied in your own mind that the Inspector has quite forgotten what was said at the trial?

Witness—Yes, I am quite satisfied.

Continuing, witness described his movements after leaving office on the evening of May 4, and went on to say that he left the Club Lusitano in company with a Mr. Marques at about 7.15 or 7.30, they together going to the house of Mrs. Davies. Mrs. Rowarth was then in the house.

Counsel—Did you at any time during the trial say that Mrs. Rowarth never left Mrs. Davies's house on the night that the Indian was assaulted?

Witness—I never said anything of the kind.

Counsel—Have you any idea how the Inspector has arrived at this extraordinary recollection of your evidence?

Witness—No idea at all, unless he has mistaken some of the other evidence for mine.

In cross-examination, Mr. Maitland reminded accused that, at the trial, he stated that he arrived at the house at 7.30 and supper was at 8.30, that there was nothing extraordinary about Mrs. Rowarth, and that she was there all the time up to and during supper, and witness repeated that this was correct. It meant that she was in the house between 7.30 and 8.30 on the night the Indian was assaulted. Witness repeated that he had no doubt as to the date and none as to Mrs. Rowarth's presence in the house.

You have heard the evidence of Pakha Singh, who said she arrived at his house at 7.30?—Yes.

And he said the assault took place about 8 o'clock?—I remember hearing that.

In reply to further questions, witness said Mrs. Rowarth never left the house from the time he got there until after 8.30. That was all he knew. Whether or not she went to Pakha's house afterwards he did not know.

You don't suggest now that she did not go to the Sikh's house?—I suggest nothing. I am here to answer a charge of prejury, and I am answering it.

MR. ROWARTH'S DEPARTURE.

Do you know that your mother has left Shanghai?—Yes.

And Mrs. Davies?—Yes, so I have been told.

Do you know when they left?

Mr. Mansel Reece—This is not material at all. I object to it as certainly not being material to a charge of perjury.

Mr. Maitland—You do not know when they left?

Witness—I am here to answer a charge of prejury, Mr. Maitland.

His Worship—Where does the question lead to? Mr. Maitland—It shows how intimate these people were together.

Counsel did not pursue the matter, and in answer to the Magistrate, witness said he stuck to what he said in the Supreme Court. He saw Mrs. Rowarth leave the house with a crowd of people, but did not see the amah go with her.

Det. Sub. Inspector Quayle was again re-called and questioned by Mr. Mansel Reece. He repeated his statement that Goulbourn had said Mrs. Rowarth never left her daughter's house on the night the Indian was assaulted.

You are certain he said that? (You are the only person who does say it)—To the best of my knowledge, that is exactly what he did say, that she never left the house between 7.30 and 8.30.

Why do you think he added "between 7.30 and 8.30"?—I have'nt the faintest idea.

You failed to get a conviction against Mrs. Rowarth?—Yes.

And you have failed to get a conviction against anyone else in connexion with the case?—We have not tried to convict anyone else.

It is well known in Shanghai that you are anxious to obtain a conviction in connexion with the Rowarth case?—We are anxious to secure the conviction of the person who committed the crime.

How do you account for the fact that the statement you attribute to Goulbourn is not to be found in the Judge's notes of the trial?—I cannot account for it.

It is very material. Do you think the Judge would overlook it?—I don't know.

The true answer is that the words are not in the Judge's notes because they were never said?—I beg to differ.

The Magistrate—The Judge need not put everything down.

Mr. Mansel Reece—Quite so, but it is not likely he would miss a point like that.

Mr. Mansel Reece then addressed the court for the defence, laying stress upon the necessity for the strictest proof and exact corroboration in a charge of perjury, and on the important discrepancy in time stated by the Sikh and the Amah, there being a difference of an hour and a half in the time they stated that Mrs Rowarth called at the Sikh's house. If accused were committed for trial, coursel continued, in all probability the Judge would not allow the case to go to the jury and there would be a direction that the charge be dismissed. The prosecution had already seen how matters were going when they withdrew the charge of conspiracy, and it would be just as well for them to withdrew the charge of perjury.

The Magistrate said it seemed to him there was something in the case for a jury to decide. He felt there was a great deal in Mr. Reece's remarks, but it was not for him to comment on the evidence. The matter was out of his hands, and the accused would have to go for trial.

Goulbourn was released on bail, himself in $500 and two sureties of $500 each.

His Honour Judge Peter Grain disposed of another batch of debt cases in H.M. Supreme Court, on Monday. He gave judgment for the Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels against W. E. Holmes (who did not appear) for $1,470.95 for board and lodging, and $100 costs; for J. Lebovich against the same defendant for $115 for remaking and relining a lady's fur coat; for the Yangtszepoo Stores against J. Richie for $64.41 for whiskey supplied, and $12.50 costs; and for Budan Singh against Amar Singh for $100 borrowed money, and $5.50 costs. The case of Sundar Singh *v.* J. J. Ellis, which came up on a judgment summons for $495, was adjourned until next month on the defendant's statement that he then could meet in a lump sum the instalments due, the Judge indicating that a committal order would follow if he failed.

DISTURBING THE PEACE

Important Decision in U. S. Consular Court: A Charge Dismissed

The U.S. Commissioner, sitting in the American Consular Court, has given a decision of great importance in the case of U. S. *v.* Jay Elmont. The decision is as follows:—

The defendant in this action by motion to dismiss has raised the point that the complaint herein does not allege sufficient facts to constitute a criminal offence within the jurisdiction of this Court:

The laws applicable to criminal offences in this jurisdiction are embodied in section No. 4086 of the United States Revised Statutes and are as follows:

"Jurisdiction in both criminal and civil matters shall, in all cases, be exercised and enforced in conformity with the laws of the United States, which are hereby, so far as is necessary to execute such treaties, respectively, and so far as they are suitable to carry the same into effect, extended over all citizens of the United States in those countries, and over all others to the extent that the terms of the treaties, respectively, justify or require. But in all cases where such laws are not adapted to the object, or are deficient in the provisions necessary to furnish suitable remedies, the common law and the law of equity and admiralty shall be extended in like manner over such citizens and others in those countries; and if neither the common law, nor the law of equity or admiralty, nor the statutes of the United States, furnish appropriate and sufficient remedies, the Ministers in those countries, repectively, shall, by decrees and regulations which shall have the force of law, supply such defects and deficiencies."

Having made a diligent search through these laws as prescribed by the statutes, this court fails to find that the offence of disturbing the peace of a single person comes within the purview of same. It further appears that no decrees or regulations applying to this particular offence have been made by the Ministers of the United States for China. It seems that this Court is without jurisdiction for the prosecution of an offence of this nature, and will be so until definite action of some character is taken by such tribunal who has the power to remedy this situation. This status of conditions is not without precedent.

A CASE FROM TANGIER.

In Judge Moore's International Law Digest, Vol. 2, page 630, mention is made of a similar case occurring in Tangier. An American citizen there was charged by the consul for the offence of wife beating, and the Consular Judge found him guilty and sentenced him to be flogged, and that said sentence was duly executed.

Mr. Adee, acting Secretary of State at that time, criticized the action of the Consular Judge, and said, in part, as follows:

"Wife beating is not, at common law, a distinctive offence; nor is it made such by any statute of the United States, or regulation enforceable in your Consular Court. By the earlier common-law authorities, the wife was considered so far under her husband's power that he might give her moderate correction *ex causa regiminis castigationis*, but that doctrine is repudiated by all the modern authorities in this country and in England, so that in the present state of the common law beating a wife is assault and battery, in like manner as the beating of any other person would be. There is no United States statute specially providing punishment for assault and battery on an unofficial person. So we must look to the common law for the punishment of the ordinary offence."

By this it appears that the law enumerated by the revised statutes must be strictly followed, and if it develops that a criminal offence is not within its purview it must fail. This is the status of the offence charged in this complaint, and the defendant's motion to dismiss is accordingly sustained, and he is discharged from further pleading to said action.

One of Korniloff's accomplices, Pinegin, was sent to penal servitude for life on the 15th instant, the Chamber of Justice at Harbin upholding the verdict of the lower court. As in the case of Korniloff, who stands under sentence of death for several murders, the accused was told he could appeal to the Peking Senate within 10 days. On hearing the verdict, Pinegin fainted.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

A GREAT BILLIARDS MATCH

Mr. Johnson, Champion, Defeated by Capt. Barrett after Sensational Finish

Billiards enthusiasts were afforded a sensation on Monday evening when Capt. E. I. M. Barrett knocked out Mr. R. C. K. Johnson in the second round of the Amateur Championship. Play in the first session was fairly good, but the second session was somewhat slow, though relieved by one very fine break by Johnson and by a sensational finish. It is quite possible that both players, though they professed at first not to be disturbed, were put off their game by reason of the orchestral practice which was going on in the main hall at the Town Hall, for it is hard to believe that any man, however steady his nerves, can play properly to the accompaniment of the crash of 50 instruments.

In the first session Barrett held the lead the greater part of the time, but Johnson never let him get too far ahead, invariably overhauling him when the advantage became too pronounced and ending up just under 50 points to the good. Barrett opened with a number of small but useful breaks and went first to the century (102-82). He continued in the same style, Johnson not scoring anything better than 35. The champion had been confining himself almost entirely to red ball play and seemed to find it difficult to get the strength of the table, but eventually he got going, put the white where it would not worry him and strung together a splendid break of 85, scoring only off the red ball once he had worked it into position. He broke down at an easy middle pocket, but had gone into the lead at 182-136 and shortly afterwards another break put him at 221 153.

Then Barrett pulled up again, levelled the scores and with a run of 39 completed the third 100 at 331-290. After this Johnson played very steadily and looked like running to his points with one break, but it stopped at 41, with the score at 399. Barrett gave a safety miss and the session ended:—Johnson, 400; Barrett, 353.

After dinner the small hall was well filled with spectators. Barrett still was in a scoring mood and soon passed his opponent, who was unable to put together more than 12 or so at a break. The game was called in Barrett's favour at 502-486. Johnson, with his first break over 30, again went into the lead at 539, but Barrett promptly replied with 40, which included some very clever shots and entered the next 100 at 603-572. Barrett continued to forge ahead and was only six points off 700, with Johnson 40 behind, when the best play of the match was seen. Johnson added 20 and then at his next visit to the table put on 80 with a splendid effort. He dropped the white with his first shot and thereafter very seldom had the red away from the middle pockets, playing it from side to side in delightful fashion and with perfect judgment.

This gave Johnson the lead at 755-695, but Barrett was not beaten and once more put a thrill into the game with successive breaks of 23 and 29. The players had an interesting duel for position, with a run of misses and safety shots, out of which Barrett came off best. However, he only made six points and left Johnson with such an easy position that it seemed the champion must win, but he finished after adding 24, the game then standing 756-756 in his favour. Barrett replied with 14. Johnson missed the easiest of shots, but Barrett did worse. There are few to touch him at winning hazards, and yet, with the game in his hands he missed a novice's cut. Johnson was left with still another certainty and only 13 points for game, but once more he broke down at an easy shot.

Barrett had two simple shots to start with. After that he had to work hard, but he was in that sort of mood when a man can score off almost anything and amidst a buzz of excitement he went from shot to shot in a break of 31 and ran out a winner at 800-787, being the first man to defeat Johnson in championship play in Shanghai.

Both players made several twenties, but apart from Johnson's 85 and 80 there was no really big scoring. Johnson's other leading breaks were 35 (twice), 39 and 41. Barrett is much to be congratulated. He scored very consistently, making 31, 32, 36, 38, 39 (twice), 40, 46, 50 and 55.

VARSITY BOAT RACE

Both Crews at Putney: Good Full Course Trial by Oxford

London, Mar. 21.

Both Varsity crews are now practising at Putney for the boat race on April 5. Oxford this afternoon rowed the first full course trial from Putney to Mortlake. The conditions were fairly favourable. There was no wind, a fair tide and good water. The time was 19 minutes 29 seconds, a satisfactory performance.—Reuter.

CAMBRIDGE'S DIFFICULT TRIAL.

Mar. 22.

Cambridge rowed its first full course trial from Putney to Mortlake to-day. The conditions were unfavourable, especially from Hammersmith to Barnes Bridge where a strong headwind and very rough water were encountered. The time was 20 minutes 18 seconds, a good performance considering the difficulties.—Reuter.

INTERNATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

Easy Victory for England

London, Mar. 22.

An international cross-country race, held to-day at Newcastle over a course of 10 miles, was won by England. Cpl. Cottrell, the Army and English national champion, was first home in 55 min. 35 2/5 sec.

The results were as follows:—1, England, 21 points; 2, France, 80 points; 3, Scotland, 133 points; 4, Wales, 163 points; 5, Ireland, 180 points; 6, Belgium, 181 points.—Reuter.

LAWN TENNIS

Japan and Rumania Admitted to International Federation

Paris, Mar. 24.

A meeting of the International Lawn Tennis Federation to-day decided to admit Japan as a member of the Federation with four votes. Rumania was also admitted.

The applications of Austria and Hungary were postponed, but the ban against members of the Federation playing with representatives from Austria and Hungary was raised.—Reuter.

HOME RACING

The Lincolnshire Handicap

London, Mar. 26.

The Lincolnshire Handicap (one mile) was run at Lincoln to-day and resulted as follows:—

Sir Gallahad III	1
Evander	2
Graves Fairy	3.

Twenty-seven ran. Won by three lengths, two lengths separating second and third.

Betting:—9 to 2 Sir Gallahad III; 100 to 7 Evander; 40 to 1 Grave Fairy. Place betting: 6 to 4 Sir Gallahad III; others proportionate.—Reuter.

BANTAM-WEIGHT BOXING

New York, Mar. 21.

Abe Goldstein of New York to-night won the World's Bantam-weight Championship by defeating Joe Lynch on points in a 15-round bout.—Reuter's American Service.

INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

Defeat of Capablanca

New York, Mar. 22.

A sensation was caused in the fifth round of the International Chess Tournament, in which 11 famous players are taking part, by M. Reti (Austria) defeating the world's champion, M. Capablanca, who only managed to draw in four previous games and has thus lost three possible points. M. Capablanca resigned after M. Reti sealed the 31st move.

This is M. Capablanca's first defeat in 10 years of match play.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Mar. 23.

In the sixth round of the International Chess Tournament, M. Capablanca beat M. Tartakower (Russia) after 51 moves.—Reuter's American Service.

RUSSIANS STILL LEADING.

New York, Mar. 24.

The three Russian representatives led at the end of the fifth round of the International Chess Tournament, M. Bogulbujow and M. Tartakower with 3½ points each and M. Alekhin with 2½. M. Capablanca, M. Reti and Mr. Yates have two points each. Dr. Lasker and M. Janowski also have two each, with one game adjourned, while Mr. Marshall, Mr. Edward Lasker and M. Maroczy have one and a half points each.—Reuter's American Service.

DR. LASKER'S RECOVERY.

New York, Mar. 25.

By winning a game from M. Janowski and drawing a game with Mr. Edward Lasker, Dr. Lasker has tied with M. Bogoljubow and M. Alekhine, each of whom has won three and a half games and lost one and a half. The game with Mr. Edward Lasker was a classic struggle. It lasted 12 hours, involving 103 moves, and was the longest game in the International Chess Tournament and filled with complications.

Later.

In the International Chess Tournament to-day Dr. Lasker, M. Reti, and M. Jateowski defeated M. Maroczy, Mr. Edward Lasker and M. Bogoljubow respectively.

By defeating M. Maroczy, Dr. Lasker assumed the lead in the tournament with 4½ games won and 2½ lost. M. Reti and M. Alekhine follow, each with 4 games won and two lost.—Reuter's American Service.

New York, Mar. 26.

In the eighth round of the International Chess Tournament, M. Capablanca drew with M. Maroczy.

M. Tartakower drew with Mr. Edward Lasker and M. Alekhine defeated M. Reti.

By defeating M. Reti, M. Alekhine ousted Dr. Lasker from the first position. Dr. Lasker is now second. MM. Reti and Tartakower tie for third.—Reuter's American Service.

THE AMATEUR STATUS IN LAWN TENNIS

New York, Mar. 23.

Mr. W. T. Tilden, Jr., points out that the Lawn Tennis Association's new rule barring players from writing for the press does not come into operation until 1925 and he is, therefore, eligible and willing to represent the United States in the Davis Cup competition this year. He understands that a similar rule has been adopted by the olympic Games Committee and comes into operation automatically, thus excluding himself and several other American tennis-players, who have signed contracts with newspapers to supply them with articles during the Olympic Games.—Reuter's American Service.

INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY

New York, Mar. 24.

The American women's hockey team, which returned from Europe to-day, spoke highly of their British opponents' play. The only victory gained by the American team was in Paris.—Reuter's American Service.

COMPANY MEETINGS

REPAH RUBBER AND TAPIOCA ESTATES

Annual General Meeting

The 11th annual general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the offices of the secretaries and general managers (J. A. Wattie & Co., Ld.) on Monday afternoon. Mr. B. A. Clarke presided, and was supported by Messrs. A. J. Welch, G. Grayrigge and E. S. Kadoorie (Directors) and Mr. W. S. Royston, representing the secretaries and general managers. The attendance represented a total of 117,523 shares.

The secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, and the auditors' report, the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen,—When I last addressed you I had occasion to congratulate shareholders on the improved prospects of the company. The company, shortly before the introduction of enforced restriction, was practically bankrupt, and on the point of going into liquidation. We were saddled with debts amounting to almost Tls. 105,000 against which we had liquid assets of only Tls. 24,790.57 at December 31, 1922. During 1923 we made good progress towards clearing off this indebtedness and the accounts in your hands show you that our total debts are now Tls. 76,614.22 against which we have liquid assets amounting to Tls. 18,732.50.

Two factors, gentlemen, contribute towards this improved state of affairs; the first is the beneficial effect of the restriction, which is borne out by the average sale price of 15.28 pence per lb., as against 7.65 pence per lb. in 1922. The second is the continued and greatly appreciated assistance of Mr. E. S. Kadoorie, one of our Directors, who guaranteed the company's overdraft at the company's bankers. For this assistance, gentlemen, I now beg to voice the shareholders' thanks to Mr. Kadoorie.

The benefits of restriction are so very obvious in this particular case and in hundreds of others in preserving this great rubber-growing industry, that it continues a matter of surprise and regret to most people interested that the Dutch East Indies do not come into line and help instead of standing aside and profiting on other producers' efforts to place the industry on a safe and reasonably profitable basis. Whilst British producing countries reduced their 1923 outputs by almost 40,000 tons as compared with 1922, the Dutch East Indies increased theirs by almost 35,000 tons. This fact, gentlemen, combined with the unsettled state of Europe, is no doubt the reason why rubber is so cheap today. I am told there is an average of about 7 lb. of rubber in a tyre. What difference would a price of 2/- per lb. instead of 1/- per lb. make to the manufacturer or consumer? Very little indeed. But to the rubber grower the difference between 1/- and 2/- is the difference between semi-starvation and comparative affluence. Let us hope Dutch interests will shortly realize the facts of the situation and join in making this industry what it should be, a safe and profitable undertaking.

Concerning Repah, we have a really fine property of 1,308 acres practically all of a tappable age. The estate is in excellent condition and a good deal of cultivation and improvement is going on all the time. We produced 217,087 lb. at the satisfactory cost of 22.66 cents per lb. f.o.b. including duty.

The area of the estate as I said is 1,308 acres capitalized at the modest figure of Tls. 275,000 and once we liquidate our debts I feel quite sure Repah will be a good dividend earner. We shall have some capital expenditure to face probably next year for a new factory and manager's bungalow but the total will not be large.

Our manager, Mr. Choveaux, continued to handle the property single handed with his usual energy and efficiency until November when he went for a well-earned six months holiday. Mr. Strettell, late of Shanghai Klebang, has been appointed acting manager and his reports indicate his appreciation of a valuable property. One extract from Mr. Choveaux's Handing Over Report is worthy of record, namely, "The bark renewal is really extraordinary and renewed surfaces promise better tapping surfaces than the original bark."

Mr. A. J. Welch visited the Estate last year and gave us a very favourable report.

The mortgage of Tls. 60,000 was paid off on March 31, 1923, and the title deeds are now in the possession of the company.

The accounts make fairly good reading. The Estate working account shows a profit of Tls. 35,060.41, and after providing for Shanghai expenses and the cost of interest on overdraft, this item in itself amounting to Tls. 5,936.27, the net profit for the year is Tls. 26,537.72. Deducting this amount from the loss brought forward from 1922, the adverse balance of Profit and Loss account is reduced to Tls. 9,584.87 which figure will surely disappear during the current year.

There was no discusion, and the formal resolutions were carried unanimously.

MAJOR BROS., LD.

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of Messrs. Major Bros., Ld., was held at 2 Canton Road on Monday, under the chairmanship of Sir E. C. Pearce.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the chairman said:

Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some time, I will, with your permission, follow the usual procedure and take them as read.

The result of the year's working, whilst better than the previous year, is disappointing, as in view of the closing down of the works during 1922 to rebuild our sulphur burner, we hoped that our troubles as regards plant were at an end. Unfortunately the stone ware filling of the Glover Tower collapsed through disintegration in July, and its rebuilding caused another stoppage, with the result that we had again to buy acid to fill contracts made.

As far as we can tell now, the plant is in a fairly satisfactory condition, but as it is old, we have to face the fact that troubles in connexion with it will have to be looked for, and the question of the future of the company is occupying the attention of your directors. After years of uphill work, we have a well established business which should now be profitable, but for possible plant troubles.

The accounts are presented in their usual form and do not call for any special comment, but before putting the usual resolutions to the meeting, I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be asked.

There were no questions and the formal resolutions were carried without dissent.

THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE EAST

WC

PAINT

Varnishes, Enamels, etc.

Large Stocks Kept in China

Wilkinson, Heywood & Clark

SHANGHAI—HONGKONG

Don't wait to be asked
before becoming a
"THREE CASTLES"
enthusiast
MAGNUMS
"Three Castles"
Cigarettes
WD & HO Wills
Bristol & London
MADE IN ENGLAND

CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS

Charge Against American Seaman in U. S. Court: Accused Committed for Trial

[redacted] President Jackson, by Superintendent Woodfield of the River Police in the U.S. Commissioner's Court for China before Mr. N. E. Lurton. It was alleged that accused had attempted to smuggle four [redacted] combined wooden stocks and holsters, and 200 rounds of ammunition ashore, but the only charge applicable under American law (accused not being on Chinese soil) was that mentioned.

Giving evidence as to the finding of the weapons, Neville A. Mellish, Customs officer, told the Court that he became suspicious of accused when he noticed that he, a slim youth, wearing a large overcoat, should have such a large bulge at the waist, so he approached him and wished to search his person. Accused when accosted said "You've got me this time." On unbuttoning the overcoat, an ordinary top coat, witness saw the butts of two holsters above the man's belt, which he took from him. The police were called and Roberts was taken into custody.

John Newey, chief steward, declared that he saw defendant give Mellish the two pistols, which he saw projecting from above the trousers, after the coats were loosened. He first saw defendant come into the mess room, followed by the Chinese watchman and the Customs man.

Mr. Clyde Foster Bryant, fourth officer, had been standing on the afterdeck; a Chinese had already been arrested, when he heard that two more had been caught near the gangway. He went below and saw the party described by the steward; also noted two wooden cases above the trousers when the coats had been unloosened.

Mr. Woodfield—Are your satisfied that they were weapons?—I can only say that I saw what seemed to be wooden cases, though they were just like the gun holsters on the table there.

Witness did see the four guns and the cartridge cases in the [redacted] after the first two guns were found.

Defendant did not wish to cross-examine any of the witnesses, nor did he desire to make a statement, and the Commissioner accordingly bound him over [redacted] the Higher Court (Judge Purdy when he arrives). Bail was fixed at G.$200.

Alleged Theft of Overcoat

With the conclusion of the arms charge, Pedro Antonio, a Filipino, was charged with larceny of an overcoat from the Filipino Club, 470 Chapoo Road, on Wednesday evening, the property of Mr. F. Modesto Kyko, well known to the Shanghai boxing fraternity.

Det.-Sgt. Schmidt, outlining the case, said that accused had been arrested by a Chinese constable on information from the watchman at the Club. He, himself, was present at the Station, when Antonio was searched by detectives under his orders and [redacted] the pawn ticket [redacted]. He told the detectives to recover the article. Constable [redacted] told him there had been $20 in the [redacted] of the coat, but this was not found on defendant, nor did the searchers, called to the station, hear any knowledge of the money, stating that there was nothing in the pockets when he went through them. Defendant said when questioned that he had no fear, no place to show, so he stole the coat.

Mr. Kyko declared to the Court that he went from his house to the Club shortly before [redacted] and left the overcoat on the table and went to wash his hands. He had been inside about five minutes when the watchman told him that the coat had been taken. He assisted the police, who made the arrest. He identified the coat.

Accused was bound over to the [redacted] Court for China and bail fixed at G.$100.

AMAZING CHARGE OF TORTURE

Allegations Against Chinese Detectives by Man Accused of Armed Robbery

Allegations that he was tortured by Chinese detectives at the Central Police Station and a false confession of guilt extorted from him, were made to Mr. Martin, British Assessor, and Magistrate Kuan in the Mixed Court on Monday afternoon.

The man was one of six Chinese charged with committing an armed robbery in Yunnan Lane last December. His story was that he was arrested, taken to the Central Police Station and locked up. Before a statement was obtained from him he was, so he related, seized by a number of Chinese detectives and taken into an upstairs room. Here he was bound to a ladder, his head pulled back by the roots of his hair and then tied; an electrical battery was brought in, according to accused's story, and the terminals run over his body from his feet to his thighs. The current was then switched on and he was tortured by means of electric shocks till he was in great pain and agreed to confess his guilt when called upon to do so. Prisoner went on to say that when he was taken into the charge-room before Det.-Insp. Cruickshank the interpreter told him to say "yes" to all the Inspector's questions. He was so frightened that he did so.

A different complexion was put on to the prisoner's story when the Inspector went into the witness box. He stated that it would have been impossible for any of the Chinese detectives to have spoken to the prisoner during the day he alleged he was tortured, unless it were through the bars of his prison. No Chinese was allowed to open the door of the cells unless a European was there at the time, and the European would have had to get leave from witness himself.

Replying to Mr. E. T. Maitland, prosecuting, witness said it was true a printed rule had been distributed among the Chinese members of the Force warning them that unnecessary violence used against prisoners would be followed by instant dismissal, and last year a number of constables were discharged for such an offence.

ASSAULT ON A GIRL.

The six prisoners were charged with committing an armed robbery in Yunnan Road early last December. They were alleged to have followed a girl till she came to a dark and isolated quarter and then to have attacked her, threatening her with revolvers and stealing a bangle valued at $60.

Mr. E. T. Maitland prosecuted, Mr. T. Addis represented the first four defendants and Mr. L. K. Kentwell appeared on behalf of the other two. Dr. Fischer represented a witness named Wong-Ah-loh, and Mr. S. Moss represented another witness, Dung Ding-ze.

Mr. Maitland, describing the circumstances of the case, said the charges had been heard once before, when four of the accused were before the Court. Two were sent to the Arsenal and there made statements implicating the two new defendants. Two of the old defendants had been identified by one of the witnesses and and two admitted the charge. Another man who had admitted the charge in the police station, however, denied it in court. Although the plaintiff had seen only four men, she admitted there could possibly have been seven or eight, for it was very dark where she was attacked and everything happened quickly. Regarding the men who had been sent to the Arsenal, she had received a communication warning her that if they were shot "a life for a life" would be taken.

The second defendant then went into the witness box. With remarkable unconsciousness he confessed that he had committed a number of robberies at one time and another, but denied that he was implicated in this one.

The other defendants were called, including one of the men who had been sent back from the Arsenal, the man who made the allegations of cruelty. He described the alleged process whereby he was tortured with electric shocks, as already described, and strongly denied that he was ever implicated in the robbery with which he was charged. He would never have made the confession unless it had been forced out of him. The witness went on to make further allegations against the Magistrate by whom he was first tried, who, he said, told him he was not to say anything when asked to defend himself. There was no foreigner present when he was "tortured."

AN IMPOSSIBLE STORY.

Inspector Cruickshank was then called. He described the prison rules, whereby it was impossible that any prisoner should be taken out of the cells without his permission and said it was impossible that the prisoner could have been removed that day. He added, as a possible explanation to the prisoner's story, that he had been approached by a Chinese detective that morning who told him that one of the prisoners had asked him for food. He had refused and the prisoner thereupon said he would take his revenge by "talking bad" about him in court. He could not say however, whether this was the prisoner in question.

Mr. Maitland, at the conclusion of his address to the Court, said he hoped they would take the cruelty allegations at their true value. They were obviously trumped up charges made in a vain hope that they might have some effect in obscuring the issue and obtaining his release, and to throw mud on the police who had brought about his downfall. He asked the Bench to express their disbelief of the story.

After the other counsel had addressed the Court, the charge against No. 3 was dismissed, No. 4 was sentenced to one year's imprisonment on a further charge of returning from expulsion, and discharged on the charge of armed robbery. The Court reserved its decision till Friday morning in the cases of the other four defendants.

ALLEGED ASSAULT BY CHINESE SHOEMAKER

A Kick in the Back with Hob-nailed Boots Followed by a Bite on the Face

Mr. Louis Frank Roth charged a Chinese in the Mixed Court on Thursday before Mr. Martin, British Assessor, and Magistrate Kuan, with assaulting him by kicking him in the back with a heavy nailed boot, twisting his arm and biting his face and hand.

Mr. Roth's story was that the defendant, a shoemaker, executed some repairs for him. There was a dispute over the price, defendant wishing to charge $10.40 for the repairs, and they eventually agreed on $7. On the 7th inst ant Roth gave him $4 and gave him the balance on the 14th. He was not satisfied, however, and on Sunday he went to Roth's house, at Carter Road Terrace, walked straight in without knocking on the door, and went into the bedroom where complainant and his wife were. He was told to get out and started to throw things about the room and generally made a nuisance of himself. With that Roth got up and chased him out. Later in the day he was talking to his wife in Carter Road Terrace. He had one hand on his wife's arm and with the other held a camera. The Chinese came up from benind, unobserved, and kicked him. Witness again ran after him, and he turned and threw a heavy pair of boots in Roth's face. A couple of Russians came to the scene then and in the scrimmage that followed as they rescued him defendant bit him in the hand ard face. He made a complaint to the Bubbling Well Road Police Station.

Mrs. Roth corroborated her husband's story.

Yih Sih-ling, a Chinese bystander, said he saw the defendant being assaulted by three foreign men and a woman. They were assaulting him; he was not assaulting them.

Defendant was cautioned.

COUNTERFEIT BANK-NOTES

Wholesale Forgery of Ningpo Commercial Bank Bills

Three Chinese, including one woman, appeared before Messrs. Martin and Kuan at the Mixed Court on Monday morning charged with uttering counterfeit notes, purporting to be the genuine issue of the Ningpo Commercial Bank. Mr. L. K. Kentwell defended the second accused.

Det. Sub-Insp. Yorke said the issue had been brought to their attention by an informer last week who declared that the first accused had offered him $50 worth of $1 bills for $25. The police party went to 1934 Haining Road where the woman, Wong, was said to be living (she being thought to have led the gang), but she was not there. While the officers waited for her the second and third accused put in their appearance and were taken into custody. The former told them that he had helped the woman to remove to 19 Koulan Road in Chapei, so a detachment accompanied by Chapei men entered the premises but could not find the fugitive. While in the house the second accused told the officers to look into a basket in which he said they would find what they were looking for. There were 725 unfinished notes, printed on one side, a number of plates bearing reproductions of the genuine bills, and some blank paper.

The old woman Wong was to be detained if she returned, but it seems that she went to the home of the second accused in Myburgh Road, where his mother told her that he had been arrested. She nevertheless went to her dwelling, where the tenant also spoke of the raiding party and took her into custody. Just then a man came up and said that he was a detective, told them he would take the woman and they should report the affair at the station. The Settlement police had not seen the woman since. The printing had begun before the China New Year holidays, but a quarrel had forestalled further developments.

A representative of the bank said the notes were counterfeit and identified a genuine one, after which the informer went into the box.

Addressing the bench, Mr. Kentwell said that there was not the slightest evidence against his client and the mere fact that he was acquainted with the family should not be held against him.

First accused was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and the other two were discharged.

THE $50,000 CLAIM AGAINST I. R. C.

Club's Denial of Liability for Libby's Alleged Ill-Treatment at Hands of Police

In the Mixed Court on Monday concluding evidence was heard in the case in which S. Libby sued the International Recreation Club, claiming $50,000 damages for an alleged assault at Kiangwan Race Course, Mr. F. J. Schuhl appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. G. H. Wright for the club.

Mr. Chen, the I.R.C. traffic inspector, cross-examined, said that the Chapei police handled Libby somewhat roughly but neither witness nor any of his men did anything of the sort. Pointsman No. 2 attempted to fend off some blows aimed at him by Libby. Libby's car remained parked in an unauthorized place for 20 minutes.

An interpreter in the traffic office said that he did not see any of the trouble. Giovaninni came to the office and said that he wanted his friend released as they did not know the rules. The police traffic officer said he would have to pay a fine and Giovaninni then took out $5. It was explained that it would take a long time to send to headquarters for a receipt and it was suggested that witness should make out a temporary receipt, this to be exchanged for the proper receipt when it arrived. Witness did not hear any complaint of an assault.

Mr. Chang, overseer of the Kiangwan race course, said that Giovaninni asked him to help them as they did not know the rules. Witness went to see the police on their behalf and was then informed that the two foreigners had broken the traffic rules and assaulted the police. Witness said that the foreigners were guests at the race course and should be well treated. Giovaninni said that he was willing to pay a fine and he paid $5. The police officer in charge said that he was willing to release Libby on witness' recommendation, but the fine must be accounted for to the head office. Giovaninni replied that he would rather have an informal receipt on the spot because it would look bad if he had to go to the head office and it would take up too much time. It was because of that that he was given a temporary receipt.

Mr. Schuhl—Is this the first foreigner you have fined?

Witness—The police fix the fines. The club cannot make fines.

Libby, recalled, denied that he assaulted anyone or that he swore at any Chinese, though he admitted saying, "Get away from here," or words to that effect. The Chapei police did not assault him.

Giovaninni, recalled, said that when he paid the fine he demanded a receipt, which was given very reluctantly.

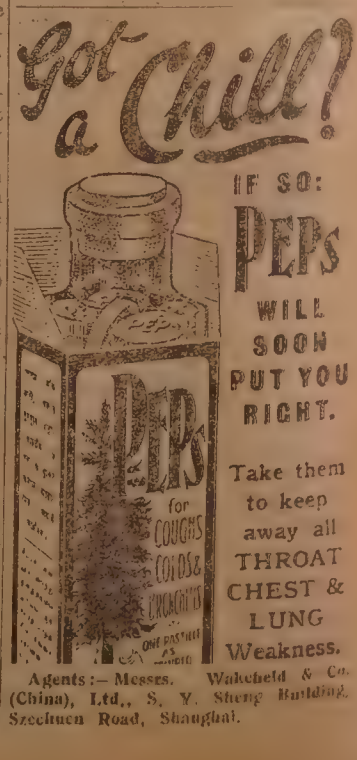
In summing up, Mr. Wright submitted that no case had been made out for damages against the club either for assault or for false imprisonment. The police were entirely independent and if Libby felt that he had a grievance his claim was against the police. The I.R.C. was no more responsible than the Shanghai Race Club would be if the Shanghai Municipal Police arrested a person at the race course. All this was assuming that the action of the police was illegal and unjustified, which he (Mr. Wright) would not admit. It was impossible to believe that a junior official of the club would assault a foreigner for no cause whatever.

"They seem to be," said Mr. Wright, "the type of foreigner, of whom I am glad to say there are not many in China, who resent having to take instructions from a subordinate Chinese."

Mr. Schuhl submitted that the club's officials instigated and acquiesced in every action of the police and they gave a receipt on behalf of the police for the fine. Therefore he contended that the club was responsible for the arrest and so there was cause of action against it.

Judgment was reserved.

Mr. W. P. W. Turner, H.M. Consul, sitting with two Assessors, last week at Peking started the hearing of an action by Mr. E. Reading against Mr. B. Lenox Simpson and the "Far Eastern Times." Plaintiff sues for damages for wrongful dismissal, claiming a sum of $6,950. The defence is to the effect that the plaintiff was not dismissed but merely suspended. It is also pleaded that the handling of certain Rosta News Service articles by the plaintiff resulted in the loss of an advertising contract worth $6,000 per annum as well as other prospective business from the same source. The case is proceeding.



Agents:—Messrs. Wakefield & Co. (China), Ltd., S. Y. Sheng Building, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS

THE SINGAPORE NAVAL BASE SCHEME

Debate in the House of Commons: The Dominions' Protest: Another Case of "Wait and See;" Policy of World Disarmament: Japan's Helplessness

DIVERGENT VIEWS OF GEN. SMUTS AND ADMIRAL JELLICOE

London, Mar. 23.

In an article in the "Observer" endorsing the Government's decision relative to Singapore, Mr. Garvin expresses the hope that Australia and New Zealand will realize that the project has not been absolutely abandoned but postponed in order to strengthen the Prime Minister's efforts to bring about a definite degree of general disarmament, but if no reciprocity is secured the strengthening of Singapore would be unavoidable.

Mr. Garvin lays stress on the fact that Japanese development is still in a military expansionist phase, while Singapore is strategically the throttle valve of the whole English speaking world, the capture of which by Japan would make impossible effective Anglo-American cooperation in the Far East in the event of conflict between Japan and the white races, which all sane men profoundly pray may never arise, and Japan would have an excellent chance of establishing her sovereignty over China and all the East Indies.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 24.

In the House of Commons today, Commander Bellairs (Conservative) asked whether, in view of the gravity of the issue, and in regard to the time required to complete the Singapore project in the event of the Government's disarmament negotiations not succeeding, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald could state the approximate time whereby the House could know whether the negotiations were successful or not.

The Prime Minister replied that it was not a matter of time but of circumstances. If the circumstances did not change, then the loss of time would not be loss at all. Singapore would become necessary when conditions made it necessary.

Later.

Numerous questions about the Singapore base continue to be levelled at the Ministers in the House of Commons.

Replying to Mr. G. Lambert (Liberal), Mr. Ammon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, gave the main details of the proposed £10,500,000 expenditure which, he stated, had not provided for aeroplane or military defence.

In reply to Commander Bellairs (Conservative), Mr. Ammon said that King's Dock at Singapore was the only one which would take a cruiser of the Hawkins class. It would also take any existing mibulged capital ship, smaller aircraft carriers and the projected 10,000-ton cruisers. It would take nine years from the date the orders were given to begin work before the naval base could deal with modern capital ships and aircraft carriers.—Reuter.

Melbourne, Mar. 24.

In response to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's inquiry, Mr. Charlton, the Federal Labour leader, has cabled that the Australian Labour Party had opposed Mr. Bruce's committing Australia to the Singapore base.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 25.

The debate on the question of the Singapore scheme opened in the House of Commons to-day.

Sir Robert Horne (Conservative), moving a reduction of £100 in the Navy estimates as a protest against the Government's policy, said that the Government, while professing to consult the Dominions, had merely announced their decision to the Dominions and did not give them a chance to do anything to alter the Government's judgment. He had never seen consultation take a more discourteous form.

Sir Robert Horne emphasized that the Dominions mainly concerned, Australia and New Zealand (Opposition cheers), had very emphatically protested and had expressed dismay at the Government's decision. He then read extracts from Mr. Bruce's communication and said that it was impossible to imagine a protest expressed in graver language.

Mr. Ammon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, said that the Government did not challenge the question of naval or military strategy. In view of the reported desire of the Americans for an international disarmament conference, we should make a moral gesture in the hope that there would be some co-operation. We would be in a much stronger position if, after exploring all the possibilities, we were compelled to continue our armament policy.

The Protection of Australia.

Referring to Mr. Bruce's view, Mr. Ammon pointed out that the Leader of the Opposition in Australia had said that he did not believe that Australia was in any danger of attack and that he did not think there was any danger in the Pacific. He had declared that a base at Singapore would undoubtedly hamper establishment of international confidence and lay our good faith open to suspicion. Japan was still suffering from the effects of the earthquake and was not likely to complete her armaments. Japan had given every earnest of her desire to carry out the Washington Agreement. Strengthening and enlarging the authority of the League of Nations, Mr. Ammon declared, would be a greater defence to the peace of the world than all the armed forces and new docks that could possibly be built anywhere in the world.

Publication of Correspondence.

Later.

The correspondence relating to the Singapore scheme has been published.

General Smuts, expressing whole-hearted agreement with the Government's policy, declares that the proposed base would be out of keeping with the spirit of the Washington Agreement. The South African Premier sincerely trusts that Mr. Bruce, the Australian Prime Minister, and Mr. Massey, Premier of New Zealand, will acquiesce, because no promise of real security is contained for them in Singapore, for European troubles, would probably synchronize with any future tension in the Pacific and make it out of the question to move the Navy to Singapore.

Admiral Jellicoe's Views.

Admiral Viscount Jellicoe, however, regrets exceedingly the Government's decision. He points out that the foremost naval authorities have stated that a modern fleet would not be able to operate without a properly equipped base, and for the protection of those portions of the Empire situated in the Pacific and Indian Oceans there is no place so suitable as Singapore. The matter intensely concerns Australia, India, New Zealand and a number of Crown Colonies, who, he says, are looking to the present British Government to remember that every citizen of every country of the Empire is entitled to protection from the possibility of attack by a foreign foe. Singapore was intended for defensive purposes and is no more a threat to Japan than Gibraltar is to the United States. New Zealanders had hoped that the lessons of the sufferings of the Navy and the Mercantile Marine in the Pacific during the war would not be so quickly forgotten. The very existence of the Empire, declares the Governor-General of New Zealand, depends upon the Navy. An eminent authority has declared that unless a base like Singapore is established it will be absolutely impossible for the majority of the Empire capital-ships to operate east of Suez.

The Japanese Bogey.

Commander J. M. Kenworthy, Liberal Member for Kingston-upon-Hull, did not believe in the bogey of a Japanese danger, but was of the opinion that the best answer to a possible Japanese invasion of Australia would be a submarine cruiser base somewhere in New Guinea or North Australia.

Commander C. Bellairs, Conservative Member for Maidstone, declared that when the question of disarmament was raised the Premier was bound to be faced with the question of Japanese emigration to Australia. He said that we desired Japan to find room for expansion, but not at the expense of the British Empire in Australia or elsewhere.

London, Mar. 25.

The views expressed by Admiral Viscount Jellicoe in the correspondence relating to the Singapore scheme are those of Mr. W. F. Massey, the New Zealand Prime Minister, on behalf of whom Viscount Jellicoe transmitted the message.—Reuter.

Queensland's Premier's Point of View: Present Amity of Japan and Britain

London, Mar. 26.

Mr. E. G. Theodore, the Prime Minister of Queensland, speaking at a dinner of the Knights of the Round Table to-day, said that, if by delaying the commencement of work at Singapore some process could be carried through which would lead to greater amity among nations, nobody could say that the delay was fatal. He realized that in the event of a clash in the Pacific, Australian interests might be affected and they would be blind if they did not guard against the possibility of disaster. The policy of the British people, however, was not aggrandisement, but the desire to see the British race developed in its own conception of freedom. Japan and Australia were going to loom out in future in the Pacific and it would be to the benefit of the world that they should live in amity. Mr. Theodore thought that the hope of the world lay in the League of nations.

The Japanese Naval Attaché was among the guests.—Reuter.

RESIGNATION OF M. POINCARE

French Government Defeated in Chamber of Deputies on Vote as to Pensions Bill: An Unexpected Motion and Small Attendance

Paris, Mar. 26.

Following a defeat in the Chamber of Deputies on the question of pensions, M. Poincaré has tendered his resignation.

The vote was on an Opposition motion for referring the Pensions Bill back to the Finance Committee with a view to conciliating the views of the Senate and the Chamber. The Government opposed reference to the Committee on the ground of urgency and M. de Lasteyrie, the Minister of Finance, made the question one of confidence.

Upon the announcement of the figures, 271 votes to 264, the Chamber adjourned. M. Poincaré was not present at the sitting.

It is expected that President Millerand will ask M. Poincaré to reconstitute the Cabinet.

Later.

After the vote, M. Poincaré and the other Ministers hastily met in a side-room of the Chamber and decided to proceed to the Elysée in a body. They lost no time. The result of the vote was announced at noon and M. Poincaré tendered his resignation to the President at 12.15. The Cabinet Council, under the presidency of M. Millerand, sat till 1.15, when it was announced that the Premier's resignation had been accepted.

A communiqué states that President Millerand strongly urged M. Poincaré to present himself again at the Chamber and at the Senate in the afternoon in order to receive another vote, but M. Poincaré flatly refused.

M. Poincaré left the Elysée smiling. He told journalists that he had finally and irrevocably decided not to remain in power.

It is now expected that the President will call on M. Barthou to form a Cabinet.

Taken by Surprise.

Later.

The vote in the Chamber was most unexpected. Only a hundred Deputies were present. M. Poincaré was in an adjacent room making a statement before the Foreign Affairs Committee with regard to the Treaty of Lausanne. He had apparently not thought his attendance in the Chamber necessary.

The Pensions Bill was voted by the Chamber at the end of 1923 and by the Senate in February last, but the Senate had adopted the Government's recommendations reducing the pensions of workers on the ground of economy. This aroused the opposition of the parties of the Left, who are championing the cause of the workers. The Government insisted on acceptance of the Senate's amendment, and the Opposition introduced a motion referring the Bill to the Finance Committee with a view to revision. The Government were defeated in the vote on this motion, the Chamber's voting system permitting votes to be cast on behalf of absentee Deputies.

A Reconsideration Probable.

Later.

Urged by President Millerand to form a new Ministry, M. Poincaré has asked for time to consider the matter and has promised to reply to-morrow.

No Change of Policy.

Mar. 26.

The resignation of the Cabinet has made no impression whatever on the disposition of the Bourse.

Mar. 27.

M. Poincaré, interviewed by the Presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies yesterday evening, said that he believed that he would accept the task of forming a new Cabinet. He stated that in the event of his refusal President Millerand was determined to accept only a Cabinet which would adopt a foreign and domestic policy identical with his own.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 26.

It is practically certain that M. Poincaré will resume the Premiership.

M. Poincaré's resignation created surprise and a degree of regret in official circles in London on account of the excellence of the relations growing out of the recent exchange of notes between the two Premiers. The atmosphere thus created is unlikely to be dissipated by the advent of a new Government, but it is felt that a Government of the extreme Left, such as M. Barthou would be less stable than a moderate Left Ministry headed by M. Poincaré.—Reuter.

CHICAGO, Mar. 25.—Tom Gibbons and Georges Carpentier have been matched for a ten-round "no decision" contest in Michigan or Indiana on July 4.—Reuter's American Service.

RIGA, Mar. 25.—The Russian explorer, Mr. Kozloff, is returning from Khara Khotan on account of illness. A Soviet newspaper states that British explorers intend to carry out an expedition to Khara Khotan this year.—Reuter.

LONDON, Mar. 21.—Sir Frank Hollins, the late Chairman of Messrs. Horrockses Crewdson & Co., left £315,357.—Reuter.

CAIRO, Mar. 24.—Sixteen fishermen were killed off Alexandria by the explosion of floating mine, which became entangled in their nets.—Reuter.

MALTA, March 21.—The American steamer, Steel Voyager, from Kobe and Singapore to New York, arrived here to-day for repairs. Her steering gear is defective.—Reuter.

STRIKE OF LONDON TRAMWAYMEN

Demand for More Pay: Streets Denuded of Public Vehicles

London, Mar. 20.

The tramwaymen's wage negotiations have broken down. The Transport Union announces that the strike of London busmen and tramwaymen will begin at midnight to-morrow.

The Ministry of Labour has decided to establish a Court of Inquiry. The employers have requested the Union to postpone the strike in the meantime, but the Union has refused.—Reuter.

London, March 22.

London's vast network of street and passenger transport has been practically paralysed by a strike of 40,000 workers operating nearly 2,000 tramcars and 4,000 omnibuses normally carrying 5,000,000 people daily, which began at midnight.

The men did not show great enthusiasm but they unhesitatingly obeyed their leaders' orders. The only hope of settlement lies in the official court of inquiry into the wages dispute, which will open this morning under the presidency of Sir Arthur Colefax, K.C.

Fortunately, the underground railwaymen have hitherto refused to take part in the strike, while an attempt will be made to continue to run 250 "pirate" omnibuses owned by companies outside the combine, but even this limited service is likely to be greatly impeded, if not prevented, by energetic picketing at the garages.

Stoppage Complete.

Later.

The strike committee of the Transport Workers' Union sat throughout the night and reported this morning that the stoppage of buses and tramways was complete.

This is evident on the streets, where an occasional "pirate" bus is to be seen in spite of the close picketing at the "pirate" garages.

A suggestion that the tramways should endeavour to run a non unionist skeleton service has been countered by a threat by the electrical trades union to cut off power, which would also extinguish all lights in London.

The tubes were unusually crowded with City workers this morning and charabancs were also utilized, but it is understood that the underground railwaymen are anxious to join the busmen in sympathetic action on behalf of the tramwaymen.

The court of inquiry opened at the Law Courts this morning.

What the Strike is About.

The origin of the strike, which involves 21,000 busmen and 17,000 tramwaymen, is the demand of the Transportworkers' Union for increase of wages of the 17,000 tramwaymen by 8 shillings a week. The action of the busmen is purely sympathetic, the tramwaymen claiming to be put on a level with the busmen in the matter of wages.

The employers, who include the London County Council and other municipalities and tramway undertakings in the metropolitan area, plead that the state of the finances of the tramways, which has been unsatisfactory for years, forbids an increase of wages. The Transportworkers' Union had previously refused arbitration and only agreed to be represented on the court of inquiry on condition that it would not be bound by the decision of the court. The Union declares that the employers in the past have resisted arbitration and refused to accept the findings of the court of inquiry in 1921. The present claim, which is said to be the minimum, will cost £353,000 a year. The employers allege that the Union has broken the National Wage Agreement by now giving three months' notice to terminate the existing arrangements.—Reuter.

Wasteful Competition

London, Mar 23

Co-ordination of London transport facilities was suggested at the Court of Inquiry into the tramway strike as the only way out of the present difficulties which are attributed to wasteful competition under present conditions.

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE NEWS

Venereal Disease.

With reference to the letter from the Shanghai Medical Society on this subject, published in the Gazette of January 17, the Commissioner of Public Health has reported as follows:—

Shanghai, March 6, 1924.

Before commenting on the report of the special committee of the Shanghai Medical Society appointed to investigate venereal disease in Shanghai, it is fitting for me to point out that the great and complex problem of the prevention of venereal disease cannot be solved solely by putting into practice methods of medical science, for the success of these methods must depend on the sympathetic attitude and wise co-operation of the community.

The problem has in the past been unfortunately confused with social, moral and religious considerations. These have hindered spread of knowledge of prevention through a false belief that such knowledge would increase immorality.

It is sufficient to say that true morality is of the inner consciousness, and no true distinction can be drawn between the person who commits an immoral act, and the one who desires to commit the act, but refrains through fear of consequent infection with disease.

To one whose chief concern is the practice of Preventive Medicine in promoting Public Health the problem must be approached as all problems of the prevention of all disease, with a mind open to knowledge and a will ready and able to apply such knowledge for the health and well-being of the community.

Venereal disease, as other communicable disease, will be stamped out by prevention, rather than by treatment, and prevention is the first and highest aim of a Public Health Department.

Past victories over such diseases as Typhoid, Malaria, Typhus and Smallpox have been won by general preventive measures and specific prophylaxis.

Perhaps it is insufficiently realized what a peril to the family, and what a menace to the vitality, efficiency, physical and intellectual progress of the race venereal diseases are: how in addition to the vicious, hosts of the innocent suffer, and how hundreds of thousands of little children lie diseased, deformed, blind, deaf and imbecile, in asylums, poor-law institutions, hospitals, blind-schools and many homes throughout the world, as a result of these diseases.

Education, prevention and treatment are the three essential ways of dealing with the problem.

Education.—This must include knowledge of the facts of sex, instruction in the hygiene of the sexual life and in the nature and consequences of venereal disease. Education to be of value, must, in the words of Huxley, "mould the desire to live in accordance with the laws of Nature."

Prevention.—Venereal diseases are among the most easily prevented of all communicable disease. The best way is, obviously, to abstain from promiscuous sexual intercourse. Self-control is therefore of fundamental importance.

If exposure to risk has occurred, venereal disease can be prevented with almost complete certainty if proper precautions are taken in time.

The germs of Syphilis and Gonorrhoea are of low vitality outside, or on the surface of the body, and are easily destroyed by a disinfectant.

Since the germs soon begin to make their way into the body, the disinfectant must be applied immediately after exposure to infection, at the latest, within an hour. All preventive measures are useless after 12 hours.

Treatment.—If disease has been contracted, treatment should be as early and as complete as possible, and, in the case of Syphilis, should be controlled by the Wassermann Test.

With reference to the recommendations of the special Committee of the Shanghai Medical Society, I will comment briefly on them in order.

Paragraph 1, 2 and 3.—These are matters which concern the Council's policy.

It should be noted that it is, at present, quite impossible to prevent brothels from harbouring prostitutes infected with venereal disease.

Paragraph 4.—The increase of solicitation in the streets, and of clandestine intercourse in parks, is largely, if not entirely due to the large number of poverty-stricken Russian women who are at present refugees in Shanghai.

In spite of the best efforts of the Police the complete solution of the problem must await solution of the greater problem of the Russian refugees.

Paragraph 5 and 6.—It is most desirable that the Council should do all in its power along these lines.

Paragraph 7.—It is gratifying to find that the Shanghai Medical Society so fully endorses the Municipal Free Clinic for venereal diseases.

All recommendations under this heading have already been carried out, except provision of facilities for "prophylaxis", and a Clinic for Women.

These are on the programme and will be established in due course.

Paragraph 8. — Educational measures have already begun in the publication of special pamphlets, and will be extended and amplified in due course.

Paragraph 9.—This is not necessary at the present time, and usually turns out to be an undesirable arrangement.

Paragraph 10.—It is only necessary to endorse these views.

Paragraph 11.—This might be attempted during the year, but it is also highly desirable that all medical practitioners should fill in a similar form in order that statistics may be as complete as possible.

C. NOEL DAVIS,
Commissioner of Public Health.
E. S. B. ROWE, Esq.,
Acting Secretary,
Municipal Council.

Mixed Court Report for February

Jurisdiction over vessels in the Whangpoo.—An important decision regarding the jurisdiction of this Court within the harbour limits was given by Messrs. Allman, Siqveland and Li, in a case preferred by the captain and other officers of the s.s. "Paul Regendanz" against 17 members of the Chinese crew for assault. During the affray a Chinese fireman was shot by the second officer, a Norwegian; the ship was registered under the Republic of Panama, while the captain and most of the officers were of German nationality. Before the case was concluded the complainants secured their clearance papers from the American Consulate, which looks after the interests of Panama and left the port. It was argued on behalf of the Commissioner of Foreign Affairs that the Court had no jurisdiction over a ship flying the Panama flag and lying in the Whangpoo at Pootung, and consequently the accused should be handed over to the Native Authorities for trial. The Court in sentencing the accused to three weeks imprisonment from the date of arrest handed down the following decision:

"Although the complainants have left this jurisdiction the accused admitted that they took part in and intended the assault. In reading the rules of the Mixed Court of 1869 the Court finds that it has jurisdiction in the Treaty Port of Shanghai and this certainly includes the Foreign vessels on the Whangpoo in the Harbour of Shanghai, especially where Foreigners are concerned and this Court therefore has jurisdiction on the premises. If the representative for the Bureau for Foreign Affairs is dissatisfied with this ruling the matter should be taken up between the Bureau and the Consular Body."

Injunction re native orders.—In a case of False Pretences filed during the month, exception was taken by one of the Chinese Banks to an injunction granted by this Court forbidding the banks to cash the native order under dispute. The bank contended that such an order would result in chaos if upheld by the Court, as once a native order had been issued by the bank it was a negotiable document and must be honoured if presented by any person who had come into possession of it through the usual business channels. As counsel for the complainant expressed the opinion that the vacation of the injunction would not affect his client, the bank's application was granted without argument.

Court Orders carried out by force.—The defendant in a Portuguese Civil Case was arrested on a warrant for failing to sign the perpetual lease of a certain piece of land as ordered by Court. He was brought before Court on February 25 and flatly refused to sign the document. As he still refused to carry out the judgment the Bench through the Magistrate gave instructions that he was to be made to sign by force and eventually he was forced to mark a cross. The tipao was then called on to chop the document which he did but not with the official seal. On being ordered to use the correct seal he said he would if the defendant had signed his name. The Bench then ordered a writer to put in the name, after which the tipao chopped the document. The defendant has since filed an application denying his signature.

Public Health Report for February

The health of the community continued to be satisfactory, the death rates among both Foreigners and Chinese being below those of last month, but slightly above those of the same month last year.

Smallpox was still present. There were no deaths from the disease among Foreign residents, but 4 fresh cases were notified among non-residents; there were 2 deaths. In one case vaccination had never been performed and in the other, unsuccessfully on 3 occasions.

Among the Chinese 29 deaths were reported compared with 35 last month.

One death from epidemic encephalitis, or encephalitis lethargica, sometimes called "sleepy sickness" was certified during the month in the case of a Chinese living outside the Settlement. Several suspicious cases have occurred during the last few months. This is significant in view of the reported presence of the disease in Harbin.

The disease was first described in 1872 at Tubingen in South Germany, since when it has appeared in various parts of Europe, especially Italy, Vienna, and France in 1918, then England and the United States, and now the disease has spread pandemically throughout the world.

It is a communicable disease caused by a filtrable virus which enters the system through the throat and nose, and is found in the saliva. It has a special affinity for the central nervous system, and is characterized by progressive lethargy or stupor, by various paralyses and by fever.

It has resemblances to Cerebrospinal fever, to some forms of Influenza and to several other diseases.

There seemed at one time to be some connexion between Influenza and Epidemic Encephalitis, but the connexion, if any, remains obscure.

The severity of the disease varies considerably. Mild types occur, usually with prolonged symptoms.

In a severe wave of the disease that engulfed villages in Lapland the mortality varied from 7 to 45 per cent. The average is something over 25 per cent.

The disease is most prevalent in the winter months, but may occur at all seasons. The incubation period may be any time up to 2 weeks or longer. Infection may persist for many months and the disease may be transmitted by "carriers." As yet no method of specific prophylaxis is known, and in view of the prolonged infectivity, preventive isolation, even of known cases, is a matter of extreme difficulty.

As in all communicable diseases which are transmitted directly from person to person by infected spray from throat and nose, obvious preventive measures are the avoidance of crowded places, of indiscriminate coughing, sneezing and spitting, and careful toilet of the mouth, throat and nose—in a word—observance of the habits and practices of personal hygiene.

CHINA Journal of Science & Arts, edited by Mr. A. de C. Sowerby and Dr. J. C. Ferguson, is a bi-monthly, profusely illustrated magazine. It contains authentic articles written by experts on the Arts, Literature and Science of China. The annual subscription is $10.00 Shanghai currency, or $6.00 gold for U.S.A. and Canada. Office:—Room 102, the Ben Building, Shanghai. Central 3247.

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ABOLITION OF GREEK DYNASTY

Establishment of Republic Confirmed: Assembly's Vote of Confidence

Athens, Mar. 22.

A Republic will be proclaimed on March 25. A plebiscite will be held in April to sanction the abolition of the dynasty.—Reuter.

Athens, Mar. 25.

The negotiations with the Royalists proving unfruitful, the Government yesterday presented a motion to the Assembly proclaiming abolition of the dynasty, banishment of the members of the Royal Family and compulsory sale of their property and establishment of a Repulbic, provided the last-named is confirmed by a plebiscite.

The Assembly passed a vote of confidence in the Government by 250 votes to three amid great enthusiasm, thus foreshadowing adoption of the aforementioned motion to-day. The supporters of M. Cafandaris, the Premier, were absent from the sitting.—Reuer.

Athens, Mar. 25.

The Assembly has adopted the resolution in favour of the overthrow of the dynasty and the establishment of a Republic.—Reuter.

CALIPHATE DISPUTE

Moslems Throughout the World Preparing to Call Turkey to Order

Calcutta, Mar. 21.

The Caliphate Conference today passed a resolution favouring Turkey as the seat of the Caliphate as the "strongest Islamic Government, and declaring that, if the present Turkish Government desires to follow a course prejudicial to holding the Caliphate, the Moslems throughout the world must remind the Turks of the necessity of reforming and must take all steps to that end.—Reuter.

FRANCE'S FISCAL BILL

Passed with an Amendment

Paris, Mar. 22.

The Senate passed to-day the Government's fiscal bill with an amendment necessitating the return of the measure to the Chamber of Deputies. This is another stage of the shuttle-cocking between Senate and the Chamber, which has been proceeding for the past week and is povoking impatience on the part of M. Poincaré, who has several times intervened in the debates in both Houses urging expedition.

Mar. 21.

The Chamber of Deputies to-day passed by 374 votes to 175, with slight modifications, the Finance Bill which had been returned from the Senate.

Later.

The Chamber and the Senate sat late to dispose of the fiscal bill, which was passed by both Houses after being again returned to the Senate from the Chamber with a modified amendment.—Reuter.

FRANCE AND THE CZECHS

A Treaty Published in Berlin: the French Explanation

Paris, Mar. 21.

The *"Berliner Tageblatt"* has published the text of a so-called Franco-Czech Secret Treaty. Correspondents of French papers in Berlin point out that the text is merely a copy of the draft Austro-German Treaty drawn up in 1879, in which the names of M. Poincaré and Dr. Benes are substituted for those of Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy. The document was handed to the *"Berliner Tageblatt"* by a big Austrian financier, who, threatened with bankruptcy by the boom in the franc, tried to turn world opinion against France.—Reuter.

RAILWAY FATALITY IN GERMANY

International Express in Collision with Goods Train: Eight Passengers Killed

Metz, Mar. 24.

The International Express, journeying from Ostend to Basle, collided with a goods train at Bensdorf during the night. The casualties reported up to the present number eight dead and 11 injured.

Later.

Owing to terrible mutilation, six out of the eight persons killed in the Express disaster are unidentifiable beyond the fact that two were soldiers, one a postman and one a woman.

It appears that the mail-van and two passenger coaches were telescoped. It is believed that there are other victims still beneath the wreckage.

Later.

The collision was due to a mistake at the points in switching the express to a side line, to which a goods train had previously been diverted. Heartrending scenes followed the express crashing into the goods train at full speed.—Reuter.

Metz, Mar. 25.

The signalman at Bensdorf has been arrested. It is alleged that he fell asleep after the goods train had passed without altering the signals and that he woke up after the accident had occurred.—Reuter.

SERIOUS COLLISION ON THE THAMES

British and American Steamers in Contact: Eight Sailors Killed in their Bunks

London, Mar. 24.

During the night a collision occurred on the Thames between the Shaw, Savill and Albion Co.'s cargo vessel Matatua and the United States Line cargo-vessel American Merchant, which resulted in eight of the crew of the Matatua being killed outright in their bunks and three being severely crushed and having to be sent to hospital.

It is believed that the American Merchant, which is a 7,500-ton vessel on her maiden voyage from New York, crashed into the Matatua broadside on off Holehaven, and struck her amidships in the engine-room. The Matatua filled quickly, but the captain managed to beach her. The American Merchant was damaged and proceeded to Tilbury with pieces of the Matatua's plates hanging on her bow and with her flag at half-mast.—Reuter.

OBITUARY

General Nivelle

Paris, Mar. 22.

The death is announced of General Nivelle, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied armies during the war.—Reuter.

Sir William MacEwen

London, Mar. 24.

The death is announced of Sir William MacEwen, Honorary Surgeon to His Majesty in Scotland, Surgeon-General, R.N., for Scotland, and Professor of Surgery at Glasgow University, at the age of 75.—Reuter.

ILLNESS OF THE POPE DENIED

An Irresponsible Report

Rome, Mar. 21.

Marshal Foch arrived to-day. He informed a representative of the *"Tribuna"* that he has no official mission.

The King and Queen of Rumania will visit Paris on April 10.

Vatican officials, who are in a position of daily approach to the Pope, to-day gave emphatic denial of the report published by a number of newspapers, particularly in England, that his Holiness was sick. Not only is the report untrue, they declare, but his health was never better. Pius XI. when elevated to the Pontificate at first suffered from the confinement within the Vatican. He missed his strenuous daily exercise in the olen air and his health suffered accordingly. He rapidly became accustomed to the new manner of life, and by hard daily walking in the Vatican gardens before breakfast regained his former robustness. — Italian Wireless through Reuter.

LIMITATION IN NAVAL ARMAMENTS

No New Conference Called

Washington, Mar. 22.

The House of Representatives has unanimously adopted an amendment to the Naval Appropriations Bill requesting President Coolidge to take steps for an international conference to consider further limitation of competition in naval armaments.—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Mar. 25.

In connexion with despatches from Tokio reporting that Admiral Murakami, Minister for the Navy, approved in principle of the "American suggestions" for further reductions in naval armaments, the State Department denies that any suggestions have been made beyond the action by the House of Representatives in inserting an amendment in the Naval Appropriation Bill, asking President Coolidge to call an international conference for further limitation in naval armaments.

Officials at the White House added that they had not inquired of other Governments relative to a new disarmament conference.—Reuter's American Service.

THE WAR IN MEXICO

Rebel Leader to Be Allowed to Escape if Good

New Orleans, Mar. 21.

Mexican official circles have allowed hints to leak out that President Obregon has decided, on sentimental grounds, to give General de la Huerta a chance to escape and has indicated a hope that he will select New Orleans as a place of exile.

The General's wife and sons have already arrived here.

Mar. 22.

General Elias Calles, the Minister of the Interior, has retired from the Army with a view to prosecuting his candidature for the Presidency which is regarded favourably by a vast number of people.—Reuter's American. Service.

Seattle, Wash., Mar. 20.

The three American Army air cruisers on the world flight, arrived here safely to-day.—Reuter's American Service.

AMERICAN OIL LEASES INVESTIGATION

Important Witness Declining to Give Evidence

Washington, Mar. 22.

Mr. Sinclair has refused to give evidence before the Senate Oil Committee on the ground that his answers might tend to incriminate him. He declares that any evidence he possesses should be reserved for the courts. The Committee has unanimously resolved on "certifying" Mr. Sinclair to the Senate for contempt. —Reuter's American Service.

Accusations Against Mr. Chase and Bitter Attacks Against Attorney-General

Washington, Mar. 25.

In the course of bitter attacks in the Senate to-day on Mr. Sinclair and Attorney-General Daugherty, Senator Heflin said that crooks were going unwhipped by justice and nothing was being done.

Senator Walsh, Chairman of the Oil Committee, presented a resolution demanding impeachment of Mr. Chase, who has refused to answer questions before the Oil Committee Feeling is strong against Mr. Chase owing to recent testimony that he acted as go-between on behalf of ex-Secretary Fall when the latter was alleged to have requested Senator McKinney to say that he had lent him $100,000.

America's Oil Giving out.

President Coolidge has announced the appointment of a commission to ascertain the best means of conserving the nation's oil supplies.

The statement explains that at the present rate of production it is estimated that there are only 20 years of oil supply within the United States and, when this is exhausted, the United States will be dependent on foreign sources, which during a war would certainly be jeopardized and possibly cut off.

It concludes that "unless, therefore, the Navy has conserved in this country sufficient oil with which to fight a war, our national security will be seriously endangered."—Reuter's American Service.

Washington, Mar. 24.

With a view to having Mr. H. F. Sinclair adjudged guilty of contempt, the Senate has decided to certify to the United States Attorney his refusal to answer questions before the Oil Committee. Another witness who refused to be examined is Mr. Chase, son-in-law of Mr. Fall, ex-Secretary of the Interior.—Reuter's American Service.

NATIONAL STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

Delegates from Abroad to Visit Empire Exhibition

London, Mar. 23.

The National Students' Union is organizing an Imperial Students' Conference in connexion with the British Empire Exhibition. They are inviting one student from each university in the Empire to meet in London on July 18 and spend a week visiting the Exhibition and seeing London. They will then go to Cambridge, where they will probably be accommodated in the colleges. Imperial problems will be discussed and it is hoped that leading members of Parliament will address the Conference. —Reuter.

BRITISH ROUND-WORLD AIR FLIGHT

Vickers-Napier and Shell Flying Boat: Shanghai Among the Points Touched

London, Mar. 21.

Squadron-Leader A.S.C. MacLaron starts on a round-the-world flight from Calshot near Southampton on March 25 on the Amphibian flying-boat, Vulture.. He will be accompanied by two other Scotsmen, Flying-Officer Plenderleith and Sergeant Andrews. This is a private venture under the auspices of the Vickers-Napier and the Shell Companies.

The itinerary is: Lyons, Rome, Cairo, Bagdad, Karachi Calcutta, Rangoon, Bangkok; Hongkong, Shanghai, Tokio, Petropavlovsk-on-Kamchatka, the Aleutian Islands, Vancouver and Newfoundland. The Atlantic will be crossed viâ the Azores or West Ireland.

It is noteworthy that the American aeroplanes on world flight are actually due to start from Seattle on March 24.—Reuter.

Enthusiastic Send-off with Greetings from the King

London, Mar. 25.

Squadron-Leader MacLaren and his two companions left Calshott at noon to-day on the flying-boat Vulture on the first lap of their proposed world-flight. A large crowd witnessed the start.

The King telegraphed wishing the three aviators success. Mrs. MacLaren, with their two children, bade her husband farewell. Lord Thomson, Secretary of State for Air, bidding farewell to the aviators, said that they were all proud of them and knew that only superhuman obstacles would prevent their success.

Loud cheers greeted the start of the fliers, who, it is thought, may meet the American aviators, who are also flying around the world, somewhere in the region of Tokio.

Later.

Squadron-Leader A.S.C. MacLaren was compelled to descend during the first lap owing to fog, near Havre.—Reuter.

First Lap Accomplished

Havre, Mar. 26.

Squadron-Leader MacLaren, who was compelled to descend near Havre yesterday owing to a fog, started again for Lyons at 11 this morning on the first lap of his world flight.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 26.

Squadron-Leader MacLaren's flying-boat has arrived at Lyons. —Reuter.

NEWFOUNDLAND SCANDALS

Charges of Corruption by Former Government

St. John's, Newfoundland, Mar. 21.

The Royal Commission investigating scandals in connexion with the former Squires Government has published its report, alleging irregularities in several Ministries and a waste of public funds in the period preceding the election in cases like "paying idlers for tasks they did not perform."

The report specially blames Sir Richard Squires himself and alleges that he received through his secretary $20,000 with tainted history from a Mr. Meaney, Liquor Controller, and that he similarly received $43,000 from the Dominion Steel Company when the latter were negotiating with the Government for renewal of an ore royalty contract.

In the course of the inquiry, the former Prime Minister unequivocally denied the allegations, although he admitted that monies had been put to the credit of his account for the use of the "Daily Star," a newspaper, while he was absent from the Colony between August and December, 1920.—Reuter's American Service

NEW REGIME IN NORTH RHODESIA

London, Mar. 20.

In the House of Lords to-day, Baron Arnold, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, outlined the new *régime* in Northern Rhodesia, which will be in force from April 1 in consequance of the transfer of the control of the territory to the Crown from the Chartered Company last year.

The Constitution will in general follow existing Colonial and Protectorate models, with a Governor, Commander-in-Chief, an Executive Council and a Legislative Council with official and unofficial Members. The unofficial Members for the present will not be elected, because it is thought desirable that local opinion should be consulted before a decision is taken with regard to electoral arrangements for the territory. Mr. Herbert James Stanley, Imperial Secretary for South Africa, will be appointed the first Governor.—Reuter.

BRAZIL'S OPENING FOR EX-SOLDIERS

London, Mar. 21.

Mr. E. S. Montagu, interviewed on his return from Brazil, stated incidentally that Brazil offered 6,000 acres of land for the settlement of British ex-soldiers.

Mr. Montagu, former Secretary of State for India, was a member of the British Financial Mission to Brazil to confer with the Brazilian Government in regard to economic questions connected with the investment of British capital in Brazil.—Reuter.

AMERICAN ROUND-WORLD FLIGHT

Seattle, Mar. 21.

Lieutenant Nelson, the fourth in the world flight, arrived today. The party, which is now complete, will rest for a few days before flying along the coast of British Columbia.—Reuter's American Service.

THE HONDURAS REVOLT

Washington, Mar. 23.

President Coolidge has placed an embargo on the sale or shipment of arms or ammunition for Honduras Reuter's American Service.

Mr. Ernest Bevin, Secretary of the Transport workers' Union, expressed the opinion that an increase of eight shillings a week could be granted by adopting traffic control.

Mr. Pick, of the London General Omnibus Co., stated that, owing to private omnibuses competing with trams in the suburbs, the Company were compelled to place their buses on the same routes with the result that there were three services where one service would be adequate. Some means of public control appeared to be the only remedy that would enable the tramway Companies to pay increased wages.

Baron Ashfield, President of the London General Omnibus Co., replying to Mr. Bevin, also expressed the opinion that the only remedy was complete co-ordination of all transport facilities in London under one traffic authority and the charging of only such fares as would enable the payment of good wages.—Reuter.

The Workers' Claims.

London, Mar. 24.

With extraordinary promptitude the Court of Inquiry into the London transport strike has issued an interim report stating, *inter alia*, that nobody seriously questioned the workers' claim for increased wages. The crisis had arisen owing to the inability of various undertakings to earn sufficient to meet the claim. The report concludes that the only present hope of reopening negotiations between the parties is an undertaking by the Government to press forward legislation which would place Metropolitan passenger traffic under co-ordinating control.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, accompanied by Mr. Harry Gosling, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Transport, and Mr. Tom Shaw, Minister of Labour, to-day met Baron Ashfield, President of the London General Omnibus Company, and Mr. Ernest Bevin, Secretary of the Transport workers' Union, at the House of Commons, after which it was announced that both sides in the transport dispute would resume negotiations at the Ministry of Labour to-morrow.

The Traffic Bill.

Later.

Replying to a question with regard to the tram strike, Mr. Harry Gosling, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport, announced that the Government would introduce the London Traffic Bill to-morrow and pass it as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald emphasized that the Government were working very hard to end the dispute as speedily as they could.—Reuter.

Breakdown of Negotiations: Union Leaders' Refusal of Employers' Terms

London, Mar. 25.

A deadlock arose in to-day's tramway negotiations. The strike will continue.

The breakdown of negotiations followed an offer by the employers of an increase of five shillings a week, the remaining three shillings to be settled by arbitration. The Union leaders refused the offer.

Both sides agreed to attend a conference, if called by the Ministry of Transport, when the Government thinks it opportune.—Reuter.

BRITISH COAL AND SHIP DISPUTES

Prospect of Peace in Coal-fields Brighter: Owners More Conciliatory

London, Mar. 21

At a joint meeting of coal-mine owners' and miners' representatives, convened to-day by Mr. E. Shinwell, Secretary for the Mines, the points at issue were discussed.

Another meeting has been arranged for March 25 to enable the miners' representatives to report fully upon the situation to the delegate conference on March 26. Both parties expected to Mr. Shinwell what took place to-day. It is understood that the situation has taken a more hopeful turn.

Later.

The threatened lock-out in the ship-yards has been temporarily deferred as the outcome of to-day's meeting at Carlisle, the Employers' Federation having recognized that the Workers' Federation, is doing its best to persuade the Southampton strikers to resume and having agreed to adjourn until March 26 to enable further efforts to be made. The employers have also offered arbitration by the industrial court, failing a mutual agreement.

It is understood that at to-day's joint meeting of the coal-owners and miners, the latter pleaded with the owners to increase their offer. The owners promised to consider the matter. The meeting was adjourned until March 25.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 24.

Replying to questions in the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald said that the Government did not intend to introduce the Miners' Minimum Wage Bill in order to settle the present dispute, which he hoped would be settled by industrial methods.—Reuter

London, Mar. 25.

The coal-owners have declined to increase their offer to increase the minimum wage to 30 per cent. above the 1914 wage, creating a deadlock. Conferences yesterday evening did not advance matters towards a settlement.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 26.

The shipbuilding employers have decided on a national lock-out in the shipyards, affecting 100,000 workers, as the engineers on strike at Southampton have refused to resume work pending discussion with a view to settlement.

Later.

The shipbuilding employers have agreed to withold the announcement of the date of the lock-out until April 1 to enable the unions again to try to induce the Southampton strikers to resume.—Reuter.

SHAMEFUL OUTRAGE IN IRELAND

Unoffending British Soldiers Fired on at Queenstown by Free State Rebels

London, Mar. 21.

Four Free State soldiers fired with a machine-gun on British troops landing in Queenstown on leave to-day. One soldier was killed and 17 wounded, some of whom are civilians. Shots were fired on H. M. S. Scythe from a motor-car, the occupants shouting "Up Tobin I."

Mar. 22.

President Cosgrave telegraphed to Mr. Ramsay Macdonald saying that he was shocked to learn that British troops had been fired on and assuring him that this cowardly crime will arouse the same horror and detestation throughout Ireland as it caused himself and his colleagues and that no efforts will be spared to bring the criminals to account. The relatives of the victims can rely on the sympathy and justice of his Government. Whether the criminals were masquerading in Free State uniforms yet remains to be determined.—Reuter.

Queenstown, Mar. 22.

Fuller details of the outrage show that a large high-powered motor-car containing four men dressed as Free State officers drove to the pier-head at seven o'clock yesterday evening and without warning opened fire with machine guns on a party of about 50 people, mostly British soldiers just landed from a Spike Island military launch, centring their attention on the soldiers. The uninjured immediately scattered. Some of the soldiers helped their wounded comrades back to the launch, which returned immediately to Spike Island. The motor-car meanwhile raced out of town, firing as it went at the destroyer Scythe, but it is not believed that the vessel was hit.

Lorry-loads of Free State troops are scouring the district for the perpetrators of the outrage, who are generally believed to be some of the mutineers.

Four of those injured are not expected to recover.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 22.

A second British soldier wounded at Queenstown has succumbed to his injuries.

The War Office announces that one officer was seriously wounded and seven men were dangerously wounded, six seriously wounded and three slightly wounded. Five civilians, of whom two were women, were also wounded.

Major-General Liam Tobin has written to the Dublin papers disclaiming responsibility for the "cowardly act."

The Free State Government is offering a reward of £10,000 for the capture of the men concerned in the outrage.—Reuter.

Dublin, Mar. 22.

The eight officers arrested in the Parnell Street operations on Tuesday night have been released on parole, having accepted the Government's conditions regarding the surrender of arms taken during the mutiny.—Reuter.

Act of Irresponsible Individuals

London, Mar. 24.

In the House of Commons to-day, replying to Mr. Neville Chamberlain (Conservative), Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressed the Government's deepest sympathy with the victims of the cowardly and brutal outrage at Queenstown (cheers) and with their relatives and friends.

He emphasized that the Government of every self-governing Dominion was solely responsible for the preservation of law within its own territories. He assured the relations of British troops that the inhabitants of Queenstown were always very friendly (cheers). There had not been the slightest complaint against the conduct of the troops.

The Government was completely confident that the Free State Government would bring to justice the perpetrators of the outrage and wipe out the blot on Irish honour. He was sure that an overwhelming majority of the Irish were behind the Government against the perpetrators of the crime, almost certainly the act of irresponsible individuals with the motive of causing the downfall of the Free State Government by embroiling it with Britain.—Reuter.

Stolen Arms Restored.

Dublin, Mar. 25.

It is announced that Mr. Joseph McGrath, the Minister for Industry and Commerce, has handed to General O'Duffy the arms and equipment which the mutineers took from Gormanstown and Daldonnel. It is expected that the remaining arms will be restored within 24 hours.—Reuter.

Some Ministerial Resignations Postponed: Improvement in the Outlook

London, Mar. 25.

The bewildering political situation in Ireland, resulting from the Army crisis, was somewhat relieved to-day by the announcement of Mr. Joseph McGrath, Minister of Industry and Commerce, that he had postponed his resignation from the Dail and that the other Deputies who had also threatened to resign were doing likewise.

The threat of resignation was made as a protest against the Government's alleged breach of an undertaking given to Mr. McGrath that the deserted officers who surrendered would be reinstated and the incident closed.—Reuter.

THE INDIAN BUDGET REJECTION

All Development Schemes Held Up: Ministers' Salaries Reduced to Rs. 2

Delhi, Mar. 20.

In the course of a lively discussion in the Legislative Assembly to-day on a motion urging the repeal of the repressive laws, which Indian members declared were used as a weapon to suppress political aspirations, Sir W. M. Hailey, defending the laws, said that he saw signs of a mass movement which the Government called by a more sinister name. There had been a serious increase of crime which was not connected with politics. He ridiculed the suggestion that a round-table conference would eradicate anarchical crime; the only remedy was preventive legislation. The resolution was carried by 68 votes to 44.—Reuter.

Nagpur, Mar. 24.

Consequent on the United Provinces Legislature's rejection of the supply measures on March 4, the Governor, Sir William Marris, has announced that he will certify the expenditure essential for carrying on the administration. He will restore practically all the supplies for the reserved department, while, with respect to the transferred department, he is authorized only to sanction the essential expenditure. All development schemes will, therefore, be held up.

He is unable to sanction a reasonable salary for the Ministers, which the Council reduced to two rupees, and is therefore obliged to take over the transferred administration himself. Sir William pointed out that the action of the Legislature deprived the province of urgent developments and a very important advance towards self-government.—Reuter.

Calcutta, Mar. 24.

The Bengal Legislative Council continues to reject Budget items. To-day it rejected votes aggregating 191½ lakhs, including the appropriation for the Ministers' salaries.—Reuter.

GERMAN REPARATIONS INQUIRY

Return of British Experts Due to Differences with Belgian and French Colleagues

London, Mar. 23.

Some uneasiness is felt in Paris owing to the return of the British experts, Dr. McKenna and Sir John Bradbury, to London, following persistent rumours of differences between them and their French and Belgian colleagues, especially with regard to what Germany would be able to pay during the two or three years' moratorium and the few years following it. It is believed that their sudden visit to London is due to the necessity of adjusting the opposing points of view.

Meanwhile it is reported that M. Poincaré has sent to the French Ambassador in London an important communication for the Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, again discussing the question of the future security of France's eastern frontier. The opinion is expressed that M. Poincaré desires to make eventual agreement easier by broadening the grounds of discussion

A Difficult Situation.

Mar. 24.

The situation arising from the differences amongst the reparations experts, on which the British representatives have returned to report to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, is described here as extremely difficult, if not critical. It is understood that the British are of opinion that Germany should have a real moratorium, whereas the French and Belgians insist on substantial deliveries in kind and defrayal of the costs of occupation during the proposed moratorium. They contend that, if Germany is unable to finance such deliveries, they should be financed out of an international loan, which would mean indirect British financial assistance to countries already heavily indebted to us.

Germany's capacity to pay after a two or three years' moratorium has also been the subject of protracted discussion. Annuities ranging from £100,000,000 to £225,000,000 have been suggested.—Reuter.

London, Mar. 24.

Reuter's Agency understands that no special significance is attached to the visit of the British experts on the reparations committees to London. Mr. Reginald McKenna and Sir John Bradbury are merely continuing the policy of keeping in touch with the Government.

The expert committee dealing with the flight of German capital abroad has practically finished its labours, but the other committee is still dealing with the problem of stabilizing German currency and balancing the Budget.

Talk of new difficulties is not taken too seriously. Apparently it only relates to the question of drafting.

It is premature to say when the reports of the committees will be published, but they will be issued as speedily as possible.—Reuter.

MILITARY CONTROL IN GERMANY

Negotiations in Progress With German Government for Early Resumption

London, Mar. 26

In the House of Commons to-day, replying to a question, Mr. Ponsonby, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that the Allies now proposed to resume military control in Germany, to which they were entitled by treaty. Negotiations were at present in progress with the German Government with regard to future proceedings.

The question of the arrest of the German Pacifist leader, Professor Quidde, at Munich on March 17 by order of the Public Prosecutor, in connexion with a letter he was alleged to have sent to General von Seeckt declaring that youths were in military training throughout Germany under Reichswehr supervision, was being considered.—Reuter.

ESPIONAGE OFFICER'S FATE

French Captain Sentenced to 12 Years' Imprisonment by Leipzig Court

Leipzig, Mar. 21.

The French Capt. Darmont, the alleged head of the present French espionage service at Bale, was tried at Leipzig by the Supreme Court yesterday and has been sentenced to 12 years' penal servitude and a fine of 5,000 gold marks.

The Swiss cinema manager, M. Bienz, who was sentenced on March 18 to 11 years' penal servitude for espionage on behalf of France, confessed that he had supplied Capt. Darmont with 62 reports on the German Reichswehr, for which during 1922 he obtained sums aggregating 1,000 000 marks.—Reuter.

REPUBLIC IN PERSIA

Another Oriental Parliament Bitten: Strong Objection Taken by People

Teheran, Mar. 21.

The long absences in Europe of the Shah have strengthened the movement in favour of a Republic in Persia. Even the Conservatives in the Mejliss are inclining towards a Republic, but there is still considerable Royalist sentiment among the population. An anti-Republican crowd, overcoming the resistance of the police, entered the Mejliss, pulled down flags and flagstaffs and beat the Republican speakers. The police were reinforced and restored order.

The leader of the Progressives in the Mejliss has submitted for urgency decision proposals with regard to change of *régime* and revision of the Constitutional laws.—Reuter.

Proposal to Depose the Shah

London, Mar. 24.

It is reported from Teheran that, owing to the opposition shown by the clergy and the public, Parliament has dropped the proposal to establish a Republic, but has decided to depose the Shah in favour of his two years old son, having a Regent during his minority.—Reuter.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HUNGARY

Budapest, Mar. 20.

Mr. William P. G. Harding, former President of the United States Federal Reserve Board, has declined the offer of appointment as Commissioner of the League of Nations for Hungary in connexion with the reconstruction loan.—Reuter.

FROM THE FOUR WINDS

THE DOCK STRIKE: A LABOUR VIEW

Where Reasonableness Might Have Won the Employers Lose Through Mussolini Tactics

From Our Trade Union Correspondent

Manchester, Mar. 24.

No part of the working community in Great Britain has done more to make industrial history than the dockers. Their famous strike in the late eighties is still a landmark in the annals of Labour. The Shaw Award of 1920 giving them 16 shillings a day, and a 44 hour, week, established a wage standard that all other trades fought to emulate with more or less success. And now the cost of living is creeping up again they are the first to strike for higher wages. What is more, they have won them. Their strike and its success will be the forerunner of many others. Resolutions asking the various executive committees to move for advances of wages are pouring into trades union headquarters from local branches all over the country. We are on the brink of another period of industrial turmoil.

In the dispute that has just finished the general public have been strong partisans of the dockers. Their conditions of labour in the docks have had a fairly good press since they were first described by journalists and social workers 40 years ago. It is casual labour at its worst; the most harsh contact of capital and labour in the world. Penned in enclosures like cattle, a crowd of miserable and half-starved men used to fight desperately for the metal checks that entitled them to a day's work at sixpence per hour. There were always twice as many men as there were jobs. There were always thousands who went empty and hungry away. The evil has never been remedied. During the later years of the war the general shortage of Labour relieved the pressure. But the old conditions came back with the trade depression. There were clauses in the Shaw Award recommending a system of registration and a guaranteed week. Both parties accepted the Shaw Agreement, but the employers subsequently refused to carry out the decasualization proposals. They said that the Unemployment Insurance Act was maintainence enough for the dockers, and as trade had by then fallen off it was considered inexpedient to insist upon that part of the agreement. Even the anti-labour press characterized this excuse as a mean and unworthy evasion.

A GRATUITOUS SNEER.

When Mr. Bevin, the docker's leader, last interviewed Lord Devonport, the employers' president, he brought up this question of maintenance. Lord Devonport sneered, "Maintenance! Maintenance is the hardy annual. You know that was put in there to make your men swallow the reduction." This gratuitous insult to a man of unimpeachable integrity did not a little to bring about the stoppage of work. Coupled with the summary way in which the same peer refused all the men's demands without troubling to discuss them with his colleagues, it made a strike inevitable. We will go further. It caused the strike. If the dockers had been offered the terms they were offered the day before they struck work,—a shilling advance, arbitration on the second shilling, and a new committee to consider a maintenance scheme, they would have jumped at them. But Lord Devonport put their backs up. Their slogan was changed to "2/- or nothing," and Bevin said he was not going to "auction the human" again. They would say what they wanted, and stop out until they got it.

The Shaw Award of 16/- a day came into operation in March, 1920. Sixteen months later there were agreed cuts bringing wages down to 14/- in the larger ports, and 13/- in the smaller ports. Five months later another shilling came off with another fall in the cost of living, and at subsequent dates in the same year two more shillings came off with no corresponding fall in the cost of living. The men's leaders persuaded their members to agree to these cuts as a worker's contribution towards trade recovery. In July 1923 another shilling came off, owing to a slight fall in the cost of living. This, the last reduction, was so resented by the dockers that in many ports they came out on strike. But their leaders stood by the agreement and persuaded them to return. Wages were now 10/- a day in the larger ports and 9/- in the smaller. There are many other workers whose wage rates are lower than this but their jobs are regular. The docker's job is not regular, and the average wage earned is round about 30/- a week. This is not enough to pay the rent and provide adequate food for a small family in any large British town.

A COMPLETE BLOCKADE.

The Shaw Agreement was due to expire on February 16. Two months before that date the men asked the employers to restore to them the two shilling cuts that were made without any corresponding fall in the cost of living. They claimed that these cuts were a sacrifice on their part to bring about a revival of trade, and that the employers had not passed them on to the public. They also claimed, and rightly, that there was a steady increase taking place in the cost of living. This is supported by the Board of Trade figures. Lastly, they called attention to the profits and huge reserves of the shipping companies. Their application was turned down without being considered.

When the day came the stoppage of work was complete. The submarine campaign at its worst fell far short of it as a blockade of this country. This, however, was not the distinguishing feature of the strike. Other strikes have created quite as much industrial havoc. Its unique feature was its success. For the first time since the period of trade depression commenced a trade union has won a contest with its employers. And it won it quickly. It won it because a Labour Government was in power.

Had the strike taken place last year the port authorities would have looked upon the million and a quarter unemployed as a reserve of black-leg labour on which they could draw. The Government would have curtailed unconvenanted unemployment benefits and provided adequate police and military protection for such of the workless as would consent to take the places of the strikers. The success of these tactics would have frightened the waverers among the strikers and they would have drifted back to work. The leaders would then have accepted the best terms they could get and the strike would be called off. That has been the procedure in the past. It was what Lord Devonport was counting on when he insulted Mr. Bevin and rejected all his proposals.

BLACK-LEG LABOUR IMPOSSIBLE.

The Labour Government first put the matter in the hands of the Minister of Labour, Mr. Tom Shaw. He did all he could to avert the strike and failed. The Government then rushed its Bill through Parliament to abolish the "gap" and put all the unemployed on insurance benefit. In the meantime the strike had started. Picketing was efficiently organized and the employers saw that it was impossible to import black-leg labour. It would have to be protected and there was no protection forthcoming. In less than 48 hours all the employers outside London were prepared to throw up the sponge and pay the 2/-, and the men could have made a number of local settlements They refused to do so.

Failing to avert the strike the Minister of Labour at once appointed a Court of Inquiry under part 2, of the Industrial Courts Act. It had power to call any witnesses, and for any information and documents it thought necessary, and was also empowered to take evidence on oath. Its Chairman was a noted barrister, Mr. Holman Gregory, K.C., and he was assisted by Sir Andrew Duncan, the Vice-President of the Shipbuilding Employer's Federation, and Mr. H. Boothman, Secretary of the Operative Cotton Spinners.

THE DOCKERS' K. C.

The establishment of this Court was the culminating blow to the employers. Mr. Bevin's genius for cross examination had won him the nickname of "The Docker's K. C." during the Shaw inquiry into the docker's conditions in 1920. His ability to state a case still shows no signs of falling off. He recounted all the negotiations before the crisis came; pointed out how faithfully the workers had kept the agreement and how they had given the employers an additional two shillings as their sacrifice towards a revival of trade. He compared the trouble which Labour has to get an increased price for its services, with the ease with which great monopolies can enforce a higher price for its commodities. Petrol companies, he said, had taxed the country to the tune of six and a quarter millions, but there was no Government action, no court of inquiry, and no protest in the city.

Sir Norman Hill stated the case for the employers. He began by admitting the truth of nearly all that Mr. Bevin said, and then went on to try to prove that the shareholders and their companies had also made great sacrifices. It was an unconvincing plea because the case of the companies up to that time had been entirely different. They had claimed that all increases were passed on to the public, and justified their resistance to the men's demands by posing as the defenders of the public against the rapacity of the dockers. Sir Norman practically admitted that there had been no reduction in dividends. He justified the low wages of the dockers by comparing them with other low wages in some other industries.

THE EMPLOYERS GIVE IN.

The manner of the speech was as unconvincing as its matter. It got a bad press, and completed the discomfiture of the employers. The more responsible newspapers advised them to accede to the docker's demands at once, and put an end to the Inquiry. They therefore held a meeting on the evening of the first day of the Inquiry and decided to offer the dockers the two shillings; the first to be paid at once; the second in three months time; and they also agreed to a decasualisation scheme. The men's leaders agreed to recommend these terms to their members. Several ports have refused them, and expressed their intention of standing out for the whole two shillings at once, but it is expected that they will modify their demand and agree to the compromise.

There is general agreement that the whole blame for the strike and all its consequences falls on the shoulders of Lord Devonport. His method of dealing with employees lies at the root of more than half of our industrial troubles. There are many men in the ranks of Labour of the same unaccommodating temper. They have, however, very little chance of rising to positions in trade unions where their destructive schemes can be carried out. British Labour is moderate, and it usually chooses leaders of moderate views. The same cannot be said of employer's federations. Employers in choosing a leader like a man who will "make a strong stand." These "strong" men are the bane of the British industrial world. They have little knowledge of, and no sympathy with, the point of view of the workers. It is to be hoped that other employers' federations will see the moral of this strike and keep their Mussolini's in strictly subordinate positions. The country has had enough of them. The era of the Larkins and Devonports has passed.

Few people ascribe the victory of the dockers to the excellent case they had. It is, either credited to the Labour Government now in power or to the Court of Inquiry. It is being asked why the Court was not set up before. The truth is, the public would have paid very little attention to it, or its findings, if it had been. The reason they hung breathless on the evidence given before it was the fact that it was the key expected to unlock all our ports again. It will have the same prestige in any strike in the future, but only when a strike is actually on. The factor of a Labour Government was more important. Neither the opponents nor the supporters of Labour had anticipated that its existence would have such an effect on an industrial dispute. It is now seen that the question of giving or withholding military protection to organized blacklegs may be the decisive factor in a national strike.

LONDON CRITICISMS OF CHINA

Peking's Impudent Reply on the Brigandage Question: The Bessell Outrage

From Our Own Correspondent.

London, Feb. 28.

Critiocisms with regard to Chinese politics continue unabated. Apparently the reply of the Prime Minister to Commander Bellairs on the subject of the precautions now being taken by the Chinese Government to ensure the protection of foreigners has not been well received in the Far East. The following are his exact words:

"The Chinese Government have assured the foreign representatives at Peking that they regard the whole matter of railway policing and protection as an urgent problem of China's internal administration, and are fully conscious of their responsibility for a practical solution, and it is understood that they have already taken steps to reorganize the railway police force. As regards the general question of the protection of foreigners against brigandage, the Chinese Government have despatched renewed orders to provincial authorities to redouble their efforts in the prosecution of this essential duty, and the matter was made the subject of especial reference by the President in his inaugural address on October 10 last."

There is a great dissatisfaction at the failure to punish the officer guilty of the assault on Mr. Bessell the railway employee. The "Telegraph" this week publishes the following:

"In consequence of the brutal assault recently committed by a Chinese officer and his men upon Mr. Bessell, an aged British railway official at Fengtai, the British Minister at Peking has made strong and repeated representations to the Peking Government for the apprehension and trial of the culprits, but, so far, without avail. The Chinese authorities are hedging, and plead that they are unable to trace the officer in question, who is doubtless being shielded by high military and political influences.

In view of this unsatisfactory state of affairs it has been decided, after consultation with London, to proceed to the re-establishment of a British military post at Fengtai station, for the future protection of the personnel. Should outrages occur elsewhere on the line, similar measures will no doubt be taken."

I believe that the statement is fully correct and that the British Government does think that the Chinese Government is remiss in taking action in the matter.

TSAO KUN UNDER A CLOUD.

It is an exceedingly stupid policy on the part of China because even among those who are friendly to that country especially with regard to extraterritoriality, such incidents cause a very bad impression. There is a series of rumours, in addition, that the President is protecting his own people even at the expense of Europeans, and that he is securing all the chief administrative posts for his own creatures. It is also rumoured here that one of the men to go is General Yen who controls the Province of Shansi. As he is regarded as one of the ablest men in China, to whom Sir John Jordan has always paid warm tributes, no more unfelicitous step could possibly be taken by any Chinese administration. The President has on his accession to office sent a message to King George expressing the hope that the good relations of the two countries will improve. They will only improve if there is better government and it is unfortunate that the Chinese President is already under a cloud here so far as expert public opinion is concerned.

THE TRADE MARKS QUESTION.

The Chinese Legation this week issued the following statement.

"With reference to the controversy of the New Trade Mark Regulations, the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps in Peking has addressed several notes to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, requesting that the treaty rights enjoyed by the foreign merchants be not impaired by the new Regulations, that the preferential rights in regard to Customs [illegible] be reserved, and that [illegible] ports be employed to afford [illegible]. He further requested that the enforcement of the New Trade Mark Registration as being stipulated for six months be deferred until the date of recognition by the Powers, in order to allow more time for them to consider the question of recognition.

It is most likely that the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce will approve the above proposals; so the settlement of the question does not seem to be remote.

Experts are getting ready for the International Conference at Geneva in November next on the Anti drug campaign. They meet as a Committee on March 5, also in Geneva to prepare the programme, which will deal both with the growth of the opium poppy and the coca plant. They are appealing to the Government to give Sir John Jordan, our representative, the widest instructions. Evidently something needs to be done because the drug traffic here continues unabated.

A TOWER OF LONDON CEREMONIAL

Tribute to a Murdered King

Visitors to the Tower of London who go to the Wakefield Tower to see the Royal Regalia should turn aside to the recess where last year a tablet was let in to mark the reputed death-place of that gentle monarch Henry VI. Richard III., to whose record of dark villainies tradition adds that of the murder of Henry, is supposed to have found the ex-King praying in the oratory and stabbed him to death, "punching his anointed body full of deadly holes," as Shakespeare has it.

During January a beautifully illuminated vellum has been affixed to the wall "In the name of the Blessed Trinity, Father Son, and Holy Ghost, of our Lady Saint Mary, Mother of Christ, and All the Holy Company of Heaven." It reads as follows:—

"The Society of Blessed Mary of Eton gives Sir George Younghusband, the present Keeper of the Jewel House, and to his successors in that office, the sum of Ten Pounds Sterling, asking him and his successors each year on the 21st day of May, at 6 o'clock in the evening, either with his own hand, or by the hand of another chosen by him, to lay some white flowers on the floor of the oratory of the Wakefield Tower, the present Jewel House, this being the place where our Royal Founder, King Henry the Sixth of holy memory, is believed to have been kneeling at the close of his life here upon earth in the year of our Lord 1471."

This tribute of devotion has the approval of the Constable of the Tower and the sanction of His Majesty George the Fifth. The flowers are to be lilies of Eton tied together with a blue riband in correspondence with a similar offering made year by year on the Eve of the Feast of St. Nicholas by two of the King's Scholars at the grave in St. George's Chapel at Windsor. The Keeper of the Jewel House is asked to arrange for the removal of the flowers at the same hour on the following evening and for them to be burnt.

Two Eton King's Scholars attended in connexion with the fixing up of this illuminated notice, recording a ceremony carried out last May for the first time.

HOLLAND'S RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

The Hague, Mar. 20.

The Second Chamber to-day rejected the Communist and Socialist motions demanding speedy re-establishment of political relations with Russia. The Foreign Minister, opposing, pointed out that negotiations were already in progress with Russia and therefore acceptance of the motions would be imprudent.

The Chamber, after rejecting an amendment requesting the suppression of the Netherland's Legation at the Vatican, adopted the Foreign Estimates by 68 votes to 14. The Socialists and Communists voted in the minority.—Reuter.

The Hague, Mar. 23.

In connexion with the Russo-Dutch negotiations proceeding in Berlin, it is officially announced that Holland was ready to grant *de jure* recognition in exchange for a commercial convention, but the Russians had no authority to discuss matters germane to recognition and the delegates have requested fresh instructions.—Reuter.

Washington, Mar. 26.

The rival revolutionary leaders in Honduras have combined to re-establish order and have agreed to a proclamation making Gen. Davila provisional President. The elections will be held soon.—Reuter's American Service.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF U. S. LIQUOR LAWS

Albany, Mar. 26.

The New York State Senate by 27 votes to 20 to-day adopted a resolution to memorialize Congress urging an amendment to the Prohibition Act so as to legalize the sale of wine and beer.

All the Democrats, except one absentee, and two Republicans voted in favour of the resolution.—Reuter's American Service.

AMUNDSEN'S POLAR FLIGHT

London, Mar. 21.

Captain Hammer, who will accompany Captain Amundsen on his polar flight from Spitzbergen to Alaska, has arrived in England to complete the arrangements.

Two aeroplanes will be employed with three men in each. The United States Government will be represented in the flight.—Reuter.

Washington, March 21.—Mr. Irwin Laughlin, former Counsellor of the United States Embassy in London, has been appointed Minister to Greece.—Reuter's American Service.

BRITAIN'S AUXILIARY AIR FORCE

London, Mar. 20.

In the House of Lords to-day, the Auxiliary Air Force Bill, with the object of recruiting 13 Home Defence squadrons on the lines of the Territorial Army, was read for the second time.—Reuter.

AMERICAN STEAMER'S COSTLY FUEL

Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Mar. 24.

The steamer Maria, owned by a New York firm, carrying a cargo of liquor from Havana to St. Pierre, limped into port to-day 24 days late, after burning 700 cases of alcohol, valued at $250,000, as a substitute for coal. Her coal was exhausted after a gale had driven her far out into the Atlantic. The crew was half-starved. They report that the vessel made only four knots with probably the most expensive fuel ever used in a steamer.—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. FOODSTUFFS FOR GERMANY

Washington, Mar. 24.

The House of Representatives has passed a resolution to appropriate $10,000,000 for the purchase of foodstuffs for women and children of Germany.—Reuter's American Service.

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION IN AMERICA

Washington, Mar. 24.

The Immigration Committee of the House of Representatives has submitted a formal report on the Johnson Immigration Bill. It expresses the opinion that cancellation of the so-called Gentlemen's Agreement with Japan would be justified. The Committee agrees to give a wider latitude in the admission of Japanese coming to the United States for business purposes, but declines to yield in its contention that aliens generally who are ineligible for citizenship should not be permitted to enter.—Reuter's America Service.

SUBMISSION TO JUSTICE

New York, Mar. 24.

Counsel for William H. Anderson, the former State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, who was charged with appropriating money belonging to the League, having failed to secure a certificate of "reasonable doubt" from the Supreme Court, announces that his client surrenders to serve his term of one to two years imprisonment in Singsing. It is estimated that Anderson's sentence may be reduced to about nine months if he gets the full allowance for good conduct.—Reuter's American Service.

GERMAN EMIGRANTS TO CANADA

Montreal, Mar. 24.

One hundred German immigrants arrived this week-end. Twenty expert German toy-makers with their families are expected shortly in connexion with a proposal to start a local toy factory.—Reuter's American Service.

AN ARGENTINA DUEL

Buenos Aires, Mar. 24.

Gen. A. P. Justo, Minister for War, and Gen. L. J. Dellepiane, Commander of the Garrison, fought a duel to-day. Both were seriously wounded. It was the Minister's criticism of the Army which caused the quarrel.—Reuter's American Service.

U. S. AIR SERVICES

Washington, Mar. 24.

The House of Representatives to-day passed a resolution authorizing an investigation into the aircraft industry in the United States and also into the Army and Navy postal air service.—Reuter's American Service.

TWO AMERICAN CARDINALS

Rome, Mar. 24.

The Pope at a private Consistory to-day announced that Monsignors Hayes and Mundelein, Arch-bishops of New York and Chicago respectively, had been appointed Cardinals.—Reuter.

JAPANESE SHIP SUNK

London, March 25.

The Japanese steamer, Tokofuku Maru, from Bremen to Japan, was sunk in a collision with the German steamer, Heindal, in a fog off Dungeness. Twenty-three members of the crew of the Tokofuku Maru are missing. Fifteen have landed at Dover from the Heindal.—Reuter.

FAMOUS GERMAN AIRMAN KILLED

Berlin, Mar. 23.

The famous airman, Herr Linnekogel, who established two world height records, resuming flying after six years, crashed to-day and was killed in his first flight near Cassel.—Reuter.

THE DECISION TO SINK THE AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Mar. 23.

A meeting of the Australian Natives Association to-day telegraphed to the Prime Minister, Mr. S. M. Bruce, protesting against the decision to sink the battleship Australia on the ground that her sinking is not obligatory under the Washington Treaty.—Reuter.

ARCHBISHOP CIEPLAK EXPELLED BY SOVIET

London, Mar. 24.

It is announced that the Soviet authorities have decided to release and expel Archbishop Cieplak, who was sentenced to death in March of last year, but whose sentence was later commuted to ten years' imprisonment. It is believed that representations from Mr. Ramsay Macdonald influenced the decision.

The proceedings against the Patriarch Tikhon have been definitely abandoned.—Reuter.

BRITAIN AND THE SOVIET

London, Mar. 24.

Russia will be represented by a very influential deputation at the Anglo-Russian conference, which will deal with outstanding questions between the two countries. The deputation, which is expected to arrive in ample time to open discussions early in April, includes M. Rakowsky and M. Litvinoff.—Reuter.

U. S. NAVAL ESTIMATES

Washington, Mar. 22.

The House of Representatives to-day passed the Naval Appropriations Bill, involving an expenditure of $272,000,000.—Reuter's American Service.

TURKESTAN AND SOVIET REPRISALS

Riga, Mar. 25.

The local press reports that the son of the Khan of Khiva and 12 of the Khan's followers have been shot at a Moscow concentration camp as a reprisal for the shooting of Bolshevik commissars by the Turkestan chieftain, Junaid Khan, during the latter's recent attack on Khiva.—Reuter.

CANADA AND THE SOVIET

Ottawa, Mar. 26.

Replying to Mr. Yasikoff, head of the Soviet Trade Delegation to Canada, who inquired whether Britain's recognition of the Soviet Republics comprehended Canada, the Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, has written stating that in the best interests of both countries, Canada is prepared to recognize the Union of Soviet Socialistic Republics.—Reuter's American Service.

TURKEY'S CONSTITUTION

Constantinople, Mar. 25.

A serious situation has arisen in Turkey owing to the National Assembly after stormy scenes rejecting the article in the new Constitution, empowering the President to dissolve the Assembly.—Reuter.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAMS

THE SITUATION IN WESTERN EUROPE

French and Belgian Industrial Enterprises in Ruhr and Rhineland: Separatist Movements in the Palatinate: Security for Reparations and Special Pacts

GERMANY'S ADMISSION TO LEAGUE OF NATIONS

London, Mar. 27.

Mr. Asquith, in the House of Commons to-day, asked for information on the situation in Western Europe, especially with regard to the reports that French organizations were energetically perfecting a system of local agreements, which would convert the occupied territories into a special reparations preserve by methods which would practically ruin the industries concerned and seriously impair Germany's power to stabilize her currency. He expressed disquietude lest the Administration of the Saar might be exercising arbitrary powers unknown to democratic countries.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, replying, said that the British Government, after investigation, had come to the conclusion that the agreements hitherto concluded by French and Belgian industrial organizations in the Ruhr and Rhineland with German industrialists did not conflict with the Peace Treaty or the reparations settlement. There had, indeed, been attempts to make these agreements an occasion for a redistribution of reparations settlements, in which connexion the Government had hitherto made successful protests and would continue to protest. The British Government had insisted that the committees of the Reparations Commission, established by the Treaty of Versailles, should strictly confine themselves to their constitutional functions, particularly the committees of the Saar and the Palatinate. The difficulties in the Palatinate were especially great on account of the fact that "the Separatist movements were not supported merely from the inside." (Liberal Cheers.)

The Reparations Question.

Passing to the question of security, Mr. MacDonald emphasized his conviction that France would never get security by special pacts. The British Government aimed at securing a moral guarantee body like the League of Nations, but certain things must first be done. The question of reparations must be settled. The problem of security, in the event of a full agreement on reparations, presented very slight difficulties, but they would be very grave if there were merely an agreement between the Allies and a sulky Germany.

The Allies must make up their minds that Germany was bound to enter the League of Nations (Ministerial cheers). If the difficulties due to the occupation of the Ruhr were cleared up, Mr. MacDonald declared, then he woult like to see an invitation signed by France, America, Italy and Britain to all the nations of the world to consider the whole question of disarmament. That was no mere dream, because there was a stronger body of men in responsible positions throughout the world than ever before who were anxious to support a Government which was working to that end.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister declared that he was very anxious to have the question of Jubaland and the Dodecanese settled in order to remove a cause of irritation between Britain and Italy.

Mr. Lloyd George's Complaint.

Mr. Lloyd George complained of the vagueness of Mr. MacDonald's statement. He drew attention to M. Poincaré's declarations that French troops would remain in the Rhineland until reparations had been discharged. He declared that, if the committees of experts recommended a reduction of the assessment against Germany, abatement should be made all round. In conclusion he said that no people on earth gave away less for sentiment than the French.

Mr. Arthur Ponsonby, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, referring to the proposal to call an international disarmament conference, said that the Government had such a conference in view, but it did not signify much whether it was called by one or two Powers or by the League of Nations.—Reuter.

AVIATION FATALITY IN HONOLULU

Honolulu, Mar. 27.

Three Army airmen were killed and one injured when a Martin bombing aeroplane crashed here to-day after dropping into an air pocket and catching fire.—Reuter.

FATAL LANDSLIDE IN ITALY

Rome, Mar. 27.

There were about 100 fatalities owing to a cloudburst and landslide at Amalfi to-day. All tourists are believed to be safe. Houses, vineyards and olive plantations were carried away and a number of fishing-boats were sunk.—Reuter.

LONDON TRANSPORT DISPUTE

Resumption of Negotiations: Both Parties Anxious to Reach a Settlement

London, Mar. 27.

In the House of Commons to-day the Premier, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, announced the resumption of negotiations between the parties in the traffic dispute. To-night's conference had been adjourned until to-morrow. He found that both sides were very desirous of effecting a settlement.

The Premier bewailed the fact that since the beginning of the year a whole series of industrial disputes which have been maturing for months and even for years had come to a head. The Government would do their best to meet the public convenience while the dispute lasted and in the event of its spreading. The first step would be the issue of a proclamation of a state of emergency. Every hospital would be provided with facilities for bringing and taking away patients, the larger public services must be maintained and the Government must protect those engaged in their legal occupations. He emphasized that the Government would not merely act as a strike-breaking organization.

Quiet and Calm Action.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, after referring to various outside suggestions to cope with the strike, including flooding of the streets with soldiers, and commandeering of employers' property and material, declared that the only rule the Government would adopt was the rule of practical convenience. It was quiet and calm action that told in the end and the Government would do nothing to broaden and deepen the existing divisions.

Mr. Stanley Baldwin entirely approved of the Government's foresight in making the proclamation. He hoped that later on the Government and the House of Commons would consider what was possibly the most serious question the country had to face, namely, how to get some kind even of temporary peace in industry that would give the country a chance of recovering.

Mr. Lloyd George supported the suggestion as regards commandeering if there were insufficient voluntary assistance. He said that the Premier need not imagine that this was an extreme proposal, from which any section of the House would shrink if it was necessary.

Government Negotiations.

Later.

Amid Labour cries of "Oh!" and Opposition cheers, Viscount Curzon (Conservative) asked in the House of Commons to-day whether the emergency committee of Ministers, whose establishment Mr. Ramsay MacDonald foreshadowed yesterday, had made any proposals to mitigate the hardship resulting from the tram and bus strike in London, what the Government proposed to do to protect the public if the strike extended, as threatened, to other essential services, and whether the Government would give full protection to those who were prepared to maintain these services.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald replied that the committee had formulated proposals which, he hoped, were in the public interest.

The rest of the question was postponed, as he had arranged to see all the interests concerned to-night to negotiate a certain offer.—Reuter.

RUSSIA'S LIABILITIES TO BRITAIN

Riga, Mar. 27.

It is reported from Moscow that, in the course of his report to the Congress of Russian Engineers, M. Zinovieff stated that Britain had presented to Russia a claim of 10,390,000,000 gold roubles, excluding three milliards, representing the interest on loans since 1915. He added that Russia did not intend to make concessions in this respect and she had presented a counter-claim exceeding Britain's demands.—Reuter.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER

Money Borrowing: Mr. Hughes and Drifting: Resurrection of Middle-class Party: Successful Fruit Selling: Chinese Trade Commissioner Defended

From Our Own Correspondent.

Melbourne, Feb. 15.

My last letter had just started on its journey when the Loan Council, consisting of the Commonwealth and State Treasurers, met in response to an "S.O.S." call from Dr. Earle Page, the acting Prime Minister and Commonwealth Treasurer. Australia was generous to the returned soldiers and the relatives of those who did not return, and granted war gratuities, averaging about £100 apiece, bearing interest at 5½ per cent. and redeemable in this coming month of May. To meet special cases some thousands were at once redeemed, and the Commonwealth allowed banks and insurance companies to take over about £6,000,000. The result is to-day that there are about £13,000,000 of gratuity bonds which must be redeemed by the end of May, and a loan is necessary in order to raise the redemption money, and also to give the banks and others a new stock in place of that which they now hold. But the trouble Dr. Page had to face was that all the States want loan money, and, despite the fact that Australia has a huge trade balance in London, the exchanges are such that the money cannot be transferred to the Commonwealth except at inordinate expense. Therefore borrowing must take place in Australia, and with six States and the Commonwealth all scrambling for money, the prospects of paying usurious interest seemed imminent. Queensland said it must have £1,250,000 at once, and Western Australia could not be content with less than £750,000. In the end they were promised these sums on loan from the Commonwealth, and all six States, so far as the Council could bind them, undertook not to borrow in Australia until after the end of the financial year closing June 30 next. It was also agreed that the rate of interest should be 6 per cent., that the currency of loans should not exceed 10 years, and that the interest on loans in Australia should be subject to both Commonwealth and State income taxation. Western Australia at once celebrated this agreement by going to London and raising £2,000,000 at 5½ per cent., while the Commonwealth is calling for a loan of an indefinite amount bearing 6 per cent. interest, and with optional currencies of three, five or 10 years. While Dr. Page is disposed to say that his idea of a Loan Council is proving very fruitful, it is only right to point out that the body is purely advisory, and already there is some grumbling by State ministers as to the prospect of the curtailment of their borrowings, while the Federal Treasurer is saying that a good deal more restriction in spending loan money is necessary.

MR. HUGHES AS A LECTURER.

There have been some cheap gibes at Mr. W. M. Hughes, the late Prime Minister, on the occasion of his departure for the United States to deliver a series of lectures on Australia, but a very great deal of interest will be felt in what he says. Melbourne thought fit to ignore entirely his departure, but Sydney, possibly out of pure cussedness, gave him a series of send-off functions. Mr. Hughes did not let the opportunity slip of making some caustic remarks about the trend of Australian politics and parties. He said that the Nationalist party—that is the party he himself formed—is drifting apart, the Liberals one way and the Labour, or ex-Labour, the other. He claimed that this trend was noticeable not only in Federal, but also in the State politics of Victoria and New South Wales. After all, he was only reiterating what has been said must happen, if the Conservatives and Liberals have their way. They have driven nearly all Mr. Hughes' Labour followers in Parliament out of public life, but in New South Wales and Victoria the same ex-Labour members are driving the Nationalist Governments to the wall. In other words, parties are drifting into their original habitations, and Mr. Hughes realizes this. But there is another side, namely that of the Labour Party, which is also drifting. The war gave the Communists a chance to undermine craft unionism, and practically to go near to capturing the Labour Party. Now the militant and the craft wings are drifting apart, and the former accuse the latter of trying to form a middle-class party, which is of course no use to those who believe that man will never be happy until the gutters are running with gore. The lectures of Mr. Hughes will, it is supposed, tell the Americans what he knows about Australia and her problems, but one may expect that he will also find time to say things which will help to reconcile him with the "middle-class" Labour party and thus give him a very considerable following throughout the Commonwealth. In the Country organization which is at present supporting the Bruce-Page combination there is a very large section of ex-Labourite electors. Mr. Hughes may hope to detach these and if he does so his triumphant return to office is by no means beyond the realms of possibility.

A POLICY OF DRIFT.

When Mr. Hughes said the wings of the Nationalist party were drifting asunder he naturally had in mind not only the discontent of himself and his immediate followers in the Federal Parliament, but also the manner in which the ex-Labourites of the Country Party are hampering the Nationalist Government of New South Wales and have actually defeated a Government nominee in a by-election in Victoria. This last election showed quite clearly that the Nationalist Government, though in combination with the Country Party, was defeated by the preference votes of the Country candidate and also those given for an Independent who happened to be a grazier. The primary producers, therefore, actually defeated the Government in which they were represented. But Dr. Earle Page, acting Prime Minister in the absence of Mr. Bruce, and Federal leader of the whole Country organizations, is apparently determined not to see this. He replies to Mr. Hughes by the simple process of misquoting him. He says that if the Government is drifting, it is doing so with the tide, and expects to enter the haven where it would be. It requires little political gumption to realize that not only is this a poor reply, but it is a damnatory one. To declare that one's own Government is drifting, especially with a setting tide, can hardly raise enthusiasm, much less confidence. It is suggested by one writer than Dr. Page really means that his ship is in stays, and is merely waiting for the Captain—the Prime Minister—to come aboard. It may be noted as a possible sign of the early political future that the campaign of press criticism, which did much to defeat Mr. Hughes, appears now to have commenced against the present Government. Charges of gross extravagance have not yet been made, but we have reached the stage when Ministers are blamed for non-attendance at their offices, with touring the country in Commonwealth motor-cars, and even with having actually bought two new cars. Mr. Charlton, leader of the Labour Party, reminds us that the present Government has been in office for 14 months, and of that time it has been in recess for 11. One knows how this piling up of criticisms goes on, and unfortunately for the present Government it has no strong newspaper support. Mr. Hughes never had any, but then he was a whole newspaper in himself.

THE FRUIT HARVEST.

After all the complaints and prophecies of disaster, the fruit harvest is turning out satisfactorily, and the threatened failure of the returned soldier settlers in Victoria has given way to forecasts of their entire success. In Tasmania the great Jones Jam Company is making a feature of the fact that it is dumping nearly 100 tons of apricots, for which it has no use, but nowadays the average citizen places his finger alongside his nose and winks, when these stories are told. He has still more reason for scepticism when he reads on that the Company is paying the fruitgrowers for their unwanted fruit. But then Sir Henry Jones, who has his factories in Australia, South Africa and America, not so many months ago advised the growers to reduce their orchards, and naturally if he desires to be justified, his company must do some dumping on the plea of over-supply. Probably the latest and most interesting feature is the success attending fruit trains, in Victoria and New South Wales. In such a country as this there are thousands of homesteads and townships where fruit is neither grown nor readily obtainable. The plan is to attach a suitable truck to a train, pack it with about 10 tons of fruit in cases and half-cases, and send it in charge of a salesman who will dispose of it for cash at the various stations. Remarkable to relate the system has proved eminently practicable and satisfactory, and so far at least the supply has not been equal to the demand. It sounds a simple and unimportant thing, but it is enabling the growers to get rid of a lot of their fruit, thus stabilizing the city markets which suffer alternately from starvation or repletion. Tasmanian apples this year are suffering from black spot. It is a purely skin disease, and does not apparently affect the fruit itself. The Tasmanians have asked the Customs department for permission to export these to London, and this has been given to send away about 400,000 cases. Tasmania produces about 3,000,000 cases of apples yearly, and exports about two-thirds of this. It is argued that the 400,000 spotted cases might be slipped on to the market without danger of getting Australian apples a bad name. There is great controversy proceeding on this subject, and even the Inter-State Conference of the Farmers' Unions has entered a protest against such permission being granted.

AN EPIDEMIC OF SHOOTING.

Crime of a sensational nature often appears to come in epidemic form. It is only a fortnight ago since I recorded the shooting of five persons—four of whom died—in the Melbourne Botanical Gardens, for no apparent reason. The murderer in this case threw away his rifle and bolted down to the coast in order to stow away on an outward-bound ship. Failing to find a vessel, he made inland into the roughest country amongst the mountains lying close to Melbourne. A settler wandering into a mass of man-high bracken to get some fern noticed a sudden swarm of insects, and thinking them bees, pushed his way to the spot. The man List was lying dead, and in a state of decomposition. The inquest has not yet been held, but it is stated that the police found a safety razor blade in his pocket, and it is thought that he opened an artery and bled himself to death. Two days ago news came through from a sparsely settled part of New South Wales, about 100 miles from the Victorian border, that a picnic party had been fired upon and four persons wounded, one fatally. In this case the man is quite well known, and had that morning borrowed his employer's rifle and cartridges, saying he was going to shoot foxes. The rifle was a service weapon, and the clips of cartridges were carried in a bandolier. He approached the picnic party within about 30 yards and then opened fire. One of the men received no fewer than four shots, and hurried to his house, no great distance away, returning with a rifle. Meanwhile the others hustled the women under cover, and dragged the wounded away. The man hung about for a bit, but bolted when the wounded man with his rifle began to shoot ineffectively. The police and armed settlers are searching for him, and already he has fired additional shots at his pursuers. The country in which he is lurking is very rough, with dense patches of scrub. Two women claim that he held them up as they were driving home, and compelled them to drive him to their own house and supply him with food. He was still carrying his rifle. He seems to have been a quiet, though unintelligent farm worker. Unlike the man List, much learning had not made him mad, but it is possible that the story of the Melbourne shooting turned what little brain he had.

FARES AND FREIGHTS.

At last the combined shipping companies which have practically a monopoly of the Australian coastal trade, being protected by the Navigation Act from foreign competition, have been obliged to reduce their charges along the eastern coast. Their change of policy may be due to one of many things, but probably to a combination of all. The report of the Commission on the operations of the Navigation Act is soon to be prepared; several witnesses have given most damaging evidence against the companies; the Commonwealth Shipping Line is becoming an active competitor along the coast; the Patrick Steamship Company is successfully extending its trade at cut rates; the Queensland State railway is now opened along the eastern coast at far as Townsville and by charging reasonably has compelled the companies to reduce fares and freights in the neighbouring waters; and as a consequence of this last there is a growing demand that all the railways doing Inter-State trade should lower their charges in order to bring the shipping companies to heel. This is a somewhat formidable array of reasons, and as I have said a combination of them all may have had influence. But the point that is worth noting is that the reduction in charges is not due to a reduction in wages, and the high level of the latter has always been the excuse of the combine for its excessive charges.

THE SEARCH FOR OIL.

Within the next few weeks the business of oil refining will have commenced in Australia at a place called Laverton in Victoria, and further refineries in other States will follow in due course. For the moment the oil to be refined will be the crude stuff taken from the Anglo-Persian wells in Mesopotamia. As to the oil-refining business in Australia it is managed by the Anglo-Persian Company and the Commonwealth; the latter have one share more than the former, and consequently the final word in matters of policy. But we are busy seeking all over Australia for oil, and, of course, there are many exploration companies full of enthusiasm and optimism. But of the many there are likely to be but few whose hopes will be realized. In Queensland near Roma, in the Great Western Downs, where artesian water is a commonplace and where several small towns are lit by natural gas coming from below the surface, a combination of gas and petroleum has been struck, at about 2,000 feet. It will be some weeks before the necessary fortification of the shaft will make it possible safely to go on with the work and ascertain whether the supply of oil can be obtained profitably. Yet there is great rejoicing and confidence, and a stimulus is given to other explorers. Dr. F. G. Clapp, a New York oil expert, has just arrived in Australia under engagement with a Western Australian oil company. He is apparently to talk about all Australia. He has already greatly offended those interested in oil in Victoria by writing to the press and stating his opinion that the chances of oil in that State are so trifling that he does not propose to waste time in examination. However, when he does get to work, with his large staff of geologists and others it is expected he will employ, we may find some very useful work done. Boring operations are, I understand, being carried out at Elcho Island, which is in the extreme north-west of the Gulf of Carpentaria, and there are said to be promising signs. However, with a total area of 3,000,000 square miles, of which 602,000 square miles are comprised within what is known as the great Australian basin, whence artesian water is obtainable, and also in places natural gas, it seems impossible to imagine that natural oil will not sooner or later be found. Victoria and Western Australia are outside the basin, but the other mainland States have artesian areas, the biggest being in Queensland with 372,000 square miles, and 1,236 artesian flows yielding over 300,000,000 gallons of water daily. Meanwhile hardly a day passes but the coalminers are told that yet another steamer is bunkering foreign oil and not Australian coal.

THE CASE OF MR. E. S. LITTLE.

It cannot be said that Mr. E. S. Little, for two and a half years Australian Trade Commissioner at Shanghai, has accused the Australian Government of being guilty of repudiation of contract, such as that which is being made a cabled monstrosity by the London moneylenders to Queensland, but the extraordinary treatment of Mr. Little seems bound to yet become a *cause célèbre*. In the mildest language possible Mr. Little has asked members of the Commonwealth Parliament to see that his case is fully considered. He has sent along a booklet, covering correspondence and the text of his agreement with Australia. As an Australian, one must admit that it is most unpleasant reading. As a member of Parliament remarked to me, "We appear to have either been fools or rogues." There was one Australian daily paper, which seems to have been given the earliest information, and which promptly decided that no-one wanted to hear any more about Mr. Little, but this sort of thing left out the fact that in the name of common justice and the reputation of Australia more must be heard, before the terms of a contract can be broken and some-one butchered to make an Australian holiday. Possibly the most important fact, with which the average member of Parliament is unacquainted, is that of the special report made by the semi-Chinese member of the Senate, the late Senator T. J. K. Bakhap, Australian born, a brilliant scholar and, from 1909 to the day of his death in August last year, a more than ordinarily respected member of Parliament, State or Federal. It was my privilege to meet Senator Bakhap on his return from the special inquiry into the accusations against Mr. Little, and his honest indignation, spoken in the privacy of the Commonwealth Library, has now been fully revealed in the report published by himself in his letters to members. The whole business has been "beastly" from the point of view of the gentleman, which Bakhap undoubtedly was; my own view is that it is even more beastly from the point of view that Australia regards it as gentlemanly. Mr. Chapman, Minister for Trade and Customs, has yet to answer the unspoken challenge of both Mr. Little and those who believe in fair and clean dealing. He may have to plead "*peccavi*," and admit that he cabled in haste what he repented at leisure, but this is not sufficient. Mr. Little says that he asked for the text of charges; and these were not supplied. It is quite likely, from what I hear, that the matter will be discussed when Parliament reassembles.

REAL FILM DRAMA

Actor Killed by a Lioness

A terribly realistic touch was given recently to a scene from "Quo Vadis" when a lion seized one of the actors and tore him to pieces.

The scene was being staged by the Palatine Film Company, and a number of lions had been released into an arena wherein, on a platform, were grouped 50 actors and actresses dressed in Roman clothing and enacting the part of the Christians.

Suddenly a lioness sprang up on to the platform, and seizing one of the actors with her paws dragged him down to the ground and commenced to maul him. His head was bitten off.

The rest of the people on the platform were terror stricken, and the other lions commenced to spring viciously towards them, trying to tear others down. The keepers rushed to the rescue, but the beasts were so infuriated that a desperate encounter ensued. The lioness which had killed one of the actors was slain.

SCOTTISH LETTER

The Office of Lord Advocate: A Wise Precedent Established

From Our Own Correspondent.

Edinburgh, Feb. 13.

Mr Ramsay MacDonald has taken a wise course in making the office of Lord Advocate for Scotland a non-political one. He cannot be given the whole credit for the course taken; he was not at first inclined to make the precedent; it was in some respects forced upon him. But his action has a good deal of courage behind it, and it has received unstinted praise from the Conservative, Liberal, and Radical press of Scotland. The only objectors are found in the weekly organs of the extreme Reds. The new Lord Advocate is Mr. H. P. Macmillan, K.C., a Unionist, at one time a candidate for East Lothian and from the correspondence published, the Prime Minister proposed to Mr. Macmillan the acceptance of the post "on a basis entirely non-political." On this understanding Mr. Macmillan undertakes "to discharge the duties and enjoy the rights of the office without participation in politics and, of course, without a seat in the House." As I have said, this action required courage on the part of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. It must be borne in mind that during the past fortnight he has been subjected to a raucous clamour by extremist members of his party in Scotland urging him, almost with threats, to a very different course. These so-called idealists from the Clyde have been preaching the crudest doctrine of party spoils and jobs. Nothing would satisfy them but that the Law Officerships should be bestowed upon members of their own party. Their vapourings have been characteristic of men who find their precedents at Moscow, where Lenin appointed to the highest legal office men innocent of legal knowledge and of education of any sort.

This appointment sets up a new precedent which may be well worth the consideration of future Governments. If it is not, after all, necessary that a Lord Advocate should be an active supporter of the Government in power, is it desirable to resume the old practice of making the appointment a political one? Would it not be worth while to examine the whole business of making political or semi-political appointments to non-political positions? And in England as well as in Scotland would it not be better to have a good lawyer instead of an active politician in such an office?

HOW THE OLD SYSTEM WORKED.

For at least a century and a half the Scottish Law Officers have been drawn from the most prominent partisans of the party in office to be found at the Scottish Bar. Throughout the greater part of the time this was made inevitable by the nature of the offices themselves, for they were not less political than legal. Till 30 years ago the Lord-Advocate was virtually the head of the Administration in Scotland, and strong men in the office were the virtual rulers of Scotland. The inevitableness ceased, however, when the office of Secretary for Scotland was created and the distinctively political duties of administration passed to it. A great objection to the practice is that with hardly an exception the Law Officers become the Judges of the High Court. In fact, if not in theory and form, they hold the right of nomination to the Bench, and nominate themselves. Rarely troubled with modesty, a grace which does not flourish much in the ranks of politics, they have hardly ever failed to nominate themselves to the highest posts—those of Lord Justice-General and Lord Justice-Clerk—when those offices fell vacant during their term, as well as to the Scottish vacancies in the House of Lords. Thus our Judges have been selected in the first instance not because they were the greatest authorities on law, but because they had approved themselves to one or other of the political parties as good party men.

MR. H. P. MACMILLAN.

The new Lord Advocate, Mr. H. P. Macmillan, K.C., has held an outstanding position at the Scottish Bar, and also at Westminster. He, like many other successful Scottish lawyers, is a son of the manse, and has fought his way without any outside backing and purely by merit. It is an open secret that it is largely to the indefatigable energy which he has brought to bear on the matter that the country is indebted for the successful issue of the scheme for the conversion of the Advocates' Library into a National Library for Scotland.

HOME RULE FOR SCOTLAND

It is understood that Scottish Socialist members of the House of Commons propose to demand from the Government a measure to secure self-government upon Scotland. Scottish Home Rule is an item in the Socialists' programme, which is proved by the fact that when the members of the party balloted for precedence to introduce bills this session Mr. Buchanan, the member for Gorbals, who secured a favourable place, was instructed by the officials of the party to take up the "Government of Scotland Bill." The Government is committed on the question, and the Scottish group, while willing to take the chance of making progress with the bill now before the House, evidently wish to make assurance doubly sure by inviting the Government to table a bill of its own at once. The state of Parliamentary business might justifably be pleaded by the Prime Minister as a reason for his inability to accede to this demand, and in any case a bill of such importance would occupy more time than the Government is likely to be able to spare. The Scottish group last year asked the Unionist Government to set up a Convention on the Irish model to examine the question and frame a Home Rule scheme. The Government declined to do so, but the new Government in the circumstances might be prepared to throw this crumb to their Scottish supporters. That would probably be the full extent of the Government's sympathy with the project this session.

CONCERNING MR. ADAMSON.

Patriotic pride is expressed by the organ of St. Columba's, the well known Scots Church in Pont Street, London, that the two highest secular offices in the State—those of Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor—are again held by Scotsmen. The magazine also congratulates Scotland on the appointment of Mr. Adamson as the successor to the popular and trusted Viscount Novar in the Scottish Secretaryship. "Mr. Adamson is held in merited respect by all, independently of party opinion," adds the magazine, "and it was an indication of the spirit of Scottish union which lies deeper than all sectional differences that on the same Sunday both the old and new Scottish Secretaries worshipped at St. Columba's—a church on whose walls is a memorial to one of the greatest Secretaries for Scotland, the late Lord Balfour of Burleigh." For Lord Burleigh, in spite of all political cleavages, Mr. Adamson cherished through long years a deep respect which was reciprocated.

A FAMOUS GOLF CLUB.

This is the ter-jubilee year of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Club. That is to say, there is definite evidence that the club has been in existence for 150 years, though it is reputed to have been formed 14 years earlier. At any rate, the club possesses "The Silver Cup" among many trophies of all sorts—dating from 1774. The Silver Cup is one of the oldest golf trophies in existence, for the Royal Musselburgh stands sixth in order of seniority among the tens of thousands of golf clubs now to be found all over the world. Hung about the cover of the cup and round its sides are a wealth of gold and silver medals, many engraved with armorial bearings, placed there by the men who have won it, with given dates and scores.

NEW MINISTER AND PERMANENT OFFICIALS.

A Scot who occupies an important post in the Civil Service makes some interesting revelations about the new Cabinet Ministers and their staffs. He says: The last thing which I expected was that Mr. Snowden, the apostle of the Capital Levy, would find favour with Treasury officials. Yet he has. Of course, there is no question of a Capital Levy with the present House of Commons. It is on general lines of existing policy that the Treasury potentates pore—and Mr. Snowden as if they were his long lost cats. It is astonishing. There is only one serious complaint against the new Ministers. They are much too formal and polite. They will address their private secretaries as "Mr." This is one of those things not done in the Service. They knock upon doors, too, before entering the offices of their subordinates. This is not done either. The tradition of the Service is that of the English Universities, where men who know one another never use prefixes to names and never knock on one another's doors. The situation is difficult. It needs tact to tell a Minister—when he knocks upon one's door, waits for word of admission, and then says, "Please, Mr. Brown, will you do me the favour to lunch with me to-day?" it needs tact, I say, to tell him that he ought to open the door abruptly and call out, "Brown, come to lunch." Another complaint—a small one, because the Civil Service works very hard indeed—is that Ministers will stay in their offices until the hour is too late for a comfortable dinner. The dodge to get over this bad habit is to fill up a Minister with "papers" at about 7.30 and then go to dinner at one's club. He is much too polite to ask next morning why one did not remain in attendance. On the whole, after full consideration, I begin to wonder whether they are not teaching us quite a lot of things which are good for us to learn.

THE NEW STYLE OF CHURCH MAGAZINE.

The Church press has of late years taken a new and more "popular" tone. To take an example: among various sprightly contributions in the bright little magazine of Pollokshields Congregational Church in Glasgow is a parody on the Ten Little Nigger Boys. It deals with ten broken resolutions, some of which are—

Ninth resolution—will not stay up late;
"New York calling"—1 a.m.—
then there were eight.

Eight resolutions pave the way to heaven;
Lost a train and mutter
. . . . . ."—then there were seven.

Six resolutions, very much alive!
Got a gift of "P. D. Scotch"—
then there were five.

Two resolutions still to have a run;
Dinner late and groused like ——; then there was one.

Readers who have broken any or all of the resolutions are consoled with the final reflexion:—
'Tis better to resolve and quite
than not resolve at all.

SIR JOHN M. MACLEOD, BT.

Sir John M. Macleod, whose name appears on the Resignation Honours List, is among those prominent in the public life of Glasgow who are popular, not so much because of what they have done, but because they have that enviable gift of the gods, "an attractive personality." Possibly "J. M." inherits his from his genial father, the late Dr. Norman Macleod, of the Barony, but wherever it came from he has it. It is seen at its brightest and best in the post prandial hour, when in grace of phrase and happy humour it finds outlet, say, in a speech. But many friends like the evidence of his sense of fun that he gives in his sermon parody on "Little Jack Horner." He can hit off the heavy clerical manner in great style.

A £1,000 BANK NOTES.

Sir John H. Stewart of Fingask, who was found shot dead in his house in Perthshire, was known as "the best dressed man in Dundee." In London he was reputed to be a millionaire, and on one occasion had to borrow money to pay for a dinner at a restaurant because the proprietor could not change a thousand pound bank note for him.

OBITUARY.

At 4 Abbotsford Avenue, Rutherglen, John Lockhart Gordon, late Shanghai, aged 38 years, husband of Margaret Lang, and son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Gordon.

FAMOUS CLYDE STEAMER.

In the Japanese paddle steamer Tenri Maru, which has just changed hands, few will recognise one of the well-known Clyde packets of some five-and-twenty years ago. She was originally the Windsor Castle, was built at Southampton to run a pleasure service from Bournemouth, and when she came out with her tonnage of nearly 800 and a speed of 18 knots she was considered a wonderful ship. Five years later she was bought by the Glasgow, Ayrshire, and Campbeltown Company, and placed on the run that their name suggests, proving herself remarkably popular by her size and comfort, even in those days of keen competition, with the one disadvantage that she was frequently breaking down. After a short time on the service she was renamed Culzean Castle, and in 1899 was rechristened Carrick Castle, when she was transferred to excursion work on the upper part of the Firth. Within a few months, however, she was sold to the Russian-Chinese Eastern Railway, who took her out to Port Arthur. When they evacuated Dalny they blew her up in order to prevent the Japanese making use of her as a despatch vessel, but some years after the victors repaired her, and have been using her ever since on the various local passenger services by which communication between the Japanese islands is maintained.

MAH-JONGG.

(This game, at present so popular, was originally played in China 2000 years ago.)

In the cool dimness girt with shimmering glow,
In dignity inscrutable they sit,
Two thousand years ago.
The buttons of their office faintly gleam,
Glow-worms of sapphire, opal, ruby, gold;
And vestments rich of flowing silken sheen
Their stately forms enfold.
Around them bamboos quiver slenderly,
The rose-tree scatters all her largesse down;
The breeze wafts faint sweet treasures to the sense;
Near by stone dragons frown.
But all in vain! With earnest eyes downbent
They gaze on Nature's lifeless counterfeit,
Pictures inscribed upon a row of tiles,
Mere scrolls upon a sheet!
Grave Mandarins! What charm is in these signs,
To bind their fancy thus with magic thong?
"In loco dulce est desipere."
They only play Mah-Jongg!

M.G.W. in "Glasgow Herald."

JUDGES AND COUNSEL

Rule as to Sons Practising Before Their Fathers

In the Bar Council's statement published in the "Morning Post" with regard to counsel appearing in cases before Judges who are their fathers or near relatives, it was declared that the Council adhered to their decision of 1895-6 concerning the practice in County Courts. That report stated:

In August, 1895, a complaint was made to the council with reference to the son of a County Court Judge practising before his father, and the Council have, therefore, considered the question of members of the Bar practising before their fathers in local Courts. The Council find that there have been several cases in which members of the Bar, being sons of County Court Judges, have for a time practised habitually in their fathers' Courts, but in most of the cases the gentlemen in question, in deference to propractise.

The Bar Committee in 1891 passed a resolution discouraging the practice, in consequence of which a barrister requested the advice of Sir Richard Webster, the Attorney-General, as to his practising in his father's Courts, and in deference to the Attorney-General's advice the barrister discontinued such practice.

The Council entirely agree with the course thus taken. They are of opinion that, whilst it is unobjectionable for a barrister in the ordinary course of a general practice to accept a brief in a Court of which his father or other near relative is a Judge, it is not right for such a barrister specially to devote himself to practice in that Court. It is almost inevitable that partially he will be suspected, although there may be no real ground for such suspicion. The practice might even lead to briefs being delivered to the barrister, because it was believed that his client would have an unfair advantage over his opponent.

A RECOGNIZED RESTRAINT.

The Council are of opinion that in future it should be recognized as a *Rule of the Profession* that no barrister should habitually practise in any County Court of which his father or any near relative is the Judge.

The Council cited an analogous case some years ago in the Chancery Courts, in which a Q.C., having at first selected as the Court in which he would practise the Court of which his father-in-law was Judge, afterwards changed his Court in deference to the opinion of the Bar. As regards Quarter Sessions and other local courts of criminal jurisdiction the objection to sons practising before their fathers or other near relations is not so serious.

CONDEMNED NURSE

New Statements to be Laid Before Home Secretary

In the Court of Criminal Appeal recently the Lord Chief Justice and Justices Shearman and Acton dismissed an application on behalf of Dora Martha Sparling Sadler for leave to appeal against her conviction for murder. At the Central Criminal Court on January 16 Sadler was sentenced to death for the murder of the two young children of Mr. and Mrs. Katzmann. The applicant also asked for leave to call further evidence. She appeared in the dock accompanied by a wardress.

Mr. Claude Grundy, for the appellant, said the only defence at the trial was that of insanity—that Sadler was labouring from such a defect of mind that she did not know that what she was doing was wrong. It was upon that issue that the present appeal was raised. The only evidence available at the trial with regard to insanity was that of Dr. Parsons and a sister of the accused woman. The latter witness said that some years ago the appellant tried to commit suicide, but there was no history of insanity in the family.

Since the trial the appellant's advisers had received a letter from a man named Halpin, who said that Sadler's mother was his sister, and that there was no doubt that there was insanity in the family. The writer gave several instances. Counsel suggested that if this evidence had been available it would materially have affected the minds of the jury, and he asked their Lordships to exercise the powers they possessed to substitute a special verdict for that of the jury on the fresh evidence.

The Lord Chief Justice said the Home Secretary had power to order an examination of the accused, and that power was not in any way interfered with by that Court. The functions of that Court were quite different from the functions of the Home Secretary, and it did not in the least follow that because that Court found itself unable to reverse the verdict of the jury the Home Secretary would not be able to take a certain course. Nothing prevented Sadler's advisers from putting the material at their disposal fully before the Home Secretary.

Counsel said that in his submission the verdict of the jury was against the weight of evidence. The proper verdict would have been "Guilty, but insane."

Without calling on counsel for the Crown, the Court dismissed the appeal.

The Lord Chief Justice, in giving judgment, said the proper and convenient course was for matters of this kind to be brought to the attention of the Home Office and their decision was upon a totally different plane from the decision which that Court, concerned only with the legal aspect of the matter, was bound to take. So far as that tribunal was concerned it was not possible to do otherwise than dismiss the appeal.

SPECIAL ARTICLES

A SHORT CREED

Notes of a Sermon preached by the Rev. C. E. Darwent in Union Church, Tientsin, on Sunday Morning, February 17

Text: St. John, VI 28 and 29: "They say, therefore, unto him, What must we do that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent."

Dr. Van Dyke is an eminent American. He is an excellent preacher as well as the writer of a number of charming books that have had a large sale. He is a man of many parts; a student of bird lore, and, I believe, a writer on birds; he is also a fisherman; he has also served his country in its diplomatic service. Altogether he has had a good time of it, and is a man, who knows human nature, which piece of knowledge is almost as important for a minister as knowledge of the divine nature. Our Lord "knew what was in *man*."

Dr. Van Dyke has been much troubled at what is called "the prevailing unbelief," as to what the Gospel is, and the unsettlement of faith, and the everlastingly discussed "state of the churches." I do not believe things are half as bad as people say they are. Christian people are easily scared and unbelievers are too apt to crow over the spread of unbelief, when they have no reason to do so. The church ought to have been extinct years ago if half the things they say are true. They only wish they were. Various reasons are given for what is called the "decay of religion," as if it was a cheese, or one of those old timbers that they have taken out of our Bund foreshore. One reason is that ministers cannot preach, and that if they do, they are dry or behind the times. Some may be, but so are some business men. If not, why did the Prince of Wales once get applauded for telling the British business world to wake up? Yet not one proposed to give up all business because some business men are behind the time. Some say it is because the people in the churches are cold. I don't know; but are we expected to fall on the necks of the odd droppers in? Then there is the music, the tunes, the times of service. Everything would be right if all these things were altered.

However, it appears, that the really dreadful handicap in the way of the success of the churches is that all churches have spoiled the Gospel by their *creeds*. They are the monsters that scare away all the really religious and pious people from the house of God, and compel them reluctantly to spend Sunday morning on the golf course. They are really sorry to have to shoulder their clubs, or make a coolie shoulder them. They would love to sit in church, or help the choir, if it were not for those awful creeds. When the late Lord Sherbrooke was the famous Robert Lowe, as Gladstone's Chancellor of the Exchequer he brought in a match tax. The prospect of this so got on the nerves of one of those men who use up their matches quicker than they smoke their tobacco, that he committed suicide and left a note explaining how he came to do it, "This is all along o' Bob Lo." And so it appears that all the neglect of religion and of church attendance is "all along o' creeds." Get rid of them; better still, do not have any at all; above all, no dogmas; then the happy day will dawn and rise quickly to noontide splendour, when the pews will all be full, and enlargement of churches will make the contractors busy.

DEFINITION OF "CREED."

It seems a bit queer, does all this, though we are assured that it is the case. Creeds have such a shocking bad name that one hardly likes to ask what the word means. If, however, we do summon up courage to inquire as to the monster's meaning, we find that there is quite a sensible sort of idea in it. It means, "a set of opinions on any subject." That is the Oxford Dictionary's account of it. It is something we believe. Unless we belong to the thoroughgoing philosophic sceptics, who doubt everything, even their own foolish selves and their own existence, there doesn't seem anything very terrible about it We all have creeds. There are the fresh-air people, who will sleep on verandahs; there are the men who bathe in the Serpentine all the winter and are cold water believers. They have the creeds of fresh air and cold water. There is the Shanghai Municipal Council. I used to read its health creed every summer. It was quite a long and very intimate document: "Don't wear a cholera-belt. Never eat uncooked vegetables. See that your spouts have no standing water in them." I should think that this modern hygiene has a whole lot of dogmas in it. You have a lot of things in the health creed. Human nature is weak. It does not always dip its strawberries in boiling syrup" as, I think, the Health creed orders, but it admits that this article of the creed is good. There is physical science. At the present day we actually boast, that no preceding age has had so many truths in its scientific creed as has ours. There is gravity, the conservation of energy, the undulatory theory of light, the electric nature of matter. I don't find that storms of objections are raised against these articles of the creed of science. We believe them, and are proud to have them to believe. If we have scientific minds we live on them. There are also moral creeds. If Smith owes you money and will not pay, your creed is that an honest man ought to pay. There are fixed moral canons as well as fived physical facts. Why then should there be so much pother about the creeds of the Christian Church? Of course, it has a creed and requires all its members to believe it. What would have been the sense in the Apostles setting out to tell the world what they had nothing to tell it. Absurd! The fact is that they were simply bursting with the wealth of glorious truths that God had revealed to them in Jesus Christ. If there is one thing that is certain, it is that it was the Christian creed that "turned the world upside down," and as the late Mr. Grant Duff finely said, "with its face towards God," whom it saw "in the face of Jesus Christ." The Apostles were absolutely certain of their ground; men eagerly accepted the truth they taught and so we have B. C. and A. D. to mark our chronology. That creeds are a reasonable and necessary and natural element in the religious life of man is further shown by the plain fact that the churches which have the most definite Christian creed are the most successful, while the one which has whittled its beliefs down to nothing or next to nothing has not a missionary to its name, for the obvious reason that it has no divine Saviour to preach. It is a foolish and vain idea, if any hold it, that the church is going to win the world by being an "Old Mother Hubbard" with a cupboard that hasn't a single bone in it for the poor hungry sinner.

DR. VAN DYKE'S STATEMENT OF THE GOSPEL.

This being incontestable, the thing is to find out what is the Gospel stated in the shortest possible creed. Now here comes in Dr. Van Dyke again. He has been pondering deeply this matter of the creeds of Christendom. And he has been much disturbed by the accusation that our creeds are too long, and also too complicated. This is an age that will have short, "snappy," statements; short paragraphs rather than long leaders in the papers. And so, in deference to "the spirit of the age," that wonderful thing that we hear so much about, Dr. Van Dyke has produced a model statement of the Gospel in what he considers the shortest of possible creeds. Here it is, "The vital Christian creed is short: (1) That God created man of dust and spirit, with a free will, and that man has acquired a tendency to sin; (2) That God loves man in spite of all, and has sent his divine Son, Jesus Christ, to live with us, die for us, and save everyone who is willing; (3) That the Holy Spirit moves through the whole world, making love to all sorts and conditions of men, and wooing them to turn from darkness to light (4) That the experience of this is recorded in the Bible in such a way as to make that book (rightly understood only through the Spirit) the Word of God to our souls."

Now, what are we to say about that as a statement of the Gospel? I might say that it is not much shorter than some of the creeds. Is it any improvement on the Apostles Creed as a statement of the Gospel? Then it fairly bristles with moot points. That one about the Holy Spirit moving about the world is not exactly easy to understand. I wonder what the five thousand who were converted on the Day of Pentecost would have made of it, or the Ethiopian eunuch! They would have been a bit puzzled. Then there is No. 4, that one about the Bible, with its saving clause, would have been rather a tough morsel for the Philippian gaolor, when the earthquake made him rush in wanting to know what he was to do to be saved.

"GOSPEL AND TRUTH."

Then there are surely, statements in it that are not Gospel at all. There is the fact mentioned that we "have acquired a tendency to sin." How can that be called "Gospel" What is the meaning of Gospel? It is "Good news." But we can hardly call a statement that we have "a tendency to sin," Good News. It is surely bad news, very bad news indeed. To tell a man that his failing is lying is hardly breaking good news to him. It may be true, but on that account he may resent it very forcibly. The Bible is most emphatic about our tendency to sin. Even "the imagination of man's heart is evil continually;" We have all sinned. One has only to read any copy of a daily paper to know that that is a fact. Murders, thefts, lies, hatreds, jealousies abound everywhere. It is true enough and sad enough that we still have this "tendency to sin" in spite of law and Gospel. But it is hardly *"good news."* Therefore we see that a statement may be *true* but by no means "Gospel," that is, "Good News." There are other doctrines often included in definitions of the Gospel that may be true enough, but are not *Gospel*. Such a one is the doctrine of the severe punishment of sinners in the next world.

The upshot of all this is that even Dr. Van Dyke's account of the Gospel is too long. It seems to me that we have all got wrong in this; in not making a clear distinction between the Gospel and theology, or general religious truth. There are a great many religious truths of the utmost importance, but they are not the *Gospel*. That God is almighty and holy, that man is sinful, that there is a Holy Spirit are true enough. But there is a great advantage in having *one word for one thing*. It makes for clearness of mind, and if we adopted one word for one thing, as the New Testament mostly does, the mind of the public would be less muddled than it is.

GOD THE GREAT REPAIRER.

Now Gospel means one glorious thing, and that is in the text: "Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent." That is Christianity; that is the *Gospel*. A great many other precious truths go to make religion, but it is just as well to keep them clear of the word Gospel. The Gospel is that God is our Redeemer through "Him whom he hath sent," Jesus Christ the Son of God. It is true enough that God is the ruler of the universe, that He is holy, that we shall all be brought "before the judgment seat of Christ," that we are to serve Christ and our fellow men. These are truths; they have to be taught, but they are not the Gospel. The Gospel always has the urgent note of saving in it; that God is the great repairer, repairer of all the wastes of human nature and society. All the words beginning with *re* give the spirit of the Gospel; redemption, regeneration, renewing. That is *the* "Good News" for a world like this. God has given His Son to be a mighty loving energy to heal all the wounds of man, to repair the broken places in his moral life, to reconcile all things and men to God. It is no Gospel, though true, that men are sinners; but this is Gospel, "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." It is no Gospel, though true, that Judas "went to his own place," but this is Gospel, "Good News" indeed, that a poor wretch of a thief on a cross, with all his wicked life ebbing out of his veins, had only to cry to be remembered by Jesus, who hung there by him, and he heard the most wonderful words ever uttered, "This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise." That is Good News. You cannot find that our Lord says much by way of "rubbing it in," that we are sinners. He is always on the key of repairing, bringing us back, forgiving us. That is the Gospel. Other doctrines may be true enough, but the first, the main, the all-inclusive thing in Christianity is that God in Christ is reconciling the world to Himself, is ridding it of all the evils that fill the world with misery. The angels gave the keynote of the Gospel to the shepherds, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a *Saviour*, which is Christ the Lord." There are teachers of all kinds of very deep and necessary truths in the world, but there is no one else who can claim this title, *Saviour*. That is the Gospel, that He "will have all men to be saved; having obtained eternal redemption for us." That is why it is "the work of God, to believe on Him, whom He hath sent."

This is why Christians are incurably optimistic, because that in Jesus Christ God has the world in hand, not to judge us, nor to criticize, nor condemn us, but to save us. That is the short Christian creed, that includes everything else. And that is the only thing worth preaching. We ministers are not discoursers on truth in general, however true and spiritual: our business is to call attention to one side of God's nature: that He is yearning to redeem the world, and repair the world, and in this stupendous effort of eternal love He has given His Son to carry out His gracious purpose.

UNMORAL TALES FOR WORTHLESS INFANTS

By C. F. Green.

I.—On Being Careful of One's Appearance

Janie had a new frock. She knew she looked very nice in it. Mabel had a new frock also, but Mabel never thought how she looked. One day Mamma said: "You are to go to tea this afternoon with kind Mr. and Mrs. Smart. I shall be out when you go, so tell Nurse to have you ready at four o'clock and to take you to their house, and don't wear your best frocks as you are to play in the garden."

When the time came to get ready, Janie told Nurse to put on her new frock. But good little Mabel told Nurse to put on her third best frock. Janie looked sweet in her white net with blue ribbons. Mabel looked rather dull in a brown serge frock smocked with green.

They had a very nice tea at Mr. and Mrs. Smart's, then they had strawberries and cream—but alas, Mabel clumsily upset the cream jug, and all the cream spilt on to the children's frocks.

"Oh dear, my new frock!" sobbed Janie.

Mabel said: "You should not have put it on."

But kind Mrs. Smart quickly slipped off the frock, washed it clean and it was ironed and on again, all nice and fresh, before you could say "Jack Robinson." But Mabel's frock was spoilt, and it was her school one—the cream never came out.

"What a pity you did not put on a nice net frock like Janie's," said Mrs. Smart, "then it would not have mattered. Now you've spoilt that frock."

And Mamma was very angry with Mabel.

II.—On Looking After No. 1

In a hole in a bank lived Mr. and Mrs. Rabbit and four little rabbits, whose names were Hubert, Rosalind, Rupert and Buzz. Near their home was an orchard, and in the orchard grew apple trees.

"May we have stewed apples for dinner?" they asked their mother.

"Yes dears, run and pick some," she answered. So they picked quite a lot, and Mrs. Rabbit cooked them for dinner.

Now Mrs. Rabbit had always told the little ones to be careful not to waste food, and *never* to take too much sugar or butter. When the stewed apples came in, Mummy gave them all a little sugar and then they started to eat them, but Rupert tasted his and said: "Ginger! These are sour. I want some more sugar."

"No, dear," said his Mother, "I put enough sugar on."

"You did not," rudely replied Rupert, and he picked up the bowl and put a lot of sugar on his apples and gobbled them up.

"I am ashamed of you, you wasteful child," said his father.

After dinner the four little rabbits went out to play, but very soon Hubert said: "I've a pain. I'm going home to bed."

Then Buzz said: "I've a pain. I'm going home to bed."

Then Rosalind said: "I've a pain. I'm going home to bed."

At tea time Rupert ran home, and there he found that Daddie and Mummie were in bed also. "It was those sour apples," he told them, but they only groaned. And Rupert did not have a pain. And he did not have to take nasty medicine. And he did not have to stay in bed.

III.—On the Disadvantages of Being Unselfish

Once upon a time there were three little mice called Bobbie, Pimple, and Squeak, and they lived in a mud hut with their Mummie. Bobbie had a hobby horse, but he was very unkind, he would not let Pimple or Squeak ride on it. So Mummie went out for a walk, and when she came back she had a little hazel switch in her hand. "Guess, Bobbie, what this is for," she said.

"To make my hobby horse go faster," Bobbie answered.

"No," said Mummie, "it is for a naughty, unkind little mouse."

Just then Pimple came in, "May I ride on your hobby horse?" he asked Bobbie.

"Yes, you may," said Bobbie, "just once round the table." So Pimple got on, and started round the table. As he got to the door Squeak came running in and they bumped against each other and fell down. They hurt themselves and cried. Mummie Mouse picked up the switch, but before she could smack any of them, "Yah!" cried Bobbie, jumping up and down with joy. "That comes of being selfish and taking my hobby horse."

SOOCHOW

If I were wise with a grown-up's eyes
And saw what my eyes see now,
I'd live in a town where the stone walls frown
And be just a lad in Soochow.

In the gutter canal with my one true pal
I'd sail in a paper junk,
And the food I'd eat would be queer but a treat,
And I'd worship with rockets and punk.

On the streets all day in the mud I'd play
And build me a tower tall—
A pagoda high, that would reach to the sky
With my wishes both great and small.

I'd hark to the spell of the ricsha's bell
That tinkles an endless song,
And I'd love old Soo as to manhood I grew
And mixed in the busy throng.

Till with labour and pain, 'mid blue skies and rain,
I'd come to old age and its joy.
If I had my way in the mud I'd play,
And be just a Soochow boy.

Cyclops.

THE LATE SIR JAMES DEWAR

An Appreciation of His Scientific Work

It was appropriate that the first evening discourse of the Royal Institution session, which the late Sir James Dewar had for so many years opened as Fullerian Professor of Chemistry (1877 to 1923), should have been devoted to an *in memoriam* lecture on "The Scientific Work of Professor Sir James Dewar." The task was entrusted, not to his successor in that chair, Sir William Bragg, but to Professor Henry F. Armstrong, F.R.S.

Professor Armstrong did not limit himself to the scientific work, and he did not consider that an *in memoriam* lecturer should discard criticism. He spoke of the moral grandeur of the man, who was only known probably, and incompletely, to one person, his wife, and who, ever chivalrous to women, could be irascible—"a sign of inward force"—and had been called cantankerous. Weakened by illness in his 10th year. Professor Armstrong said, Dewar took up joinery and made fiddles. At Edinburgh University he found sympathetic teachers in Lindsay, Forbes, Playfair and John Brown; the dour respectability of Cambridge, where experimental skill was not appreciated, disappointed him, but he completed his education by meeting his collaborator in spectroscopic work there, Professor Livein—now 97 years old and still hale.

At the Royal Institution Dewar found himself free from red-tape obligations and control, in a Bohemian atmosphere—Faraday was a Bohemian to Professor Armstrong—full of the ghosts of scientific heroes and with an appreciative audience. The object of Dewar's "hyper-arctic explorations," so full of danger often, which made the Royal Institution the focus-point of scientific advance, was not only to liquefy gases. He was not the mere artificer, but the philosopher seeking to penetrate into the far-distant region of the absolute zero of temperature.

THE VACUUM FLASK.

In the course of those researches, he discovered the vacuum flask in 1893; made in 1905 the still more important discovery of the high absorptive power of charcoal; showed that, at the temperature of liquid hydrogen, the curve of the atomic heats of the elements differed entirely from that at ordinary temperature and became strikingly similar to that of Lothar Meyer's atomic volume curve; devised extraordinarily delicate means of studying heat radiation at very low temperature; and showed by his soap-film studies how well beauty and science harmonize. Dr. Armstrong stated that he did not regard charcoal and graphite as pure carbon; they were probably hydrogen compounds, and if the X-ray analyses of Bragg and others indicated that the fourth carbon atom of the graphite crystal was farther away from the centre than the three others, that fourth corner was probably occupied by a hydrogen compound.

We mention a few of Sir James's experiments which Dr. Armstrong repeated to exemplify their ingenuity, simplicity and directness. An electric discharge tube was combined with a Crookes radiometer and a charcoal tube; as the gas in the tube was absorbed by the charcoal, the discharge ceased, but the unabsorbed helium still kept the radiometer spinning. When two flasks, the one containing bromine vapour, the other chlorine gas, were cooled by pouring liquid air on them, the vapour solidified much more quickly than the gas. A vertical jet of air, sucked through a cylinder enclosing the metal electrodes of an electro arc into the vacuum of a high cylinder of glass, became visible as a thin beam of faint light. Various solids, horn, a stearin candle, etc., became fluorescent after having been dipped into liquid air and then exposed to the lantern beam; but of two test tubes, the one containing distilled water, the other tap water, only the former fluoresced; the water froze, of course. Professor Armstrong had found that this was in accordance with an observation of Faraday's of 1843, that water free of electrolytes could not be electrified.—"Engineering."

ART OF THE EAST

Need for Representation in National Gallery

Presiding at a meeting of the India Society Sir Charles Holmes, the Director of the National Gallery, said that, speaking quite unofficially, he was eager to see the great paintings of India and Persia, of China and Japan, represented in our National Gallery, by the side of the great paintings of Europe. In saying that he must not be thought, for one instant, to disparage or to be competing with what has been done for Oriental art by the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum. That was beyond all praise. But there was a function which those Museums could not perform.

Only by exhibiting the great painters of the East in juxtaposition with the great painters of Europe could we properly estimate, proclaim, and emhasize the place of the East in the vital artistic achievement of the world. Our knowledge of art was not complete until we could include the paintings of India and Persia, of China and Japan, in the same comprehensive vision with which we surveyed the arts of Northern and Southern Europe. If the India Society could strengthen these bonds they would not only be doing good work in educating the public to a proper appreciation of the interest and the value of Oriental art, but they would be pioneers in a larger advance which was bound one day to be triumphant.

TO DARKNESS

Hail, thou most sacred, venerable thing
What muse is worthy thee to sing—
Thee, from whose pregnant, universal womb
All things, even Light, thy rival, first did come?
What dare she not attempt that sings of thee,
Thou first and greatest mystery?
Who can the secrets of thy essence tell?
Thou, like the light of God, are inaccessible.

Before great Love this monument did raise,
This ample theatre of praise;
Before the folding circles of the sky
Were tuned by Him who is all harmony;
Before the morning stars their hymn began,
Before the council held for man,
Before the birth of either time or place,
Thou reign'st unquestioned monarch in the empty space.

Thy native lot thou didst to Light resign,
But still half of the globe is thine.
Here, with a quiet but yet awful hand,
Like the best emperors thou dost command.
To thee the stars above their brightness owe,
And mortals their repose below;
To thy protection fear and sorrow flee,
And those that weary are of Light find rest in thee.

Though Light and glory be thy Almighty's throne,
Darkness is His pavilion:
From that His radiant beauty, but from thee
He has His terror and His majesty:
Thus, when He first proclaimed His sacred law,
And would His rebel subjects awe,
Like princes on some great solemnity,
He appeared in His robes of state, and clad Himself with thee.

J. NORRIS (1657-1711)

"NOTHING FAILS LIKE SUCCESS"

Dean Inge on Revolutions

"The French Revolution caused as much alarm in Europe as the first outbreak of cholera," said Dean Inge in a lecture on "Revolutions" at the Royalty Theatre recently. It was a new disease, and nobody knew how far it would spread. Now we looked upon it as an epidemic malady, with periodical acute epidemic outbreaks. Historians would try to explain revolution by expiating on the misery of the people who made them, but historians had a power, not claimed even by the Deity, of altering the past. The legend of the misery of the French peasantry was probably too deeply rooted to be disturbed, but, in fact, France was the richest country in Europe, and prosperity was widely distributed. Russia was happy and prosperous in the years after the war with Japan. The country was getting richer, and the peasants were more comfortable than ever before. Ireland—rich through the war—had no grievances. Other excuses might be found, but they were justified in saying that social misery was not the cause of revolution. It had always happened hitherto that civilization had been upheld by a small part of a nation—those who, by virtue of some qualities that led to social success, had more wealth and more education that the majority. And it had always happened that ruling classes ended by ruling themselves out. Nothing failed like success. Nearly all the "Red" leaders in Russia, said Dean Inge, diagnosed by some medical professors who escaped, were of unsound mind, most of them alcoholics and diseased, and many addicted to drugs. Russia would soon become a State of peasantry governed by a military tyranny which would call itself something else.

EXIT

The day goes faltering toward the tumbled west,
Ragged and old and muttering, in his thought,
Of grievous wrongs, and crippled and oppressed,
He wears the ruin that the storm has wrought.
The prowling wind will never let him be,
The blinking stars lean out to stare at him;
The old man is too bitter-blind to see:
His wits are wandering and his eyes are dim.

The hills have opened for his going out,
Where gaunt trees mock him with grotesque goodbys,
In a great wind that gathers to a shout
And sends him tottering down the angry skies—
Gone, with his mumbling and his tattered pack,
And none cares whither. . . . . He will not come back.

DAVID MORTON, in the "Bookman"

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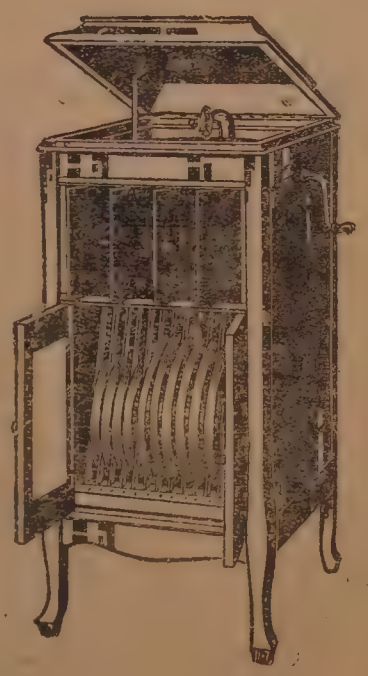

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REMINISCENCES

By Peter Pan

This story begins some months ago, when a young aspirant to racing honours complained that the young idea never got a chance to ride a decent mount. He said that it was impossible to make good jockeys unless they had an opportunity of riding ponies of quality and that such chances were very few. He and a lot of others, similarly situated, were compelled to ride third-rate cattle and the sort of animal which their own slender purse allowed them to buy, and all that and so forth.

Let Peter, who never grows up, tell your friend, that such has ever been the experience of amateur jockeys in Shanghai and that it is difficult to see how it could be otherwise. A racing man owns a likely animal or perhaps a first-class race pony. The idea of the sport is of course for men to have fun, but not at the expense of the animal. The pony ought to have the best chance to show what he can do, and it would not be fair to him to put an inexperienced rider on his back. It has been done, of course, but it is doubtful whether good sport results from such a course, unless it so happens that the novice reveals himself as an artist in the saddle.

These reflexions lead Peter to an incident that happened about 20 years ago, but it is not the story he set out to tell. That may come afterwards if there is space enough and anybody to listen.

THE DUN AND THE UNDONE.

Peter, who was always a child—in fact a sort of *enfant terrible*—owned two ponies, a grey and a dun. They were expensive animals, but the grey was useless as a race pony whereas the dun shaped well. They were bought at auction a few days before the autumn meeting of that year, too late for showing off their talents in November. But as the paper hunt season opened shortly afterwards, Peter mounted his dun at the start, which was where M. Madier's residence now stands. The dun flew with the speed of the north wind, which was against him, and Peter pulled for all he was worth at the reins. But it was of no use: the dun was out for enjoying himself and he insisted on covering as many furrows in as short a time as possible. Being a raw hand at the game (his rider had been raw for many years) the dun rather shied at some of the larger ditches and he eventually stopped in front of an ugly looking mud pool that required some jumping. Perhaps it was Peter's fault, for the dun must have felt his master's heart changing its place of abode and lodging itself in his throat, enough to make any pony nervous. Anyway, he couldn't be persuaded to make the jump, not even with the gentle assistence of a nine dollar whip, and there he stood, fidgety, and nervously pawing the ground.

"Get out of this! what are you messing about here for? Give a fellow a chance, will you?"

Peter knew the voice and trembled. It was the voice of the promier jock at the time, so you know who it was. There was no time to apologize or to move, for the caller boldly made for the abyss in front of him and let his willing mount jump. But in doing so he just glanced the side of the dun, and this had the effect of upsetting the equilibrium of his mount which with the premier jock went rolling in the mud below, to the great consternation and grief of Peter, who nearly fell off himself out of sheer sympathy. But our premier jock never said a word, picked himself and his mount up and flew away again. Peter got over too, later. And away the dun went at a rattling pace. But not for long. Presently a hard piece of upturned soil met his off front hoof and down he came with a tremendous crash, sending Peter swiftly over his head. When they had picked themselves up it was found that the dun limped badly and Peter could hardly crawl. What to do? The dun stood as still as a rock while Peter laboriously and painfully climbed on his back, and the two walked home together wiser but sadder paper hunters.

THE AMBITIOUS JOCK.

At that time there was a young ambitious jockey endowed with a biblical name, who was reputed not to be able to ride for nuts. This young gentleman volunteered to take charge of the dun and to nurse him back to the proper use of his legs, leaving Peter to recover the best way he could. It was a fair proposition, for to tell the truth Peter knew nothing about horseflesh, although he had been buying it for years. However, when the spring training was approaching both he and the dun were again in first rate condition, and the ambitious young jockey was naturally very proud of his success as a vet, but Peter was mean enough to believe that nature had done its work in both cases. Be that as it may, it was only right that this young man, who had gone to so much trouble, should also have the pleasure of riding the dun at the races if the anatomy of said dun would hang together till then. And so it was agreed by owner and jockey.

But the wise men sitting round the coffee table said that Peter was a fool as usual. It was alleged that the dun was likely to catch the judge's eye if that gentleman looked carefully for him when the mob came clattering up the straight, but that his chances were nil if such a jockey were to steer him. "You ought to put a decent rider on him," the knowing ones said, "or you'll spoil his chances." "Whose chances," Peter quizzically asked. "Oh," they said, "you can't spoil the jock's chances, for he can never win a race even on a giraffe."

On a bright spring day of the races the dun, loaded with lead, (for the old testament after which the jockey was named was much too light for coming up to weight for inches) made his *début* with silk on his back. He started with a bunch of 22 other quadrupeds and came in a good fourth. "Didn't I tell you so," the wise ones said, the chap can't ride! If he had had a decent Jockey up he would at least have been placed."

Peter shook his head mournfully and said it was very possibly true. But how on earth could he make a change at this stage? The biblical one had nursed the dun for nearly six months and he couldn't possibly dismiss him now. So the next day the dun was sent out again for a mile with the same rider up alongside of a large bunch of rivals. Peter can still hear the clatter as they were coming up the straight led by his own dun. And he kept the lead right past the judge's box so that there should be no mistake. And the jockey! He died many years ago, but Peter can still see the smile that wreathed that fine young chap's features as he rode in through the gate. It was like the smile that one may imagine a fellow wears when the portals of paradise are thrown wide open for him to enter. May be he is still smiling, poor chap, for he gained further honours. That the dun and his jock had not found a single backer and that all the money went into the coffers of the Race Club is a detail that does not affect the story.

SELLINN LOTTERIES.

In those days all the sports in town went to the old German Club in Canton Road where the China Mutual now insures people. There tremendous selling lotteries were held amidst great fun. Naturally Peter went there too, for the dun was now a candidate for the champions and one never knew. Why not? And so when the "Yarman Broker" who acted as auctioneer called the dun's name, his owner bought him for $150, which really means $300, besides refreshments.

During the preliminary canter, while the auctioneer had been selling common cattle in less important races. Peter had been entertaining his neighbour with a lengthy discourse on the folly of paying thousands for a favourite. The favourite might get colic, he argued, might injure a leg or die overnight. There was cordial agreement between the two on this point. At last the great moment arrived when the favourite for the champions, the unbeatable Slummerum, was trotted out by the perspiring auctioneer.

"Now gentlemen, here is the pony! The great Slummerum! You all know him! How much shall we say for him? How much?"

The auctioneer was purple in the face owing to the exertions he had put into his arduous work during the night. Now he looked wistfully through the smoke at the crowd below him, trying to catch somebody's eye. He paused for breath and wiped his perspiring brow, but nobody responded to his vociferous invitations to make a bid. Then he began again "How much shall I say, gentlemen for this magnificent animal? As good as ever! Come on, gentlemen come on now, don't be shy!"

But nobody said a word. A certain gentleman, who was then a young and aspiring jockey, had drawn this unbeatable favourite for the champions and he as well as everybody else knew perfectly well that if he wanted to keep Slummerum he would have to pay a stiff price.

THE MOMENT'S MADNESS.

And now one of those unaccountable things happened which defies the sense of reasoning man. Peter had just given a long and successful lecture to his neighbour on the folly of paying big money for an animal that was judged to be a dead certainty, deducing among other reasons for his aversion to such a course that the dead certainty might die overnight. And what do you think Peter did? He deliberately held up three fingers!

"What! Three hundred for Slummerum!" the Yarman Broker shouted derisively. "No ,no, My dear sir, we want a little more than that."

"Thousands," Peter shouted.

"Ah well, that is more like it. That is better. Three thousand is bid, gentlemen! Three thousand ...three thonsand... three thousand only... come on now... only three thousand for the great Slummerum...?"

A dead silence met the passionate shouting of the perspiring auctioneer who looked indignantly at the passive crowd in front of him.

"No more bidding, gentlemen? No more bidding for this splendid pony?... First time... no more?... no other bid...?"

His hammer fell with a tremendous crash on the table in front of him, followed by the three words "Mr. Peter Pan."

Peter's neighbour glared incredulously at him. "Why," he said, I thought you just mentioned that it was stupid to spend thousands on a favourite and now you have bought one for six thousand! How do you explain that?"

"Because I am stupid," Peter responded. "I never meant to buy him at all. I thought I would give them a lead in order to save time and now I've got him myself! well, maskee, he is good enough anyway."

THE UNREMOVABLE SMILE.

Peter now possessed the favourite and his own dun, the latter of which might or might not start in the champions. But in the second race on champions day he again let the dun try conclusions with an aristocratic crowd of sprinters and with seven pounds of heavy lead extra on the poor dun's back. Besides the premier jock there were other finished riders disputing his biblical jockey's rights, but the latter looked quite unconcerned probably in remembrance of yesterday's glorious victory. And in spite of the seven pounds extra. At last they were sent on their fast journey down at Loongfei. The dun put his best foot forward at once, took the lead and was wise enough to keep it till the winning post had been passed.

And the jockey? With seven pounds extra, beating the premier and other capable jocks was something to brag about! His smile? It reached nearly over to Probst's corner, so there is not room enough in this paper to describe it. He was the hero of the day and no mistake about it. The biblical one had come into his own, for he did not hear the whispers that "anybody could win on the dun if he can only stick on." At any rate, he did stick on right up to the chapter which is not finished yet.

For now comes a sad ending to this tale. There were four or five races before the Champions was to be run, and in the interval between one of these a gentleman who years afterwards became the principal citizen of Muddy Flat knocked up against the owner of the dun.

"Are you going to start the dun in the champions," he asked.

"No, he can't last the distance. Besides, he has already had a severe race to-day."

"You ought to send him out. He is a splendid pony. You never can tell."

That was true. One never can tell. If one could tell beforehand lots of ponies would not be started, and there wouldn't be so much fun in the world. If we all knew beforehand!

THE BITTER END.

Of course Peter started the dun in the champions. He leapt forward with a tremendous jump and flew like a rocket towards Loongfei. There he changed to greased lightning and at the three-quarter mile post he was scores and scores of lengths ahead, a lead which was maintained for a long time yet.

"He is going to do the trick again," somebody shouted. "Look at him, he is still going great guns."

He was. And Peter began to turn over in his mind whether he would rather win with the dun or with Slummerum, his six thousand dollar purchase of the previous evening. Finally he decided that he would like to see the smile of the biblical one once more.

He saw it 62 seconds later, but it looked older. For the fact is that when the jockey of the famous Slummerum saw the dun so far ahead he became uneasy and let Slummerum burn the grass under his feet. But he let him go too early. They said he should have kept his matches in his pocket for the supreme effort up the straight. He and another caught the dun just after turning into the straight, but a third overtook them both a few lengths before the winning post and beat the great Slummerum by a length. The dun was nowhere.

The question now is: Would the dun have won the champions if he had been ridden by an experienced jockey, and would Peter have had more money in the bank now if he had not inadvertently invested in the great Slummerum?

This was not the story Peter set out to tell. But he may tell the other one if you care to hear it.

A REUTER telegram from Hongkong says that Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, the Assistant Colonial Secretary, left for London on March 22 by the P. & O. S. Naldera to represent Hongkong at the League of Nations Opium Conference at Geneva.

PARTICULARLY sad circumstances surround the death of Mrs. Jarvis, wife of Mr. William Jarvis of the Chinese Maritime Customs, who died a week ago from small-pox, says the "Hongkong Daily Press." Mr. Jarvis and the late Mrs. Jarvis had only been married 19 days. The deceased lady came out to Hongkong on February 22 by the City of New York and the marriage took place the same day at St. Joseph's Church. The honeymoon was spent in Hongkong and six days later the newly married couple took up quarters on Lin Tin Island where Mr. Jarvis was stationed for duty. Mrs. Jarvis was taken ill on March 5 and two days later she was removed to hospital in Hongkong where her case was diagnosed as small-pox, death later supervening. The late Mrs. Jarvis was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Read, who are well-known residents of Stratford, London. She was just 25 years of age.

"TOGETHER THOUGHTS"

(From The Chinese)

I.

Together to think of the beautiful sky,
Of the grass with its banners green—
When a hundred small flags from the fresh earth fly,
And the willows like smoke are seen!
Does the mirror that sleeps in the dell's still pond
No sympathy hold for the maid
That waits with a heart both gentle and fond
For a lover more precious than jade?
Thy love, has it vanished away like the snow?
What need, then, my hair to arrange—
If not on one reed the twin lily-buds blow?
If the heart of a youth can change?

II.

Together to wander, as clouds in a dream—
Alas, when the clouds go black!
The lotus that drifts with the will of the stream
Finds never the tide to flow back.
The cataract waters of rushing Siang
Not faster, not fiercelier fall
Than the tears that arise from each sorrow-born pang
For the bird that is fled from my call.
What need then to sit and embroider with care
The lovebirds' sweet pattern of bliss,
If Heaven divorces an innocent pair?
If the end of true love be this?

III.

"Tsih! Tsih!" cry the crickets—O pitiful birds!
The peony flowers bloom,
And the rain cannot cease from its weary words
That speak to the heart of gloom.
And "Tsih!" cry the pitiful crickets, alone,
Though ox-boy and spinning-maid meet
By the bridge in the forest and tender in tone
Discourse of their love so sweet.
But high overhead the wild goose flies
O'er blossoming meadows of tea,
And I yearn to give voice to my love that cries
With the pitiful cricket's "Tsih!"

IV.

The roses of winter are spreading their leaves,
The swan's white feathers abound,
But my soul lies dead, and my body grieves
For the warmth of its funeral mound.
And thou in the night hast forsaken the way
That my love would have gladdened for thee,
While the dusk and the dark and the cold and the gray
Alone share their bosoms with me.
Mad love and mad thoughts are my friends and my foes,
One solace alone hath my heart—
The sky shineth blue over thee and thy woes,
Though faithless, wherever thou art

V.

But sure, when the months on their courses have flown
I'll hear, with a knock at the gate,
Thy voice, O Beloved!—the voice of mine own,
Whose steps have been swifter than Fate.
Then joyous with happiness bursting its banks
We'll stand at our ancestors' shrine,
And gladden the altar with incense-thanks,
And hallow our joy with wine.
With friends and with mirth at the wedding feast
Kind Heaven our love shall blend,
As I place my hand in thy toil-worn breast
And the pain and the anguish end.

ANONYMOUS.

LESSONS IN GOLF

III.—The Art of Mashie Play

(By Harry Vardon—Six Times Open Champion)

Pursuing our policy of studying first the simpler shots in the game, there is a thing that we must do immediately, seeing that we have already considered the principles by which successful drives and mid-iron shots are accomplished.

We must address ourselves to the mashie. It is not far from being the most important club in the bag, for an approach laid within holding distance is often more valuable than a very long drive, and it is a favourite club for practice among those golfers who possess the inclination to go out for an occasional half-hour of quiet experimentation. The trouble is that many of them practise with it in the wrong way.

If I had to pick out the faults that are made most frequently in the methods of playing mashie shots, I would select two.

One is a perpetuation of the principle of lifting the left heel from the ground and poising on the inside of the tread of the left foot and taking the club, a process that is necessary where the full drive is concerned and also, though in a slightly lesser degree, in the case of the iron shot.

The other common error in the use of the mashie is that of trying to scoop the ball into the air as though the player were trying to shovel it up to the hole instead of hitting it in just as straight forward a way as he would for a drive.

I am aware that this latter point has been advanced times without number as a warning against the wrong manner of wielding the mashie, but that it is very frequently forgotten is proved by the frequency with which one sees golfers on every course endeavouring to scoop their mashie shots on to the green, instead of hitting boldly at the ball and trusting to the left of the club to do the work for which it is specially designed—that of producing a shot with a high trajectory.

HIP CONTROL.

Let us consider first the stance. The body should be turned appreciably more towards the hole than for the iron shots. So definite must be this increased "open-ness" of the body towards the hole that the right foot should be at absolute right-angles to the intended line of the shot, and the toes of the left foot should be pointing well outwards and several inches farther behind the right than they have been hitherto. Also, the ball should be about opposite the left heel.

It will thus be seen that the player is standing with his body turned so definitely towards the hole as to militate against the same free pivoting at the hips as for longer shots, and this is precisely the condition that is desirable. The mashie shot is one calling essentially for stability of stance and control of club, so that the body does not need to screw round at the hips to the same extent as for shots with the clubs of longer range.

At the same time, a great many players—one might fairly say the majority—make it do so, and the reason is simple. As they take the club back, they raise the left heel from the ground and more or less pirouette on the inside of the big joint of that foot.

It is of vital importance to guard against this tendency. It usually throws the mashie shot completely out of gear.

In the ordinary way, a half swing with this club is as much as the golfer should attempt, because mashie play is the very essence of the art of approaching and there ought to be nothing in the nature of death-or-glory slogging about it.

Now and again, it may be necessary to play a three-quarter or even a full shot with this club, but to render such a procedure desirable, the circumstances ought to be very exceptional, seeing that other clubs built for longer-range shots are available.

PIVOTING FROM THE KNEES.

The player having taken up the stance I have already indicated, and made sure that he is sufficiently close to the ball that he can ground the entire sole of the mashie behind it without straining to do so, he should first pay attention to the right knee.

Let that joint be in a bent position—relaxed and easy. Almost more than any other part of the physical constitution is it the governing factor in the mashie shot.

We will assume that the player is going to try and accomplish an ordinary pitch—and—run shot, which is sufficient to satisfy 98 golfers out of every 100. As the club goes back, the right knee stiffens and the body turns slightly at the hips. As a natural consequence, the left knee bends inwards towards the right.

What the player must be careful about at this stage is not to raise the left heel from the ground and pivot on the inside of the left-foot, big toe joints. If he succumbs to the temptation to allow himself this freedom, the swing will, in most cases, get out of control.

As the left knee bends inwards in response to the straightening of the right, he should be conscious that the left leg is supporting most of his weight, and supporting it without the heel being raised from the ground.

For a half, or almost a three-quarter swing, this is all the pivoting that is necessary. Most of it is conducted at the knees. The hips and the feet are really controlled by the movements of the knees.

The down swing is, to all intents and purposes, the up-swing reversed. As the club starts to come down, the left knee returns to its original straightness and the right knee returns to its original relaxed and bent position. Strike the ball a firm blow, without any effort to scoop it into the air, and as the club goes through with the shot, turn on to the inside of the right foot so as to facilitate the finish.

IV.—Bunker Shots

In our previous lessons we have been studying—and, I hope, practising—full drives from the tee and shots up to the hole with the mid-iron and the mashie, so by now the chances are that we have been bunkered.

Consequently, it is high time to consider how to act when this check presents itself. Bunker shots are of many kinds. By great good fortune the ball may be teed up in the hazard. Much more likely, however, is it to be lying heavily—even half-buried—in the sand or whatever the nature of the substance that forms the foundation of this place of retribution. The player may have to execute his shot from close to the face of the bunker, in which case he must make the ball rise sharply, or he may be so far from the face as to simplify the shot considerably.

THE ETERNAL PROBLEM.

It will thus be seen that each bunker shot has to be tackled in accordance with its own individual circumstances, and the first thing that the player must decide when he enters the hazard is as to whether he is going to try for distance out of it or be content merely to extricate himself from it and place his ball on the fairway.

I have long since come to the conclusion that, unless the situation is so desperate that you must hole out from the bunker if you are to obtain a half, it is a wise thing never to attempt death-or-glory shots in a hazard. As a rule, it pays in the end to play a stroke that will deposit the ball on the course again without much gain of distance, and trust to the approach or the putt to retrieve the set-back.

Naturally, when the ball is sitting up in a bunker very much as one would expect to find it on the fairway, there is a temptation to make the most of the dispensation. Obviously, the player will attempt pretty much the ordinary kind of shot in these circumstances, but he will be well advised to remember even now that his first duty is to get the ball out of the hazard.

REGULATING THE SWING.

He is not allowed to ground the club in the address. In most cases, he swings the club-head to and fro over the ball—perhaps an inch and a half or two inches above it.

Therefore, as the club is ascending and descending, he has to go down to the ball and when he tries a full swing, he does not always get down to it with the correct rhythm. The result may be either a sudden dropping of the right shoulder as the club nears the ball—which is most likely to produce a complete bungle—or a topped shot which drives the ball into the face of the hazard.

There is what we may term an average, everybody kind of bunker shot. The ball is lying closely—perhaps not even a quarter buried but still snugly—in the sand or other soil two or three feet short of a bunker-face of ordinary height.

This is an occasion when the "safety first" principle should be allowed to prevail. The player needs to concentrate solely and wholly on getting out of the bunker; not on trying a feat of daring.

THE RIGHT KIND OF NIBBICK.

I am assuming that he has a niblick with the stiffest possible shaft and a heavy head. This latter consideration is no less important than the former. Even the lady golfer needs a niblick with a heavy head, for, in connexion with the shot which we are now about to play, this is a club with which we want to hit for all we are worth, and its weight helps in the work.

We need to stand well over the ball—the stance fairly open—and fix our vision on a spot about an inch and a half behind the ball. This typical bunker shot is as nearly as possible a straight-up-and-down stroke as distinct from the swing which we practise for other shots.

In length it can be what we ordinarily term a full swing, but it should be distinctly more upright than for any other shot, because our object is not to sweep the ball forward with any semblance of a follow-through of the clubhead.

We want to bring the club down as nearly straight as we can—naturally, its track will be that of a shallow-arc—and delve its head into the soil at the spot on which we have fixed our vision, about an inch and a half behind the ball.

WHEN "PRESSING" HELPS.

That will be the end of its work so far as that particular stroke is concerned, and the consequence will be such a disturbance of the soil behind the ball that the latter rises from its ensconced position and flies—however sluggishly—over the face of the hazard to come to rest on the fairway.

As we bring the club down we should allow most of the weight of the body to go on to the left leg. Every degree of force that we can put into the blow behind the ball is desirable. In short, we may "press" to the limit of our capacity, and this throwing forward of the weight during the down swing helps us to force the club-head into the soil and dislodge the ball.

On a great many inland courses, the substance in the hazards—it may be gravel or undisguised clay—is so firm at most seasons of the year that the ball always more or less sits up on it. In these circumstances, the player is often tempted to try and take it cleanly, and—conscious of the face of the hazard just in front of him—his interpretation of the best means to the end is frequently to make a scooping stroke.

It is bad policy in the extreme and it very rarely succeeds. In clay or gravel, it is nearly always possible to make the ball rise by delving the club-head into the soil behind the ball, although, in the case of a hard surface, one would not aim so far behind as in sand.

Taking the ball cleanly in a hazard is a shot for very rare circumstances. Scooping at it is an almost sure step to disaster.

JAPANESE papers of recent date reported an attempted suicide by Edith Waller, aged 20, wife of Alfred Frank Waller, aged 26, British subjects living at Fukiai. There were the usual exaggerations and gratuitously invented romances, says the "Japan Chronicle." The young couple appear to have been very badly off, the husband trying to make a living by teaching English. The wife took a narcotic, whether in desperation or not is not quite clear. It was not a very powerful one, however, and she soon recovered.

CONFUCIUS CONFOUNDED

Or The Doctrine of the Perfect Kuan

By Lu Teh.

CHAPTER I.—The great sage, the Master Hu Shuo, called for another pint of samshu and, turning to his favorite disciple, Pa Tao, spake saying:

"Confucius hath said that the perfect man knoweth whence the wind bloweth. Doth this suffice, thinkest thou Pa Tao, for the perfect Kuan?"

"Nay," said Pa Tao. "Only he who raiseth the wind hath all praise."

The Master said: "Truly, here is wisdom. Thou art worthy of me Pa Tao."

CHAPTER II.—There came to the Master's house a certain Hsü, but lately returned from abroad who, wishing preferment in a yamen, sought the philosopher Hu Shuo. While he abode at the door a servant brought the Master his card whereon was writ in the English language: "Q.B. Muddleby Shoo."

"Ha!" exclaimed the Master," there is promise here. Drag it in."

When the youth stood before him the Master again examined the card and said:

"Muddleby, thou hast made a claim upon my esteem and I would fain help thee."

"Wherein have I won the Master's favour?" inquired the youth.

"Through progress in that kind of asininity which is coming to be associated with the sort of roguery that adorns the perfect Kuan," said the Master.

The youth paled, seized his hat and fled; whereupon the Master Hu Shuo turned to Pa Tao and said:

"What aileth him Pa Tao?"

Pa Tao replied: "He hath mistaken a compliment for a rebuke, as is the way with small, mean men."

"Bonehead!" quoth Hu Shuo, lighting his opium lamp, "my interest was misplaced."

CHAPTER III.—One day the Master set forth with Luan Ch'i, Pa Tsao and Hua T'ou, his disciples, to call ceremoniously upon the adopted brother of the second cousin of a Tuchun's number one boy, from whom he sought advice upon a matter of investments. His Bols-Joyce carried the usual guards, three on each running board, and achieved the customary speed of forty miles an hour down the alley way. But to the sage's annoyance his car overturned a cart, ran over the mule and stalled, failing, in spite of the chauffeur's efforts to forge ahead, to make further progress.

"The foreigner hath hoaxed me," quoth the sage. "The rascal said this chariot had power. Thou must seek elsewhere, Luan Ch'i, and learn if there be not smoke wagons that surmount such obstacles."

Thereupon the guards, seeing the master wroth, slew the cartman and brained the chauffeur, as was fitting. Then came forth from his shelter a traffic policeman, who cried out:

"Is it not Hu Shou, the sage?"

"It is, fool," said Hu Shuo." Where wert thou when we were forced to waste ammunition upon yon muddy carter?"

"Dreaming that I had received 30 per cent. of my pay for this month last year," quoth the policeman.

"Blessed is sleep to the people!" remarked the Master. "Policeman, knowest thou tha distinction between the wise guy and the perfect Kuan?"

"Truly," said the traffic man, "the wise guy knoweth it all; but the perfect Kuan hoggeth it all."

Hu Shuo descended in haste to have further converse, but the man was already gone, for the sun had come forth from behind a cloud; and when sought in his shelter he was sleeping quietly. Hua T'ou would have kicked him but the master stayed him.

CHAPTER IV.—Again, on another day, came the youth named Hsü with the card whereon was writ: "Q.B. Muddleby Shoo." The Master turned his face from him and asked impatiently:

"Muddleby, what hast thou learned since I saw thee last?"

"A modicum of wisdom," said the youth. "The yamen is a hard master to the dullard."

"Hast aught to split with me?" inquired the sage.

"Naught but a share of the love I bear my country," replied the youth. Whereat the Master rolled over on the kang with a sigh and fell into a profound slumber. When he awoke the youth still stood there and Hu Shuo asked him patiently, as was his wont before violence:

"What did'st thou learn abroad that serves thee here?"

"Patriotism," answered the youth. The true meaning of patriotism, O Sage."

"Expound it," demanded Hu Shuo, tenderly thumbing the opium pill over the flame.

"It is to hold one job honestly and labour to earn what it yields before seeking promotion."

When the bodyguards had hurled the impertinent youth into the drain before the door, the Master said to Pa Tao:

"What hath bitten this youth?"

"Truly Master, he is unfit to be thy disciple. He readeth the classics and yet hath morals. He professeth religion and yet hath faith therein. He speaketh words and yet hath the folly to say what he thinketh and to mean what he saith."

"It sorrows me," quoth the sage. "Let not such simplicity distract me again."

And yet one day, past all the guards, this Muddleby charged into the Master's presence and, prostrating himself, cried:

"Sage, I am thy pupil. I now have five jobs and work at none of them."

"Good! But not good enough," quoth Hu Shuo. "Dost thou attend thy duties and dost thou go in person to collect thy salaries?"

"In sooth, Master, I attend office, but I stay not long; and I read theatrical journals, smoke cigarettes and do no useful work. I collect my salaries in person because otherwise my chief would collect them for me and then forget that there lived one so small as I."

"A long way from perfection still," remarked the sage, "but I say again there is promise here." What didst thou study abroad, Muddleby?

"Physics, my Master," replied the youth.

"And how dost thou profit by this learning here?"

"Technically, in the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Agriculture, the railways and elsewhere."

"Wrong! Wrong!" exclaimed Hu Shuo. "Pa Tao, have an pupil made a professor in the medical college and a surgeon general in the army. At once my pupil!"

"But Master," crieth this Muddleby, "thy pupil knoweth naught of medicine nor doth he dare assume such responsibilities."

"Into the ditch with the fool!" saith the Master.

Heartened by the ensuing splash, Hu Shuo turned to Pa Tao and Hua T'ou and asked:

"How liveth the perfect Kuan, my children, and what are jobs to him?"

"By graft alone," replied Pa Tao.

"He seeketh jobs that he may announce them on his cards," said Hua T'ou. And the Master was pleased and called for another pint of samshu.

"Bring the cards," the Master ordered. "This night'twill be jack pot, my children. The perfect Kuan skinneth his very kith and kin at poker, Pa Tao; but bear in mind this bit of wisdom, young man: The wise disciple who would retain his shirt trifleth not with the adept."

MUCH interest is being shown in Hongkong in a musical prodigy, Emil Charles Danenberg, a boy six and a half years of age. Last week he gave a recital to over 300 people in St. Andrew's Hall, playing from memory 31 pieces. These included the works of Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven among the older school, and Poldini, Massenet, Godowsky, MacDowell, Tschaikowsky and Moore Park among the modern composers selected.

THE WOMAN'S PAGE

SHANGHAI MOTHER GOOSE

By Elizabeth Pepys.

CRYING NEEDS.

"There was a young woman who lived in Shanghai.
Im rearing her children she often would sigh:
I need a museum, an art gallery, too.
Without a good library, what can we do?"

DISILLUSIONMENT.

When I was a bachelor I lived in a Mess,
And did we have a jolly time? Well I should rather guess.
But cocktails and highballs led me such a life
I thought I'd better settle down and get myself a wife.
Rents were so high and my salary so meagre
We really couldn't get a house though we were eager.
We lived in a boarding house, romance had a fall;
Down tumbled homelife, happiness and all.

SINGLES AND BOBS.

Little Bo-Peep has lost her curls
And can't tell where to find them;
But so have all the other girls
And so she doesn't mind them.

RELATIVITY

By Elizabeth Pepys

"The best of all ways
To lengthen our days
Is to steal a few hours from the night, my dear."—Moore.

Although I am not one of the Einsteins of the world and abstract philosophy is to me a meaningless maze, there are occasions upon which I ponder upon the relativity of time. Daphne is one of the causes for this mental activity. Were it not for waiting for her to keep her appointments I should have little time to think but as things are there are many opportunities given me to wonder why Daphne's time concepts are so different from others.

Daphne's very watches are worth considering. Sir Walter Raleigh declared that nothing but History and Eternity could triumph over Time, but he had not seen Daphne adjust the hands of her watch at the door before entering with: "Why how early you all are, it's only just the hour!" or again surreptitiously tinker with her time-piece during a boring interview to break in: "Who *could* have guessed the hour! *So* sorry but it's so late I really must be running." Time has no terrors for Daphne as long as her watches—and her friends—prove amenable.

LONG AND SHORT HOURS.

Of course we are all more or less aware that an hour in a dentist's chair is considerably longer than the same number of minutes spent dancing and that we can live hours or so in a dream minute. What happens to time when we are no longer awake to check up on it is a matter of more or less concern. How are we to know when we lay our wearied head on the pillow at night whether we get a full long sixty minutes' worth of refreshment or are put off with scant measure Certainly the sleep of crisp, cool nights seems a much better investment of time than the feverish broken tossings of hot summer.

TEMPERAMENTAL HOSTESSES.

Another branch of practical relativity is the interpretation of dinner hours. One hostess says "eight o'clock" and is frankly unprepared if you come before 8.30. Another says "about half-past eight" and seems annoyed at your tardiness when you enter at 8.25. We once confused a prompt hostess with one who could be counted upon for an hour's extension of time, and when at last we entered we found that searching parties had been sent out for us. Had we realized the situation we should have allowed ourselves to be run over or have suffered other bodily injury which would have excused our defection rather than to have entered that chilling atmosphere three-quarters of an hour late.

Meetings and entertainments, too. One fixture which we frequently attend is never called to order till at least 15 minutes past the hour. We are sorry for the prompt members who have to wait, but we refuse to be among them. Another is conducted by an energetic Chairman who keeps her watch ahead of time and is preternaturally prompt, so much so that we have been known to miss the affair altogether. It used to be a maxim with us in Russia that no entertainment opened till at least half an hour after the advertised time and the Chinese are even more dilatory. Yes indeed, time is very relative.

"THE LONG MAJESTIC MARCH"

—"Daffodils
That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty."
—Shakespeare.

By Elizabeth Pepys.

March is not a favoured month whether among poets or plain people and we might as well confess that we wrenched our title out of its reasonable context in order to get any title at all. No poet can be restrained from writing about spring, but March—well March seems to be no better than a door mat on the portals of that joyous season.

Still, since it is undeniably a part of the year, it seems only decent to allude to it in passing and in that we have not already referred to its coming in like a lion to go out presumably like a a lamb, and have not mentioned the mad March hare we apologize to the defrauded public.

THE NEXT BEST THING.

As the first spring month, according to the calendar, but seldom in harmony with the facts in the case, this season has acquired the merit accruing to one on the fringes of good society. If it has not entirely cast off winter and all its works, it has at least many premonitory promises of spring. Indeed as one poet has sung:

O March, we know thou are kind hearted,
Spite of storms and frets,
And, out of sight, nurse April's violets

—or something to that effect. Not having access to a real reference library we cannot verify the quotation; but for that matter, neither can the reader.

Then there is a breeziness and informality about this tempestuous month which takes one's fancy. One can imagine a tidy housekeeper indulging in a brisk spasm of spring housecleaning, an attack which in itself is rather harrassing but without which no properly conducted household could exist, a fitting prelude to the real spring

—"The sweet spring, is the year's pleasant king;
Then blooms each thing, then maids dance in a ring,
Cold doth not sting, the pretty birds do sing,
Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!"

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Educational Value of a Museum Building

The editorial comment upon the proposal to raise money by a Municipal loan for a public museum, art gallery and adequate reference library for Shanghai which appeared in the N.-C. D. N. of March 15 raises again a most important question. The plan suggested calls for an initial outlay of Tls. 400,000 which includes the cost of land and Tls. 50,000 for the yearly running expenses. Interest on the payments would demand another Tls. 50,000. This being a public institution its expenses would properly be placed on the Municipal Budget and would add only one-third of one per cent. to the rates, for which trifling increase an almost necessary public institution would eventually be acquired.

So much for the hard business, dollars and cents side of it. As an investment its merit is obvious. As a much needed cultural agency for adults of the Settlement its utility admits of no debate. But the strongest argument of all is that children cannot be properly educatted in Shanghai without it. Not all parents can send their children Home for their schooling. Most children have at least some part of their education in Shanghai and in their impressionable years when illustration means so much there is no museum where they may see Chinese art or become acquainted with the flora and fauna of the country in which they are living.

Grown-ups can shift for themselves, to an extent, but the formative years of childhood should have every advantage. Drawbacks to life abroad there must be, but when special privileges for children are so near our grasp it is culpable not to reach out for them.

LEAP YEAR LEGALITIES

In 1288 the following law was enacted in Scotland:

"It is statur and ordaint that during the rein of hir maist blissit Megeste, for ilk yeare knowne as lepe yeare, ilk mayden ladye of baithe highe and lowe estait shall hae liberte to bespeke ye man she likes, albeit he refusses to taik hir to be his lawful wyte, he shall be mulcted in ye sum an pundis or less, as his estait may be; except and awis gif he can make it appeare that he is betrothit ane ither woman he then shall be free.

FOR SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER

Suggestions for Travellers

White! That's to be the colour scheme in brief. White and black will be very good; white and yellow—very good, too; white and green—good, but not quite so often seen. Simplicity that just clears the verge of affectation will be the key-note as to line. Sleeves will be either long or short; skirts, ten or twelve inches from the ground. Uncrushable silks will rule the day. Silk alpaca is the newest material of all—almost as soft as crêpe de Chine, but with the alpaca weave. Printed fabrics are slated for afternoon wear. Coats are to be white and furred; woollen materials for them are soft, with a cashmere touch. One dances in lace and tulle, frequently over a flesh or peach satin slip.

For the morning, one takes out any of a dozen dresses: of silk alpaca, either white or in a pastel shade, of which one also possesses a suit; of the uncrushable pussy willow; of the faithful crêpe de Chine that washes like a handkerchief. All of these are one-piece frocks. Pleats are almost the only allowable trimming except a bit of drawn-work—or that most decorative and original thing the season decrees, the scarf.

THE CHEERY SCARF.

Here comes the colour note. Sometimes, the brilliance creeps into the girdle, too, but its stronghold is in the versatile scarf attached to the dress itself or worn separately. Scarfs are legion: the sports scarfs; the scarf to be worn with the winter sports costume or the golfing costume or inside the motor coat, of striped knitted silk or of a heavenly shade of crêpe de Chine that throws a pleasant glow over soft greys and beiges; the evening scarf of tulle—yards and yards of tulle, full width, black, matching the dress, or contrasting with it.

The subject of scarfs has led us all round the clock, back to the morning, with the remark that alpaca and crêpe de Chine are not the only materials for those multitudinous straight morning frocks. There is the flannel dress, replacing, to some extent, the familiar jersey. For more formal occasions, there are frocks of French voile with an all-over application of suède. Once in a while, an embroidered voile or batiste shows its demurely pretty self. And there are costumes of the middy blouse of crêpe de Chine and skirt to match or of fine white woollen material. There is the coat and skirt tailleur, severe, one-buttoned of silk alpaca or one of the silk-like white woollens.

One wears a white coat. The materials most frequently used are soft and quite lustreless. Knitted fabrics are much in demand as well. A Monjaret model in white is trimmed with fox fur, while another, also designed by Monjaret, creates a variation by its patterned surface of tan knitted silk and wool. A stylish model is of diagonally woven white rep with a collar of Russian kit fox. A coat lavishly trimmed with white fox and more suitable for afternoon than sports wear, is made of heavy white silk jersey with applications of white suède. A Chéruit model of white marokolaine with a slightly flaring bottom has a trimming of American opossum.

For motoring and travelling, there are a very few top-coats made in a fabric called "half and half," woven all in one. The upper part, perhaps, may be in grey, the lower part in Oxford, in which case the fur would be an in-between shade blending with both. The beige and brown combinations with brown fur are also good.

The simplest frocks are made of a new silk material much like a man's shirting, in stripes, in hair-line checks of average size, or in tiny checks that seem to throw a fine screen of colour over the white ground. Such dresses are often given trim, narrow belts of coloured leather. More formal than these slim tub frocks are those of printed silk. Some silks are very gay; there are lovely black and white ones: blue and white carries the town revival of blue into the country season. The silk voile frock is seen in lovely colours, and there are printed chiffons. Over these dresses, if one needs a wrap, the white coat of the morning is still quite right.—"Vogue."

THE "STRAIGHT AND NARROW" IN ITS VARIED ADAPTATIONS

HELPFUL HINTS

FOR THE LAUNDRY.

When sprinkling table linen, use a sugar sifter in which is placed one quart of water mixed with a tablespoonful of cold starch. When ironed the linen looks like new.

FINDING THE NEEDLE.

A magnet on a string should be kept in the sewing basket or drawer of the sewing machine. Should a needle be dropped, swing the magnet close to the floor over and around the spot, and magnet and needle will find each other with little loss of time.

FOR THE COOK.

If small cakes and tarts, cooked in small patty pans, are placed on a wet cloth for a few minutes, they will readily leave the tins.

If a line is made round the centre of apples with a sharp knife before they are baked they will not burst.

Before cutting new bread, dip the knife into boiling water. By this means the thinnest slices of bread may be cut without trouble from a new loaf.

If a china funnel, used for raising pies, is put in the middle of a saucepan while boiling milk, it will be found that the milk will not boil over, as it will boil up the funnel instead of over the sides.

Cheese, particularly if stale, is improved by wrapping, before it is laid away for future use, in a piece of cloth wet with vinegar. It will become soft and creamy, like new cheese, and remain so.

If hot stewed fruit is to be served in a glass dish, place the dish on a damp cloth, and it will not crack when the hot fruit is poured into it.

MARKING LINEN.

In marking articles of linen or cotton, this is rendered simpler if the part is moistened with cold water starch dabbed on, and ironed to obtain a smooth surface, on which it is easy to write.

A TWO PURPOSE POUFFE.

Two purpose things are becoming more and more popular. The newest addition to the already long list of household articles which belong to this category is the up-to-date floor pouffe. Made of rich ruched silks or the more humble but decidedly effective chintz or cretonne this novel pouffe has the usual padded top which makes it quite comfortable as a seat, while the lower half instead of being fashioned in the usual enclosed style has this part formed into a compact cupboard with neat-fitting little doors. This small cupboard is just the very thing for a slipper store or will make an excellent resting place for knitting or needle work which might otherwise be left lying about and give an air of untidiness to the sitting-room.

THE BOOK PAGE

BOOK NOTES AND NEWS

Did Patrick Branwell Brontë write the greater part of "Wuthering Heights"? This claim is made for him in a book by Miss Alice Law, which is appearing with Philpot. We are asked to regard it as "a startling refutation of the accumulative prejudices against the character and achievements of a neglected genius."

∴

A new study of Walt Whitman has been completed and will be published later in the year. It is by Mr. Gerald Bullett, author of "The Street of the Eye" and "The Innocence of G. K. Chesterton."

∴

The Duke of Northumberland has written a preface to a new edition of the late Mr. W. H. Mallock's "Limits of Pure Democracy." It is being issued as a timely book because it is thought to be as suggestive and informing as anything ever written on democracy. To bring it down to a democratic level, as it were, it has been "cut" to about a third of its original length, for Mallock gave years to write it and endless pains and thought.

∴

Mr. Rudyard Kipling has a way of giving pet names to people he likes. He likes his American publisher, Mr. F. N. Doubleday, who writes an introduction to a new edition of Mr. Walter H. Page's "A Publishor's Confessions." To his friends Mr. Doubleday is known as "Effendi," a Turkish title which Mr. Kipling conferred upon him by simply using his initials, "F.N.D."

∴

Ever so long ago Mr. Fisher Unwin started what he called, from want of a better name, a "First Novel Library." The first story to appear in it was "The Winstons," and it was written by Millicent Cobden, a daughter of the famous Free Trade champion and a sister of Mrs. Fisher Unwin. Miss Ethel M. Dell's "Flight of an Eagle" appeared in the "First Novel Library," and so have many other stories which have been successful. Now it celebrates its jubilee, for a tale called "The Road Royal," by Miss Carola Oman, will be the fiftieth volume in it. She is a daughter of Sir Charles Oman, the well-known Oxford don and historian.

∴

Machiavelli, the Italian statesman and writer of the 15th century, has given us through his name two words—Machiavellism, or devilish sagacity, and Old Nick, from his name, Niccolo. In 1818 one Bowdler published an expurgated edition of Shakespeare; hence arose the verb "to bowdlerize." In old books we come across the word negus, for hot, spiced wine; it is from the name of Colonel Francis Negus, of Queen Anne's day, the day of the six-bottle men. The story of the word tectotal is that it was first used by a temperance advocate in 1833, and arose from his inability to pronounce, without stammering, the word "total." Nicotine commemorates Jean Nicot, French ambassador to Portugal in the 16th century.

∴

If you keep track of new novels, you may remember one which appeared some years ago called "The Canon in Residence." It was by the Rev. Victor Whitechurch, and its point of view was that of a clergyman mixing, in lay attire, with humanity. Mr. Whitechurch, who holds a vicarage in Buckinghamshire, has a companion novel appearing under the title, "A Bishop Out of Residence."

∴

Years ago Mr. Eden Phillpotts worked hard on a series of novels dealing with life human, animal, and natural, on Dartmoor. His stories won great praise from the reviewers, but they did not attract the attention of the public as they should have done. Since then, however, he has slowly been coming into recognition with other novels, and a new one from his pen is ready with Heinemann.

DR. OSSENDOWSKI'S NEW BOOK OF THRILLS

Man and Mystery in Asia—by Ferdinand Ossendowski. In collaboration with Lewis Stanton Palen. Dutton & Co. New York

Those who read that extraordinarily vivid and absorbing book "Beasts, Men and Gods" will eagerly receive Dr. Ossendowski's latest volume. And it would certainly be difficult to overrate the thrilling interest and originality of "Man and Mystery." Not only has Dr. Ossendowski visited the wildest places and seen the most weird and terrible things, but he has a genius for describing them. Hunting scenes, dead dreary lakes, forests teeming with every sort of creature, the strange habits of primitive peoples, the fearful stricken lives of Saghalien convicts—all these are described with a fine economy of words, a simplicity and the cold impartiality of a scientific mind which give them intense reality and vividness All praise too should be given to Mr. Palen for his translation (at least one supposes that was principally his work) if only he would not use the abominable "nearby." No higher praise can be paid than to say that the book reads as if it had been written originally in English.

Before war and Bolshevism had wrecked Russia Dr. Ossendowski held a high place in her scientific world as chemist, botanist and scientist. From the year 1899 onwards he was frequently employed by the Russian Government in scientific research in Central and Eastern Asia and it is of these journeys that the present book deals. It opens with a description of the country about the upper reaches of the river Yenisei particularly the holy lake Szira.

> Taking from the bottom of the lake samples of ooze, we remarked a strange phenomenon. After an exposure of some time in the open air, long movable grasses of pale yellow colour grew from this ooze, only to disappear leaving no traces. It looked as though some being living in the ooze extended its feelers and then withdrew them. And really this was exactly what happened, as these were colonies of *Beggiatoae* bacilli, those precursors of the death of sea and lakes which appear when some of the salts are decomposing and forming the hydrogen-sulphide which kills all life in these reservoirs.

And in the end after killing every creature and plant, the *Beggiatoae* destroy themselves.

> This is the sad and gruesome process of the death of great water basins which are metamorphosed into lifeless reservoirs of salt water smelling of hydrogen-sulphide. The Dead Sea in Palestine has long since been such a reservoir and great numbers of similar ones are scattered over the immense plains of Asia.

There is an uncanny story of how Lake Szira very nearly killed the author and his companion by an apparently causeless storm—great waves with no wind. Szira is not called the "holy lake" (in shuddering propitiation) for nothing.

Contrast with this the Ussuri district, "the pearl of the East," which includes the flora and fauna of both hemispheres and all climates and great wealth in minerals. Here is Lake Hanka where game is (or was) so plentiful that the native hunters who accompanied Dr. Ossendowski took 5,000 cartridges each for a three days' hunt, besides powder and shot. But where every prospect pleases, man is assuredly vile. The game included at one time "white swans" which were really Koreans making their way home from the gold diggings further north; and these the Cossacks of the Ussuri used to consider themselves fully entitled to kill and deprive of their treasure. Koreans, they said, had no souls, they were just animals. The degenerate state of most of the white colonists as described by Dr. Ossendowski is really appalling. At Novokiyevsk, a dreary little frontier station on Possiet Bay, the Russian officers invented what was called the Tiger Club In a pitch dark barn, two men would be chosen one of whom had a revolver the other a bell. The former would then stalk the latter:

> Suddenly a sharp ringing of the bell would be heard, then a shot. Sometimes a dull sound of a falling body answered the shot, when the tiger was killed or wounded, sometimes a triumphant cry: "You missed, now you take the bell." Often after such a night in the Tiger Club the morning patrols found on the shores of the bay tragic evidence of this incredible pastime. Although everybody knew exactly what befell these members of the club, the official reports always read:—"An officer was found killed through careless handling of firearms."

The accounts given of the customs of primitive tribes are all so interesting that it is difficult to choose between them. That of a Gold funeral is not the least interesting. The Golds bury their dead by wrapping them in bark and hanging them in trees. An elaborate dance having been performed by the priest or wizard,

> he took two small boards with a layer of white birch back thin as tissue paper between them and slowly moved in the direction of the new coffin. He stood there in silence, as though in deep meditation. Then we heard a sound as light as the singing of a gnat. It seemed to come from afar but was in reality issuing from the thin boards which the shaman had raised to his mouth.
>
> But the sound gradually swelled in volume until it became a continuous bass roar which awoke the whole forest from the thick grass to the top of the oaks and filled the ears, the heart and the mind, giving at times a feeling as though it would shatter the skull. Surely this shaman could drive a man mad with only the help of two wooden boards and bits of bark. Finally the roar diminished and melted away again into scarcely audible tones. At the same time the shaman advanced into the shadow made by the trees and then in several places in this darkness, small phosphorescent flames appeared.
>
> At this the Golds whispered in awe among themselves and with terror stared into the dense shadow. "A rich, a decent burial," they whispered.

But the most absorbing part of the book is that which deals with Saghalien. For sheer horror we have read nothing like it. Saghalien is, by nature, richly dowered and should be an abode of happiness and prosperity. The Russian Government made of it a convict station of indescribable cruelty and terror. The convicts were shipped out from Odessa two or three times a year, chained together, men and women, below deck, never allowed out in the air. In conditions of hideous dirt and disease many died on the voyage. Prisoners were frequently drowned in landing as there was no dock or pier in Saghalien. But this saved the Government money. The soldiers put to guard the prisoners were the most brutal of their kind, who had themselves been sent to the accursed island as a punishment. Flogging, the invariable penalty for any offence, was of unheard of severity:

> The condemned received from fifteen to three hundred strokes with willow rods boiled before use in sea water. The fifteenth stroke was supposed always to cut the skin and draw blood. If no blood appeared, the official overseeing the execution accused the executioner of indulgence and sentenced him to a beating.

Deaths, it need hardly be said, were common. But nobody thought anything of that. Convicts were regarded as worse than beasts, whose disappearance from the world was a blessing. In contrast with these horrors the beautiful story of the Black Monk of Cape Maria is a most welcome relief, lovely in incident and telling.

The book ends on a note of comedy. A grateful Kirghiz presented Dr. Ossendowski with his sister as a wife and he had the greatest difficulty in getting rid of her without giving bitter offence. The task was not made easier by the fact that the lady was of most attractive appearance.

O.M.G.

TWO GENTLEMEN OF CHINA

A Pleasing Study of Official and Family Life

"Two Gentlemen of China." By Lady Hosie pp 316, with many illustrations, price 21/- nett, published by Seeley, Service & Co. London.

Lady Hosie might be described as the Margot Asquith of China, with a difference. The egotism is entirely left out; but there is vivid portraiture of two officials and the various members of their families, the one Chinese the other Manchu, based upon long visits to their homes. The complete sincerity and sympathy of the authoress have enabled her to accomplish this delicate task without offending the sensibilities of those who are pourtrayed and yet without obscuring the details that give value to a descriptive book. The interior life of the unwesternized Chinese is as remote from general knowledge as the highlands of Tibet. The courtesies of diplomacy and commerce stop short at the boundary of sex. "It is entirely against Chinese taste, etiquette or wish for one gentleman calling on another to see the ladies of the household." But this book of Lady Hosie represents the work of Miss Soothill, the missionary, and apart from her disinterested service was only made possible by the charm of her personality.

This book of portraits etched with Boswellian thoroughness should take a place of its now among the many studies of China that deal with matters in the large. There is a temptation to read the Chinese as a mere type made up of the various "characteristics" which have been found by analysis. It is refreshing as well as corrective to learn what an individual Chinese gentleman is like, and how his wife and daughter look out upon the world, to catch them as it were in the atmosphere of family jokes. Here is a vignette of King Ta Jan, the judge of the province. "There seemed little of the gross earth in his composition. He was discerning in spirit, quick in repartee, open-hearted, tolerant, responsive and alive to the fact that the foreign guest in his city meant no guile. A Chinese, whether gentleman or coolie, can, if he so wish, present a most mulish, impassive, blank countenance to his interlocutor, not unlike that of the schoolboy taxed with the sins of his friend, determined to reveal nothing." (p. 79).

But it is the woman's life that is chiefly revealed in this book, and there are chapters that will have a strong appeal for lady readers. "The very freedom of a modern woman's dress, its looseness, its infinite variety of colouring, and the fact that for us the days of whalebone are ended, we owe to Oriental lands." Surely there will be many a whispered comment "For this relief, much thanks!" Here is another bit from the thimble standpoint. "After tea we worked until dark at our sewing. We agreed that, though a foreign woman may not take so long as a Chinese with her hair-dressing, she must certainly take longer putting on her clothes. They were amused by my thimble, for theirs is a band round the second joint of the middle finger, which is necessary seeing that they push the needle away from themselves to sew. They laughed, and laughed again, at seeing my European method of sewing towards myself." (p. 152). The Chinese gentleman, one imagines, shaves with an upward, stroke, but the authoress does not enlighten us.

There was sometimes frank conversations on the subject of religion and Li Cheng, a young man of 19 years old and a good Confucian remarked. "For at least a hundred years, not one of us has entered into a temple to worship idols, and probably before that, for we have no record. We have only done official worship. Even our women would scorn to go to the temples. Yet it is not Taoism itself that is wicked, but what these superstitious, ignorant priests have made of it with their demons and witches' broths and incantations," (p. 199).

This young man had one source of fun in listening to the English guest when trapped in one of the pitfalls of his complicated language. She was attempting one day to praise the courage of "Uncle" King, over whose face she thought that a flicker of surprise and even amusement had passed. "Oh my sister," laughed Li Cheng, "do you know what you have just said to my father? You told him that his *wincpot* truly was great."

These extracts will serve to show the excellent style and spirit of this readable and commendable book.

A.N.R.

A SWEDISH SAVANT ON CHINESE SCRIPT

Analytic Dictionary of Chinese and Sino-Japanese, by Bernhard Karlgren, ph. d. Professor in the University of Goteborg, Paris, Libraire Orientaliste Paul Geuthner 13 Rue Jacob 6e.

This is rather a remarkable book in that it is a written by a Swedish savant, printed in Vienna and published by a Parisian booksell. One is struck at once with the excellence of the printer's work. Here is a book written in Chinese characters and romaniztd letters and explained in English; both of these languages foreign to the printer as well as the author and yet errors are surprisingly few. The author's aim is to facilitate "a systematic study—scientific and practical of the Chinese script."

He commences with an elaborate introduction elucidating the development of the Chinese character from early to modern times and explains that the part that is novel in his own work is that he devotes himself to illustrating the principles on which the phonetic half of the Chinese character came to be written. He says: "The point on which Chinese philologists as well as their western followers have entirely failed is the phonetic side of the study of Chinese script." Every student of Chinese must have wished that the sages who devised the characters of which Chinese script is composed had followed some method, or any method, in composing what are called the phonetic characters in the language.

Here is a phonetic, say, *wang*, a king. Add the radical for water. It becomes *wang* an ocean. Add, instead, the radical for wood. It becomes *wang*, a stick. Now, why could not all phonetics be as regular as this. Instead you get hsien, meaning, all. Add the water radical and it *becomes* chien, to diminish. Change to the radical for mouth and it becomes han, to call out. Try again and put in the radical for heart and it becomes kan, to influence. Why those erratic changes of sound with the same phonetic? Is there any rule by which the learner would be able to tell how the cat is going to jump or what sound the phonetic will change to with different radicals? It is safe to say that if anyone devised a dictionary that would answer this question satisfactorily he would be hailed as a benefactor by every student of the Chinese language.

Well, this is the problem which Professor Karlgren sets out to solve. He fails to do it in 28 pages of his introduction filled with technical terms such as monophthongized, supradental affricatives, etc., which only a trained phoneticist could understand. His spellings of Chinese are fearful and wonderful. There are words spelled with an inverted e or a w raised above the line. There are not only aspirate and tone marks but there is an abundance of diacritical, dieresis and umlaut signs that make the Chinese character look simple in comparison with the romanized spelling.

Readers who get past the terrifying introduction will find the dictionary itself easy and interesting. It is compiled on the ordinary alphabetical plan a, ai, an, etc. The pronounciation is given in modern and archaic Chinese, Cantonese and Japanese. The explanations are clear and often new light is thrown on the derivation or construction of the characters. At the end of the book there is a radical index from which any character in the dictionary can be readily found and also a copious English key from which the Chinese equivalent of the English word may be readily discovered

Good work has been put into the dictionary but the author has not succeeded in his main aim—to show the principle on which the phonetic compounds of the Chinese characters are based. He has failed because, in the present writer's opinion, no such principle ever existed. But it is just possible that had this review been written by a trained philologist he might have seen order where I can only see chaos

MAIL NOTICES

INWARD

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Per N.Y.K.S. Haruna Maru „ 4

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Per A.O.L.S. Pres. McKinley „ 31
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For Manila, Australia and New Zealand via Honokong :—

Per P. & O. S. Khyber ..Apr. 1
Per N.Y.K.S. Haruna Maru „ 4

PASSENGERS

INWARD.

Per str. Whangpo, March 21. From River Ports. Messrs. Scott and Wade.

Per str. Hacan, March 21. From Foochow. Mr. G. Siemssen, Misses J. and M. Siemssen.

Per str. Fengtien, March 21. From Tientsin. Mrs. W. E. Leckie and four children.

Per str. Sinkiang, March 21. From Hongkong. Mr. A. Wiss, Miss Ingledale, Mr. Dick, Mr. and Mrs. Jones.

Per str. Liangchow, March 22. From Hongkong and Amoy. Capt. and Mrs. C. A. Bell and child, Mr. J. H. Jones.

Per str. Kutwo, March 22. From River Ports. Mr. J. B. Bassett, Mr. G. H. McLachlan, Mr. and Mrs. P. Watter, Mr. W. Knight, Mr. Charlus.

Per str. Nganking, March 23. From River Ports. Mr. Gratten, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Cameron and child.

Per str. Loongwo, March 23. From River Ports. Mr. H. T. Whitehouse, Mr. Weatherick, Mr. Hawkins.

Per str. Nanning, March 21. From Swatow. Mrs. M. Takkim.

Per str. Woosung, March 24. From River Ports. Mrs. Melinkoff, Mr. G. A. Clayton, Mr. J. Hubbard, Two British Naval Ratings.

Per str. Shuntien, March 24. From Tientsin. Mr. and Mrs. Mayndon. From Chefoo. Mr. Hosier.

Per str. Kiangshun, March 25. From River Ports. Mr., Mrs. and Miss Caffarena, Mr. and Mrs. Slaugh, Mr. C. H. Burris, Captain Barret.

Per str. Hsin Kiangtsen, March 25. From Ningpo. Miss Morris, Mr. H. Maingon, Miss E. Irving, Mr. H. Handley Derry, Mr. Y. F. Shoemaker, Mrs. H. E. Goodmann, Miss E. Dickie, Mrs. H. Mastenson, Miss E. H. Mason.

Per str. Kwangtee, March 26. From Hongkong. Mr. Kerney.

Per str. Tungchow, March 26. From Tientsin. Mr. W. Wittaker.

Per str. Hsin Peking, March 26. From Ningpo. Mr. H. Brocks.

Per str. Chekiang, March 26. From Swatow. Mrs. Stocker and four children.

Per str. Lucedo, March 26. From River Ports. Mr. J. B. Bobbett, Mr. and Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Putter, Dr. and Mrs. Gelsil and two children, Mr. R. E. Bedford.

Per str. Hsinming, March 27. From Chefoo. Mr. J. Hendil.

Per str. Kungwo, March 27. From River Ports. Mr. Weisen, Miss E. M. Day, Dr. and Mrs. R. Aird, Mrs. W. Morgan, Mrs. M. T. Price, Mrs. Allan and child, Mr. and Mrs. Tribe and child, Mr. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith.

Per P. & O. S. Kalyan, March 27. From London. Mr. A. F. Clarke, Mrs. C. D. Pearson, Miss J. Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Baumgartner, Rev. and Mrs. W. R. Taylor, Mrs. R. D. Newsam, Miss A. Megson, Master A. R. A. Bayeott, Dr. A. Rothwell, Mr. W. S. A. Fuller, Miss A. E. MacMichael, Mr. R. N. Fawcett, Mr. C. W. P. Angell, Mr. F. B. Taylor, Rev. J. Wellington, Mrs. H. Derry, Mrs. Forcet and child, Mr. H. F. Newton, Mr. S. A. P. Kitcat, Mr. J. R. Taylor. From Marseilles. Miss C. J. Cubitt, Maj. and Mrs. H. V. Wilkinson and child, Mrs. and Miss Martin, Mr. J. Petrie, Mr. G. T. Golledge. From Port Said. Mr. H. de Kauffmann. From Colombo. Sir B. F. Phillips, Captain G. Crutchley, Mr. T. W. Davies. From Singapore. Mrs. and Miss Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Lauck and four children, Mrs. Law, Mr. C. S. Lee, Mr. H. W. Hewitt. From Hongkong. Surg. Lt. D. H. Kennedan, Mrs. Stack and child, Miss M. Stack, Miss Tewson, M. W. H. S. Davies, Mr. P. E. O'Hare, Mrs. E. C. McCormick, Mr. J. Sunderland, Mr. T. Banner, Mr. S. Barker, M. O. Meister, Mr. H. W. Webbers, Mr. A. F. Collins, Lt. Comm. J. Doyle.

OUTWARD

Per str. Changtu, March 21.– For Tientsin. Mrs. C. N. Moller.

Per str. Hsin Peking, March 21.– For Ningpo. Mrs. H. Masterson and Miss K. H. Mason.

Per str. Sinkiang, March 22.–For Tsingtao. Mr. F. C. Buxhan, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schroeder.

Per str. Chusan, March 22.–For Tientsin.–Mr. G. E. Gilbert. For Chefoo.– Mr. E. S. Curtis.

Per str. Kanchow, March 23.–For Amoy.–Mr. R. Horne.

Per str. Fengtien, March 23.–For Chefoo–Mr. J. E. de Courcy, Mr. and Mrs. Bushwell and child, Mr. M. T. Johnson. For Tientsin.–Mr. M. R. Dick, Mr. J. Wilson. For Weihaiwei–Mr. H. P. Wellington.

Per str. Hsin peking, March 24.–For Ningpo–Miss H. Bailey, Mr. R. Brock, Mr. and Mrs. R. Denniston and child.

Per str. Liangchow, March 25.–For Hongkong–Mr. J. Johnston.

Per str. Nganking, March 25.–For River Ports–Mrs. M. Hubrich.

Per str. Shuntien, March 26.–For Tientsin–Mr. W. I. Pottinger, Mr. N. Knight, Mrs. E. W. Westwood, Captain T. A. Lupton.

Per str. Hsin Peking, March 26.–For Ningpo–Mrs. H. R. Wright, Mr. J. E. Shoemaker, Mr. J. C. Dowding, Mr. G. V. Monks, Two Sisters of Charity.

Per str. Woosung, March 26.–For River Ports–Mr. A. William, Mr. A. Rees, Mr. H. G. Heinzerling, Miss Harding, Mr. H. H. Finch, Mr. and Mrs. R. Smith, Mr. N. T. Alexander.

Per str. Szechuen, March 27.–For Hongkong–Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tappenden and two children.

Per str. Shengking, March 27.–For River Ports–Miss Rudge.

Per M.M.S. Porthos, March 27.–For Marseilles–Mr. J. G. Paul, Mr. P. M. Lineharger, Mr. B. Loup, Mrs. E. Chaumont, Mr. and Mrs. A. Fabre and two children, Mrs. M. P. Radouch-kevitch, Messrs. A. Poissier, B. R. Bonin, Mrs. Charlot and three children, Mr. J. Schlitter, Comte de Demeter, Miss C. Roberts, Mr. H. E. Povey, Mrs. Sellier and three children, Mr. and Mrs. H. Durieux and child, Mr. and Mrs. Langhorne, Mr. and Mrs. E. Labansat, Miss Labansat, Mrs. Fano and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Geraritt and child, Mrs. and Miss Caffarena, Mr. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bassail, Miss Bassail, Mr. and Mrs. Bunting, Miss Bunting, Miss Bond, Mr. P. Debelle, Mr. A. Kacourt, Mr. and Mrs. E. Stotte, Messrs. A. E. and J. Stotte, Miss and Miss Wiss, Mrs. W. Kublicki, Mr. A. Hannon, Mr. L. Huon, Mr. J. Buisson, Mr. and Mrs. Gunard, Mrs. T. Peterson, Mrs. Shastin and child, Miss G. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Bisset, Mr. Petersan, Mr. Strick, Miss L. P. Rosmoff, Mr. W. H. Chevalier, Mr. and Mrs. Frandsleau and child, Mr. and Mrs. Filippetti, Miss R. Filippetti, Mr. and Mrs. Gaggero, Mrs. T. Gag and two children, Mr. N. P. Radcachkevitch and child, Mr. W. Kublecki and child, Messrs. W. Pawlowski, S. Lezniuski, S. J. Rotman, F. Bendli, R. Cassine, L. Baylon, J. Ghiran, J. le Goff, J. Dubourg, J. Juggan, L. Bertola, A. Girard, P. le Guen, L. Louant, J. Perrot, J. Frisee, A. Varache, E. Kerlerous, A. Planche, G. Vincent, P. Martin, M. Ondard, J. Dauphin, Y. le Noack, le Frignet, L. Chaille, A. Hirron, T. Kaecher, V. Cueff, P. Petton, H. Brailellee, Nocolai, F. Mungnier, F. Lezennec, L. Duranton, P. Bougrean, C. Moreau, L. Scalart, J. Chevalier, F. Garcia, G. Gopelli, A. Jacuen, J. L. Hellis, A. Dupre, E. Scharsch, H. Guillaume, G. Kerleo and J. de Guen. For Port Said–Mr. J. Dulinatz, Miss A. K. Kockenoff, Mr. G. Elteropobloz. For Colombo–Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Batiacken. For Singapore–Mr. R. J. H. Mittwar. For Hongkong–Messrs. R. A. Kreulen, J. Ferguson, V. J. G. Peterson, P. Vilbois, J. Lambert, V. Dubard, Miss M. Rest, Rev. Father Sallou, Misses M. Hulder, M. Barradas, Messrs. M. H. Gutterres, L. Sevutsky, G. J. Chayne, R. H. Norton, Mrs. A. P. Derbin.

Per str. Kansu, March 28.–For Swatow–Mr. Watson.

Per str. Chekiang, March 28.–For Chefoo–Mr. J. R. Putham.

BIRTHS

FAY.–On March 24, 1924, at St. Marie's Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. Jean Fay, a daughter (Nicole).

HARDING-KLIMANEK. — On March 23, 1924, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. Ph. Harding-Klimanek, a son. Hongkong papers please copy.

HUTCHISON.–On March 22, 1924, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Hutchison, a son.

SCARBOROUGH.–On March 27, 1924, at St. Marie's Hospital, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Scarborough, a son.

SCHLEE.–On March 23, 1924, at 321 Rue Cardinal Mercier, Shanghai, to the wife of Robert Schlee, a son.

MARRIAGES

GREEN–DEWAR.–On March 22, 1924, at H.B.M. Consulate, Shanghai, and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Violet Baxter, eldest daughter of Captain and Mrs. John. Dewar, to Albert Edward, eldest son of Mr. E. C. Green, of Ardmore, Sudbury, England.

SHIRRAS — PEARSON. — On March 22, 1924, at all Saints Church, Kobe, Douglas S. G. Shirras to Laura Mai Frances, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Pearson, Yokohama and granddaughter of Captain and Mrs. W. G. Buchanan, of Shanghai.

YOUNG — FERGUSON. — On March 25, 1924, at H. M. Consulate General, Shanghai, before Mr. Sidney Barton, C.M.G., Jessie Johnson, daughter of the late Robert Young, of Edinburgh, to Dugal Ferguson, of C. M. S. N. Co., Shanghai. (Edinburgh papers please copy.)

DEATHS

BRYMER.–On March 20, 1924, at the International Hospital, Hankow, William Duncan Brymer, (Master, M. V. Ah Kwang, A. P. C.), aged 55 years.

LEIGHTON.–On March 26, 1924, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, Norman Bailey Leighton (Hall & Holtz, Ltd.), aged 24 years.

MELLOWS.–On March 21, 1924, at 7.15 p.m., of heart failure, Kate Ohiko, dearly beloved wife of Mr. T. Mellows, ex-Superintendent of the River Police, aged 50 years.

SICCAWEI METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Day of Month	Barometer 9 a.m.	Barometer Att'ed Therm	Wind Direction 9 a.m.	Wind Force (1-12)	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Dry	Hygrometer 9 a.m. Wet	Thermometer in Shade Max.	Thermometer in Shade Min.	Weather condition
Mar. 21	30.01	50.9	S W	2	54.5	47.9	67.0	38.3	B.
„ 22	30.14	52.0	W	4	50.6	43.2	61.7	44.1	B. C.
„ 23	30.21	51.6	S S W	1	54.7	47.5	68.9	39.1	C.
„ 24	30.26	51.8	N E	2	48.0	46.2	50.7	43.7	O. D.
„ 25	30.03	51.8	S W	2	50.9	46 8	64.8	41.5	C.
„ 26	30.28	51 4	N N W	1	42.4	37.9	56.1	36.7	C.
„ 27	30.29	51.6	E S E	1	50.9	44.1	61.8	34.4	B.

Explanation

B–blue sky D–drizzle H–hail M–misty (hazy) R–rain T–thund
C–clouds F–fog L–lightning O–overcast (dull) S–snow Z–calm

SHANGHAI THERMOMETER READINGS FOR THE WEEK

In the open air in a shaded situation in the Foreign Settlement

Date	Thermometer (Fahr.) Minimum 1924	Minimum 1923	Maximum 1924	Maximum 1923	Rainfall Inches 1924	Rainfall Inches 1923
Mar. 21	42.0	41.0	65.6	59.4	Nil.	Nil.
„ 22	45.8	43.8	60.2	62.0	Nil.	Nil.
„ 23	45.0	46.4	66 2	66.2	Nil.	Nil.
„ 24	45.0	50.5	55.4	69.0	0.14	Nil.
„ 25	44.0	55.0	63.0	74.2	Nil.	Nil.
„ 26	38.2	58.0	53.0	73.4	Nil.	Nil.
„ 27	40.0	56.0	57.0	78.0	Nil.	Nil

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